



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, May 28, 2014

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 28, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

IN MEMORY OF EMANUEL RAYMOND LEWIS, LIBRARIAN EMERITUS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary life, to an extraordinary individual, to a dear and good friend of mine for many, many years. Emanuel Raymond Lewis was the librarian emeritus, the last and longest-serving librarian of the U.S. House of Representatives, a prolific author, archivist, educator, humorist, historian, illustrator, psychologist, and recognized expert on military and naval history. He died on May 14.

He was the husband of my former chief of staff, Eleanor Lewis, an extraordinary individual in her own right, who had been Geraldine Ferraro's chief of staff as well.

Ray Lewis was a man of great intellect, of great warmth, and of great contributions to this institution, to his country, to his family, and to the intellectual education of so many.

Ray Lewis was a man of the House and so much more. He lived a life of vast experience. He was, as Eleanor observed, a genuine Renaissance man. He loved his work and his scholarship and service to the House and to this country, which he enriched so extraordinarily well.

During his tenure as an officer in the House, Dr. Lewis combined disciplined intellect with a deep interest in the House's history and patience to guide House Members and staff seeking historical understanding of this institution.

During the House Judiciary Committee impeachment hearings on President Nixon, Dr. Lewis provided critical historical references to guide the committee in its work. And he honored the tradition of the office he headed, authoring a history of the House Library and promoting ties with the Senate Library and the Library of Congress' Congressional Research Service.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I knew Ray Lewis for much of the time I served in the House of Representatives. I got to know him, his sense of humor, his sense of this institution, his sense of decency, and his sense of excitement of what was going on here and around the world. With Eleanor, he traveled in much of the world; and in each place, he learned something new and brought it home for all of us.

Dr. Lewis created extraordinary research on fortifications, coastal fortifications, river fortifications. He was, indeed, one of the world's experts on that particular historical focus.

Eleanor Lewis, as I said, was my former chief of staff. She is still a very dear and close friend. She and Ray were partners in life for over four dec-

ades. They were partners, as well, in intellectual pursuits and in their love of this country and of this institution, the House of Representatives. They enriched all.

Ray Lewis was born to two Siberian immigrants in Oakland, California, on November 30, 1928. He attended the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Oregon. While enrolled at the University of Oregon, he studied with a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. He became a tenured psychology professor in the Oregon University system for a half dozen years. Dr. Lewis was among the first psychology professors to participate in the creation of the Oregon State Board of Psychologist Examiners and was the first Oregon professor to teach on campus through television. A Renaissance man, a man before his time.

He had a lifelong love of public spaces and actively worked to preserve parkland. In fact, on May 27, 1937, at the age of 8, he joined his parents and his brother Albert, now deceased, in walking across the Golden Gate Bridge on opening day. He donated specimens unearthed at forts to national and State parks, including Fort Stevens at the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon. Ray Lewis, to the very end of his life, digested life, welcomed life.

Tennyson wrote a poem about Ulysses, in which he said: "I am a part of all that I have met; yet all experience is an arch wherethrough gleams that untravelled world, whose margin fades for ever and for ever when I move." That was Ray Lewis' psyche. He saw life as an ever-expanding opportunity to enrich himself and to enrich others with his intellect and his excitement for what could be done and how well he participated in doing for this House, for this country, and for his family.

Mr. Speaker, my remarks are longer than this, and I will not repeat all of them. Much of them have been contributed by his wife's observations and her writing skills, and I would ask that they be included in the RECORD. I have read some of them, but the remarks I

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

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

give about him are personal because he was my friend. He was an American to be admired by us all. He was a good citizen, a great American, a man of the House.

My sympathy to Eleanor for her loss, but to all of us, as well, for our loss of a good and decent man who made such a contribution to this country and to all of us.

IN MEMORY OF EMANUEL RAYMOND LEWIS, LIBRARIAN
EMERITUS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Emanuel Raymond Lewis, Librarian Emeritus, the last and longest serving Librarian of the U.S. House of Representatives, prolific author, archivist, educator, humorist, historian, illustrator, psychologist, and recognized expert on military and naval history, died May 14 in Suburban Hospital, Bethesda, MD. The cause of death was dementia.

Dr. Lewis was appointed House Librarian in 1973, and served until January 1995 when the library, which predated the Library of Congress, along with the House Historical Office, was down-sized and placed under the Legislative Resource Center. The Library was the official custodian of all documents generated by the House.

Ray Lewis was a man of the House, and so much more. Ray lived a life of vast experience—he was a genuine Renaissance man. He loved his work, and his scholarship and service to the House and to this country left us all enriched.

During his tenure as an officer of the House, Dr. Lewis combined disciplined intellect with a deep interest in the House's history and the patience to guide House members and staff seeking historical understanding of this institution. During the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment hearings on President Nixon, Lewis provided critical historical references to guide the committee in its work. And he honored the tradition of the office he headed, authoring a history of "The House Library" and promoting the ties with the Senate Library and the Library of Congress' Congressional Research Service.

From his service as an officer in military intelligence from 1954–1956, Dr. Lewis developed a life-long interest in the history of military architecture and technology in the United States, which culminated in the 1970 publication of "Seacoast Fortifications of the United States" published by the Smithsonian Institution Press. He wrote this work while a Post-Doctoral Research Associate 1969–1970 at The Smithsonian Institution. Initially an architectural student at the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Lewis turned his early drawing talents to illustrate his book.

Commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps, he transferred to Military Intelligence when the Corps was abolished shortly after his commission. As commander of a group of Soviet military defectors—Lewis was a native Russian speaker—he was assigned responsibility for testing security at military bases. He retired as a Captain.

Dr. Lewis researched military documents in the National Archives, and traveled extensively to fortification sites around the country for his book, the first comprehensive work on the subject of coastal fortifications in a century, now used by the U.S. National Park Service in

training their employees. This seminal work examined the prominent role played by these fortifications in American defense policy prior to World War II.

Lewis was accompanied on these travels by his future wife, Eleanor (Gammarsh) Lewis, the couple referred to the time as "their forting days in lieu of their courting days." Travel would become a constant in their lives together—his proposal of marriage included an unusual vow—"marry me and I will take you to Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara"—and he did. Over 45 years they would visit every continent, and more than 100 countries.

Dr. Lewis published widely in military and naval-related journals including "Military Affairs," the "U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings," "The Military Engineer," "Capitol Studies," "U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings," "Military Engineer," "Dictionary of American History," "Encyclopedia of the United States Congress"; and "Warship International." Editors of the latter publication honored his work in their annual "Best Articles of the Year" on three separate occasions.

In 1969 working for System Development Corporation of Santa Monica, CA, considered the world's first computer software company, Dr. Lewis co-authored "The Educational Information Center: An Introduction," a general guide to the process of establishing an educational information center.

Born to Siberian immigrants in Oakland, CA, November 30, 1928, Dr. Lewis attended the University of California at Berkeley (BA/MA) and the University of Oregon (PhD). While enrolled at the University of Oregon he studied with a grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH). He became a tenured psychology professor in the Oregon University System for a half-dozen years. Dr. Lewis was among the first psychology professors to participate in the creation of the Oregon State Board of Psychologist Examiners, and the first Oregon professor to teach on campus through television.

Dr. Lewis had a life-long love of public spaces and actively worked to preserve parkland. On May 27, 1937 at age 8, he joined his parents and his brother Albert, now deceased, in walking across the Golden Gate Bridge on opening day. He donated specimens unearthed at forts to national and state parks, including Fort Stevens at the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon.

To honor his father, Jacob A. Lewis, Dr. Lewis donated ten acres to the city of Hayward, CA—the "J.A. Lewis Park" is now part of the Hayward (CA) Area Recreation and Park District. The elder Lewis had donated the same land area—ten acres—in San Francisco to build Congregation Ner Tamid.

In 1965, Dr. Lewis prepared "A History of San Francisco Harbor Defense Installations: Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite, and Funston" for the State of California Division of Beaches and Parks. This work, which evolved into Dr. Lewis' later book on coastal fortification, was instrumental in the formation of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in 1972. In 1971 Dr. Lewis was called to testify before a subcommittee of the House Interior Committee during hearings on creating the GGNRA.

Dr. Lewis was well-known to House Members and especially staff who sought his help

in researching issues before the Congress. He was regarded as a friendly curmudgeon who could be relied on to quickly locate helpful historical information. The time he saved those staffers, however, was all too frequently consumed in conversation about whatever matter Dr. Lewis happened to be engaged in researching at the time.

His curiosity and love of learning spanned a wide range of interests. Those interests were manifested in his personal collection authentic African spears, including several purchased in Umhlanga, South Africa, which were used in the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War; the muzzle of a 16-inch gun from the USS *Indiana* now on display at the Navy Museum in Washington, DC; a 1954 MG which was best of show in the 25th Anniversary of the "Concours d'Elegance" June 29, 1997 in Forest Grove, Oregon; and Soviet Field Marshal memorabilia. Side interests included the study of California geography, and Native American tribes—the House Librarian was once called upon by Vice President Spiro Agnew for advice on the authentic pronunciation of tribal names.

It was fitting that the House Librarian—in the tradition of Jefferson—held thousands of books in his personal collection.

Ray's passions for travel and collecting items of interest came together when it came to trains. It's hard to know whether his collection of train models, especially those of the Southern Pacific Daylight, came from the time he spent riding the rails, but we know he loved traveling by train. His adventures included a cross-country excursion from Washington, DC to San Francisco, as well as passage on the Trans-Siberian Railway from Khabarovsk to Moscow. Along with his trips on the Canadian and Pacific Railways, Ray's rail experiences, like so much of his life, were full and adventurous.

For all his scholarly activities, Lewis took great pleasure in hanging out with some of the legendary cultural figures of his time—jazz greats Louis Armstrong and Dave Brubeck, as well as comedy giants Lenny Bruce and Mort Sahl at San Francisco's "Hungry i."

An engaging and enthusiastic raconteur, Lewis could entertain with stories of juicy irony from the day's news, or of his time playing slots with Frank Sinatra in Reno, Nevada when the singer was obtaining his divorce from Ava Gardner. His own performing exploits—he sang and played guitar—ended with producing musicals and comedies in graduate school.

Born with a rare cholesterol disorder, Dr. Lewis first entered NIH in 1964 as an in-patient, and was involved in the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institutes' research protocols that led to the discovery of the statin drugs. Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, named by President Gerald Ford to become head of the National Institutes in 1974, was Lewis's doctor; Lewis was a research patient in Dr. Frederickson's 1967 paper describing the classification of lipoprotein abnormalities in five types. This became known as the "Frederick classification," later adopted as a standard by the World Health Organization in 1972.

A devoted atheist, Dr. Lewis became a minister in the Universal Life Church, Inc., in the 1960s—he liked to joke that he could marry you or bury you—your choice. In 1999, he experienced a lifetime thrill when he met the

Dalai Lama at a dinner in Washington, DC. The Lewises had recently visited Lhasa, Tibet and at the dinner presented the Dalai Lama with photographs of Norbulingka, the summer palace from which he escaped the Chinese in March 1959.

Dr. Lewis is survived by his wife of 47 years, Eleanor G. Lewis of Washington, DC, my former Chief of Staff; his son Joseph J. Lewis of Eugene, Oregon, cousin Ruth Lycette, her son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Kathy Lycette of Palo Alto and San Carlos respectively; his cousin in law, Eve DeLanis of Virginia Beach, VA; a sister-in-law, Roberta Foulke and her husband, Robert, of Las Vegas, Nevada, 11 nieces and nephews, and many great nieces and nephews.

DYING IN LINES—U.S. VETERANS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, I was at Houston National Cemetery with Texas veterans and their families. They were irate about the allegations against the VA. They want to know what we plan to do about it.

In a July 2012 speech, President Obama said: "I promised to strengthen the VA, and that promise has been kept." Thanks to whistleblowers, we now know that statement is not accurate.

The more we hear about the VA's treatment of veterans, the worse it gets. And over the past few weeks, we have learned that 26 VA facilities nationwide are being investigated for cooking the books, ensuring that the long wait times sick veterans have to endure are hidden from the public. Secret waiting lists, hidden agendas all driven by the greed of those at the highest level of the VA.

Why greed? Why cook the books? Because if wait times are reported low, VA officials receive bonuses. VA workers have allegedly used different tactics and strategies to give the impression that they were meeting the Department's standard of seeing patients between 14 and 30 days.

To promote this lie, the Phoenix VA hospital allegedly had a secret waiting list to conceal delays and wait times. Meanwhile, dozens of patients' conditions worsened, and many died waiting in line. It has been reported that between 1,400 and 1,600 sick veterans had to wait months to see a doctor.

The Phoenix VA was not the only place where fraud took place. In my home State of Texas, it has been reported that the VA officials in San Antonio and Austin purposely manipulated appointment data to hide the long wait times.

According to whistleblower reports, top level VA staff directed workers to "ensure wait times were as close to zero as possible," in other words, juggle the books. He went on:

It's plain and simple common sense . . . If you have a patient who has a delay in diagnosis of any cancer, that cancer did not stop growing while they were waiting for the doctor to see them.

Mr. Speaker, treating our veterans like cattle in line at the stockyards is unacceptable. Our warriors are dying in line.

According to The Daily Beast, a whistleblower in the Texas VA described this as "an organized crime syndicate . . . People up on top are suddenly afraid they may actually be prosecuted, and they're pressuring the little guys down below to cover it all up."

According to the whistleblower, the problem comes from the higher-ups. "If VA directors report long delays, they won't stay a director very long, and they certainly won't get promoted."

"No one is getting rewarded for honesty. They pretty much have to lie; if they don't, they don't go anywhere."

"If one person comes up with a way to cheat on a report to the government and profit from that lie, that's defrauding the government."

"If hundreds of people are defrauding the government, it's a conspiracy, and that's what you've got now, and it runs coast to coast and bottom to top."

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the administration to stop claiming ignorance and blaming lower-level operatives for a scandal that has been driven from higher up. Secretary Shinseki has overseen a Department that has now been called a "criminal syndicate." He should just be fired.

Those money-hungry executives at the VA who engaged in secret illegal activity that has resulted in veterans dying should be treated for what they are—criminals. And those veterans who are still waiting in line should be given waivers to see the private doctor of their choice.

Mr. Speaker, cancer does not wait for government bureaucracy, incompetence, and delay. American warriors have died in lands far, far away. But now, other American warriors are dying in the United States, in line, waiting for VA health care. Put those that committed crimes in line for the stockade, and fix the problem.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1215

DENOUNCING THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S WASHINGTON FOOTBALL FRANCHISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, last year, nine Members of this House and I sent a letter to the National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell, to the Washington, D.C., fran-

chise owner, Dan Snyder, and to the owners of the other 31 National Football League franchises urging an end to the use of the term "redskins" as an NFL franchise name because it is derogatory, it is demeaning, and patently offensive to Native American Indians. While Mr. Snyder did not respond, Mr. Goodell did so in a dismissive manner, calling this racial slur "a unifying force that stands for strength, courage, pride, and respect."

Mr. Speaker, give me a break.

Last week, 50 Senators joined our effort and also sent a letter to the NFL. Mr. Goodell did not respond, but Bruce Allen of the Washington franchise did respond in a dismissive manner, stating that "redskins" is not a derogatory word and claiming that it actually honors Native Americans.

Mr. Speaker, shame on Mr. Allen, shame on Mr. Goodell, and shame on Mr. Snyder for suggesting that "redskins" is a name of honor when, according to Native Americans, it is "the worst thing in the English language you can be called if you are a Native person."

Mr. Snyder, Mr. Goodell, and Mr. Allen have escaped the public lashing that Don Sterling received just weeks ago for his racist remarks on African Americans who play basketball. I believe if the American public knew the history of this derogatory term, they would call on Dan Snyder to change the name or get out of the League.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the painful and violent past associated with this despicable term. For many of our Native Americans, the word "redskins" is reminiscent of a time when the colonial government engaged in the practice of trading Indian scalps or skins and body parts for bounties.

In 1749, the British bounty was "10 guineas for every Indian taken or killed." In 1755, the lieutenant governor of the Massachusetts Bay Province issued a proclamation calling for the extermination of the Penobscot Indian Nation. The bounty for a male Indian above the age of 12 was 50 pounds, and his scalp was worth 40 pounds. The bounty for a female Indian of any age and for males under the age of 12 was 25 pounds, while their scalps were worth 20 pounds. In 1863, the reward in Minnesota was \$200 "for every redskin sent to purgatory."

Mr. Speaker, I submit that today, Chief Kirk Francis of the Penobscot Indian Nation declared that the word "redskins" is "not just a racial slur or a derogatory term," but a painful "reminder of one of the most gruesome acts of ethnic cleansing ever committed against" his people. The hunting and killing of Native American Indians, as stated by Chief Francis, was "a most despicable and disgraceful act of genocide." This photo depicts what genocide looks like, Mr. Speaker, and I

want to share this photo with my colleagues.

So, while scalping is a matter of historical debate, Mr. Snyder's response to this disgraceful act is indicative of the racist history behind the Washington franchise's name. Its founder, George Preston Marshall, is identified by historians as the driving force behind the color barrier that existed for 12 years in the National Football League, a sad commentary or chapter from 1934 to 1945, when African Americans were banned from the National Football League by a so-called "gentleman's agreement." For years, Mr. Marshall marketed the Washington, D.C., franchise to appeal to the segregated South. The band played "Dixie," the Confederate flag flew, and after the NFL's color line was crossed in 1946, the Washington, D.C., franchise was the last team to field an African American player—and not until 1962.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the Washington team did not welcome African American players with open arms. Oh, no. Then-Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and Attorney General Robert Kennedy presented the Washington franchise with an ultimatum: unless Marshall signed an African American player, the government would revoke his franchise's 30-year lease on the use of the D.C. stadium.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot simply continue these hateful traditions that mock, belittle, disparage, and disgrace those of a different race because of the color of their skin. The National Basketball Association recently reacted swiftly to Mr. Don Sterling's racist remarks. Why is the National Football League so hesitant? Why is Mr. Snyder so slow to do the right thing when some 6 million of his own people's skins were used for lampshades by the Nazi Germans during World War II? Shame on Mr. Snyder for perpetuating this racism and bigotry. He should know better and do better.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

In these days after Memorial Day, we thank You again for the ultimate sacrifices of so many of our citizen-ancestors. Bless their families with Your consolation. Bless as well the men and women who serve our Nation this day in our Armed Forces. May they and their families be assured of our deep gratitude for their service.

O God, You have blessed every person with the full measure of Your grace and given us the bounty of Your spirit. Lead us this day in the ways of peace. We pray for peace in our hearts, that we will be freed from selfishness or envy, that we will replace any enmity with goodwill, and hatred with charity, so we might lead lives of generosity and kindness.

May there be peace in our world among all nations. May each nation sense its shared destiny in a new spirit of hope and trust, one with another.

Help us to be men and women without excuse, and may all that we do this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. TAKANO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

THE UNFOLDING SCANDAL AT THE VA

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as the unfolding scandal at the VA demonstrates, the administration has a standard playbook for dealing with an unfolding PR disaster:

The first step is to say the President learned about the situation on the news and is madder than anyone else about it;

Step two is to declare an investigation underway;

Step three is to implore us all to wait patiently for the always slow investigation to be completed;

Step four is to declare the scandal old news.

The underlying theme is that we must allow the bureaucratic machinery

to sort out the problems, and we must not interfere with the process.

Mr. Speaker, Samuel Johnson once said that patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel, but in our political culture today, process is the last refuge of those who seek to avoid true accountability.

IN SUPPORT OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, RETIRED GENERAL ERIC K. SHINSEKI

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

Mr. FALCOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, as a Vietnam veteran, I rise today to offer my strong support for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, General Eric Shinseki.

Since taking over the VA, General Shinseki has made veterans a top priority, enrolling over 2 million new veterans from our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and reducing veteran homelessness by about 24 percent.

With new reports of coverups at VA facilities, the Secretary has also called for an independent review and nationwide audit, giving his word that he will do all he can to fix a system that was broken long before he took over.

So let us stand together to do right by our veterans. General Shinseki is right for America's veterans. He is a tried and proven leader, the highest ranked Asian Pacific American in the history of the United States, who told our Nation the truth about Iraq when no one would listen. He will now tell us the truth about the VA. And once the independent review and audit is completed, he will hold accountable any and all who have done our veterans wrong.

I say this to Secretary Shinseki: Do not resign. We are with you. Go for broke. And let's clean up this mess that had been there way before you took over.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ZACHARY VALSECCHI

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, a firm education prepares America's children for lifelong success. This year, the Office of the Second Congressional District hosted the First Annual Elementary School Challenge, where we encouraged third graders to write in and share their favorite part of South Carolina history.

I am grateful for the support the office received from teachers and administrators who participated in this inaugural competition. Students from over 100 third grade classrooms shared lessons of history which are very meaningful for today.

Zachary Valsecchi, a student at Round Top Elementary School in Blythewood, South Carolina, won this year's competition. He shared the story of the "Best Friend of Charleston," America's first regularly scheduled passenger service train, built in 1831, which ran between Charleston and Hamburg, which is now near North Augusta on the Savannah River in Aiken County. His parents, Wayne and Susan, should be proud of Zachary's accomplishments and the bright future he has ahead of him. I am confident that Round Top Elementary School, Principal Jeanee Tucker, and teacher Cathy Williams will continue to prepare our young people for success.

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

LEGISLATION TO HELP REALIZE THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, today I take to the floor to ask Congress to act and pass legislation that will help millions of working families.

We need to pass legislation that will raise the minimum wage and reinstates unemployment insurance for the long-term unemployed.

We need to pass legislation that will protect future property owners from abusive lenders.

We need to pass legislation that will improve our education system to help our children go to college and ensure them a successful future.

We need to pass legislation that will fix our broken immigration system, and will include a path towards citizenship.

It is our duty to help our communities. I ask the Republicans to support these policies so that millions of people can have the opportunity to realize the American Dream.

Señor Presidente de la Cámara de Representantes,

Hoy, tomo la palabra para pedir que el Congreso actúe y pase la legislación que ayudara a millones de familias trabajadoras.

Tenemos que pasar legislación que aumente el salario mínimo y reinstale el seguro de desempleo para quienes han estado desempleados por largo tiempo.

Tenemos que pasar legislación que proteja a futuros propietarios de prestamistas abusivos.

Tenemos que pasar legislación que mejore nuestro sistema educativo—que ayude a nuestros hijos a ir a la universidad y asegurarles un futuro exitoso.

Tenemos que pasar legislación que arregle nuestro sistema migratorio

quebrado, y que incluya un camino a la ciudadanía.

Es nuestro deber ayudar a nuestras comunidades. Pido que los Republicanos apoyen estas pólizas para que millones de personas tengan la oportunidad de realizar el sueño americano.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will provide a translation for the RECORD.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ABUSING FOREIGN MINORS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the United States is very quick to criticize other nations for human rights abuses, especially when those abuses are caused by foreign government employees. But while the U.S. is crusading against human rights abuses in other parts of the world, it should not ignore human rights abuses here in America.

Allegations are coming to light that government employees of the Office of Refugee Resettlement are abusing—sexually—immigrant minors that are detained in Federal custody. According to the Houston Chronicle, over 100 incidents have been reported where U.S. Federal workers had improper sexual contact with foreign minors. That includes everything from inappropriate touching to forced sex with children. Some minors were threatened with deportation if they ever told the authorities.

The reports also show that not one worker has been held accountable or prosecuted for such criminal conduct. If crimes have been committed, these criminals need to be locked up in a jailhouse. The United States cannot be the world leader for human rights when employees of our own government sexually abuse foreign minor children on American soil.

And that's just the way it is.

CELEBRATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with thousands of people in my district and millions across the country to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month this May. This month, we celebrate the innumerable contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to communities in every corner of our Nation.

California's 47th District is a testament to the richness and diversity with which Asian Pacific Americans have added to the fabric of our country, from Little Saigon and the Korean

Business District in Westminster and Garden Grove to Cambodia Town and the Filipino and Pacific Islander communities in Long Beach.

This year also marks the 35th anniversary of the end of the Cambodian genocide and the 39th anniversary of the fall of Saigon. It reminds us of the courage and the bravery with which millions of Asian Pacific Americans made the journey to the United States to build a better life for themselves and for their children.

CARE AND RESPECT FOR OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this Memorial Day week in honor of the brave men and women who have selflessly given their lives for this Nation and the millions of veterans to whom our country owes a debt of gratitude.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, we have recently learned that the Department of Veterans Affairs has fallen disgracefully below the standard our fighting men and women deserve. Misconduct, lengthy patient wait times, and secret lists are all unacceptable for those who have served our country.

It is time the administration takes action on behalf of those who have fought for our freedom. I look forward to supporting the important VA accountability legislation on the floor today and working with Chairman JEFF MILLER and my colleagues in the House to ensure that our veterans receive the care and the respect they undoubtedly earned.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore WOLF on Tuesday, May 27, 2014:

H.R. 724, to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles;

H.R. 1036, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office";

H.R. 1228, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building";

H.R. 1451, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building";

H.R. 2391, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the “Lance Corporal Philip Vinnedge Post Office”;

H.R. 2939, to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres;

H.R. 3060, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the “Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building”;

H.R. 4032, to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes;

H.R. 4488, to make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

VENEZUELAN HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROTECTION ACT

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4587) to impose targeted sanctions on individuals responsible for carrying out or ordering human rights abuses against the citizens of Venezuela, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4587

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On February 12, 2014, also known in Venezuela as the National Youth Day, students began protesting in several cities against Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro’s inability to stem violent crime, his undemocratic actions, and a rapidly deteriorating economy marked by high inflation and shortages of consumer goods.

(2) On February 12, 2014, a judge issued an arrest warrant for Leopoldo López, leader of the opposition party Voluntad Popular, for allegations in connection with the student protests.

(3) On February 17, 2014, the Government of Venezuela notified the United States Department of State that it had declared 3 consular officers at the United States Embassy in Venezuela *personae non gratae*.

(4) On February 18, 2014, opposition leader Leopoldo López turned himself in to Venezuelan authorities, was arrested, and charged with criminal incitement, conspiracy, arson, and intent to damage property.

(5) Leopoldo López is currently being held in a prison at a military facility.

(6) Nongovernmental human rights organizations have alleged that the charges brought against Leopoldo López appear to be a politically motivated attempt to silence dissent in the country.

(7) As of May 1, 2014, there have been 41 people killed, a reported 60 cases of torture, over 100 injured, and many oppressively detained in relation to pro-democracy demonstrations throughout Venezuela.

(8) On February 19, 2014, President Obama criticized the Government of Venezuela for arresting protesters, called for their release, and urged the government to focus on the “legitimate grievances of the Venezuelan people”.

(9) According to the Department of State’s Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013 for Venezuela, “The principal human rights abuses reported during the year included corruption, politicization in the judicial system, and government actions to impede freedom of expression and restrict freedom of the press. The government did not respect judicial independence or permit judges to act according to the law without fear of retaliation. The government used the judiciary to intimidate and selectively prosecute political, union, business, and civil society leaders who were critical of government policies or actions. The government harassed and intimidated privately owned television stations, other media outlets, and journalists throughout the year, using threats, fines, property seizures, targeted regulations, arrests, and criminal investigations and prosecutions.”

(10) According to the Department of State’s Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013 for Venezuela, “The following human rights problems were reported by NGOs, the media, and in some cases the government itself: unlawful killings, including summary killings by police elements;

torture and other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions and lack of due process rights that contributed to widespread violence, riots, injuries, and deaths in prisons; inadequate juvenile detention centers; arbitrary arrests and detentions; corruption and impunity in police forces; political prisoners; interference with privacy rights; corruption at all levels of government; threats against domestic NGOs; violence against women; anti-Semitism in the official media; trafficking in persons; violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and restrictions on workers’ right of association.”

(11) According to Freedom House’s Freedom in the World report of 2013 on Venezuela, “Nicolás Maduro, further weakened the independent media, reduced the opposition’s ability to serve as a check on government policy, and made threats to civil society groups.”

SEC. 4. ACTIONS AT THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.

The Secretary of State shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the Organization of American States to defend and protect the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and strengthen efforts by international and multilateral organizations to advance the protection of human rights throughout the Western Hemisphere, especially in Venezuela.

SEC. 5. SANCTIONS ON PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE IN VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b)(1)(A) and the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b)(1)(B) with respect to any person, including a current or former official of the Government of Venezuela or a person acting on behalf of that Government, that the President, or the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries), as the case may be, determines—

(1) has perpetrated, or is responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, significant acts of violence or serious human rights abuses in Venezuela against individuals participating in protests in Venezuela that began on February 12, 2014;

(2) has directed or ordered the arrest or prosecution of a person primarily because of the person’s legitimate exercise of freedom of expression or assembly in relation to the protests in Venezuela that began on February 12, 2014;

(3) has knowingly materially assisted, sponsored, or provided significant financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the commission of acts described in paragraph (1) or (2) in relation to protests in Venezuela that began on February 12, 2014; or

(4) has engaged in censorship against individuals or media outlets disseminating information in relation to protests in Venezuela that began on February 12, 2014.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a

person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The authority to impose sanctions under clause (i) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions relating to the importation of goods.

(II) GOOD DEFINED.—In subclause (I), the term “good” has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et. seq.)).

(B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows or has reasonable grounds to believe meets any of the criteria described in subsection (a) is—

(I) inadmissible to the United States;

(II) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(III) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who meets any of the criteria described in subsection (a), regardless of when issued.

(II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under subclause (I) shall take effect immediately; and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien’s possession.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that is subject to sanctions described in paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States and on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for the waiver; or

(2) determines that the conditions in Venezuela have improved with regard to respect for peaceful protest and basic human rights and on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may exercise all authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) for purposes of carrying out this section.

(2) EXCEPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to impose sanctions under paragraph (1) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions relating to the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In subparagraph (A), the term “good” has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et. seq.)).

(e) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) MATERIALLY ASSISTED.—The term “materially assisted” means the provision of assistance that is significant and of a kind directly relevant to acts described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a).

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SEC. 6. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSFER OF GOODS OR TECHNOLOGIES TO VENEZUELA THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE USED TO COMMIT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose sanctions described in section 5(b) with respect to each person on the list required under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) LIST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of persons who the President determines have knowingly engaged in an activity described in paragraph (2) on or after such date of enactment.

(2) ACTIVITY DESCRIBED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A person knowingly engages in an activity described in this paragraph if the person—

(i) transfers, or facilitates the transfer of, goods or technologies described in subparagraph (C) to Venezuela, any person organized under the laws of Venezuela, or any national of Venezuela, for use in or with respect to Venezuela; or

(ii) provides services (including services relating to hardware, software, and specialized information, and professional consulting, engineering, and support services) with respect to goods or technologies described in subparagraph (C) after such goods or technologies are transferred to Venezuela.

(B) APPLICABILITY TO CONTRACTS AND OTHER AGREEMENTS.—A person engages in an activity described in subparagraph (A) without regard to whether the activity is carried out pursuant to a contract or other agreement entered into before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(C) GOODS OR TECHNOLOGIES DESCRIBED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Goods or technologies described in this subparagraph are goods or technologies that the President determines are to be used by the Government of Venezuela or any of the agencies or instrumentalities of the Government of Venezuela (or by any other person on behalf of the Government of Venezuela or any of such agencies or instrumentalities) to commit serious human rights abuses against the people of Venezuela, including—

(I) firearms or ammunition (as such terms are defined in section 921 of title 18, United States Code), rubber bullets, police batons, pepper or chemical sprays, stun grenades, electroshock weapons, tear gas, water cannons, or surveillance technology; or

(II) sensitive technology.

(ii) SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY DEFINED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of clause (i)(II), the term “sensitive technology” means hardware, software, telecommunications equipment, or any other technology, that the President determines is to be used specifically—

(aa) to restrict the free flow of unbiased information in Venezuela; or

(bb) to disrupt, monitor, or otherwise restrict speech of the people of Venezuela.

(II) EXCEPTION.—The term “sensitive technology” does not include information or informational materials the exportation of which the President does not have the authority to regulate or prohibit pursuant to section 203(b)(3) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(3)).

(3) SPECIAL RULE TO ALLOW FOR TERMINATION OF SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITY.—The President shall not be required to include a person on the list required under paragraph (1) if—

(A) the President determines that the person is no longer engaging in, or has taken significant credible steps toward stopping (including winding down contracts or other agreements that were in effect prior to the date of the enactment of this Act) the activity described in paragraph (2) for which the President would otherwise have included the person on the list; and

(B) the President has received reliable assurances that such person will not knowingly engage in any new activity described in such paragraph (2).

(4) UPDATES OF LIST.—The President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees an updated list under paragraph (1)—

(A) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) as new information becomes available.

(5) FORM OF LIST; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

(A) FORM.—The list required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified portion of the list required under paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public and posted on the Web site of the Department of State.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions described in section 5(b) with respect to a person on the list required under subsection (b) of this section if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States and on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for the waiver; or

(2) determines that the conditions in Venezuela have improved with regard to respect

for peaceful protest and basic human rights and on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) EXCEPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to impose sanctions under paragraph (1) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions relating to the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In subparagraph (A), the term “good” has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et. seq.)).

SEC. 7. COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO PROMOTE INTERNET FREEDOM AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with heads of other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a comprehensive strategy that is classified to the extent necessary to—

(1) assist the people of Venezuela to produce, access, and share information freely and safely via the Internet;

(2) increase the capabilities and availability of secure mobile and other communications through connective technology among human rights and democracy advocates in Venezuela;

(3) provide resources for digital training for media and academic and civil society organizations in Venezuela;

(4) increase emergency resources for the most vulnerable human rights advocates seeking to organize, share information, and support human rights in Venezuela;

(5) expand access to uncensored sources of local news and information using all available and effective mediums of communication, especially through platforms that leverage public-private partnerships;

(6) expand activities to safely assist and train human rights, civil society, and democracy activists in Venezuela to operate effectively and securely;

(7) expand access to proxy servers for democracy activists in Venezuela; and

(8) discourage telecommunications and software companies from facilitating Internet censorship by the Government of Venezuela.

SEC. 8. COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO ENCOURAGE VENEZUELA TO ABIDE BY THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE INTER-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CHARTER.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a comprehensive strategy outlining how the United States is supporting the citizens of Venezuela in seeking—

(1) free, fair, and transparent elections—

(A) conducted with the presence of internationally recognized observers; and

(B) in which—

(i) all parties are permitted ample time to organize and campaign for such elections; and

(ii) all candidates are permitted equitable access to the media;

(2) basic civil liberties and human rights, including access to and support for non-governmental organizations in such activities;

(3) establishment of independent judiciaries and electoral councils; and

(4) development of an independent civil society with the capacity to advocate on behalf of constituents.

SEC. 9. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON POLITICAL PRISONERS.

It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to support efforts to research and identify prisoners of conscience and cases of human rights abuses in Venezuela;

(2) to offer refugee status or political asylum in the United States to political dissidents in Venezuela if requested and consistent with the laws and national security interests of the United States;

(3) to offer to assist, through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the relocation of such political prisoners to other countries if requested, as appropriate and with appropriate consideration for the national security interests of the United States; and

(4) to publicly call for the release of Venezuelan country dissidents by name and raise awareness with respect to individual cases of Venezuelan country dissidents and prisoners of conscience, as appropriate and if requested by the dissidents or prisoners themselves or their families.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY IN VENEZUELA.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the United States Agency for International Development for fiscal year 2015 not less than \$5,000,000 to provide assistance to civil society in Venezuela.

SEC. 11. OFFSET.

Section 102(a) of the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 8412(a); Public Law 111-73; 123 Stat. 2068) is amended by striking “\$1,500,000,000” and inserting “\$1,493,000,000”.

SEC. 12. SUNSET.

This Act shall cease to be effective beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, after my remarks, I will place into the RECORD letters between the chairmen of the committees of referral on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4587, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act. This bill has received bipartisan support from many of my colleagues in the House and was passed more than 2 weeks ago by our Foreign Affairs Committee.

I would like to thank Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, subcommittee Chairman SALMON, and Ranking Member SIRES for working with my office to craft the legislation that is before us this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to condemn the ongoing human rights abuses being committed in Venezuela and to answer the cries of the people of Venezuela.

On February 12, 2014, also known in Venezuela as National Youth Day, students began protesting in several cities against Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro's inability to stem violent crime, his undemocratic actions, and a rapidly deteriorating economy marked by high inflation and shortages of consumer goods. Since then, these students and the Venezuelan people, as a whole, have been met with intimidation, with violence, with imprisonment simply for calling for the respect of human rights and democratic change.

One example is the case of Leopoldo Lopez, a pro-democracy leader who continues to be in prison at a military facility on trumped-up charges by Maduro in an effort by Maduro to silence his many critics.

The case of Maria Corina Machado is another example. This courageous woman, a member of the Venezuelan National Assembly until just recently, has stood up for the people of Venezuela. And for drawing attention to the abuses being committed by the autocrat, she was stripped of her legislative seat.

Since the protest began, Mr. Speaker, there have been 42 people killed, nearly 60 reported cases of torture, more than 2,000 people unjustly detained, and hundreds more injured. And throughout this crisis, the so-called dialogue discussions with Maduro and UNASUR has provided no results, no actions, no concessions, and the innocent are still being imprisoned. And just 2 weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, 250 teenage protesters, ones who had camped out in public squares to protest, were rounded up and thrown in jail. Teenagers.

But the problems in Venezuela go beyond these protests. Venezuela has now become one of the most dangerous countries in Latin America. According to press reports, between January 2014 and April 2014, there were over 4,500 homicides in Venezuela. That is a staggering statistic, Mr. Speaker.

This call for freedom and democracy in Venezuela did not just start in February, and it is a shame that it has taken the events of these past few months for us to get active about the

plight of the Venezuelan people. The struggle for freedom in Venezuela has been ongoing for over a decade due to the oppressive policies put forth by the late Hugo Chavez, which have now continued under his handpicked successor.

The legislation before us, Mr. Speaker, is very direct and very clear. It seeks to target Venezuelan officials by denying them visas to enter the United States, blocking property, freezing assets, and prohibiting financial transactions to members of the Venezuelan regime who are responsible for the commission of serious human rights abuses against the people of Venezuela. It is very clear, very direct.

The United States Congress must stand ready to act on the calls of freedom and democracy around the globe, and the Venezuelan people have sent us a distress signal for help. Today, we answer that call by condemning the actions taken by the Maduro regime and showing our support to the people of Venezuela who are seeking liberty, freedom, human rights, and justice.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2014.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H.R. 4587, the "Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act," which was favorably reported out of your Committee on May 9, 2014.

Given that certain provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I appreciate that you have addressed these provisions in response to the Committee's concerns. As a result, in order to expedite Floor consideration of the bill, the Committee on Ways and Means will forgo action on H.R. 4587. Further, the Committee will not oppose the bill's Floor consideration, based on our understanding that you will work with us as the legislative process moves forward to ensure that our concerns continue to be addressed. This is also being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4587, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,
DAVE CAMP,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 27, 2014.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 4587, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Promotion Act, and for agreeing to forgo a sequential referral request so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the Floor. The suspension text

contains edits that implicate the Rule X jurisdictional interests of the Committee on Ways and Means that were drafted in consultation with your committee.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Ways and Means, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4587 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on Ways and Means as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,
EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 28, 2014.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 4587, the "Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act," which the Committee on Foreign Affairs ordered reported favorably on May 9, 2014. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 4587 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4587 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4587, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 4587.

Sincerely,
BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 28, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 4587, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Promotion Act, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill. The suspension text contains edits to portions of the bill within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary that were drafted in consultation with your committee.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Com-

mittee on the Judiciary, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4587 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on the Judiciary as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,
EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and rise in strong support of H.R. 4587, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act.

I would first like to thank Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for authoring this legislation and for her dedication to these important issues.

The eyes of this Congress and the international community are on Venezuela and President Nicolas Maduro and his security forces as they crack down on peaceful protesters. It is an absolute tragedy that 42 people have been killed in protests throughout the country. I am also troubled that opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez remains in jail on charges while many others have been unjustly detained by the Maduro government.

I am grateful for President Obama and Secretary Kerry's strong statements condemning the government's reprehensible actions. Let me say that all of us in Congress want nothing more than a peaceful resolution to this conflict. It was disappointing when negotiations between the Maduro government and the opposition broke down, and I hope that these talks can be revived.

In March, the House of Representatives passed a resolution which encouraged "a process of dialogue between the Government of Venezuela and the political opposition to end the violence." I continue to believe that dialogue is the best way out of this crisis. In the meantime, the legislation that we are considering today makes it clear that the United States will not turn a blind eye to human rights violations.

This bill has been crafted to impose targeted sanctions on human rights violators in Venezuela, while not harming average Venezuelans who are already suffering as a result of terrible economic mismanagement by the country's leaders.

While the Venezuelan Government might try to say otherwise, let us be clear: there is not a single provision in this bill that would negatively affect the average Venezuelan. This bill does not touch the Venezuelan oil sector or other parts of the country's economy. Instead, the Venezuelan Human Rights

and Democracy Protection Act revokes visas and freezes assets of human rights violators. Finally, it is important to note that this bill gives President Obama a great deal of flexibility to respond to events on the ground in Venezuela. Each and every sanction in this bill can be waived by the President at any time.

I would also point out, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned when this came up in committee and as the gentlewoman will remember, that it is important that the United States sends a strong signal in Latin America. Although we understand that each of the Latin American countries is distinct and different and all have different histories, we witnessed in the 1960s through the 1980s many thousands of students who disappeared, who were removed from their homes by their governments because of the protests that were going on in those countries at the time. We want to make sure that that never happens again, and this bill is important in ensuring that the Venezuelan Government understands that the United States is watching and that we will make sure that something like that doesn't happen again.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act and to thank my distinguished colleague, Chairwoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her bold leadership in calling attention to the deplorable human rights situation in Venezuela and for creating this meaningful diplomatic tool to assist the Venezuelan people in resisting tyranny; first, the tyranny imposed by Hugo Chavez, and now that of his understudy in oppression, Nicolas Maduro.

At its core, this important initiative authorizes targeted sanctions to those who are responsible for violence and abuse, namely, members of the Maduro regime. The regime's silencing of democracy advocates, such as Leopoldo Lopez, is a violation of fundamental human rights and is an example of what makes this piece of legislation so fitting and so necessary.

I also support the bill's redirection of funds towards supporting civil society groups in Venezuela involved in promoting respect for democracy and fundamental freedoms, most importantly, the respect for the right to life, expression, and the right of religious liberty.

Indeed, I want to underscore the church's role as a voice independent of

the State of Venezuela and how it has been unafraid to speak up on behalf of the oppressed and those protesting injustice. The Maduro regime has sought to silence the church, which remains a force independent of the government and a witness to the truth. The House of Representatives honors and deeply respects the key role that the church and faith-based civil society groups are playing in the fight for democracy and human rights in Venezuela.

As we all hope to see a free and democratic Venezuela, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Ros-Lehtinen legislation, H.R. 4587.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), a member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important bipartisan bill, to promote human rights in Venezuela. I want to commend my colleague, Chairwoman ROS-LEHTINEN, for bringing this important measure forward. It makes clear that, as a Nation, we do not condone the recent human rights abuses against Venezuelans as they fight for democratic change.

Venezuelans speaking out for basic rights and freedoms, such as the ability to speak freely and live free from intimidation and violence, have been harassed, intimidated, threatened, and killed as a result of their desire to determine their own destiny. Just this month, 41 people have been killed, over 100 injured, and 60 tortured in Venezuela in response to pro-democracy demonstrations. These are alarming statistics, and action must be taken to prevent this violence and hold the perpetrators accountable. This legislation does that by placing sanctions on those in President Maduro's government who are responsible for this violence against those exercising their legitimate rights.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan measure.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), my colleague on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

□ 1615

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to oppose H.R. 4587, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act. And while I am deeply troubled by the violence that erupted in Venezuela at the onset of protests months ago, and I join all of the people of Venezuela in mourning the loss of many lives, I also join all the people of Venezuela in the desire to see peaceful protests and a peaceful outcome, and that violence by anyone and everyone cease. I remain committed to doing everything in my power to support a positive outcome in that nation. But I believe vehemently

that unilateral action by the United States is not the answer, and that is why this bill is not the right step to take.

I know that there are high emotions on all sides of this issue, and I understand why, but the House should not act emotionally, it should act judiciously. This bill does not advance U.S. interests, it will not help the people of Venezuela, and it sends the message to our regional allies that we don't care much about what they think. And these are allies, these are friends. Moreover, the Obama administration has the authority to do what this bill calls for right now, and the administration has shown its willingness to use its authority.

So what, then, is our objective? Is it intended to push Venezuela to the brink? What would that do for the Venezuelan people and the region? Now, I have spoken to all of our major allies in the region, and I have yet to hear any support by them for sanctions, but there is strong support for multilateral engagement. Our allies do not want to see the situation in Venezuela worsen.

The unilateral sanctions bill we are considering today is misguided in that it is an unfortunate reminder of the history of U.S. arrogance in the Western Hemisphere. We have a legacy in the Americas that is riddled with long-lasting consequences. That legacy has left us with a trust deficit. Today, we are considering a bill that does nothing to build that trust. Our standing in our own hemisphere will never improve unless or until we build that trust.

While we pursue these sanctions, our allies are actively supporting dialogue. Members of this very body have made it a point to denounce and even condemn some regional organizations. Yet, one of those organizations, along with the Vatican, has managed to be the facilitator of engagement between some of the opposition and some in the Government of Venezuela. UNASUR, in its mediation efforts, continues to urge dialogue between all parties, and it is my sincere hope that dialogue can be successful.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. MEEKS. It is my sincere hope that dialogue can be successful, but in moments like this, I hope that we understand that unilateral sanctions would be another policy mistake—a costly mistake that we can and should avoid.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are gathered here because we believe we must speak for those who cannot speak freely, because our Venezuelan brothers and sisters are engaged in a critical battle for freedom and democracy against a brutal enemy. And we are gathered here because, even

as we enjoy the freedoms to assemble and express our beliefs, we want our brothers and sisters in Venezuela to enjoy this and other basic liberties.

Millions of people throughout the country have expressed themselves in the past 3 weeks in support of democratic change. But the Maduro regime has responded with tear gas, with rubber bullets, and even live ammunition, killing at least 42, injuring hundreds, and unjustly detaining countless others.

We must act because democracy and human rights aren't issues for Venezuelans only. They matter to all of us who seek to advance human dignity, rule of law, justice, and freedom. Tyrants like Maduro fear a small group of committed citizens because they know that they are the only force that has changed history. And we don't have to go far in history to see that even one person can make a difference.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am going to reserve the balance of my time to close if Mr. CASTRO is prepared to yield back.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. I am, and I just wanted to say, again, thank you to the Congresswoman, to the chairman of the committee, Chairman ROYCE, and Ranking Member ENGEL.

Of course, I am here as many others are to support the bill. There was a counterargument that Mr. MEEKS so eloquently stated. I am glad he had a chance to voice it, but I do hope that the Congress today will get behind this bill.

With no other speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I will introduce our closing speaker. I never thought that I would utter these words, but it was a pleasure to work with Mr. CASTRO.

In closing for our side, Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), my legislative brother, a member of the Committee on Appropriations and a champion of freedom, democracy, and human rights in the Western Hemisphere and around the world.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of this important resolution, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act.

I first, Mr. Speaker, want to start by thanking my dear friend, a tireless champion for human rights and democracy around the world. She has thanked, and rightfully so, a number of people who have helped with this important legislation. But we would not be dealing with this issue on the floor if it weren't for the tireless effort, the constant and tireless struggle, fight, solidarity, and efforts of my dear friend, my sister, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. Those people around the world who are struggling in

gulags and struggling for their freedom know that they have in ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN a true champion, and, once again, we see that leadership here today.

Mr. Speaker, since mid-February, the people of Venezuela—led mostly by students, by the way—have risen up to protest the corruption, the food shortages, the crime rates, and the alarming repression that have worsened during Maduro's few months in office, in control.

In response to these legitimate peaceful grievances, Mr. Speaker, what the Venezuelan regime has done is they have ordered security forces to brutally crack down—brutally with great force and brutality—crack down on the opposition. They have used unlawful force. They have used severe beatings and beatings of unarmed protesters, mostly students, and, by the way, even shooting some of them pointblank. They even jailed some of the main opposition leaders on phony charges, Mr. Speaker.

Since the protests began, as you have already heard, more than 40 people have been killed, about 3,000 people have been arrested, many have disappeared, and hundreds more have been injured, Mr. Speaker. In addition, Maduro's regime has instituted a virtual media blackout, blocking images even over the Internet and, by the way, even expelling journalists, including CNN and NTN. Just this past weekend alone, the Venezuelan regime blocked a CNN news crew from covering local elections. Obviously, they don't want anybody there who can show when and how they are stealing those sham elections.

It is shameful, Mr. Speaker, that the Chavez-Maduro regime policies have managed to really get one of the richest economies in Latin America, the largest oil exporter in Latin America, and they have made it apparently a poverty-ridden nation. People now face shortages of some of the most basic commodities, Mr. Speaker. And, by the way, inflation is about 50 percent over the last year. So no wonder the people are struggling.

Maduro has intensified his intimidation tactics, though, by increasing political arrests and by militarizing his response, using thugs to respond to the peaceful opposition members and students who are in the streets demanding freedom. He has been labeling those unarmed opposition leaders as terrorists and also enemies of the state. We have heard that before, Mr. Speaker.

This bill, frankly, just directs our administration to rightly deny visas, to freeze assets, and prohibit financial transactions to the members of the Venezuelan regime responsible, Mr. Speaker, those responsible for committing these human rights abuses. These corrupt cowards who now have blood on their hands shouldn't be allowed to

travel to our country while they continue to brutalize their fellow students, the students who are in the streets demanding freedom and the regaining of their sovereignty.

It is time to hold these human rights abusers accountable. Those complicit with those egregious acts of human rights violations, Mr. Speaker, they have to be named. They must be named and shamed. And they need to suffer the consequences of their actions.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have the great fortune and privilege of representing a patriotic and vibrant Venezuelan American community in southern Florida. They continue to bring attention to these deplorable conditions of those in Venezuela while the vast majority of the international community that some would like us to yield to their wishes, but yet they are not saying anything. The Venezuelan people are standing up—in many cases dying in the streets—and the vast majority of the international community is silent. So some would have us just also be silent.

With the passage of this bill, the United States House of Representatives will send a strong signal that we stand in solidarity with the Venezuelan people. As they struggle to regain democracy and to regain their freedom from the Maduro regime, this House, the United States of America, the people's House, stands with them. So I urge the support of my colleagues on this commonsense resolution.

I keep hearing people that I greatly respect: Well, but not all Venezuelans support sanctions. No. The regime doesn't support the sanctions. But this House, led by this leader right here sitting next to me, was instrumental in strengthening sanctions against Iran when a lot of the international community was against it and, frankly, when the administration—our own administration—was lukewarm at best. But this House stood firm. This House stands for freedom and democracy. And, today, once again, this House can stand proudly side by side with those who are giving their all in the streets of Venezuela to regain their freedom, their sovereignty and their dignity.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this important legislation.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill. I do not doubt the good intentions of its sponsors and supporters, but I firmly believe this bill, if enacted into law at this time, would have serious and negative consequences.

As the International Crisis Group described in its May 21st report, Venezuela has reached a tipping point in civil, military and governmental relations. The violence that began in February has cost at least 42 lives—mostly protestors, but also some security forces—injured hundreds, and produced scores of

human rights violations and hundreds of arbitrary detentions. Finding a solution to this crisis is both urgent and complex.

The question facing this Congress is what should the United States do to support the negotiations currently underway, difficult as that process might be; ensure that those responsible for violence and the excessive use of force are held to account and brought to justice; help open up political space and dialogue among various civil society actors; and lower or diminish the levels of violence and confrontation?

The South American Union, UNASUR, with the support of the Vatican, is engaged in a dialogue process between the political opposition and the democratically-elected Maduro government. A clear agenda still needs to be set for this dialogue, which began with a couple of promising meetings, but now appears frozen. What is not needed is for the U.S. to appear to be interfering in the process and allowing the Maduro government to portray the political crisis of the past few months as a conflict between Venezuela and the United States, rather than a crisis between the Maduro government, political opponents and certain sectors of civil society. The State Department has suggested that some members of the opposition have asked them not to pursue sanctions which might put them on the defensive. Just the talk of U.S. sanctions has allowed President Maduro and his ministers to deflect attention from their lack of concessions and their failure to ease the economic crisis and deal effectively with safeguarding the security of ordinary citizens from criminal violence and attacks.

Not only do I believe these sanctions would be counter-productive inside Venezuela, but I also believe they will further damage U.S. relations in the hemisphere. U.S. allies in the region such as Colombia and Brazil are leading a serious diplomatic effort to resolve this crisis. They have publicly criticized U.S. efforts to impose sanctions. Sanctions legislation at this time would, once again, represent to the rest of Latin America the return of the U.S. taking unilateral actions opposed by the rest of the region. They would be considered not just unhelpful, but an insult.

I am no stranger to taking action and imposing sanctions on government officials and individuals engaged in gross violations of human rights. But I also believe there is a right time and a right way to do so. This legislation is premature. I urge my colleagues to give diplomacy a chance to work, to give our Latin American neighbors time to promote dialogue, one that de-escalates tensions, identifies and holds to account those responsible for killings and human rights violations, and helps Venezuela not only to resolve this crisis but to advance a more pluralistic society. Don't throw gasoline on the fire. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and oppose H.R. 4587.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4587, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4028) to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4028

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Cemeteries are sacred sites that are of great spiritual, cultural, and historical significance to many religious and ethnic groups.

(2) Congress is committed to protecting and preserving the heritage and sacred sites of national, religious, and ethnic groups, which includes cemeteries in the United States and abroad.

(3) Cemeteries around the world have and continue to be defaced or destroyed as a direct result of their affiliation with a particular religious or spiritual group.

(4) Such attacks constitute an assault on the fundamental right to freedom of religion, and are especially egregious when sponsored or tolerated by the local or national governments in the countries in which such offenses occur.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT OF 1998.

Section 2(a)(4) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)(4)) is amended in the fourth sentence by inserting "desecration of cemeteries," after "confiscations of property,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the fundamental freedom to practice the religion of one's choosing is a fundamental right and an essential element of democratic governance. Religious organizations of all kinds view their cemeteries, Mr. Speaker, as hallowed ground, deserving of respect and protection. Freedom of

religion includes the right to gather at these sacred sites and to pay our respects to the beloved faithful who have gone before us.

Yet, in many places around the world, the desecration of religious cemeteries is an ongoing problem: sometimes through vandalism by intolérant groups; sometimes by construction or demolition without proper consultation of religious authorities. For example, Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, more than 50 graves were vandalized in a Jewish cemetery in northeast Hungary—their headstones toppled and smashed.

I was proud to be an original cosponsor of a similar effort by former Congressman Robert Turner last Congress, and I want to commend the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) for her leadership in introducing H.R. 4028 this year. The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, which this bill modifies, guides U.S. policy in promoting freedom of religion around the world.

Among other aspects, that law requires the State Department to report annually on violations of religious freedom abroad. By adding "desecration of cemeteries" to the examples of religious freedom violations listed in that act, H.R. 4028 says loudly and clearly that Congress and the American people stand in staunch opposition to the deliberate desecration of religious burial grounds.

□ 1630

In this way, the bill provides extra incentives for foreign governments to respect the rights of religious organizations regarding cemetery preservation.

In addition to Ms. MENG, I also want to recognize the important contributions of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) during the Foreign Affairs Committee markup of this bill. Their bipartisan efforts have led to the good bill before us today, which deserves our unanimous support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 4028, the Protect Cemeteries Act, which I authored.

This resolution amends the International Religious Freedom Act to include the desecration of cemeteries among the forms of violations of the right to religious freedom.

I would like to thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for helping to craft and advance this bipartisan resolution and for recognizing the seriousness of cemetery desecration. There is truly a bipartisan and collaborative spirit on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and that is a testament to its excellent leadership.

I would also like to thank Congressman DOUG COLLINS for his partnership here and valuable contributions to the bill, and thank you to both Republican

and Democratic committee staffs for recognizing the value of this resolution and working so hard to bring it to the floor today.

I would particularly like to thank Janice Kaguyutan, Jessica Kahan, and Doug Campbell for all their help and great work. Thanks as well to Agudath Israel and to Dr. Bernard Fryshman for his dogged advocacy on this issue over many years.

The resolution is short, but—I believe—very significant. We are strengthening the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 by addressing the sanctity of burial grounds. Pursuant to this act, the United States can impose penalties on countries that obstruct religious freedom. These include, but are not limited to cutting foreign aid, imposing trade sanctions, and canceling cultural and scientific exchanges.

There are two related problems we seek to address through this legislation. One is the religiously motivated vandalism of cemeteries that occurs with alarming regularity. The second is the building and development over cemeteries in places where there are no communities remaining to protect and look out for the cemeteries. H.R. 4028 will give our diplomats a new tool they can use to protect our interests.

H.R. 4028 also empowers the commissions on International Religious Freedom and on the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. The latter commission was established in the 1980s through legislation introduced by the late Congressman Stephen Solarz.

It works to identify and preserve cemeteries, memorials, and buildings in foreign countries that are associated with the cultural heritage of Americans, and it does much work in areas of the former Soviet Union, where Jewish communities were destroyed by the Holocaust and where power subsequently passed to atheistic, communist regimes.

It is essential that we act to protect religious freedom in these areas where, as we know, political instability and anti-Semitism are widespread. The genocides of the 20th century destroyed communities and left their burial grounds uncared for and unpreserved.

The preservation of cemeteries often reflects the religious tolerance and freedom of the countries in which they are located. It is my hope that this resolution will help promote such preservation and greater tolerance, respect, and empathy around the world, as well as honest assessments of history. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4028.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4028 introduced by my good friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG), which adds desecration of cemeteries as a violation of religious freedom identified in the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

Sadly, such an addition is necessary because we have seen repeated acts of desecration of cemeteries occurring throughout the world, especially in Europe, but also in the United States, including my own State of New Jersey.

Jewish cemeteries seem to be a particular target of desecration. By some counts, attacks on Jewish cemeteries have been on the rise over the last several years. We have tried to document that again and again in our work at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Organization for Security Cooperation itself.

A number of Jewish organizations as well have come forward with extraordinarily demoralizing numbers of cemeteries, as well as synagogues that have been attacked, as there is a rising tide of anti-Semitism.

I chaired a hearing on May 22 on the International Religious Freedom Act with a focus on the Commission on Religious Freedom, and one of the things that was brought forward in vivid detail has been the lack of enforcement and the lack of due diligence on the part of the administration when it comes to the International Religious Freedom Act. Not since 2011 has there been a designation of what we call country of particular concern, CPC status, or the dishonorable status that it conveys ought to be done every year.

Congressman FRANK WOLF, the author of IRFA, the International Religious Freedom Act, made it very clear it is law, and I would point out for the record that I chaired all of the hearings in the House as that bill was working its way through the House. We have had, I believe, a dereliction of duty on the part of the administration to do what it has to do under IRFA.

There has been no designation since 2011. The commission pointed out that there are eight countries that ought to be so designated, followed by eight others, including Vietnam, that needed to be added to the list, making a total of 16 countries that are then liable to sanctions, the 18 or so sanctions that are prescribed in the legislation, again, authored by Mr. WOLF.

I am so glad Ms. MENG is adding this to the list, but the list itself and all of the other violations need to be taken seriously by the administration. Hope springs eternal. I hope they do it sooner rather than later—like today—but I won't hold my breath.

I say this because it is a very, very serious issue, and that was brought forward at our hearing just the other day.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, there are other groups, including the Ahmadi religious

minority in Pakistan. We heard testimony on May 22 about how their grave-stones are being violated as well.

By far, Jewish people have their cemeteries desecrated and others as well, and it is a terrible and despicable act of violence against individuals and religious freedom.

Ms. MENG. Seeing no other speakers, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, anti-Semitism and religious intolerance remain all too prevalent in our world. We grapple with these issues in some form every day.

This resolution will give American officials real tools with which to promote not only religious tolerance, but truth, truth in the form of preservation and recognition of the memories of those who came before us, and only through truth can we realize a better world.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to, again, thank Ms. MENG for her wonderful leadership role in this and many other pieces of legislation going through our Foreign Affairs Committee and commend Mr. COLLINS, as well, for this blow against hatred and intolerance and in favor of religious free exercise around the world. I strongly support the bill by Ms. MENG, H.R. 4028.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Congresswoman MENG's legislation. Including language that protects cemeteries is consequential as every culture and faith hold final resting places as sacred ground.

Just two months ago in March vandals broke into a Jewish cemetery in Hungary. The vandals spray-painted swastikas and anti-Semitic messages on the Jewish tombstones to show their hatred.

This is a stark reminder of the travesties against personal freedoms abroad. These incidents are not isolated and often coincide with other violations against religious freedom.

Desecrating the cemetery of another religious or ethnic group is a very defiant way to express hatred and inflict pain. The religious or ethnic groups that care for the cemeteries are having their religious rights trampled on.

These prejudice acts are especially devastating when tolerated or encouraged by the local or national government.

The final resting place for the deceased deserve the respect of all regardless of personal beliefs or religion and deserve to be added to the list of violations to the International Religious Freedom Act.

I want to thank Congresswoman MENG for authoring this legislation and bringing this issue to Congress' attention.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4028, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

—————

**URGING CHINA TO RESPECT THE
FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, EX-
PRESSION, AND RELIGION AND
ALL FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN
RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW**

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 599) urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the freedom of assembly, expression, and religion and all fundamental human rights and the rule of law for all its citizens and to stop censoring discussion of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and their violent suppression.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 599

Whereas on June 4, 1989, peaceful demonstrations held in and around Beijing's Tiananmen Square were brutally crushed by the People's Liberation Army, carrying out the orders of China's Communist Party leadership;

Whereas the peaceful demonstrations of 1989 called upon the Chinese Communist Party to eliminate corruption, accelerate economic and political reforms, and protect human rights, particularly the freedoms of expression and assembly;

Whereas by early May 1989, an estimated 1,000,000 people joined the protests in Tiananmen Square and citizens in over 400 Chinese cities staged similar protests for democratic reform, including not only students, but also government employees, journalists, workers, police officers, members of the armed forces, and other citizens;

Whereas on May 20, 1989, martial law was declared in Beijing, China, after authorities had failed to persuade demonstrators to leave Tiananmen Square;

Whereas during the late afternoon and early evening hours of June 3, 1989, thousands of armed troops, supported by tanks and other armor, moved into Beijing to "clear the Square" and surrounding streets of demonstrators;

Whereas on the night of June 3, 1989, and continuing into the morning of June 4, 1989, soldiers fired into crowds, inflicting high civilian casualties, killing or injuring unarmed civilians;

Whereas tanks crushed to death some protesters and onlookers;

Whereas independent observers report that hundreds, perhaps thousands, were killed and wounded by the People's Liberation Army soldiers and other security forces;

Whereas 20,000 people throughout China suspected of taking part in the democracy movement were reportedly arrested and sentenced without trial to prison or reeducation through labor, and many were reportedly tortured, with many being imprisoned for decades;

Whereas the Tiananmen Mothers is a group of relatives and friends of those killed in June 1989 whose demands include the right

to mourn victims publicly, to call for a full and public accounting of the wounded and dead, and the release of those who remain imprisoned for participating in the 1989 protests;

Whereas members of the Tiananmen Mothers group have faced arrest, harassment, and discrimination, with the group's website blocked in China and international cash donations made to the group to support families of victims reportedly frozen by Chinese authorities;

Whereas the Chinese Government undertakes active measures to deny its citizens the truth about the Tiananmen Square Massacre, including the blocking of uncensored Internet sites and weblogs, and the placement of misleading information on the events of June 3, 1989, through June 4, 1989, on Internet sites available in China;

Whereas the Chinese Government continues to suppress dissent by imprisoning pro-democracy activists, lawyers, journalists, labor union leaders, religious believers, members of ethnic minority rights organizations, and other individuals in Xinjiang and Tibet who seek to express their political or religious views or their ethnic identity in a peaceful manner;

Whereas Chinese authorities continue to harass and detain peaceful advocates for human rights, religious freedom, ethnic minority rights and the rule of law, and their family members, such as Nobel Prize Laureate Liu Xiaobo and his wife Liu Xia, Gao Zhisheng, Wang Bingzhang, Peng Ming, Zhu Yufu, Lobsang Tsering, Ilham Tohti, Yang Maodong (also known as Guo Feixiong), Sun Desheng, Liu Yuandong, Guo Quan, Liu Xianbin, Yang Rongli, Alimujiang Yimiti, Yang Tianshui, Wang Zhiwen, Li Chang, Gulmira Imin, Dhondup Wangchen, and Chen Kegui, nephew of blind human rights activists Chen Guangcheng;

Whereas according to the Prisoner Database maintained by the United States Congressional-Executive Commission on China, the Communist Government of China continues to detain over 1,300 prisoners of conscience, though the number may be much higher;

Whereas the Chinese authorities continue to maintain a system of labor camps and "black jails" to detain peaceful advocates for human rights and democratic freedoms, harasses and detains human rights lawyers who take on cases deemed politically sensitive, limits the number of children Chinese couples may have, including through the practice of forced abortions and sterilizations, restricts severely the religious activity of Protestants, Catholics, Tibetan Buddhists, and Uyghur Muslims, conducted a 15-year campaign to eradicate Falun Gong practice in China, publicly vilifies, and refuses to negotiate with, the Dalai Lama over Tibetan issues, and, forcibly repatriates thousands of refugees to North Korea who face persecution, imprisonment, and possible execution in violation of its international commitments;

Whereas the Government of China maintains tight control of speech, religion, and assembly, and has continually received poor rankings focused on civil liberties and political rights by nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom's most recent annual report has found that the "Chinese government continues to perpetrate particularly severe violations of religious freedom", with conditions "worse now than at any time in the past decade" for religious

minorities, findings which again contributed to the Commission recommending that China be designated as a "country of particular concern";

Whereas the United States Department of State's most recent human rights report on China found "extrajudicial killings" occurred in China;

Whereas the United States Department of State's most recent human rights report on China found that the Government continued to target "for arbitrary detention or arrest" "human rights activists, journalists . . . and former political prisoners and their family members";

Whereas freedom of expression and assembly are fundamental human rights that belong to all people, and are recognized as such under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and

Whereas a Government of China which respects the individual rights of all its people would be more likely to have productive economic, political, and security relations with its neighbors and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to stop censoring information about the Tiananmen Square massacre;

(2) expresses sympathy to the families of those killed, tortured, and imprisoned as a result of their participation in the democracy protests of June 4, 1989, in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People's Republic of China;

(3) supports all peaceful advocates for human rights and the rule of law in China for their efforts to advance democratic reforms and human rights during the past;

(4) condemns the ongoing human rights abuses and persecution by the Government of the People's Republic of China and its efforts to quell peaceful political dissent, censor the Internet, suppress ethnic and religious minorities, limit the number of children had by Chinese couples through coercion and violence, and harass and detain lawyers and freedom advocates seeking the Government's commitment, in law and practice, to international human rights treaties and covenants to which it is a party;

(5) calls on the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) to take all appropriate steps to circumvent Chinese Internet censorship and to provide information to the people of China about the Tiananmen Square Massacre;

(6) calls on the United States Government to—

(A) make human rights, including religious freedom, a priority in bilateral discussions with the Chinese Government; and

(B) instruct the United States representative at the United Nations Human Rights Council to introduce a resolution calling for an examination of the human rights practices of the Government of the People's Republic of China;

(7) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to—

(A) end the harassment, detention, torture, and imprisonment of Chinese citizens expressing their legitimate freedom of religion, expression, and association, including on the Internet;

(B) release all remaining prisoners of conscience who continue to be detained as a result of their participation in the peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations in 1989, especially around Tiananmen Square;

(C) end the harassment and discrimination of those involved in the 1989 protests and

their families, permit Chinese citizens to freely commemorate and share information about Tiananmen;

(D) allow protest participants who escaped to or are living in exile in the United States and other countries, or who reside outside of China because they have been “blacklisted” in China as a result of their peaceful protest activity, to return to China without risk of retribution or repercussion and fully repeal any laws or decrees that deny them the ability to travel to China; and

(E) end Internet, media, and academic censorship of discussions of the Tiananmen Protests and events surrounding it;

(8) calls on the Administration and Members of Congress to take steps to continue to mark the events of Tiananmen Square—

(A) meeting with participants in the demonstrations, or their families, who are living in the United States;

(B) meeting with others outside of China who have been “blacklisted” in China as a result of their peaceful protest activities;

(C) signaling support for those in China who demand an independent and credible accounting of the events surrounding June 4, 1989; and

(D) supporting those advocating for accountable and democratic governance, human rights, and the rule of law in China; and

(9) finds that United States relations with China are more likely to further improve once the Government recognizes and respects the individual human rights of all its people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 599. I am proud to stand with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH); with the Democratic leader, Ms. PELOSI; and their bipartisan cosponsors in urging the Beijing regime to respect the fundamental human rights of all Chinese citizens, to observe the rule of law, and to stop censoring discussions of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

Twenty-five years ago, a million Chinese citizens from all walks of life gathered in and around Tiananmen Square to call for democracy, to call for reform, to call for openness.

Similar demonstrations sprang up in more than 400 other cities around China, but the hopeful idealism of those Chinese patriots was met with tanks, with bullets and bayonets, and the so-called People’s Liberation Army

murdered a still-unknown number of the people of China. The Tiananmen Square massacre was the brutal start of a massive wave of repression against Chinese democracy advocates.

During the past two-and-a-half decades, Mr. Speaker, much has changed inside China. China’s economic and military power have grown dramatically, and its governing ideology owes less to Marx, Lenin, and Mao than to a state-fed nationalism, but other things have not changed.

China remains a one-party state where a regime obsessed with maintaining social control commits wide-ranging human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings; disappearances and illegal imprisonment at so-called black jails; detention of lawyers, journalists, and bloggers; coercive population control involving forced abortion and sterilization; and restriction on freedom of religion, of the press, and assembly.

Repression is even harsher against disfavored minorities such as Tibetan Buddhists, the Muslim Uighurs, and Falun Gong practitioners.

According to the most recent State Department Country Report on Human Rights, the Chinese regime “consistently blocked access to Web sites it deemed controversial, especially those discussing Taiwan, the Dalai Lama, Tibet, underground religious and spiritual organizations, democracy activists, and the 1989 Tiananmen massacre.”

A quarter of a century later, why is the regime in Beijing still so afraid of the truth? How strong is a Communist Party that feels the need to harass and muzzle the aging Tiananmen mothers who lost their sons and daughters in 1989? In the biting words of one 76-year-old mother, Ms. Zhang:

Such a great, mighty, and correct party is afraid of a little old lady. They are afraid of us oldtimers because we represent righteousness.

Today, Mr. Speaker, with House Resolution 599, we stand in solidarity with the righteous mothers of Tiananmen, with the Ladies in White—Damas de Blanco—in Cuba, and with all those who struggle for liberty and for human rights where tyrants rule. Those who have sacrificed their lives in pursuit of freedom are not forgotten.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H. Res. 599, urging the Government of the People’s Republic of China to respect the freedom of assembly, expression, religion, and all fundamental human rights of its citizens.

□ 1645

I would like to begin by thanking Mr. SMITH for his leadership on this issue. I would also would like to thank Chair-

man ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and the entire Committee on Foreign Affairs for the bipartisan manner with which we continue to work to shed light upon the gross violation of human and political rights in China.

Mr. Speaker, next week we will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square demonstrations, where hundreds of student protestors demanding political and economic reforms were murdered. Today the image of an unknown man standing in peaceful protest to government tanks rolling into Tiananmen Square is among the most iconic of the 20th century and continues to serve as a source of inspiration to political and human rights advocates around the world.

Unfortunately, many in China will never know of this sad chapter of Chinese history. The Communist Party of China is determined to erase all memory of the Tiananmen Square massacre from national memory. The Chinese Government continues to block all uncensored Internet Web sites and blogs related to the events of June 3 and June 4, 1989, and willfully distributes misinformation to its people. Even today, Beijing continues to harass, arrest, and discriminate against the relatives and friends of those killed in Tiananmen Square.

Censorship of the Tiananmen Square massacre is just the tip of the iceberg. Unfortunately, the Chinese Government continues to suppress political dissent by imprisoning pro-democracy activists, lawyers, journalists, labor union leaders, religious believers, members of ethnic minority rights organizations, and other individuals who seek to express their political or religious views or assert their ethnic identity.

According to a prisoner database maintained by the United States Congressional Executive Commission on China, over 1,300 prisoners of conscience are being held at various “black jails,” where they are often tortured, forced into labor camps, or even killed.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 599 condemns the Chinese Government for its appalling human rights record and calls for an end to the harassment, detention, torture, and imprisonment of Chinese citizens practicing their legitimate freedom of religion, expression, and association. It also calls on the Broadcasting Board of Governors to provide the people of China with information about the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important and timely resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and

International Organizations, cochairman also of the Congressional Executive Commission on China, and the author of this resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida has 16 minutes remaining.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it has been 25 years since China's Government crushed the peaceful demonstrations we remember by the name "Tiananmen Square." The resolution before us honors the extraordinary sacrifice endured by hundreds of thousands of peaceful Chinese democracy activists who rallied for almost 2 months in Beijing and in over 400 other cities in China in a heroic quest for liberty and human rights. It has been estimated that over a million people took part.

Tiananmen has also come to symbolize the brutal lengths China's Communist Party will go to remain in power. When the tanks rolled into the square on June 4, 1989, mothers lost sons, fathers lost daughters, and China lost an idealistic generation of future leaders.

You know, Mr. Speaker, some may prefer to look past or even trivialize the wanton slaughter by Chinese soldiers. The memory of the dead and those arrested, tortured, and exiled requires us to honor them, respect their noble aspirations for fundamental freedoms, and recommit ourselves to the struggle for freedom and human rights in China.

Former President Jiang Zemin said in an interview that Tiananmen was "no big deal." But it was a very big deal that has left an enduring mark on Chinese society and on U.S.-China relations.

The Government of China continues to go to astounding, even bizarre, lengths to censor and ban open discussion of Tiananmen. This resolution sends the right message: we will never forget Tiananmen, ever, especially so as long as the Chinese people cannot discuss it and its significance openly without harassment or arrest or torture.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most enduring symbols of the Tiananmen demonstrations was the unveiling of a facsimile of the Statue of Liberty on May 30, 1989. It was a moment that thrilled freedom advocates around the globe. There was this enduring symbol of freedom facing the portrait of Mao Zedong hanging in Tiananmen Square.

This moment was extraordinary because it showed that when the Chinese people are able to speak publicly and freely, they ask for greater freedoms, democracy, and justice. These are universal liberties that can be found in demonstrations for liberty worldwide. We see it in Cairo and Caracas, Turkey and Tunisia, Kabul and Kiev.

There was a moment when we all believed that Tiananmen Square demonstrations would be a triumph of freedom and democracy. Later in 1989, the Warsaw Pact nations started to crumble, and eventually the former Soviet Union fell as well, but the Communist leaders of China sought to cling to power through unbelievable brutality and force. They sent tanks and soldiers into Beijing to "clear the square" on the evening of June 3 into June 4. The beatings, the bayonetting, the torture and murder of students and the ubiquitous display of tanks turned the dream of freedom into a bloody nightmare.

Mr. Speaker, in 1991, I was able to visit Beijing prison number 1 on a trip with my great friend and colleague FRANK WOLF. It was a bleak gulag, where some 40 Tiananmen Square demonstrators were being unjustly detained. We saw firsthand the price paid by brave and tenacious individuals for peacefully petitioning their government for freedom, and it was not pretty. They looked like walking skeletons of Auschwitz, and they worked grueling hours making products, some of which ended up in U.S. markets.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 25 years, the Tiananmen demonstrations have shaped the way the Chinese Government deals with dissent. Despite the country's stunning economic growth over the past two decades, Beijing's leaders remain terrified of their own people. China's ruling Communist Party would rather stifle, imprison, or even kill its own people than defer or embrace their demands for freedom and rights.

President Xi Jinping's tenure as President, which started with so much promise of new beginnings, has instead ramped up the repression. China today is in a race to the bottom with the likes of North Korea.

Last year was the worst year since the 1990s for arrests and imprisonment of dissidents. Over 230 people have been detained for their human rights advocacy, and those are the ones we know about. There are many, many more. In the past month leading up to the Tiananmen anniversary, Beijing has detained some two dozen activists for seeking to commemorate the anniversary, even criminalizing private gatherings and art installations.

China remains, as we all know, one of the worst offenders of human rights overall. It remains the torture capital of the world. Religious freedom abuses continue with absolute impunity, and ethnic minority groups face repression when they peacefully seek rights of culture and of language.

Hundreds of millions of women, Mr. Speaker, have been forced to abort their precious babies because of a draconian attempt to limit population growth in effect since 1979. China's one-child policy is a human rights disaster

without precedent, and it is a demographic nightmare as well. Brothers and sisters in China, Mr. Speaker, are illegal, and the preference for having boys has led to a gender imbalance and a mass extermination of the girl child.

This is not only a massive gender-based crime, Mr. Speaker, but a security problem as well. Experts are coming to the conclusion that China's unprecedented gender imbalance will lead to more crime, social instability, worker shortages, and even possibly war. Of course it has had a horrific impact on sex trafficking.

Last year, China was rightfully demoted to a tier 3 country under the provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act because of the missing girls and daughters, so those slavers are now buying and selling women as commodities because women don't exist relative to the number of males in the People's Republic of China all because of a cruel one child per couple policy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, repression has not dimmed the desires of the Chinese people for freedom and reform. There is an inspiring drive in China to keep fighting for freedom under very difficult and dangerous lethal conditions. This drive is the most important asset in promoting human rights and democratization.

When democratic change does come to China, it will come from within, not because of outside pressure; although that pressure needs to be applied, and it needs to be applied judiciously and effectively. U.S. policy, in both the short and long term, must be, and seem to be, supportive of advocates of peaceful change. We can't abscond in our responsibility. Lists need to be tendered every time we meet with Chinese leaders, whether it be the White House or any Members of Congress, of political prisoners.

I believe that someday China will be free. Someday the people of China will be able to enjoy all of their God-given rights. As a nation of free Chinese men and women, we will honor them and they will be celebrated someday as heroes of Tiananmen Square and all of those who sacrificed so much and for so long for freedom.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our very distinguished Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I welcome him to our group, and I appreciate his very important remarks as we observe the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

As always, I am absolutely honored and pleased to join my colleagues, the distinguished former chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and now chair of the subcommittee, Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN.

Mr. WOLF and Mr. SMITH and I have been fighting this fight together for

decades. I thank them for their courage. We both oppose our own Presidents—they are Republican, I a Democrat on a Democratic President—on this subject. This is a bond that we have had about respecting the dignity and worth of every person.

When we saw what happened in Tiananmen Square, it was almost unbelievable to see the Government of China turning on its own people, having tanks run over their children in Tiananmen Square who were speaking out against corruption, who were speaking out for more openness, for speaking out to speak out.

I have treasured this poster in my office over the years, for 25 years. It has been signed by every major dissident who has been able to leave China. Not many of them can go back. But it is the symbol that Mr. CHRIS SMITH talked about of the man before the tank. It is one of the most iconic figures in the history of democratic freedoms in the world.

However, if you were to go to China and ask young people about this poster—they know this picture—they know nothing about it. It has been censored. They don't tell people what that is. Some said: Maybe it is a commercial for something. I don't know what that is.

So powerful is it that even any discussion of it in China for young people at the university, Peking University, which was a place where many of these young people came forth and said they would like to end corruption, expand freedom of expression. What form of government they will have, as Mr. SMITH has said, remains to be seen and up to the Chinese people. The fact that they could not even talk about it without being run over by tanks, it was stunning. It was really remarkably stunning because we have really not seen anything quite like that.

The spring of 1989, 25 years ago, a community of activists, dissident students, and Chinese citizens stood up for their rights in Tiananmen Square. People were inspired by a path of political reform advocated by some of China's leaders who were purged—Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang.

The people spoke out against the abuses of their government, a people who demanded respect, dignity, liberty, a voice. A people cried out for freedom, their souls yearning for a better future. They called for the elimination of corruption, an acceleration of economic and political reform, for freedom of expression and assembly. They called for a dialogue with China's leaders on how to make progress.

People protested, demonstrated, marched. A military was turned against the people it was supposed to protect. The People's Liberation Army turned on the people of China. The young man, again, stood alone in the street bringing a line of tanks to a grinding halt.

□ 1700

You don't see it here, but the tanks turned, they turned away from this lone man and did not run over him for all the world to see, an image seared into the memory of all who saw it, a photograph unforgettable to anyone committed to the promise of human rights, a moment that then and now challenges the conscience of the world.

We cannot have any moral authority to talk about human rights in the world if we ignore the violations in human rights in a big country, a prosperous country, an economic engine.

I remember—and my colleagues do too—that at the time the trade deficit with China, with the U.S., we had a deficit of \$5 billion a year. That was an enormous trade deficit, and we thought it would give us leverage to free the students who were arrested in Tiananmen Square. We just wanted to free them, to respond to the moms, the parents, free those students. Others in the Chamber had said we could use that \$5 billion at the same time to stop China from blocking U.S. exports into China, or stop them from transferring technology, missile technology and the rest, to Pakistan and beyond.

But there were those also in the Congress and in the country—and actually on the Chinese payroll, because they were lobbyists, advocates, lawyers, and all the rest, they hired everybody—who said: Oh, no, no, no, no, no, you can't use that \$5 billion for leverage to free those prisoners, to stop those barriers to our trade, to stop their transfer of technology to countries that might then turn them over to rogue countries, you can't do that. But if you remain calm, there will be peaceful evolution and all this will be improved. In fact, our trade with China will grow, their freedom will increase.

These people are still arrested, the trade deficit is no longer \$5 billion a year, it is \$7 billion, but not a year—from \$5 billion a year to \$7 billion a week—and not 1 cent of it used for any leverage to free prisoners or to challenge the Chinese in terms of the violations of human rights in China and in Tibet. It is stunning. They own the show. That is just the way it is—\$5 billion a year to \$7 billion a week. Oh, my God, progress has been made, but not by the American worker, but not by our economy—no, by the Chinese Government. It is really stunning, it is really one of, I think, the stories that has to be told by the U.S. to stand up for who we are and what we stand for.

Twenty-five years ago, Tiananmen became synonymous with the battle for human rights in China—again, an iconic site for an iconic struggle for justice and democracy. Twenty-five years later, the spirit of Tiananmen endures in the hearts and minds of those continuing to struggle, both in China and around the world. What moral authority do we have to say to a small

country, you cannot violate the human rights of your people, but we will take anything the Chinese have to dish out because we have a commercial interest there?

The heroes—and we have to talk about them because the Chinese tell them nobody cares about you anymore—these heroes still display the unmatched courage required simply to speak up and speak out. I thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH for bringing this resolution forward, and Speaker BOEHNER for tomorrow, this week, holding an official remembrance—again, it is tomorrow—to allow us to stand united with these heroes.

Today, any mention of these events of June 4, 1989, is censored from the Chinese people. The victims and their families are imprisoned and persecuted by the Chinese Government, and the human rights situation in China and Tibet continues to deteriorate.

Today, the Chinese people may not know the truth about Tiananmen. It was a long time ago. Many of the young people weren't even born yet. Corruption, though, they do know is rampant in the Chinese Government. The rule of law is not applied in a fair manner. They suffer injustices with no redress of grievances. Air and water pollution are making them unhealthy and destroying their environment. That may be something that gets the attention of the government.

Mr. WOLF, thank you for your leadership, for your courage. When Mr. SMITH talks about going to Chinese prison number 1, I know that you led the way there.

Today, Ding Zilin and the Tiananmen Mothers bravely keep up their calls for dialogue, and their supporters worldwide join their demands that the Chinese Government provide an honest accounting of the crackdown, stop persecution of the families of the demonstrators, and allow the families to mourn publicly without interference.

Today, Liu Xiaobo remains the world's only imprisoned Nobel Prize Peace Prize Laureate, as he and his wife, Xia, join so many others still languishing in prison for criticizing their government or trying to exercise and secure their basic human rights. We had the privilege of being asked by the family—some of us—to go to Norway when Liu Xiaobo received the Nobel Prize. As some of you may recall, there was an empty chair because the Chinese Government would not allow him out of prison to go to receive the Nobel Prize. So we joined some Members that were selected to be part of the delegation. Was that one of the great honors of our lives? I think we all agree that it was.

We are not here today just to acknowledge history. We are here to learn from the memory of a dark chapter of our past and to write a brighter chapter of freedom and justice in the

future. We are here to support the Tiananmen movement. How many of those young people who got out of China, who came through here, told us their stories of courage. We cried together. They tried together to make sense of how they could make a difference for those people who were left behind.

We are here to support the Tiananmen movement, which endures, inspires, and cannot be stopped. I am hopeful. I am hopeful because there are conversations that happened with the Chinese Government. I have had my own on the subject of climate change and environmental issues like clean air, et cetera, that are problematic in China. Maybe there can be some communication that can be constructive. I am hopeful that the visits that we have had to each other's countries to talk about one subject and another without getting anywhere near that taboo, in their view, of our talking about people or their freedom, that perhaps in the communication that exists in the world today that maybe we have reason to be hopeful.

But with the passage of this resolution, Congress will say to the people of China and freedom-loving people everywhere: Your cause is our cause. We can never forget. We must never forget. We will never forget.

Again, the Chinese Government likes to say the prisoners, nobody knows you are here, they don't remember who you are, they don't remember why you came here. Well, we want to give lie to that, because over the years we have always joined together in a strongly bipartisan way to come to the floor or to go to public events to say the names of people whom we have not heard of their fate but that their mothers want an accounting for. As we do this, we look forward to a day when the world's most populous country can be called a country where people can speak out, be respected, and when the Chinese Government respects its own people it will command much more respect then.

Again, I thank you Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN so much for taking the lead to bring this to the floor; Congressman CASTRO for your very, very important remarks; to my pals Mr. WOLF and Mr. SMITH, you have done so much, you have made such a difference. It is an honor to serve with you and to work on this important project together.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I reserve the balance of my time to close, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

With no other speakers, I would simply say that the worth of a nation is not measured in dollars and cents alone, by size of the military or armaments. As China's economy continues to grow into among the nations' larg-

est, so too should its commitment to human rights, democracy, and transparency. We are proud to support this resolution.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I yield the remainder of our time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), subcommittee chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, whose bill will be before us today, co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and a tireless advocate for human rights in China.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN for bringing the bill up. I want to thank my partner, Congressman SMITH, and I want to thank the Democratic leader, Congresswoman PELOSI, for being there at every time, including the time you stood up to the Chinese Government at Tiananmen Square, when you were almost arrested. So I want to thank the Democratic leader for her help and support every time an issue of human rights in China has come up. Thank you very much.

Twenty-five years ago, peaceful democracy demonstrators, many of them students, most of them students, gathered in Tiananmen in a move for greater openness, transparency, and the rule of law.

But what could have marked the beginning of a peaceful, political transition in China was brutally, brutally crushed by the People's Liberation Army. A historic moment of opportunity was, quite frankly, lost.

By nearly every measure, China is today as intolerant of dissent as it has ever been. Just read today's New York Times where they talk about how they are cracking down, telling people: Do not go to Tiananmen.

Like authoritarian governments before it, the Chinese Government remains deeply frightened. They are frightened. They are literally afraid of their own people. They are afraid of the spirit that animated that protest, namely, the yearning for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I first went to China in 1991 with my good friend Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey. It was during this trip we visited Beijing prison number 1. Chinese authorities informed us—and we saw them—that approximately 40 Tiananmen Square protestors were in the prison. Our request was to see the demonstrators. They were denied, but Chinese authorities gave us a tour of the prison's textile and plastic shoe factories. We saw them making socks. These are the socks that they were making. The fact is there are golfers on the side, and in those days they didn't play golf. Tiananmen Square demonstrators were making socks for Americans to wear as they play golf. I took with me some of the socks that prisoners were making because they were coming to our country.

That experience captures, in stark terms, the failure of U.S. foreign policy—the failure of U.S. foreign policy toward China over successive demonstrations, both Republican and Democrat alike. The United States has too often pursued a relationship that is fundamentally inconsistent with the most basic national values, marked by trade and unfettered market access at the expense of human rights, religious freedom, and the rule of law. President Reagan said that the words in the Constitution and the words in the Declaration of Independence were a covenant not only with the people in Philadelphia in 1776 and 1787, but with the people of Tiananmen and the people who want freedom all over the world.

May this resolution by Congressman SMITH and the approaching anniversary of that dark June day serve as a sobering reminder of the unmet yearning for basic human liberty which compels men like Liu Xiaobo, himself an imprisoned Nobel Laureate, won the 2010 Nobel Prize, was in prison, his wife was under house arrest, she couldn't even go to Norway to pick up the prize, and also the thousands of others whose names we do not know, but as Leader PELOSI said: they will be known in the West, someday everyone will know who they are and everyone will know who they are in China and we will know the name of "tank man," because "tank man" that Ms. PELOSI talked about has done more to bring about freedom than anybody else, and we will know their names.

I pray for the day that the Chinese Government—the party and system responsible for the crackdown in Tiananmen and responsible for the continued repression—will be relegated to the "ash heap of history." They will be relegated to the ash heap of history. I believe that will come very soon. I believe it will come in my lifetime, particularly if the Democratic aspirations of the Chinese people can find a champion—if they can find a champion in the United States of America.

With that, I thank Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN for bringing this bill up. I thank Mr. SMITH for this resolution and all the effort that he has done. I want to again thank Democratic Leader PELOSI for her leadership in fighting on these issues of human rights and religious freedom.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for this resolution, which I join as an original cosponsor with my good friends and colleagues, Congressman CHRIS SMITH (NJ) and Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI (CA). I cannot express strongly enough my admiration and respect for their leadership on protecting and promoting human rights in China, and their commitment to remembering, commemorating and educating others on the events that took place in Tiananmen Square twenty-five years ago.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of citizens brutally murdered. Students shot down by their own government. Tanks rolling into Tiananmen Square to ruthlessly repress the spark of hope ignited in the hearts of thousands of people. On June 4th, a massacre ended the weeks of student protest and civil society actions that sparked hope for change and good governance, hope for greater inclusion and democracy.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, it has been 25 years since Tiananmen Square—and China hopes that we've forgotten.

But we have not forgotten. We have not forgotten Tiananmen Square, nor have we forgotten all the brave Chinese citizens who every day attempt to exercise the basic rights promised to them under the Chinese Constitution. The right to speak out and to bring grave matters to the attention of their government. Chinese citizens and their legal advocates who have tried to bring issues like government corruption, corporate exploitation of workers, unsafe working conditions, inadequate housing, agricultural mismanagement—so many find themselves the targets of government repression, legal reprisal, harassment, house arrest and even long and brutal imprisonment.

They deserve the right to speak out and engage in intellectual and public debate about what constitutes fundamental human rights and respect, what constitutes the freedom to think and worship as one chooses, what constitutes respect for the ostensible cultural diversity of China when faced with the reality of brutal cultural repression in Tibet and Xinjiang.

There are so many past and current heroes and heroines in China who have dared to think, write, speak and act freely in defiance of government control, censorship and mythology. We remember all of them today, past and present, as we debate this resolution and recall the events of 25 years ago.

We stand with you, today and always. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 599.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 599.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1715

HERMISTON REVERSIONARY LANDS ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3366) to provide for the release of the property interests retained by the United States in certain land conveyed in 1954 by the

United States, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to the State of Oregon for the establishment of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center of Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3366

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hermiston Reversionary Lands Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term "Map" means the map entitled "Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center" and dated April 7, 2014.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Oregon (acting through the Oregon State Board of Higher Education on behalf of Oregon State University).

SEC. 3. RELEASE OF PROPERTY INTERESTS IN BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND CONVEYED TO THE STATE OF OREGON FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF HERMISTON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER.

(a) RELEASE OF RETAINED INTERESTS.—Any reservation or reversionary interest retained by the United States to the approximately 290 acres in Hermiston, Oregon, depicted as "Reversionary Interest Area" on the Map, is hereby released without consideration.

(b) INSTRUMENT OF RELEASE.—The Secretary shall execute and file in the appropriate office a deed of release, amended deed, or other appropriate instrument reflecting the release of retained interests under subsection (a).

(c) CONVEYANCE OF ORPHAN PARCEL.—Notwithstanding the land use planning requirements of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713), not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a request from the State, the Secretary shall convey to the State, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States to and in the approximately 6 acres identified on the Map as "Bureau of Land Management Administered Land".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3366 would release the Bureau of Land Management's reversionary interest in 290 acres that were conveyed to the State of Oregon in 1954 for the establishment of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon. It would also reunite that land with a 6-acre orphan parcel that the Bureau of Land Management has no use for.

In 1954, the Federal Government conveyed the 290 acres affected by this legislation to the State of Oregon. However, the Federal Government retained a reversionary interest in the property which now denies OSU and the city of Hermiston the control and flexibility needed to efficiently manage the property to advance new agricultural research programs.

As Hermiston continues to grow up around this area, lifting the reversionary interest will advance the goals of Oregon State University, benefit the local economy, and create job opportunities to meet the demands of the expanding region.

Adjacent to the 290 acres is a 6-acre parcel of land that previously reverted back to the BLM and that currently stands idle. This parcel is the subject of an amendment being considered with this bill.

If it is not dealt with, it will become an orphan land parcel that is of no use to the Bureau of Land Management, and it will be a challenge to manage. The 6 acres would be better managed when they are rejoined with the adjacent 290 acres that this bill addresses.

Congressman WALDEN, who is from that district, should be commended for his work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the Hermiston Reversionary Interest Release Act.

In 1954, the Federal Government conveyed 250 acres near Hermiston, Oregon, to the State of Oregon, to establish an agricultural experiment station. The agricultural experiment station ultimately became the Oregon State University Agricultural Research and Experiment Center.

The Hermiston Center focuses on the innovation and implementation of agricultural and horticultural opportunities, and it provides solutions to production restraints. This work is crucial to the agricultural economy of the region.

Oregon State University would like to move the Hermiston Center to a new location and is looking to Congress to remove Federal restrictions placed on the land at the time of conveyance in order to sell or to develop the property.

H.R. 3366 removes these Federal restrictions and will allow Oregon State to develop its agricultural research facilities to meet the future needs of the agricultural sector. Allowing the flexibility that H.R. 3366 provides is a priority for Oregon State University and the region, and we gladly support this bill and the university's continued research.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 8 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), the author of this legislation.

Mr. WALDEN. I thank the chairman and the members of the Natural Resources Committee for their work that brought this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3366, the Hermiston Reversionary Interest Release Act, is very important to the city of Hermiston—as you all have heard—to Umatilla County, and to Oregon State University, so I appreciate being able to speak in support of it today.

Oregon—and the nearly 70,000 square miles that I represent in my district—is full of unique landscapes, ranging from high deserts to green valleys, which produce more than 220 different agricultural crops.

Farmers in this part of Oregon, the Columbia Basin, grow crops from commodities—like corn and wheat—to specialty crops—like onions, potatoes, asparagus, and, of course, the world-famous Hermiston watermelons.

In fact, Umatilla County is the second highest agricultural producing county in the State of Oregon, with sales topping \$487 million annually.

Agriculture has always been the economic backbone of Umatilla County. However, growth of the industry would not have been maintained without significant innovation in what types of crops are grown and in improvements in production techniques.

The land that this legislation deals with was conveyed to the State of Oregon and then to Oregon State University by the Federal Government. It is the home of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, capably and ably managed by Superintendent Phil Hamm, with whom we have worked closely on this legislation.

This center has fueled these innovations, and it has helped growers in the region maximize the use of precious water, fight off new pests and diseases, and achieve record-breaking yields.

This commonsense legislation simply places the home of the research center back fully under local control by removing the retained reversionary interest. This bill also conveys 6 acres of land that were orphaned from the station after the construction of a railroad line.

This release and conveyance provides the flexibility OSU needs to better

manage the station for the future benefit of area farmers and to meet the needs of the city of Hermiston, eastern Oregon's largest city.

When this land was originally conveyed in 1954, the Hermiston population was fewer than 4,000 people, and the research station was located well out of town. Today, with a population of 16,745 people, the research facilities now lie within the city limits of Hermiston, presenting potential challenges to growth in the future.

Despite economic and population growth in the last 60 years, the needs of farmers have not changed much. They still rely upon the quality work done by researchers at the station to grow top-notch crops and to create jobs in the region.

Unfortunately, as station managers try to plot the path for continued viability of the station as the city continues to grow, they find their hands tied by the reversionary interest the Federal Government maintains over the property.

Commonsense opportunities that could generate additional revenue for research, like siting a cell tower on a small portion of the property that can't be farmed, are passed over because of these improvement restrictions.

Also, if the need arises in the future, the reversionary interest stands in the way of the relocation of the facility, which would provide additional economic opportunities for the city, while maintaining the research capabilities at a site better suited for agriculture production, rather than being stuck between industrial sites or residential communities.

By removing the reversionary interest, H.R. 3366 removes these hurdles and provides opportunities for economic and job growth for the local community, which is why it has been strongly supported by farmers in the area, by the city of Hermiston, and by the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners as well.

For farmers in the Columbia Basin, it is a way for valuable agriculture research to continue into the future, bringing new techniques they need to tackle new challenges as they continue to feed and clothe the world.

For Oregon State University, it provides the flexibility they need to ensure they continue their mission of providing the quality research they have provided in the area for decades.

Again, I want to thank the staff on the committee, as well as my own staff—Riley Bushue and Thomas Griffin—for their work on this legislation.

I would ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their work on this important piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am glad my colleague from Oregon mentioned the Columbia Basin. My district happens to be just north of that. That part of the Columbia Basin that I represent also is a very plentiful agriculture area, and I am glad my friend from Oregon, just to the south of me, recognizes that.

With that, this is a good piece of legislation, and I urge its passage.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3366, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD WAR MEMORIAL ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 503) to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 503

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act:

(1) ASSOCIATION.—The term "Association" means the National Desert Storm Memorial Association, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Arkansas and described in section 501(c)(3) and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(2) MEMORIAL.—The term "memorial" means the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial authorized to be established under section 3.

SEC. 3. MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.—The Association may establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work, on Federal land in the District of Columbia to commemorate and honor those who, as a member of the Armed Forces, served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—The establishment of the commemorative work shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Commemorative Works Act").

(c) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS PROHIBITED.—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the memorial. The

Association shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the memorial.

(d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—

(1) If upon payment of all expenses for the establishment of the memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Association shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

(2) If upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Association shall transmit the balance to a separate account with the National Park Foundation for memorials, to be available to the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator (as appropriate) following the process provided in section 8906(b)(4) of title 40, United States Code, for accounts established under section 8906(b)(2) or (3) of title 40, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 503 authorizes the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish a commemorative work on Federal land outside of the closed National Mall reserve in the District of Columbia to commemorate and honor members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

Over 600,000 American servicemen deployed for Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield and successfully led a coalition of over 30 countries to evict an invading army to secure the independence of Kuwait.

This memorial will recognize their success, but it will also serve as a commemoration of those nearly 300 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

The work would be planned and constructed using non-Federal funds, and unlike recent monuments' proposals, it does not exempt it from the Commemorative Works Act, which was established to place standards and a process for the placement of memorials

in the Washington, D.C., area. This is a good piece of legislation, and I urge its passage.

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

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 503, the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act.

Following the ordered invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, the United States, along with the United Nations Security Council, demanded the immediate halt and pullback of forces under the threat of military action.

After Saddam Hussein defied the United Nations Security Council's demands, the United States, along with its NATO and Arab allies, began Operation Desert Shield, followed by Operation Desert Storm—a 100-hour land war which expelled the Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Approximately 700,000 members of the American Armed Forces served as part of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield. Of those, 293 died in theater, and 148 were killed in action.

H.R. 503 authorizes the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Association to build the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia, in order to honor the members of the American Armed Forces who served on active duty and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in support of our country.

Honoring those who have served and those who have died is a duty shared by all Americans, regardless of political affiliation. We support this bipartisan bill and look forward to its adoption.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. ROE, the author of this legislation.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud sponsor of H.R. 503, the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act.

In the previous debate we heard just a moment ago about tyranny and the oppression of human rights, this bill honors those who fought this and freed an entire country—Kuwait.

In having just celebrated Memorial Day, it is fitting that the House today is considering legislation which would establish a monument to honor those who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

□ 1730

2014 marks 23 years since the first U.S. casualty in Operation Desert

Shield, the first phase of one of the largest military operations in our country's history.

The seeds for this conflict were sewn on August 2, 1990, when Saddam Hussein ruthlessly invaded Kuwait and imprisoned the people. In less than 24 hours, he dominated nearly 30 percent of the world's oil supply, before setting his sights on Saudi Arabia.

Recognizing Saudi Arabia's important role in the region, President George Herbert Walker Bush and a coalition of 34 supporting countries launched Operation Desert Shield, the deployment of combat forces to Saudi Arabia, and ordered Hussein to remove Iraqi troops from Kuwait by January 15, 1991.

With Kuwait still occupied after the deadline passed, over a half-million United States armed servicemembers led coalition forces in the liberation of Kuwait: Operation Desert Storm.

Of the roughly 600,000 American troops who were deployed in both Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, 294 died in theater, of which 148 were killed in action.

The United States currently lacks a national memorial dedicated to the valor and sacrifices made by those members of our Armed Forces who protected two of our key regional allies. This sacrifice was not just borne by those who deployed, but also by their families on the home front.

Believing that we should have an enduring monument to their service in the Nation's capital, I introduced the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act. This bipartisan legislation would authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish a National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial on Federal lands within the District of Columbia.

It is important to note that no Federal funds will be spent to build this memorial. All funds will be raised privately by the National Desert Storm Memorial Association.

I will include letters of support from veterans service organizations such as AMVETS, the American Legion, the Air Force Association, the National Guard Association of the United States, and Blinded Veterans of America.

AMVETS DRAFT RESOLUTION 14-08

Subject: Support the National Desert Storm Memorial

Source: National Headquarters

Whereas, on Aug. 2, 1990 Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and set in motion a chain of events that would impact America and the rest of the world forever; and,

Whereas, on January 16th 1991 Operation Desert Storm was launched following Saddam Hussein's refusal to withdraw his Iraqi forces from Kuwait; and,

Whereas, there were 293 American men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in extracting the Iraqis and liberating Kuwait; and

Whereas, in 2011 we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of this historical conflict and yet there remains no national memorial to honor the brave men and women from the United States who served and sacrificed in that war; now therefore, be it *resolved*: That AMVETS do everything in its power to support the passage of HR 503, National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2014.

Hon. PHIL ROE, M.D.,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ROE: On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express our support for the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act of 2013, which would authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia.

American Legion Resolution No. 16: National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial, passed at the 2013 National Convention, states that "The American Legion will endorse and support building the National Desert Shield/Desert Storm War Memorial, without financial obligation on behalf of the national organization, as a lasting tribute to the bravery, courage, commitment, service, and sacrifice exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces living and deceased."

The National Desert Shield/Desert Storm War Memorial, located in Washington, DC, will commemorate the service of those 500,000 plus U.S. servicemembers who served our country honorably throughout this campaign, as well as memorialize the over 300 Americans who paid the ultimate price in pursuit of that just cause.

Again, The American Legion fully supports this legislation and we thank you for your leadership on this issue.

For God and Country,

DANIEL M. DELLINGER,
National Commander.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION,
Arlington, Virginia.

Hon. DAVID P. ROE,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ROE, I am writing on behalf of the Air Force Association (AFA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization representing approximately 100,000 current and former Airmen and their families, to express our support for a National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial.

We thank you for being a cosponsor of H.R. 503 which would establish this monument to honor those who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

After Saddam Hussein of Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990, he immediately owned nearly 30% of the world's oil supply and threatened Saudi Arabia, and American ally and important regional power. President George H.W. Bush launched Operation Desert Shield and with it the immense threat of force of American and Coalition airpower. President Bush also gave Hussein an ultimatum: Exit Kuwait by January 15, 1991, or face the brunt of all branches of the United States Military as well as Coalition forces. With Iraqi forces still in Kuwait after the deadline, President Bush launched Operation

Desert Storm, and for nearly seven months American and Coalition forces used airpower to great effect. When ground troops finally rolled in, it took only a few days to clear Kuwait of Iraqi forces.

This major coalition victory resulted not only in the liberation of Kuwait, but also a weakened Iraqi force, and the imposition of sanctions against the government of Iraq. However, the victory was not without sacrifice. America lost 293 of her best men and women during these operations.

AFA believes the nation needs a national memorial dedicated to those members of the armed forces who risked and or lost their lives in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. AFA supports this bipartisan legislation to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Board of Directors to establish this memorial in Washington DC, with all funding raised privately by the National Desert Storm Memorial Association.

AFA urges Congress to act swiftly to get this deserving project underway as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

CRAIG MCKINLEY,
President, Air Force Association.

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, May 28, 2014.

Hon. PHIL ROE,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ROE: Thank you for introducing H.R. 503, the Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act, that would establish a monument to honor those who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield, including thousands of members of the National Guard.

The selfless service of the men and women who served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm is long overdue for the special recognition that a monument would provide. NGAUS strongly supports this effort.

Thank you for this effort to honor the service of our brave men and women.

Sincerely,

GUS HARGETT,
Major General, USA, (Ret) President.

BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION,
Washington DC, May 28, 2014.
Hon. DAVID "PHIL" ROE, M.D. (TN-01),
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ROE; On behalf of the Blinded Veterans Association Board of Directors, its members, and the entire Blinded Veteran community I would like to extend our support for H.R. 503, The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act.

When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, and seized nearly 30 percent of the world's oil supply, our Nations President George H.W. Bush launched Operation Desert Shield. This deployment of American combat troops was America's way of advising Saddam Hussein that his acts of aggression and tyranny towards Kuwait would not be tolerated. On January 15, 1991, with Kuwait still occupied, over half a million United States armed service members led coalition forces in the liberation of Kuwait, a mission now known as Operation Desert Storm.

The men and woman of our Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard Forces, who answered the call of duty should now, and forever, be remembered for the sacrifices they made to ensure that this type of aggression

and tyranny will not be tolerated by the United States towards our allies. May this memorial reflect those sacrifices for generations to pay tribute and admire, and lest we not forget.

Respectfully;
GLENN MINNEY (U.S.N. RET.),
Director of Government Relations and
Congressional Legislation,
Blinded Veterans Association.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I would especially like to thank a couple of people, such as JEFF MILLER, my friend from Hendersonville, North Carolina, who introduced me to Scott Stump and his colleagues at the National Desert Storm Memorial Association, for the legwork they have done in support of H.R. 503. Without their efforts, we wouldn't be standing here today. I also would like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Norbert from Canada, who is also in the audience today.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Chairman HASTINGS and Chairman BISHOP for their assistance in moving this legislation to the House floor.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and to honor the service of those who served in these operations.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my colleagues from Tennessee and Washington, and I am very honored to support this piece of legislation, particularly on the day after we formally observed Memorial Day. It is truly an honor to recognize the men and women and the families who give the ultimate sacrifice to protect this country.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation, and I commend Dr. ROE and others for introducing it and bringing it to the floor. I urge its passage.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 503, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SANDIA PUEBLO SETTLEMENT TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and pass the bill (S. 611) to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 611

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act".

SEC. 2. SANDIA PUEBLO SETTLEMENT TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

Section 413(b) of the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act (16 U.S.C. 539m-11(b)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of paragraph (4), by striking "conveyance" and inserting "title to be conveyed"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) FAILURE TO EXCHANGE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the land exchange authorized under paragraph (1) is not completed by the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary, on request of the Pueblo and the Secretary of the Interior, shall transfer the National Forest land generally depicted as ‘Land to be Held in Trust’ on the map entitled ‘Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act’ and dated October 18, 2013, to the Secretary of the Interior to be held in trust by the United States for the Pueblo—

“(i) subject to the restriction enforced by the Secretary of the Interior that the land remain undeveloped, with the natural characteristics of the land to be preserved in perpetuity; and

“(ii) consistent with subsection (c).

“(B) OTHER TRANSFERS.—After the transfer under subparagraph (A) is complete, the Secretary of the Interior, with the consent of the Pueblo, shall—

“(i) transfer to the Secretary, consistent with section 411(c)—

“(I) the La Luz tract generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act’ and dated October 18, 2013; and

“(II) the conservation easement for the Piedra Lisa tract generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act’ and dated October 18, 2013; and

“(ii) grant to the Secretary a right-of-way for the Piedra Lisa Trail within the Piedra Lisa tract generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act’ and dated October 18, 2013.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 611 authorizes a transfer of land between the U.S. Forest Service and the Pueblo of Sandia in the State of New Mexico. The bill would complete a series of pending land exchanges that were originally authorized under a 2003 law. The exchanges were intended to resolve the Pueblo's ownership claims to Sandia Mountain and to retain certain lands and interests in public ownership as part of the Cibola National Forest.

Some of the land exchanges were not executed because of a disagreement over land valuation. In 2009, Congress attempted to resolve this matter through a technical amendment but, in the view of the Forest Service, the bill did not resolve the land valuation dispute. So, Mr. Speaker, it is hoped that round two of the technical amendments to the 2003 act will conclude the matter.

The Committee on Natural Resources has reported the House companion measure to this bill, H.R. 3605, and we have no objection to passing S. 611 in lieu of H.R. 3605.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 611, the Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act.

Senate 611 provides technical amendments to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, which passed Congress over 10 years ago, in order to settle land claims with the Pueblo of Sandia, but due to uncertainty over the valuation of land within the U.S. Forest Service, has still not been implemented.

Specifically, this bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture, at the request of the Sandia Pueblo and the Secretary of the Interior, to transfer certain national forest land to the Secretary of the Interior to be held in trust for the Pueblo, if a land exchange with the Pueblo required by the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act is not completed within 30 days of this Act's enactment.

The bill would also affect a land conveyance, a transfer of right-of-way from the tribe to the Forest Service, and would require the National Forest land in question to remain undeveloped so that the Pueblo will be able to use the land for ceremonial purposes in perpetuity.

This bill is the companion of H.R. 3605, a bill I introduced in the House. That bill was reported favorably out of committee. Since the Senate bill has already passed that body, we have decided to vote on that bill to, hopefully, pass it with efficiency.

It is difficult for many tribal communities to access and protect sacred

sites. So when we have the opportunity to place sacred sites under tribal control, I think it is important for this body to act.

The Pueblo of Sandia and the entire New Mexico delegation supports S. 611. I ask my colleagues to stand with me in support of this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I will advise my friend from New Mexico that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague.

I just want to reiterate my gratitude to the entire New Mexico delegation; the Governor of Pueblo Sandia, Governor Paisano; the lieutenant governor; and the entire tribal council.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 611.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COUNSELING AND TREATMENT FOR SEXUAL TRAUMA OCCURRING DURING INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2527) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans with counseling and treatment for sexual trauma that occurred during inactive duty training.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2527

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

SECTION 1. COUNSELING AND TREATMENT FOR SEXUAL TRAUMA OCCURRING DURING INACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING.

Section 1720D of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking "active duty or active duty for training" and inserting "active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training"; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking "this section, the" and inserting the following: "this section:

“(1) The”;

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The term ‘veteran’, with respect to inactive duty training described in subsection (a)(1), also includes an individual who—

“(A) is not otherwise eligible for the benefits of this chapter; and

“(B) while serving in the reserve components of the Armed Forces, performed such

inactive duty training but did not serve on active duty.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2527.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2527 would extend VA's program of counseling, care, and services for veterans who experience sexual trauma during inactive duty training.

Those servicemembers and veterans who experience sexual violence during military service, regardless of where or when such violence is inflicted, should have access to the counseling, care, and treatment they need to recover.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2527, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 2527, the National Guard Military Sexual Trauma Parity Act.

Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank Mr. BENISHEK, the chairman of the Health Subcommittee; Ms. BROWNLEY, the ranking member of the Health Subcommittee; and especially Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD for working with me on this very important issue.

The bill before you is bipartisan legislation which addresses an unacceptable gap in the current law that effectively leaves some victims of military sexual assault without the support and treatment they need.

Members of the National Guard and other reserve components of our armed services have fought bravely for our country, many completing multiple tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since the attacks on September 11, more than 50,000 guardsmen and guardswomen have been called to service, both at home and abroad.

We recognize the value of the National Guard and other reserve components, and thank them for their service. Unfortunately, some, like members of the other Armed Forces, are victimized by sexual assault while on Active Duty. If that happens, they are provided all the VA resources and services they need to recover and heal, both physically and emotionally.

Such benefits, however, are not offered to members of the National

Guard and other reserve components who experience sexual assault while on inactive training missions. Members of the Guard are required to participate in training missions one weekend a month and 2 weeks a year, but benefits and services, such as counseling and Medicare, do not extend to victims sexually assaulted during these mandatory training missions. This omission is simply unacceptable and leaves so many who have served our country without any assistance or support during a devastating time.

The National Guard Military Sexual Trauma Parity Act would fix this problem and clarify that all victims of sexual trauma in the National Guard or other reserve components have access to the care they need, whether they are on Active Duty or on a required training mission.

We must make it a priority to change the culture of the military and put an end to acts of sexual trauma within our armed services. Until we do, however, we must be sure that we provide all victims the treatment they need and deserve.

I am proud that many veterans service organizations support this important legislation to ensure that all Guard members who are “always ready, always there” to protect our country receive the same support in return from their government.

So, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1745

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I would just conclude my remarks and urge all my colleagues to support this legislation and, again, thank the chairman for working with me to bring it to the floor. We want to send it to the Senate and urge them to pass it quickly and on to the President for his signature.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 2527, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2527.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REESTABLISHMENT OF PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass

the bill (H.R. 2942) to amend title 38, United States Code, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2942

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

SECTION 1. REESTABLISHMENT OF PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) REESTABLISHMENT.—Section 3689(e)(5) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2006” and inserting “December 31, 2019”.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS.—In reestablishing the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee under subsection (e) of section 3689 of title 38, United States Code, pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may appoint new members of the Committee under paragraph (3)(A) of such subsection (e) without regard to the individuals who served as members before the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members would have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2942.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise today in support of H.R. 2942, that amends title 38 of the United States Code, reestablishing the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I know my colleague who introduced this bill, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, will go into greater detail as to the importance of this legislation, but I do believe that this bill is another step in the right direction to assist our veterans as they look for work in the civilian sector following their service to our great Nation.

The reestablishment of the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee would improve the quality of both the Department of Veterans Affairs' and State approving agencies' licensing and certification process and will ultimately benefit our servicemembers, as well as employers, and ease the process of placing veterans in civilian careers that match their skills.

Mr. Speaker, although the unemployment rate for veterans is lower than

the national average for nonveterans, getting veterans into a job must remain an issue of national importance. Reestablishing this advisory committee will be yet another tool to help veterans get into a career in a timely fashion.

We have already made the investment to train our veterans during their military service for careers in the civilian sector, and by getting advice from industry experts on how to streamline and improve licensing and credentialing, we will make it easier for veterans to find meaningful and timely employment.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2942, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 2942, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2942, a bill that will help transitioning servicemembers find employers who want to make a smart investment hiring a veteran.

This bill, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs, will allow subject-matter experts to review State licenses and credentialing to certify that military men and women in specific career fields are able to transfer their skills to the private sector.

By the time most of our servicemen and -women leave the military, they have gained a wealth of experience that can translate into civilian career fields. In addition to teamwork, perseverance, loyalty, and leadership, our military servicemembers possess technical skills that are available to employers.

Unfortunately, many of our military servicemen and -women have difficulty finding jobs after leaving the military because they don't have a civilian license or certification.

They possess the same training and have the same training, but can't obtain employment in their career field because they need a license.

In a tough job market, this creates one more barrier for our transitioning military men and women that can mean the difference between finding and not finding a job.

This bill addresses some of these barriers for our newest veterans. Under this bill, the VA's advisory committee on professional certification and licensure, which ended in 2006, will be reestablished through December 2019.

In addition to helping veterans transfer their skills toward civilian licenses, these subject-matter experts will advise the VA to recognize new licensing and certification programs, so that veterans can use their GI Bill benefits to pay for the cost of these training programs and licensing exams.

This advisory committee will also make it easier for veterans to comply

with State licensing requirements that may differ from State to State. This will give veterans more options in their choice of training and certification programs, since veterans cannot use their GI Bill benefits toward programs that are not VA-approved, even though completion of many of these programs would give veterans the licenses they need.

When veterans are able to put their skills to work, they are able to support their families, businesses profit, and communities benefit.

Again, I urge your support for these men and women as they return home and ask you to ensure their valuable time in the military is not lost.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) for introducing H.R. 2942, which will have an important impact on the lives of our servicemen and -women separating from the military.

I also want to extend my thanks to Chairman MILLER for the bipartisan way in which he leads our committee.

During my time as ranking member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, I have seen how transitioning servicemembers can struggle to find employment. Life beyond the military can be complicated, as we found out from employers who attended a March veterans employment roundtable hosted by myself and our committee's ranking member, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD).

These are men and woman who have real work experience, but are still struggling to find steady, meaningful employment. Meanwhile, when they return to their communities, people are shaking their hands and thanking them for their service, when what they really need is a job.

Many employers have recognized the skills veterans bring to the table, but there is still so much more work to be done. By passing this legislation, we will be sending a clear message of our respect for military members' service and their experience as professionals.

Reestablishing the advisory committee on professional certification and licensure will ensure veterans get the broadest and most comprehensive support to acknowledge the skills they have earned and the experience they have gained while in the military.

By supporting this legislation, we will help ensure these men and women can be our next nurse, electrician, or plumber or engineer or any other professional they are qualified to be.

Please, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to thank Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, and the committee staff for working with me on this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to pass this. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to visit some military bases, talking to our men and women who will soon transition out of the military and become veterans, and the number one concern they had was: Where am I going to find a job? How am I going to find a job?

So this bill is critically important to our veterans. They deserve to know that they are going to find meaningful work when they come back and especially in the areas that they have been trained in the military.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the committee and the staff for helping me with this. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentlelady for her fine work, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2942.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2942.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GULF WAR HEALTH RESEARCH REFORM ACT OF 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4261) to improve the research of Gulf War Illness, the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4261

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GULF WAR VETERANS' ILLNESSES.

(a) INDEPENDENCE OF COMMITTEE.—Subsection (b) of section 707 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-585; 38 U.S.C. 527 note) is amended—

(1) by striking "Not later than" and inserting "(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2) INDEPENDENCE.—(A) The Committee established under paragraph (1) shall be an independent advisory committee which shall provide advice and counsel to the congressional veterans committees and to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (as the head of the department designated under subsection (a) that established the Committee under paragraph (1)).

“(B) In carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Committee, the Committee shall be independent of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Committee shall exert independent control of the budget allocations, staffing levels and expenditures, personnel decisions and processes, procurements, and other administrative and management functions of the Committee. The administration and management of the Committee shall be subject to the usual and customary Federal audit procedures.

“(3) DUTIES.—(A) The Committee shall provide to Congress, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the heads of other departments and agencies of the Federal Government that conduct research on illnesses in Gulf War veterans advice with respect to proposed research studies, research plans, or research strategies relating to the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War.

“(B) The Committee may not conduct scientific research or review research proposals submitted to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs prior to funding. The Secretary shall appoint three members from the Committee who have appropriate scientific expertise to the committee designated to review such research proposals relating to illnesses in Gulf War veterans.

“(C) The guiding principle for the Committee shall be the premise that the fundamental goal of Gulf War health-related research, either basic or applied, conducted by the Federal Government is to ultimately improve the health of ill Gulf War veterans, and that the choice and success of research efforts shall be judged accordingly. The Committee shall assess the overall effectiveness of such research conducted by the Federal Government to answer central questions on the nature, causes, and treatments for health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War.

“(D) The Committee shall meet in public session to review research funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs relevant to understanding and treating the health consequences of military service in the Gulf War, and the processes conducted to solicit, review, and select such funded research to assess methods, results, and implications of such research. The Committee may review research plans, initiatives, and activities from other departments and agencies of the Federal Government supporting research relating to the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War.

“(4) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—(A) Not later than December 1 of each year, the Committee shall submit to the congressional veterans committees and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs an annual report summarizing the activities of the Committee during the period covered by the report.

“(B) The Committee shall submit to the congressional veterans committees, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the head of any other department or agency of the Fed-

eral Government that conducts research on illnesses in Gulf War veterans any other reports and recommendations of the Committee regarding Gulf War-related research.

“(C) Reports, recommendations, publications, and other documents of the Committee shall not be subject to review or approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(D) The Committee may submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs proposed recommendations of the Committee for comment for a period not to exceed 30 days.

“(E) Each report submitted by the Committee shall be approved by the Committee meeting in public session prior to such submission.

“(5) MEMBERSHIP.—(A) The Committee shall be composed of 12 members appointed as follows:

“(i) One member appointed jointly by the chairman of the congressional veterans committees, who shall serve as chairman of the Committee.

“(ii) Two members appointed by the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

“(iii) Two members appointed by the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate.

“(iv) Two members appointed by the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

“(v) Two members appointed by the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate.

“(vi) Three members appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, of whom not less than one shall be a veteran.

“(B)(i) The first 11 vacancies from among the members of the Committee (not including a member serving as chairman of the Committee) occurring on or after the date of the enactment of the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014 shall be filled by—

“(I) the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives appointing a member for the first and sixth vacancy;

“(II) the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate appointing a member for the second and seventh vacancy;

“(III) the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives appointing a member for the third and eighth vacancy;

“(IV) the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate appointing a member for the fourth and ninth vacancy; and

“(V) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs appointing a member for the fifth, tenth, and eleventh vacancy.

“(ii) A vacancy in the Committee of a member serving as chairman shall be filled jointly by the chairmen of the congressional veterans committees.

“(iii) Except as provided by clause (i) or (ii), a vacancy in the Committee of a member shall be filled in the manner in which the appointment of such member was made. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term.

“(C) Of the members of the Committee who are appointed on or after the date of the enactment of the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014—

“(i) not fewer than three members shall be veterans;

“(ii) not fewer than eight members shall be scientists or physicians who have experience in biomedicine, epidemiology, immunology,

environmental health, neurology, toxicology, or other appropriate disciplines; and

“(iii) the chairman shall be a veteran or an expert described in clause (ii), or both.

“(D) Each member of the Committee who is appointed on or after the date of the enactment of the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014 shall be appointed for a three-year term. Except as provided by section 2(c)(3) of such Act, a member may be reappointed once (not including the initial appointment of a member made before the date of the enactment of such Act).

“(6) MEETINGS.—(A) The Committee shall meet at the call of the chairman, but not less than twice annually.

“(B) A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

“(C)(i) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the head of the Office of Research and Development of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the head of the Office of Public Health of the Department shall attend each meeting of the Committee.

“(ii) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may delegate the attendance of the Secretary under clause (i) to a level not below the Deputy Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, but the Secretary shall attend at least one meeting each year without making such delegation.

“(D) Each meeting of the Committee shall be open to the public.

“(7) COMPENSATION AND STAFF.—(A) Except with respect to a member who serves a scientific director under subparagraph (C)(ii) and is treated as staff for purposes of compensation, each member of the Committee shall be paid at the daily rate provided for temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, for each day during which the member attends meetings of the Committee.

“(B) The members of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of service of the Committee.

“(C)(i) The chairman of the Committee may appoint a staff of not more than four employees to provide the Committee scientific and administrative support. Such employees may be—

“(I) detailees of the Department of Veterans Affairs or other departments or agencies of the Federal Government;

“(II) individuals employed as temporary employees of the Federal Government; or

“(III) at the request of the chairman of the Committee, provided under a contract entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and a medical school or other medical research institution selected by the chairman of the Committee.

“(ii) The chairman of the Committee may appoint, from the members of the Committee, a scientific director to supervise the operations of the Committee. Such director shall count as one of the four employees authorized under clause (i).

“(iii) At the request of the chairman of the Committee, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall procure services from nongovernmental consultants to assist the Committee in preparing reports, background papers, and other material for consideration by the Committee. Such services may be procured under the contract described in clause (i)(III).

“(8) APPLICATION OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—(A) Except as otherwise

provided by this subsection, the Committee shall be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(B) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall consult with the chairman of the congressional veterans committees in designating an officer or employee of the Department under section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(C) Notwithstanding such section 10, such designated officer or employee may not have authority—

“(i) over the agenda or conduct of a meeting;

“(ii) to adjourn a meeting of the Committee; or

“(iii) to take any other action that is inconsistent with the independence of the Committee under paragraph (2).

“(9) FUNDING.—Amounts for the activities of the Committee shall be derived from amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of this subsection.

“(10) TERMINATION.—(A) Except as provided by subparagraph (B), the Committee shall terminate on the date that is two years after the date on which the Committee submits to the congressional veterans committees, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a report (signed by not less than nine concurring members) explaining that each Secretary is carrying out an effective research program relating to the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War.

“(B) If during the two-year period described in subparagraph (A) the Committee notifies the congressional veterans committees, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that the information contained in the report submitted under subparagraph (A) is no longer applicable, the two-year period shall toll until the date on which the Committee submits a new report described in subparagraph (A).”

(b) DEFINITIONS; REDESIGNATION; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Such section 707 is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘congressional veterans committees’ means the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

“(2) The term ‘Gulf War’ means the Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, to July 31, 1991.

“(3) The term ‘Gulf War veteran’ means an individual who served as a member of the Armed Forces in the Gulf War.”

(2) REDESIGNATION.—Subsection (a) of such section 707 is amended by striking “, and may redesignate from time to time,”

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section 707 is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1) of subsection (b), as designated by subsection (a)(1) and amended by paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting “(in this subsection referred to as the ‘Committee’)” after “an advisory committee”; and

(ii) by striking “and representatives of such veterans” and inserting “representatives of such veterans, and individuals from the scientific and medical community”;

(B) by striking “Persian Gulf theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War” each place it appears and inserting “Gulf War”;

(C) by striking “Persian Gulf War veterans” each place it appears and inserting “Gulf War veterans”; and

(D) by striking “during the Persian Gulf War” each place it appears and inserting “during the Gulf War”.

(c) MEMBERS CURRENTLY SERVING.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—Notwithstanding paragraph (5)(A) of subsection (b) of such section 707, as amended by subsection (a)(2), the chairmen and ranking members of the congressional veterans committees shall jointly designate 10 members of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses established pursuant to such subsection (b) who are serving as members as of the date of the enactment of this Act to continue to serve as members for periods determined pursuant to paragraph (2) rather than for the term for which the members were appointed before such date of enactment.

(2) PERIOD OF SERVICE.—The chairmen and ranking members of the congressional veterans committees shall jointly determine the period of service of each member specified in paragraph (1) in a manner that staggers the periods of such members in periods of one, two, or three years beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act. In determining such staggered periods, the chairmen and ranking members shall take into account the order of filling vacancies pursuant to subsection (b)(5)(B) of such section 707, as amended by subsection (a)(2). Any vacancies occurring of such members shall be filled in accordance with such subsection.

(3) NEW MEMBERS.—Upon designating members under paragraph (1), the chairmen of the congressional veterans committees shall each appoint one additional member to the committee from among individuals who have not served on the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses. Such appointments shall be treated as the first and second vacancies described in subclauses (I) and (II) of subsection (b)(5)(B)(i) of such section 707, as amended by subsection (a)(2), respectively.

(4) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member of the Committee specified in paragraph (1) who has served more than three years may not be reappointed after the period for the member specified in paragraph (2) expires.

SEC. 3. RESEARCH CASE DEFINITION OF GULF WAR ILLNESS.

(a) STANDARD DEFINITION.—Except as provided by subsection (b), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that any research conducted or funded by the Secretary on the chronic multisymptom illness that afflicts approximately 25 percent of Gulf War veterans—

(1) refers to the illness as “Gulf War Illness”; and

(2) uses the research case definition of such illness that is recommended from time to time by the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses established by section 707 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-585; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(b) ALTERNATIVE DEFINITION.—During any period in which the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses has not recommended a research case definition for Gulf War Illness, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that any research on such illness conducted or funded by the Secretary uses a research case definition that is consistent with the definition of the term “chronic multisymptom illness in Persian Gulf War veterans” provided by section 805(e) of the Veterans’ Benefits Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-275; 124 Stat. 2890).

(c) ADVICE.—The Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses shall submit to the Secretary of Defense advice re-

garding the best type of organization and process for the Gulf War Illness Research Program of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program to use to develop a research case definition of “Gulf War Illness”.

SEC. 4. STUDIES AND REPORTS ON GULF WAR ILLNESS.

(a) CONDUCT OF NEW STUDIES.—

(1) EVALUATION OF ANIMAL STUDIES.—In conducting or funding any study relating to illnesses of Gulf War veterans on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that such study is conducted in a manner such that animal studies are considered to the same extent in all respects as human studies.

(2) SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF ASSOCIATION.—In conducting or funding any study relating to illnesses of Gulf War veterans, or other health matters of veterans, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies shall ensure that such study is conducted in a manner that defines “sufficient evidence of an association” in the “categories of association” used in the study as the following: “Evidence is sufficient to conclude that there is a positive association. That is, a positive association has been observed between an exposure to a specific agent and a health outcome in human or animal studies in which chance, bias, and confounding could be ruled out with reasonable confidence.”

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON NATIONAL COHORT STUDY.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should conduct an additional follow-up study of a national cohort of Gulf War and Gulf-War-Era veterans that includes questions described in the “Symptom Inventory Required to Ascertain Case Status for Gulf War Multisymptom Illness, as Defined by both the Fukuda and Kansas criteria” published by the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses on June 9, 2012, in appendix F of the document titled “Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses Findings and Recommendations”.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON STUDY ON RISK OF DEVELOPING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS, MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS, PARKINSON’S DISEASE, BRAIN CANCERS, AND OTHER CONDITIONS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should submit to the congressional veterans committees each report required by section 804 of the Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-389; 122 Stat. 4187).

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED STUDIES.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should—

(1) seek to enter into an agreement with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies to carry out the review described in section 805 of the Veterans’ Benefits Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-275; 124 Stat. 2890), regardless of any previous review conducted under such section, in a manner that ensures that the Institute of Medicine convenes to conduct the review a group of medical professionals who are experienced in treating individuals who served as members of the Armed Forces in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations of the Persian Gulf War during 1990 or 1991 and who have been diagnosed with Gulf War illness, chronic multisymptom illness, or another health condition related to chemical and environmental exposure that may have occurred during such service;

(2) seek to enter into an agreement with the Institute of Medicine to carry out the review described in section 1603 of the Persian

Gulf War Veterans Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277; 38 U.S.C. 1117 note), regardless of any previous review conducted under such section, addressing the matters originally reviewed by the Institute of Medicine in the reports titled “Gulf War and Health: Volume 1. Depleted Uranium, Sarin, Pyridostigmine Bromide, and Vaccines”, “Gulf War and Health: Volume 2. Insecticides and Solvents”, and “Gulf War and Health: Volume 3. Fuels, Combustion Products, and Propellants”; and

(3) not disseminate or use for research, clinical care, benefits, or any other purpose the results of the report of the Institute of Medicine titled “Gulf War and Health Report: Volume 9. Treatment for Chronic Multisymptom Illness”.

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CONSULTATION.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should, prior to entering into a contract or agreement with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies with respect to research or studies on the health of Gulf War veterans, obtain the advice of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses established by section 707 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-585; 38 U.S.C. 527 note) regarding the scope of work and the charge to be given to the Institute of Medicine.

(f) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INCLUSION OF CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS IN SCIENTIFIC OR MEDICAL GROUPS.—It is the sense of Congress that, in any contract requiring the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies to convene a committee to study the health of Gulf War veterans, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should ensure that any such committee convened should contain not less than three members of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses established by section 707 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-585; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(g) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON NOTIFICATION OF UNDUE INFLUENCE.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should promptly notify the congressional veterans committees of any employee or contractor of the Federal Government whom the Secretary believes influenced, or attempted to influence, the outcome of a report or study on the health of Gulf War veterans conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies if such influence was not related to a scientifically objective outcome.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term “congressional veterans committees” means the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(2) The term “Gulf War” means the Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, to July 31, 1991.

(3) The term “Gulf War veteran” means an individual who served as a member of the Armed Forces in the Gulf War.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers would have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4261.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, we paused to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of this great Nation, but it is also important to remember those who are still suffering as a result of their service.

It has been estimated that as many as 250,000 veterans have some form of Gulf War illness. Despite millions of dollars in government funding and years of research, it is clear that more has got to be done to better understand this disease, so we can properly care for and compensate these veterans.

The bill before us today reaffirms the essential role of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses and provides the committee with the independence that it needs, so that it can continue its vital work.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4261.

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H.R. 4261, the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank the chairman of our committee, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN), for his sponsorship of this bill. It is such an important one, and I am a cosponsor on that.

For many of the veterans of the gulf war who suffer from Gulf War illness, it has been a long, hard-fought battle, just to have this government recognize that their illness and serious physical conditions were caused by toxic exposures.

Congress first created the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses because the research being done at the time was considered inadequate, partially due to a mistaken belief that it was a psychological condition.

Through the research, we now know that Gulf War illness is a debilitating physical condition, not something that is all in your head, as many veterans were initially told.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4261 will ensure that the Gulf War illness research advisory committee conducts and reviews objective research to help our veterans who are suffering from Gulf War illnesses. This research is essential to finding treatments that improve veterans’ health and quality of life.

It is also important that causes of these illnesses be identified so that our veterans with illnesses connected to

service during the gulf war can receive VA medical treatment and VA benefits, and it will also help our military, so that commanders can work to prevent and limit our troops’ exposure to toxic chemicals in the future.

□ 1800

This bill will allow the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses to direct research and review research findings independent of the VA. It will restore the independent authority of the Research Advisory Committee by having the chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committees appoint nine members and allowing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to appoint three members.

Additionally, the Advisory Committee will provide advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and to the House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committees on proposed research studies, research plans, or research strategies related to the health consequences of military service during the gulf war.

Our gulf war veterans suffer from real illnesses. These illnesses require real treatments that can only be found through proper, objective, evidence-based research. This Research Advisory Committee has the potential to find these treatments with the right combination of researchers directing and reviewing research.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, there has been a gentleman who chairs the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations who has been at the forefront of making sure that health care is provided in a timely fashion to our veterans, somebody who himself is a combat veteran. I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN).

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a gulf war and Iraq war veteran, I am grateful for the leadership of the gentleman from Florida, Chairman MILLER, on the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and for his support of H.R. 4261.

H.R. 4261, the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014, which I sponsored along with Ranking Member KIRKPATRICK and full committee Ranking Member MICHAUD, restores the independence of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses to perform the role it has historically played, as intended by Congress, to improve the lives of ill gulf war veterans.

This bill is necessary because some career VA staff have been trying to revive the discredited 1990s fiction that nothing special happened to gulf war veterans’ health and that the problems experienced by gulf war veterans are just “what happens after every war” due to psychological stress factors.

Because there is no scientific evidence for this position, VA staffers

have resorted to manipulating research studies and reports to try and revive this discredited theory. A major new VA gulf war veteran survey, for example, included the questions necessary to identify PTSD but not Gulf War illness.

Most shockingly, VA has even manipulated new research of the Institute of Medicine by limiting the terms of its contracts. VA transformed the Institute of Medicine gulf war treatments study ordered by Congress into a report based largely on psychotherapies. The Research Advisory Committee objected strongly to these actions, which threatened to mislead treatment research just as science is finally turning the corner. VA retaliated by eliminating the independence of the committee, changing its charter to remove its authority to review the effectiveness of government research programs, and replacing the members serving on the committee. The effect of these changes can already be seen.

The section of the new 2014 Research Advisory Committee report that detailed VA's manipulations of research had to be removed because the committee's authority to review the effectiveness of VA's research programs had been eliminated.

The independent voice, so critical to honest research, will be all but replaced by September with those who seem to bend to VA's will.

H.R. 4261 will restore the authority of the committee and provide that its membership, instead of being appointed entirely by VA, will consist of nine members appointed by the chairs and ranking members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and three members chosen by VA. This arrangement follows the longstanding model of the bipartisan Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance at the Department of Education.

Current law provides that the Research Advisory Committee membership may include veterans, representatives of veterans, and the general public. While there are those who seek to limit veteran members to ill veterans, excluding most veterans service organization representatives and others, the Research Advisory Committee has been well-served by having both ill and other veterans serve on the committee.

It is important to remember that the unwillingness of the VA to honestly address this illness is the reason Congress created the Research Advisory Committee in the first place. The 1997 congressional report that led to that legislation was entitled, "Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses: VA, DOD Continue to Resist Strong Evidence Linking Toxic Causes to Chronic Health Effects."

Science has made great progress since then, thanks in no small measure to the work of the Research Advisory Committee, as well as to the effective

Gulf War Illness Research Program that Congress created at the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. But this progress is all at risk if VA is able to again mislead science down blind alleys, directing scarce research dollars at the wrong target, as so often happened in the 1990s and 2000s.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I yield the gentleman an additional 1½ minutes.

Mr. COFFMAN. I thank the chairman.

It is also important to ask why the VA has pursued this course. Last month, we learned the answer. On April 22, 2014, Military Times reported that the VA Under Secretary for Benefits, Allison Hickey, objected even to using the term "Gulf War illness" because it "might imply a causal link between service in the gulf and poor health which could necessitate . . . disability compensation for veterans who served in the gulf."

Even if this policy was morally justifiable and saving money was the only goal, it is wrong. It will cost the Federal Government far less in the long run to face this problem honestly and pursue effective treatments, rather than to deny benefits and provide misleading research.

We have strong support for this legislation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Veterans, or AMVETS, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Without an independent Research Advisory Committee, the slow but steady progress toward identifying treatments for Gulf War illness will most surely end.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to acknowledge the work of Mr. Jim Binns of Arizona, who has made countless trips back here advocating for this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support it. We really need to do right by our gulf war veterans.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 4261, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4261.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H. Res. 599, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 503, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

URGING CHINA TO RESPECT THE FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, EXPRESSION, AND RELIGION AND ALL FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 599) urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the freedom of assembly, expression, and religion and all fundamental human rights and the rule of law for all its citizens and to stop censoring discussion of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and their violent suppression, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 1, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 241]

YEAS—379

Aderholt	Bishop (GA)	Bucshon
Amash	Bishop (NY)	Burgess
Amodei	Bishop (UT)	Bustos
Bachmann	Black	Butterfield
Bachus	Blackburn	Byrne
Barber	Blumenauer	Calvert
Barletta	Bonamici	Camp
Barr	Boustany	Cantor
Barrow (GA)	Brady (PA)	Capps
Barton	Bridenstine	Capuano
Bass	Brooks (AL)	Cárdenas
Becerra	Brooks (IN)	Carney
Benishek	Broun (GA)	Carson (IN)
Bentivolio	Brown (FL)	Carter
Bera (CA)	Brownley (CA)	Cartwright
Bilirakis	Buchanan	Cassidy

Castro (FL) Hanabusa
 Castro (TX) Harper
 Chabot Harris
 Chaffetz Hastings (WA)
 Chu Heck (NV)
 Cicilline Heck (WA)
 Clark (MA) Hensarling
 Clarke (NY) Herrera Beutler
 Clay Higgins
 Cleaver Himes
 Clyburn Holding
 Coble Holt
 Coffman Horsford
 Cohen Hoyer
 Cole Hudson
 Collins (GA) Huelskamp
 Collins (NY) Huffman
 Conaway Huizenga (MI)
 Connolly Hunter
 Conyers Hurt
 Cook Israel
 Cooper Issa
 Costa Jackson Lee
 Cotton Jeffries
 Courtney Jenkins
 Cramer Johnson (GA)
 Crawford Johnson (OH)
 Crenshaw Johnson, E. B.
 Crowley Jolly
 Cuellar Joyce
 Culberson Kaptur
 Cummings Keating
 Daines Kelly (IL)
 Davis (CA) Kelly (PA)
 Davis, Rodney Kennedy
 DeFazio Kildee
 DeGette Kilmer
 Delaney King (IA)
 DeLauro King (NY)
 DelBene Kingston
 Denham Kinzinger (IL)
 Dent Kirkpatrick
 DeSantis Kline
 DesJarlais Kuster
 Deutch Labrador
 Diaz-Balart LaMalfa
 Doggett Lamborn
 Doyle Lance
 Duffy Langevin
 Duncan (SC) Larsen (WA)
 Duncan (TN) Larson (CT)
 Edwards Latham
 Ellison Latta
 Ellmers Lee (CA)
 Engel Levin
 Enyart Lewis
 Eshoo Lipinski
 Farenthold LoBiondo
 Farr Lofgren
 Fattah Long
 Fincher Lowenthal
 Fitzpatrick Lowey
 Fleischmann Lucas
 Fleming Luetkemeyer
 Flores Lujan Grisham
 Forbes (NM)
 Foxx Lujan, Ben Ray
 Frankel (FL) (NM)
 Franks (AZ) Lummis
 Frelinghuysen Lynch
 Gabbard Maffei
 Gallego Maloney,
 Garamendi Carolyn
 Garcia Maloney, Sean
 Gardner Marchant
 Garrett Marino
 Gerlach Massie
 Gibson Matheson
 Gingrey (GA) Matsui
 Gohmert McAllister
 Goodlatte McCarthy (CA)
 Gosar McCaul
 Gowdy McClintock
 Granger McCollum
 Graves (GA) McDermott
 Graves (MO) McGovern
 Grayson McHenry
 Green, Al McKinley
 Green, Gene McMorris
 Griffith (VA) Rodgers
 Grijalva McNerney
 Grimm Meadows
 Guthrie Meehan
 Gutiérrez Meeks
 Hahn Meng
 Hall Messer

Mica
 Michael
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, George
 Moore
 Moran
 Mullin
 Murphy (FL)
 Murphy (PA)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Negrete McLeod
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 Nolan
 Nugent
 Hunter
 Nunnelee
 O'Rourke
 Olson

Owens
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Paulsen
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Perry
 Peters (CA)
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pingree (ME)
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Pocan
 Poe (TX)
 Polis
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Rahall
 Rangel
 Reed
 Reichert
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Richmond
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruiz
 Runyan
 Ruppenger
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanford
 Sarbanes
 Scalise
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schock
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sessions
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Simpson
 Sinema
 Sires
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)

Southerland
 Stewart
 Stockman
 Stutzman
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tierney
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tonko
 Tsongas
 Upton
 Valadao

Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tierney
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tonko
 Tsongas
 Upton
 Valadao

Wenstrup
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Williams
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yarmuth
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IN)

NAYS—1
 Jones

NOT VOTING—51

Hinojosa
 Honda
 Hultgren
 Johnson, Sam
 Jordan
 Kind
 Lankford
 Loeb sack
 Esty
 Fortenberry
 Foster
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 Miller, Gary
 Mulvaney
 Palazzo
 Pearce
 Peters (MI)
 Quigley

Renacci
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Rush
 Salmon
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Schakowsky
 Sewell (AL)
 Shuster
 Slaughter
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Stivers
 Thompson (MS)
 Tiberi
 Turner
 Waters

□ 1857

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

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, TRAGEDY

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

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart. On Friday night, my home community was rocked by unspeakable violence, which left six students and their assailant dead and 13 others injured. The rampage shook the communities of Isla Vista and the University of California in Santa Barbara, Californians, and the Nation.

Last night, I joined with my community at UCSB and in Isla Vista to honor those we lost. Together, we have taken the first steps towards making sense of the senseless. It will be a long journey. We have many questions, and over the weeks and months ahead perhaps more will be posed than we can answer. But we will work through it together.

While we all struggle to make sense of this tragedy, I want to thank you, my colleagues, and communities across the Nation for your prayers, your kind words, and your support. This act was fueled by hate, but in the wake of this

tragedy, we as a Nation have shown that in a dark time we do not walk alone, we do not grieve alone, so we will not have to heal alone.

Today, we remember the victims: George Chen; “James” Chung You-on Hong; Way-han “David” Wang; Katherine Breann Cooper; Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez; and Veronika Weiss.

We send our deepest sympathies to their families and to their friends. We lend support to the injured. We pledge to stand with the Santa Barbara community, and all those touched by violence, to do all we can to prevent this sort of tragedy in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to ask that the House observe a moment of silence for the victims, for their families, their friends, the UC-Santa Barbara community, and all who mourn in the wake of this senseless tragedy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will please rise for a moment of silence.

NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD WAR MEMORIAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 503) to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 370, nays 0, not voting 61, as follows:

[Roll No. 242]

YEAS—370

Aderholt	Blackburn	Capps
Amash	Blumenauer	Capuan
Amodei	Bonamici	Cárdenas
Bachmann	Boustany	Carney
Bachus	Brady (PA)	Carson (IN)
Barber	Bridenstine	Carter
Barletta	Brooks (AL)	Cartwright
Barr	Brooks (IN)	Cassidy
Barrow (GA)	Broun (GA)	Castor (FL)
Barton	Brown (FL)	Castro (TX)
Bass	Brownley (CA)	Chabot
Becerra	Buchanan	Chaffetz
Benishek	Bucshon	Chu
Bentivolio	Burgess	Cicilline
Bera (CA)	Bustos	Clark (MA)
Bilirakis	Butterfield	Clarke (NY)
Bishop (GA)	Byrne	Clay
Bishop (NY)	Calvert	Cleaver
Bishop (UT)	Camp	Clyburn
Black	Cantor	Coble

Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Holt

Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
HuiZENga (MI)
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee

O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey

Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Wasserman
Schultz

Beatty
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Campbell
Capito
Davis, Danny
Dingell
Duckworth
Esty
Fortenberry
Foster
Fudge
Gibbs
Griffin (AR)
Hanna
Reed
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Ribble
Hinojosa
Honda
Hultgren
Johnson, Sam

Webster (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)

Jordan
Kelly (IL)
Kind
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Loebsack
Lowe
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Maloney, Sean
McCarthy (NY)
McIntyre
McKeon
Meeks
Meng
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mulvaney
Palazzo
Pearce
Peters (MI)

Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Quigley
Renacci
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rush
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Schakowsky
Sewell (AL)
Shuster
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Turner
Walz
Waters
Waxman

□ 1914

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mrs. WAGNER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

□ 1915

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to begin the consideration of H.R. 4660, making appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. This bill has a far-reaching impact, from the safety of people in their homes and communities, to exploring the farthest reaches of space.

The bill before the Committee today reflects a delicate balance of needs and requirements. We have drafted what I consider a responsible bill for FY 2015 spending levels for the departments and agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction. We have had to carefully prioritize the funding in the bill and make hard choices about how to spend scarce resources.

I want to thank Chairman ROGERS for supporting us with a very fair allocation and for helping us to move the bill forward.

I want to thank the subcommittee ranking member, Mr. FATTAH, who has been a valued partner and colleague. I appreciate his commitment and his understanding of the wide variety of programs in this bill, and I thank him for his help.

I want to thank all of the members of the subcommittee for their help and assistance and also thank Mrs. LOWEY, the ranking member of the full committee.

I want to thank the majority staff for their hard work—subcommittee clerk Mike Ringler, Leslie Albright, Jeff Ashford, Diana Simpson, Colin Samples, and Taylor Kelly.

I also appreciate the professionalism and cooperation of the minority staff. In particular, I want to thank Bob Bonner and Matt Smith for their help during all of the long hours spent putting this bill and report together.

The bill totals \$51.2 billion in discretionary spending, a reduction of \$398 million, or approximately 1 percent below the current fiscal year. Since the beginning of the 112th Congress, the

NOT VOTING—61

□ 1909

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, because of flight delays due to extreme weather I will not be present for tonight's rollcall vote No. 241 and 242. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 241 and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 242.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcalls No. 241 and No. 242 I did not cast my vote due to a weather-related flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill, H.R. 4660, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia? There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 585 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4660.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

committee has cut the total amount of the CJS bill by \$13.3 billion, or 20 percent, over five fiscal years.

We have focused limited resources on the most critical areas—fighting crime and terrorism, including a focus on preventing and investigating cyber attacks; and boosting U.S. competitiveness and job creation by investing in exports, manufacturing, science, and space exploration.

For the Department of Commerce, the bill includes \$8.4 billion, \$391 million below the President's request.

The bill provides funding above the request for the National Weather Service operations, weather research, and NOAA's two flagship weather satellite systems that will result in more timely and accurate warnings and forecasts.

Severe weather events often result in the loss of life and economic ruin. We saw this again, recently, with devastating tornadoes in Arkansas, Mississippi, and elsewhere. These investments saved lives in Arkansas and Mississippi, and they will save lives wherever the next severe weather event strikes.

The bill makes critical investments in manufacturing, export promotion, and job creation, including a Commerce Department task force to incentivize U.S. companies to bring their manufacturing and services activities back to the United States.

The bill includes \$856 million for NIST research and standards work that is critical to innovation and competitiveness, including \$130 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program to help advance job growth in the manufacturing sector.

It also funds the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence at NIST to work with companies to bolster cybersecurity in the retail sector and encourages the development of a cyber breach database, especially in light of the attacks on Target and Neiman Marcus, which impacted millions of Americans.

A primary area of focus in the bill this year is scientific research, innovation, and competitiveness. Investing in basic research is key to growth and job creation, and it is the foundation for the economic security of future generations, which enables us to stay ahead of China.

The bill includes \$7.4 billion for the National Science Foundation, an increase of \$232 million, or 3.2 percent, above FY14 for basic research and science.

Despite the constrained allocation, this is an all-time high watermark for NSF basic research funding that will keep America's economy strong by setting the groundwork for the development of new technologies—again, not to be competitive with, but to stay ahead of the People's Republic of China, a Communist government.

With increased funding comes increased responsibility. I respect the

NSF to follow through on the commitments it has made to the committee to increase accountability and transparency in its grant decision making. No funny grants is what I am trying to say. The new director must take every necessary step to ensure that research grants are scientifically meritorious, that funding allocations reflect national priorities and that the taxpayer investments in science are being used wisely.

Developing a well-educated STEM workforce is also critical to American competitiveness. More than \$1 billion is provided throughout the bill for these efforts, including \$876 million for NSF programs to improve the quality of science education.

For NASA, the bill includes \$17.9 billion, including funding above the request to keep the development schedule and flight milestones for the Orion crew vehicle and the Space Launch System, which will provide the capability for the U.S. to return to the Moon and to go to Mars.

It is important for the U.S. to end our reliance on Russia for crew access to the International Space Station as soon as possible, which is why Commercial Crew Development is funded at \$785 million, with instructions to NASA to find the fastest and safest way to close this gap.

The bill includes an increase of \$100 million for aeronautics research, a long overdue boost to this part of NASA's research portfolio. Aerospace is a pillar of the American manufacturing sector and is one of our leading exports. This investment will boost our aviation competitiveness and improve airspace safety.

The President's request for NASA science programs would have inhibited progress on planetary science goals, including missions to Mars and Europa. This bill includes \$5.2 billion for NASA Science, which restores those cuts. The bill also includes important resources to address critical security gaps throughout NASA.

As the recent espionage case further demonstrated, countries like China are engaged in an unprecedented effort to steal cutting-edge technology from U.S. labs and companies. This includes the groundbreaking space and aeronautics research done at NASA every day. We need to make sure we are doing everything possible to prevent the theft or unauthorized disclosure of this technology.

Last year, at the committee's direction, a National Academy of Public Administration team, led by former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, conducted an external review that found troubling vulnerabilities in NASA's security controls and practices.

They found NASA's systems were compromised, and they found a troubling culture throughout the agency that failed to prioritize or to enforce

security. Funding is included in this bill for NASA to protect its cutting-edge technology with improved IT security, export control training, additional counterintelligence staffing, and the operation of a new Foreign National Access Management program.

The bill also calls for NASA to submit a followup report by the end of FY15 on NASA's progress in implementing the recommended improvements. The committee will continue to hold NASA accountable for the implementation of these security professions.

For the Department of Justice, the bill includes \$27.8 billion, \$384 million above the current level. The top mission priority of the Justice Department is defending national security from both internal and external threats.

The bill includes \$8.5 billion, an increase of \$125 million, for the FBI—including funds to prevent and combat cyber intrusions, which Director Comey believes may overtake terrorism as the number one threat facing the Nation.

Every major company in the United States has now been hit by the Chinese with cyber attacks. Many Members of Congress have had their computers stripped by the Chinese. The FBI continues to build a nationwide capability for cyber investigations.

Last week, the Justice Department, for the first time, charged five officers of China's People's Liberation Army with economic cyber espionage, which is the first time foreign state actors have been so charged.

I commend the administration, but in having served in the Army and in having been a private—a private never did anything a sergeant didn't tell him to do; the sergeant didn't do anything the lieutenant didn't tell him to do; the lieutenant didn't do anything that the major didn't tell him to do—right up to the Commander in Chief.

So this is not just five low-level Chinese officers. This goes to the highest level of the Chinese Government. This case is an example of the great work the men and women of the FBI are doing with these investments in this bill over the last several years to confront cyber attacks, and we thank the FBI. These efforts are necessary to stop the plundering of American innovation, jobs, and trade securities.

The FBI is also at the forefront of the effort to combat violent gangs. This bill increases the funding for Safe Streets task forces to check this growing problem and to better support State and local law enforcement efforts to deal with gang networks in their communities.

The bill includes \$8.5 million for the National Gang Intelligence Center, and it gives the center a new name and an additional mission to provide and coordinate intelligence on human trafficking networks nationwide and to

disseminate that intelligence to law enforcement partnerships.

The Bureau of Prisons is responsible for the custody and care of more than 215,000 Federal offenders in 119 institutions nationwide. The bill includes \$7 billion to ensure the safe and secure operation of the Federal Prison System.

The bill continues funding for the Chuck Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections. When he got out of prison, Chuck Colson dedicated his life to reforming the prisons, so we have named this prison reform commission after Chuck Colson, which will recommend reforms to increase public safety, improve offender accountability, reduce recidivism, and control costs in the Federal Prison System.

This effort will distill lessons learned from innovations at the State level—many States are farther ahead, Texas is farther ahead, and many others are farther ahead than the Federal Bureau of Prisons—and enable these reforms to take hold in the Federal system and in corrections systems nationwide.

The bill directs the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime to provide the survivors and families of the victims of the November 2009 terrorist attack at Fort Hood all possible and appropriate assistance. We are going to help the victims of Fort Hood and their families.

We are going to require the office to report to Congress what, if any, role the classification of the attack as a workplace violence incident, rather than as a terrorist attack, played in determining what types of assistance would be provided.

Awlaki was in touch with the major when he shot them. If you look at emails, this was a terrorist attack. It was not workplace violence.

The bill includes a number of important provisions in support of Second Amendment rights, including a new provision prohibiting the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, by executive order or otherwise.

The bill includes \$2.1 billion for Justice grant programs that support States, localities, and nonprofits. This is a reduction of \$73 million from the current level. In fact, since 2009, these programs have been reduced by 49 percent. I know we are going to get amendments here, complaining, but we had an allocation, and we had to work within that allocation.

Despite the reduction, the bill prioritizes proven, high-priority programs, including Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, State Criminal Alien Assistance, Violence Against Women programs, human trafficking grants, and DNA backlog reduction.

This is a significant bill for reducing violence against women and providing services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The bill includes \$425.5 million for these programs, more than the current level and more than the President's request.

This bill triples the current level for human trafficking task forces and victim services. We are determined to make a difference and bring an end to the heinous crime that is happening not only in other countries, but right here in the United States.

So we triple the current level—not just talk, not just rhetoric, words—we triple the amount, and every FBI office is involved, and every U.S. attorney has to have a task force to see if we can actually end this, perhaps, in the same way that William Wilberforce ended the slave trade.

It also directs the Attorney General to hold a national conference on sex trafficking with every Governor, with every U.S. attorney, and Federal, State, and local law enforcement to elevate awareness and to share the very best practice.

What is going on in Texas can be done in Virginia. What is going on in Pennsylvania can be done somewhere else. At this national conference, they will all be together with the idea of ending this.

The unacceptable backlog of DNA tests at crime labs and law enforcement agencies demands action. This bill includes \$125 million for existing DNA programs and an additional \$36 million to address the backlog of sexual assault kits at law enforcement agencies nationwide.

The bill includes funding for prescription drug monitoring grants, thanks to Chairman ROGERS. It also includes a significant increase for the DEA's Tactical Diversion Squads to address our Nation's fastest growing drug problem—prescription drug abuse.

Finally, after the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007, Congress passed a bill to improve the National Instant Background Check System, NICS, which is a critical tool for keeping firearms out of

the hands of prohibited persons, but NICS is only as effective as is the State database on which it relies.

□ 1930

The bill, for the second straight year, includes funding above the request for grants to States to improve NICS records. This bill includes \$58.8 million, an increase of 6 percent above the President's request, and \$40 million above the FY13 level.

The bill also includes \$2 million for the National Center for Campus Public Safety, which the committee established with the support of the Virginia Tech Family Foundation. This center serves as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of information and best practices. There was no money requested for this, but we wanted to fund it.

Additionally, the bill includes \$75 million for the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative. The National Institute of Justice will study the role of mental health, as well as exposure to violent media—such as video games and violent movies—in school violence at the K–12 level. The initiative also provides pilot grants to test effective mental health interventions at schools across the Nation.

NSF is also active in this area. They are currently seeking proposals that will enable a better understanding of the factors, causes, and consequences of youth violence.

That is a summary of the bill before you today.

It provides for the increases and cuts that were necessary. It carries on the fight against terrorism, cyberattacks, crime, trafficking in persons, and violence against women, and provides important increases to boost scientific research, innovation, and competitiveness.

It provides strong support for all the various NASA missions and continues the effort to improve weather forecasting accuracy.

It represents our best take on matching needs with scarce resources. We have tried hard to produce the best bill we possibly could within the resources we had to work with.

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

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4660)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
International Trade Administration					
Operations and administration.....	470,000	506,731	473,000	+3,000	-33,731
Offsetting fee collections.....	-9,439	-9,439	-10,000	-561	-561
Direct appropriation.....	460,561	497,292	463,000	+2,439	-34,292
Bureau of Industry and Security					
Operations and administration.....	69,450	74,549	67,500	-1,950	-7,049
Defense function.....	32,000	36,000	36,000	+4,000	---
Total, Bureau of Industry and Security.....	101,450	110,549	103,500	+2,050	-7,049
Economic Development Administration					
Economic Development Assistance Programs.....	209,500	210,000	210,500	+1,000	+500
Salaries and expenses.....	37,000	38,182	37,000	---	-1,182
Total, Economic Development Administration.....	246,500	248,182	247,500	+1,000	-682
Minority Business Development Agency					
Minority Business Development.....	28,000	28,286	30,000	+2,000	+1,714
Economic and Statistical Analysis					
Salaries and expenses.....	99,000	111,033	99,000	---	-12,033
Bureau of the Census					
Salaries and expenses.....	252,000	248,000	248,000	-4,000	---
Periodic censuses and programs.....	693,000	963,428	858,500	+165,500	-104,928
Total, Bureau of the Census.....	945,000	1,211,428	1,106,500	+161,500	-104,928
National Telecommunications and Information Administration					
Salaries and expenses.....	46,000	51,000	36,700	-9,300	-14,300
United States Patent and Trademark Office					
Salaries and expenses, current year fee funding.....	3,024,000	3,458,000	3,458,000	+434,000	---
Offsetting fee collections.....	-3,024,000	-3,458,000	-3,458,000	-434,000	---
Total, United States Patent and Trademark Office.....	---	---	---	---	---
National Institute of Standards and Technology					
Scientific and Technical Research and Services.....	651,000	680,000	670,500	+19,500	-9,500
(transfer out).....	(-2,000)	(-9,000)	(-2,000)	---	(+7,000)
Industrial Technology Services.....	143,000	161,000	130,000	-13,000	-31,000
Manufacturing extension partnerships.....	(128,000)	(141,000)	(130,000)	(+2,000)	(-11,000)
Advanced manufacturing technology consortia.....	(15,000)	(15,000)	---	(-15,000)	(-15,000)
Manufacturing innovation institutes coordination..	---	(5,000)	---	---	(-5,000)
Construction of research facilities.....	56,000	59,000	55,300	-700	-3,700
Working Capital Fund (by transfer).....	(2,000)	(9,000)	(2,000)	---	(-7,000)
Total, National Institute of Standards and Technology.....	850,000	900,000	855,800	+5,800	-44,200

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4660)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research, and Facilities.....	3,157,392	3,237,993	3,089,480	-67,912	-148,513
(by transfer).....	(115,000)	(123,164)	(116,000)	(+1,000)	(-7,164)
Promote and Develop Fund (transfer out).....	(-115,000)	(-123,164)	(-116,000)	(-1,000)	(+7,164)
Subtotal.....	3,157,392	3,237,993	3,089,480	-67,912	-148,513
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction.....	2,022,864	2,206,392	2,176,290	+153,426	-30,102
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery.....	65,000	50,000	65,000	---	+15,000
Fishermen's Contingency Fund.....	350	350	350	---	---
Fisheries Disaster Assistance.....	75,000	---	---	-75,000	---
Fisheries Finance Program Account.....	-6,000	-6,000	-6,000	---	---
Total, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.....	5,314,606	5,488,735	5,325,120	+10,514	-163,615
Departmental Management					
Salaries and expenses.....	55,500	57,637	54,000	-1,500	-3,637
Renovation and Modernization.....	4,000	11,733	4,000	---	-7,733
Office of Inspector General.....	30,000	30,596	30,596	+596	---
Total, Departmental Management.....	89,500	99,966	88,596	-904	-11,370
=====					
Total, title I, Department of Commerce.....	8,180,617	8,746,471	8,355,716	+175,099	-390,755
(by transfer).....	117,000	132,164	118,000	+1,000	-14,164
(transfer out).....	-117,000	-132,164	-118,000	-1,000	+14,164
=====					

TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

General Administration

Salaries and expenses.....	110,000	128,851	103,851	-6,149	-25,000
Justice Information Sharing Technology.....	25,842	25,842	25,842	---	---
Total, General Administration.....	135,842	154,693	129,693	-6,149	-25,000
Administrative review and appeals.....	315,000	351,072	335,000	+20,000	-16,072
Transfer from immigration examinations fee account.....	-4,000	-4,000	-4,000	---	---
Direct appropriation.....	311,000	347,072	331,000	+20,000	-16,072
Office of Inspector General.....	86,400	88,577	88,000	+1,600	-577
United States Parole Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	12,600	13,308	13,308	+708	---
Legal Activities					
Salaries and expenses, general legal activities.....	867,000	935,854	893,000	+26,000	-42,854
Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund.....	7,833	7,833	7,833	---	---
Salaries and expenses, Antitrust Division.....	160,400	162,246	162,246	+1,846	---
Offsetting fee collections - current year.....	-103,000	-100,000	-100,000	+3,000	---
Direct appropriation.....	57,400	62,246	62,246	+4,846	---
Salaries and expenses, United States Attorneys.....	1,944,000	1,955,327	1,970,000	+26,000	+14,673
United States Trustee System Fund.....	224,400	225,908	225,908	+1,508	---
Offsetting fee collections.....	-224,400	-225,908	-225,908	-1,508	---
Direct appropriation.....	---	---	---	---	---

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4660)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

Salaries and Expenses, Foreign Claims Settlement					
Commission.....	2,100	2,326	2,326	+226	---
Fees and expenses of witnesses.....	270,000	270,000	270,000	---	---
Salaries and expenses, Community Relations Service....	12,000	12,972	12,000	---	-972
Assets Forfeiture Fund.....	20,500	20,514	20,514	+14	---
Total, Legal Activities.....	3,180,833	3,267,072	3,237,919	+57,086	-29,153

United States Marshals Service					
Salaries and expenses.....	1,185,000	1,185,000	1,199,000	+14,000	+14,000
Construction.....	9,800	9,800	9,800	---	---
Federal Prisoner Detention.....	1,533,000	1,595,307	1,595,307	+62,307	---
Total, United States Marshals Service.....	2,727,800	2,790,107	2,804,107	+76,307	+14,000

National Security Division					
Salaries and expenses.....	91,800	91,800	94,800	+3,000	+3,000
Interagency Law Enforcement					
Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement.....	514,000	505,000	515,000	+1,000	+10,000
Federal Bureau of Investigation					
Salaries and expenses.....	3,345,322	3,358,219	3,390,377	+45,055	+32,158
Counterintelligence and national security.....	4,900,480	4,920,000	4,966,480	+66,000	+46,480
Subtotal.....	8,245,802	8,278,219	8,356,857	+111,055	+78,638
Construction.....	97,482	68,982	110,982	+13,500	+42,000
Total, Federal Bureau of Investigation.....	8,343,284	8,347,201	8,467,839	+124,555	+120,638

Drug Enforcement Administration					
Salaries and expenses.....	2,378,917	2,384,680	2,420,000	+41,083	+35,320
Diversion control fund.....	-360,917	-366,680	-366,680	-5,763	---
Total, Drug Enforcement Administration.....	2,018,000	2,018,000	2,053,320	+35,320	+35,320

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives					
Salaries and expenses.....	1,179,000	1,201,004	1,200,000	+21,000	-1,004
Federal Prison System					
Salaries and expenses.....	6,769,000	6,804,000	6,865,000	+96,000	+61,000
Buildings and facilities.....	90,000	90,000	115,000	+25,000	+25,000
Limitation on administrative expenses, Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated.....	2,700	2,700	2,700	---	---
Total, Federal Prison System.....	6,861,700	6,896,700	6,982,700	+121,000	+86,000

State and Local Law Enforcement Activities					
Office on Violence Against Women:					
Prevention and prosecution programs.....	417,000	422,500	425,500	+8,500	+3,000
Office of Justice Programs:					
Research, evaluation and statistics.....	120,000	136,900	124,250	+4,250	-12,650
State and local law enforcement assistance.....	1,171,500	1,032,900	1,235,615	+64,115	+202,715
Juvenile justice programs.....	254,500	299,400	223,500	-31,000	-75,900

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4660)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

Public safety officer benefits:					
Death benefits.....	81,000	71,000	71,000	-10,000	---
Disability and education benefits.....	16,300	16,300	16,300	---	---
Subtotal.....	97,300	87,300	87,300	-10,000	---
Total, Office of Justice Programs.....	1,643,300	1,556,500	1,670,665	+27,365	+114,165
Community Oriented Policing Services:					
COPS programs.....	214,000	274,000	96,500	-117,500	-177,500
Total, State and Local Law Enforcement Activities.....	2,274,300	2,253,000	2,192,665	-81,635	-60,335
===== Total, title II, Department of Justice.....	27,736,559	27,973,534	28,110,351	+373,792	+136,817
=====					
TITLE III - SCIENCE					
Office of Science and Technology Policy.....	5,555	5,555	5,555	---	---
National Aeronautics and Space Administration					
Science.....	5,151,200	4,972,000	5,193,000	+41,800	+221,000
Aeronautics.....	566,000	551,100	666,000	+100,000	+114,900
Space Technology.....	576,000	705,500	620,000	+44,000	-85,500
Exploration.....	4,113,200	3,976,000	4,167,000	+53,800	+191,000
Space Operations.....	3,778,000	3,905,400	3,885,000	+107,000	-20,400
Education.....	116,600	88,900	106,000	-10,600	+17,100
Safety, Security and Mission Services.....	2,793,000	2,778,600	2,779,000	-14,000	+400
Construction and environmental compliance and restoration.....	515,000	446,100	446,000	-69,000	-100
Office of Inspector General.....	37,500	37,000	34,000	-3,500	-3,000
===== Total, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.....	17,646,500	17,460,600	17,896,000	+249,500	+435,400
National Science Foundation					
Research and related activities.....	5,741,398	5,739,460	5,906,125	+164,727	+166,665
Defense function.....	67,520	68,000	67,520	---	-480
Subtotal.....	5,808,918	5,807,460	5,973,645	+164,727	+166,185
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction..	200,000	200,760	200,760	+760	---
Education and Human Resources.....	846,500	889,750	876,000	+29,500	-13,750
Agency Operations and Award Management.....	298,000	338,230	335,000	+37,000	-3,230
Office of the National Science Board.....	4,300	4,370	4,370	+70	---
Office of Inspector General.....	14,200	14,430	14,430	+230	---
===== Total, National Science Foundation.....	7,171,918	7,255,000	7,404,205	+232,287	+149,205
=====					
Total, title III, Science.....	24,823,973	24,721,155	25,305,760	+481,787	+584,605
=====					
TITLE IV - RELATED AGENCIES					
Commission on Civil Rights					
Salaries and expenses.....	9,000	9,400	9,000	---	-400
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	364,000	365,531	364,000	---	-1,531

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4660)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
International Trade Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	83,000	86,459	84,500	+1,500	-1,959
Legal Services Corporation					
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation.....	365,000	430,000	350,000	-15,000	-80,000
Marine Mammal Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	3,250	3,431	3,250	---	-181
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative					
Salaries and expenses.....	52,601	56,170	53,500	+899	-2,670
State Justice Institute					
Salaries and expenses.....	4,900	5,121	5,121	+221	---
=====					
Total, title IV, Related Agencies.....	881,751	956,112	869,371	-12,380	-86,741
=====					
TITLE V - GENERAL PROVISIONS					
NTIA, Public Telecommunications Facilities, Planning and Construction (rescission).....	-8,500	---	---	+8,500	---
Commerce, Departmental Management, Franchise Fund (rescission).....	---	-2,906	-2,906	-2,906	---
DOJ, Working Capital Fund (rescission).....	-30,000	-54,000	-54,000	-24,000	---
DOJ, Assets Forfeiture Fund (rescission).....	-83,600	-193,000	-193,000	-109,400	---
Federal Prisoner Detention (rescission).....	---	-122,000	-122,000	-122,000	---
Violence against women prevention and prosecution programs (rescission).....	-12,200	-12,200	-12,200	---	---
Office of Justice programs (rescission).....	-59,000	-59,000	-59,000	---	---
COPS (rescission).....	-26,000	-26,000	-26,000	---	---
=====					
Total, title V, Rescissions.....	-219,300	-469,106	-469,106	-249,806	---
=====					
Grand total.....	61,403,600	61,928,166	62,172,092	+768,492	+243,926
Appropriations.....	(61,622,900)	(62,397,272)	(62,641,198)	(+1,018,298)	(+243,926)
Rescissions.....	(-219,300)	(-469,106)	(-469,106)	(-249,806)	---
(by transfer).....	117,000	132,164	118,000	+1,000	-14,164
(transfer out).....	-117,000	-132,164	-118,000	-1,000	+14,164

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to offer to the House our support for the base bill. The chairman of this committee, whom I have had the honor to work with for a number of years, has laid out in some detail some of the appropriations in this bill. And as our Constitution requires, no dollar out of our Treasury shall be appropriated, except by act of Congress. So we are here in our constitutional roles.

I want to thank Chairman WOLF for all of the courtesies extended to the minority. Obviously, if we were drafting a bill, we might have a different set of numbers in different areas, whether for legal services or COPS. But in the main, this is a bill that the chairman has extended himself in every effort that could be done to accommodate the minority. I want to thank him for his work with me over these many years, inasmuch as this will be the last bill that he will carry on the floor.

This bill, I think, represents a set of priorities important to our Nation that he has laid a predicate for that will be carried on even by others who may assume the role that he sits in today.

As for the Democrats, I want to say a number of things. One is that we are very pleased that in this bill the science accounts have been a focus of high priority. For NASA, over \$17 billion. For the National Science Foundation, \$7.4 billion. As has been indicated, it is the highest amount to date. The Office of Science and Technology is fully funded at the President's request.

I think some of us know now that I consider the science activities in this bill to be very, very important. In particular, superior among equals in terms of science-related activities is neuroscience. Here, again, you will see an extraordinarily significant increase. It is one of the highest increases in any of the science accounts.

The World Health Organization says well over a billion people are suffering from brain-related diseases and disorders. The National Institutes of Health says that 50 million Americans suffer from dementia and epilepsy and all manner of neurological-based diseases and disorders.

In this bill, we continue to fund a neuroscience initiative that was crafted—and the chairman supported me in this effort—in our very first bill. We continue to lay important foundations for the effort to actually come to grips with some of these challenges. So I am very pleased about that.

On the manufacturing initiatives, the manufacturing extension partnership is very important. Today, we lead the world in manufacturing. Our lead that was absolute is now relative. We see other countries who are moving aggressively in this field.

The chairman led an initiative in terms of re-shoring these jobs. I have focused on trying to bring in more

technology into our manufacturing plants. But the two of us share a concern that America has to be a country where we make things and where the manufacturing sector is secure in terms of being an important part of our economy's future.

I want to also mention the focus here on youth mentoring. It is above the President's request. This includes groups such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which is a congressionally chartered organization serving some 4 million young people; Big Brothers Big Sisters; and Girls, Inc.

We could go through the list. These are national evidence-based organizations that are really making a difference in the lives of young people. And the committee is aware of the great work that these organizations are doing. So we have seen fit—and appropriately so—with the chairman's support, to raise the appropriations in this regard even above the President's request.

So there will be a number of amendments that we will debate. Democrats may have a different opinion on some of these items from our colleagues on the other team. There may even be circumstances where there will be intramural differences on some of these issues.

At its base, I think the CJS bill we present today reflects the Nation's priorities. Obviously, if we had a larger allocation, we would invest even more in a variety of these priorities.

I think some of the points that the chairman has pointed to in terms of human trafficking and aeronautics investments, on the manufacturing side, there are a number of areas where you can see clearly that the chairman has taken extraordinary care to make sure that a number of items get the appropriate revenues that are needed so that we can truly make a difference.

So we are anxious to have the debate and to get to the amendments and have the House work its will.

I want to thank the majority as we come here today. We have an open rule so the House will have an opportunity to work its will.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), chairman of the full committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding the time.

Madam Chairman, I rise in support of this bill. I want to congratulate and thank Chairman WOLF and Mr. FATTAH, the ranking member, especially, and all the members of the subcommittee and staff for bringing us a bill that I think we can be proud of and support entirely.

This is the third of the 12 appropriations bills that make up our work—and

this is the third that we have brought to the floor this year. I think this bill, like the other two that passed, deserves our support. We are moving at a very fast clip in the committee. That should allow us to complete our appropriations work for the 2015 fiscal year on time. I promise that my committee will do everything it can to make that a reality.

As Chairman WOLF has said, the bill provides \$51.2 billion for the Department of Justice, the Department of Commerce, NASA, the National Science Foundation, and related agencies. This very thorough piece of legislation, which was approved by the committee on a bipartisan basis, makes clear our priorities of keeping our Nation safe and growing our economy.

To achieve these goals, the committee has targeted precious tax dollars toward those programs with proven results and economic benefit.

For example, they increase the funding for the Department of Justice by \$383 million over last year. Within that total, the bill targets FBI funding toward counterterrorism programs and programs that fight cyber intrusion, gangs, and human trafficking.

We also work to fight drug trafficking by providing the DEA with \$2.4 billion. That includes \$367 million to combat prescription drug abuse, which has quickly become our Nation's number one drug threat. Prescription drugs abuse is described by the Centers for Disease Control as a national epidemic.

The funding in this bill will also help to protect communities across the country from the risks of devastating natural disasters. We rejected the President's proposed cuts to the National Weather Service and have made sure that adequate funding is provided for hurricane forecasting and tsunami warning grants. We have also made investments in the future of weather forecasting technology.

In addition to the efforts in the bill to keep the Nation safe, we have also funded programs that will help our Nation prosper.

Within the National Science Foundation and the Department of Commerce, the bill invests in programs that foster innovation and boost our economic competitiveness. This includes funding for programs that conduct research on manufacturing, cybersecurity, neuroscience, and STEM education, as well as \$5 million in grant funding to encourage the repatriation of overseas jobs.

But, as my committee will do with every bill we bring to the floor this year, we have ensured that this funding is responsible, is reasonable, and will make the most out of every single tax dollar spent. By scouring out waste and trimming unnecessary or lower-priority spending, we have produced a bill that comes in nearly \$400 million below the current year.

I would like to note that the committee did this in spite of the President's request, which had \$800 million in false savings and offsets and underfunded a variety of critical programs. This bill rejects those gimmicks and makes sure that these programs have received funding levels that allow them to do their important work.

To make sure this good work does not fall to the wayside, the committee included several oversight provisions that will ensure our tax dollars are being spent responsibly.

In addition, the bill includes several provisions that will assure the life, liberty, and property of the American people, such as prohibiting the transfer or release of Guantanamo detainees into the U.S., protecting our Second Amendment rights, and preserving the sanctity of life.

Madam Chairman, before I close, let me take a moment to again thank the chairman, FRANK WOLF; Mr. FATTAH; and members of the committee and staff for all their hard work on this bill. This is a tough bill to put together, and the allocation they had to work with was not the greatest in the world. But they have, I think, fit the needs of the country into this bill.

I want to particularly draw attention to the chairman of this subcommittee and the author of this fine piece of legislation.

FRANK WOLF has served in this House the same number of days that I have. We came together in January 1981. Over that 34 years of service in this body, Chairman FRANK WOLF has been a stalwart, passionate, compassionate legislator, and a dedicated, conscientious Member of Congress and appropriator. His expert work on this committee can be summed up in the legislation that we have before us today.

I know that when he is gone, FRANK WOLF's absence will be deeply felt by me, all of his colleagues, and I think by the country, because he has truly served America for all these years unselfishly and with hard work and with compassion.

□ 1945

So, Chairman WOLF, for all you have done for this bill, the Appropriations Committee, the House of Representatives, your native Virginia and the United States of America, we thank you, and we will miss you.

With that, Madam Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the great State of New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member for the Democratic team on Appropriations.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, the Fiscal Year 2015 Commerce-Justice-Science bill before us today provides good funding levels for important programs to support public safety, such as

Byrne Justice Assistance Grants and Violence Against Women Act services.

I thank Chairman WOLF for working with me to include report language directing the FBI to publish annual reports on the types of records submitted by each State and Federal agency to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. It is only as useful as the information it includes, and these reports will help improve the system.

Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH should be commended for fully funding the Office of Science and Technology Policy, including its working group on Neuroscience, as well as an increase of \$21.5 million for National Science Foundation's BRAIN Initiative.

Investments in research and development grow our economy and help to ensure that future scientific breakthroughs happen in American labs, not those overseas.

In addition, I am extremely pleased that this bill will provide \$125 million for the DNA Initiative, as well as \$36 million for a new community backlog reduction program to process sexual assault kits which, currently, are often untested for years—sometimes decades—when information contained in these kits could help put violent criminals behind bars.

However, I continue to be baffled by efforts aimed at limiting the ability of the Federal Government to keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals. An ill-advised and dangerous amendment was included during the markup to make it more difficult for the ATF in four Southwest border States to be aware of multiple purchases of powerful semiautomatic rifles.

ATF already receives this information for handguns. It is unfathomable that we would prevent law enforcement from having this information for semiautomatic rifles, especially when this amendment would make it more difficult to prevent the smuggling of guns to Mexican drug cartels. This backwards policy will put lives at risk. We must not let it stand in the final bill.

Other measures must also be addressed before final enactment. The COPS program would be cut by \$118 million. The "wet side" of NOAA is also cut, including a 40 percent reduction to fisheries habitat conservation and restoration, and the complete elimination of the community-based restoration program.

While the bill funds NOAA weather satellites and the National Weather Service, it includes a sizable cut of 24 percent to NOAA climate research.

As the National Climate Assessment showed, storms and weather events are becoming more frequent, more severe and, as a result, more costly. We should be investing in research to combat the threat of climate change, not

sticking our heads in the sand, pretending the science is wrong because combating such an obstacle would be too costly and inconvenient.

While far from perfect in its current form, this is a reasonable bill that I can support. However, it is imperative that no poison pill policy riders be included during House consideration.

As I close, I want to say to the chairman—Chairman WOLF—and Ranking Member FATTAH, this really is an example of bipartisan cooperation. You worked so effectively in putting this bill together, and I want to congratulate you.

Before I close, I also want to thank the retiring chairman for your amazing service to our country. It really has been a pleasure for me to work with you, and we know there is never a doubt, when FRANK WOLF gets up to speak, he speaks with conviction and power and determination.

You are so impressive. I do want to wish you and your family the very best. For me, it has really been a delight getting to know you. Thank you so much for your service.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Chairman, when I was first assigned to the Appropriations Committee, I asked specifically to serve on the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Committee because of my passion for the sciences, for NASA, for law enforcement, but especially to serve alongside FRANK WOLF.

I have come to know FRANK WOLF as a model public servant. He is someone who always does the right thing for the right reasons, and the country is generally going to miss this good man. I can't think of a single issue that we have dealt with in this bill that FRANK hasn't been the first to see the problem approaching over the horizon—he has recognized from the beginning.

When we took the majority several years ago, Chairman WOLF, Chairman ROGERS, all of us in the majority, as fiscal conservatives, recognized the urgent need to prioritize our constituents' hard-earned tax dollars and target them on those areas that are the highest priority for our Nation.

This bill, as Chairman ROGERS said, is a true reflection of FRANK WOLF's priorities, the fact that it is one that we are all able to work on together, without regard to party labels, because we found common ground.

One of the great joys of serving on this committee is to find so many areas where we are able to work together and find areas of agreement when it comes to the sciences or law enforcement.

The work that Chairman WOLF has done, for example, in protecting persecuted Christians and religious minorities around the world, this committee, all of us, Democrat and Republican alike, have been there to support him.

Chairman WOLF was one of the first to spot the problem of cyber crime coming primarily out of Communist China. FRANK was one of the very first to ring the firebell and warn us of the dangers of the People's Liberation Army and the cyber attacks on this Nation and on private industry. We have now recognized the scope of that problem, and it is because of FRANK WOLF's leadership that we are in a position to fight it.

FRANK WOLF has led the way in strengthening the FBI and their war on terrorism and fighting human slavery around the world in this bill and in previous bills to help local law enforcement agencies clean up the backlog of rape kits, preventing abuse in our prisons, preventing the release of Guantanamo terrorists into the United States, FRANK WOLF has led the way.

It was Chairman WOLF's bill to create the Select Committee on Benghazi. Anywhere he sees a problem and genuinely recognizes in his heart of hearts that that is something that is for the good of the Nation, he has been fearless about stepping forward and dealing with it.

In the area of the sciences, we see Chairman WOLF's leadership in increasing funding for the National Science Foundation and NASA and NOAA.

The country will miss you, Chairman WOLF, and I thank you for your service to the people of America and the people of Virginia.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), the ranking member on the Science Committee, the authorizing committee here in the House, and an extraordinary leader on science and innovation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON from Texas. Madam Chairman, funding for research innovation and STEM education is an investment in our future, perhaps the single most important investment we can make.

Many of our competitors understand this and are striving to surpass the United States in innovation capacity and in the creation of a highly-skilled 21st century workforce.

It used to be that the world's best and brightest flocked to our shores. Now, many of our own best and brightest are finding better opportunities in other countries, or we are chasing them from STEM careers altogether.

In 2007 and, again, in 2010, the U.S. Congress passed the America COMPETES Act, recognizing the importance of increased investment in research, innovation, and STEM edu-

cation, signed into law by Presidents Bush and Obama, respectively.

Appropriations have not kept pace with authorizations, but not from the lack of effort and commitment by appropriations colleagues, CJS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman WOLF, Ranking Member FATTAH, Chairman ROGERS, and Ranking Member LOWEY.

I want to thank them, my colleagues, for their enduring support for science, even when it meant making very difficult cuts elsewhere.

As this is Chairman WOLF's last CJS bill, I want to express my personal gratitude to him in particular for being a strong and unwavering champion for the National Science Foundation and for STEM education. I will miss him greatly. We all will.

In sad and puzzling contrast, last week, my own committee debated COMPETES reauthorization legislation that would turn back the progress we have made in securing our Nation's future innovation capacity and voted out a bill this afternoon, a substitute today, without a single Democratic vote.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues, in the strongest possible terms, to add their own vote of confidence in our Nation's premier science agency, the National Science Foundation. It is the only agency to fund basic research across all fields of science and engineering, including, importantly, the social and behavioral sciences.

The returns on our 65-year investment in the National Science Foundation are too many and too significant to list here. But perhaps NSF's most important investment is the investment it makes in human capital—the great scientists, innovators, and job creators of tomorrow and the workforce for tomorrow's high-skilled, high-paying jobs.

Some of my colleagues' efforts to cut funding, to impose political review over peer-review, to establish a message of distrust of scientists, and to inhibit the normal advance of science, are sending a chilling message to smart young people across the nation to not bother entering or sticking with STEM studies or careers.

A vote to retain the modest 2.9 percent increase to NSF in today's legislation is a vote to hold onto our nation's future innovators and job creators.

I will make just a few brief remarks about other agencies within this appropriations bill.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology is playing an increasingly critical role in cyber security, forensics, advanced manufacturing, and technology, and so many other topics critical to our nation's security and wellbeing. I just wish we could do more for NIST in this bill, but I understand this was one of the difficult decisions that the appropriations committee confronted.

I also want to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for their support for NASA. While I would like to see NASA funding at even higher levels, commensurate with the tasks that we are asking the agency to carry

out, I am pleased that this bill proposes to fund NASA at an increase of about 1.4 percent over the Fiscal Year 2014 enacted appropriation.

In particular, I support the bill's sustained funding levels for exploration and the Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System, which are being prepared for critical flight tests in 2017 and 2021, and which will enable our nation's return to human exploration of deep space.

I also support the committee's emphasis on the need to enhance research on the International Space Station, a unique and perishable asset that is important for both basic and applied research and for enabling our goals in human exploration of outer space.

I am also pleased that the committee has sustained robust funding for NASA's science programs and, in particular, restored funding to NASA's planetary science program, which has experienced cuts in recent years.

In addition, I applaud the committee for providing a robust increase for NASA's aeronautics program, which provides critical R&D to benefit our nation's commercial aviation industry and helps sustain our nation's competitiveness in global aviation.

Finally, I must express one significant concern, and that is the large cut to climate research activities at NOAA. The level proposed in this bill is 44 percent below the President's request and 23 percent below current spending.

A number of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to bury their heads in the sand as it relates to climate change, but cutting the research that will improve our understanding of and our ability to adapt to the impacts associated with climate change is not the answer. If anything, given the uncertainties that remain, we should be supporting increased funding not less. I hope the needed funding will be restored when this bill is conferred with the Senate.

In closing, I again want to thank Chairman WOLF, Ranking Member FATTAH, and the rest of your Committee members for your efforts to protect and grow our nation's science and innovation capacity.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Chair, I appreciate all the great things that the chairman has done. I echo the remarks, the praise that was sung by our friends from Texas to the great job that Chairman WOLF has done in his career.

I appreciate, for example, tonight that he is yielding me this time, knowing that he has strong disagreement about which I will be speaking.

Tomorrow, I will be offering an amendment to the CJS appropriations bill, along with my colleagues SAM FARR, DON YOUNG, EARL BLUMENAUER, TOM MCCLINTOCK, STEVE COHEN, PAUL BROWN, JARED POLIS, STEVE STOCKMAN, BARBARA LEE, JUSTIN AMASH, and DINA TITUS.

Very simply, our amendment would prohibit the Department of Justice from using funds in the bill from preventing States from implementing their State medical marijuana laws.

Importantly, this amendment gives us an opportunity to show our support and what we really believe about the 10th Amendment to the Constitution, and it gives us an opportunity to support the intentions of our Founding Fathers and Mothers. They never meant for the Federal Government to play the preeminent role in criminal justice.

It should be disturbing to any constitutionalist that the Federal Government insists on the supremacy of laws that allow for the medical use of marijuana.

So far, 28 States and the District of Columbia—that is a majority of the States of the Union—have enacted laws to allow access to medical marijuana or its chemical derivatives. They obviously believe enforcing such restrictions on the medical use of marijuana is a waste of extremely limited resources.

This amendment has solid bipartisan support, and we have the opportunity now, with this amendment, to tell the Department of Justice that they are not permitted to waste limited Federal dollars interfering with the duly-enacted laws of our States concerning medical marijuana.

I urge my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, liberals and conservatives, to support my amendment. Respect State medical marijuana laws.

□ 2000

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of California, Congressman SAM FARR.

Mr. FARR. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise in general debate to talk about NOAA. But I first also want to echo everything that has been said about our great colleague from Virginia, FRANK WOLF. FRANK is one of the few Members of Congress who has visited my district. He actually went onto my property in Big Sur and ended up coming back and saying: Now I understand why you are so passionate about the oceans.

It is an interesting committee that both Ranking Member FATTAH and Chairman WOLF head because it is a committee that has all of the Department of Commerce; it has all of the Department of Justice; and it has the science programs, NASA, NSF, and the Office of Science and Technology. Essentially, the science of America is in your hands. And this bill has a lot of it in there.

Particularly, I would like to talk about NOAA. NOAA is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. And what has been happening is that, as we have gotten interested in the weather and as we have gotten interested in sort of the sky, we are putting a lot more money into it and sucking funds away from the oceans. And

yet what is happening in the oceans is that they are dying; and if the ocean dies, planet Earth dies. So while there is money in this to look at the moons and oceans of other planets, we are going to do it at the peril of our own ocean.

Our coastal economies support 81 percent of all U.S. employment in the United States, over 100 million jobs. Coastal economies contribute to 84 percent of the U.S. GDP. Ocean tourism is an \$89.25 billion industry. It relies on healthy marine mammal populations, healthy coral reefs, and healthy clean waters and beaches. Just think of all of the people who recreate on beaches. If those were polluted, they wouldn't be able to do so.

The United States plays a big role in the world. We are, in fact, hosting the international oceans conference next month. And one of the topics is going to be the blue economy: What does it mean to all the countries of the world and to the United States?

So as we go through this bill, I just want to emphasize that the wet side needs as much attention as the sky side.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Virginia, FRANK WOLF, for the great job that he has done.

Mr. WOLF. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Madam Chair, I rise today first in recognition of the great professional public service offered by Chairman WOLF. I appreciate that so much.

I also rise in support of H.R. 4660, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that he and his staff have worked so hard on.

This important measure provides funding for a number of vital agencies, of course one of which is the Office of the United States Trade Representative. This approps bill provides funding for the USTR to continue advocating on behalf of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, or TTIP, and to continue enforcing existing free trade agreements. More specifically, funding USTR will help protect intellectual property rights abroad.

Now, I continue to maintain very serious concerns with Canada's misapplication of internationally recognized patent standards, which appears to violate their international obligations, and it is having a real economic impact on innovative American companies.

I appreciate that the USTR has expressed serious concern about these practices in last year's Special 301 Report, given Canada's continued failure to bring its patent standards in line with international obligations and best practices. Accordingly, I strongly urge the elevation of Canada to the Special 301 Priority Watch List in 2014.

IP is one of the main engines of the United States' innovative economy. Approximately one-third of U.S. jobs and 60 percent of our exports rely on IP. With more than 95 percent of the world's population living outside of the United States, strong IP protections are essential to future U.S. economic growth and competitiveness.

Funding USTR will ensure a continued enforcement of existing free trade agreements while furthering future U.S. economic interests through negotiation of TPP and TTIP.

I would like to, again, thank Chairman WOLF and his staff for their important work in putting together this approps bill.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, the United States has a strong history of negotiating high-standard trade agreements that grow our exports and create jobs. Already, international trade supports more than 4.4 million jobs in California and 38 million jobs nationwide. We are in the midst of negotiating significant trade agreements with partners in the Asia-Pacific, Europe, and elsewhere. But because Trade Promotion Authority is not in place, we are negotiating with one hand tied behind our back.

As a result, some of our negotiating partners are seeking to lower the standards of our trade agreements by excluding key products from full tariff elimination. In the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, countries such as Japan and Canada are seeking to exclude critical agriculture products from full tariff elimination. I am deeply concerned about this development for several reasons.

First, such exclusions from full tariff elimination would harm U.S. exporters and put them at a significant disadvantage, denying them valuable market access and leading to a ripple effect as other countries seek to exclude their sensitive products from liberalization. In fact, just yesterday, key agriculture groups called on the Administration to conclude TPP without Japan if it continues to resist opening its agriculture market.

Second, allowing exclusions in TPP would make it harder to reach good outcomes in future negotiations. Already, EU negotiators, empowered by Japan's intransience, argue that they should be able to exclude products in the TTIP negotiations. And the Chinese are doing the same in negotiations to expand the information technology agreement in the WTO.

Madam Chair, I had intended to introduce an amendment today that would ensure that the United States concludes only high standard agreements by prohibiting the Administration from negotiating or entering into a trade agreement that excludes any product from full tariff elimination.

Such an amendment would ensure that we continue to secure maximum market access for our job-creating exporters. However, I decided not to introduce this amendment based on an understanding with the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Froman, that he would work very closely with Chairman Camp and me to conclude a strong and ambitious agreement and would keep us informed about these negotiations in detail so that we may advise the Administration. I take that commitment very seriously, and it is only with

this specific understanding that I am not offering this amendment tonight.

Again, I note that the current state of our negotiations shows the urgent need for TPA. Negotiating trade agreements with a strong Congressional mandate is vital to ensuring the best agreements possible. That's why I joined in introducing H.R. 3830, the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act, earlier this year. This legislation gives our negotiators maximum leverage to get the best deal possible in our trade negotiations and is key to unlocking new markets and creating U.S. jobs.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I want to take a minute to acknowledge someone else who has played a very important role in our country's science activities and is now retiring.

I spent some time over at NASA headquarters, and I also went out to visit the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to see the Mars Rover land after 8½ months of travel. The NASA team is an extraordinary team.

One of its members, the head of the Education Office, a former astronaut, is retiring, and I wanted to take a minute during general debate to acknowledge his great service to this country. Leland Melvin hails from the chairman's great State of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and we want to wish him well and thank him for his service to our country.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), my colleague who has worked here on small business and research connections to science to commercialize technology and to help build the American economy.

Mr. LIPINSKI. I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4660. I would like to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for their hard work on this bill.

While they have had to make some tough budget choices with a reduced level of funding, this bill still shows a strong commitment to scientific research at the National Science Foundation and also NASA.

Investment in research is vital to our economic future because it helps us achieve discoveries that will keep the U.S. at the cutting edge of science and technology and creating new American jobs.

I also want to take a moment to honor my good friend from Virginia, Chairman WOLF. Even in an era of partisan polarization and heated rhetoric, he has taken great pains to craft bills like this one that get broad support from Members on both sides of the aisle. He has been a strong defender of American security and a strong supporter of American manufacturing; and, most importantly, throughout his career, he has been a courageous fighter for human rights around the world,

while never losing sight of his duty to his constituents here at home. He has been a good example for all of us in this body.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to support the strong funding, especially for the National Science Foundation, in this bill.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey, RUSH HOLT, my friend, the great science leader here in the Congress. He is the only one among us who has a terminal degree in nuclear science, and he is also retiring this year.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentleman. I certainly appreciate the very admirable Chairman WOLF and my good friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) for the work they have put into crafting this bill.

Madam Chair, however, I do have some serious concerns, especially as regards the cuts that are being made to NOAA's climate research programs. This bill cuts NOAA's climate research for the next fiscal year by \$38 million below the current year, or \$69 million below the President's request.

Now, deeper droughts, heavier rains, more flooding, superstorms, tornadoes, rising seas, huge storm surges are all getting worse. Would we not want to understand what is going on?

I will be offering an amendment later this evening to restore funding for critical NOAA climate research programs. NOAA climate research programs support ocean and atmospheric research, global data collection and sharing so we can understand climate change.

This year, the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the U.S. National Climate Assessment were released. They agreed. They come to the same conclusion: the climate is changing. Greenhouse gases by human activities are the principal cause. We have already begun to experience the effects, which will continue to be costly in lives and dollars.

Those who would deny these changes, some here in this very House, can't stop the changes from occurring. Denying funding for the research won't stop the changes. It will just leave us ignorant and less prepared. We need to support the science behind climate change.

Now, since we are talking about science, it is true, ostriches don't actually bury their heads in the sand, but it is a metaphor for what is going on here. We should not bury our heads in the sand. We should be supporting this research vigorously because of all the ways that the climate change will affect our lives and our well-being both around the world and here in the United States.

Mr. FATTAH. I have no further requests for time during general debate,

and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. CROWLEY, for his bringing attention to an important program that deserves the support of this body. The importance of Science Technology Engineering and Math (or STEM) education has been recognized by this administration and members of Congress from both sides of the aisle. Investment in these fields will prepare our students for good paying jobs and strengthen our economy by ensuring that our workforce stays competitive in a globalized world. Entrepreneurs with specialties in these fields are creating exciting new start-ups and jobs while more established companies are being encouraged to reshore jobs in this country when our workers are better trained. In short the value of STEM education is universally understood.

Madam Chair, the gentleman's colloquy allows us the opportunity to demonstrate congressional intent to support STEM education, particularly in our Nation's Hispanic Serving Institutions. HSIs serve an important population and educate students of all backgrounds. The program directed the National Science Foundation to help create additional capacity for STEM education in these institutions of higher learning. The National Science Foundation directs investment in American innovation and is uniquely equipped to focus efforts on bringing more students into these important fields.

This amendment supports a worthy program that returns a value to our students and the economy that is well beyond the investment.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4660, the fiscal year 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. I wish to highlight one area under the jurisdiction of this committee and germane to this bill: U.S. stewardship and the Internet.

U.S. stewardship of the Internet's critical functions has allowed the World Wide Web to safely flourish and expand to endless horizons, enabling new ideas to spread and new markets to grow all over the world. It is clear that we have a duty to keep the Internet and its benefits to people worldwide fully safe from hostile powers overseas who seek to impede the free flow of information.

I am deeply concerned with the Obama administration's recent announcement that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), an agency of the Department of Commerce, intends to relinquish control over the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and "to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community." Thus I introduced H.R. 4367, the Internet Stewardship Act of 2014, to ensure that Congress has the final say in any such transfer of stewardship.

The committee report for H.R. 4660 notes that "[a]ny such transition represents a significant public policy change and should be preceded by an open and transparent process" and recommends no funds to be used by NTIA to carry out this transition. I agree. Specifically, the Obama administration must address a number of pressing concerns and

demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt that its plan will accomplish crucial objectives, including but not limited to the following:

Ensure that ICANN does not fall under the control of authoritarian governments such as Russia or China or UN organizations such as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU),

Create effective oversight of ICANN through the rigorous auditing of ICANN's finances and activities by an independent body, and

Confirm that ICANN has the technical capability to maintain the authoritative root zone and the ability to block any malicious attack on it.

Unless the Obama administration demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Congress, that its plan to transfer stewardship over these key Internet functions fulfills the common sense requirements described above and other key goals set forth by Congress, such transfer shall not take place.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.

Mr. BARLETTA. Madam Chair, I speak today in support of H.R. 4660, the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2015.

Though we are not voting on a perfect piece of legislation, which rarely is the case, I will enthusiastically support this measure because I believe it accomplishes a number of goals that are very important to me and my constituents back home in the 11th District of Pennsylvania.

As was highlighted in a recent lengthy story in the New York Times, my home town of Hazleton is just like many cities of its size across the country—it is home to a persistent and growing heroin problem. And just recently, Pennsylvania's attorney general teamed up with a variety of law enforcement agencies to run Operation Rising Star, which was aimed at cracking down on the illegal drug trade. That's why I am pleased that the bill recognizes the recent surge in heroin use, overdose deaths, and trafficking, and encourages the Drug Enforcement Agency to increase its use of task forces to address the increasing heroin epidemic.

And, Madam Chair, as we all know, where there are illegal drugs, there will be gangs. I've been working closely on a bipartisan approach to gangs in my district, with Democratic State Senator John Yudichak, through a program called "Operation Gang-Up," which seeks to educate parents, educators, students, and communities about the dangers of gangs, warning signs of gang activity, and prevention techniques. At my request this bill, in addition to funding the FBI's Safe Streets Task Forces and the National Gang Intelligence Center, allocates \$10 million for regional task forces. In this way, Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies can continue to do the important work of attacking gangs where they live and grow, and protect our children and neighborhoods.

And speaking of protecting our neighborhoods and public safety, I think it's worth noting that this bill calls on the Department of Justice to investigate discretionary enforcement decisions of the Department of Homeland Security. This is particularly relevant given the recent news that the Immigration

and Customs Enforcement Agency had released more than 36,000 illegal immigrant inmates who had been found guilty of a total of almost 88,000 crimes. Those crimes included 116 homicides, 43 counts of voluntary manslaughter, and one classified as 'homicide-willful kill-public official-gun.' We should know more about why dangerous criminals have been released into our neighborhoods.

Reforming immigration laws has been the center of a lot of talk in Washington these days, and most of that has to do with the millions of illegal immigrants who are already present. One part of that discussion that is usually left out is how local governments must deal with illegal immigrants who are arrested and incarcerated in local jails and prisons.

Just this March, the Times Leader newspaper of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania reported that my home county, Luzerne County, housed 184 illegal immigrants in the county's correctional facility last year, costing taxpayers more than \$1.7 million. The county was reimbursed through the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program—not the full amount, mind you, but about \$130,000. Unfortunately, the President's budget proposal would entirely zero out that funding, leaving localities like Luzerne County stuck with the whole bill for locking up illegal immigrants who had broken the law. Let us remember that these are illegal immigrants who would not be around to break the law in our communities if the Federal Government were doing its job enforcing our borders and immigration laws in the first place. Also at my request, this CJS bill restores that funding, and in fact increases it by \$30 million, to a total of \$210 million. This is by no means a full reimbursement, but it is an improvement, and it is certainly better than the President's proposal to defund the program altogether.

Madam Chair, the CJS appropriations bill also places greater emphasis on programs that protect women from violence and exploitation. It contains \$425.5 million for Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution programs, representing an increase above existing funding and an amount above the President's request. We will also build on efforts to combat sex trafficking by providing a landmark increase in Victims of Trafficking grants of four times the President's requested amount. All U.S. Attorneys will have to participate in an anti-trafficking task force, and the Department of Justice will be required to continue collecting evidence of 'honor violence' against women in this country.

There are a great many items to be pleased with in this funding bill, Madam Chair. I have mentioned but a few of them, but there are many others with which I agree—increased emphasis on STEM Education, the continued prohibition against the transfer or release of Guantanamo Bay detainees to the United States, dedication to Lyme Disease research, and youth mentoring programs.

The bill contains \$51.2 billion in funding by prioritizing programs and spending, and saves more than \$398 million over the enacted fiscal year 2014 level.

I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I want to again recognize and thank all of the staff members who worked on this bill, including the Appropriations Committee staff members as well as

the associate staff who work in the personal offices of the members of our subcommittee. They have all worked hard to help us hold nine hearings in just over a month and then prepare this bill for markup, the earliest it has been advanced by the House in many years.

I would like to again thank the majority staff for their hard work, including the subcommittee's clerk, Mike Ringler, as well as Leslie Albright, Jeff Ashford, Diana Simpson, Colin Samples and Taylor Kelly. I also want to thank Bob Bonner and Matt Smith on the minority staff. They worked together to produce an excellent bipartisan bill that the committee should be proud of.

I also want to recognize my personal office staff, especially Tom Culligan, Elyse Bauer Anderson and Dan Scandling.

In addition to serving as my office's legislative director, Tom Culligan has served as my associate staff to the Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Appropriations subcommittee since 2008, while I served both as ranking member and, more recently, as chairman. Tom has been my senior policy adviser on key issues this subcommittee has prioritized in recent years, including counterterrorism, cybersecurity and space exploration policy, and I have appreciated his strategic focus and knowledge of these issues. He has also managed many of my oversight investigations while I have chaired this subcommittee, aimed at keeping our country safe and competitive, as well as preventing waste and abuse at federal agencies. The bill, report and oversight hearings over the last several years reflect this focus and I appreciate Tom's work on these issues.

Elyse is on her fourth tour of duty in my office. She is my top staffer for my work on the State & Foreign Operations subcommittee as well as the congressional Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, which I co-chair. Many of those issues run parallel to the work in the CJS bill. Elyse's knowledge of Congress and world affairs is a huge asset. She also is a gifted writer whose words always make me sound better.

Dan has served as my chief of staff and press secretary for the last 14 years and has been an invaluable manager of my office and adviser on many issues, including on this bill. Dan has been an outstanding leader of my staff and has helped me ensure that balance my responsibilities to the 10th District as well as this subcommittee. He has planned trips and travelled with me around the world—including to China, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan and Egypt—to conduct oversight on U.S. national security and human rights policies. This would not have been possible without Dan's hard work, guidance and support over the years.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment who has caused it to be printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for international trade activities of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, and for engaging in trade promotional activities abroad, including expenses of grants and cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting exports of United States firms, without regard to sections 3702 and 3703 of title 44, United States Code; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas and employees temporarily posted overseas; travel and transportation of employees of the International Trade Administration between two points abroad, without regard to section 40118 of title 49, United States Code; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services; rental of space abroad for periods not exceeding 10 years, and expenses of alteration, repair, or improvement; purchase or construction of temporary demountable exhibition structures for use abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed \$294,300 for official representation expenses abroad; purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use abroad, not to exceed \$45,000 per vehicle; obtaining insurance on official motor vehicles; and rental of tie lines, \$473,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which \$10,000,000 is to be derived from fees to be retained and used by the International Trade Administration, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided*, That, of amounts provided under this heading, not less than \$16,400,000 shall be for China antidumping and countervailing duty enforcement and compliance activities: *Provided further*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities; and that for the purpose of this Act, contributions under the provisions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 shall include payment for assessments for services provided as part of these activities.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 45, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Chair, before I get started, I just want to join the cho-

rus here and congratulate Chairman WOLF on his remarkable career as a leader here in this Congress and as someone who has worked diligently on behalf of his constituents but also in a way that I think has reflected greatly on this body. I think that the work product in this bill produced by Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH is a wonderful example of the possibilities when people work together.

Madam Chairman, my amendment would increase by \$3 million the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the Drug Courts program. The \$3 million added to the Drug Courts program will be offset by decreasing by \$3 million the amount appropriated for funding the International Trade Administration.

Madam Chair, drug addiction in the United States is at an epidemic level. To call it otherwise grossly understates the problem. This epidemic affects every city and town across America, and it cuts across every demographic. It simply does not discriminate.

Drug and alcohol addiction shatters lives, destroys families, and costs taxpayers billions of dollars annually. In fact, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, estimates of the total overall costs of substance abuse in the United States—including lost productivity, in-hospital care, incarceration, rehab, and crime-related costs—tally to over \$600 billion annually in the United States.

□ 2015

Now, many of us understand that drug addiction is a disease, and certain actions taken by people under the influence of drugs are typically uncharacteristic of that person. A handful of countries, as well as much of our own society here in the United States, have begun to realize that we need to deal with addiction and its outcomes in a way that can have a long-term, positive effect on the parties and families involved. Drug courts offer just such an opportunity by providing a support system and a roadmap for moving forward.

Madam Chair, drug courts are specialized court dockets designed to handle cases involving drug and/or alcohol-dependent offenders charged with offenses such as possession of a controlled substance or other nonviolent offenses determined to have been caused or influenced by their addiction.

Drug court cases are handled through a comprehensive program of supervision, drug testing, treatment services, and immediate sanctions and incentives designed to reduce the recidivism rates of these offenders by helping them overcome their substance abuse problems, which are the primary and proximate cause of their criminal activities.

Drug courts coordinate the efforts of the judiciary, prosecution, defense attorneys, probation departments, law enforcement agencies, rehab facilities, mental health and social services, and also involve the community, the family, and the employer in many cases in an effort to break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, and crime.

If we can break that cycle, we all benefit. I have had the opportunity to visit many of the prisons and houses of correction in Massachusetts, where about 91 percent of those inmates have substance abuse problems or are dually addicted.

The bottom line is that drug courts save money, they reduce crime, and restore families. Quite simply, drug courts work. According to the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the drug court approach reduces crime by as much as 45 percent compared to traditional sentencing options. In fact, the available data indicate that nationwide, 75 percent of drug court graduates remain arrest-free at least 2 years after leaving the program, and reductions in crime have been maintained for at a minimum 3 years, and in many cases over 14 years.

In addition to reducing crime, drug courts save money. As reported by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, for every dollar invested in drug courts, taxpayers save as much as \$27 when compared to the historic approach to these problems. This substantial savings comes from avoided criminal justice costs, reduced prison costs, and reduced recidivism and health care utilization—all areas, as we know, that devour vast sums of money annually in this country.

And very important to us all, drug courts help restore families. According to statistics, family reunification rates for drug offenders are 50 percent higher for drug court participants. People struggling through addiction can become isolated from friends and loved ones. Reuniting with their family is often the first step in returning to normalcy and again becoming a productive member of the community.

Madam Chairman, the underlying bill provides \$41 million for drug court funding, \$2.5 million over the 2013 post-sequester level. And I would like to thank Chairman WOLF—he has long been a champion of drug courts—as has Ranking Member FATTAH. But these have been underfunded for a long time, and the adoption of this amendment would meet the need that has been amplified lately.

I just urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I accept the amendment. The President’s request had proposed

eliminating this as a separate program. We rejected that proposal, and instead we funded the program above, as the gentleman from Massachusetts said—and I appreciate it—above the level of \$41 million. This takes it to 44. He makes a very powerful case. I think it makes a lot of sense, so I accept the amendment, and I think it is a good amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I concur with the chairman.

Mr. WOLF. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Chair, first, I certainly want to thank Chairman WOLF, Ranking Member FATTAH, and, of course, the committee for putting together a strong bill in what we all know has become an increasingly tough environment for appropriations bills.

This year’s Commerce-Justice-Science bill is clearly the product of a great deal of bipartisan collaboration, and, as a result, this bill provides strong funding for a number of important priorities that both Democrats and Republicans can get behind. In that vein, I want to offer an amendment which I believe both sides of the aisle should be able to support.

While only a small portion of the overall Department of Commerce budget, the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service plays a critical role in helping American small business owners export their products to foreign countries—and we know that about 95 percent of the world’s customers live overseas.

Unfortunately, while this year’s CJS bill does a decent job of funding the Department of Commerce, it failed to fully match the President’s requested increase of funds for the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service. Unfortunately, that will mean that we will, once again, continue the trend of underfunding this vital national resource.

Specifically—and I wanted to note these three points—this amendment helps small businesses who can benefit

from overseas consumer activity by helping them learn how to navigate red tape imposed by governments overseas. Big companies we know don’t necessarily need this help but our small business owners do.

Second, it will help them increase exports, create jobs, and boost economic recovery. Third, the funding that was requested in this amendment is \$3 million. The agency is currently \$15 million below the President’s request. So I want to share where the offset comes from. It comes from the Bureau of Prisons, which was overfunded by \$61 million—and that is out of \$7 billion. The offset does not touch funding for new construction, which we know there are concerns about overcrowding from time to time. That is not an issue in this amendment.

Madam Chair, in order to remain competitive in an increasingly globalized economy, we must do everything that we can to help our exporters gain access to overseas markets. While this amendment only amounts to really a small increase in funding, we know from past experience that it will pay enormous dividends. I certainly have seen that in my community in California.

Most importantly, it will allow U.S. exporters to compete on a level playing field with the rest of the world and will help strengthen the overall economy, putting Americans back to work.

I urge my colleagues to support small business owners all across this country and adopt this amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentlewoman’s amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, the recommendation in this bill includes \$323 million for the Global Markets program, which includes the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service. This amount is \$3 million more than the current operating level. Despite the continued fiscal constraints, the committee has supported increases to the International Trade Administration over the last few fiscal years in order to support deployment of additional commercial service and staff at embassies. But this offset totally takes it from the Bureau of Prisons. It reduces the Bureau of Prisons’ salaries and expenses account by \$3 million.

The prisons are overcrowded. We have had several prison guards killed. With our high- and medium-security institutions exceeding 51 and 41 percent of their rated capacity, the prisons are overpacked. They are maxed out. And so with a population of 215,000 inmates and 2,500 more expected in 2015, the Bureau of Prisons just can’t keep up. So this bill helps them recover. We don’t want to have another prison guard killed. So I think where they take the

money from—I would urge a “no” vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I rise in the first instance in support of the focus of the gentlewoman’s amendment, but I have to oppose the amendment because of the offset. One of the prison guards that was murdered was from my home State of Pennsylvania, and I think that depleting \$3 million from this account at a time when we have a situation where we have far too many people in prison—and hopefully through our criminal justice reform efforts, we will do something about that—but while we have people in prison, we have a responsibility to administer these prisons safely, and I think it will be unwise.

Now, I support wholeheartedly export initiatives. We have increased this account each year. I have visited and spent time focused on this. And the chairman had mentioned a number of initiatives. We also fund the SelectUSA and the other parts of the President’s export initiative. But I am opposed to this amendment solely on the basis of the offset as offered.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. REICHERT

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1)”.

Page 4, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1)”.

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$110,000,000)”.

Page 52, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$110,000,000)”.

Page 53, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$110,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer a critical amendment with Representatives PASCRELL, KING, GRIMM, WELCH, JOHNSON, REED, ENYART, DEFazio, and others.

This amendment funds the highly successful COPS hiring program at the fiscal year 2014 level. Ensuring the safety of our communities and neighborhoods should be one of our first priorities, and we cannot afford to do that without a sufficient number of capable police officers trained across our country.

I became a law enforcement officer because I wanted to serve and help others. I brought that same desire to Congress. The COPS program helps others

do the same. We cannot protect this Nation without adequate funding for law enforcement. Their service is our gain.

Madam Chairman, this program is vital. I was in law enforcement for 33 years. I started out in a patrol car and was actually hired in 1972 under a Federal grant. After 30 some years or so, I became the sheriff of King County, and I was able to use those grants again to hire additional police officers in the sheriff's office, and those additional police officers are used to be a part of Federal teams, Federal law enforcement task force efforts, across this country. To mention a few, the cyber security task force we have in some of the major cities across this country is integral to protecting this Nation, not only our entire country, but our communities. You cannot do that with just Federal resources.

We always talk about the Federal, State, and local partnerships as Federal representatives, and the FBI came to me when I was the sheriff and said that we want to work with you; provide a police officer to our joint terrorism task force, provide a police officer to our task force to fight gangs, and provide a police officer to be a part of our DEA effort to impact the use of drugs and reduce the use of drugs in our communities.

Well, Madam Chairman, local police departments and sheriff's offices don't have the money to continue to supply police officers to these Federal efforts. But they know they are needed.

I would like to join everyone in congratulating the chairman on his distinguished career and his efforts here today in support of protecting our country. Mr. WOLF has done an outstanding job over his years of service. From my perspective, though, we really need to strengthen this partnership, and the way that you do that is you allow these grants to be fully funded, you allow police chiefs and sheriffs across this country to hire additional police officers to be a part of a national effort to reduce human trafficking. And I know this is one of Mr. WOLF's passionate issues right now, as well as other Members of Congress. It has been highlighted, and we need to highlight it still. But the Federal Government cannot stop human trafficking alone. They need the help of those local police officers and detectives on the street. If we don't have the people, we won't be putting them on the street.

□ 2030

If they are not on the street, if they are not working these cases, they will not be solved, and if they are not solved, Madam Chair, our children will be at risk, so I stand today to offer this amendment because I know it is the right thing to do.

I know it creates a partnership, a true partnership between the Federal,

the State, and the local agencies. It is critical. It is vital to our local law enforcement communities to have access to these grants, to be a part of the national effort, and to fight not only local crime, but those crimes across State borders; and international crimes are something that we also get involved in.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I am going to accept the amendment. My father was a policeman—Philadelphia policeman, badge 3990.

I think Mr. REICHERT makes a very, very powerful case, and I have great respect for law enforcement. I just want to put it in context. We are going to accept the amendment, but article I, section 2 of the Constitution requires a census every 10 years.

This is one of the few areas where the Constitution actually requires this body to do something. Frankly, this body, a lot of times, does nothing. This, we are required to do it. This amendment cuts funding for the periodic census. Without getting into detail, we will try to work this out when we go to conference because I am sympathetic.

We are going to start getting a lot more amendments: cut census, it is not for a few more years. But then the time comes. However, I think Mr. REICHERT makes a powerful case. We do respect law enforcement, and he makes a powerful case.

We cannot solve the issue of sexual trafficking with just Federal officers. We need the sheriffs and the police departments. Having said all that, there will be some pain, and we will have to work this thing out, but I accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I support the chairman in accepting this amendment, but his warning about census and the need for us not to assume that we can walk out with a bill with zero for census and live up to our responsibilities—our constitutional responsibility—is not an appropriate notion for this Congress, so I do support this one. I am going to be opposing many others.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Chair, I just want to say to FRANK WOLF: you are a

good man, and I wish you the best of luck. You raised the respect of this institution, and that is pretty difficult to do nowadays, FRANK. I wish you the best of luck.

As cosponsor of this amendment, along with some others, I want to thank all of those folks who came aboard. We have to struggle every 2 or 3 years. I think it is the responsibility that we, in some way, support our local communities, our county sheriff departments.

The COPS program has been a great success. In fact, the two most effective and efficient programs in the Congress of the United States are the COPS program and the fire program—FIRE Act. We know where every dime is going, we know how it is spent, but we certainly couldn't accept a 61 percent cut for a fiscal year.

So this is going to allow us, Madam Chair, to hire over 1,000 police officers. God knows we need them. When we take our oaths, some of us who have had good fortune every 2 years, God willing, the first thing we talk about is defending the United States, defending the Constitution, and defending against attacks from the outside, as well as inside. We have an obligation and responsibility.

So we are taking this very, very seriously. The gentleman from Washington and I were the coauthors of public safety in the Congress, and we work on this all year around, not just budget time.

So I am proud to work with the Congressman from Washington, and I thank, wholeheartedly, the gentleman from Virginia and wish him the best of luck. You have made a big difference in this Congress, and I mean that sincerely.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIMM. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIMM. Madam Chair, first, let me start by thanking my colleagues, Mr. REICHERT and Mr. PASCRELL, for their continued leadership on this issue and specifically in joining me on this COPS amendment.

I would also like to recognize Chairman WOLF for all of his outstanding service and specifically his work and with the subcommittee for their efforts to fund the critically important programs within this bill while facing a very tight fiscal environment. I recognize this is absolutely no easy task.

While I agree Congress must rein in our spending, doing so at the expense of men and women in uniform who risk their lives every single day to protect our communities is simply unacceptable. That is why I am proud to cosponsor this bipartisan amendment to replace the drastic cuts to the Community Oriented Policing Services hiring program.

While some will argue that the COPS program is a bailout to our local governments, the truth is that this funding can only be used to supplement—not replace—State, local, and other funds used to hire and rehire additional police officers.

Further, unless an agency can demonstrate severe fiscal distress, COPS funding has specific limits based on sworn force strength and service population.

Let me give you an example. An agency can only request funding to hire or rehire no more than 5 percent of their sworn force strength and agencies with a service population of a million or more are capped at 25 officers. These limits ensure that the COPS program promotes community safety in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner.

The reality is that our local and State budgets are also being reduced, and this 60-plus percent reduction to Federal COPS funding would exacerbate the many dangers police officers face on a daily basis because of low staffing levels.

I also support the COPS hiring program's incentive to promote veteran hiring by giving additional consideration to agencies that commit to hiring or rehiring at least one military veteran.

As of 2013, 336 veterans have been hired with this funding. So considering the good that the COPS program has done and that it will continue to do in creating good-paying, career-oriented jobs and enhancing safety in our communities across the Nation, I want to urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

In closing, I want to emphasize we spoke about human trafficking and the horrors entailed there, and we need every effort we can to combat that, but I also want to highlight the prescription drug epidemic which plagues my district and many districts throughout this country.

If we are going to be able to fight to keep our children safe and keep people from overdosing on prescription drugs, we are going to need more and more police officers to combat this.

I seriously urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$8,000,000)".

Page 63, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Chair, my amendment would ensure that the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center under the International Trade Administration's budget is funded at this President's requested level of \$15 million by moving \$10 million from NASA's \$4.2 billion exploration fund, which is funded \$191 million above the President's request.

Here is the problem: Mr. PETERS and I, who offer this amendment, represent the State of Michigan, but I assume this problem, the problem of access to markets across the globe for American products, is one that other Members in this body experience on a regular basis and hear about all the time.

We may disagree, and I suspect that we would disagree on the elements of our trade policy and particularly the elements in form that many of the trade agreements that this country enters into with other Nations.

In fact, there is a debate brewing now over the extent to which we continue to expand those international trade agreements, but the one thing we ought not to disagree on is whether or not we enforce the existing structures that are in place and ensure that American-made products have access to markets that should be open to us and, under existing agreements, would be open to us if we had the strength and the resources to enforce those agreements the way they ought to be enforced, and this is having a real effect.

I represent Michigan, as I said, and the auto sector particularly has suffered greatly as a result of trade practices. Just recently, as a matter of fact, the WTO sided with the U.S. in a dispute with China on duties it imposes on imported American vehicles, duties ranging from 2 percent to 21.5 percent, affecting two-thirds of the \$8.5 billion worth of American vehicles that are sold into that market.

This amendment would ensure that there are adequate resources to ensure that we enforce existing trade policy. American workers and companies are harmed when other countries are allowed to use unfair trade policies unfettered.

This amendment would ensure that the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center has the necessary resources to go after unfair trade barriers. It sends a strong message to the world that: If you violate global trade laws, the rules will be enforced and that there will be consequences for bad behavior.

American workers deserve this. American companies deserve this. We should stand strong. This amendment would make sure that the resources are available to do just that.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I rise in opposition to the amendment. The amendment would take away from NASA's Commercial Crew Program. This is a program where we are paying the Russians—Putin, who invaded the Crimea—Putin, we are paying Putin—this takes it away from that, allowing NASA to fund fewer development and testing activities.

It would increase the likelihood that we will have to extend our reliance on Russia for access to the space station. The Russians have even said that we are going to have to use a trampoline to get to the space station. They are going to stop cooperating after 2020.

I could say more, but I don't think we want to take money from that program. Because of that, I urge a "no" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. I support the intent of the amendment. I can't support the offset. It comes out of the general exploration account of NASA, but it would put additional strains on programs like Commercial Crew and Commercial Cargo, which are very, very important—not just because we have to depend on the Russians at the moment to take astronauts to the space station, this was put in place years ago—but given the political circumstances, and the chairman is right, there have been threats to whether or not we will have access to transport.

We do have to think about accelerating our Commercial Crew Program. It has been very successful to date, in terms of cargo, but we have not utilized the commercial cargo system yet to actually put human beings into lower Earth orbit on private spaceships like SpaceX or Orbital Science, so it is a concern now that this offset would be used.

So I think what I am saying is that I hope the gentleman will consider the fact that we will look at this issue in conference and try to find other ways to do it, but I cannot support this offset. It would not be a responsible thing for us to do, given where we are.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2045

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Kildee).

The amendment was rejected.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY
OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce, including costs associated with the performance of export administration field activities both domestically and abroad; full medical coverage

for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed \$13,500 for official representation expenses abroad; awards of compensation to informers under the Export Administration Act of 1979, and as authorized by section 1(b) of the Act of June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 223; 22 U.S.C. 401(b)); and purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use and motor vehicles for law enforcement use with special requirement vehicles eligible for purchase without regard to any price limitation otherwise established by law, \$103,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities: *Provided further*, That payments and contributions collected and accepted for materials or services provided as part of such activities may be retained for use in covering the cost of such activities, and for providing information to the public with respect to the export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce and other export control programs of the United States and other governments.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 4, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)".

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, the amendment that I offer today addresses a topic that is of the utmost importance to our national defense, that is, cybersecurity.

Before I go into the particulars, I would like to first acknowledge the important work of my colleague, Chairman WOLF, on this vital issue. Although he is retiring at the end of the year, he has certainly left a legacy of support for cybersecurity funding which he and Ranking Member FATTAH have continued in this bill. I thank them both for their important work.

Madam Chair, bad actors in cyberspace are growing in number and in sophistication, and as policymakers we have an imperative to act in the public interest. When Congress came up short in its efforts to enact comprehensive cybersecurity legislation in the 112th Congress, the administration rightly acted as best it could to advance the ball on cybersecurity. The President issued an executive order on this topic, and among the many things it did, it charged the National Institute for Standards and Technology with the creation of a framework for cybersecurity, and it ensured an open process, engaging all parties from across the

spectrum of industry, government, and academia.

Madam Chair, my simple amendment endorses the use of routine Department of Commerce surveys in order to measure the extent to which businesses have adopted the NIST voluntary cybersecurity framework. In fact, my amendment will ensure that the Bureau of Industry and Security's Office of Technology Evaluation uses its Defense Production Act authority to conduct a survey about use of the NIST framework.

While I applaud the President's focus on cybersecurity, and the NIST process has been widely regarded as a laudable example of public-private partnership, much more needs to be done, and the administration cannot go it alone. It will take congressional action to address issues such as incentives, liability protections, information sharing, and breach notification.

However, while we continue to work toward passage of bipartisan cybersecurity legislation, it is important that we measure how well the NIST framework is faring. Our routine Commerce Department survey, using existing authority under the Defense Production Act, will enable an assessment of the NIST framework's adoption rate, a key component of its effectiveness.

Information sharing is also an important part of the framework, so the survey will also allow BIS to ask companies what, if any, information from the government they have used and how they have used it. This brief survey should be designed in a way to minimize the burden on companies: determining if their using the framework or information shared from the government does not require an exhaustive survey of their cybersecurity practices.

The NIST framework is a model for cybersecurity. It doesn't demand adherence to a particular set of standards, nor does it proscribe certain activities. Instead, it describes processes that entities can adopt to help them decide which standards and risk levels are appropriate for their own situations.

I believe that this framework is a useful tool for companies to help them navigate new threats in the information age. I know that some of my colleagues believe otherwise, but without hard data, these sentiments would be just that: beliefs. Measuring adoption of the framework is a concrete step in the right direction that we can take to help develop our own best practices for what works in the realm of cyber policy.

So with that, Madam Chair, we have all heard about major cyber attacks in the news, including the Target breach and the Heartbleed security vulnerability. Just this month alone we have seen the Department of Justice indict Chinese soldiers for hacks of American companies. We have seen the breach of

up to 145 million emails, birth dates, and passwords from a major Internet commerce site. We have even seen the Department of Homeland Security warned about a successful attack on a public utility that compromised the utility's control system network.

My amendment will not solve all of these problems at once, but it will help policymakers here and in the administration take effective and informed steps to protect our networks from cyber attacks.

So with that, let me again congratulate Chairman WOLF and thank him for his distinguished service to this body.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, the gentleman is absolutely right. I completely agree with him. We will make every effort to make sure this is in there. He has been ahead of almost everybody else here, but I accept the amendment. I think it is a very good amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the amendment also.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I thank the chairman for agreeing to accept it.

I want to spend a second on this. There is no more important an issue facing our country in terms of national security than this question of cybersecurity, and Chairman WOLF has been at the very forefront of this.

We have seen the unfortunate circumstance, for instance, with a corporation like Target. Target has invested over a billion dollars in revitalizing libraries in our schools in our country. They have done a lot of great work. They were victimized by cyber criminals emanating from, apparently, Ukraine. I think that whatever assistance we are providing to the new government there should be contingent on making sure that the cyber threat emanating from Ukraine visited upon our companies here should be part of the considerations.

The chairman has also pointed out what has now become obvious, given the DOJ's action, that China is also quite active in this realm. We have seen this problem in places like Nigeria. We can go around the globe. If we are going to protect ourselves, we are going to have to take action.

I thank the chairman for accepting this amendment. I think this is an appropriate improvement to the base bill, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Chair, parliamentary inquiry.

The CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Would a motion be in order to suspend the rules and bring up an amendment that was in the previous section at this time?

The CHAIR. That motion is not available in the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Thank you, Madam Chair.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS

For grants for economic development assistance as provided by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, for trade adjustment assistance, for the cost of loan guarantees authorized by section 26 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3721), and for grants, \$210,500,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$5,000,000 shall be for projects to facilitate the relocation, to the United States, of a source of employment located outside the United States; and of which \$5,000,000 shall be for loan guarantees under such section 26: *Provided*, That the costs for loan guarantees, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds for loan guarantees under such section 26 are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$70,000,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 5, line 17, strike "grants" and insert "grants, including grants authorized under section 27 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722)".

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair, I thank and acknowledge the work of Chairman WOLF and our Ranking Member FATTAH for their exhaustive work on this appropriations bill.

Madam Chair, in an effort to drive innovation and regional collaboration, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 established a Regional Innovation Program within the Economic Development Administration. This program is intended to encourage and support the development of regional innovation strategies, including regional innovation clusters and science and research parks.

For the past few years, the President has consistently requested \$25 million

to fund the Regional Innovation Strategies Program. The program was provided \$10 million in funding in the fiscal year 2014 omnibus appropriations bill passed by this Chamber a few months ago.

Funding for the Regional Innovation Program supports the Economic Development Agency's interagency effort to build regional innovation clusters, including the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge and the Make It In America challenge. This program helps to ensure we build a cohesive, competitive economy by aggregating existing investments and technical assistance from multiple Federal agencies to develop a network of interconnected firms and institutions. Together, this network and other regional stakeholders can use this funding to accelerate job growth, spur business formation and expansion, encourage innovation, invest in workforce training, and support small business development.

For example, the i6 Challenge grants funded within the Regional Innovation Program have already helped universities and research centers across the country invest in efforts to scale up groundbreaking ideas. This means providing these innovators with the necessary resources to accelerate commercialization and to attract venture capital for the most promising technologies. To compete in the 21st century and win, America must invest in scaling up promising technology and innovative ideas.

In the long-term, these ideas will help ensure our Nation remains at the cutting edge. Importantly, investing now will help jump-start our competitive advantage in terms of producing emerging technologies and supporting advanced manufacturing. Through the Regional Innovation Program, local leaders are empowered to maximize existing assets and are provided resources to ensure that historically underrepresented communities, including those hardest hit by unemployment and economic decline, are able to participate in and benefit from a growth in a regional cluster.

The Regional Innovation Program has traditionally garnered support from both Republicans and Democrats. It is a truly bipartisan, evidence-based method for creating jobs.

My amendment is simple and straightforward. It would not create a new program or new authorization. It does not increase or decrease funding for a single account in the appropriations bill. Instead, this amendment simply serves to include the Regional Innovation Program within the bill and to bring focus to this vitally important job-creating initiative as this appropriations process moves forward.

In addition, the Regional Innovation Program has consistently been specifically supported and cited with a separate line item in previous Senate CJS Appropriations Committee reports.

To close, I strongly believe we must recognize that innovation is critically important to America's ability to compete in the 21st century global economy. Supporting the development of regional innovation clusters strengthens our capacity to create and retain new jobs and sustain our economic recovery. The Regional Innovation Program will help Federal, State, and local entities leverage existing resources, spur regional collaboration, and support economic recovery and job creation in high-growth industries.

I recognize, after conferring with Chairman WOLF, that there is a point of order that has been raised on this.

Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment and look forward to working with the chairman and the committee to see that this program is both reauthorized and funded.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POMPEO

Mr. POMPEO. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 5, lines 17 through 21, after each dollar amount, insert "(reduced to \$0)".

Page 6, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced to \$0)".

Page 100, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$247,500,000)".

□ 2100

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Kansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMPEO. Madam Chairwoman, today, I rise to ask my fellow Members of Congress to take one small step towards fiscal sanity.

Chairman WOLF has done very nice work on this bill, but we are all familiar with agencies that have outlived their usefulness and no longer can withstand budget scrutiny. In these times, if we don't set priorities, nothing is a priority. Here is one opportunity for all of us to make one tiny step towards getting rid of what is now over \$17 trillion in debt.

We often talk on our side of the aisle about having a spending problem. Here is a chance for all of us on both sides of the aisle to begin to attack that. We have an opportunity.

Part of the Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Administration, was established in 1965 as an element of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. The current administration and, to be frank, many administrations, have used this for their own pork barrel projects and their own cookie jar. The EDA has spent over \$3.2 billion in grants and does nothing more than pick amongst winners and losers by region, industry, and community. At its very core, the

EDA is nothing more than the purest of wealth distribution programs.

My amendment would eliminate funding for the EDA, totaling \$247 million in fiscal year 2015, and send this money to the deficit reduction account. Based on current levels, eliminating EDA will save over \$2.5 billion over the next decade.

Even though I ran two small businesses for 16 years, I had never heard of the Economic Development Administration before coming to Congress. I suspect many of my colleagues are similarly situated.

First, let me describe what the EDA does. It takes dollars from all across the country. That money comes to Washington where the EDA takes 20 percent of it off the top. That is the cost of the administrative burden of running the Economic Development Administration. They then ask companies and communities to apply for “free money” from the Federal Government to renovate a movie theater or to build a new industrial park.

While many of these projects aren't necessarily bad, some are just plain ridiculous. These are local projects that either have enough support from their local communities so they could certainly advance without Federal funding or they require Federal money because the local community won't support them. Either way, the Federal Government has no role in being involved.

You might not be familiar with EDA projects, so let me just talk about a couple of them.

In 2008, the Economic Development Administration provided \$2 million to begin construction of the UNLV Harry Reid Research and Technology Park in Las Vegas, Nevada. Currently, this technology park features a paved road and a Web site claiming to be the first anticipated tenant moving in in 2010. No construction has even begun.

In 2010, \$25 million was spent by the EDA for a Global Climate Mitigation Incentive Fund and \$2 million for a “culinary amphitheater,” wine-tasting room, and gift shop in Washington State.

The EDA then gave New Mexico \$1.5 million to renovate a theater in 2012.

In 2013 it gave Massachusetts \$1.4 million to promote video games.

Back in the 1980s, the EDA used taxpayer dollars to build replicas of the Great Wall of China and the Egyptian pyramids in the middle of Indiana. They were never completed. It is now a dumping ground for tires.

After doling out your tax dollars, the Economic Development Administration often, along with a local Congressman or Senator, takes credit for these projects. They go to ribbon cuttings. The EDA is a frequent flyer, traveling all around the country, for just such ceremonies.

I first heard about the EDA in one such project. I was sitting in a com-

mittee where the director of the EDA proudly took credit for the jobs created at a \$1.6 billion new steel plant. There was a \$1.4 million grant, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the project. My guess is that the company's CFO knew nothing of the EDA grant.

Cutting the EDA, however, is not just a conservative idea, it is a good idea, and one that gets us closer to fiscal sanity here in America.

Madam Chairwoman, my amendment is fairly modest given the amount of debt we are piling onto our children and grandchildren. But this is an important vote to show that Members of this body are serious about limiting the size and scope of our Federal Government.

I urge passage of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. FOXX). The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

This bill before the House today also includes for the EDA \$5 million to support projects to facilitate relocation to the United States of jobs currently being done overseas. If you have an iPhone, it is made in China. GE has moved plants off of the United States to China. This is in order to fund. It will enable EDA to help work with American businesses to bring back, to repatriate, their manufacturing activities back to the United States.

It does not support any projects in my district, but it does support projects in some very, very poor districts throughout the United States. These are areas that are struggling. Because of that, sometimes EDA is only a lifeline, a path, to more economic sustainability.

I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, first of all, in terms of the previous amendment that was withdrawn, it is very important that we note that innovation is the driving force in our economy. The World Economic Forum said: America's economy is built on innovation. So I want to just add my voice in terms of that amendment, but in terms of the offering relative to the Economic Development Administration.

The Speaker of the House earlier was saying that as you listen to Americans, they are concerned about jobs. Well, one entity in the Federal government has a track record of developing jobs in each of our 50 States. Just recently they announced a 300,000-mile initia-

tive in Alaska. Now, Alaska is a little bit away from my hometown in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but wherever you look in our country, the EDA has been working. It stitches together communities of interest, builds support in jobs. It is a program that the majority would love because it is not decisions from on high. These are decisions that are made at the local level about where to build industry, what types of industries to attract. It has a proven record decade after decade stitched throughout America, not one piece of unbroken cloth, but kind of like a quilt, many colors, many different pieces patched together.

So I support the EDA, I oppose this amendment, and I hope that we give a resounding vote in support of the Economic Development Administration. If we can spend American taxpayers' money in far off places in this world building economies under the notion that that is how you strengthen democracies and provide peaceful places in the world, then we can take American taxpayers' money and invest it in communities right here at home so that Americans can go to work.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. My congressional district, Madam Chairman, encompasses rural parts of southern and eastern Kentucky. The region has historically lagged behind others in the Commonwealth and in the country. Particularly in recent years, as we have reeled from a crushing downturn in the coal industry that has cost my district some 8,000 good-paying mining jobs in just the last few months, we have had to think and act strategically to revitalize our economic engine. Creating jobs in a mountainous region without sufficient roadways or suitable water infrastructure might seem an unsurmountable challenge. But I have always encouraged my constituents and community leaders to “plan their work, and work their plan.” With the help of EDA, this is what we have been doing.

The Economic Development Administration is one of the few entities in our Federal Government uniquely qualified to address the needs of communities with chronically high unemployment issues or facing enormous setbacks due to natural disasters. EDA's grants, awarded in a competitive fashion, leverage over \$10 from the private sector for every Federal dollar invested and are targeted at facilities that are essential for private industry to remain or locate in these underachieving areas. As a result of these targeted investments in water systems, workforce training centers, intermodal facilities, or broadband networks, struggling

communities across the country have seen the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs in just the last decade.

I wholeheartedly concur with the sponsor of the amendment that the role of the Federal Government is not to create jobs, but instead to create the conditions favorable for private sector job creation. By partnering with local area development districts, leveraging public and private dollars, and engaging the local workforce, EDA does just that.

This bill provides \$247.5 million for the agency, which is already below the President's request; rejects the administration's request to shift funds away from vital public works programs; and supports a loan guarantee program to develop innovative manufacturing technologies that will keep rural areas competitive nationally and globally. With unemployment in rural areas around the country still hovering well above the national average, particularly in coal country, the victims of the war on coal, this is an investment we cannot afford to lose.

I urge a "no" vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO).

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kansas will be postponed.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Chairman, let me begin by expressing my admiration for my colleague from Virginia, the chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee, FRANK WOLF. The Commonwealth of Virginia, the Nation, and, indeed, individuals from around the world owe Chairman WOLF a deep debt of gratitude for his years of service.

The positive impacts of FRANK WOLF's efforts literally span the globe as he has been a leader in the fight for, and defense of, human rights and religious freedom around the world. Chairman WOLF is a principled leader, and I and the rest of my colleagues will miss his leadership in this House in the years to come.

Madam Chairman, I also rise to address the issue of funding for research through the National Science Foundation. I believe the Federal Government has an important role to play in basic research, including the research conducted by the National Science Foundation.

The dollars we invest in research in the physical and biological sciences, in particular, have the potential to cure diseases and create new innovations that will become the building blocks for future economic growth and prosperity.

But I have been troubled that the administration has been spending scarce Federal resources allocated to the National Science Foundation, not on these hard sciences, but instead on political and social science research, including, for example, the attitude of Americans on the filibuster, studying "what makes politics interesting," and how politicians change their Web sites.

The National Science Foundation even spent \$700,000 to fund a musical—a musical, not research—on climate change.

My colleague, LAMAR SMITH, the chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, has been leading an effort to reform the NSF to eliminate wasteful spending and prioritize research that has the potential of truly benefiting our Nation.

Chairman SMITH's committee currently has a National Science Foundation reform bill under consideration. That bill takes important steps to set appropriate national priorities. I thank him for his efforts on this important front.

In addition, Chairman SMITH is offering an amendment that will be offered tomorrow to this bill that would seek to leave funding for the social, behavioral, and economic sciences directorate at the current year levels and then allocate the \$15 million increase requested by the President to other research priorities.

I fully support Chairman SMITH's amendment and urge my colleagues to support it as well. This is the first step of many that I hope we will take to protect taxpayers while at the same time ensuring that high priority research is appropriately funded. I look forward to continuing to work with Chairman SMITH on this initiative.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2115

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, first of all, I appreciate the majority leader. I know for certain that he has an interest, particularly in these areas that he has spoken about, because on one day, at the end of a long week, the two of us ventured over to the National Institutes of Health to sit and learn a little bit more about the merit-based selection process for investment and investigations to end diseases, and LAMAR SMITH, who is a great Member, led the effort on patent reform.

However, I think that both are misguided in this attempt to move away from the world-renowned merit-based selection process at the National Science Foundation.

All of our competitors are actually trying to mimic the merit-based selection process that the National Science Foundation utilizes, and it is critically important that the National Science Board, in the ways that these decisions are made, is not going to be influenced by politics.

That was in the wisdom of the creation of this, and it has worked so well that we now lead the world. If we want to continue to lead the world, the last thing we want to do is to interject politics into the decisionmaking process of what basic scientific research should be supported.

There are more proposals that come in than can be funded that are done on a peer-review, science-only basis, and I think it would be a very unwise signal for this Congress to send if we were to move in this direction.

I hope that our colleagues, even though we have great respect for the majority leader, would act with more respect for basic science and for a merit-based selection process.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of administering the economic development assistance programs as provided for by law, \$37,000,000: *Provided*, That these funds may be used to monitor projects approved pursuant to title I of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976, title II of the Trade Act of 1974, and the Community Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1977.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Department of Commerce in fostering, promoting, and developing minority business enterprise, including expenses of grants, contracts, and other agreements with public or private organizations, \$30,000,000.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, of economic and statistical analysis programs of the Department of Commerce, \$99,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing and publishing statistics, provided for by law, \$248,000,000: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of the Census shall collect data for the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey using the same health insurance questions included in previous years, prior to the revised questions implemented in the Current Population Survey beginning in February 2014.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing and publishing statistics for periodic censuses and programs provided for by law, \$858,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, \$1,551,000 shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General" account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the Bureau of the Census.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GIBSON

Mr. GIBSON. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,000,000)".

Page 30, line 24, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$4,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBSON. Madam Chair, first of all, let me begin by recognizing my friend, Chairman WOLF, for his long and distinguished career in public service—a role model for all of us. Let me say also how impressed all of us are with the teamwork of Chairman WOLF's and of Ranking Member FATTAH's in putting together this piece of legislation. I am giving it my highest endorsement here.

Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment about an issue that is of grave concern to us in upstate New York, which is of the heroin and opiate epidemic that is going on.

From the stories I have read, this is actually an issue across our country. I will note that the Governor of Vermont spent the time in his State of the State to address this issue. We certainly have to do more on this score.

I have convened meetings in which I have had an opportunity to listen very carefully to district attorneys, to law enforcement professionals, to medical professionals, and to the families of those affected. Without any doubt, we are going to have to do more to address this issue. I see it in three basic categories. One is doing more on prevention. The second is enforcement. The third is treatment. Treatment is handled in the Labor-HHS bill, and I look forward to our addressing that in the weeks to come. Tonight, we can address prevention and enforcement.

I do want to commend the committee, and I do want to read of some specific areas of the bill in which the committee, I think, has done great on this issue.

In DEA Language:

Prescription drug and heroin abuse—the committee is extremely concerned about the continued threat posed by prescription drug abuse, as well as about the resurgence of heroin abuse and overdoses that appear connected to the enforcement of laws against prescription drug diversion. The committee

has included in its recommendation funding to support the enhancement of DEA's investigative efforts to deal with these growing threats and directs DEA to report to the committee no later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act on the numbers of actual and estimated heroin investigations in fiscal years 2013 through 2015, the amounts and street value of heroin associated with such investigations and prosecutions resulting from investigations.

In the DOJ General Administration:

Heroin—the committee notes with concern the increase in heroin abuse. The Department shall report no later than 90 days after the enactment of this act on potential ways to address this problem, such as prevention, law enforcement strategies, prescription drug disposal site expansion, and other evidence-based approaches.

Then, finally, in Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force:

Heroin—the recent surge in heroin use, overdose deaths, and trafficking volumes shows it to be one of the gravest problems now facing law enforcement and the drug treatment community. DEA noted in its 2013 threat assessment a trend of users switching to heroin from prescription drug abuse as one explanation for a rise in overdose deaths and warned that persons addicted to opioid prescription pills now find highly pure heroin easier and cheaper to obtain. The committee urges the Department to intensify its use of task forces to address this disturbing trend.

I commend the committee for their work on this.

I rise to offer an amendment to increase, by \$4 million, the funding for the account that addresses the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. This will help our country—and my district in particular—in dealing with high-level traffickers and gangs that are selling heroin and opioids. I think this will help.

It will be part of an overarching strategy, and I think it synchronizes with the committee, so I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I have no objection to the amendment. I think it is a very good amendment, and I share the gentleman's concern.

Out in the western part of my district, in the Shenandoah Valley, I think they had one heroin death in 2011 or in 2012. In 2013 and this year, they are surpassing that, and it is only May. This is going to be an epidemic. It is hitting the country.

They are actually finding that growers of marijuana in Mexico are getting out of that business and are growing poppies. So I think it is a very good amendment, and I urge the support of it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I also rise in support of the amendment.

This is a crisis any way you look at it in my home State of Pennsylvania whether it is in the Pocono Mountains area or in the city of Philadelphia. All throughout the country, we see this epidemic. People are losing their lives, and extraordinary action needs to be taken.

I do want to say that our side, even though we support this particular amendment, is concerned about the offset. Just so that we can start to make sure that everyone understands that we are concerned about it, we will want a recorded vote on this, and I will vote in favor of it as we do have a responsibility at some point to think about funding the census. So I will stop there.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. For what purpose does the gentleman from California seek recognition?

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I ask for a recorded vote on the last one.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee had already progressed to the next amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. I indicated in my remarks that we were asking for a recorded vote.

Would you like to read back my remarks?

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair did not see any Member seeking recognition for that purpose at the time the result of the voice vote was called.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I respect your decision then, and we will proceed. Thank you.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment offered by the gentleman from California.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

Page 52, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Chair, first, I want to recognize Chairman WOLF for his service to this body and to this country, and I want to recognize the chairman and Ranking Member FATTAH for their work on this bill.

Madam Chair, my amendment takes \$3 million from the Census Bureau and transfers it to the COPS grant program, with the intent that this \$3 million will go toward the COPS Technology grants program at the Department of Justice.

I am proud to represent California's Ninth Congressional District and the

work our law enforcement agencies are doing in our region. However, they need additional support. Several cities in my district have violent crime rates that are well above State averages.

Law enforcement agencies are understaffed and are struggling to retain and recruit officers. These first responders are doing their best to stretch budgets in tough economic times while trying to manage crime activity.

This is an extremely difficult task that stresses police departments, officers, their families, and our neighborhoods. Consequently, it is even more important that our communities and law enforcement work together to ensure crime fighting is as effective as possible while also yielding the best results.

One way to accomplish this goal is through improvements in technology. This increases effectiveness. It streamlines capabilities and increases information sharing. Most importantly, it improves the public's and officers' safety.

Through 2010, the COPS Technology program helped more than 3,000 law enforcement agencies acquire essential technology to help meet the needs of their regions. That demand for technology funding by law enforcement agencies across the country has increased in the past 4 years.

I recently met with the chief of police from a city in my district who asked how his department could obtain funding for an innovative project that will help officers identify the exact location of gun shops within the city. This pilot project in a very small area has been extremely successful.

These technology grants would be awarded on a competitive basis, ensuring that each applicant has a fair opportunity to receive money and to acquire and deploy crime fighting technologies.

I do understand the concerns about taking money from the Census Bureau as it begins its preparations for the 2020 census, but I believe that individuals, families, and businesses in high crime areas would greatly benefit from the COPS Technology grant funding in the short and in the long term. This technology will save lives.

Lastly, I want to mention that the International Association of Chiefs of Police supports my amendment, and I urge the adoption of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I announce that we are going to postpone the 2020 census and move it to 2021 or maybe to 2022.

I am going to accept the amendment, but if we keep taking it from the census, there will be no census unless it is

going to be done on a voluntary basis, and we can ask people if they will. I think it is a good amendment.

I understand what you are trying to do, but if we keep fining census, census, census, then there will be no census. I accept the gentleman's amendment. He makes a very powerful case, and I think it is a very good issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BRIDENSTINE

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$12,000,000)".

Page 13, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$12,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 2130

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Madam Chair, my amendment transfers \$12 million from the Census Bureau to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research for the specific purpose of weather research.

We now know that technology exists that can predict tornadoes nearly 1 hour in advance. This technology will move us toward a day when we have zero deaths from tornadoes.

My amendment today will direct funds to research and technology vital to saving lives and property. I want to thank Chairman WOLF for working with us towards this goal.

The \$12 million added by this amendment is for weather research in NOAA's office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, as authorized in my House-passed, bipartisan Weather Forecasting Improvement Act. Specifically, this increase provides for a total of \$76 million for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes to advance observational, computing, and modeling capabilities and quantitative assessment tools for measuring the value of data and specific observing systems. The funding will accelerate research, development, and the development of critical technologies like new aerial weather observing systems; transformative global, national, and regional weather models; advancing high-

performance computing using graphic processing information technology networks; and observing system simulation experiments to deliver substantial data improvements in weather forecasting and prediction of high-impact weather events such as those associated with hurricanes and tornadoes. This will save countless American lives in the future and allow our citizens to better protect their personal property. This should be NOAA's highest priority.

Another critical part of the Weather Forecasting Improvement Act is a joint technology transfer initiative between NOAA Research and the National Weather Service. I urge the Weather Service to follow through on this House's bipartisan voice vote back in April and transfer the full \$20 million authorized in that legislation to NOAA Research to carry out the transition of the latest scientific and technological advances into the Weather Service operations. This will sunset outdated and expensive operational methods and tools to enable the cost-effective transfer of new methods and tools into operations.

Madam Chair, NOAA is the only Federal agency tasked with providing accurate and timely forecasts. I believe this amendment is a big step forward in reflecting this priority.

Again, I am grateful for the chairman's guidance in working on this amendment, and I am thankful for his leadership on this issue. I hope that we can work together to keep weather research funding at this level when it comes time to conference with the Senate. This amendment will save lives and property.

With that, I urge the support of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I have no objection to the amendment. And the gentleman's area has been hit. We have all seen the pictures of the towns in Oklahoma. So I appreciate his efforts and diligence.

I just want Members to know the Commerce-Justice-Science bill already includes strong funding for the National Weather Service. The bill is \$16 million above the request for the National Weather Service. We restore the \$10 million proposed reduction for information technology officers at each weather forecast office. We restored a proposed \$8 million cut to the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program. We restored \$6 million in proposed cuts to the tsunami community education awareness program.

But I think the gentleman makes a very, very powerful case, and we will work to make sure that this stays in

until we go to conference. As he said, we can save lives. And that is what we want to do.

With that, I accept the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment. I have spent a lot of time and effort on this issue. I join with the chairman in acknowledging the fact that in the chairman's mark is a very significant investment in the National Weather Service and in our severe weather forecasting activities.

And, again, the offset here is the U.S. Census. And so even though I support the amendment, I am going to be seeking—and will remain standing—a recorded vote. Because the House needs to acknowledge that if we are taking money from the Census now, there will come a time in which we will have to ante up on our constitutional responsibilities.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE).

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma will be postponed.

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Chairwoman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOLLY. Madam Chairwoman, I rise for the purpose of entering into a colloquy with Chairman WOLF, someone I have great respect for, and I compliment him on a bill that he has prepared, along with the ranking member.

I prepared an amendment at the desk this evening that would reduce \$8 million from the Census Bureau and instead move that money to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's operations, research and facilities account for the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations—essentially, NOAA marine research.

I appreciate the chairman's comments about continuing to slice at the Census Bureau account, and for that reason, I rise for purposes of a colloquy.

I understand the bill includes \$175 million to operate and maintain NOAA's ships. While I would have liked to see that number increase, I understand it does match the President's

budget, and in fact represents an increase of over \$5 million above the enacted level from last year for purposes of funding additional days at sea.

NOAA marine research is critical for a number of reasons. I represent a gulf coast district. Many Members of this House do. One of the purposes of NOAA marine research and one of the benefits that we see from it is more and better stock assessments when it comes to fisheries.

We need to do better as a Nation in our stock assessments and how we study fisheries. We need to have additional study and research into the survivability of juvenile stocks. We need to have better research into invasive species and how that leads to closures. Perhaps the best way we could ever address closures is with additional research into studying the survivability of juvenile stocks.

NOAA marine research also advances our interest in water quality. It educates us and provides additional research for Federal agencies when it comes to emergency situations like oil spills; red tide plumes, which are critical in the gulf; as well as responding to the stranding of endangered marine mammals.

NOAA marine research also, ultimately, improves the economy for areas along the gulf and other areas in the Nation. It affects the quantity of fish that we are able to produce for our food supply, but it also addresses quality of life for communities like mine in Pinellas County. It also assists the economic development of regional economies that depend on a robust fish stock.

The increase that I would have proposed tonight was in an effort to help NOAA better fulfill this research mission as something I believe we need to continue to put an emphasis on. I thank the chairman for his commitment thus far already in the chairman's mark in the bill we are considering today when it comes to NOAA marine fisheries and marine research, but I would simply ask the chairman to consider continuing this commitment as this process winds its way. As you get to conference, if there is an opportunity to identify additional resources, I certainly would appreciate the chairman and the ranking member's consideration.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. JOLLY. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentleman for withdrawing the amendment.

As the gentleman is aware, the bill before the House today includes \$175 million to support the operation of NOAA's research vessels. This amount is the same as the request—a \$5 million increase above the enacted level.

We will take a look at it, and I appreciate the gentleman raising it. We will stay with him as we go to conference.

Mr. JOLLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NUGENT

Mr. NUGENT. Madam Chairwoman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,000,000)".

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$4,000,000)".

Page 45, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 48, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUGENT. Chairman WOLF, I want to thank you for your leadership and all the years of service to this body, and to the Nation in general.

Each day, more and more Americans are realizing that we need to take action to deal with mental health issues in this country. You merely need to watch the news. We need to make it a priority.

My amendment, in keeping with that sentiment, would provide additional funding for programs under the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act, or MIOTCRA, and for Veterans Treatment Courts. These programs have a proven track record of effectively addressing some of the important issues associated with mental health illnesses.

My amendment would offset this increase by taking \$4 million from the periodic censuses and programs account, which I have heard had been hit over and over again. This is less than one-half of 1 percent.

Madam Chairman, both of the programs that would receive an increase in funding under my amendment highlight the need for our justice and mental health systems to work together.

As a former sheriff, I can tell you cooperation is vital. If our justice and mental health systems are collaborating, we can provide more positive outcomes—not only for those with mental health issues, but for our taxpayers as well.

Grants provided under MIOTCRA are used, among other purposes, to set up mental health courts, for community reentry services, and training for State and local law enforcement to help identify and respond to people with mental illnesses, which should be obvious to folks back home, just as with what happened in California.

During my 37 years as a cop, I saw firsthand how our jails are becoming warehouses for people with mental health issues. No one is well served by this process—not those with mental health issues, not our taxpayers, and certainly not our veterans.

Let me provide some numbers to illustrate what is actually going on in our jails.

According to the Florida Mental Health Institute, over a 5-year period, 97 individuals in the metro Miami-Dade area accounted for 2,200 bookings into the county jail, 27,000 days in jail, and 13,000 days in crisis units, State hospitals, and emergency rooms. The cost to the State and taxpayers was nearly \$13 million for just 97 people over a 5-year period. However, the type of programs my amendment supports have shown to dramatically reduce these rates.

In Pinellas County—another county in Florida—for instance, a mental health jail diversion program showed an 87 percent reduction in rearrests for nearly 3,000 offenders that were enrolled in that program. Not only does my amendment support these programs but recognizes the unique responsibilities that we have to our veterans.

Veterans are disproportionately affected by mental health issues. Even more, they likely wouldn't have these issues had it not been for their service to our country. We owe them a better outcome. And Veterans Treatment Courts can help.

The point, Madam Chairman, is we don't have to waste taxpayer dollars warehousing people in jail. We don't have to be content with a system that isn't effectively serving the people it is supposed to. We have programs to help and that save money. And we can make this a priority.

I know that this account has been hit numerous times, but I would tell you that you need only to see what is going on in this country. Mental illness is a problem that needs to be addressed. The Veterans Treatment Courts that can be put in place by this, I think, is owed to our veterans, and certainly is owed to the people we represent.

So I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2145

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment. I think Mr. NUGENT makes a very powerful case. As more veterans return from combat, we are seeing the increased involvement in the justice system.

The committee did establish the Veterans Court program in fiscal year 2013 and has increased its funding for this year. The President did not request funding specifically for this program.

The Mental Health Court Program is important as well and, given that a significant percentage of the justice-in-

involved population have mental health disorders, these courts help with recidivism.

I think Mr. NUGENT again, as I said, makes a very powerful case, so I support the amendment and urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I will not request a recorded vote on this amendment, but I did want to speak on behalf of it.

Colleagues in my home State of Pennsylvania, Congressman MEEHAN and Congressman BRADY, have been very interested in the Veterans Courts.

I was originally involved in the creation of the drug courts in Pennsylvania years ago. I think this is a very important effort, particularly as it relates to our veterans, but in terms of a host of populations to help divert people, when possible, from the criminal justice system and make our communities safer at the same time, so this is a very important amendment.

I disagree with the offset, and I want that to be registered, but I will not burden the House with another recorded vote.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCDERMOTT

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

Page 13, line 21, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Chairman, fisheries management is something that has had a long history on the Pacific coast. As we built the dams on the Columbia River back in the 1930s, we made treaties with the Canadians. The Mitchell Act was passed, and we have been subsidizing the propagation of fish since that period.

We also have Canadian and United States treaties for the fish caught in the rivers along our borders. The fish don't know where they came from. They don't know whose fish they are, and the human beings have got to sort it out.

We have had these treaties in place, but we have been gradually reducing the amount of money we spent in this enforcement and propagation of fish.

Now, this \$3 million seems like a very small amount, but what it is real-

ly all about is it means a hatchery closure, which will reduce, by 3 million, the Chinook that are released next year, along with another 500-some odd thousand other kinds of salmon.

You can't do this fisheries management by turning on the switch and turning off the switch. The fish go out for 3 years, they come back, and it is a longstanding process, and we are gradually whittling down what we are doing to one of the major sources of protein for this country.

It is a huge economic effect on Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and northern California, and it is money well-spent.

If you don't understand fish and you don't live in a community, as I do, where the entire Alaska fishing fleet is right now getting ready to go up and catch the salmon that you are used to eating in this country, you don't understand what it means when you don't have hatcheries producing salmon.

The enforcement issue is really a matter of getting people to count and make sure that we get what is ours and also make sure that the fish are counted, so we know about the sustainability.

One of the issues that is going on in the world today that people are not paying attention to is the acidification of the ocean. Acidification of the ocean means that salmon eggs are not as fertile as they were before, and you are coming to a time when we are going to have serious problems with our fisheries all along the northwest coast of the United States.

So this \$3 million, although it seems like a very minimal amount, is necessary to continue the treaties with the Canadians and to continue the propagation.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I am going to oppose the amendment. We are just taking out of census, and so the Members know, this is the same as last year's level, so there are not any big major cuts here.

Also, we are above the request. We are \$3 million above the request, so I don't question what the gentleman says. He knows a lot more about salmon than I do. He has probably forgotten more about salmon than I will ever know, but we can't keep going into the census and going into the census.

Since it is \$3 million above the request, it is at the same level last year, we added money into the salmon in the full committee, and so I am going to ask for a "no" vote on the amendment.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. The chairman and I sat through some hearings last year, listening to and learning about the hatcheries in Washington State and learning about both the treaty responsibilities and the natural hatchery programs. I think we funded it at the level that was requested and then above that.

On top of the fact that we are at a level beyond what was requested, this, again, would diminish the accounts for the census.

We have a constitutional responsibility. We swear our oath to the Constitution. It requires the United States Congress to fund a census, and even though the hatcheries in Washington State deserve appropriate support, I think that the committee has moved in that direction.

I have to oppose this on the basis that it, again, attacks an account that we have a responsibility to protect, even though it may not have the same level of political or popular support as some of these items.

I love eating the fish, but we have got to make sure we count the census, so that we can live up to our responsibility as a Congress.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as provided for by law, of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), \$36,700,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: Provided, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1535(d), the Secretary of Commerce shall charge Federal agencies for costs incurred in spectrum management, analysis, operations, and related services, and such fees shall be retained and used as offsetting collections for costs of such spectrum services, to remain available until expended: Provided further, That the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to retain and use as offsetting collections all funds transferred, or previously transferred, from other Government agencies for all costs incurred in telecommunications research, engineering, and related activities by the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences of NTIA, in furtherance of its assigned functions under this paragraph, and such funds received from other Government agencies shall remain available until expended.

PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

For the administration of prior-year grants, recoveries and unobligated balances of funds previously appropriated are available for the administration of all open grants until their expiration.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) provided for by law, including defense of suits instituted against the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, \$3,458,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as offsetting collections of fees and surcharges assessed and collected by the USPTO under any law are received during fiscal year 2015, so as to result in a fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at \$0: Provided further, That during fiscal year 2015, should the total amount of such offsetting collections be less than \$3,458,000,000 this amount shall be reduced accordingly: Provided further, That any amount received in excess of \$3,458,000,000 in fiscal year 2015 and deposited in the Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That the Director of USPTO shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: Provided further, That any amounts reprogrammed in accordance with the preceding proviso shall be transferred to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Salaries and Expenses account: Provided further, That from amounts provided herein, not to exceed \$900 shall be made available in fiscal year 2015 for official reception and representation expenses: Provided further, That in fiscal year 2015 from the amounts made available for "Salaries and Expenses" for the USPTO, the amounts necessary to pay (1) the difference between the percentage of basic pay contributed by the USPTO and employees under section 8334(a) of title 5, United States Code, and the normal cost percentage (as defined by section 8331(17) of that title) as provided by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for USPTO's specific use, of basic pay, of employees subject to subchapter III of chapter 83 of that title, and (2) the present value of the otherwise unfunded accruing costs, as determined by OPM for USPTO's specific use of post-retirement life insurance and post-retirement health benefits coverage for all USPTO employees who are enrolled in Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), shall be transferred to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, the FEGLI Fund, and the FEHB Fund, as appropriate, and shall be available for the authorized purposes of those accounts: Provided further, That any differences between the present value factors published in OPM's yearly 300 series benefit letters and the factors that OPM provides for USPTO's specific use shall be recognized as an imputed cost on USPTO's financial statements, where applicable: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, all fees and surcharges assessed and collected by USPTO are available for USPTO only pursuant to section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code: Provided further, That within the amounts appropriated, \$2,000,000 shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector Gen-

eral" account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the USPTO.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), \$670,500,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$9,000,000 may be transferred to the "Working Capital Fund": Provided, That not to exceed \$5,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: Provided further, That NIST may provide local transportation for summer undergraduate research fellowship program participants.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, \$130,000,000, to remain available until expended.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

For construction of new research facilities, including architectural and engineering design, and for renovation and maintenance of existing facilities, not otherwise provided for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as authorized by sections 13 through 15 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278c-278e), \$55,300,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in the budget justification materials that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Institute of Standards and Technology construction project having a total multi-year program cost of more than \$5,000,000 and simultaneously the budget justification materials shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of activities authorized by law for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including maintenance, operation, and hire of aircraft and vessels; grants, contracts, or other payments to nonprofit organizations for the purposes of conducting activities pursuant to cooperative agreements; and relocation of facilities, \$3,089,480,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, except that funds provided for cooperative enforcement shall remain available until September 30, 2017: Provided, That fees and donations received by the National Ocean Service for the management of national marine sanctuaries may be retained and used for the salaries and expenses associated with those activities, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: Provided further, That in addition, \$116,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the fund entitled "Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries": Provided further, That of the \$3,220,480,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading \$3,089,480,000 is appropriated from the general fund, \$116,000,000 is provided by transfer, and \$15,000,000 is derived from recoveries of prior year obligations: Provided further, That the

total amount available for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration corporate services administrative support costs shall not exceed \$215,654,000: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the report accompanying this Act, or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That in addition, for necessary retired pay expenses under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plan, and for payments for the medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under the Dependents Medical Care Act (10 U.S.C. 55), such sums as may be necessary.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 13, line 21, and page 14, lines 8 and 9, after the dollar amounts insert "(increased by \$37,450,000)(reduced by \$37,450,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I rise today as a member of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Caucus. This coalition of Members has formed in order to advance policies to promote clean energy; protect our land, air, and water; and to address one of the dominant issues of our time: human-induced global climate change.

I am joined in this amendment tonight by Representatives MORAN, PETERS of California, POLIS, LOWENTHAL, CONNOLLY, HASTINGS of Florida, HUFFMAN, TONKO, and CARTWRIGHT, and we rise because, unfortunately, this bill fails to make the critical investments that are needed to further our understanding of the atmospheric changes that we know are affecting our planet.

This bill we are debating here tonight would cut NOAA climate research for the next fiscal year by \$37.5 million dollars below the current year or \$69 million below what the President is asking for.

NOAA climate research funds atmospheric and oceanic research, climate research laboratories, cooperative institutes, regional climate data and information, competitive climate research global data collection and sharing.

As the climate changes, we will continue to experience deeper droughts, more intense wildfires, more frequent storms and floods, superstorms like Hurricane Sandy, higher sea levels, bigger storm surges. Would we not want to understand what is going on?

It is ironic that, as Members here tonight are trying to outdo each other in supporting weather research, they propose to cut climate research. I suppose, when we come to NIH, they will be tripping over themselves to talk about research in symptoms, but ban any study of the causes of the disease.

Now, earlier this year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released their fifth assessment report, and earlier this month, the Federal Government released the U.S. National Climate Assessment.

Both reports, which were the product of years and years of research, the combined efforts of literally thousands of scientists spanning the globe, came to the same conclusions: the climate is changing.

Emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are the principal cause, and the result is costly, in lives and dollars—yes, deadily.

Just about a year ago, we passed a landmark in human history, 400 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the air worldwide. Now, I say in human history because, indeed, it is human activity, the way we produce and use energy, that is primarily responsible for this large increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide.

It is of historic importance because, as scientists have made clear, this great concentration of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is changing our very climate.

Now, we know some Members, even in this Chamber, have their doubts about manmade climate change—the human-induced climate change. They say: maybe the climate is changing and humans aren't to blame; or maybe humans are changing the climate, but it is really not as bad as the alarmists say.

Still, others outright deny the science, reject the calls for action by scientists. Why this denial?

It wouldn't happen in other instances. If a firefighter bangs on your door to tell you that your house is on fire, would you look at this stranger dressed in fireproof clothing and wearing a helmet and an oxygen tank and say, I don't believe you? Or would you get out?

□ 2200

Why, then, when thousands of the world's best scientists are telling us that humans are dangerously changing the planet's climate, that your house, planet Earth, is in deep trouble, wouldn't we get moving? This is not a joke. It is not a hoax. It is not a false alarm.

This bill would cut critical investments that are needed for ongoing climate research, and failing to provide the resources necessary to study our changing climate won't make the problem go away; it will just make it harder to predict and more difficult to understand. Denial is the result of ignorance and only deepens our ignorance.

We need to support the science behind climate change. We need to develop policies that would help us mitigate and adapt to the threats of climate change.

I yield back the balance of my time

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the gentleman from New Jersey, Dr. RUSH HOLT, who is probably the smartest scientist we have ever had in the United States Congress. He gave us a warning that we need to pay attention to climate research. It is not weather research. Weather, we have just put a lot more money into. We are worried about prediction. We are worried about what is going to happen. They want to know in the next few days whether there is going to be a tornado or a hurricane.

But climate is what tells us what is going to happen in the long-term future, whether we are going to have a sustained drought, whether we are going to have fire danger because of winds and droughts, whether we will have rainfall patterns—that it falls in one part of the country and not in the other—that will affect agriculture and water resources.

I live on the coast. And although a lot of people deny that there is global warming and, therefore, ice melting and, therefore, the oceans rising, I can tell you that it is actually asked in all the zoning matters and building permits. Now in California, if you are going to build along the coastline, what is that coastline going to look like 10 years out? What does the climate forecast—climate, not weather forecast—tell us about these rising oceans that will not allow your house to be built exactly where you want it to be built? So this is really important information to have.

We have understood how important ports are to the United States' trade. We can't live without goods going out of this country and goods coming in, and they come through our ports. And if the oceans are going to rise and destroy our docks and our facilities, that is going to have a huge impact on our national economy.

Ocean chemistry, the next amendment is going to talk about ocean acidification. I am going to rise on that as well, which is very important to our fisheries.

So I think that an amendment like this is really important to invest in. We cannot really understand weather unless we understand the patterns of climate.

Climate change will impact trade. Climate change will impact food security. Climate change will impact national security. Climate change will impact human health.

It is imperative that we robustly fund NOAA climate research in order to be prepared for and adapt to the changing weather and changing climate.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Chair, this bill is providing reasonable levels of funding for research and development to the National Science Foundation and NASA, but in the NOAA accounts, climate research is singled out for major cuts below last year's spending.

It seems there are a number of us who believe that we can improve weather forecasting without doing climate research. This simply is not the case.

The distinction between weather and climate is created by the time period we define to examine the temperature, precipitation, humidity, and other atmospheric phenomena we are experiencing.

As our society and our economy have become more advanced, more interconnected, and more global, we increasingly operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. For better or worse, we assume that everything can and is operating all the time. Well, often because of weather conditions, that assumption is challenged. Travel delays in the airline industry alone due to weather events can result in multibillion-dollar losses.

Phenomena such as droughts and floods and fires are not merely single weather events. Their probability of occurrence, duration, and intensity is a function of climactic factors that can only be understood and predicted if we can better understand short-, medium-, and long-term climate trends.

I would note that the bill before us retains funding for the National Drought Information System. That is good news. But by cutting the climate research that drives improvements in the information delivered through this system, we are stifling the potential for this tool to provide better information to farmers, to ranchers, water managers, energy utilities, and the many other businesses, communities, and citizens who require dependable, adequate water supplies.

It was climate research that led to our much-improved understanding of the El Nino and La Nina cycles that drive predictable changes in weather. As a result, farmers are able to adjust crop varieties or practices to prevent losses.

We are spending an increasing amount of money every year on relieving drought, fighting forest fires, and on relieving disasters from tornadoes, hurricanes, and flood events. Instead of cutting climate research funds, we should be expanding them. Instead, this Congress continues to deny what is all too obvious to many of our citizens and to those of other nations: that climate change is underway.

Some of our agricultural systems, transportation systems, and essential infrastructure are at risk. We can adapt. We can redesign and rebuild infrastructure, but we need to know where to concentrate our efforts and what type of adaptations will be necessary. We need to have a better understanding of the rate of change that we will experience. Climate research is providing that understanding.

In February last year, the Government Accountability Office added the financial risk of climate change to its High Risk List. This past February, GAO testified before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs about the fiscal liability associated with weather and climactic disasters.

GAO's recent work on this topic found that the number of disaster declarations increased from 65 in 2004 to 98 in 2011. The financial risk from the two primary Federal insurance programs—National Flood Insurance Program and the Federal Crop Insurance Program—are over \$1 trillion. We paid over \$60 billion on Hurricane Sandy recovery alone. And these are only the financial costs.

Hurricanes Irene and Lee swept through my district in 2012. I saw firsthand the suffering caused by these storms. The loss of human lives and the destruction of homes and communities exact a terrible cost on those who experience these devastating events.

We should be doing much more to spare our citizens from these experiences. With financial exposure of over \$1 trillion and the known risks to individuals, communities, businesses, and infrastructure from climate and weather, it is absurd to claim that we are saving money by cutting \$37 million from these programs.

We must do our part to ensure that future generations have the opportunities that our parents and grandparents secured for us. Past generations built this Nation through their willingness to tackling the challenges of their time, by believing in the future of this Nation, and by investing in it.

Climate change is real, and it will not have less impact if we pretend it isn't happening. We must stop ignoring this problem. We can choose to deny. We can bury our heads in the sand. When that sand is washed away, however, by climate change, it is over.

Climate research is vital to our national security, our food security, our economic security, and to our future as a Nation. We should continue this important research effort and use the knowledge gained from it to inform and implement an adaptive strategy.

With that, I urge support for this amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Chair, I rise also in support of the amendment offered by my dear friend from New Jersey, Dr. Holt. And I also want to echo the words of the gentleman from California, Representative FARR, in saying that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve in his company in the United States House of Representatives.

Madam Chair, average temperatures have risen across the contiguous 48 States since 1901, with an increased rate of warming over the past 30 years. Seven of the top 10 warmest years on record have occurred since just 1998. Tropical storm activity in the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean, and the Gulf of Mexico has increased during the past 20 years. In the past 2 years alone, extreme weather events resulted in 109 Presidential major disaster declarations, 20 events that each inflicted at least \$1 billion in damage, 409 deaths, and \$130 billion in economic losses in 44 States. All that was caused by these 20 events alone.

Every part of the Southwest experienced higher average temperatures between 2000 and 2013 than the long-term average dating back to 1895. Some areas were nearly two degrees warmer than average. We simply cannot afford to ignore this increasing threat in the future. In times like these, it would be irresponsible to cut funding for research dedicated to predicting future extreme weather events, but that is just what this legislation does.

Madam Chair, research is how we educate ourselves. And the familiar maxim to everyone is, if you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

The bill, as it stands, currently would cut \$37.5 million from research on the effects of climate change, like tropical storms, floods, and droughts. That is why I support Dr. Holt's amendment, which would restore funding to the FY14 budget levels so that we can continue our research into these disasters and save the lives and businesses affected by climate change.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Chair, I am very concerned with regard to the House CJS appropriations bill and the drastic cuts to climate research. The House bill provides for \$69 million below the President's request and \$37.5 million below the 2014 level. These cuts endanger our economy, our recovery, would harm our understanding of climate change, and will set scientists back years with regard to understanding our climate.

Climate research is critical for our economy. It provides us with forecasts

beyond 2 weeks, including heat waves, hurricanes, droughts, and tornado predictions. Cutting these functions would negatively impact transportation, agriculture, commerce, and all industries that make important planning decisions based on these long-term forecasts. Cutting this important investment will hurt economic growth and destroy jobs in these critical sectors.

Based on climate research information, some examples of how it is used are: a cargo ship can reroute its course to circumvent a storm; a trucker can choose a different road to mitigate delays; or a water manager may restrict types of water use to plan for extended droughts, like we have had in Colorado these last few years.

The Second Congressional District of Colorado is home to two world-class universities—the University of Colorado at Boulder and Colorado State University at Fort Collins—in addition to the numerous Federal labs, collaborative institutes, and research institutions. I am proud to represent a community that has deep roots in science, with many scientists among my constituents, providing technology, research, and innovation in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. Science is an incredibly important driver of economic growth in my district.

Federally funded research is a linchpin in helping our country understand and respond to the concerns of climate change, severe storms, drought, and fire risks. We need to invest more in climate research in order to plan for and respond to severe weather events and climate events, reducing damage and increasing economic growth. That is why, for the second year in a row, I was proud to lead an appropriations letter, along with 73 of my colleagues, requesting full funding for the NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Science. Climate research is an important part of this program.

I urge my colleagues to support climate research and restore critical funding to at least the 2014 levels, and hopefully more, so that we can have the very best science guiding our decisions, provided to companies in commerce, transportation, and agriculture, and employing the very best information that we have with regards to climate science.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 2215

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chairman, I join my colleagues tonight in opposition to the irresponsible cuts in this bill to vital climate research. The CJS mark slashes NOAA's climate research program by 24 percent below the fiscal

year 2014 levels and 37 percent below the President's fiscal year 2015 request.

Does the majority think that with less climate research we can make better informed decisions? Does the majority think that with less climate research we can better prepare our communities for higher storm surges? Does the majority think that with less climate research we can better understand why the Western United States has increased wildfires and water shortages? Does the majority think that with less climate research we can improve our predictions and responses in our planning for hurricanes? And, finally, does the majority think that with less climate research we can improve our ability to model regional weather pattern changes, which will affect the productivity of our agricultural sector?

Unfortunately, the majority's bill shortchanges our ability to realize all these vital benefits of climate research. If we hide our heads in the sand, the laws of physics will not change. We cannot wish away this problem. Denying a changing climate is not just another political position. It is a denial of reality.

I want to make this point to those in Congress who think the verdict is still out on whether human actions contribute to climate change. This is false, it is wrong, and it is misleading. The case is closed: climate change is happening, and humans are contributing.

Today, there is not a single scientific body of national or international standing that rejects the findings of human contribution to climate change—not one. To further make this point, let me share the latest work from researcher Dr. James Powell, a geochemist and 12-year member of the National Science Board who was appointed by both President Reagan and President George H.W. Bush.

Dr. Powell recently completed an update to his comprehensive study of the peer-reviewed literature on climate change. Dr. Powell found that of the 10,885 peer-reviewed scientific papers that were published on climate change in all of 2013, only two papers reject human contributions to climate change—two out of nearly 11,000. That is less than two-hundredths of 1 percent of all scientific journal papers published in 2013 that are peer reviewed rejected some form of human contribution to climate change.

This is not disagreement. This is not a divided scientific community. The reason for this is simple: there is no convincing scientific evidence against a human role in climate change. Period. End of discussion. Those that deny human contributions to climate change offer no compelling evidence to better explain the undeniable rise in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and accompanying rising global temperature.

The case is closed. We need to put this illusion of major scientific dis-

agreement behind us and take action. We should be fully funding NOAA's climate research hopefully at the level requested by President Obama in his 2015 budget request.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 13, line 21, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$9,000,000) (increased by \$9,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Chair, I rise in support of increasing funding to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, to support its Integrated Ocean Acidification research line and fulfill the administration's requested funding level of \$15 million in fiscal year 2015.

The administration's requested increase of funds for ocean acidification research reflects a growing consensus in both the scientific community and the coastal and fishing communities that I and so many of our colleagues represent that ocean acidification is already affecting marine organisms and could irreversibly alter the marine environment and harm our coastal ecosystems and economies.

On the west coast alone, a \$270 million shellfish industry has experienced disastrous oyster production failures and near collapse in recent years because of changes in water conditions that have been attributed to ocean acidification. This change in chemistry is caused by carbon dioxide in the atmosphere dissolving into the ocean, and the increased acidity of the ocean is harming the basic building blocks for life in the ocean, making it more difficult for marine organisms to build their skeletons and shells, and slowing the formation of important ecosystem features such as coral reefs.

In the Pacific Northwest, for example, the combination of seasonal upwelling of acidic waters, low alkalinity, and increased anthropogenic CO₂ create some of the most corrosive ocean conditions in the world.

In just the last few years, the scientific community has been increasingly raising concerns about ocean acidification with policymakers. Researchers at Oregon State University

have been working with the fishing community in Oregon to determine the impacts of acidification. They have been helping the shellfish industry, especially the hatcheries, assess the causes of oyster die-off and how to mitigate the harmful upwelling events through monitoring the water entering their facility. This exemplifies the kind of academic and industry partnerships that become possible when the Federal Government supports the academic research enterprise.

Funds provided by NOAA's Integrated Ocean Acidification research program will support extramural research awards that will fund studies on the impact of acidification in coastal, estuarine, coral reef, and shell environments. Not only will NOAA support studies on the impact of acidification, the agency runs the observing system that helps monitor areas experiencing increased acidity, and it also helps coastal communities and impacted industries develop adaptation strategies.

Now, my examples thus far have focused on the impact in Oregon and on the west coast, but, colleagues, this is important to everyone because it affects the whole shellfish industry. I know from working with my colleagues in the Pacific coast States that this is a problem that their constituents raise with them more frequently, and they point to it as an immediate threat to coastal economies. In conversations I've had with many constituents, the threat is made more immediate by how little is known about how these changes could impact the marine organisms and the people who depend on ocean resources for their livelihoods. This is why we need more information, and this is why we need NOAA's Integrated Ocean Acidification research program and why it needs more robust funding. The science community at large is still grappling with the extent and impact of changing ocean conditions.

The bill before us today is full of important priorities and accounts that could use more funding if we in Congress were able to provide it. Researchers at NOAA have indicated that even increasing the funding to \$15 million does not provide them with enough resources to fully address a problem of this magnitude. But even a modest increase will go a long way to supporting our hard-hit coastal communities and industries and would better prepare communities to address the creeping threat of changing ocean chemistry.

Now, Madam Chair, at the appropriate time, I plan to withdraw my amendment, but I do hope that the chairman, the ranking member, and the committee will work with me on this important issue going forward, and I know there is at least one additional Member who wishes to speak on this issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment and this concept. I want to thank the gentlewoman from the Northwest, Congresswoman BONAMICI, for introducing this amendment.

Look, this is a science bill, and there is a lot of discussion tonight on science, and a lot of it is on weather and climate. What generates the climate of this planet is the ocean, and we sometimes often overlook the importance that the ocean plays. Now, if we are killing the ocean, which some people think we are doing, because if you think about it, we have dumped everything we don't want on the mainland into the ocean, including nuclear waste and all kinds of other waste, we have caught everything that is in the ocean that is edible, and we have never found the balance. There is one industry that has, and that is the shellfish industry, which doesn't have to go out and just collect wild shellfish anymore. It is the fish farming industry, and it is a \$270 million industry on the west coast.

Guess what is happening to that industry? The seawater that they use that is necessary has become acidic, and therefore the shells can't form. It is sort of like, remember what we were doing with DDT and you had eggshells from birds, pelicans, that couldn't get hard? And we eliminated the DDT. We got sensible about that.

Well, we have to get sensible about what we are going to do about ocean acidification. DON YOUNG, our colleague from Alaska, and I are working on a bill, on a substantive bill, for the policy of ocean acidification. But that policy can't be implemented unless the Department carries it out, which the amendment that the gentlewoman has introduced will allow it to do.

I don't know how to put this in any clearer terms, but if our water that we were trying to drink was getting so bad that it was killing people, we did something about it in Congress. We passed a national Clean Water Act that says that you can't do bad things to water that we use for beneficial purposes. When air was getting so bad that people were getting harmed by air, Congress enacted a national air pollution act—the Clean Air Act—and said we have to clean up the air. It certainly was a big impact in California with all the smog in southern California, and we tackled it. We invested money into it, we invested politics into it, and we cleaned up the air in the southern California basin—not perfectly, but it is certainly a lot better than it used to be.

So the point of it here is, look, if we don't pay attention to the ocean and

what is happening to the chemistry of the ocean, in the long run our concerns about deficits, war, and pestilence around the world mean nothing because if that ocean gets so toxic, it kills us all, it kills all living things on Earth. Seventy-three percent of the planet is ocean.

So let's begin doing what we have done well in paying attention to clean air and clean water and start thinking about, what is it going to take to pay attention to clean oceans or do no harm or stop dumping into the oceans? Let's not kill one of Earth's life forms that is so important. And particularly, since we get so much sustenance from the oceans in the shellfish industry, let's not kill a private sector business that is managing itself well because we are not paying attention to acidification of our oceans.

So please adopt this amendment. If you are going to withdraw it, I hope we can work something out in conference to pay attention to this very important issue.

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

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment from our colleague from Oregon.

There has been a lot of talk tonight on both sides of the aisle about science. The point of science research is to teach us things that we don't already know. In fact, it was just a few years ago that science research showed something that we should have known but didn't, which was that our oceans were becoming acidic, that our oceans were becoming acidic to the point of damaging fisheries, damaging coral reefs, and damaging many of the things that we value and should value in this world of ours.

This is an important amendment, and although I understand that the gentlelady intends to withdraw it, I do hope that the chair will find some way to address her point as this bill goes through the legislative process, as I also hope the chair will find some way to address the point of my earlier amendment about NOAA climate research.

With that, expressing strong support for this amendment, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2230

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment be withdrawn.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Delaware is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Chair, in lieu of offering my amendment at the desk, I rise to engage in a colloquy with the chairman.

Madam Chairman, I rise to discuss with you the importance of our Nation's fisheries and, in particular, the survey of horseshoe crab populations along the Atlantic coast. The Delaware Bay supports the largest population of horseshoe crabs in the world.

This unique and ancient species is critical to not only the ecology of the Atlantic coast region, but to my State's economy as well.

Horseshoe crab eggs are a critical food source for migrating shore birds. An estimated 450,000 to 1 million of these shore birds visit Delaware Bay each year, along with them come bird-watchers who contribute to Delaware's tourism economy. Horseshoe crabs also provide bait for commercial American eel and conch fisheries along the coast.

Less well known is that horseshoe crabs are used for biomedical applications. Extract of horseshoe crab blood is used to ensure that injectable medications like intravenous drugs, vaccines, and medical devices are free of bacterial contamination.

While there are some indications that horseshoe crabs are thriving in the Delaware Bay, we need additional research about their migratory patterns and prevalence in other parts of the mid-Atlantic region.

Congress has, in the past, provided funding for comprehensive surveys of horseshoe crab populations. The data collected through these surveys allows the Atlantic coastal States to set annual quotas for the Delaware Bay region to protect both horseshoe crabs and migratory shore birds.

For a very small investment, we can generate the research necessary to ensure this critical species remains on a sustainable path.

Although I am withdrawing my amendment, I look forward to continuing to work with the Appropriations Committee on ways to improve funding for the science and data collection needed for surveys of horseshoe crab populations along the Atlantic coast.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CARNEY. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentleman for withdrawing the amendment. I understand how important the horseshoe crab is. I have been to Lewes, Delaware, many times; and I understand.

You make a very powerful point, but as the gentleman is aware, the bill before the House today includes \$72 million for stock assessments, which is the same as the request, and a \$3 million increase above the enacted level. We will continue to work with the gentleman, and I appreciate his comments.

Mr. CARNEY. I thank the gentleman and look forward to working more with the committee on this issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I concur with the chairman and look forward to working with the gentleman from Delaware on this issue of horseshoe crabs because they are critically important to both biomedical research and to the economy. We look forward to working with him as we go forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

For procurement, acquisition and construction of capital assets, including alteration and modification costs, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, \$2,176,290,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, except that funds provided for construction of facilities shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the \$2,189,290,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading, \$2,176,290,000 is appropriated from the general fund and \$13,000,000 is provided from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the report accompanying this Act, or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in budget justification materials that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration procurement, acquisition or construction project having a total of more than \$5,000,000 and simultaneously the budget justification shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, \$1,302,000 shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General" account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to satellite procurement, acquisition and construction.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY

For necessary expenses associated with the restoration of Pacific salmon populations, \$65,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That, of the funds provided herein, the Secretary of Commerce may issue grants to the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Alaska, and to the Federally recognized tribes of the Columbia River and Pacific Coast (including Alaska), for projects necessary for conservation of salmon and steelhead populations that are listed as threatened or endangered, or that are identified by a State as at-risk to be so listed, for maintaining populations necessary for exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, or for conservation of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habi-

tat, based on guidelines to be developed by the Secretary of Commerce: *Provided further*, That all funds shall be allocated based on scientific and other merit principles and shall not be available for marketing activities: *Provided further*, That funds disbursed to States shall be subject to a matching requirement of funds or documented in-kind contributions of at least 33 percent of the Federal funds.

FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

For carrying out the provisions of title IV of Public Law 95-372, not to exceed \$350,000, to be derived from receipts collected pursuant to that Act, to remain available until expended.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2015, obligations of direct loans may not exceed \$24,000,000 for Individual Fishing Quota loans and not to exceed \$100,000,000 for traditional direct loans as authorized by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the management of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, including not to exceed \$4,500 for official reception and representation, \$54,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall maintain a task force on job repatriation and manufacturing growth and shall produce an annual report on related incentive strategies, implementation plans and program results.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 17, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

Page 22, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

Page 35, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,500,000)".

Page 35, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,500,000)".

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$19,500,000)".

Page 46, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$19,500,000)".

Page 70, line 17, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Mr. THOMPSON of California (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I want to thank my friend, Mr. WOLF, for all of your years of outstanding service to this fine institution.

I rise in support of the bipartisan Thompson-King-Esty-Heck-Fitzpatrick amendment to strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Everyone agrees that we don't want criminals, domestic abusers, or dangerously mentally ill folks getting

guns; and the first step in stopping this is through our background checks system, but the background checks system is only as good as the data you put in it.

Right now, all of the information isn't getting in. When the information doesn't get into the system, we can't enforce the law, and dangerous people who otherwise wouldn't pass a background check can slip through the cracks and buy guns.

A recent USA Today report found that, in just five States, records for 2.5 million fugitives weren't entered into the NICS system. Six States have fewer than 30 total records in the NICS system, and 12 States have submitted fewer than 100 mental health records to the NICS system.

When States fail to submit these records, there is nothing to stop a dangerously mentally ill person from passing a background check and buying a gun. This is exactly what happened in the tragedy at Virginia Tech.

My bipartisan amendment will address this dangerous shortfall. It provides an additional \$19.5 million to help States improve their submissions into the criminal background checks system. It will bring NICS grant funding to \$78 million.

Many people on both sides of the aisle have already voted to support funding at levels that are much higher. After the Virginia Tech shooting, Congress unanimously enacted legislation that authorized DOJ to provide up to \$190 million per year to help States improve submissions into the NICS system.

The NRA supported it, too. In fact, Wayne LaPierre said:

Our members don't want mental defectives and criminals buying handguns. We supported the background checks and support the money to make it work effectively.

Since the unanimous passage of this NICS improvement legislation, Congress hasn't come close to appropriating these funds. In FY 2013, Congress appropriated just \$18 million.

Last year, we started to move in the right direction, increasing funding to almost \$59 million. While this was a good bump, it wasn't enough because, also last year, almost \$20 million in requests from States went unfunded.

Our States need more resources to get all their information into the NICS system. If we give them the resources, we can stop dangerous people from getting guns, and we can save lives.

Every day, our background checks system stops more than 170 felons, some 50 domestic abusers, and nearly 20 fugitives from buying a gun; but millions of dangerous purchasers could be passing background checks when they shouldn't be, all because States don't have the money they need to get records into the criminal background check system.

Madam Chair, this is dangerous. We can only stop criminals, domestic abus-

ers, and the dangerously mentally ill from getting guns if their information is in the system, so let's pass this amendment and give our States the resources they need to keep people safe.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I rise in strong support of the gentleman's amendment, and I thank him for taking the initiative and doing what he has done. Enforcing existing laws that keeps guns out of the hands of prohibited individuals is a goal we all share.

The bill already includes funding over 6 percent above the President's request for NICS grants. The level is \$40 million above the fiscal year 2013 level. We can maybe even get it up higher than the gentleman has when we go to conference.

I think what he is doing is very important. I am going to ask for a roll call vote on this. I think it is very, very important. It is not enough to just talk about something; I think it is important we do it. I thank the gentleman and strongly support his amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. I rise in support of this amendment and thank the chairman for accepting it. I join with the chairman in asking for a recorded vote.

My home State, like many of our States, rushed forward with hundreds of thousands of names into the system after the Newtown shooting of 20 schoolchildren, but names that should have been in the system from the beginning.

So I think it is very important that, if we are going to have this system, that we have the information in it, and this amendment provides the resources, and none of the offsets are from the census account.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESTY. Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the Thompson-King-Esty-Heck amendment to increase funding for the National Instant Criminal Background Checks Systems (NICS).

The NICS database provides critical information on prospective firearms buyers, protecting the 2nd Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners. Information in the database is used to determine whether an individual is ineligible to purchase a firearm because they are a felon, a domestic abuser, or seriously mentally ill. The NICS database allows sellers to conduct criminal background checks to make sure firearms are not getting into the hands of people who may be a danger to the public or even themselves.

Unfortunately, many states do not have adequate funding and resources to submit the most recent and comprehensive data to the NICS database. Our amendment would increase funding for NICS by \$19.5 million to meet the growing demand from states to responsibly update the database.

According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, criminal background checks have blocked more than 2.1 million illegal gun purchases, including more than 291,000 by domestic abusers. Background checks prevent more than 171 convicted felons from purchasing firearms every single day. These simple checks have saved countless lives in the past two decades, and it is essential that states have the necessary tools to prevent more tragedies in the future.

I thank my good friends Rep. MIKE THOMPSON, Rep. PETER KING, and Rep. JOE HECK for their outstanding partnership on this commonsense amendment. Their leadership proves that legislation to prevent gun violence and protect our families should not be a partisan issue. I urge all Members to support this commonsense amendment to save lives.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise today to discuss an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2015 that would divert \$10 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to go toward the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

The recent shooting in Santa Barbara last week underscores the critical need to have a comprehensive and robust background check system in place to screen individuals who are looking to illegally purchase firearms. Over the last 20 years, more than 2.1 million illegal firearms sales have been prevented because of NICS. However, there are still gaps in the system, due in part because there is insufficient funding for States to keep adequate records on individuals who are not permitted to purchase firearms under the law.

Congress can do more to provide additional funding to help bolster NICS and its ability to keep firearms out of the hands of felons, domestic abusers, or the mentally ill. Additional funding in the CJS Appropriations bill will help meet the demand from States to collect more accurate and more complete records of individuals who are ineligible to purchase firearms.

However, I have serious reservations that this amendment will decrease the administrative and grants management activities budget of the NSF by \$10 million. As Ranking Member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I cannot in good faith support an amendment which proposes to cut an essential function for the premier STEM education research organization in the country. This cut to NSF is a cut to the management of research which will ultimately determine our Nation's global competitiveness for years to come. For decades, NSF grants have resulted in the most effective and inspiring STEM curricula and programs in and out of the classroom. I cannot in good faith support an amendment which does harm to these important areas.

Madam Chair, I believe that this Congress can do more to prevent gun violence in order

to avoid tragedies such as the recent shooting in Santa Barbara. However, I must object to the desire to draw critical funding away from the NSF's agency operations account in order to bolster NICS. Reducing funding for NSF is misguided, and I strongly urge my colleagues to reconsider their approach to this important amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for the renovation and modernization of Department of Commerce facilities, \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$30,596,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 18, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$596,000)".

Page 100, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$596,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, this amendment would eliminate the increase of \$596,000 for the Office of Inspector General under the Department of Commerce and apply that amount to the spending reduction account. This amendment has the support of the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight, Representative MAFFEI, as well.

As chairman of the House Science Oversight Subcommittee within the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I have had the unfortunate responsibility of discovering an incidence of whistleblower intimidation perpetrated by top-level agency employees at the Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General.

Consequently, the Office of Special Counsel was brought in to investigate these allegations of whistleblower retaliation.

The investigation in this particular case found that the counsel to the inspector general and the principal assistant general for investiga-

tions and whistleblower protection had threatened whistleblowers with an ultimatum: to either sign an agreement to not "disparage the agency to Congress and their staff, the Office of Special Counsel, and the media" or have failing performance reviews added to their permanent files.

Unfortunately, the Office of Inspector General ignored these findings and took minimal action against these individuals. That is not enough.

As a result, I, along with all of the members of the subcommittee, sent a letter on April 1, 2014, to the Commerce IG demanding he immediately fire the two officials in question.

The inspector general responded by saying, in part, that the office had "moved on."

It is beyond hypocritical that the inspector general's office has conducted itself in this manner.

According to its website, the Office of Inspector General "endeavors to detect and determine waste, fraud, and abuse" throughout the Commerce Department and "keep Congress fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies and the need for corrective action."

□ 2245

As lawmakers, we depend on just and ethical inspectors general to protect taxpayers' interest and to hold Federal Government officials accountable to the law. Yet we can't depend on the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Commerce to even police its own, much less others who may seek to violate whistleblower protection laws. At the very least, we must refuse to increase the OIG's appropriation until corrective action is taken.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this nonpartisan amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I reluctantly rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Commerce IG performs an important oversight for the Department and for our subcommittee and committee.

I understand that the inspector general has asked the Integrity Committee of the Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency for an objective review and recommendations concerning this matter taking into account all the facts; the OIG has implemented each of the corrective actions proposed by the Office of Special Counsel, and that those actions were accepted by the Office of Special Counsel to address concerns contained in its report as a result of its investigation. Further, I understand there was no testimonial or documentary evidence that

the inspector general had committed any prohibition with regard to personnel. It appears also that the IG has asked the counsel—they call it the CIGIE—to further review this matter. Until that process is concluded, it could be premature to reduce the common inspector general funding.

Because of that, I rise in opposition to the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SEC. 101. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations and funds made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act shall be available for the activities specified in the Act of October 26, 1949 (15 U.S.C. 1514), to the extent and in the manner prescribed by the Act, and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3324, may be used for advanced payments not otherwise authorized only upon the certification of officials designated by the Secretary of Commerce that such payments are in the public interest.

SEC. 102. During the current fiscal year, appropriations made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act for salaries and expenses shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 103. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Commerce in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall notify the Committees on Appropriations at least 15 days in advance of the acquisition or disposal of any capital asset (including land, structures, and equipment) not specifically provided for in this Act or any other law appropriating funds for the Department of Commerce.

SEC. 104. The requirements set forth by section 105 of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), as amended by section 105 of title I of division B of Public Law 113–6, are hereby adopted by reference and made applicable with respect to fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may furnish services (including but not limited to utilities, telecommunications, and security services) necessary to support the operation, maintenance, and improvement of space that persons, firms, or organizations are authorized, pursuant to the Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976 or other authority, to use or occupy in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, DC, or other buildings, the maintenance, operation, and protection of

which has been delegated to the Secretary from the Administrator of General Services pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis. Amounts received as reimbursement for services provided under this section or the authority under which the use or occupancy of the space is authorized, up to \$200,000, shall be credited to the appropriation or fund which initially bears the costs of such services.

SEC. 106. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prevent a grant recipient from deterring child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over its networks.

SEC. 107. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is authorized to use, with their consent, with reimbursement and subject to the limits of available appropriations, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, or of any State, local government, Indian tribal government, Territory, or possession, or of any political subdivision thereof, or of any foreign government or international organization, for purposes related to carrying out the responsibilities of any statute administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 108. The Department of Commerce shall provide a monthly report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on any official travel to China by any employee of the U.S. Department of Commerce, including the purpose of such travel.

This title may be cited as the "Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 2015".

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the administration of the Department of Justice, \$103,851,000, of which not to exceed \$4,000,000 for security and construction of Department of Justice facilities shall remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

Ms. MOORE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

Page 22, line 25, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Ms. MOORE (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Madam Chair, my amendment adds \$1 million to the Executive Office for Immigration Review, EOIR, and is offset through the Department of Justice salaries and expenses account.

Now, I really do want to acknowledge the committee for their great work in

increasing funding for the EOIR for this fiscal year, but even with this increase, Madam Chair, funding is still woefully short of the President's request. This bill doesn't nearly go far enough to address the crisis our immigration courts face today.

This House has spared no expense—no expense—when it comes to throwing money at our failed enforcement-only immigration system. Since we are spending about \$18 billion a year on enforcement, we are detaining and deporting immigrants at record levels. An estimated 1,000 deportations take place each day. Yet, Madam Chair, we have done little to nothing to ensure that our Nation's immigration courts keep up with that pace, let alone fix many of these problems. This is one more example to demonstrate why we should have passed comprehensive immigration reform this year.

But that having been said, this amendment seeks to address that disparity. This mismatch, Madam Chair, between immigration review resources and aggressive enforcement efforts has created a backlog of over 366,000 cases in our immigration courts. The average wait for a hearing is over 570 days.

Many justified—justified—immigration relief and asylum seekers can find themselves waiting years in limbo. And these unacceptable delays waste taxpayer dollars by keeping people in detention.

Moreover, our tradition of due process is in serious jeopardy. EOIR has been forced to do everything in its power to accommodate their dockets, but only so much can be done without sacrificing essential aspects of the court.

Now, Madam Chair, in February, a Washington Post article described the day-to-day world of one of our immigration courts, where a judge had, on average, 7 minutes to decide each case; 7 minutes to decide whether to deport a person who might be eligible for asylum because they could be killed if they are sent back to their home country; 7 minutes for a judge to decide if a child will grow up without that father or mother—7 minutes. One judge described it in testimony before Congress: It is like doing death penalty cases in a traffic court setting.

My amendment also highlights the need to fund and expand the Legal Orientation Program. This important program gives detainees basic legal information, makes our system more efficient, and strengthens due process.

About 41 percent of those awaiting hearings before an immigration judge don't have legal representation. Children, Madam Chair, would benefit from this. In March of 2014, a U.N. refugee agency report cited a strong link between instability and violence in the Americas region and the new displacement patterns of children fleeing northward. Yet these children, ranging

from toddlers to teenagers, are so vulnerable, but they are less likely to have legal advice and counsel, our notion of guardian ad litem, to help them navigate the complex immigration laws. This is so important, Madam Chair. I hope we can work together to expand it.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I understand it takes a million from Attorney General Holder's office and puts it into the immigration area. I think she makes a powerful case. I have no objection.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. I concur with the gentleman's remarks.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE). The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Chair, I rise today to express my support for the fiscal year 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill and to thank Chairman WOLF for his steadfast service as chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

On behalf of the members of House Judiciary, I would like to express my gratitude for the cooperative spirit in which Chairman WOLF and the CJS Subcommittee has worked with us to ensure that many of the Judiciary Committee's concerns were addressed.

Funding for immigration courts, intellectual property rights, enforcement, and crime victims are just a few of the critical priorities addressed by the bill. I am pleased to say that the bill includes an increase in funding for the administrative review and appeals account. This increase will support much-needed additional immigration judge teams. I commend the committee for their efforts to allocate this funding, which is crucial to reducing the backlog of unadjudicated removal and asylum cases.

I also want to express my appreciation for language included to ensure that the Executive Office for Immigration Review will not use taxpayer funds to pay for attorneys for aliens in

removal proceedings, except to the extent required by Federal court order.

This bill also increases funding available for crime victims by raising the cap on the crime victims fund, a mandatory account supported by criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, and special assessments, as opposed to appropriated funding.

Furthermore, I applaud Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for the extraordinary efforts shown throughout title II of this bill to prioritize the elimination of human trafficking, using all of the law enforcement components and tools of the Department of Justice.

This bill also maintains many important restrictions on the use of funds, such as a prohibition on the transfer or release of Guantanamo detainees into the U.S., the continuation of various provisions related to firearms, and limitations on the use of funds by the Legal Services Corporation.

The bill also provides \$3.46 billion for the Patent and Trademark Office, an amount equal to the fees that are expected to be collected by the PTO in the coming fiscal year.

While I am disappointed that the bill includes no funds for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program, a program that was zeroed out as of fiscal year 2014, the House Judiciary Committee intends to examine this program further, including to potentially reauthorize this program.

In conclusion, I appreciate the efforts of Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH to work with the Judiciary Committee on this very important bill. I urge its support.

I also want to take a moment to personally thank Chairman WOLF for his service to this body and to the Commonwealth of Virginia. He has been a leading advocate for justice, human rights, and religious freedom, and his efforts have left an indelible mark on the Nation as well the world.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2300

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SINEMA

Ms. SINEMA. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 40, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SINEMA. Madam Chair, the amendment today is a commonsense, budget-neutral amendment that provides colleges and universities with additional resources to prevent and respond to sexual violence on campus.

This amendment increases funding for the Department of Justice’s grants to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campus program by \$1 million and offsets this increase by reducing DOJ general administration funding by the same amount.

Madam Chair, I offer this amendment because nearly one in five female undergraduate students report being sexually assaulted in college. According to the Department of Education, 60 higher education institutions across the country—including Arizona State University, which I represent—are under investigation for their handling of sexual violence and harassment complaints. We must do more to protect students and equip universities to respond appropriately to sexual assault on campus.

This amendment will allow more institutions of higher education to implement comprehensive, coordinated responses to sexual violence through the campus grant program.

The campus grant program was created by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 and reauthorized by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, a bill which I worked hard to pass.

Increasing funding to this vital program represents an important step in empowering victims of sexual assault and protecting both men and women on college campuses in Arizona and across the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Before I close, I want to thank the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. ROGERS, and the chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. WOLF, and the ranking member, Mr. FATTAH, for working with me on this issue. Finally, I would like to thank Mr. WOLF for the years he has devoted to public service over the course of his very distinguished career.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, I accept the amendment. I think it is a very good amendment. I congratulate the gentlelady from Arizona, and I urge a “yes” vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I rise again in support of this amendment. I join with the chairman.

I do note that this review has taken place at a number of universities, but

none of these investigations have concluded and we don’t know the exact facts. But we do know that young people on college campuses and in other circumstances are victimized. It is important that this program receive additional support.

I thank the gentlewoman for bringing this amendment to our attention, and I thank the chairman for accepting it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Chair, first, I would like to reiterate the statement made by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, and my appreciation for the service of Mr. WOLF from Virginia and the job that he has done for my years that I have been here for my years and beyond. As a member of the Judiciary Committee and this Congress, I very much appreciate FRANK WOLF’s contribution to the well-being of this country and the well-being of justice and compassion around the world that he has demonstrated.

The amendment that I offer this evening, Madam Chair, is an amendment that calls upon the Department of Justice to use \$5 million from the general administration fund to investigate the discretionary enforcement decisions of the Department of Homeland Security concerning their release of—and I will go through a series of these numbers that catch my attention and should alarm Americans:

For 2013, potentially deportable aliens, ICE encountered 722,000, according to a report. They only charged 195,000. That means they released 527,000 potentially deportable aliens.

Of the criminal aliens they encountered, they released 68,000 criminal aliens. That was 35 percent of the criminal aliens that they encountered. Roughly another 195,000 encountered; 68,000 released. That is with no charges, Madam Chair. Some will say that is under the DACA provisions. I will say that the President has no constitutional authority to create groups of people that are exempt from the law—DACA standing for Deferred Action for Criminal Aliens, in this case, Madam Chair. It is not prosecutorial discretion.

Deportable aliens released on the streets now—they are on the ICE docket for removal, but they are on the

streets—870,000; 36,007 criminal aliens released pending deportation—36,007. Of those are 88,000 convictions all together in a variety of crimes from murder to kidnapping, arson, sexual assault, extortion, robbery, burglary, assault, and many others. We know this: that for a long period of time, about 15 years on average, 76 percent of these criminals released do not show up for their final removal hearing. That means 27,000 of the 36,000 will abscond. The administration will say: Well, we had to release these criminals, these murderers and sexual assaulters and kidnapers, we had to release them because of a Supreme Court decision in about 2001 called the *Zadvydas v. Davis* decision.

In that the Supreme Court held that we couldn't retain an individual who was being deported when the home country wouldn't accept that individual. But that is only 3,000 of the 36,000 that would be under the *Zadvydas* decision. That is 8 percent. The other 92 percent could have, and should have, been removed from this country—193 homicide convictions of the 36,000. So when the gentlelady from Wisconsin laments 1,000 deported today, there is about every other day—more often than every other day—there is a murderer released on the streets under this policy that we are getting out of the Department of Homeland Security and ICE.

So my request is that \$5 million out of this administrative budget be directed to investigating the actions of the Department of Homeland Security and coming back with an analysis of what is going on and why that we have so many criminals released onto the streets of America: 193,000 murderers in 1 year alone; 426,000 who have committed sexual assault; 303 kidnapping convictions; 1,075 aggravated assaults, on down the line; 16,070 drunk or drug drivers released. And here is the kicker, Madam Chair: 303 were released to have been convicted of flight escape. They had broken out of jail, convicted for breaking out of jail, put them back in jail, and released them again to save them the trouble of having to break out of jail again.

These are the kind of things that I would ask the Department of Justice to take a look into because their mission statement says that they are to enforce the law, ensure public safety, control crime, and seek punishment for those who violate the laws. It is de facto amnesty that is going on in the Department of Homeland Security. It is very consistent with the Department of Justice's mission statement that they look into these actions.

Let's protect the American people from criminals being poured loose on the street by the tens of thousands. I don't lament so much 1,000 deportations a day as I do 193 murderers turned loose in a year. I would point

out to the gentlelady that if the deportations in this country exceeded the illegal entries, we wouldn't have this issue of illegal immigration in America.

I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I thank my colleague from Iowa for offering his amendment. I oppose it.

I would hope that we would usher in the day in which the House would take up comprehensive immigration reform. The President has acted, the Senate has acted. The people's House should vote on this matter so that we can come to some conclusion on these issues. We are not going to handle it in a piecemeal fashion, but I think that it is clear that there is enough concern in our country. The Chamber of Commerce says we need to do immigration reform. Every responsible organization has spoken out on this, all of our religious leaders have spoken out.

The United States Congress has the responsibility not to run from this issue but to stand up and vote and be counted. I hope one day the gentleman from Iowa will have an opportunity to vote on comprehensive immigration reform, and I hope that the people in my district will have a chance to see me vote on this. The House should not delay any longer.

This is an appropriations bill. We are not in the business of immigration reform on this bill. We are just trying to run the bare bones of the United States Government. I hope one day we will come back to this issue appropriately.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 48, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Chair, I rise tonight to offer an amendment to H.R. 4660, which would increase funding for Veterans Treatment Courts.

Our Nation's heroes are returning home from over a decade of war with the invisible wounds that come with multiple deployments and military service to our Nation. I am concerned that the effects of posttraumatic stress and TBI have led to a rise in substance abuse among our veterans, which in turn too often leads to criminal activity.

This has led to an increase in veterans being incarcerated by our justice system without addressing the mental health counseling they need after their service to our country.

My simple amendment would increase funds for Veterans Treatment Courts by \$1 million. Treatment courts are designed to address fundamental problems with our troubled veterans who have succumbed to substance abuse and have gotten in trouble with the law. These courts are designed to provide mental health counseling that focuses on rehabilitation and sobriety, and works with veterans to address the reasons for their criminal behavior. Veterans Treatment Courts provide our veterans with long-term solutions versus short-term punishment.

In January, I visited a Veterans Treatment Court in Ventura County. They are doing an amazing job with a team of professionals really truly saving one life at a time and providing a last chance for our veterans. Rather than arresting and jailing veterans for a few days or weeks, only to return them to the same type of life, the Ventura County collaborative court connects veterans to needed treatment and services, which may include mental health care, drug and alcohol treatment, vocational rehabilitation, or other life skills services and programs.

The process begins with a guilty plea and in-court meeting involving the veteran, his or her attorney, and a VA representative. I was very impressed with the care that the court officers and volunteers extended to veterans who found themselves before the court.

In Ventura County, Judge Toy White has been a real champion of the veterans court and has put together a very successful and effective program.

However, the Ventura County court is just one example of many of a Veterans Treatment Court. I believe we need to increase Federal resources to these critical programs nationwide, which is what my amendment seeks to accomplish.

It is our obligation to ensure our veterans receive the appropriate attention to their needs and that we do whatever we can to help them transition to an independent civilian life.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support my amendment to rehabilitate veterans who have gotten in trouble with the law and help them secure a strong future.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chairman, this is a good amendment. We accepted Mr. NUGENT's amendment earlier this evening, I think for \$2 million. For this we accept the amendment.

I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 2315

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,500,000)".

Page 74, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from West Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Before I get to my remarks, let me join in the thanks for Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH and for their staffs for all of the hours that they put in here tonight. I have sat here and listened to all of these amendments. I have appreciated the patience you all have exhibited through this.

Madam Chairman, many small businesses around the country are struggling to compete against unfair, low-priced foreign imports. They are intimidated by the cost of the legal challenge to push back. The intent and purpose of this amendment is simple. It transfers \$1.5 million to the International Trade Commission to provide legal and technical assistance to small businesses seeking a remedy.

Time and time again, small businesses are losing business against unfair, low-cost imports that flood this country. Something needs to be done. Small businesses need help.

They don't have access to the same legal resources as larger companies, and they can't afford the cost to file a claim against large state-supported industries like we find in China.

In West Virginia, we have one particular company that manufactures glass lead-free marbles. The company has fewer than 50 employees, and it has asked our office a very simple ques-

tion: When the average cost to file an antidumping claim is between \$1 million and \$2 million, how can a small manufacturer afford access to justice?

The Federal Government provides pro bono attorneys in criminal cases for those who can't afford representation. Why not offer something similar to our small businesses facing unfair dumping competition?

On two occasions last year, this particular company had the opportunity to bid on significant contracts that would have allowed it to hire back laid-off workers, plus add an additional 20 people. Both times, the company was knocked out by questionable Chinese competition.

A recent contract was offered for 300 million marbles per year. That contract would have guaranteed 300 days of production for hardworking Americans. Again, a Chinese company undercut them unfairly.

Unfortunately, we have seen this story before with Chinese currency manipulation and State subsidies that have crushed our tin, rebar, and hot rolled steel industries, among others. The ITC must have the tools to protect our small businesses, and this amendment is a step in the right direction.

Let's be clear, Madam Chairman. Do we want to keep talking about jobs? Or do we want to do something about it? Supporting this amendment will be an immense help for small employers in fighting back against unfair trade.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of this amendment. The gentleman from West Virginia is exactly right.

One of the frustrating things to keep in mind is that, in China, there are 24 Catholic bishops under house arrest, and nobody seems to care. There are big law firms in Washington that represent the Chinese Government, and nobody seems to care.

They have plundered Tibet, and yet American companies have to go up against American law firms that are paid for by Chinese filthy money, so I think it is a very good amendment. I would have made it double the amount, but we will try to add that when we get to conference. I accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment and its goals, and I agree with the spirit of the chairman on this matter.

I do want to note that we went through a series of amendments in

which we cut the general administrative accounts at the Department of Justice, and there will be a day of reckoning as there was with the Census Bureau. It has nothing to do with your amendment, but we do have to fund those accounts.

This is what happens when you have an allocation that is squeezed: the off-sets all start to sound pretty familiar. The last three or four amendments have all been related to cutting money from these general accounts. They are good amendments, and this is a good amendment, so I stand in support of it.

I just want the House to take note that, at some point, we will have to reconcile these figures and conference with the Senate in that we will have to be funding for these general accounts at DOJ.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM OF NEW MEXICO

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 45, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Thank you, Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH, for your leadership and tireless work on this bill.

Madam Chairman, my amendment would add \$2 million to the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act programs. This will partially restore these programs to presequestration levels and provide desperately needed funding for increasing the collaboration between our Nation's criminal justice and mental health systems.

My amendment is offset by the Department of Justice's general administration account. While I recognize the importance of funding the DOJ, this amendment amounts to less than two-tenths of 1 percent of DOJ's total administrative budget.

Even though this \$2 million investment is modest, it will have a tremendous impact on existing State and local law enforcement agencies all across the country to provide a broad range of mental health services, including mental health courts, mental health and substance abuse treatment, rehabilitation and community reentry services, and training for State and local law enforcement to help them identify and

improve responses to people with mental illnesses.

I want to particularly express my support for crisis intervention training for State and local police officers, which receives funding through the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act.

Officer encounters with mentally ill individuals during crises too often end in tragedy. Crisis intervention training can help prevent injuries to officers, alleviate harm to the person in crisis, promote the decriminalization of individuals with mental illness, and reduce the stigma associated with mental disorders.

We can all agree that the mental health and criminal justice systems in this country are failing the American people. Focused more on prosecution than on prevention and rehabilitation, jail is often used as a de facto holding area for the mentally ill.

The Department of Justice estimates that 64 percent of local jail inmates and 56 percent of State inmates have symptoms of severe mental illness.

Without treatment, rehabilitation, and community reentry services, these individuals are much more likely to spend their lives in and out of the prison system. In fact, 81 percent of mentally ill inmates in State prison and 79 percent of mentally ill inmates in local jails have had prior convictions.

Considering that it takes more money to keep a person in jail for a year than to send him or her to college, we cannot afford to do nothing.

I believe my amendment is in the spirit of this bill's goal of investing in prevention and rehabilitation in order to reduce recidivism and long-term incarceration costs.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and ensure that our criminal justice and mental health systems have the funds that they need to serve this country's most vulnerable people.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, we have already increased this, but I think it is meritorious, so I have no objection to the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COFFMAN

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,044,445)".

Page 26, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COFFMAN. Madam Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to the Justice appropriation that would plus-up the account for salaries and expenses by \$1 million for the United States Attorneys' Office and make an offsetting decrease in the amount appropriated for general administration.

The first reason I offer this amendment is to acknowledge that, over the past couple of years, the United States Attorneys' Office has devoted substantial resources in the successful prosecution of numerous individuals for the fraudulent use of the service-disabled, veteran-owned small business preference program.

My subcommittee worked diligently to bring attention to this type of fraud to the VA Office of the Inspector General and to get its commitment to pursue these cases.

A recent case involved a joint VA OIG-FBI investigation of a sham company set up as a passthrough to secure almost \$13.5 million in set-aside contracts that rightfully should have gone to a business owned by a qualified service-disabled veteran.

Victimizing veterans must not be tolerated. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I want to see these investigations and prosecutions continue.

Second, I anticipate a serious need for investigative and prosecutorial resources, going forward, nationwide, as a result of the burgeoning scandal involving the manipulation of appointment scheduling records at VA medical facilities.

My subcommittee has been investigating problems with appointment scheduling, consult delays, and timely health care for over 3 years. Lists with true wait times are being kept off the official books. According to these sources, as many as 40 veterans may have died while waiting for an appointment at the Phoenix medical center.

Upon this discovery, the full committee chairman, JEFF MILLER, immediately called for an in-depth criminal investigation by the VA OIG at all medical centers where such schedule manipulation, appointment delays, and preventable deaths may be occurring.

The VA has had knowledge of the intentional manipulation of appointment schedules and the falsification of official records since at least 2010, when an internal memorandum warned of the use of as many as 17 different scheduling schemes. Such manipulation occurs because scheduling delays negatively affect a performance metric used for bonuses at the VA.

In an interim report issued today, the VA OIG confirmed that the manip-

ulation of appointment schedules persist, and they substantiated that significant delays in access to care have negatively impacted the quality of care at the Phoenix medical center.

Further, they indicated that they opened investigations at 42 other VA medical facilities across the Nation. We do not yet know the full extent of the scandal, including how many veterans have died while waiting for an appointment with the VA.

As with every scandal, I am very concerned that additional crimes may be committed during the coverup. I have instructed my investigators to continue to pursue leads in furtherance of the committee's congressional oversight duties.

□ 2330

In this role, we have received credible allegations from numerous employees that multiple VA supervisors are instructing them to destroy evidence and are dictating what to say to OIG investigators. These allegations are being referred to the OIG for criminal investigations.

Given the scope of the problems and the seriousness of the allegations, I strongly urge passage of this amendment to provide additional money to the U.S. Attorneys' Offices who will be tasked with the difficult job of pursuing investigations and prosecuting the crimes related to this national scandal unfolding at the VA.

When our servicemembers are deprived of the quality health care that they have earned, we must demand justice from those who are found responsible.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. The gentleman moved back and forth from the original allegations to today's report from the inspector general, but left out some very important points, and I want to make sure the House is operating from full information.

The allegation that veterans died for a lack of care was not proven by today's report. In fact, the inspector general said today they have no ability to determine this issue.

The actual whistleblower who made this allegation in the first place was on FOX News on Sunday and said that he had no ability to tie the death to the delay.

I think we don't want to create a situation where we don't have veterans seeking care based on misinformation.

So what I want to do is just take a minute and make sure the House is aware that under every analysis, the care at the VA is good or excellent. This is from the actual veterans' care organizations and their testimony before the Congress, House, and Senate.

In fact, today, I had a young woman who was a paralyzed Vietnam war veteran. She walked into my office. She is involved in a spinal cord program at the Bronx VA that has got her up and walking. It is part of the ReWalk system.

She was first denied some benefits because her autoimmune deficiency was caused by agent orange, and that had been denied for many years. But under General Shinseki, they have allowed this. And now, because she had more than a 50 percent disability, a quality wheel chair and other access.

I want to make this point clear. One is that no one anywhere has found that some veteran died because of a lack of service. It has not been proven. It is an allegation. There is an investigation. And we should see the investigation to its conclusion. But the one thing we don't want to do is create a situation where veterans who need care don't pursue it. And especially in spinal cord and in terms of artificial limbs and traumatic brain injury, there is no better care that our veterans can get than at the VA.

So I just want to make this point that we are not dealing with the substance of the amendment, but that on the facts of this investigation the House would be well served to let us have an investigation and then let us react to what the facts are.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of the gentleman's amendment, because as the Congress has learned today in the VA inspector general's report, quoting directly from that report:

The inspector general's review at a growing number of VA medical facilities has confirmed that inappropriate scheduling practices are systemic throughout veterans health administration.

To date, our work has substantiated serious conditions at the Phoenix health care system.

And as my colleague said, they have initiated reviews at 42 others. They have already identified an additional 1,700 veterans waiting for primary care appointments but who were not on the electronic waiting list. Until that happens, the inspector general states, the wait time is not even started.

This report is deeply, deeply disturbing, and as it comes to those individuals, my good friend from Pennsylvania is correct, there are no conclusions yet drawn about whether or not anyone died as a result of being denied

access to the VA because the inspector general doesn't have enough evidence yet.

As he says in the report:

We are not reporting the results of our clinical reviews as to whether or not someone may have as a result of a delay died or been adversely affected while on a waiting list.

To quote the inspector general:

These assessments need to draw conclusions based on analysis of medical records, death certificates, and autopsy results. We have made requests to appropriate State agencies and issued subpoenas to obtain those records. They are gathering the information.

The gentleman's amendment is an attempt to add additional funding to the Department of Justice to pursue criminal investigations and pursue criminal charges. I sincerely hope that that does not come to pass, but we have a report right in front of us today that tells us it is headed in that direction.

The inspector general has said in this, again, preliminary report, they find that inappropriate scheduling practices are a systemic problem nationwide in the Veterans Affairs Department.

It is just appalling and unacceptable.

The VA staff at two VA medical facilities deleted consults without full consideration of the impact to patients. Multiple schedulers described to us a process they use that essentially overrides appointments to reduce the reported waiting times.

The inspector general found out that at the Phoenix health care center certain audit controls were not even enabled. This limited the ability of the Veterans Affairs Department and the inspector general to determine whether any malicious manipulation of the electronic medical records occurred.

Somebody turned off—or didn't even turn on—the audit controls that would allow a criminal investigation to determine whether or not there was a malicious intent.

This is outrageous. It is unacceptable. As chairman of the Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee I assure you that our subcommittee—I know Chairman MILLER and your subcommittee and the United States Congress—is going to devote every resource, every tool, every asset at our disposal to assure veterans are given immediate access to health care. They have earned it. They deserve it. They are going to get right in immediately, whether it is a VA hospital or another hospital.

We are going to fix this problem and make sure that those that are on the waiting list are taken care of immediately. And those who have been denied care—God forbid somebody died as a result of being denied care—that is going to result in criminal charges, which is what the gentleman's amendment is intended to do—to make sure the Attorney General has the resources

to follow the facts where they may lead.

We need to be careful to follow the facts. But I am quoting directly from the report. This is absolutely unacceptable. It is outrageous. This is the opportunity during this debate on this bill to add additional resources to the Attorney General's office so they can hire the investigators and attorneys that are necessary—when this inspector general's report is final—to pursue criminal charges, if they are merited.

So I strongly support the gentleman's amendment. This is another arrow in our quiver to do everything in our power to protect the health and well-being of the men and women of this country who have served us so well in defending our freedom and our prosperity.

I urge all of us to support the chairman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses for information sharing technology, including planning, development, deployment and departmental direction, \$25,842,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Attorney General may transfer up to \$35,400,000 to this account, from funds available to the Department of Justice for information technology, for enterprise-wide information technology initiatives: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority in the preceding proviso is in addition to any other transfer authority contained in this Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

On page 22, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert: "(reduced by \$2,500,000)".

On page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert: "(reduced by \$500,000)".

On page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert: "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

On page 48, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert: "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, let me thank our ranking member, Mr. FATTAH, for his tremendous leadership on the subcommittee. Also, I want to thank Chairman WOLF, first of all, for your years of service and for so much of your hard work on this bill and so many other issues. We have worked together for so many years. Your legacy in this body will continue for many, many years. You have made such a positive impact on the lives of so many people, not only in our own country,

but throughout the world. So thank you again for your service.

Let me thank also our staff on both sides of the aisle for their assistance, for their support, their very astute understanding of this bill, and for helping us put together this amendment, which is really very simple, and hopefully Members on both sides of the aisle can support.

It would increase funding for Second Chance Act programs by \$3 million, offset from the justice information sharing technology and the Bureau of Prison salaries account.

I have to once again thank the chair and Ranking Member FATTAH for funding the Second Chance Act to the President's request in this bill.

Now, more than ever, we need strong investments in bipartisan and proven effective programs like the Second Chance Act. Congressman DANNY DAVIS from Illinois has been such a leader on this issue and has fought for many, many years to make sure that Second Chance Act not only is authorized, but it is funded.

At a time when our Nation incarcerates its citizens at the highest rate in the world, the fact of the matter is this program needs very strong support.

In 2009, there were over 1.6 million inmates incarcerated in the United States. That is one in every 199 United States residents. If you include those housed in local jails, that number increases to 2.2 million.

We also need to acknowledge the disparate impact that mass incarceration has on communities of color. In 2011, 1 in 13 Black males ages 30 to 34 were in prison, along with 1 in 36 Hispanic males. That number is 1 in 90 for White males.

This is an issue that tears at our communities and our families each and every day.

Unfortunately, we know that more than half of the inmates who are released from prison who have served their time are re-incarcerated within 3 years.

So we need to lower these unacceptable recidivism rates by addressing the overwhelming obstacles faced by the reentry population. That is exactly what the Second Chance Act does, by providing grants to State and local governments as well as nonprofit organizations who are working to improve outcomes for people returning to communities from incarceration.

This also increases public safety and actually reduces the burden on taxpayers.

The Second Chance Act grants funds for comprehensive and coordinated services in employment, housing, education, substance abuse, mental health, and family counseling.

Since becoming the law, the Second Chance Act has authorized nearly 600 grants that have been awarded to local governments and nonprofit organiza-

tions in 49 States. For example, in my own district in the city of Oakland, a program known as Comprehensive Community Cross System Reentry Support brings together government and nonprofit partners to reengage youth in school after leaving a juvenile detention center.

Also, in my home district, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office has implemented Operation My Home Town, which provides pre- and post-release services to inmates at the Santa Rita Jail, the fifth-largest county jail in the Nation.

These are just a couple of examples of the hundreds of successful programs that have helped previously incarcerated individuals get back on their feet during a very difficult time. These programs work in our district.

This is a bipartisan bill, a bipartisan program. I know that there is support for this program and reforming our prison system on both sides of the aisle.

This is also a fiscal issue. It is one that has economic implications. It is also a humanitarian issue.

So I urge "yes" on this amendment.

Once again, I want to thank the chair, ranking member, and our staffs for your assistance and leadership.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2345

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I think it is a good amendment, and I accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. That being granted, I also think it is a great amendment and from a great Member. I thank the chairman for agreeing to it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEALS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the administration of pardon and clemency petitions and immigration-related activities, \$335,000,000, of which \$4,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the Executive Office for Immigration Review fees deposited in the "Immigration Examinations Fee" account: *Provided*, That, of the amount provided, not to exceed \$10,000,000 is for the Executive Office for Immigration Review for courthouse operations, language services and automated system requirements and shall remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 25, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chair, this is a very logical amendment that I hope will be accepted. What this does is it takes a program that the Department of Justice announced last week, that I have been encouraging the President and the Attorney General to engage in, and that is to expand the clemency department in the Department of Justice, so that individuals who are unjustly incarcerated can appropriately be recommended to the President for commutations and/or pardons.

This Congress passed the fairness in sentencing law a few years ago. The President signed it in 2010, and it corrected what we found were errors in the judgment of this Congress in the way it incarcerated people and the distinctions of cocaine and crack and found that it had a disparate impact and an illogical impact on African Americans, that cocaine and crack are basically the same drug.

For years, it was a 100 to 1 ratio in the quantity, working against what was considered a drug more likely to be used by African Americans than Caucasians. The fact is that each drug is equal in its pernicious effects on society, and that 100 to 1 ratio was wrong. We changed it to 18 to 1. It should be equal, but we changed it to 18 to 1.

Accordingly, for the first time probably in the history of this body and maybe any legislative body, sentences were reduced, which means that the public policy of the United States of America is now that those people are being unjustly incarcerated.

It was only passed in a prospective and not a retroactive fashion, which it should have been, because public policy shows they are being unjustly incarcerated.

The President has seen the need to have more commutations and pardons. It costs us \$30,000 a year to incarcerate an individual, and if people are in there on sentences that are void against public policy, they should be released. They should have a commutation when they have served their time according to the law that has existed in this country from 2010 to the present.

It would reunite them with their families, get them back into society, and save the public the cost of incarcerating them.

So what this particular amendment would do is take just \$2 million from the Bureau of Prisons, which has a

budget in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Their budget is \$7 billion, with a \$121 million increase.

It would take \$2 million from the Bureau of Prisons which is one three-hundred-fiftieth of what the Bureau of Prisons gets, to put that money, not into the Bureau that would have these people where they are incarcerated unjustly, but to give the money to the Department of Justice, where they can ascertain which individuals should appropriately be recommended for commutations and save money for society and reunite people with their loved ones and give them freedom—freedom, which is so important—and liberty.

Now, I know some of the amendments have been talked about and they said: well, we don't want to put any of the people in the Bureau of Prisons at risk.

I would submit to you that by taking \$2 million from the Bureau of Prisons and allowing more people to be recommended for commutations, there would be less people in prison, less need for those personnel, and less likely of having any problems.

Beyond that, the Bureau of Prisons would see to it that \$2 million didn't come from areas where prison guards would be endangered. They could take that from personnel. They could take it from management. They could take it from administration. They could take it even from the areas where the prisoners get their clothing or their food or whatever they get.

I assure you that \$2 million will not jeopardize a single member of the Bureau of Prisons, but it will give people freedom and liberty, at \$30,000 a year for the taxpayers.

So I would hope that we could approve this, give this newly invigorated Department of Justice office for commutations \$23 million to hire more attorneys to make sure they make the right decisions and they make plentiful decisions to give people liberty and save the taxpayers money.

I would ask for a positive vote, and thank you for the opportunity to present this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I oppose the amendment.

Chairman GOODLATTE, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who was here and just left, strongly opposes the amendment.

There is no authorization. There is no appropriation. Congress never approved it. It is almost like an executive order out of nowhere.

Again, so the chairman of the full committee, we try to work closer together. We have had a better relationship than we have had for a long time.

The authorizers oppose it, and so I strongly oppose it and ask for a "no" vote on the amendment.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I oppose the offset. I do not oppose the notion that we should have a more robust clemency approach in our country. I commend the administration for this, and I hope that we can find a way to provide more support.

I don't agree with the gentleman's math, that \$2 million cut from any number of other places in the Bureau of Prisons would be just fine. I know these accounts pretty well, and I have some concerns about that.

I do think that in a \$28 billion investment or spending in the Department of Justice in total, clearly, there are dollars that could be used so that innocent people in our country, or those who have deserved to have some relief, can appropriately apply for clemency.

I will be glad to work with the gentleman on this as we go forward.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, \$88,000,000, including not to exceed \$10,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Parole Commission as authorized, \$13,308,000.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

For expenses necessary for the legal activities of the Department of Justice, not otherwise provided for, including not to exceed \$20,000 for expenses of collecting evidence, to be expended under the direction of, and to be accounted for solely under the certificate of, the Attorney General; and rent of private or Government-owned space in the District of Columbia, \$893,000,000, of which not to exceed \$20,000,000 for litigation support contracts shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed \$9,000 shall be avail-

able to INTERPOL Washington for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for litigation activities of the Civil Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to "Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities" from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, such sums as may be necessary shall be available to the Civil Rights Division for salaries and expenses associated with the election monitoring program under section 8 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973f) and to reimburse the Office of Personnel Management for such salaries and expenses: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading for the election monitoring program, \$3,390,000 shall remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLEMING

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

On page 23, line 24 after "\$893,000,000" add "(reduce by \$866,000)".

On page 100, line 17, after "\$0", add "(increase by \$866,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Chairman, I want to thank my good friend, Chairman WOLF, for all the many years of service he has provided and the great work he is doing on this appropriation.

My amendment simply reduces the Department of Justice's general legal account by \$866,000, specifically targeting the Deputy Attorney General's office until the Attorney General enforces the Controlled Substances Act, as well as the Bank Secrecy Act.

My amendment does not reduce the enforcement funding available to DOJ, but rather decreases available funding for the salaries of individuals who are delineating ways to evade Federal law.

Madam Chairman, it is with growing alarm that we see this administration selectively executing and enforcing Federal law.

The CSA sets forth five classifications or schedules for controlled substances. Marijuana, along with heroin and LSD, are schedule I drugs without accepted medical purpose and which have a high potential for abuse. Smoking marijuana remains a Federal offense, and growers and distributors could and should be prosecuted.

Despite DOJ's responsibility to uphold the CSA as the law of the land, over the last few months, the Department of Justice has issued several

memos suggesting ways for States like Colorado and Washington to evade Federal law and Federal law enforcement and encouraging other States to follow suit with decriminalization and potentially legalization.

Any Google search will tell you that the first of eight Federal priorities outlined in Deputy Attorney General James Cole's August 2013 is being run roughshod in Colorado.

Kids are quickly gaining access to marijuana. News accounts from Colorado describe elementary children selling pot at school.

In February of this year, both the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury outlined ways for banks and other financial institutions to circumvent Federal law, in effect, giving tacit approval for financially facilitating the marijuana industry.

Madam Chairman, I don't have time to delve into all of the negative issues regarding health care and marijuana, but it is vitally important for my colleagues to remember that the scientific facts and recent studies all point to the fact that marijuana is highly addictive, is closely linked to altered brain development; schizophrenia; mental illness; heart complications; lower IQ; and impairs attention, judgment, and memory functions.

I would like to close by reading the following statement from the Drug Enforcement Agency's DEA May 2014 booklet on the ugly truth about marijuana:

Legalization of marijuana, no matter how it begins, will come at the expense of our children and public safety. It will create dependency and treatment issues and opens the door to use of other drugs, impaired health, delinquent behavior, and drugged drivers.

I think the DEA got it right. It is time for the rest of the Justice Department to do their job and enforce current U.S. law that recognizes marijuana's devastating impact on our children and society.

I am hopeful that my amendment will encourage DOJ to take steps necessary to correct any misunderstanding regarding the Federal enforcement of the CSA and the BSA. I now urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

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

□ 0000

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I support the gentleman's amendment.

I was just reading the dangers and consequences of marijuana abuse. What is happening to our country? I saw a report today in *The Hill* newspaper, "Buyers' remorse on marijuana?" The growers in Mexico are not growing

marijuana now. They are going into the poppy business because they are now doing it in Colorado.

I cast the deciding vote against smoking on airplanes, and now we are encouraging or allowing people to use marijuana?

I think the gentleman is right. And I have been disappointed in the Justice Department because, you know, we should follow the law. The law is the law, and I think the gentleman is right. You are seeing the skirting of the law. There is much more. We are going to have a big debate tomorrow, I guess, on this whole issue a little bit differently than this.

But I think the gentleman is right. The law is the law, and the Justice Department should be seeking justice and enforce the law. If they don't like the law, they should come up here to Congress and change the law. Reasonable people can debate it and have differences. But I think the gentleman makes a very powerful point, and I strongly support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chair, as we near the midnight hour, as Wilson Pickett would say: In the midnight hour, we drift off to "Reefer Madness" type of logic.

We saw "Reefer Madness" in the thirties, and it has come back to Congress here 80-some-odd years later.

The fact is we are not talking about marijuana for children. Children shouldn't be doing marijuana, nor should they be smoking tobacco, nor should they be drinking beer or alcohol. We are talking about adults, and we are talking about: Should adults who are behaving according to the laws in the States in which they live—and the States passed certain laws in Colorado and Washington concerning legalization, and in 20-some-odd States and the District of Columbia passed medical marijuana laws. Should those people who abide by the laws of the State, the laws that are closest to them, that some on the other side of the aisle would regularly say we should defer to the States and we should let the States set the policies for everybody—we do that on a lot of things, but we sometimes don't do it on these particular issues.

The fact that people are being incarcerated in great numbers and losing their liberty and having a scarlet "M" put on their chest that denies them public housing on occasions, denies them scholarships, and denies them opportunities to work is wrong. Even if you take the arguments that the gentleman on the other side of the aisle makes, if you accept them, it still doesn't fit the punishment, the lifetime

scarlet letter that you put on an individual.

The Department of Justice is correct to respect the laws of the States and to put an understanding that heroin and crack and cocaine and meth and prescription drugs are drugs that really cause the evils we have and the problems we have in society, that make people commit crimes to feed their habits. Marijuana does not make people commit crime. It makes them overeat. It doesn't make them commit crimes. And that is why we need to prioritize the resources we have in this country toward those drugs that really cause problems to others.

I commend the Department of Justice for their discretion. They haven't gone as far as they should. And the laboratories of democracy, the States, as Louis Brandeis called them, are doing a great service to this country, in Colorado and Washington, to see how it works. They are bringing in millions and millions of dollars. Violent crime has gone down in Colorado. There have not been the problems alleged to have occurred in other areas. And we can wait and see how those States' experiments go. And the Department of Justice is allowing the experiment to go on for other States' benefits.

Mr. FLEMING. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COHEN. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. FLEMING. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I would say to you that science tells us that the more drugs—whether it is marijuana or heroin or whatever—are out there in society, on the shelves in homes, the more likely children will get involved in them. And as they do, in their young, developing brains, they are five times more likely at risk of having an addiction, and that is what gets them in prison. And trust me, my friend, I will tell the gentleman that whether it is marijuana or heroin or methamphetamines, as a drug addict once told me: All addicting substances are gateways to other addicting substances.

Mr. COHEN. So should we make alcohol illegal again, that exercise in prohibition that was brought by this Congress, that was proved to be such a failure, that it was repealed later on? Should we make alcohol illegal because kids might get it? I submit to you, if you want to do that, you be the leader.

Mr. FLEMING. If the gentleman will again yield, alcohol has been a part of our society and culture for thousands of years as part of our religious practices. It was impractical to have a prohibition.

Mr. COHEN. Bourbon is part of our religious practices?

Mr. FLEMING. Alcohol is part of our religious practices.

Mr. COHEN. Wine. So make wine legal. How about bourbon and scotch and vodka and gin?

Mr. FLEMING. So it has been culturally accepted for many generations; whereas, marijuana hasn't.

So if alcohol is a problem, why do we want to add another problem in the form of marijuana?

Mr. COHEN. It has been culturally accepted not in your area, but in some cultures it has.

And in the African American community, you are eight times more likely to be arrested and sent to jail because of the color of your skin. It has a disparate impact on minorities. It always has.

If you go back to the genesis of the laws in the thirties, it was made illegal because of discrimination against Hispanics. And in the seventies, Nixon spoke out, as did Haldeman and Ehrlichman, and they said this is something we can't talk about, African Americans in the inner city, but we can take their drug of choice and make it illegal.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word and hopefully to offer the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I resemble some of the remarks that have been made as of late on the floor. I want to say a couple of things.

One is that a lot of us like to hold onto things, but, you know, life moves on and the country moves on. There is a point in time in which the country made a decision around alcohol and put it in a different category than other things, and, seemingly, the public is making a decision about marijuana.

Now, it may have something to do with the last few Presidents we have had, who all agreed that they smoked marijuana, or it may have something to do with medical marijuana and the notion that it can help in terms of dealing with the pain that people feel when they have chronic pain and diseases. Whatever is going on, the truth of the matter is that the Congress, we are probably the last to hear of it. But the Nation has kind of moved on, and you see this in the State actions.

You see it in my hometown, where the district attorney got elected 4 years ago and decided he was not prosecuting any more marijuana cases, where the people had just possession for use. And now, 4 years later, the city council has finally decided, well, maybe the police shouldn't lock people up since the DA is not going to prosecute them.

So sometimes those of us who are in political office, we get dragged along a little slower. But it doesn't matter what we decide on this issue. There are decisions being made, and the country

is moving in a different direction, very similar to the decision that was made on the prohibition in terms of alcohol.

So the point here is that we will vote however we may vote. It will not be the deciding issue in this regard, because local communities are deciding. Just like in Kentucky now, you have MITCH MCCONNELL and others talking about what we are going to do about hemp. There is going to be some movement here on some of these issues, and those of us who have got a few gray hairs, we might just have to hold on and know that the country has made changes on some of these social issues.

But there is still the reality that when we made the change on alcohol, we went from shooting up and down the street during prohibition over it, with Eliot Ness and crew, to a point where we have accepted it as part of, as you said, our culture. Now, it is still not healthy; it is still addictive; it is still a drug; but it is not criminalized in our Nation. And that might be where America is headed on the question of marijuana. And some of us, at times, have to accept change for what it is. It is a change because people have grown to a different point of view or, as the President has said, you evolve on some of these issues.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) having assumed the chair, Ms. FOXX, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CAPITO (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of weather complications that inhibited her travel.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons.

Ms. ESTY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through May 30.

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through May 30 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of district business.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. WOLF:

H.R. 724. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles.

H.R. 1036. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office".

H.R. 1228. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building".

H.R. 1451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building".

H.R. 2391. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the "Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office".

H.R. 2939. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

H.R. 3060. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building".

H.R. 4032. An act to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4488. An act to make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on May 23, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 862. To authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 11 minutes

a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until today, Thursday, May 29, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5790. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contracting Officer's Representative (DFARS Case 2013-D023) (RIN: 0750-AI21) received April 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5791. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Restrictions on Sales of Assets of a Covered Financial Company by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (RIN: 3064-AE05) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5792. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Technical Amendments (RIN: 3133-AE33) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5793. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Certification of Commercial Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC), Water Heating (WH), and Refrigeration (CRE) Equipment [Docket No.: EERE-2013-BT-NOC-0023] (RIN: 1904-AD12) received May 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5794. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Devices Ophthalmic Devices; Classification of the Eyelid Weight [Docket No.: FDA-2013-N-0069] received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5795. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that an Executive Order terminating the prohibitions in section 1 of Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as amended has been issued, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 113-117); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

5796. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List [Docket No.: 140324264-4264-01] (RIN: 0694-AG12) received May 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5797. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List [Docket No.: 120504049-1049-01] (RIN: 0694-AF69) received May 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5798. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the

Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Ukraine-Related Sanctions Regulations received May 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5799. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Political Activity State or Local Officers or Employees; Federal Employees Residing in Designated Localities; Federal Employees (RIN: 3206-AM87) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5800. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Special Wage Schedules for Nonappropriated Fund Automotive Mechanics (RIN: 3206-AM63) May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5801. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions in the Eastern Pacific Ocean [Docket No.: 130717632-4285-02] (RIN: 0648-BD52) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5802. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2014 and 2015 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish; Correction [Docket No.: 130925836-4320-03] (RIN: 0648-XC895) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5803. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, New Orleans, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0139] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5804. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Change in Submission Requirements for State Mitigation Plans [Docket ID: FEMA-2012-0001] (RIN: 1660-AA77) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5805. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway (NJICW), Barnegat Bay, Seaside Heights, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0926] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5806. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Piscataqua River Channel Obstruction near Memorial Bridge, Piscataqua River, Portsmouth, NH [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0159] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5807. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmit-

ting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Low Country Splash, Wando River, Cooper River, and Charleston Harbor; Charleston, SC [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0110] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received May 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5808. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Areas; Bars along the Coasts of Oregon and Washington [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0216] (RIN: 1625-AC01) received May 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5809. A letter from the Chairman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Demurrage Liability [Docket No.: EP 707] received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5810. A letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Loan Guaranty: Ability-to-Repay Standards and Qualified Mortgage Definition under the Truth in Lending Act (RIN: 2900-AO65) received May 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. FARR, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 4746. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program of research regarding the risks posed by the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, chemical fragrances, and other components of feminine hygiene products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 4747. A bill to prohibit the use of global health activities to collect foreign intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H.R. 4748. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to eliminate tariffs on technological goods providing educational value for children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Georgia):

H.R. 4749. A bill to modify the definition of "antique firearm"; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 4750. A bill to clarify the treatment of health care provider standards of care under Federal health care provisions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary,

for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 4751. A bill to make technical corrections to Public Law 110-229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 4752. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to limit the authority of the Federal Communications Commission over providers of broadband Internet access service; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. McDERMOTT (for himself, Mr.

WAXMAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 4753. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for clean energy and to repeal fossil fuel subsidies for big oil companies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 4754. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by requiring a Federal emission permit for the sale or use of covered substances and to return funds to the American people; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAYSON (for himself, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H. Res. 600. A resolution urging the Government of Afghanistan, following a successful first round of the presidential election on April 5, 2014, to pursue a transparent, credible, and inclusive run-off presidential election on June 14, 2014, while ensuring the safety of voters, candidates, poll workers, and election observers; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. BENTIVOLIO):

H. Res. 601. A resolution condemning the death sentence against Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, a Sudanese Christian woman accused of apostasy; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H. Res. 602. A resolution recognizing the 96th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, which reads: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 4747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers."

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 4748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . ."

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 4749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia:

H.R. 4750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers" when the need exists to clarify existing law

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 4751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 4752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have the Power.. "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 4753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 4754.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 139: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 270: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 274: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 292: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 318: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 411: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 460: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 508: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 517: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 594: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 855: Mr. POLIS, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 920: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 997: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 1078: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 1179: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1249: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1250: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 1317: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1339: Mr. WELCH and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 1354: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Mr. DAINES.

H.R. 1416: Mr. HANNA, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. FORBES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1449: Mr. KINLEY.

H.R. 1507: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 1523: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 1527: Mr. ENYART, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 1563: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1579: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1652: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. HOYER.

H.R. 1701: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 1733: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1750: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 1761: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

H.R. 1771: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1801: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 1812: Mr. COOPER and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 1827: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1830: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 1833: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1851: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1852: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1915: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1918: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 1920: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 2001: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 2028: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 2283: Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mrs. FORTENBERRY, and Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 2313: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 2315: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 2330: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 2415: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 2453: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 2476: Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 2499: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 2591: Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 2662: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2673: Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 2692: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 2807: Mr. NUNES, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 2827: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 2856: Mr. HIMES, Mr. POLIS, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 2897: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 2918: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2957: Mr. VISLOSKEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa-

H.R. 2959: Mr. ROTHFUS and Mr. HURT.
 H.R. 2994: Mrs. BLACK and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 3116: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mrs. BEATTY.
 H.R. 3153: Ms. BASS and Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 3335: Mr. COFFMAN.
 H.R. 3367: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. ROTHFUS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. BARR.
 H.R. 3374: Mr. ROSS.
 H.R. 3382: Mr. HECK of Washington.
 H.R. 3390: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 3413: Mr. PERRY.
 H.R. 3462: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
 H.R. 3471: Mr. SARBANES.
 H.R. 3489: Mr. TERRY.
 H.R. 3494: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 3544: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. NUNES.
 H.R. 3560: Mr. SABLAN and Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 3707: Mr. RUNYAN.
 H.R. 3717: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
 H.R. 3722: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
 H.R. 3723: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. FOSTER, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
 H.R. 3742: Ms. SPEIER and Ms. SHEA-POR-TER.
 H.R. 3836: Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 3854: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
 H.R. 3858: Mr. ROONEY and Mr. TIBERI.
 H.R. 3877: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. RUIZ.
 H.R. 3930: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. BOUSTANY.
 H.R. 3954: Mr. RUSH.
 H.R. 3969: Mr. DEFazio and Mr. GUTHRIE.
 H.R. 3991: Mr. MCKINLEY.
 H.R. 3992: Mr. ISSA, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. MCKEON.
 H.R. 4012: Mr. TIPTON.
 H.R. 4028: Mr. JEFFRIES.
 H.R. 4056: Mr. ROSS.
 H.R. 4060: Mr. FORBES, Mrs. ROBY, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
 H.R. 4079: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. COBLE.
 H.R. 4083: Mr. HALL.
 H.R. 4106: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. ROKITA.
 H.R. 4135: Mr. CULBERSON.
 H.R. 4136: Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 4166: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. COLE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DENT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. HANNA.
 H.R. 4190: Ms. BASS and Mr. WHITFIELD.
 H.R. 4219: Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 4252: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 4265: Mr. MCKEON and Mr. ROHR-ABACHER.
 H.R. 4286: Mr. ADERHOLT.
 H.R. 4299: Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 4321: Mr. WOMACK.
 H.R. 4351: Mr. MAFFEL, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. MICHAUD.
 H.R. 4363: Ms. BASS.
 H.R. 4399: Mr. O'ROURKE and Ms. MCCOL-LUM.
 H.R. 4407: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 4427: Mrs. BEATTY.
 H.R. 4437: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
 H.R. 4446: Mr. PALAZZO.
 H.R. 4449: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. POE of Texas.
 H.R. 4450: Mr. DAINES, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
 H.R. 4509: Mr. RANGEL.
 H.R. 4521: Mr. WOMACK.
 H.R. 4525: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SPEIER, and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 4531: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. ROTHFUS.
 H.R. 4546: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 4553: Mr. ROTHFUS.
 H.R. 4567: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 4574: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SCOTT of Vir-ginia, Ms. ESTY, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. MOORE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. MENG, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 4577: Mr. COTTON, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H.R. 4578: Mr. BERA of California.
 H.R. 4580: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 4587: Mr. DUFFY.
 H.R. 4612: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
 H.R. 4618: Ms. FUDGE.
 H.R. 4619: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
 H.R. 4625: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. MULLIN.
 H.R. 4630: Mr. HIMES, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GRI-JALVA, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. VALADAO.
 H.R. 4631: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
 H.R. 4636: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
 H.R. 4653: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H.R. 4663: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 4664: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
 H.R. 4683: Ms. NORTON and Mr. ENYART.
 H.R. 4691: Mr. REED.
 H.R. 4699: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
 H.R. 4701: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. POSEY.
 H.R. 4707: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 4716: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. CRAMER.
 H.R. 4717: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MESSER, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. SMITH of Wash-ington.
 H.R. 4718: Mr. PRICE of Georgia and Mr. KLINE.
 H.R. 4719: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NUNES, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. SCHOCK.
 H.R. 4743: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of Cali-fornia and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.J. Res. 105: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. VELA.
 H. Con. Res. 98: Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. LONG, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. BYRNE.
 H. Res. 109: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. POCAN.
 H. Res. 190: Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H. Res. 231: Ms. ESTY and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H. Res. 417: Mr. HARRIS.
 H. Res. 522: Mr. DOYLE.
 H. Res. 525: Mr. KEATING, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H. Res. 538: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H. Res. 570: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H. Res. 587: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H. Res. 588: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUNTER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mrs. WAG-NER, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H. Res. 593: Mr. MORAN, and Mrs. NAPOLI-TANO.
 H. Res. 599: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. STOCK-MAN, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. WALZ.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, pro-posed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4660
 OFFERED BY: MR. WESTMORELAND
 AMENDMENT No. 4: Page 74, line 13 after the each dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$150,000,000)”.
 Page 100, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$150,000,000)”.
 H.R. 4660
 OFFERED BY: MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA
 AMENDMENT No. 5: Page 35, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$15,000,000)”.
 Page 35, line 22, after the dollar amount in-sert “(reduced by \$15,000,000)”.
 Page 74, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$15,000,000)”.
 H.R. 4660
 OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE
 AMENDMENT No. 6: Page 12, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$400,000)”.
 Page 72, line 9, after the dollar amount, in-sert “(increased by \$400,000)”.
 H.R. 4660
 OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE
 AMENDMENT No. 7: Page 12, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.
 Page 72, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.
 H.R. 4660
 OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE
 AMENDMENT No. 8: Page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000)”.
 Page 38, line 2, after the dollar amount, in-sert “(increased by \$500,000)”.
 H.R. 4660
 OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE
 AMENDMENT No. 9: Page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.
 Page 65, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.
 H.R. 4660
 OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE
 AMENDMENT No. 10: At the end of bill, be-fore the short title, add the following new section:
 SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act for the “DEPARTMENT OF JUS-TICE—ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEALS” may be used in contravention of sections 509 and 510 of title 28, United States Code.
 H.R. 4660
 OFFERED BY: MR. HOLT
 AMENDMENT No. 11: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the purchase or operation of an unmanned aircraft system (as such term is defined in section 331(9) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012) by any State or local law enforcement agency.
 H.R. 4660
 OFFERED BY: MR. HOLT
 AMENDMENT No. 12: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Justice to purchase or operate an un-manned aircraft system (as such term is de-fined in section 331(9) of the FAA Moderniza-tion and Reform Act of 2012).
 H.R. 4660
 OFFERED BY: MR. MORAN
 AMENDMENT No. 13: Strike sections 528 and 529.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT NO. 14: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____ (a) Each amount made available by this Act, except those amounts made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

(b) The reduction in subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the following accounts of the Department of Justice:

- (1) "Fees and Expenses of Witnesses".
- (2) "Public Safety Officer Benefits".
- (3) "United States Trustee System Fund".

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT NO. 15: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for operation, renovation, or construction at Thomson Correctional Facility in Illinois.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. COLLINS OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT NO. 16: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide assistance to a State, or political subdivision of a State, that has in effect any law, policy, or procedure in contravention of immigration laws (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))).

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. JOLLY

AMENDMENT NO. 17: Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$8,000,000)".

Page 13, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$8,000,000)".

Page 14, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$8,000,000)".

Page 14, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$8,000,000)".

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 18: Page 44, line 24, strike "\$3,000,000" and insert "\$6,000,000".

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 19: Page 54, line 8, after the word "rape" add "or incest".

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 20: SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons to solicit, offer, or award a contract in which the federal government is required to provide a minimum number of inmates to a private correctional institution or a private detention center.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 21: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. ____ No of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MRS. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 22: Page 3, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. CONNOLLY

AMENDMENT NO. 23: Page 35, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,120,000)".

Page 35, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,120,000)".

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 48, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. SOUTHERLAND

AMENDMENT NO. 24: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to develop, approve, or implement a new limited access privilege program (as that term is used in section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1853a)) that are not already developed, approved, or implemented for any fishery under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England, or Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. ROHRBACHER

AMENDMENT NO. 25: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin, to prevent such States from implementing their own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GALLEG0

AMENDMENT NO. 26: Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$4,500,000)".

Page 62, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,500,000)".

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF EMMA L. JOHNSTON, CO-FOUNDER OF PEACE, INC. AND HER TIRELESS COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF OTHERS

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Emma L. Johnston.

Ms. Johnston is a native of Syracuse, New York, and one of the founders of PEACE, Inc. (People's Equal Action and Community Effort, Inc.). On Wednesday, May 28, 2014, the Southside Family Resource Center in Syracuse, New York, will be renamed in honor of Emma Johnston.

As a single mother, Ms. Johnston was able to lift herself out of poverty with the help of her community. The kindness and ready aid of her neighbors inspired Ms. Johnston to become one of the founding members of PEACE, Inc. in 1968, when it consisted of twenty employees and three programs.

Today, PEACE, Inc. boasts fifteen programs, 400 employees, and fifty sites across New York. Its mission—helping disadvantaged individuals attain self-sufficiency—is visibly accomplished every day in Syracuse. This progress would not be possible without Ms. Johnston's pioneering work.

Thanks to Ms. Johnston's tireless years of service, PEACE now includes services ranging from Big Brother, Big Sister to Energy and Housing Services, and from Men in the Lives of Kids to tax assistance. As PEACE has grown and developed, so has the New York community—a feat for which we truly cannot thank Ms. Johnston enough.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Emma L. Johnston for her tireless work with PEACE, Inc., and to wish her the best of health and luck in all her future endeavors.

HONORING DAVE HOBSON

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Ohio National Guard and U.S. Air Force Space Command for establishing the new Hobson Cyberspace Communications Complex at the Springfield, Ohio, Air National Guard Base in honor of former U.S. Representative David Hobson.

The new facility—which houses the Ohio Air National Guard's 251st Cyber Engineering In-

stallation Group and 269th Combat Communications Squadron—consists of nearly 32,000 square feet of administration and training space, with an additional 15,700 square feet of supply and warehouse space for 38 full-time personnel and 174 traditional guard members.

The complex is critical to Air Force Space Command's federal mission and the Ohio National Guard's homeland security and peacetime missions supporting local, state and national response operations such as cyberspace and communications infrastructure activities, civil disturbances or natural disaster response. The advanced technological features of the complex will significantly increase the units' capacity to support critical missions for command and control of cyberspace defense missions.

As an Ohio Air National Guard veteran, former Representative Hobson learned firsthand just how much service members and their families sacrifice to serve their country. During his 18 years in Congress, Representative Hobson successfully obtained federal funding for military projects that have improved the lives and working conditions for National Guard members at home and overseas.

Mr. Speaker, it was my honor and privilege to serve alongside of Representative Hobson in the House and on the Appropriations Committee during his service. I believe that it is fitting and proper that this facility be named in his honor.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF MAYOR PRADEL OF NAPERVILLE

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant from the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois, Mayor A. George Pradel of Naperville. Mayor Pradel was recently presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber presents this award annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the Naperville community through their business, service, and philanthropy.

As a resident of the city of Naperville since 1939, Mayor Pradel has a long legacy of service to the city and our country. He enlisted in the Marines in 1956 and served until 1959, at which point he joined the Naperville police force until 1995. Shortly after retiring from the Police Department, Mr. Pradel was elected mayor and has since become the longest serving mayor in Naperville history.

During his tenure as mayor, Mr. Pradel has been an exemplary leader and public servant.

Nicki Anderson, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce said it best when she reflected, in presenting him with the Lifetime Achievement Award, "Mayor Pradel's love and energy for our community has never been in short supply. His vision and passion has changed our community for the better and his legacy of service before self could be our city motto. We can never fully honor all of his contributions to our community and Chamber, but we will celebrate, toast and recognize him at this community event."

Mayor Pradel has represented his community well and though his term ends in 2015, he will undoubtedly play an important role in a number of development and community projects which will continue to shape Naperville for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mayor Pradel for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, honoring his many years of selfless service, and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

99TH ANNIVERSARY OF
AZERBAIJAN'S REPUBLIC DAY

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Azerbaijan and all Azerbaijani-Americans on the 96th anniversary of Azerbaijan's Republic Day. On this day, May 28, in 1918, Azerbaijan received its independence and formally created the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

Over the past 23 years, Azerbaijan has grown to become a close and trusted ally of the United States in a geopolitically challenging region of the world. Situated along the Caspian Sea, with Iran on its southern border and Russia on its northern border, Azerbaijan was the first country in the region to open Caspian Sea energy resources to U.S. and European countries, playing a vital role in European energy security. This role is even more important today with tensions rising with Russia. A steadfast friend and supporter of Israel, Azerbaijan plays a vital role in Israeli energy security, providing almost 40 percent of all crude oil supplies to our closest ally in the Middle East.

Azerbaijan is a secular country, with a predominantly Muslim population, that guarantees religious freedom for all. Azerbaijan has been home for centuries to vibrant Jewish and Christian communities, acting as a role model for religious coexistence and freedom.

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Azerbaijan has been a partner in the United States' efforts towards freedom around the globe. Azerbaijan was the first Muslim country to send

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

troops to Iraq and has played an active role in NATO's efforts in Afghanistan, committing troops, resources and allowing use of their airspace and airports.

Although the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was first established in 1918, this initial independence was short-lived as the Soviet Union led a bitter and bloody takeover of the country in 1920. In 1991, as the Soviet Union was crumbling, Azerbaijan reestablished its independence and looked Westward to the United States for friendship and guidance.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Azerbaijan on this day. I look forward to working with Azerbaijan as our nations continue to work together and build a lasting and fruitful bond.

HONORING NANCY CANAVAN
HESLOP

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor my good friend, Nancy Canavan Heslop. Her work chronicling the amazing story of her father, Naval and Marine corps aviator Colonel Desmond ("Des") E. Canavan, and his work with test piloting the remarkable military cargo aircraft, the Budd RB-1 Conestoga has been nothing short of incredible. One of her articles was recently published in American Aviation Historical Society Journal, under the title "A Story of the Budd RB-1 Conestoga."

Nancy's father, Colonel Canavan was a test pilot for many years, and also showed unparalleled courage while serving his country as a pilot during the Second World War. He was the first Marine Corps pilot to fly both America's first helicopter (Sikorsky HNS-1, BuNo 39034, March 30, 1944, and solo in BuNo 39046, November 2, 1944) and jet (Bell YP-59-A, BuNo 10002, July 18, 1944). He was stationed at the testing facility at NAS Patuxent River, MD, where he served as the test pilot for the Budd RB-1.

Mrs. Heslop's article explains how the Budd RB-1 was plagued with many problems, and the many crashes it suffered during testing due to mechanical failures. Colonel Canavan himself was injured in one such crash. As a consequence of its poor testing, the Budd RB-1 never saw service in a combat theater during the war. However, its design led to numerous innovations that were later used in many other cargo planes.

Out of the 17 Budd RB-1s that were delivered to the Navy, only one has survived. It currently is at Pima Air & Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona, awaiting restoration.

My friend Nancy Canavan Heslop is an amazing woman, and has worked tirelessly on writing the story of the life of her father. She has written Letters From Des: The Life of a Marine Corps Naval Aviator and Test Pilot and is currently writing Letters From Des: Korea. Nancy is a truly outstanding woman; aside from her recent success she has also been published in multiple local journals. In closing, I am thrilled to congratulate my friend on her great accomplishments.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,490,453,119,908.90. We've added \$6,863,576,070,995.90 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING RODGER C. COLLINS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in grateful recognition of the hard work and community service of Rodger C. Collins. Mr. Collins has served the greater good of my constituency, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, by advocating for the economic success of both families and businesses. He is a founding member of the Economic Self-Sufficiency (ES) Program. This program assists low-income families so that they may have the opportunity to leave or avoid the welfare system. ES focuses on education as the primary way to prepare low-income families to be competitive in today's workforce and has successfully graduated over 263 families with an average income of \$39,633.

Mr. Collins served the community through the Bucks County Opportunity Council, the Economic Development Advisory Board of Bucks County, the Intelligencer Editorial Board, and as Secretary Treasurer of the Bucks County Workforce Investment Board (WIB). Rodger also participated on the Community Action Association of Pennsylvania Board as well as the Bucks County Homeless Continuum of Care, which both works to diminish poverty and homelessness in my home district of Bucks County.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of working with Rodger Collins as he served our neighbors of Bucks County. Throughout his years of community service on many different levels, Mr. Collins has set an outstanding example for others to follow. Today, I am honored to recognize his hard work, dedication, and devotion to bettering the community of Pennsylvania's Eighth District.

HONORING RETIRED LIEUTENANT
COLONEL JEROME E. KELLY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our Nation's wounded warriors,

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Jerome E. Kelly, of Alexandria, Virginia. A 1965 graduate of West Point Military Academy, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor and a Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam, where he suffered a severe head wound in combat.

After a long recovery during which he was nursed back to health by his loving wife Lee, he attended Washington & Lee School of Law and was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar. After graduation Lieutenant Colonel Kelly completed his active duty career in the United States Army as a member of the Judge Advocate General Corp, with tours of duty in Virginia and with U.S. forces in Seoul, South Korea. After retiring from active duty in 1986, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly continued his service to the Nation as a civilian employee to the Army at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Kelly has recently taken ill and I would like to wish him a speedy recovery. I would also like to extend my appreciation to his wife Lee for her sacrifices throughout the years. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Lieutenant Colonel Jerome E. Kelly for his many years of dedicated service to our Nation.

HONORING DR. LUIS PROENZA

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the career of Dr. Luis Proenza, who dedicated his extraordinary abilities to education and public service. Upon his retirement as the President of The University of Akron, his tremendous leadership as President will be greatly missed.

Dr. Proenza's career in education started long before his time as University President in Akron, Ohio. After graduating with a Ph.D. in 1971 from the University of Minnesota, Dr. Proenza joined the faculty of the University of Georgia as a professor, where he gained prominence as a researcher in retinal neurophysiology, eventually being named to the National Research Council-National Academy of Science's Committee on Vision. In 2001, President George W. Bush named Dr. Proenza to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, our nation's highest-level policy advisory group for science and technology.

During his record setting 15-year tenure as a University President in Ohio, Dr. Proenza's creative leadership helped develop The University of Akron into a powerful economic engine for regional development. Acting as a catalyst for collaborative community initiatives and partnerships throughout his tenure, Dr. Proenza helped further solidify The University of Akron as Northeast Ohio's preeminent public university.

Under his leadership The University of Akron's research portfolio has doubled in size, a fifty-block area surrounding the campus has been revitalized, and the Austen Bio-Innovation Institute has been established. Also under his direction a partnership with three local hospitals and a medical school has emerged to

help establish Akron as one of the country's leading centers for biomaterials and biomedicine.

I would like to thank Dr. Proenza for the fifteen years he has dedicated to our community and the University of Akron. I would also like to thank him for his spirit of progress, education, and collaboration that has since fostered a movement among other Ohioans.

Dr. Proenza will become President Emeritus of the University, continue his current tenured professorship in biology, and will be named University Professor in the Office of Academic Affairs following a sabbatical leave.

Hopefully he and his wife Theresa Butler can spend a lot more time on their 44-foot sailboat *Apogee*, which they designed together and plan to sail on Lake Erie.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of the American Society of Clinical Oncology on the occasion of its anniversary this May, marking 50 years of progress in cancer treatment and ensuring access to high quality cancer care in the United States. When ASCO was founded in 1964, cancer was largely untreatable and there were only a handful of therapies available, most of which were ineffective and difficult for patients to tolerate. Less than one-half of patients with cancer lived five years after diagnosis. But today, more than two-thirds of patients with cancer are alive five years following their diagnosis, and more than 170 drugs are available for treatment.

While ASCO has many achievements to celebrate this year, we cannot afford to rest in the fight against cancer. Workforce shortages, payment cuts and consolidation of oncology practices are causing potential access issues for cancer care. With more than 1.6 million Americans, including nearly 80,000 Pennsylvanians, diagnosed with cancer each year, Congress must ensure that organizations like ASCO have access to the resources they need to continue this groundbreaking research. In Pennsylvania alone, the National Institutes for Health (NIH) funds more than 3,000 projects. We must continue to work together to ensure there is access to high quality cancer care in America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and all of its contributions to the fight against cancer.

CELEBRATING THE LITTLE RIVER INN'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Little River Inn in recognition of

its 75th anniversary celebration on May 25, 2014.

Since 1939, five generations of family and staff have worked tirelessly to make the Little River Inn a tranquil coastal destination where guests are charmed by spectacular coastal views and family hospitality. The inn is an outstanding example of entrepreneurial spirit and community involvement, supporting community organizations in education, the arts, and the environment.

The Little River Inn is a gem of the Mendocino Coast that honors the region's history and surroundings, draws tourists from far and wide and supports local jobs, the tourist economy and many, many non-profits and organizations in the region.

Please join me in congratulating the Little River Inn on seventy-five years of success and wishing them continued success for years to come.

RECOGNIZING ICARTEAM'S PARTNERSHIP WITH SOLEX COLLEGE AND COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING SKILLS TRAINING

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an industry leader and educational institution that have joined together to improve skills training and help bridge our economy's skills gap.

In Wheeling, Illinois, ICARTEAM, an industrial electronics repair services provider, and Solex College, a private career college, partnered to develop and implement training programs in manufacturing repair services.

The 21st Century global marketplace will demand highly-technical skills and a national commitment to improving skills training—from design to development and repair. Recognizing the critical importance of skills training and advanced manufacturing, ICARTEAM and Solex College forged a partnership to address the skills gap that affects far too many of our businesses.

Through this partnership, Solex College will provide specialty training that is not only industry-recognized but industry-developed. The expertise and experience of ICARTEAM, combined with Solex College's educational excellence, will help train and field a 21st Century workforce to support and boost 21st Century manufacturing.

I am proud that the Tenth District is home to this type of industry-educator collaboration, and I look forward to seeing its tremendous results for years to come.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEATTLE'S FISHERMEN'S TERMINAL

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Seattle's

Fishermen's Terminal. Originally planned to be a simple moorage facility, Fishermen's Terminal now proudly stands as home to the finest fishing fleet in the world. For over a century, these fishermen here have contributed immeasurably to local communities and have built a deserving reputation for the Pacific Northwest as America's source for world-class seafood.

Since its founding in 1914, the Fishermen's Terminal has been a fundamental asset to the local economy. Its fresh water location and proximity to large and profitable markets make it an ideal spot for hard-working commercial fishermen to unload their catches. Despite the turbulent nature of the industry, Fishermen's Terminal continues to generate well-paying jobs within the State of Washington. My hat goes off to our local fishermen who for decades have persevered through the various political, economic, and physical challenges of their work.

This centennial gives us an opportunity to reflect on the deeply rooted connection between the Fishermen's Terminal and our community. It is an integral component of the Port of Seattle with an extensive history that predates the establishment of tech or aerospace industries in our State. The resilience that the Fishermen's Terminal has displayed over the last century gives me confidence that it will continue to thrive well into the future.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the multiple generations of fishermen and their families for their dedicated work which has given life to Seattle's Fishermen's Terminal for an entire century.

IN SUPPORT OF WRRDA CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the conference report to H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, and to urge its passage. Across the country, my colleagues and I hear consistently across all sectors: invest in infrastructure. The federal investment in infrastructure has fallen to a paltry level, and our communities are feeling the tangible impacts of this every day. There are few issues we discuss here in D.C. that have such an immediate and positive economic effect in our districts. Not only does investing in infrastructure put people to work, it allows for the efficient movement of people and goods, an essential aspect of commerce, economic growth, and public safety. The failure to invest in infrastructure will threaten our global competitiveness and the safety and quality of life of our constituents.

The nation's waterways are integral to the movement of goods. This is especially true in my home state of Oregon, where wheat and other goods speed down the Columbia River bound for export markets in Asia, and imports are loaded from ocean-going container ships to barges and sent up the river toward domestic markets. This waterway network must be

supported for our economy to thrive, and the bill before us today will allow the Army Corps of Engineers to continue the important work of maintaining and protecting these waterways.

The conference report also takes an important step toward full allocation of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, which has for too long seen its dedicated funds diverted for uses beyond its intended purpose. In addition, the conference report includes a set-aside for small ports and emerging harbors, which will include many ports in Oregon that are located in areas where the economy has taken the toughest hit over the last five years. These ports can't compete for Harbor Maintenance funding alongside the large, deep-draft ports, but the legislation before us today gives them a chance to access vital Army Corps maintenance funding. This was a priority for the Oregon delegation, and we are grateful that Representative DEFazio was able to include it in the House-passed WRRDA bill and succeed in having it be part of the conference report.

Another important provision included in the conference report allows non-federal public entities to provide funds to the Army Corps to expedite the permitting process, preventing the lapses in project approval and the massive backlogs that can result when Congress delays reauthorization of the program. This will allow local governments to move forward with important infrastructure and ecosystem restoration projects, and reduces wait times for all applicants waiting on permit approval from the Army Corps.

Maintaining healthy waterways includes protecting the coastal and riparian ecosystem. This conference report makes a strong investment in ecosystem restoration in the Columbia River and Tillamook Bay estuaries in Oregon and our neighboring state of Washington. By increasing the authorization for ecosystem projects under Section 536, this bill will expand the scope of the work underway to preserve and restore vital fish and wildlife habitat. We must do more to bring back the stability and biodiversity that makes the Columbia River basin one of the lushest fish and wildlife habitats in the world, and this legislation is an important step.

One specific ecosystem restoration program included in the bill is the Willamette Floodplain Restoration Study, which seeks to restore natural floodplain function to the region and improve flood storage along the river. In addition, the bill includes an investment in invasive species monitoring and prevention through provisions that allow the Army Corps to establish watercraft inspection stations and other preventive measures. This is an investment worth making. Invasive species threaten ecosystems as well as infrastructure, including the Pacific Northwest's hydropower system.

One provision in this bill is especially important to a hard-hit community in my district, and I would like to thank the conferees for including it. In Warrenton, Oregon, the Hammond Marina has long been operated by the City of Warrenton, but the land on which it sits is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers. House and Senate conferees agreed to include language conveying ownership of this land to the city. This has been a priority for the City of Warrenton, which is prepared to improve the marina at Hammond Basin, a

project that will benefit the economy of Oregon's North Coast. It will come at no cost to the federal government, and represents another provision of this bill that will help my constituents and, importantly, support economic growth in coastal Oregon.

Another key provision of this conference report, authored by my Oregon colleague Senator JEFF MERKLEY, is the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA) pilot project. This program will provide low-cost financing to state and local governments—along with tribes, corporations, and others—to undertake low-cost water infrastructure improvement projects. This proposal is widely supported by my constituents and groups across Oregon, from the Building Trades to the utility districts, and I applaud the conference committee for including it in this report.

I still have concerns about environmental review provisions in the conference report, and I will continue to advocate for improvements that my colleagues and I tried to make by amendment when this bill was considered on the House floor. Attributing permitting backlogs to the environmental review process ignores the funding challenges that have beset the Army Corps in recent years, as Congress has repeatedly failed to provide adequate funding for the review of all necessary projects. Though more can be done to improve that section, the conference report includes compromise environmental review language from the bill that is preferable to the House version, and I am glad to see that change.

The conference report before us today is a positive step toward robust, bipartisan investment in infrastructure development. This must be done to keep our country competitive and keep our goods moving efficiently on our waterways, and to protect habitat from the impacts of increased trade and transport. I thank the Committee Chairmen and Ranking Members for their hard work to pass a strong bipartisan bill and urge my colleagues to support final passage.

HONORING 22 TEACHERS FROM
BOCA RATON SELECTED AS
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of 22 outstanding teachers from my district who have been selected Teachers of the Year. Through their incredible devotion to their students, these exemplary teachers have displayed a level of commitment to public service that can be admired by all.

The Teacher of the Year Award is presented to teachers who have been recognized by their principals for excellence in teaching. These teachers not only excite their students in the classroom but help them make connections to the real world and prepare them to move forward successfully in their education. As a parent and a public servant, I understand the need for a commitment to a globally competitive education for all of our nation's children.

Congratulations to District 5 Teachers of the Year Agnes Nemeth, Jasmin Deboo, Rachel Bennett, Bethany Garena, Allison Bradley, Fara Krinsky, Sue Mochtak-Heller, Katie Schmidt, Marisa Schweder, Twila Saupe, Renee Frias, Nora Buck, Evelyn Temple, Nirmala Arunachalam, Sue White, Michelle Gunning, Charles (Kevin Turner), Allison Lazarus, Judith Schachleiter, Bonnie Sonenson, Maria Aparicio, and Lisa Finn. I am proud to honor them as a sign of my appreciation for these outstanding teachers and the countless other dedicated teachers across the country. I hope that they can continue to inspire South Floridians to live by their example.

HONORING EDWARD C. KIERNAN

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Edward C. Kiernan on the occasion of his retirement after more than 45 years in the radio business, including more than two decades as the longtime head of WBAL Radio and 98 Rock in Baltimore.

Under his leadership, WBAL has become one of the most honored stations in the country. During his tenure, it has become the market's longtime talk news leader as well as the recipient of numerous Associated Press and Edward R. Murrow Awards. Mr. Kiernan has helped expand the station's web and mobile presence and secured media rights to Baltimore Orioles, Ravens and Navy football games. In fact, he won back Orioles rights in 2011 after a 4-year run on a competing station.

An active industry leader, Mr. Kiernan has served as president of the Advertising Association of Baltimore, as a board member of the Baltimore Radio Association and as chair of the Federal Emergency Broadcast System for the State of Maryland.

Mr. Kiernan also has a passion for his community, and his civic and charitable efforts are too numerous to list in their entirety. He has served on the boards of the Baltimore Bicentennial Committee and the Partnership for a Drug Free Maryland. He is on the Visitors Board of the University of Maryland Children's Hospital, is a member of the Life Board of the American Red Cross, the Leadership Council of Johns Hopkins Bayview Hospital, the Board of Directors for the Hampden Family Center and a supporter of Our Daily Bread.

He oversaw the WBAL Radio Kids Campaign, of which every dollar benefits underprivileged children in the listening area. The effort has earned WBAL the National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation "Service to Children Radio Award."

Prior to his time in Baltimore, Mr. Kiernan spent 17 years as Vice President and General Manager of WCBS Newsradio 88 in New York, where he worked to acquire rights to New York Jets football games and launched two new political programs. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and holds an honorary doctorate from St. John's University.

I have considered Mr. Kiernan a friend and colleague for many years. I know him to be a hard worker with a great sense of humor and commitment to our city. It is with great pride that I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him continued success and happiness in the next chapter of his life.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN ON THE 96TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF REPUBLIC DAY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 96th anniversary of Republic Day on May 28th.

Azerbaijan and the United States have developed a robust and growing relationship over the last two decades. Today we remain indispensable friends, which is an asset as we face many common challenges.

Although located in a geopolitically tough location between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan has consistently looked to the United States as an ally despite these difficult neighbors. A secular country with a predominantly Muslim population, Azerbaijan has also been home to vibrant Christian and Jewish communities representing a role model for peaceful coexistence and harmony of different religions and ethnic groups. It is remarkable that Azerbaijan provides roughly 40 percent of Israel's oil consumption. Azerbaijan's relations with Israel can serve as a model for many countries.

Azerbaijan was also the first country to open Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. and European companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project, supported by successive U.S. Administrations, is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region. Currently Azerbaijan plays a leading role in opening up the Southern Gas Corridor, which will provide additional natural gas to Europe.

On a security front, Azerbaijan has been a key ally in a post 9/11 era, emerging as one of the first countries to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Actively participating in joint operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has also extended important overflight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights and provided key supply routes to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities. The transit route through Azerbaijan accounts for some 40 percent of the Coalition supplies bound for Afghanistan.

As the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 96th anniversary of Republic Day and to recognize the valuable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan. I also encourage my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan to join me as a member of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, a bipartisan group of more

than 60 Members of Congress working to help foster the growing partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan and to advance U.S. interests in this pivotal region.

RECOGNIZING THE TRINITY
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BASE-
BALL TEAM STATE CHAMPION-
SHIP

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Trinity Catholic High School Baseball Team's State Championship Title.

It is with great pride that I stand to honor this momentous accomplishment. On Wednesday, May 14, with great determination and skill, the Trinity Catholic Celtics rose to win Marion County's first baseball state championship. These young men, after dedicating countless hours, were rewarded with a well deserved victory. Moreover, this honor was received with true sportsmanship and class.

This distinguished accomplishment is indicative of the power of our nation's youth. The drive, as well as the athleticism displayed by Trinity Catholic High's Baseball Team should serve as a model for all those who dream of great feats. The people of Florida's 11th Congressional District are extremely proud and I invite you all to join me in extending our most sincere congratulations.

Therefore, I, RICHARD B. NUGENT, Member of Congress representing the Eleventh District of Florida, do hereby recognize the Trinity Catholic High School Baseball Team's State Championship Title.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN
LEGION POST 40 AND ROYAL CA-
NADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 120

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, for their ongoing friendship with American Legion Post 40 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The camaraderie between these two posts began in 1978 when four members of the Canadian Legion in Georgetown, Ottawa, headed to Plymouth for a fishing trip. Before long, they found themselves chatting with members of the local American Legion Post. The following year, the Georgetown vets were invited to attend the annual Memorial Day parade in Plymouth—and so began 35 years of exchange. Each year, American Legion members attend the Warriors' Day parade in Ottawa and Canadian Legion members march with our Plymouth veterans on Memorial Day.

The relationship between these two veteran associations is emblematic of the affinity between our nations. Not only are we neighbors, allies, and friends, but we also share a border, a continent, and core democratic values. As

such, I was touched when American Legion Post 40 Commander Phil Ryan told our office, "There's nothing we wouldn't do for them." This, Mr. Speaker, is true friendship.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, and American Legion, Post 40, for 35 years of friendship, respect, and understanding between their posts. I look forward to watching this alliance continue to thrive.

RECOGNIZING SOUVENISE JEANNE
BAZILE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Souvenise Jeanne Bazile, who passed away on May 11, 2014.

Ms. Bazile, who lived in Spring Valley, New York, was 107 at the time of her passing. Originally from Haiti, she moved to United States in 1978 to join her husband. Ms. Bazile was a loving mother who dedicated herself to her six children, fifteen grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Just a few months ago, Ms. Bazile fulfilled one of her dreams: becoming an American citizen. After living here for three decades, working hard and contributing to society, Ms. Bazile became one of the oldest immigrants ever to gain citizenship. She is truly an inspiration for all those who hope to one day achieve the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my constituent, Ms. Souvenise Jeanne Bazile. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her tremendous life.

RECOGNIZING BUNKERS IN
BAGHDAD

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to speak about an outstanding organization headquartered in Buffalo, New York: Bunkers in Baghdad.

The organization was started by Joe Hanna in 2008 after learning that golf had become a favorite form of stress relief for soldiers serving in combat zones overseas. The purpose of Bunkers in Baghdad is simple—they collect new and used golf balls and golf clubs and then ship them overseas to soldiers stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The program also includes injured veterans who are currently recovering in Wounded Warriors programs and other military installations and VA hospitals across the United States.

The first official shipment of golf balls went out in November 2008 to reach Iraq in time for the holidays. The inaugural shipment was made even more special by the fact that it was coordinated and packaged by students from the Williamsville Central School District.

In addition to raising money to ship each box directly through the United States Postal Service, the students packed each box with balls, holiday cards, and letters they wrote to the soldiers.

I would like to recognize and congratulate the organization on their accomplishments. In just 5 short years, Bunkers in Baghdad has collected and shipped 5 million golf balls and 150,000 golf clubs to our military service men and women and wounded warriors in all 50 states and 30 countries around the world. This initiative, focused on those who have given so much, is an example to us all as we continue to honor those who serve.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Grapevine Historical Society of Grapevine, Texas.

In 1973, the Grapevine Historical Society was organized and incorporated as a nonprofit organization. The first project that the group undertook was to preserve the Cotton Belt Depot. The railroad had no further use for the Depot and intended to demolish it. In order to save the Cotton Belt Depot, members of the Grapevine Garden Club, led by Alberta Nettleton, organized the Grapevine Historical Society to move the Depot off the railroad land to Heritage Park.

The Grapevine Historical Society solicited items of historical significance from the community to start its first museum inside the Depot. Due to the growth of the collection, the Society eventually employed a curator for the museum. The railroad later sold the land where the Depot had been on Main Street to the City of Grapevine. The Heritage Foundation had been formed in the meantime and took over the project of moving the Depot back to its original location and restoring it.

Over the past forty years, the Grapevine Historical Society has published several books that detail the history of the City of Grapevine. In 1979, the first edition of *The Grapevine Area History Book* was published under the direction of editor Charles Young. In 2006, editor Sandra Tate and members of the Society assembled a second book entitled *Grapevine's Most Unforgettable Characters*. This book contains over 400 stories from people who pioneered the City of Grapevine and individuals who are currently living in the city today.

The Grapevine Historical Society has also sponsored a program to preserve the oral history of Grapevine. The Audio History Project includes stories from city leaders on education, business, and government. In addition, the Grapevine Historical Society compiled the first inventory of headstones in several area cemeteries including Grapevine, Bear Creek, Minters Chapel, and Parker Cemeteries.

The Grapevine Historical Society originated the Historical Marker Program and has dedi-

cated and provided markers for various landmark buildings throughout Grapevine.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the Grapevine Historical Society for its 40th anniversary. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Grapevine Historical Society on its commitment to preserve the history of the City of Grapevine.

INTRODUCTION OF ROBIN DANIELSON ACT OF 2014

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, American women deserve the ability to make educated decisions when purchasing products that could potentially endanger their health and their lives. Women in America spend over \$2 billion per year on feminine hygiene products. Recent independent studies led by women's health organizations have shown that some feminine hygiene products could contain additives that may be harmful to a woman's health. The FDA requires tampon manufacturers to monitor dioxin levels but this information is not readily made available to the public. Diseases such as cervical cancer, endometriosis, infertility, and ovarian cancer may be linked to feminine hygiene products in our bodies but there is no way of knowing the extent of these connections with the lack of research on feminine health today.

Women's health issues and feminine hygiene are taboo subjects in many cultures, including our own. In order to move past stigmas associated with menstrual health, leaders must unite to promote research that will educate and empower women and also ensure their safety and health. It is time to ensure that accurate information with regards to women's health is being collected and is readily accessible. That is why I have introduced legislation that directs the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct research to determine the extent of contaminants in feminine hygiene products. The Robin Danielson Act of 2014 directs the NIH to research whether the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, and other chemical additives like chlorine and fragrances pose any health risks to women who use feminine hygiene products. Recent studies from women's health organizations have found that they might.

We must be a leader in fighting against the challenges that confront women's health globally. This way, we can break the silence around the world by confronting taboos that interfere with the well-being of women by proving that these issues deserve our attention. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation that I am introducing on Menstrual Hygiene Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SMITHSONIAN EXPOSITION OF THE WAMPANOAG MISHOON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the addition of a piece of Massachusetts—and our nation's—history to the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). In September 2013, a traditional canoe of the Wampanoag tribe, known as a mishoon, was delivered to the NMAI from Plimoth Plantation in Massachusetts—completing its trip down the coast from the Wampanoag's historical home to our nation's capital. Here, it will be proudly displayed as a symbol of the cultural significance and technological advancement of the Tribe.

The history of the Wampanoag is deeply intertwined with the turbulent settlement and birth of our nation. Known as "the People of the First Light," the Wampanoag Tribe inhabited southern New England at the arrival of the first European settlers. It was the Wampanoag with whom the Pilgrims celebrated the first "Thanksgiving," and it was from the preceding and continued interactions between these settlers and that native population that our modern judicial system and promotion of civil rights evolved.

Today, the Wampanoag Tribe continues to play an active role in promoting tribal rights and preserving their heritage. Plimoth Plantation's Wampanoag Indigenous Program is a shared museum that has worked to educate citizens across the country and raise public awareness of the shared history, rich culture, and traditions of the tribe. The gift of the handmade mishoon—a vessel of passage and goods—is symbolic of the role of the Wampanoag people have played from the early years of our nation to our continued fight for equality and tribal rights. I am proud that it has found a home at the NMAI—an institution devoted to the preservation of our nation's intricate history.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues and their constituents to join me in experiencing a page out of history and visiting the Wampanoag mishoon at the NMAI.

COMMEMORATING AZERBAIJAN'S REPUBLIC DAY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of Republic Day on May 28.

Located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe, Azerbaijan was established in 1918 becoming the first democratic and secular republic in the Muslim world before being incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1920. The country regained its independence in 1991.

Lasting only two years, from May 1918 to April 1920, Azerbaijan's first democratically elected government was committed to a strong and independent democratic state.

The desire of independence did not die in Azerbaijan in 1920. On October 18, 1991, the Independent Republic of Azerbaijan was officially restored by a declaration of Azerbaijan's National Assembly, Milli Mejlis.

Today Azerbaijan is a thriving democracy and a strong ally to the U.S. Azerbaijan enjoys one of the fastest growing economies in the world. With the inauguration of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, oil from the Caspian Sea now has an alternative route to reach world markets, bypassing Russian controlled pipelines. Soon the parallel natural gas pipeline will further dilute Russia's monopoly on energy in that region.

Azerbaijan is a partner in international and regional organizations including the U.N., Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

Again, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 96th anniversary of Republic Day, and to recognize the invaluable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan.

HONORING HERBERT "HERB"
GREENBERG

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I am saddened to announce the passing of Herbert "Herb" Greenberg. Herb was a champion and an advocate for the Rocky Mount community he served and was a blessing to me, personally, when my district still included Nash County.

Herb's humble spirit and ambitious nature contributed to his successful launch of WHIG-TV, a community-based TV station that was the first of its kind. The station was used to promote local events and played a large role in keeping everyone in the community informed. Because of this, Herb was a trusted voice and source for many in Nash County.

Herb worked alongside many members of our community, serving in groups such as the Christian Fellowship Home and the Frederick E. Turnage Chapter of the American Red Cross. A recipient of the annual and prestigious Woody Brown Award, Herb was known as the driving force behind many of the wonderful events taking place in Rocky Mount.

While I am saddened by his passing, I am encouraged by the legacy Herb leaves behind—as it is one that displays his passion and commitment to service, both to his community and family. I am better for knowing Herb, and his spirit will be greatly missed.

HONORING CHRIS BARNETT

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Barnett as he walks across the great state of Iowa, raising awareness of the need for new foster parents.

As Chris takes on mother nature, battles blisters, and logs approximately 875 miles across Iowa in both directions, Chris will let folks know about the tremendous need for additional foster families throughout the state of Iowa.

Chris and his wife have been foster parents since 2003 and have been able to foster more than 30 children in that time. As a former foster child himself, Chris understands the impact foster parents have on a child's life, which has been his passion as he has worked in the human service field for over 27 years.

We can never forget the impact each home has on a small child. This impact stays with a child throughout his or her life. Safe and caring homes improve our society and our country. I applaud Chris on his continued pursuit to bring a voice to an under-discussed issue and congratulate him on this extraordinary accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ERIC
HARRISON

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Eric Harrison, United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Major Harrison will be moving on from his present assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison to the House of Representatives to Fort Hood, Texas.

Army Congressional Liaisons provide an invaluable service to both the military and Congress. They assist Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their firsthand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices.

A native of Fairport, New York, Major Harrison graduated from North Georgia College in 2002 and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery. He has served in a variety of assignments including service in Germany, Hawaii, and the Pentagon. Major Harrison was selected for the highly competitive Joint Chiefs of Staff Internship program and has participated in multiple combat tours to Iraq.

Major Harrison's military awards include the Combat Action Badge and Bronze Star Medal (three awards), as well as the Iraq Campaign Medal. He was also inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from North Georgia College, a Master of Arts in

Leadership and Management from Webster University, and a Master of Policy Management from Georgetown University.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Harrison as he proceeds to the next chapter in his remarkable career and continues to serve our great Nation. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues in recognizing and commending Major Harrison for his dedicated service to this country. For all he and his family have given and continue to give to our country; we are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Sara, and his sons Eli and Jack, all the best as they continue their journey in the United States Army.

INTRODUCING THE "MANAGED
CARBON PRICE ACT OF 2014"

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce legislation to establish a carbon tax on fossil fuels. Earlier this month, the Third U.S. National Climate Assessment, the most comprehensive and authoritative scientific report ever generated about climate change in the United States, was released, offering just the latest in dire warnings of the impact climate change is already inflicting on our planet. This is not an abstract notion for future generations to cope with and address; it is happening now and will only get worse with inaction.

I am re-introducing this legislation to continue the serious discussion on climate change that has long been overdue. With extreme weather events becoming more common, every corner of the United States is already grappling with the effects of climate change. As the problem grows more urgent, businesses and even the U.S. military are recognizing the very real costs associated with doing nothing. President Obama's Climate Action Plan underscores the need to address this issue, and with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency releasing its climate rule for existing power plants next week, I am pleased to see the discussion turning into action.

My legislation, the Managed Carbon Price Act of 2014, places a price on carbon emissions that would increase over time, which would in turn create a market incentive to reduce emissions. The proceeds from this legislation go into a newly-created Energy and Economic Security Trust Fund where 100 percent of the revenue goes back to the public to offset any price increases. This bill is good for the environment and good for business. The legislation recognizes and incentivizes the market for green technologies and innovation and levels the playing field for companies already investing in sustainable business practices. By putting a price on carbon we are setting the stage to export these technologies worldwide.

We owe it to ourselves and to our children to do more than just watch idly as droughts, floods, sea ice melt, ocean acidification, rising sea levels and other effects of climate change continue to take their toll. This legislation is a

small step toward meeting this commitment. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING LABORERS' LOCAL 81

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize Laborers' Local 81 upon the dedication of their new Union Hall in Valparaiso. Union members and leaders commemorated the event with a building dedication ceremony that was held on Saturday, May 17, 2014, at Laborers' Local 81 Union Hall in Valparaiso.

In 1918, Laborers' Local 81 was chartered by what is now known as Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA). Local 81 was located in Gary until 1977, at which time it was relocated to Valparaiso. The skilled members of Local 81 have for many years excelled in their work on heavy highway, utilities, commercial building construction, tunnel construction, hazardous materials handling, asbestos removal, and much more. They place concrete for highways and install and repair sewer, water, and natural gas lines within Lake, Porter, LaPorte, and Starke counties. These outstanding laborers have played a major role in the development of communities throughout Northwest Indiana for more than 95 years and are fine examples the region's rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. Local 81 members and leaders have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Due to the steadfast determination and extraordinary efforts of Business Manager and Delegate to the District Council, Mike Campbell, Local 81 is able to open its new Union Hall, which will house administrative offices, meeting areas, and a training center in Valparaiso. Mr. Campbell's enthusiasm and constant support to Local 81 and to the community of Northwest Indiana is truly outstanding, and for this, he is worthy of the utmost praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Laborers' Local 81 members and leaders as they celebrate the opening of their new Union Hall in Valparaiso. I want to congratulate these dedicated union members, as well as all of the hardworking union men and women throughout America for committing themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development in Northwest Indiana and beyond.

H.R. 3080

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan agreement to make critical investments in our nation's water infra-

structure. Today's bill is an example of Congress working together to address the priorities of the American people, and I applaud the Conference Committee for the hard work that brought it to the Floor.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act authorizes critical projects to maintain our nation's waterways and ports. For Maryland, this work ensures continued operations at the Port of Baltimore, supporting thousands of jobs and encouraging trade. It also provides essential support for the ongoing restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, from creating habitat out of clean dredged material at Poplar Island to rebuilding our oyster population. Additionally, this bill provides for the development of a new, comprehensive plan for the Army Corps of Engineers to restore and protect the Bay.

After we pass this bill, we must provide the necessary funding to ensure the completion of its important work. I look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure we finish the job.

HONORING DR. EI-ICHI NEGISHI

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Nobel laureate Dr. Ei-ichi Negishi, the Herbert C. Brown Distinguished Professor and Teijin Limited Director of the Negishi-Brown Institute at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Dr. Negishi has been elected into the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors given to a scientist or engineer in the United States.

Dr. Negishi was elected to the academy in recognition of his distinguished and continuing achievements in original, pioneering research. Negishi won the 2010 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his palladium-catalyzed cross coupling technique to link carbon atoms and synthesize molecules. In addition to its use in the development of painkillers and cancer treatments, it is estimated that "Negishi coupling" is used in more than one-quarter of all chemical reactions in the pharmaceutical industry. The technique also has been used in fluorescent marking essential for DNA sequencing and in the creation of materials for thin LED displays.

Dr. Negishi currently serves as the inaugural director of Purdue's Negishi-Brown Institute, which supports basic research in catalytic organometallic (the study of compounds with bonds between Carbon and a metal) chemistry through graduate and postdoctoral fellowships, regular workshops and symposia, and relationships with industrial partners.

Dr. Negishi grew up in Japan and received a bachelor's degree in organic chemistry from the University of Tokyo in 1958. He moved to the United States in 1960 to attend graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania as a Fulbright-Smith-Mundt scholar, earning a doctorate in organic chemistry in 1963. Negishi came to Purdue in 1966 as a postdoctoral researcher under Dr. Herbert Brown, who won the Nobel Prize in 1979. Negishi went to Syra-

cuse University in 1972, where he was an assistant professor and then an associate professor before returning to Purdue in 1979.

He was appointed the H.C. Brown Distinguished Professor of Chemistry in 1999 and has won various awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, the A.R. Day Award, a 1996 Chemical Society of Japan Award, the 1998 American Chemical Society Organometallic Chemistry Award, a 1998 Humboldt Senior Researcher Award and the 2010 American Chemical Society Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry. He also was given the 2010 Order of Culture, Japan's highest distinction, and named as a Person of Cultural Merit. Negishi has authored more than 400 publications including two books, one of which is the Handbook of Organopalladium Chemistry for Organic Synthesis. Collectively, these publications have been cited more than 20,000 times.

His current research focuses on understanding metal-catalyzed organic reactions with possible applications in health and energy-related fields.

In light of this career accomplishment, I ask the 4th District and all Hoosiers to join me in congratulating Dr. Negishi for this great honor and achievement.

IN MEMORY OF EMANUEL RAYMOND LEWIS, LIBRARIAN EMERITUS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary life, to an extraordinary individual, to a dear friend of mine for many, many years. Emanuel Raymond Lewis, Librarian Emeritus, the last and longest serving Librarian of the U.S. House of Representatives, prolific author, archivist, educator, humorist, historian, illustrator, psychologist, and recognized expert on military and naval history, died May 14 in Suburban Hospital, Bethesda, MD.

He was the husband of my former Chief of Staff, Eleanor Lewis, an extraordinary individual in her own right, who had been Geraldine Ferraro's Chief of Staff and JOHN DINGELL's Chief of Staff as well.

Dr. Lewis was appointed House Librarian in 1973, and served until January 1995 when the library, which predated the Library of Congress, along with the House Historical Office, was down-sized and placed under the Legislative Resource Center. The Library was the official custodian of all documents generated by the House.

Ray Lewis was a man of the House, and so much more. Ray lived a life of vast experience—he was a genuine Renaissance man. He loved his work, and his scholarship and service to the House and to this country left us all enriched.

During his tenure as an officer of the House, Dr. Lewis combined disciplined intellect with a deep interest in the House's history and the patience to guide House members and staff seeking historical understanding of this institution. During the House Judiciary Committee's

impeachment hearings on President Nixon, Lewis provided critical historical references to guide the committee in its work. And he honored the tradition of the office he headed, authoring a history of "The House Library" and promoting the ties with the Senate Library and the Library of Congress' Congressional Research Service.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I knew Ray Lewis for much of the time I have served in the House of Representatives. I got to know him, his sense of humor, his sense of this institution, his sense of decency, his sense of excitement of what was going on here and around the world. And with Eleanor he traveled much of the world and, in each place, brought something new home with him to share with all of us.

From his service as an officer in military intelligence from 1954–1956, Dr. Lewis developed a life-long interest in the history of military architecture and technology in the United States, which culminated in the 1970 publication of "Seacoast Fortifications of the United States" published by the Smithsonian Institution Press. He wrote this work while a Post-Doctoral Research Associate 1969–1970 at The Smithsonian Institution. Initially an architectural student at the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Lewis turned his early drawing talents to illustrate his book.

Commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps, he transferred to Military Intelligence when the Corps was abolished shortly after his commission. As commander of a group of Soviet military defectors—Lewis was a native Russian speaker—he was assigned responsibility for testing security at military bases. He retired as a Captain.

Dr. Lewis researched military documents in the National Archives, and traveled extensively to fortification sites around the country for his book, the first comprehensive work on the subject of coastal fortifications in a century, now used by the U.S. National Park Service in training their employees. This seminal work examined the prominent role played by these fortifications in American defense policy prior to World War II.

Lewis was accompanied on these travels by his future wife, Eleanor, and the couple referred to the time as 'their forting days in lieu of their courting days.' Travel would become a constant in their lives together—his proposal of marriage included an unusual vow—"marry me and I will take you to Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara"—and he did. Over forty-five years they would visit every continent, and more than 100 countries.

Eleanor, as I said, was my Chief of Staff, and she is still a very dear and close friend. She and Ray were partners in life for over four decades. They were partners, as well, in intellectual pursuit and in love of this country and this institution.

Dr. Lewis published widely in military and naval-related journals including "Military Affairs," the "U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings," "The Military Engineer," "Capitol Studies," "U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings," "Military Engineer," "Dictionary of American History," Encyclopedia of the United States Congress," and "Warship International." Editors of the latter publication honored his work in their annual "Best Articles of the Year" on three separate occasions.

In 1969 working for System Development Corporation of Santa Monica, CA, considered the world's first computer software company, Dr. Lewis co-authored "The Educational Information Center: An Introduction," a general guide to the process of establishing an educational information center.

Born to Siberian immigrants in Oakland, CA, November 30, 1928, Dr. Lewis attended the University of California at Berkeley (BA/MA) and the University of Oregon (PhD). While enrolled at the University of Oregon he studied with a grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH). He became a tenured psychology professor in the Oregon University System for a half-dozen years. Dr. Lewis was among the first psychology professors to participate in the creation of the Oregon State Board of Psychologist Examiners, and the first Oregon professor to teach on campus through television.

Dr. Lewis had a life-long love of public spaces and actively worked to preserve parkland. On May 27, 1937 at age 8, he joined his parents and his brother Albert, now deceased, in walking across the Golden Gate Bridge on opening day. He donated specimens unearthed at forts to national and state parks, including Fort Stevens at the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon.

To honor his father, Jacob A. Lewis, Dr. Lewis donated ten acres to the city of Hayward, CA—the "J.A. Lewis Park" is now part of the Hayward (CA) Area Recreation and Park District. The elder Lewis had donated the same land area—ten acres—in San Francisco to build Congregation Ner Tamid.

In 1965, Dr. Lewis prepared "A History of San Francisco Harbor Defense Installations: Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite, and Funston" for the State of California Division of Beaches and Parks. This work, which evolved into Dr. Lewis' later book on coastal fortification, was instrumental in the formation of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in 1972. In 1971 Dr. Lewis was called to testify before a subcommittee of the House Interior Committee during hearings on creating the GGNRA.

Dr. Lewis was well-known to House Members and especially staff who sought his help in researching issues before the Congress. He was regarded as a friendly curmudgeon who could be relied on to quickly locate helpful historical information. The time he saved those staffers, however, was all too frequently consumed in conversation about whatever matter Dr. Lewis happened to be engaged in researching at the time.

His curiosity and love of learning spanned a wide range of interests. Those interests were manifested in his personal collection of authentic African spears, including several purchased in Umhlanga, South Africa, which were used in the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War; the muzzle of a 16-inch gun from the USS Indiana now on display at the Navy Museum in Washington, D.C.; a 1954 MG which was best of show in the 25th Anniversary of the "Concourse d'Elegance" June 29, 1997 in Forest Grove, Oregon; and Soviet Field Marshal memorabilia. Side interests included the study of California geography, and Native American tribes—the House Librarian was once called upon by Vice President Spiro Agnew for ad-

vice on the authentic pronunciation of tribal names.

It was fitting that the House Librarian—in the tradition of Jefferson—held thousands of books in his personal collection.

Ray's passions for travel and collecting items of interest came together when it came to trains. It's hard to know whether his collection of train models, especially those of the Southern Pacific Daylight, came from the time he spent riding the rails, but we know he loved traveling by train. His adventures included a cross-country excursion from Washington, DC to San Francisco, as well as passage on the Trans-Siberian Railway from Khabarovsk to Moscow. Along with his trips on the Canadian and Pacific Railways, Ray's rail experiences, like so much of his life, were full and adventurous.

For all his scholarly activities, Lewis took great pleasure in hanging out with some of the legendary cultural figures of his time—jazz greats Louis Armstrong and Dave Brubeck, as well as comedy giants Lenny Bruce and Mort Sahl at San Francisco's "Hungry i."

An engaging and enthusiastic raconteur, Lewis could entertain with stories of juicy irony from the day's news, or of his time playing slots with Frank Sinatra in Reno, Nevada when the singer was obtaining his divorce from Ava Gardner. His own performing exploits—he sang and played guitar—ended with producing musicals and comedies in graduate school.

Born with a rare cholesterol disorder, Dr. Lewis first entered NIH in 1964 as an in-patient, and was involved in the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institutes' research protocols that led to the discovery of the statin drugs. Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, named by President Gerald Ford to become head of the National Institutes in 1974, was Lewis's doctor; Lewis was a research patient in Dr. Frederickson's 1967 paper describing the classification of lipoprotein abnormalities in five types. This became known as the "Frederick classification," later adopted as a standard by the World Health Organization in 1972.

A devoted atheist, Dr. Lewis became a minister in the Universal Life Church, Inc., in the 1960s—he liked to joke that he could marry you or bury you—your choice. In 1999, he experienced a lifetime thrill when he met the Dalai Lama at a dinner in Washington, D.C. The Lewises had recently visited Lhasa, Tibet and at the dinner presented the Dalai Lama with photographs of Norbulingka, the summer palace from which he escaped the Chinese in March 1959.

Ray Lewis, to the end of his life, digested life, welcomed life. Tennyson wrote, in his poem Ulysses: 'I am a part of all that I have met;/yet all experience is an arch which thro' gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades/for ever and forever when I move./How dull it is to pause, to make an end,/to rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use!'

That was Ray Lewis's philosophy. He saw life as an ever-expanding opportunity to enrich himself and others with his intellect and his excitement for what could be done in this House. His knowledge, his intellect, his humor, his engaging personality truly shined upon us all.

Ray was my friend. He was an American to be admired by us all, a good citizen, a great

American, a man of the House. I join in expressing my sympathy to Eleanor, their son Joseph, and the extended Lewis family for their loss but also to all of us for our loss of a good and decent man who made such an extraordinary contribution to this country and to all who serve it in the People's House.

RECOGNIZING LT. COL. KENDALL
LEMLEY

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the distinguished service of a constituent of mine, Lt. Col. Kendall Lemley, USAF Reserve. Lt. Col. Lemley has announced his retirement from the position of Admissions Liaison Officer for the United States Air Force Academy after more than thirteen years of guiding and advising our best and brightest young men and women. I've had the pleasure of working with Lt. Col. Lemley at numerous academy information nights, held for students interested in attending a U.S. Service Academy. He was always prepared and enthusiastic about speaking with students interested in military service.

Lt. Col. Lemley is a 1992 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy where he earned his B.S. in Computer Science. He also holds Master's Degrees from the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology and Central Michigan University. In the midst of a busy career as a computer officer in the Air Force and an IT manager in the private sector, he always set aside time to assist my office and my constituents in their scholastic pursuits. I cannot thank him enough for being such a strong advocate of our nation's military, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING AZERBAIJAN
REPUBLIC DAY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the 96th Azerbaijan Republic Day.

Republic Day celebrates Azerbaijan's declaration of independence from the Russian Empire in 1918.

That hard-won independence, however, was short-lived as the new Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was soon occupied by the Soviet Union. After the Soviet collapse in 1990, Azerbaijan regained its independence.

A valuable international ally, Azerbaijan was among the first nations offering unconditional support to the United States in the war against al Qaeda, providing a safe transit route to resupply our troops in Afghanistan.

Azerbaijan leads the Central Asian area in regional economic cooperation and is a key player in European energy security matters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in thanking the people of Azerbaijan for their

friendship and in congratulating Azerbaijanis around the world on the anniversary of Republic Day.

HONORING THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION RECEPTION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you to recognize the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) as members come together for the annual AHEPA/Daughters of Penelope District #12 and #13 Convention, which will take place at Dynasty Banquets in Hammond, Indiana from Friday, May 30 to Sunday, June 1, 2014.

The Order of AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia, joining the NAACP and B'nai B'rith in a joint effort to end racism, bigotry and discrimination against all immigrants. AHEPA's mission is in accordance with the principles of ancient Greece, to promote civic responsibility, education, philanthropy, family, and individual excellence through community service. AHEPA is the largest American-based Greek heritage organization and is made up of over 500 chapters throughout North America.

The AHEPA organization has continuously and passionately supported many charitable organizations throughout the region and abroad. AHEPA has raised thousands of dollars for Greek relief programs, feeding hundreds of families and children in Greece. They support national efforts, including the Saint Baldrick's Foundation for children's cancer research, the National Hellenic Foundation, and the National Hellenic Museum, among many others. Through each chapter, AHEPA serves as an inspiration to local communities.

As a proud member of AHEPA Chapter 78, based in Merrillville, Indiana, I can attest to the tireless efforts our local chapters, which serve more people and raise more funding for charitable organizations than ever before. The many organizations throughout the region that have been assisted by the extraordinary generosity of local AHEPA chapters include the Ross Township Food Pantry, Boys and Girls Club, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, Veterans Life Changing Services, and Rebuilding Together, among many others. One example of the tremendous contributions of AHEPA Chapter 78 is the completion of six apartment complexes in Merrillville, which provide accessible housing for senior citizens. Chapter members also give unselfishly of their time through volunteer efforts, delivering meals to the elderly and serving in local soup kitchens. For enthusiastically helping so many families, children, veterans, elderly, and those in need, the members of AHEPA are worthy of the highest praise.

I would also like to recognize my dear friend Sam Benjamin for his continued commitment to advancing AHEPA's mission as he assumes the role of District 12 Governor. Sam's exceptional leadership and dedication to phil-

anthropic efforts will prove invaluable to chapters throughout the district. In addition, I congratulate Matthew Kochevar who is completing his term as District 12 Governor. Matthew has dedicated his time and efforts to AHEPA. He is an outstanding public servant and has had a tremendous impact on many lives through his work with the organization.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. For their remarkable leadership and commitment, as demonstrated through their service to so many in need throughout Northwest Indiana and across the nation, AHEPA's members are an inspiration to us all, and the organization, one to be emulated and admired.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF DR. ANGELA GOLDEN

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize a constituent of mine, Dr. Angela Golden, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP, of Munds Park, Arizona, for her service in the last 2 years as president of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Dr. Golden has more than 34 years of nursing experience. She received her BSN from Ball State University in 1977, a Master's in Nursing Education from the University of Phoenix in 1996 and a Master's in Science from Northern Arizona University in 1998. Additionally, she completed her Doctorate of Nursing Practice at Arizona State University in December 2008.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners is a national professional membership organization representing 189,000 NPs nationally. Under Dr. Golden's tenure, AANP membership has grown to more than 50,000 members, making AANP the largest NP organization in the world. Dr. Golden has helped lead NPs in transforming patient-centered health care and has made tremendous strides in ensuring that policymakers and the public understand the care NPs provide to millions of Americans each year.

In addition to her duties as AANP President, Dr. Golden serves as an Assistant Professor at Northern Arizona University, teaching in both undergraduate and graduate programs. Dr. Golden owns a family primary care practice, NP from Home, LLC, where she provides primary care to my constituents of northern Arizona and my fellow Arizonans in the urgent care setting in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

I want to congratulate Dr. Golden on a successful term as AANP president and thank her on behalf of my constituents in Arizona's First District for the excellent care she has provided to her patients.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MAJOR ROBERT LIKINS III

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Robert Likins III of the Army Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison (OCLL), who will retire from the United States Army on October 1, 2014, after almost 25 years of distinguished service.

Major Likins first entered the military as an enlisted infantryman. Looking for challenges around every corner, he volunteered, assessed, and was selected to serve in the 75th Ranger Regiment, 5th Special Forces Group, and the Southern European Task Force. After several years and multiple overseas deployments, Major Likins felt a greater calling of leadership and pursued a commission in the U.S. Army.

Major Likins was commissioned as an infantry officer on October 11th, 2001, through Officer Candidate School. As an officer, he served in several leadership positions in light infantry and airborne units across the country and Europe. At the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving as a Company Executive Officer in the 173rd Airborne, Major Likins participated in a daring brigade-level parachute assault into Iraq. He then deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and served as an operations officer within the 2-503rd Infantry (Airborne).

Major Likins then joined the 10th Mountain Division and commanded two different infantry companies. On his second command, Major Likins deployed his company to an austere company outpost in Iraq where he partnered and trained an Iraqi Army battalion. Major Likins was then selected as an Army Congressional Fellow where he served as an integral member of my staff. Finally, he served as the legislative liaison managing the Soldier Systems portfolio, ensuring our troops going into combat are supplied with the best equipment available.

Major Likins has truly lived at the tip of the spear throughout his career. From Desert Storm to Haiti, Bosnia to Kosovo, and to Iraq to Afghanistan, he has deployed to almost every place around the globe where the Army has been sent into harm's way. He has also earned two Master's Degrees during his service and has exemplified the warrior-scholar who our nation needs leading our men and women into combat.

Throughout his 25 years of service to the nation, Major Likins has earned numerous awards and decorations to include: Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, Master Parachutists Wings with combat jump device, Air Assault Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

I am proud to share in the celebration of Major Likins' military career. I would also like to congratulate his wife, Bettina, and his two children, Patrick and Kirsten, whose love and support aided and strengthened Major Likins as he has served our great nation. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL SEVERINO

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Severino, M.D., an outstanding physician from Illinois. Recently, AbbVie, a cutting-edge pharmaceutical company with a large Illinois presence, named Dr. Severino Executive Vice President of Research and Development (R&D) and Chief Scientific Officer. AbbVie's selection of Dr. Severino to lead corporate innovation and product development reflects a company-wide commitment to developing new therapies and continuing to push the bio-tech industry to new frontiers.

Dr. Severino's responsibilities will include leading AbbVie's R&D, Medical Affairs and Regulatory Affairs organizations, bringing his years of experience to bear on guiding the company's 7,000 worldwide employees engaged in scientific discovery. Collectively, they will be working to develop a steady stream of new medicines for patients.

Dr. Severino has most recently served as Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at AbbVie. He is a leader in clinical development strategy across therapeutic areas including immunology, neuroscience, oncology and cardiovascular disease. Over ten years at AbbVie, Dr. Severino has consistently taken on positions of increasing responsibility, particularly in the area of R&D.

AbbVie's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Michael Gonzalez, praised Dr. Severino stating, "We are fortunate to have a leader of his caliber to steer our efforts to develop treatments for today's toughest health challenges. He will be instrumental in moving our pipeline and strategy forward."

Mr. Speaker, and my distinguished colleagues in the House, please join me in congratulating Dr. Severino on his new position and wishing him many future successes as he works to understand and treat a wide array of ailments to help others live happier, healthier lives.

REMEMBERING TONY HACKBARTH

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tony Hackbarth. Tony, who passed away on May 21, 2014, was a larger than life figure in the Hi-Desert's city of Barstow.

Better known as Mr. Del Taco, Tony and his brother Ed opened the first Del Taco on First Street in Barstow in 1966. By 1981, Del Taco had 250 locations across the Golden State feeding thousands of customers every day. After selling the franchise in 1979, Tony remained the owner and operator of the three Barstow restaurants located on First Street, Mountain View, and Lenwood Road. He

worked at the First Street location up until his death.

Everyone in the Barstow community knew Tony and could find him waving out of the drive through window of the First Street Del Taco location. A true man of the people, and a champion of the community it is with a heavy heart that I stand here today.

Tony served four years in the U.S. Air Force and was discharged in 1958. In 2001, he was awarded the "Man of Continuous Service" by the Barstow Chamber of Commerce and he and his wife were awarded the "Parents of the Year" award in 1990.

Tony is survived by his wife of 56 years, Barbara and their four children, Julie, Mark, Aaron, and Brae. I join with the City of Barstow and everyone who had the pleasure of knowing Tony in remembering him, and praying for his family.

INTRODUCING THE INVESTING TO MODERNIZE THE PRODUCTION OF AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 2014

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Investing to Modernize the Production of American Clean Energy and Technology Act of 2014, a bill that will continue this Nation's march towards sustainable power solutions.

This bill will continue a number of valuable tax provisions used by clean energy companies to level the playing field so that clean energy can compete with its more established traditional-energy counterparts. This is done by extending tax provisions for onshore and offshore wind and other renewable energy production.

The bill also provides incentives for clean energy manufacturing, energy efficient appliances and homes, electric vehicles, and a new era of natural gas-powered vehicles.

At the same time, this bill prevents major oil companies from continuing to benefit from corporate giveaways tucked into the tax code at a time when their industry is making record profits.

This bill is a statement of principles and vision as much as it is about tax policy. America needs clean renewable energy sources in the coming decades, resources that cannot be developed overnight. This bill will ensure America remains a strong and prosperous Nation while laying the groundwork for an economy built on clean energy.

HONORING BILL NANGLE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound respect and admiration that I pay tribute to the remarkable career of William "Bill"

Nangle, longtime journalist and executive editor of The Times Media Company. Mr. Nangle will be retiring from his position after an extraordinary and distinguished fifty years in journalism. In recognition of his outstanding career, Bill will be honored with a reception on Thursday, May 29, 2014, at Briar Ridge Country Club in Schererville, Indiana.

Bill Nangle's career as a journalist spans five decades. After beginning his career as a correspondent in his hometown of Wabash, Indiana, Bill went on to become an editor in Kokomo and Franklin, Indiana, as well as Bristol, Virginia. In 1970, he joined The Times, then known as The Hammond Times, and was instrumental in its success, as it has become Northwest Indiana's leading media company.

Throughout his career, Mr. Nangle has been known as a leader for good government and open access laws, fighting for the public's right to know what its elected representatives are doing. In 1989, he urged Indiana lawmakers and then Governor Evan Bayh to enact a state law in order to reverse a court decision that closed county coroner records to the public. Nearly a decade later, Bill's passion for open government flourished when he coordinated with seven of the state's largest newspapers for a project that changed the way Indiana officials deal with requests for information. He pioneered an experiment that had reporters test each of the state's 92 counties for open access to government records. The findings were presented in a groundbreaking collaboration of all seven newspapers on one Sunday, known as the State of Secrecy. The project was so successful that then Governor Frank O'Bannon formed a blue-ribbon panel, which included Mr. Nangle, to investigate the situation. As a result, the State of Secrecy became a national model for testing access to public records and has since been replicated in 32 states.

With a diverse population in Lake and Porter Counties in Indiana, as well as Illinois, Bill Nangle successfully managed a focus on regional journalism, while maintaining coverage of state and national issues. Under his direction, The Times, which publishes four zone specific issues, has been emulated and this approach termed the "Munster model."

During Mr. Nangle's tenure, The Times has made its mark as the most decorated Indiana newspaper of its size, winning the Hoosier State Press Association competition for Blue Ribbon daily newspaper of the year in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, and 2003. Throughout his career, Bill, too, has received his fair share of accolades, including distinguished service awards from both the Hoosier State Press Association and the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. He is also a recipient of Ball State University's Indiana Journalism Award and has been inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. For his outstanding contributions to Hoosier heritage, Bill is also a recipient of the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash, presented to him by the late Governor Frank O'Bannon.

William Nangle is also committed to his community in a very personal and selfless way. This is shown through the numerous organizations to which he is active in, including the Crisis Center of Gary, the Northwest Indiana Forum, and the Northwest Indiana Chap-

ter of the American Red Cross, to name just a few. The consummate newsman, Bill also serves on the strategic planning committee of the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other colleagues join me in honoring Bill Nangle for his distinguished career in journalism. His commitment to his community and his excellence in leadership with The Times Media Company are unparalleled, and I wish him and his wife, Rita, and their family, the best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE
McCORMICK

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Network of Community Options and Resources recipient of the 2014 Direct Support Professional of the Year for the state of West Virginia, Katherine McCormick. This decoration is truly an honor to receive, as it has been awarded annually for the past seven years to individuals in each state who exemplify the values of the organization.

The American Network of Community Options and Resources was founded in 1970 as a national association of seven-hundred private providers that help support more than a half million Americans with disabilities in communities. On May 6, 2014 Katherine was recognized for her outstanding leadership which set her apart from her peers in supporting those with disabilities in all aspects of life.

Without Katherine's commitment to enriching the lives of others, many West Virginians would be unable to function effectively in society. Mr. Speaker, the state of West Virginia owes Katherine McCormick and the men and women like her a debt of gratitude. I am honored to call Katherine a fellow West Virginian.

A NEW TRADITION OF WINNING AT
NORTH STOKES HIGH

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, in sports, success depends heavily on tradition, and the boys' track team at North Stokes High in Stokes County, North Carolina, provided a perfect example of just how important that dependence can be. I am pleased to announce that the North Stokes boys' track team that calls the Sixth District home, recently won the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state IA track and field championships for the first time in the school's history.

The Vikings' path to victory, however, was not a straight line. The team faced fierce competition—and holding no previous state titles—it seemed the odds were against them. Despite these obstacles the Vikings were able to

solidify the top spot after completing the 4x400 meter dash. The team set a personal record of 3:34.26, which they achieved by knocking eight seconds off their previous time. Coach Mike Williams credits the team's success to the program's strong sense of tradition and support from the staff.

While winning is important, it is not everything to the North Stokes Vikings. "We want to see results," Coach Williams told the Stokes News, "but it's also important to us that the kids are having fun." Williams said that it took the entire team to bring home the state championship. Members of the team included Colin Anderson, Austin Boyles, Brandon Boyles, Daniel Brown, Cameron Corns, Noah Dike, Dawson Durham, Junior Fulks, James Hammonds, Erin Heath, Justin Kenard, Andy Kopp, Andrew Lankford, Ross Lucia, Kaleb Marshall, Kenny Myers, Laith Nickell, Ottaway Shepard, Kevin Robertson, Jarrett Slate, Mark Tucker, Seth Tucker, Blake Williams, and Dakota Young. Coach Williams guided the Vikings to the top with outstanding help by assistant coaches Rodney King, Jimmy Dillard, Ben Kelble, and Breanna Largen.

In addition to the team victory, two Vikings brought home individual titles. Moriah Boyette and Justin Kenard both finished first at the track meet. Boyette won the girls' pole vault competition, while Kenard captured the individual title for North Stokes in the boys' 800-meter.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Principal Nathan Rasey, Athletic Director Trey Wiggins, the faculty, staff and students of North Stokes High School for winning the IA track and field state championships. The Vikings have started a new tradition of winning at North Stokes High.

CAP 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th anniversary of Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties. Introduced during the stewardship of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty in 1964, Community Action Partnership (CAP) agencies have served as one of the foremost tools in uplifting individuals and families out of poverty. In Minnesota, Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties has echoed the ideals of President Johnson's vision to eliminate poverty, and served as a statewide leader in supporting families, seniors and children in need.

In 1964, America was divided by growing socioeconomic inequalities that threatened the nation's foundations of life and liberty. In response to these challenges, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, legislation that inspired a nation to act in partnership with the Federal Government to eliminate poverty. Among the results of this monumental piece of legislation was Community Action Partnership, a neighborhood-driven organization focused on and providing direct

support to those dedicated to helping themselves and each other.

Today, 50 years after the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act, millions of Americans have been lifted out of poverty. In Ramsey and Washington Counties, CAP has proven to be a resilient force in delivering direct services such as Head Start, energy assistance, job training, financial literacy training, food support and car ownership programs. Governed by a board of directors representing our communities and families being served, Ramsey and Washington County CAP has been a key partner in bringing relevant, culturally appropriate, innovative solutions to reducing poverty in our community.

Despite progress that has been made, we must confirm the grim reality that poverty persists in our communities, and in some cases, deepening. To conquer poverty, Congress must end the politics of division where the stigmatization of the poor has become all too commonplace, and recommit itself to eliminating poverty in the world's richest country. In Congress, I have joined colleagues across the aisle to sponsor the Community Economic Opportunity Act of 2014. This legislation reauthorizes the Community Service Block Grant and gives CAP agencies across the Nation the tools to reinvigorate the War on Poverty. I call on Congress to unite behind vital goal and give our Nation's CAP agencies the support they need to eliminate poverty once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 50th anniversary and pivotal role Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties has played in my District, I proudly submit this statement.

AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan and congratulate them on the 96th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

A country of historic proportions—Azerbaijan became the first democratic and secular republic in the Muslim world on May 28, 1918. Despite a time and region that posed many barriers to elements of democracy, on this Republic Day, all Azerbaijani's were given the right to vote regardless of religion, ethnicity, gender, or race, revolutionizing the country and region.

On May 28, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson met with the Azerbaijan delegation to recognize their dedication and commitment to principles of liberty, justice, and equality. And at the Paris Peace Talks, as a sign of respect and admiration between our two countries, President Wilson was given a copy of the memorandum containing the boundaries, economic and financial conditions, and ethnic composition of the newly constructed Republic.

Even today, the U.S. and Azerbaijan continue to maintain strong international and eco-

nomical relations with one another. Azerbaijan has been actively involved in operations in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Iraq and a committed partner to energy development in the Caspian region. One such example, The Istanbul Protocol, led to the construction of the 1,040-mile long Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline that is owned and operated by American firms. In 2006 the BTC pipeline began its first oil deliveries and has become a vital part of delivering Caspian Sea resources to global markets.

While Azerbaijan's independence was tragically interrupted during the Russian Red Army invasion in 1920, the people of Azerbaijan persisted. Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991, Azerbaijan restored their democracy and has enjoyed a fruitful 23 years of stability and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and recognize the important bilateral relationship and valued connections between our two countries. It is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the people of Azerbaijan during their celebration of the 96th anniversary of Republic Day.

YOM YERUSHALAYIM-JERUSALEM DAY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, across South Florida, and indeed around the world, Jews are celebrating Yom Yerushalayim—Jerusalem Day. It was 47 years ago today that Israel liberated its capital city of Jerusalem during the Six-Day War, allowing Jews for the first time in decades to visit Judaism's holiest site, the Western Wall.

Israel immediately abolished the discriminatory laws that had previously prevented Jews from entering the Old City and implemented safeguards to ensure Jerusalem serve as a protected place for reflection and prayer for members of all religions. According to the State Department's annual report on International Religious Freedoms, "[Israel's] 1967 Protection of Holy Sites Law safeguards the holy sites of all religious groups within the country and in Jerusalem."

Today, Jerusalem has become more than a religious haven. It is a large and expansive city where ancient holy sites are accented by modern innovations. Over four million tourists came to Jerusalem last year alone to witness the city's beauty, enjoy the cuisine, and connect to the land.

Jerusalem has been the heart of the Jewish people for thousands of years. Even through centuries of exile, Jerusalem remained the focal point of Jewish aspiration, with Jews praying towards the direction of the Western Wall regardless of where they stand geographically in the world.

That is why Israel's founding Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion said in 1947, "No city in the world, not even Athens or Rome, ever played as great a role in the life of a nation for so long a time, as Jerusalem has done in the life of the Jewish people."

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students participated in the 2014 Congressional Arts Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works of art are exceptional!

Sixty-three young men and women participated. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Lauren Sciscione from Nutley High School for her digital photography entitled, "Oil and Water." Second place was awarded to Danielle Araneo from Whippany Park High School for her graphite sketch entitled, "Wide Awake."

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Matt Einloth from Hanover Park High School for his graphite sketch entitled, "Drawing Match" and Amanda Greene from Pequannock Township High School for her colored pencil sketch entitled, "In the Hands of Time."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name and the title of their contest entries for the official RECORD.

Boonton High School: Giancarlo Venturini, "My Imagination"; Franchesca Lebrun, "Danielle"; Amanda Nardone, "Vintage"; Mykhaylo Oreletskiy, "Homage to Art".

Chatham High School: Laurel Jude Monks, "Twisting Through Time"; Kristen Wu, "India"; Grace Caroline Hauck, "Choctaw"; Melissa Danitz, "The Shawl".

Delbarton: Matthew Caldwell, "Vitality"; Matthew Gambetta, "Wise Guy".

Hanover Park High School: Matt Einloth, "Drawing Match"; Alexandra Eveland, "The Brush"; Amanda Baker, "Saturday Morning Sketches"; JamiLynn Rose, "Nalipop".

Hopatcong High School: Ann Marie Carroll, "Self Portrait"; Jessica Corujo, "Dis-traught".

Jefferson Township High School: Kelli Buchholz, "Layers"; Rachel Dorrothy, "Self Portrait"; Emily Henderson, "Sunset in the Country".

Livingston High School: Adina Cosden, "Public Introversions"; Sarah Tracey, "Torn Apart"; Angelica Patla, "Diversity"; Gabriela Patla, "Diversity"; Molly Nagel, "Avant Guard".

Montclair High School: Monique Baltzer, "Street of the City".

Montclair Kimberley Academy: Lauren Charpentier, "Reflection"; Hannah Kramer, "You never step into the same stream twice"; Skye Volmar, "Marcel, My Love".

Montville High School: Tyler Becker, "Desperate and Respiratory Plight"; Christine Bochiccho, "Songbird".

Montville Township High School: Alyssa Turzi, "The Bay"; Amanda Zizack, "A Place Beyond Our Years".

Morris Catholic High School: Emily Du, "Collection—Still Life"; Marc Novillo, "American Heroes"; Sean Painter, "Les Miserable—Costume Designs"; Mario Wang, "The Capital".

Morris Knolls High School: Zachary Antonacci, "The Apprentice"; Frances Kohler, "Wrinkles of Time"; Judson Kolk, "Escher Inspired".

Mountain Lakes High School: Casey Tang, "Reach".

Nutley High School: Tyler Schoeber, "Conquered"; Lauren Sciscione, "Oil and Water"; Cassandra Rebutoc, "The Window".

Parsippany Christian School: Troy Costa, "Garden Prayer"; Jae Hee Lee, "Motherhood"; Daniel McMillen "Surprise"; Nicholas McMillen, "LIFE"; Nicole Okamuro, "Freedom's Plains".

Parsippany Hills High School: Annie Wang, "Boy in Reverie".

Passaic Valley Regional High School: Eleni Chryssos, "Longevity"; Ashley Lameiras, "Prisma Color"; Julie Roman, "Untitled".

Pequannock High School: Amanda Green, "In the Hands of Time"; Samantha O'Connell, "Viral".

Randolph High School: Josh Lane, "Fili-gree".

Seton Hall Prep: Christopher Giuliano, "Sailing Away".

West Morris Mendham High School: Kendall Smith, "Punchline"; Michael Aromando, "First and Foremost"; Katherine Barlock, "Nefelibata"; Kristine Mahan, "Anschwellen".

Whippany Park High School: Danielle Araneo, "Wide Awake"; Rebecca Hu, "Obscure"; Shayna Miller, "Self Portrait".

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of our fellow Americans walk through the exhibition and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO VARUN KUKKILLAYA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of Varun Kukkillaya who has joined 280 other spellers to compete in the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee taking place in our nation's capitol. Varun is a 13-year-old seventh grader from John Adams Middle School, one of four, who will be representing West Virginia in this year's spelling bee.

Varun has already performed exceptionally in the beginning testing round and I wish him the best of luck during the remaining preliminary rounds and throughout the rest of the competition. Varun enjoys a challenge and is an eager traveler. Through his persistence and determination he plans to pursue a career in medicine.

This will be the 87th competition in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which focuses on helping students improve their spelling, expand their vocabularies, and develop proper concepts as they continue to further their academic careers.

Mr. Speaker, the State of West Virginia commends Varun for his extraordinary efforts and looks forward to watching his progress in the coming competition.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 29, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 3

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on examining the safety and effectiveness of our transportation systems.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Water and Power

To hold hearings to examine S. 2379, to approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin in the public interest and the interest of the United States.

SD-366

JUNE 4

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD-226

3 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine military service to small business owner, focusing on supporting America's veteran entrepreneurs.

SR-428A

JUNE 5

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending legislation.

SR-418

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, May 29, 2014

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 29, 2014.

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

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am on the floor today to express my disappointment that my colleagues and I were prevented from offering an amendment to the NDAA dealing with the constitutional responsibility of Congress to declare war.

Like many Members of Congress, I had the opportunity to speak at events on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday on Memorial Day weekend. Every time I spoke, I mentioned my frustration that the McGovern-Jones amendment was not able to be brought to the floor for debate and a vote. However, I was pleased that ADAM SCHIFF's amendment to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force, which was passed by Congress in 2001, was at least brought up for a debate. However, I was disappointed that the Schiff amendment was defeated, because no President should have the authority to send men and women to war without action from Congress.

According to CRS, the AUMF has been invoked in 30 known instances by

Presidents Bush and Obama for the purpose of deploying troops. This represents an abdication of our constitutional responsibility.

Yesterday I had the honor of visiting Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Mr. Speaker, I have beside me a poster of a triple amputee. This gentleman gave his arm and both legs for our country. Yesterday at Walter Reed, during my visit, I had the privilege of talking with several of our Nation's heroes who have lost limbs, double amputees and triple amputees.

Mr. Speaker, those lost limbs as well as other injuries, both physical and mental, are why I had veterans approach me at Memorial Day events to say that they agree that Afghanistan is not worth the blood that has been shed there. Furthermore, they agreed with me that Afghanistan is not worth America continuing to borrow money from foreign nations, driving up further the debt of our Nation to fund President Karzai's corrupt government when we have a multitude of problems and needs right here in America.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close my comments by quoting Pat Buchanan, and I believe this describes our situation in Afghanistan: "Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so that we can defend the world?" I am going to repeat that one more time. "Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so that we can defend the world?"

Mr. Speaker, we are a debtor nation. We can't even pay our bills without going into the international markets and borrowing money to pay last year's bills. It is time that this Congress understands that we need to come back to America and rebuild America. We need to be smart with our foreign policy. We need to be smart with our men and women in uniform.

And as I look at this poster one more time, Mr. Speaker, when I saw that 23-year-old young man from Camp Lejeune, which is in my district, yesterday and his father, who is probably about 50 or 51, and the young man has both legs gone and an arm, I looked in the eyes of the father, and what I saw was pain; what I saw was worry; what I saw was sorrow.

We in this Congress need to follow our constitutional responsibility and never send our young men and women to war unless we debate it and we declare war on the floor of the House.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARTIST THORNTON DIAL

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor one of America's most prolific and self-taught artists, Mr. Thornton Dial of Bessemer, Alabama.

Today at the age of 86, Thornton Dial has lived, worked, and created art in Alabama for his entire life. From childhood, Dial was creating symbolically dense pieces of art by using castaway objects, anything he could find in his environment: pieces of wire, scrap metal, bones, tree roots. He used his environment to define his environment.

Dial's work provides a forceful and compelling narrative of the most insidious challenges and remarkable triumphs of African American history in the Deep South. His work contains layers of rich history and reflects on race and class struggles that he witnessed in the Deep South.

Dial rose to prominence in the 1990s while in his sixties through his large-scale assemblages, paintings that were made of scrap metal, pipes, very interesting visual interpretation of the history and politics that he saw around him.

Dial is described as having been one of the most amazing art biographies in art history. He is described as being a very quiet man, a listener who dressed impeccably. What he lacked in terms of formal education he more than made up for in his highly visual and historic vocabulary.

Dial's created brilliance is truly illuminating and inspiring. Dial has stayed in Alabama in the heart of the Seventh Congressional District to live and work his entire life. He was born in 1928 in Sumter County, Alabama. He was one of 12 children. And in childhood, he built his own toys because, as he said: We didn't have much.

Thornton began full-time farming at the age of 5. In his early teens, he was sent to live with his aunt in Bessemer, Alabama, where he attended Sloss Mining Camp. His peers made fun of him for his large size and for being "country." His teachers told him that he would never amount to much.

I want you to know that we in the Seventh Congressional District are extremely proud of Thornton Dial because we know that he really interpreted what he saw around him in the Deep South. He interpreted it in a very

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

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

creative way, and only now is he gaining such preeminence for that form of art.

Dial never really made a living as an artist. He worked for over 30 years at the Pullman Standard factory. Yes, he made boxcars for a living.

"People have fought for freedom all over the world," he said. "I try to show that struggle. It is a war to be fought. We are trying to win it."

In his time off from the Pullman factory, Dial would escape to his garage or backyard and create masterpieces out of whatever he could find. Out of fear that people would laugh at his art, he would bury his work. Later, he would dig it up and deconstruct it and reuse materials for new masterpieces.

Dial began to dedicate himself to his artwork in 1981. He founded Dial Metal Patterns, a garden furniture business, with his sons in 1983, after the Pullman Factory closed.

Dial's handmade designs were discovered by Lonnie Holley, a neighboring Black artist, in 1987. Holley brought Bill Arnett, an artist himself and a collector of African American art, from Atlanta to see Dial's work. Arnett helped him to get national attention about his art. The two finally, working together, agreed on a price for his first sculpture.

Initially, Dial offered Arnett the piece for \$20, and Arnett refused the low price. He said to Mr. Dial that this piece deserves more than \$20. They agreed on \$200. This was the first transaction that Mr. Dial had as an artist.

Dial's work has been the subject of exhibitions across this country. At the New Museum of contemporary art and the American Folk Art Museum in New York. His work can be found in more than 15 public collections, including those of, among others, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. Many, many people now collect his art. An art form that was considered outside art now is considered world-class art. With no formal training and education, Dial's powerful artwork stands out in the world of highly decreed artists.

Dial continues to create art today, and this weekend he will be honored by his hometown of Bessemer, Alabama. He will be honored as a great American hero and a great American artist.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great, wonderful Alabama treasure, Thornton Dial.

VA SCANDAL

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the outrageous, the almost unimaginable findings from the ongoing VA inspector general's review of the Phoenix Health

Care System and now some two dozen other facilities.

The stated VHA goal is a 14-day wait for a first-time primary care appointment—14 days, 2 weeks. It is a little much for some, but it seems appropriate, reasonable for many. That is their goal. Whether I agree with it or not, that is their goal.

However, I am going to read from the executive summary of the inspector general's allegations:

"Allegations at the Phoenix HCS include gross mismanagement of VA resources and criminal misconduct by VA senior hospital leadership, creating systemic patient safety issues and possible wrongful deaths. While our work is not complete, we have substantiated that significant delays in access to care negatively impacted the quality of care at this medical facility."

Mr. Speaker, that is breathtaking. That is breathtaking. This is our Federal Government.

Falsified data reported last year by Phoenix HCS showed veterans waited, on average, 24 days for their first primary care appointment. Falsified data said that they waited an average of 24 days; however, the recent IG report found that veterans actually waited, on average, 115 days for their first primary care appointment, with approximately 84 percent of those waiting more than 14 days, which was the stated goal.

Mr. Speaker, 115 days for their first appointment. That is the appointment where you go talk to the doctor and you tell him what is wrong or what you think is wrong and he starts making an assessment. That is not treatment. That is just an appointment with the doctor. Mr. Speaker, 115 days.

To put it another way, VA management at Phoenix HCS met 16 percent of its wait time goal, and those folks still received bonuses for that action. The folks that do the work got a bonus for meeting 16 percent of their goal.

When people say to you, as a Representative, there are things wrong with the Federal Government, Mr. Speaker, this is what is wrong with the Federal Government. Even after cooking the books, the stated goal of an average 14-day wait time was not met. Even after that.

Now, I was proud to vote for Chairman MILLER's VA Accountability Act last week, but it is a shame—I don't know what it is—that it takes an act of Congress to fire somebody in the Federal Government. If you are the Secretary and you find somebody that has done something wrong—and in these cases, potentially criminal—and you can't fire them, what is going on here?

Now, this is not a new circumstance. We have actually known about it for years. Republicans—and I have been here a year and a half—and, I imagine, Democrats have been complaining for years about this because they see it in

their districts. But nothing has been done. And some will say, well, Congress hasn't appropriated the right money. Three times the amount of money since 2001 has gone to the VA for care—for care. Three times it has been increased.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, where the President says he has got a pen and a phone, I beseech you—I beseech him to call up a veteran in this circumstance. Use the phone. Use your pen for an executive order and fix this. It is not the words, Mr. President—we are all frustrated, and we are all infuriated by this—but it is actions. These are members of the military, men and women who have served, men and women of action. Words are cheap, Mr. Speaker. It is actions that we require.

JFK said in one of his speeches that a nation is revealed by whom it honors. What is revealed by what is happening now, what has been happening, and what hasn't been happening?

Now, just to kind of show where our priorities are, let's talk about what you can get with an access card. This gentleman I am reading about bought a swordfish steak at \$18.99 a pound or went to the gourmet coffee section and ground up some roasted fresh beans. I guess it is okay to buy your Halloween candy with an access card. We can provide an access card for that, but we can't find a way to provide for the veterans who took an oath?

Mr. Speaker, they said:

I will defend this country, I will lay my life down, and I won't question. Mine is not to ask why, mine is to do or die.

Our side of the deal is that we pay, we equip you, and prepare you to fight and win, and after you come home all busted up and changed, we will take care of you.

Oh, that is what we say, but apparently that is not what we do. We can find a way to pay for these things, but not for that obligation.

Mr. Speaker, resignation is fine. But that is not going to fix it. We request the administration to take action and fix it.

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

CONSTITUENTS FACING DEPORTATION

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, like a lot of Americans, I spent time traveling this past holiday weekend, but I never made it to the beach. Instead, I did what I do on a lot of weekends, which is travel the country building support for comprehensive immigration reform.

I attended immigration events in Orange County and Riverside County in

California, and, yesterday, I was in Richmond, Virginia, in the majority leader's backyard, listening to his constituents plead for congressional action.

One young lady told her story perfectly in two languages. She came to the United States when she was 6. Now she has deferred action and temporary protection from deportation but wants a permanent solution for herself and her U.S. citizen sister. Another woman, a mom of two U.S. citizen children, wore a GPS anklet bracelet to the event and asked me how I could help her keep her family together. She has an order of deportation for June 6.

They were pleading with the majority leader—who holds the key to the schedule and the calendar in the House—to please schedule a vote, just a simple vote on immigration reform. So far, he has refused to allow a vote.

The stories from his constituents were heartbreaking: moms whose only wish is to remain here and raise their U.S. children and not fear a deportation date or a knock on the door at dawn. Children want their moms and dads to be here to see them achieve the American Dream.

But I have to say that I had a heavy heart even before I arrived at the State capitol building in Richmond, Virginia, yesterday. The night before, I received a call letting me know that the White House intended to announce yesterday that it wasn't going to take action on Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson's review of deportation policies.

Therefore, for the next several months, the deportations will continue at a rate of 1,100 a day. Moms with U.S. citizen children, women with 25 years in this country and who have committed no crimes will get no relief in the short run.

I have talked extensively with Secretary Johnson and had no illusions that a major policy announcement was in the works. Rather there are, I think, some enforcement adjustments that can be made now that would spare thousands from counterproductive deportations that are doing more harm than good to our Nation.

I am deeply disappointed that the President chose to delay any action, and I know that many of us who have been fighting against the deportations that needlessly break up families and leave communities living in fear are also disappointed.

And as I heard the stories of the constituents of the majority leader who are facing their own deportation or deportation of a loved one, I realized that it would be harder to save them in the coming weeks and months without some kind of policy adjustments revealed by the Secretary's review.

While the Republican majority decides whether or not they will act on immigration reform and solve an im-

portant American problem, thousands more will be deported.

But I also understand what the President is trying to do. He is saying that he still has hope that the Republicans are not just playing games with immigration policy. He believes, as I do, that Republicans still could use the last 14 legislative days before July 4 to make a real difference in the lives of moms and kids that I met yesterday in Richmond, Virginia.

The excuse that House Republicans can't trust President Obama to enforce the law and therefore they will not pass immigration reform, that excuse no longer holds water, if it ever did. Yesterday, President Obama expended a great deal of political capital to give House Republicans time and space to come up with an immigration solution. It was a grand gesture on the part of the President. I know that I and a lot of my Democratic colleagues are not happy, and many in organized labor and in the pro-immigrant movement that have fought hard for policies to dial back the deportations are very, very saddened. It is not easy for a President to so fully and boldly stand up against his base, against those of us who have voted for him, loved him, and protected him, but he did it so that House Republicans could use the following weeks to take action on immigration reforms, House Republicans who have shown him nothing but disdain.

In reality, for those families facing deportation and losing their children who live in the majority leader's district, they know that both the majority leader and the President have the power to help keep them in the United States and protected with their children.

The majority leader can schedule a vote, and the President can use his pen and his phone to spare these families from what amounts to a life sentence. And of one thing I am confident: if the majority leader fails to act, the President will, and he will do so boldly.

To my House Republican colleagues, I say, please act. The country will thank you. The children and the moms that live in your districts and fear deportations will thank you, and your voters will thank you. You have 14 days to work this out.

RECOGNIZING RODNEY A. ERICKSON, PRESIDENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rodney A. Erickson, retiring president of the Pennsylvania State University.

After 37 years at Penn State as an academic and administrator, Rodney

Erickson selflessly took the role of president of the university during a troubled time. We thank him for his service, his dedication, and, most of all, his tremendous vision and leadership.

Rodney Erickson became a faculty member at Penn State in the last 1980s, and over the years, he held roles from assistant professor to dean to vice president for research, to provost and president.

At each level of service to the university, he sought new ways of teaching, better forums for learning, and innovative approaches to streamline bureaucracy and keep the university and its individual departments on the cutting edge. At every stage, he has been an inspirational leader to those around him.

A leader of and advocate for the university in countless ways, Erickson leaves behind a legacy of excellence, integrity, pride, and tireless dedication for this community to cherish and build upon for generations to come.

As a proud Penn State alumnus, I want to thank President Rodney Erickson for his commitment and his dedication to Penn State University. I also wish you and your wife, Shari, the very best with future plans for the years ahead.

YOUTH TRAFFIC SAFETY MONTH

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as well, to recognize Youth Traffic Safety Month, which is celebrated each May.

As many are aware, motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death for teens. In fact, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, teenagers are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers.

An even more disturbing fact is that one-third of fatal teen crashes involve a young driver who had been drinking. Also troubling is that 50 percent of high school students say they text "at least sometimes" while driving.

Now, these statistics are a stark reminder of how much more must be done to educate our kids on the privileges and responsibilities of operating a motor vehicle.

Mr. Speaker, as we begin the summer season, which is a dangerous time of year on the road for all drivers, let us reflect on these tragic statistics.

While Youth Traffic Safety Month is coming to a conclusion, let us recommit in the coming months, through advocacy, education, and awareness, to promote road safety and reduce the number of vehicle-related fatalities.

NUTRITIOUS SCHOOL MEALS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, providing access to healthy school meals

shouldn't be controversial. We all want what is best for our kids because nothing is more important than our children. Yet, for decades, we have seen school food products—both prepared meals and packaged snacks—fail to be as healthy and nutritious as possible. Combined with other factors, we are seeing childhood obesity rates increase over that time. Not surprisingly, we have seen other health problems associated with obesity also increase.

But that began to change because of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, also known as the child nutrition reauthorization bill, which reauthorizes our school meal programs as well as the WIC program. The 2010 bill was especially important because it implemented new health and nutrition standards for schools, including issues like sodium, fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Today, the House Appropriations Committee will vote on waiving not just these standards, but also basic, reasonable limits on calories, fat, and trans fats.

Now, I was critical of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act not because of the change in nutritional guidelines for school meals, but because the bill cuts SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, in order to pay for these improvements. Sadly, we took food away from hungry people in order to improve the nutritional quality of school meals and improve school meal reimbursements. It was one of the more difficult votes I have taken as a Member of this House, and I am still angry that we robbed Peter to pay Paul instead of using better offsets that were available at the time.

Now, that being said, I strongly support the policies in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. And that is why I am dismayed at the attacks coming from the Republicans in Congress. House and Senate Republicans are trying to roll back many of the guidelines in this important legislation.

Now, I am aware of their concerns. Some food service providers, including in my own State, tell me that these new standards cost too much, that they lead to increased food waste, that healthier products that meet these standards aren't available, and that kids just don't eat these new foods. We should work with local providers to overcome many of those challenges.

But it is important to recognize that USDA has empirical data that shows the law is actually working. Not only that, the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, confirms that the law is working as intended and that participation will get better as kids get accustomed to healthier foods.

Harvard recently documented significant increases in children's consumption of fruits and vegetables because of the Federal school food standards. That is a good thing. Data also shows that the new school meal nutrition

standards do not cause schools to lose money after they are initially established.

Most importantly, USDA has the authority to work with schools, school districts, and States to address the issues that may affect participation rates. In other words, schools, school districts, and States can ask USDA for assistance in implementing these new standards at local levels, especially when kids may not be participating locally in ways that USDA either intends or sees in other areas of the country. States and localities should take advantage of this flexibility before seeking permanent changes to the law.

These school meal standards, along with the WIC food package, are science-based. That means that politics was left out of the decision-making process and left up to expert nutritionists. The reason why white potatoes, for example, were left out of the WIC program was because the experts at the Institute of Medicine said that they do not provide the necessary nutritional impact as other foods eligible for the WIC program do. That is another way of saying that white potatoes aren't healthy enough for pregnant mothers and young children.

Yet now the Republicans are trying to scrap these important nutrition standards. And they are doing so under the false pretense that it is what is best for the kids.

Mr. Speaker, look at the facts: House Republicans are supposedly acting on behalf of our kids while they tried to cut \$40 billion from SNAP, while they tried to cut hundreds of millions of dollars from WIC, and while they continually ignore nutritional science by changing food packages to benefit specific industries.

The truth is their position will do real harm to our Nation's kids. We can do better. We can and should work with USDA to implement this law in a smart way and not bow down to junk food special interests. We shouldn't play politics with our kids' health just because some people don't like this administration. My Republican friends should get over it.

There is a time and place for politics. But lunch is not that time, and the school cafeteria is not that place. The health of our kids should come first.

Mr. Speaker, I insert into the RECORD two letters expressing opposition to the rollback of these important nutritional standards. One is from 19 former presidents of the School Nutrition Association, and the other is from Mission Readiness, a group of retired military leaders who believe childhood obesity is a national security issue.

SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION,
PAST PRESIDENTS INITIATIVE,

May 27, 2014.

*The Honorable (Senate and House Members of
Committees on Agriculture Appropriations):*
DEAR AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS CON-
FERENCE COMMITTEE: Thank you for passing

the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 that is helping school nutrition programs be part of a strong response to the nation's obesity epidemic. Most schools are having success implementing the HHFKA. However some schools report difficulty meeting the requirements and are requesting waivers.

We the undersigned past presidents of the School Nutrition Association, understand that major change takes time and a commitment to the goal that prompted the change. We believe most communities and schools want school nutrition programs that help children learn to enjoy healthy foods. We are confident that the broad public support for HHFKA and USDA's demonstrated willingness to work with school leaders to solve implementation issues will prevail and create stronger school nutrition programs.

We urge you to reject calls for waivers, maintain strong standards in all schools, and direct USDA to continue working with school leaders and state directors to find ways, including technical assistance, that will ensure all schools can meet the HHFKA standards. Specific concerns regarding whole grains and sodium can be addressed as technical corrections. We must not reverse the progress that was sought by school leaders and is well on its way to success in most schools. Should you need additional information please contact Jane Wynn or Shirley Watkins.

Sincerely,

Shirley Watkins, former USDA Under Secretary FNCS; Katie Wilson, PhD, Executive Director, National Food Service Management Institute; Josephine Martin, PhD, former Executive Director, National Food Service Management Institute; Dorothy Caldwell, former USDA Deputy Administrator of FNS; Mary Nix, former Cobb County, GA School Nutrition Director; Jane Wynn, former Broward County, FL School Nutrition Director; Anne Gennings, former New Hartford, NY School Nutrition Director; Mary Hill, Director of School Nutrition, Jackson, MS; Dora Rivas, Executive Director, Food & Child Nutrition Services, Dallas ISD, TX; Helen Phillips, Senior Director, School Nutrition, Norfolk, VA; Elizabeth McPherson, Former Food Service Director, Caswell, NC; Phyllis Griffith, Former Child Nutrition Services Director, Columbus, OH; Nancy Rice, State Director, GA Child Nutrition Programs; Gene White, President Global Child Nutrition Foundation; Marcia Smith, PhD, former Food Service Director, Polk County, FL; Gaye Lynn MacDonald, Consultant & Former Food Service Director, Bellingham, WA; Penny McConnell, Director of Food Service Fairfax County, VA; Beverly Lowe, Consultant, Former Food Service Director, Hampton, VA; Thelma Becker, Retired Former Food Service Director, PA.

MISSION: READINESS,
MILITARY LEADERS FOR KIDS,

Washington, DC, May 28, 2014.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: On behalf of the nearly 450 retired admirals and generals of Mission: Readiness, I write in support of efforts designed to improve the nutritional quality of foods served in schools. As you consider the FY 2015 Agriculture Appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to:

Support the implementation of heightened school meal standards and refrain from any

weakening or delay of science-based guidelines; and

Support the \$25 million included for School Meal Equipment Grants.

Mission: Readiness is the national security organization of retired admirals and generals who have mobilized in response to Department of Defense data indicating that 75 percent of all young Americans between the ages of 17 and 24 are unable to join the military because they are medically or physically unfit, are too poorly educated, or have disqualifying criminal records. A shrinking pool of eligible Americans is a threat to our national security.

Overweight and obesity are of particular concern to the military. Excess body fat has become the leading medical disqualifier for military service. Today, more than one in five Americans between the ages of 17 and 24 are too heavy to enlist. As a result, hundreds of potential recruits fail the physical entrance exam every month because they are too overweight. In fact, between 2006 and 2011, the U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command reported that over 62,000 individuals were turned away because of their weight.

Failure to meet weight-height requirements is not just a problem among potential recruits. The data show that excess weight impacts those who have already enlisted as well. Every year, the military discharges over 1,200 first-term enlistees before their contracts are up due to weight problems; the military must then recruit and train their replacements at a cost of \$75,000 per person, totaling roughly \$90 million annually. This pales in comparison to the estimated \$1.1 billion per year that the Department of Defense spends on medical care associated with excess fat and obesity through TRICARE.

American youth spend more time in school than anywhere else outside of their homes. Children consume up to half of their daily calories during school hours, and the childhood years lay the foundation for lifelong eating habits—for better or for worse. As such, the food they receive at school plays a critical role in supporting their long-term health.

Thanks to newly updated U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) nutrition standards, requirements for school meals have been updated to align with current nutrition science. Schools are now serving more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat or no-fat dairy options while offering fewer empty calories and high-fat options.

EVIDENCE-BASED NUTRITION STANDARDS

Overall, schools across the country have done a commendable job in moving forward with the implementation of updated school meal standards. Implementation is never an easy process, and there have certainly been challenges, but by and large, schools are on the right track. Recent data shows that more than 90 percent of schools are currently in compliance with science-based standards. Reports also indicate that fruit and vegetable consumption have increased. Schools are capable of serving healthier foods and the vast majority are already doing so. We are at an important juncture. Rather than retreating from science-based standards, we need to continue to advance.

In addition to the progress made on school meals, we are also pleased with updated snack food standards, which closely adhere to recommendations made by the Institute of Medicine. Schools have made great headway in serving healthier food, but to finish the job it is critically important that we move forward in addressing the other half of

the school food environment—foods sold in vending machines, snack bars and a la carte lines. Because healthier schools meals are compromised by the over 400 billion calories from junk food being sold in schools each year, revised standards for competitive foods are essential supporting good nutrition habits. Moreover, data shows that improving snack food standards can actually help increase revenues by driving up participation in the school lunch and breakfast programs.

Given the national security implications of child obesity, we respectfully urge members of the Committee to refrain from pursuing any Congressional action that would weaken or delay the implementation of science-based school nutrition standards. Instead, Congress should defer to USDA to provide any needed flexibility for schools, such as the recently announced flexibility for whole grain pasta.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE

Many school kitchens are struggling against outdated facilities to efficiently prepare healthy meals for their students. Although more than 90 percent of schools across the nation are successfully meeting science-based standards, many report that they are forced to make-do with costly and inefficient workarounds. Designed primarily to reheat and hold food, many kitchens need new equipment capable of preparing healthier options. As such, we strongly support additional resources for School Meal Equipment Grants. We were pleased to see \$25 million included for these grants in the subcommittee's mark and urge continued support for this important funding stream.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. Together, we can make sure that America's child obesity crisis does not become a national security crisis.

Very respectfully,

MIRIAM ROLLIN,
Acting National Director.

□ 1030

LET'S ACKNOWLEDGE OBAMACARE DOESN'T WORK

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, recently, some politicians in Washington and even back in my home State of Kentucky have held out Kentucky's online exchange, or Kentucky Kynect, as a model for how the Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare, can be implemented successfully. They argue that ObamaCare is working in Kentucky.

While it is true that, unlike the billion dollar malfunctioning healthcare.gov Web site, the Kentucky Kynect Web site has appeared to function properly, but that is about all that works well.

ObamaCare is making life harder for most Kentucky families and small businesses, driving up premiums and deductibles, taking away choices of doctors and hospitals, and forcing people to lose the insurance coverage that they liked. The President promised that: if you like your health care plan, you will get to keep it.

But 280,000 of my fellow Kentuckians have lost the health insurance that they had, the health insurance that

they liked. The government is taking away choices. Patients, families, and doctors should be in control of their health care, but ObamaCare takes choices away from people.

One insurance broker in Kentucky told me that insurance on the Kentucky Kynect exchange, the replacement for all of those canceled policies, excludes 90 out of 130 hospitals in Kentucky from its network.

Then there is the cost. Premiums and deductibles are skyrocketing. When people are able to get the Web site to work, they are discovering that insurance is not affordable.

As a candidate for President, then-Senator Barack Obama promised to sign a health care law that would cut the cost of a typical family's premium by up to \$2,500 a year, but a quietly released report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services projects that 11 million Americans will face higher premiums because of ObamaCare.

ObamaCare is an especially bad deal for our seniors. A recent report studying the impact of the law's cuts to Medicare Advantage plans concluded that premiums could increase for some Kentucky seniors up to \$1,700 per year.

Every day, I hear stories from Kentucky families and small businesses about how they have been hurt by ObamaCare, about how the government is making life harder for them.

Consider Tony Calvert, a truck driver and member of the Teamsters union who lives in my district. He stood up in my townhall meeting in Winchester, Kentucky, and told me he suffered from aggressive stage 4 mantle cell lymphoma and lost his current health insurance.

The least expensive replacement policy on the Kentucky Kynect exchange was \$1,800 more per month. ObamaCare was supposed to fix the problem of pre-existing conditions, but for Tony Calvert and for his family, ObamaCare in Kentucky is a personal and financial disaster.

Consider the Blue Grass Stockyards, a beef cattle auction business that employs over 60 full-time employees who have enjoyed the benefits of high-quality, employer-provided health insurance for many years.

In 2010, the company's cost per employee was about \$250 each month, and it provided about a \$1,500 deductible, good prescription coverage, and \$3,000 out-of-pocket maximum.

By 2014, this company faced a 50 percent increase in cost because of ObamaCare and nowhere near the coverage quality that they had been able to provide to their employees in the past.

Moving all of their employees to Kentucky Kynect was no help. The very best scenario they have come up with is to purchase a policy at over a 9 percent increase in premiums, a \$5,000 in-

network deductible, and a \$10,000 out-of-network deductible, and these are narrow networks.

The company told me that they have always taken pride in providing their valued employees with quality coverage, but because of ObamaCare, they can't do that any more.

Then there is Joe and Laura Westbrook. They have been owner-operators of Speedflo and Snapflo, a family printing company in Lexington, Kentucky, since 1976. Their family-owned business has grown to 32 employees—including many working moms—providing good benefits and affordable group health insurance until May 2014, when their renewal rates skyrocketed 101 percent.

To make matters worse, the available post-ObamaCare plans had deductibles that were three times larger than the pre-ObamaCare plans. These increases threatened to make it impossible for them to continue to provide their employees with health insurance, and for the first time, they had to ask their employees to contribute to cover the cost of the new plans.

The VA scandal is a window into the future of ObamaCare. It is a window into what government health care looks like: higher cost, higher premiums, less choices.

Let's get together as a country and acknowledge that this law doesn't work. It is unfortunate that ObamaCare doesn't work. The American people deserve health care reform that actually lowers costs, that provides more choices, and does not put bureaucrats in charge of health care.

EPA RULE WILL BE DEVASTATING FOR COAL COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the EPA is expected to unleash what is essentially a Federal cap-and-trade proposal aimed at our Nation's existing coal-fired power plants.

I will oppose this rule, as it will adversely affect coal miners and coal mining communities throughout West Virginia and the Nation. At stake is our economy and the livelihoods of our coal miners, our steelworkers, electrical workers, those who keep our freight trains running, and families and businesses that rely on affordable energy from coal.

Even though we don't have the details of the rule yet, from everything we know, we can be sure of this: it will be very bad for jobs. The only real question is where, on a scale from devastating to a death blow, the new rule will fall.

I have written to OMB opposing the new source performance standards rule for future power plants and calling

upon the Director to return the draft back to EPA and calling on EPA to go back to the drawing board on their proposal.

I have joined 181 Members of this body in a letter to Administrator McCarthy asking that the normal 60-day comment period be extended to at least 120 additional days.

I have cosponsored and voted for H.R. 3826, the Electricity Security and Affordability Act, along with my colleague, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD), which would block the new source performance rule for future power plants. The House passed the bill on March 16, by a vote of 229-183, and sent it over to the other body.

I have cosponsored, along with my colleague, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY), H.R. 2127, a resolution of disapproval that would prevent the new source performance standard rule for future power plants from going into effect. If enacted, this would have the same effect as the Whitfield bill, blocking EPA from advancing the rule on existing plants.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, are the effects on our coal miners' health care and pension plans. There are more than 100,000 retirees, their dependents, and surviving spouses who receive health care and/or pensions from the UMWA, United Mine Workers of America, health and retirement funds.

Because these benefits are paid for by contributions made by the coal companies for every hour worked by an active miner, this rule could dramatically undercut the solvency of these funds.

In 2012, for example, a total of \$1.2 billion went into coal field communities in pension payments and direct payments to health care providers for retiree health care benefits. That included nearly 400 million into rural West Virginia communities.

This is what keeps the health care systems in these communities open. Doctors, pharmacies, clinics, therapists, and nursing homes all depend on this funding to survive.

So in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say how devastating these proposed rules—although we have not seen the details yet—could be for coal mining communities.

I—and I am sure others who represent coal mining communities across this Nation—will not sit idle in the face of this latest challenge by the EPA to our way of life.

It is about jobs, it is about jobs, and it is about jobs, and I will look at any and all options that will be available to block this proposed rule from being finalized.

NOT ONE MORE TRAGEDY FOLLOWED BY INACTION

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday night, my home community was rocked by unspeakable violence. It left six students and their assailant dead and 13 others injured. Friday's rampage in Isla Vista, California, has touched the community in a powerful way.

IV, as it is affectionately called, is a special place where people know their neighbors. Everyone is presumed to be a friend, and bikes are more common than cars.

On Friday, IV joined a growing list of small communities touched by unspeakable violence. Today, we continue to mourn those we lost: George Chen, "James" Cheng Yuan Hong, Weihan "David" Wang, Katherine Breann Cooper, Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez, and Veronika Weiss.

We reach out to the injured who need our support as they heal, and we pray for the many others affected, including the families and friends the victims left behind. Our community grieves, and we struggle to make sense of the senseless.

For many in a variety of places, this sadness and grief is also a frustration, frustration that more could have and should have been done to prevent this tragedy from the start.

We think of other places where similar rampages have occurred so recently: Tucson, Carson City, Seal Beach, Atlanta, Oakland, Seattle, Aurora, Oak Creek, Minneapolis, Newtown, Washington Navy Yard, Santa Monica, Fort Hood.

How many more of these mass shootings do we need before we act?

We have all seen how a violent incident can bring public attention to the need for sensible gun safety measures. We know that we must keep these weapons out of the hands of violent individuals; but all too quickly, the attention fades, the drumbeat quiets, and we are left with inaction.

I sincerely hope that this time will be different, but it won't be unless we, as Congress, act.

The American public wants universal background checks. They want limits on high-capacity magazines, increased school safety, and stronger gun-trafficking penalties, and that is the least we can do. We also need to make sure that our systems talk to each other, so that no one falls between the cracks.

It is clear that we need to do more to ensure that our mental health system and our law enforcement can work together to identify potentially dangerous individuals.

We need to ensure that parents who are concerned that their son might be a danger to himself or others have a meaningful way to seek help, and we need to ensure that we use the many new tools available, including social media, so when threats are made on the Internet they are taken seriously.

The American public's message to Congress is clear, and I heard it so

poignantly at the University of California Santa Barbara just 2 days ago: not one more, not one more life should be lost, not one more family should have to grieve like ours, not one more community should be added to this list.

Gun safety and the Second Amendment are not mutually exclusive. Law-abiding Americans have the right to own a gun, but each of us deserves to feel safe in our homes and our communities.

Over the next few weeks, I will be meeting with local and national advocates on these issues to identify the gaps and to propose ways we can fix them, but no matter how much bills are researched, supported, and proposed, we need our House leadership to commit to us, to commit to the American people that we will have a vote.

Bills may pass, they may fail, but the American people have the right to know where their elected Representatives stand.

I join in the chorus of those who are rightly frustrated with the system and with this Congress: not one more.

I implore my colleagues to make sure that this phrase has yet another meaning: not one more tragedy followed by inaction. This time can be different, and it is up to us.

IN MEMORY OF REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER DERRICK

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a colleague and friend, Butler Derrick, who passed away earlier this month. I had the privilege of serving with Butler during my first term, which was his last.

Although our service together in this body lasted only 2 years, I had the pleasure of working with him in the years before and the years since. I am honored to say he was a friend, and I know I am not alone in saying that he will be missed.

Butler Carson Derrick, Jr., was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1936. His family soon returned to South Carolina, and he grew up in Florence. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina and his law degree from the University of Georgia.

□ 1045

He took up the mantle of leadership at an early age, serving as president of the student body at the University of South Carolina and was a legal student leader at Georgia.

After law school, he settled in Edgefield, South Carolina, where he started his own law firm, Derrick and Byrd. Just 3 years out of law school, he

was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives, where he served on the Rules and Ways and Means Committees and as a member of the South Carolina Nuclear Advisory Board. It was during these years that our paths first crossed, while I was serving on the staff of Governor John C. West, and we became fast friends.

In 1974, Butler was elected to this body from the Third Congressional District of South Carolina. He quickly distinguished himself among his large freshman class, becoming the first freshman ever appointed to the Budget Committee, on which he served for 10 years in the House, as well as chairing the Task Force on Budget Process for an additional 2 years.

At the start of his third term, Butler was appointed to the Rules Committee, on which he would serve for the remainder of his tenure in Congress, serving as vice chair from 1989 to 1995.

Butler had a way of bringing people together. The Democratic Caucus in those days was very ideologically diverse, from dyed-in-the-wool Northern liberals to old guard Southern conservatives. Born in Massachusetts and raised in South Carolina, Butler was uniquely able to bridge these divides. In 1986, he was elected to serve as a regional representative to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

In 1992, his ascent in the leadership continued when he was named chief deputy whip, the first time that a South Carolinian had been named to a top leadership post in 130 years. I owe him a debt of gratitude for paving the way for other South Carolinians to follow in his footsteps.

While Butler's service in leadership gave him a role in all the issues affecting the Nation, his focus never left the Third Congressional District. He was a tireless advocate for the textile industry, serving as chair of the Congressional Textile Caucus from 1987 to 1994.

With his district containing the Savannah River Site and Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant, he struck a balance between promoting the economic benefits of the industry and ensuring the health and safety of his constituents. Finding the right balance wasn't always easy, but Butler navigated the issue as he did all issues, with a keen intellect and fierce advocacy.

Butler Derrick was a man who did what he thought was right and let the political chips fall as they may. Scott A. Frisch and Sean Q. Kelly, in their book, "Jimmy Carter and the Water Wars," singled Butler out for a special commendation in this regard when it came to fiscal responsibility and environmental protection. It is worth quoting them at some length:

Butler's support of the administration's position might be considered surprising. Included in the hit list was the Richard B. Russell lake project which spanned Georgia and South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, Butler's service to South Carolina continued beyond his years in Congress. I close by concurring with the late Speaker Tom Foley, who said, upon Butler's retirement, "Butler Derrick is a true leader."

While I miss my friend Butler, I am comforted by the fact that he lived a rich and full life, and he will live on through the impact he made in the lives of those he served. He is a model that we will all do well to emulate.

IRAN'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS

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

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I am gravely concerned about the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran and the status of the current negotiations between P5+1 in Iran.

As Iran has moved off the front pages over the past few months, I fear that the Iranians are becoming increasingly emboldened. With less than 2 months until the current Joint Plan of Action expires, we have yet to see real concessions from the Iranians. In fact, President Rouhani, supposedly a moderate, said just weeks ago that Iran will offer only transparency in a final agreement.

What good is transparency if Iran can continue to spin uranium and charge forward towards a nuclear weapon?

While the administration is responsible for representing the United States with the P5+1, it is important to remember that Congress has a very important role to play in this process. Congress has made it very clear that any final deal with Iran must lead to the dismantlement of Iran's nuclear infrastructure, and we must continue to reiterate this. It is unacceptable for the P5+1 to strike a deal that allows Iran any pathway to a nuclear weapon.

Additionally, Congress must continue to insist that Iran does not extend the negotiations and use them as a stalling tactic to advance its program. If the Joint Plan of Action is extended beyond the July 20 deadline, Iran must make real and meaningful concessions and convince us that it is not simply stalling. If Iran violates the current agreement or if it refuses to negotiate an acceptable final agreement, Congress must move immediately to impose dramatic new sanctions on the regime.

The administration must also remember that the implementation of any agreement will almost definitely require congressional approval. The President cannot unilaterally lift sanctions. It must come back to Congress for that.

So why hasn't the administration kept us apprised of the negotiations? It cannot expect Congress to automatically accept any agreement it comes up

with. Congress needs to be an active partner in this process.

I urge the administration to provide Congress with increased transparency and to consult Congress on elements of the deal. It is imperative that Congress plays a critical role throughout this process.

We must continue to insist that any final agreement with Iran ensures the dismantlement of Iran's nuclear infrastructure and that Iran has no pathway to a bomb. A nuclear-armed Iran would be a national security disaster. We must do everything we can to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, and that includes a congressional role in the current negotiations.

COMMEMORATING THE VETERANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIED LANDINGS AT NORMANDY ON D-DAY

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

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I am joined here today by my colleagues from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the French Caucus so that we may pay tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of the American soldiers who landed at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

This marks the 70th anniversary of D-day. Next week, Members of the House will travel to Normandy to join President Obama and other Allied heads of state to honor and remember the heroism of "the longest day."

130,000 soldiers stormed the beaches at Normandy, long stretches with no cover from the enemy, fire that rained down from the hillsides above. Others parachuted or glided into the countryside, while at Pointe du Hoc, situated between Utah and Omaha, the 2nd Rangers climbed straight up the high cliffs, dodging gunfire and grenades and straight into the sights of the enemy cannons. It was a daunting, terrifying battlefield, but our troops answered the call with first-class bravery, and they got the job done as they always do.

The historic victory came at a price. The Allied casualties that June day were tragically high: 1,100 Canadians, 2,700 British, 15,000 to 20,000 Free French, and 6,000 Americans perished. Their bravery, their sacrifice, and their courage changed the very course of world history.

Today marks the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the World War II Memorial. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for the key role she played in ensuring it was built.

The memorial provides a place for solemn reflection and gives World War II veterans the chance to share their memories with each other as they participate and Honor Flights from across

the country with their sons and daughters and grandchildren. A living piece of history.

The World War II Memorial and the Veterans History Projects are employing every tool possible to catalogue, preserve, and make these firsthand memories for future generations. This effort is very important because there is a story that we must never forget.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, to the sailors, soldiers, marines, and airmen who stormed the beaches, parachuted into the thorny hedgerows, scaled the cliffs, and fought their way inland, America and the world owes you, our Greatest Generation, a debt we can never repay. May God bless each and every one you, and may God bless the United States of America.

MADE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, American manufacturing has always been the engine driving the American economy. While the recent recession has slowed our growth, American manufacturing is poised once again to propel our Nation and to propel our families forward.

My district in Pennsylvania is home to over 700 manufacturing facilities that sustain tens of thousands of good-paying, family-sustaining jobs. The people of Pennsylvania know that when they buy American-made goods, not only are they buying quality products, they are helping businesses and workers in their neighborhoods and across our country.

With that in mind, last summer I introduced the Made in America Act. It is bipartisan legislation that would connect American consumers to American manufacturers like never before by creating a definitive, standardized definition of "American-made goods."

Michael Araten, the CEO of the Rodon Group based in my district, correctly notes: "The keys to the success of American manufacturing are STEM education, abundant energy, and consumers who can easily recognize that products they love are made in the USA."

By incentivizing manufacturers to meet certain Made in America benchmarks for domestic production and providing consumers with reliable and easy-to-understand information, the Made in America Act can meet two very valuable goals: the reshoring of American businesses and jobs, and increasing American purchases of American-made goods.

"Made in America" has always stood for quality, value, and ingenuity. With the passage of this commonsense legislation, "Made in America" can also mean jobs.

SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to the Greatest Generation of American heroes by honoring our courageous veterans of World War II, in particular, those who took part in the Normandy landing on June 6, 1944.

On that historic day, 160,000 Allied troops landed on the 50-mile stretch of beaches along the Normandy coast, commencing the largest amphibious assault ever of continental Europe. Their mission was clear: to gain a foothold from which to fight Nazi Germany and defeat Adolf Hitler.

With more than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft, the Allied forces succeeded, but 9,000 patriots were killed or wounded in battle. The bravery and heroism of those Americans and our Allies when they stormed the French coastline was most definitely the turning point of the war. And they could not have done it without the extraordinary work of the Seabees.

During World War II, around 175,000 Seabees were staged directly through Port Hueneme and Ventura County. The Seabees, who were recruited for their civil construction skills, laid the groundwork for D-day.

□ 1100

On that historic day, the Seabees were among the first to go ashore, as members of the naval combat demolition units. Working with the U.S. Army engineers, they destroyed the steel and concrete barriers that the Germans had built along the Normandy coast to forestall an amphibious landing. Coming under fire at dawn, whole teams of Seabees were wiped out by the Germans, but their fellow servicemen continued their life-threatening task of planting all of their explosive charges. Because of their heroic actions the charges went off as planned, blowing huge holes in the enemy's defense.

But the Seabees' contributions to D-day didn't stop there. After the Allied fleet arrived on the coast of Normandy, Naval Construction Regiment 25—a team of around 10,000 Seabees—moved their pontoon causeways to create a beachhead from which the Allied infantry could land ashore.

Then, after the unheralded yet no less heroic work of the Seabees was complete, our troops and tanks went ashore, took back Normandy, and drove the Germans inland.

We remember and honor those heroes who gave their lives for us, and we thank the brave men and women who served our country, returned home, and helped the U.S. become the indispensable leader of liberty and freedom.

Many of us have family members who fought in World War II, including my

uncle Pete, who served in the Army. Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, just over 1 million of them are still alive, with around 93,000 in my home State of California.

Seven decades later, we are rapidly losing this Greatest Generation, so it is of the utmost importance that we continue to show our gratitude and appreciation for their sacrifices by recording their oral histories, with Honor Flights, and by ensuring that they live their final years with dignity and respect—and we shall never forget.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am committed to ensuring that the 20 million veterans in the United States receive the care and benefits they have earned and deserve—for everyone who donned the uniform, from the World War II generation to the post-9/11 generation.

I thank the World War II veterans in Ventura County and across the country for the sacrifices they and their families made to serve our great Nation, and for protecting our liberty and freedoms, our democracy at home, and our allies abroad.

The example their generation has set for us of coming together as a Nation with a common purpose is one we continue to aspire to today and one my colleagues and I on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee emulate as we seek the best possible care for our veterans.

PECOS, TEXAS

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to continue my journey through the 23rd District of Texas and saddle up and ride along the Butterfield Trail to a place that is truly American, and that is the city of Pecos, Texas, home of the Eagles, the mighty purple and gold.

Pecos is on Forbes' Top 400 Fastest-Growing Small Towns list. Spurred by growth in agriculture, Pecos is the home of the sweetest cantaloupes—Pecos cantaloupes—grown anywhere in the country, and also of incredible growth in oil and gas, as Pecos is part of the Permian Basin.

Pecos can be found sitting quietly in rich tradition just outside the Chihuahuan Desert where the Pecos River flows. The formidable Pecos River was nearly impossible to ford at one time. But being intrepid citizens, Americans using their ingenuity explored and discovered several places of the river where they could cross, and they founded the city of Pecos.

The city of Pecos was established in the late 1800s, and with the arrival of the Texas Pacific Railroad in 1881, Pecos functioned as a transportation hub and created something that was Texas tough, kind of a combination of

a cowboy culture and a Hispanic culture that still thrives even today. Many outlaws like Bill Earhart and John Denson met their end in Pecos, messing with the Texas tough values of Pecos.

That combination of cultures encouraged competitiveness. As a result, the dusty air was filled with cowboys contending for bragging rights through friendly rivalries that would eventually lead to the first ever rodeo on July 4, 1883, in Pecos, Texas. The winner of many Pecos rodeos was that mythical person Pecos Bill, a man who legend says was raised by coyotes and can be found in many movies and many books.

Today, Pecos continues that longest-running annual rodeo. If you are lucky, perhaps you can catch a glimpse of Pecos Bill still carrying on that rich tradition of accomplishment, perhaps eating a cantaloupe—as I said, one of the fruits that that area is famous for.

I invite all to visit Pecos, to learn more about the culture, the beauty, the traditions of the 23rd District. I am certain you won't regret your visit to west Texas.

OAKLAND BENEFITS OFFICE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as the secret waiting lists in veterans health care come to light more and more, I implore my colleagues to include the benefits administration in the VA as part of this investigation. I echo Chairman MILLER's statement from yesterday's hearing, where he told the witnesses: "Until VA understands that we are deadly serious, you can expect us to be looking over your shoulder every single day." Count on it.

I want the Oakland Regional Office to know that I, too, am serious and will continue to spend my time and that of my staff to correct the claims disaster crushing the veterans in my district. With the help of an ever-growing group of whistleblowers at the Oakland VA, we absolutely will be looking over their shoulder every single day.

Claim dates are concurrently being manipulated by the Oakland VA to improve their backlog statistics. This is a flagrant disregard of VA rules and contrary to the training received by every employee. Because of practices like these, thousands of veterans in my district are not even eligible for the secret health care waiting lists that we hear about, such as in Arizona. Their claims are still pending or summarily denied on technicalities prior to full consideration.

Many of these veterans have more than one claim unanswered. One man in my district has a 36-year-old claim, and a secondary claim appears to have been deliberately sidelined now for 212

days. Despite these facts, the Oakland VA boasts that they have no claims over 125 days old. I meet veterans just like this man every day with claims that have gone on for years.

Thanks to a handful of dedicated VA employees working with my office, we have learned that these delays are an engineered disaster designed to control the VA budget in Oakland. By reducing the claim expenditures, Oakland's management has become eligible for bonuses, and received them. Withholding benefits for personal gain is perhaps the most despicable aspect of the VA scandals.

Veterans benefits are supposed to be a non-adversarial system. How can that be when employees have financial incentive not to process claims? Doesn't that explain the endless veteran claims with missing records and the staggering delays in processing? It is time to restore the VA to a veteran-centered system with real accountability.

Last Thursday, I made public the statements of whistleblowers regarding some 14,000 unprocessed claims at the Oakland office dating back to the '90s, as depicted in this poster. We have since heard that Oakland VA responded by sending a large number of these claims on a swift trip to Manila for "scanning." That is Manila, the Philippines. We don't know how many they have sent, and we don't really have an accountability for if they were actually sent at all.

After sitting untouched for years, the fastest process we have is scanning these files in the Philippines? How many of these veterans have given up on their claims or even died during this period? Were these veterans contacted to say their claims have been located?

Indeed, we hear that the budgeting in Oakland has actually gone for new desks, new furniture, and I have even heard spiffing up the director's suite with an ungraded or new restroom. We don't have money in the budget to buy a scanner so that the claims can be processed locally, we have to ship them out of the country? This is the response we get for some cases, almost 20-year-old claims sitting on a desk in a hallway at the Oakland VA. That is appalling.

On Tuesday morning, urgent phone calls came pouring into my office from Oakland employees who had been working with us who were unable to verify these files had actually been shipped. They feared that many of them had been destroyed or perhaps hidden once again in a janitor's closet or an elevator shaft somewhere.

I made repeated calls to the Oakland office that afternoon to check on this situation. Multiple calls to the interim director, Mr. Hackney, have gone unanswered, and we have yet, that I know of, to receive a response.

Every American should be appalled at this broken system. Mr. Speaker, it

is time to expand our inquiries to the Veterans Administration as well to attack these problems from the bottom up while we have the opportunity. Remember, without a benefits rating, our veterans aren't even eligible to get on the secret waiting list at the veterans hospitals.

This isn't just about Arizona. It is almost everywhere within the system. This administration has known about this situation for at least a year, yet we hear what we hear. Only now are we really getting to the depths of the problem at the VA nationwide.

With an important national day of remembrance just behind us here in Memorial Day, and now we are coming upon the 70th anniversary of D-day, the invasion of Normandy, where our heroic troops really started the assault on taking back Europe from a regime that was evil, why can't we, the way they marshaled those resources to do that huge, huge invasion, marshal the resources in this country now to help our veterans, in honor of them just past Memorial Day and the upcoming of D-day, with missing files? Instead, let's process them.

THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am honored to join with my colleagues from that committee to mark the 70th anniversary of D-day.

Nevada's heroes have played a critical role in our country's armed services throughout history, from the Air Force pilots that have been deployed from Nellis Air Force Base to our National Guard's 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry Unit that has served in Iraq and Afghanistan. For generations, our democracy has been defended by those who have given so much.

Next week marks the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy. At no other time in history has an amphibious assault occurred on that scale. On June 6, 1944, 156,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy knowing that they may not survive, and many didn't. They were bombarded by bullets and shells and bombs, but without hesitation they marched on. In that one day, the United States lost 6,603 brave soldiers.

Nevada Senator Howard Cannon was one of the American heroes who risked his life on that fateful day. He piloted the chief troop-carrier airplane, leading 44 others from Exeter, England, across the English Channel to France. In the middle of a hot June night, at 11:50 p.m. on June 5, he took off, the plane departed, the Stoy Hora, carrying paratroopers who jumped into France just a little while later.

A few days after that, on June 17, Senator Cannon was shot down over

the Netherlands and survived 42 days behind enemy lines. He is one of the heroes whose story is told in the book and movie "A Bridge Too Far."

I am fortunate that I was able to serve as Senator Cannon's faculty intern here in 1982. Every day in my district office, I have the unique privilege of sitting behind Senator Cannon's desk. It is a constant reminder of the many different forms that heroism takes. From the foot soldier at Normandy struggling against the waves to gain the beach to the switch operator back in the United States ensuring that the communications went through; from the admirals to the privates; from the artillerymen to the spies, there were many heroes who showed up on that day that changed history.

These brave men and women have been called "the Greatest Generation" by Tom Brokaw for a reason. Like many of you, I have family members who fought in World War II: an uncle, a father-in-law, two of my husband's uncles. Their valor and courage stand as an example to all of us as we continue to battle injustice today.

So, to all of those who risked their lives on those beaches in Normandy and beyond and to the families of those who perished on those foreign shores, fighting for democracy and freedom, I say a heartfelt thank you, and our grateful Nation owes you a debt that it can never repay.

□ 1115

LET'S STAND WITH OUR NATION'S HEROES

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

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's veterans, the men and women who have put their lives on the line in service to our country.

I was honored to have the opportunity to spend Memorial Day with our troops stationed in Afghanistan. Sharing this most solemn holiday with members of our armed services, who go above and beyond every day, was truly a humbling experience.

It was an experience that reinforced my belief that one of the best ways Americans can pay tribute to the brave men and women who risk their lives fighting for us is to recommit ourselves to our duty to care for them when they return home. That is why I will be introducing three bills to help our troops and veterans.

Too often, we hear that our Nation's heroes, after fighting for our country, come home only to have to fight to get the care, support, and respect they so deserve. We must make sure that the brave men and women who have risked everything for our country are never

forgotten or ignored, that we fight for them as they have fought for us.

For one thing, this means fully settling benefit claims in an efficient and timely manner and making sure that those veterans receive the proper care and compensation.

Currently, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims, or CAVC, is the court that veterans must appeal to if they were unfairly denied benefits, but it does not allow veterans access to the same judicial tools available in other Federal courts.

This court is terribly overburdened, with an appeal taking around a year on average, and that is on top of the nearly 4 years that a veteran has already waited by then. That is indefensible.

On the heels of damning reports about the VA's failing our veterans with wait lists that have even led to deaths while veterans wait for service, we must find ways to reduce the backlog and speed up the process.

That is why I have introduced a bill that would allow groups of veterans with similar claims to band together in their appeals. This would be highly efficient for both the VA and veterans by cutting costs, reducing decision times, and providing effective counsel, which many veterans lack under the current system.

This act would allow veterans to have their appeals heard in a class action, as was successfully used by veterans impacted by Agent Orange prior to the creation of the CAVC. For veterans facing disability due to the exposure to burn pits in Afghanistan, this could be an invaluable tool.

Another way to serve our Nation's heroes is by expanding educational opportunities. Veterans deserve the best training, so they don't have to fight for a job after fighting for our country.

Today, I am proposing to improve the post-9/11 GI Bill by expanding eligible expenses to include applications to college, graduate school, and law school, as well as technical and vocational schools. Applications to schools can be as high as \$300 to \$500 in out-of-pocket expenses for veterans returning from overseas.

Let's make it easier for our returning troops to pursue their educational and career goals by allowing our veterans to use the GI Bill to get reimbursed for expenses from applying to school.

Our veterans have tremendous discipline, responsibility, and leadership ability to offer businesses. By having access to educational opportunities, veterans will have the means to keep their job skills up to date and to stay competitive in today's evolving job market.

Finally, families are also impacted when their loved ones are deployed. Military spouses take on much of the burden and deserve great assistance. Currently, the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts program provides up to a \$4,000 educational benefit

while the spouse is overseas on active duty.

While we agree that this is a worthwhile benefit, it doesn't even get the average person through a single semester. The average tour lasts about 10 months, long enough to complete a full year of school. An average year of tuition at a public university in the United States is almost \$9,000.

Let's bump up the benefit, so it actually covers the cost of tuition. The families of our servicemembers are the backbone of our military.

The bills I have introduced are commonsense solutions to do just that. This is National Military Appreciation Month. Let's stand with our Nation's servicemembers and veterans. Let's express our gratitude for their service by recognizing the struggles they face and make sure we are there for them and recognize the sacrifices they have made.

I urge my colleagues to support these bills, so that our veterans, troops, and military families get the care, benefits, and support they deserve.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Rabbi Stephen Roth, Congregation Eitz Chaim, Passaic, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, we ask that You bestow Your blessings on the Members of this House of Representatives so that their deliberations be just and with wisdom to benefit the people they represent. Guide them with Your kindness, and shower them with Your love.

This past week, we observed Memorial Day, a day set aside to remember those who gave their lives in defense of our great land and the freedoms that we enjoy. Let us remember that there are many people in the world that still do not enjoy these freedoms. We ask that these as yet oppressed people be granted the same freedoms we enjoy as a free nation, speedily in our time.

We pray for peace, not only for the citizens of this great land, but for peace among nations. May we soon see the day as prophesied by Isaiah: "No nation shall lift their swords against

another, and may we learn of war no more."

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAINES led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING RABBI STEPHEN ROTH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank my friend, Rabbi Stephen Roth, a resident of the Ninth Congressional District of New Jersey, for offering the opening prayer before the House of Representatives.

Rabbi Roth hails from Brooklyn, New York City, and was ordained in 1972 by the Brooklyn Rabbinical Seminary. For 20 years, he served as the founding rabbi of Congregation Eitz Chaim in Passaic, New Jersey, inspiring and guiding countless members of his congregation.

In addition to his work as a teacher, mentor, and counselor in his community, Rabbi Roth also served as the softball coach for the Torah Academy of Bergen County, as well as the Kushner Yeshiva High School. Rabbi Roth has, no doubt, served his community so well, thanks to the loving support of his wife of nearly 35 years, Fern, who is with us today, as well as his three children and 13 grandchildren.

So on behalf of the United States Congress and my constituents in New Jersey, I want to thank my friend Rabbi Roth for serving as guest chaplain in the House of Representatives today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

IRAN IS DETERMINED TO HAVE NUKES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in a changing world full of danger, the greatest threat to the United States and the rest of the world remains the same—the Iranian regime.

This was once again demonstrated through the words of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In a speech recently, he said that the Iranians who wish to negotiate with the United States are committing treason. He made it clear that the jihad battle will continue endlessly until they "get rid of the oppressors" with "America at the head of it."

Mr. Speaker, the Iranian regime believes their battle will not be over until America is destroyed. The blissful, unrealistic, and naive hope to the contrary, Iran has no plans to stop its development of nukes. The Supreme Leader said: "The accelerated scientific advancement of the last 12 years cannot stop under any circumstances."

Iran has time and time again lied about its nuclear weapons capability and development. America should realize that the ruler of Iran wants to destroy us in the name of religion by any means necessary. The United States should tighten sanctions against Iran, not relax them.

And that's just the way it is.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, there are nearly 70 foster youth here today on Capitol Hill recognizing National Foster Care Month and to advocate for positive reforms that will better serve our Nation's kids.

I applaud my friend from California, Congresswoman BASS, who, when she was speaker of the assembly, led the effort in California to extend the foster care age to 21 and is now leading the charge here in Congress to help strengthen the foster care system.

Today, Joel, a 22-year-old student from Wilmington, California, who spent 3 years in the California foster care system, is spending the day with me to share his experience in foster care.

Due to unfortunate circumstances, Joel was separated from his parents and found himself living on the streets of Los Angeles before being placed in a foster home. Joel didn't let these challenges keep him from completing high school at Banning High School and attending college at Cal Poly Pomona.

Today, Joel is an inspiring young political science student and a testament

to the importance of investing in foster youth programs. But we must do more. There are nearly 400,000 youth in the foster care system like Joel. These are all of our children, and we must take care of them.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
LANCE CORPORAL STEVEN HANCOCK
OF GOOSE LAKE, ILLINOIS

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

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Lance Corporal Steven Hancock of Goose Lake, Illinois, who faithfully served our Nation in the United States Marine Corps. He was a member of the Second Marine Aircraft Wing and died while participating in a training exercise on an MV-22B Osprey aircraft on May 19, 2014.

Lance Corporal Hancock was one of three children and attended Coal City High School. He was known as a quiet leader and earned the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout as a member of Scout Troop 466. His family, friends, and colleagues will always remember his constant smile, cheerfulness, and strong faith in Jesus Christ.

Lance Corporal Hancock joined the Marine Corps on March 5, 2012, and was the crew chief of the Osprey aircraft on which he served. His sense of duty and willingness to voluntarily serve our country demonstrates what makes our Nation exceptional. He will be sorely missed, and I am extremely grateful for his service.

It is because of people like him who are willing to defend our country that we are allowed to stand here and deliberate on behalf of the American people.

God bless Lance Corporal Hancock, and God bless his family.

THANKING CAPITOL VISITOR
CENTER STAFF

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the Capitol Visitor Center employees for their hard work during this popular tourist season at the United States Capitol. I recognize the great effort, organization, and knowledge it takes not only to lead tours of the United States Capitol, but to help visitors navigate this sometimes confusing building.

In addition, CVC staff is instrumental in assisting congressional offices, such as mine, with coordinating staff-led tours through the Capitol. My constituents enjoy visiting this historic building not only to learn about United States history, but to see where their legislators work each and every day. The staff of the United States

Capitol Visitor Center make their visits more enjoyable, informative, and help to ensure history comes alive here at the Capitol.

The Capitol Visitor Center has welcomed approximately 2.2 million visitors since the Visitor Center opened its doors in December of 2008. In March of this year, the Capitol Visitor Center assisted over 155,000 visitors on Capitol tours. In April, despite construction of the rotunda on the second floor of the Capitol Building, the Visitor Center assisted over 209,000 visitors.

Today, I recognize their hard work and thank each and every one of them for what they do for my constituents in the Eighth District and throughout this country.

THE MEDAL OF HONOR PRIORITY
CARE ACT

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced bipartisan legislation to honor our Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. H.R. 4720, the Medal of Honor Priority Care Act, would place Medal of Honor recipients in the VA's highest priority group to make certain they receive timely access to their health benefits.

Medal of Honor recipients have gone above and beyond the call of duty by putting themselves in harm's way to protect their position and fellow soldiers in combat. Currently, there are 78 living recipients of the Medal of Honor, including two from Michigan—Corporal Duane E. Dewey and Private First Class Robert E. Simanek—who both received the decoration for their heroic actions in the Korean war.

These heroes should have access to the VA when they need it, and the Medal of Honor Priority Care Act will ensure that this select group of individuals is guaranteed the highest level of care.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND
INDUSTRY

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry commemorates the 70th anniversary of the capture of the U-505 submarine, I recognize the museum for offering world-class experiences that inspire children to achieve their full potential in science, technology, medicine, and engineering.

The U-505 German submarine terrorized the Atlantic Ocean as part of a massive U-boat campaign that almost altered the outcome of World War II. On June 4, 1944, it was brought to the ocean's surface with a depth charge attack from the USS *Chatelain*, after

which crew from the USS *Pillsbury* boarded the sub and helped Allied forces gain valuable defense intelligence that forever changed the course of world events.

The U-505 exhibition is not only a memorial to the sailors who gave up their lives on the high seas, it is a reminder of the role that science and technology plays in keeping the world safe and changing history for the better. I thank the Museum of Science and Industry for molding the minds of the future while celebrating America's innovative past.

In closing, I want to salute the students watching from the museum.

IN HONOR OF THE BOBBY RAY
DETACHMENT

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I rise today to honor the Marine Corps League's Bobby Ray Detachment of McMinnville in the Fourth Congressional District.

For the past 238 years, the Marine Corps has stood as a symbol of America's strength and valor. The level of commitment, honor, discipline, and courage exemplified by the Corps is unparalleled. By banding together both Active Duty and retired marines, the Marine Corps League preserves these same values and proves true the motto, "Once a Marine, Always a Marine."

Members of the Marine Corps League play an important role in our communities. Whether offering assistant service to members, commemorating historical occasions, or organizing fundraisers for local charities, these individuals embody the principle of "ductus exemplo," or "lead by example."

Next month, the Bobby Ray Detachment will host the Marine Corps League State Convention. It is an honor to recognize these patriots as they bond together to promote the ideals of freedom and democracy.

I, along with the grateful citizens of Tennessee's Fourth District, extend to these marines a heartfelt thanks for the sacrifices made and the services rendered to our country.

2014 SCIENCE FAIR AND STEM
EDUCATION

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, this week, the White House hosted high school students from across the country for its 2014 Science Fair.

San Diego high school student Eric Chen was among the attendees and was praised by President Obama for his award-winning research into combating influenza. I rise to congratulate

Eric and celebrate all students across the country who eagerly pursue scientific research.

We must continue to provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their excitement and their mastery in science, technology, engineering, and math. Soon we will depend on these same students to tackle our biggest challenges; and at times, they will inherit problems that seem daunting: climate change, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, drought, food scarcity, the list goes on.

We are at a critical crossroads in so many areas and cannot afford to lose our technological edge. We must provide students with the tools necessary for success by further investing in STEM education. It begins by heavily recruiting teachers who go beyond the traditional role of educators, teachers that become mentors and explorers and visionaries with their students; and we need teachers who inspire our best and brightest young minds to do more than the generation before them ever could imagine.

STEM education is an issue that we can all rally around, and I urge my colleagues to do so when supporting this important initiative.

□ 1215

THE ELECTRICITY SECURITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, coal is vital to our way of life in Montana. It provides thousands of jobs, affordable electricity for families, and millions of dollars that fund our schools and our parks. So when Montanans hear about new coal regulations from the EPA, we get a bit nervous.

A new study predicts that President Obama's rules will effectively ban new coal generation—killing jobs and causing energy prices to skyrocket.

The House passed the Electricity Security and Affordability Act, a bill I cosponsored, to halt these job-killing regulations. I urge the Senate to also take action to stop President Obama and protect Montana families who rely on coal for affordable energy and whose livelihoods are supported by Montana's coal industry.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I want to honor Helen Ho Kim and the entire staff of the Asian American Legal Advocacy Center of Georgia.

Based in the city of Norcross, part of which I represent, the center is dedicated to promoting the rights of Asian Americans in the Southeast. They protect and promote the civil, social, and economic rights of Asian Americans through policy, community organizing, leadership development, and legal education. The center strives towards individuals who are fully empowered, active in civic life, and working together to promote equity and fair treatment for all.

The center is also proof that Asian and Pacific Islanders are part of every community in this country. As this month comes to a close, I encourage all Americans to take pride in the diversity of our country and to consider the contributions of Asian and Pacific Islanders in their communities.

RECOGNIZING MURRAY WISE

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great friend of mine and a great friend of agriculture, Murray Wise.

Farming and agriculture have always played an integral role in Murray's life. He grew up on his parents' grain and livestock farm and even acquired his first farm before attending college.

After graduating early from Iowa State University, Murray continued to show his commitment to agriculture through his first job with Allied Mills, Incorporated, and his second with The Sandage Companies. And, now, years later, Murray is the chairman and CEO of Murray Wise Associates, a leading authority on land marketing based in Champaign, Illinois.

In 2 weeks, Murray will be honored as Parkland College's V. Dale Cozad Entrepreneur of the Year. I can't think of a more deserving individual than Murray to receive this prestigious award.

Murray is recognized not only for his years of hard work and education but also for his innovative ideas and position as a national leader in agriculture.

Congratulations, Murray, on this incredible achievement, and I look forward to working with you for years to come on behalf of the agricultural communities in central Illinois. Congrats again, Murray.

CONGRATULATING BRANDIN COOKS OF STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA, FOR MAKING THE NFL ROSTER

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Brandin Cooks, a native of Stockton, California, who was

selected by the New Orleans Saints in the first round of the NFL draft.

Our region is proud to see one of its own achieve his childhood dream. While there are many young men who set the goal of becoming an NFL athlete, it is an incredibly difficult task to make it to that level. According to the NFL's Players Association:

Of the 100,000 high school seniors who play football every year, only 215 will ever make an NFL roster. That is a mere 0.2 percent.

Since he was a child, Brandin loved football and worked hard to develop his skills. He started playing for the North Stockton Bengals youth football program, then Lincoln High School and Oregon State.

Brandin earned the Biletnikoff Award his junior year as the Nation's top receiver and made history at Oregon State. This past February at the NFL Combine, he ran the fastest 40-yard dash—in 4.33 seconds.

Brandin credits his mother, Andrea Cooks, as his inspiration for becoming one of the Nation's elite college receivers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brandin Cooks and wish him a long and successful career in the NFL.

HONORING ILLINOIS' FALLEN BROTHERS G. EARLE AND CHARLES MARCUS ELDRIDGE

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two brothers, G. Earle and Charles Marcus Eldredge, who fell in the line of duty a century ago.

After serving the community for 7 years as an officer in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Earle's own gun was used against him while he investigated a report of poaching on McHenry County soil in 1907.

Charles was a successful attorney until his brother's murder pushed him to join the department as well. He served the State for the next decades, enforcing conservation law and pursuing his brother's killer. Sadly, Charles was also shot down in 1931, near where his brother fell.

To date, the two heroes are the only department officers murdered in the line of duty. Both served their county and their State with honor and bravery, and I support local efforts to honor their lives of devotion to our community.

MEMORIAL DAY IN FOREST HILL, TEXAS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the citizens of Forest

Hill, Texas, for their recent Memorial Day celebration to honor the military service contributions of the men and women of our Armed Forces as well as our public safety officers who have lost their lives in that city in the line of duty.

I was proud to attend the ceremony, which included 375 names of men and women who have proudly served the city of Forest Hill and lived there and have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Also at the park is the Court of Honor, where the names of prisoners of war and the missing in action serve as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices for freedom.

We must remember—perhaps now more than ever—that our debt of gratitude for veterans that have served us can never be repaid in full, but we owe it to them to keep our commitments to them as a country.

I would like to thank the citizens of Forest Hill for their display of thanks and respect.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS ON THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the D-day landings on the beaches of Normandy, France.

On June 6, 1944, combined Allied forces began the opening phase of Operation Overlord in an effort to break the Nazi stranglehold on Western Europe. The initial assault included over 156,000 troops, along with 11,590 aircraft and 6,939 naval vessels. In that first day alone, approximately 10,000 Allied personnel were either wounded or killed, including 6,000 Americans.

The D-day landing was the largest single amphibious assault in history, and soldiers of six divisions—three American, two British, and one Canadian—stormed upon five different beach landings in Normandy. Just hours before that, U.S., British, and Canadian airborne troops dropped into France to support the landing.

The world owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the Greatest Generation who assumed the task of freeing the world from Nazism and fascism and restoring freedom to millions in Europe.

Next week, as we commemorate this important day, I ask everyone to remember the importance of this 70th anniversary of the D-day landings on the beaches of Normandy, France.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly 2 months since the Senate acted to extend unemployment compensation to millions of Americans. It is a bill that was passed in a bipartisan fashion, the way folks back home want us to do things; a bill that was paid for, as was requested; a bill that will not increase the deficit one penny; and a bill that would extend unemployment benefits and help preserve the American way of life for 2.8 million Americans who are at risk of losing everything that they have worked for.

And so what the American public asks me—I know what the folks back home ask—is, Why won't the House act? We know that there is bipartisan support for this legislation even in this body.

The bill that I introduced, H.R. 4415, right after the Senate acted with the precise same language, has bipartisan cosponsorship. So the question is, Why? Why won't Congress act? Is it because this question is too complex? No. This one is really simple. We have a bill that would extend unemployment compensation that is paid for, and it would prevent families from losing their house. Every day that passes that we don't act, a family loses their home. Every day that passes, a family loses hope. It is on our watch that we are allowing this to happen.

I call upon Congress to act.

THE WORST DAY EVER FOR THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, every day that I leave home to fly here, I pass the Southwest Inn, the site of the worst day the Houston Fire Department has ever had. One year ago this Saturday, four brave firefighters were killed when the inn's roof collapsed upon them without warning.

Matthew Renaud, Robert Garner, Robert Bebee, and Anne Sullivan all lost their lives on that day. They never came back to their stations.

Anne's mother, Mary, works at the middle school that both my kids have attended. We shared tears over Anne's loss at a local restaurant. I know the pain of losing her Anne will never leave my friend. But I hope she remembers what her father told her sister from Heaven on that day. Her father said: "It is okay. I have got her. It is okay. I have got her." And He has them all.

RENEWING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, it has been 52 days now since the United

States Senate passed bipartisan legislation to renew unemployment insurance for the long-term unemployed. For 52 days, Speaker BOEHNER has been the only thing standing in the way of renewing this vital lifeline for millions of Americans.

In less than 3 days, the Senate bill will expire, and if Speaker BOEHNER gets his way, the House will leave town yet again without acting—delivering another devastating blow to the more than 2½ million Americans who have been cut off from this critical safety net.

We can't let Speaker BOEHNER run out the clock on the Senate bill. Every week that goes by, more and more members of our communities lose their unemployment benefits, and if the House does not act, then it is back to the drawing board for millions of Americans who are depending on us.

It is time for this body to act. The situation is not going to go away. It is only getting worse every week. If Congress does not act, nearly 5 million Americans will be without this lifeline by the end of the year.

I urge the Speaker to walk by my office and see the faces and read the stories of the people we have left behind. They are living on the edge, and without this critical lifeline, many of them lose everything.

The faces of the unemployed should not be invisible. I urge the Speaker to bring the Senate bill to the floor before it is too late. We deserve a vote.

HURRICANE SEASON PREPARATION

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, next week is June 1, and it marks the beginning of hurricane season. My constituents and Americans across the country in coastal regions are susceptible to these devastating storms. Disasters can strike at any time, often with little warning. It is important to have a plan in place.

Make sure the plan includes a supply kit filled with potentially lifesaving items like flashlights, radios, and batteries. It is also crucial to follow local weather forecasts and heed any emergency warnings during hurricanes or other extreme weather.

Hurricane season is starting. The best way to guarantee that you and your family are safe, you have to be prepared. My Web site, bilirakis.house.gov, as well as fema.gov, both have important resources available to you. This year, be sure you are ready and safe.

□ 1230

CONGRESS OWES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE GUN SAFETY REFORM

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, shame on us. Twenty kids killed in Newtown, Connecticut. You can see their faces here.

Six college kids killed this week in Santa Barbara. Guns kill more young people in America than cancer, yet we can't pass universal background checks, an assault weapons ban, or limits on massacre magazines.

Shame on us. We even have a gag order on any publicly funded health research into gun violence. As Edmund Burke said:

There is no issue that is so controversial that it cannot be debated.

I would add that there is no issue that is so controversial that it cannot be researched, especially if such research could save lives.

Congress is failing the American people, and it is time to stop. Let's pass the Thompson amendment today. We owe it to the families who have lost loved ones to gun violence, and we owe it to the families whose loved ones could be saved by real gun safety reforms.

KENTUCKY NATIONAL MODEL FOR AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, Kentucky has been a national model for the Affordable Care Act. In the first 6 months of Kentucky Kynect, the State exchange created by the law, we enrolled nearly 415,000 Kentuckians in new health coverage.

That is one in 10 Kentuckians and nearly half our previously uninsured population; but rather than help inform his constituents of life-saving options now available to them, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL has spent the past 4 years working to repeal that coverage while misleading Kentuckians about the law.

Now, he is suggesting Kynect's overwhelming success can remain, even if he succeeds in repealing the law that created it. That couldn't be more disconnected from the truth.

If the Affordable Care Act is repealed, more than 300,000 Kentuckians covered through the law's expansion of Medicaid would lose their coverage. Insurers would no longer be required to cover preexisting conditions, and private plans through Kynect would become unaffordable for most Kentucky families.

Mr. Speaker, health reform has been so successful in Kentucky that MITCH MCCONNELL now says we should keep

Kynect, but his claim that we can keep Kynect and still repeal the Affordable Care Act is as absurd as it is disingenuous, and our constituents deserve to know that.

IMPROVING VA MEDICAL CENTERS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, President Obama announced his plans to withdraw our troops from Afghanistan. As we prepare to welcome these men and women home, we must ensure that the VA medical centers are well-equipped to meet the needs of these returning heroes, in addition to those who are currently receiving care.

Like all of my colleagues here, I am outraged by the deaths and medical errors at VA medical centers around the country, including those in Memphis. As soon as the VA inspector general issued a report about preventable deaths at the Memphis VA, I wrote Secretary Shinseki expressing my concerns about the Memphis facility. I invited him to visit the center to assess what resources it needs to improve care for the nearly 200,000 veterans served by that facility.

I have been in close communication with the director at the Memphis medical center to discuss quality of care improvements for our veterans. I am committed to making sure that our VA medical centers have the resources that they need to deliver quality care to our Nation's veterans.

This is a serious matter, and it will become more critical as more heroes return home. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue.

NORTH KOREA SANCTIONS ACT

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the House Foreign Affairs Committee for adopting the North Korea Sanctions Act of 2014. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of that legislation and was very pleased the committee unanimously adopted an amendment of mine to strengthen the legislation even further.

This is an Orwellian regime. In fact, it is so much so that I think it would make George Orwell blush that he had not the imagination for the kind of suppression, oppression, and degradation that occurs in the North Korean regime today.

Mr. Speaker, 200,000 North Koreans are in gulags throughout the country—freedom of expression, freedom of religion, and freedom of political practice all repressed; and the terrible, terrible suffering, preventing the reunification of Korean families even to visit, the

complete lack of humanitarian regard by this brutal regime is something we Americans cannot ignore, and we here in Congress have an obligation to address.

I commend the House Foreign Affairs Committee today for adopting unanimously this important piece of legislation and eagerly look forward to supporting it when it comes here to the floor.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 29, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In light of my recent appointment to chair the "House Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi," I hereby resign my position on the House Education and Workforce Committee.

I thank my committee colleagues, the committee staff, and especially Chairman John Kline for their tireless work. The issues within the jurisdiction of the Committee are vitally important to our country. Chairman Kline has shown extraordinary leadership, and I am grateful for his stewardship and friendship.

Sincerely,

TREY GOWDY.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTING CERTAIN MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution (H. Res. 603) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 603

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE: Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, to rank immediately after Mr. Heck of Nevada.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr. Duffy.

Mr. WOLF (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 4660, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 585 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4660.

Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1244

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

□ 1245

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 25, line 2.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 23, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$8,000,000)".

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$8,000,000)".

Page 48, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$8,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment which seeks to bolster an important program in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act. This an amendment is fully paid for by cutting wasteful spending, and specifically takes \$8 million from the office space for the Department of Justice bureaucrats in order to bolster the prescription drug monitoring activities. This program is the HAROLD ROGERS

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

The gentleman, Mr. ROGERS, is the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and he has spent years on the issue of combating prescription drug abuse in our great country. The problem is truly plaguing our streets, our youth, and our communities. Prescription drug abuse is contributing to addiction, health deterioration, and even untimely death amongst many of our friends and loved ones.

Prescription drug abuse also fuels demand for other illicit drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamines, ecstasy, and heroine, much of which flows over our southwest border and into my home State of Arizona, along with human trafficking, gunrunning, and murder. I have seen drug abuse all over my State, and I know I am not the only Member who has been affected by the rampant drug abuse in my community.

As a dentist of 25 years, I am well aware of how easy it is and can be for doctors and patients to abuse the prescription drug system. With a background in chemistry and biology, I know how easy it can be for people, both young and old, to become addicted to these substances.

The primary purpose of the HAROLD ROGERS Prescription Drug Monitoring Program is to enhance the capability, the capacity, of regulatory and law enforcement agencies to collect and analyze controlled substance prescription data through a centralized database administered by an authorized State agency. States that have implemented prescription drug monitoring programs can collect and analyze prescription data much more efficiently than States where the collection of the prescription information requires the manual review of pharmacy files.

It is this body's duty, through the annual appropriations process, to evaluate which programs are worthwhile and which ones are not. We must decide which programs should have their funding increased, which should be reduced, and which should have theirs zeroed out. It is not an easy job, but it is a job that each of us was elected to do.

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program has shown promising results, but we must not give up on it. It is easy to overlook these issues, but I think our families, our friends, and our future generations deserve it. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment.

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

Mr. WOLF. I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I accept the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

In addition, for reimbursement of expenses of the Department of Justice associated with processing cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, not to exceed \$7,833,000, to be appropriated from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, ANTITRUST DIVISION

For expenses necessary for the enforcement of antitrust and kindred laws, \$162,246,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, fees collected for premerger notification filings under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 18a), regardless of the year of collection (and estimated to be \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2015), shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2015, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at \$62,246,000.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

For necessary expenses of the Offices of the United States Attorneys, including intergovernmental and cooperative agreements, \$1,970,000,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed \$7,200 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$25,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That each United States Attorney shall establish or participate in a United States Attorney-led task force on human trafficking.

UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND

For necessary expenses of the United States Trustee Program, as authorized, \$225,908,000, to remain available until expended and to be derived from the United States Trustee System Fund: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, deposits to the Fund shall be available in such amounts as may be necessary to pay refunds due depositors: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$225,908,000 of offsetting collections pursuant to section 589a(b) of title 28, United States Code, shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the Fund shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2015, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the Fund estimated at \$0.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$2,326,000.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

For fees and expenses of witnesses, for expenses of contracts for the procurement and supervision of expert witnesses, for private counsel expenses, including advances, and for expenses of foreign counsel, \$270,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$16,000,000 is for construction of

buildings for protected witness safesites; not to exceed \$3,000,000 is for the purchase and maintenance of armored and other vehicles for witness security caravans; and not to exceed \$11,000,000 is for the purchase, installation, maintenance, and upgrade of secure telecommunications equipment and a secure automated information network to store and retrieve the identities and locations of protected witnesses.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Community Relations Service, \$12,000,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for conflict resolution and violence prevention activities of the Community Relations Service, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to the Community Relations Service, from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND

For expenses authorized by subparagraphs (B), (F), and (G) of section 524(c)(1) of title 28, United States Code, \$20,514,000, to be derived from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Marshals Service, \$1,199,000,000, of which not to exceed \$6,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, and not to exceed \$15,000,000 shall remain available until expended.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction in space controlled, occupied or utilized by the United States Marshals Service for prisoner holding and related support, \$9,800,000, to remain available until expended.

FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses related to United States prisoners in the custody of the United States Marshals Service as authorized by section 4013 of title 18, United States Code, \$1,595,307,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$20,000,000 shall be considered "funds appropriated for State and local law enforcement assistance" pursuant to section 4013(b) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the United States Marshals Service shall be responsible for managing the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System: *Provided further*, That any unobligated balances available from funds appropriated under the heading 'General Administration, Detention Trustee' shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation under this heading.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the National Security Division, \$94,800,000, of which not to exceed \$5,000,000 for information technology systems shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney Gen-

eral that emergent circumstances require additional funding for the activities of the National Security Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to this heading from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT

INTERAGENCY CRIME AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT

For necessary expenses for the identification, investigation, and prosecution of individuals associated with the most significant drug trafficking and affiliated money laundering organizations not otherwise provided for, to include inter-governmental agreements with State and local law enforcement agencies engaged in the investigation and prosecution of individuals involved in organized crime drug trafficking, \$515,000,000, of which \$50,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any amounts obligated from appropriations under this heading may be used under authorities available to the organizations reimbursed from this appropriation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes against the United States, \$8,356,857,000, of which not less than \$8,500,000 shall be for the National Gang and Human Trafficking Intelligence Center, and of which not to exceed \$216,900,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$184,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That up to \$1,000,000 shall be for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the recommendations related to the Federal Bureau of Investigation that were proposed in the report issued by the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses, to include the cost of equipment, furniture, and information technology requirements, related to construction or acquisition of buildings, facilities and sites by purchase, or as otherwise authorized by law; conversion, modification and extension of Federally-owned buildings; preliminary planning and design of projects; and operation and maintenance of secure work environment facilities and secure networking capabilities; \$110,982,000, to remain available until expended.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Drug Enforcement Administration, including not to exceed \$70,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character pursuant to section 530C of title 28, United States Code; and expenses for conducting drug education and training programs, including travel and related expenses for participants in such programs and the distribution of items of token value that promote the goals of such programs, \$2,053,320,000; of which not to exceed \$75,000,000 shall remain available until expended and not to exceed \$90,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

Mr. COHEN. I rise, Mr. Chairman, to greet my fellow Tennessean, and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 32, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 47, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chair, first, I would like to express my appreciation for the career of Chairman WOLF, in particular, his cochairmanship of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. He has done tremendous work during his time in Congress on human rights issues that are of great import, and chairing that commission named for our great colleague Tom Lantos is impressive, and I thank you for that.

The amendment I have before us would increase by \$5 million the bill's funding for grants to address the backlog of sexual assault kits at law enforcement agencies. DNA analysis has been revolutionary in helping to catch criminals and prevent crimes from occurring in the first place, but this evidence does us no good if it remains untested and sits on the shelf in a lab somewhere. Despite progress over the last few years, the number of untested rape kits continues to number in the hundreds of thousands in our Nation. That is hundreds of thousands of victims whose assailants have never been brought to justice, left to prey on yet more women.

A recent article in the Memphis Commercial Appeal highlighted the need to end this backlog once and for all. It described a serial rapist who was finally caught by the police in 2012. He could have been stopped nearly a decade earlier if only his first victim's rape kit had been tested. It was not, and instead he was able to and did attack five more women over the next 8 years.

Missed opportunities like this happen all across our country every day. The trauma inflicted on victims of rape can be compounded when they know their assailants roam free while critical evidence goes untested.

Sadly, I must say the city of Memphis leads the country in untested rape kits, with a backlog of over 12,000 built up over decades. The mayor and our city leadership have committed to addressing this problem and have devoted significant resources to eliminating the backlog, but they need our help. The estimates are that it would cost at least \$6.5 million to test each rape kit, far beyond the means of a city forced to tighten its belt in these difficult times and deal with our economic problems. This makes the Federal assistance essential.

I appreciate the chairman's commitment to eliminating the backlog, and the funds in this bill are an important start. They put in \$36 million, \$1 million more than I think the President recommended. It is merely a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed.

This amendment would take \$5 million from the Drug Enforcement Administration, which is a \$2 billion agency that receives a \$35 million increase in this bill, even though their work product will go down because of the lack of need to enforce marijuana laws in States where it has been legalized or medical marijuana has been legalized. With the growing number of States in that category, DEA can and will shift its resources from marijuana and still have plenty of money to prevent prescription drug abuse, stop major heroin and cocaine traffickers and the other drug trade that they should make as their priority.

DEA would barely notice these funds, but for a small investment we can make an even more significant cut in the rape kit backlog at law enforcement agencies. Women will be spared being raped, and justice will be served.

I think the choice should be clear. We should stand with the victims of this most heinous crime that we know in this Nation and ensure their assailants are brought to justice.

I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I have no objection to the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. This is an extraordinary and important amendment, and the issue is important not just in Tennessee, but throughout the country. So I also support the amendment, and I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 32, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$18,000,000)".

Page 74, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$15,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chair, this amendment which I offer with Mr. QUIGLEY of Illinois, who is a champion of equal access to justice, would restore the bill's cuts, devastating cuts, to the Legal Services Corporation.

This Nation is justifiably proud of its legal system. In fact, when we visit with foreign folks or travel in foreign lands, the thing I hear most about America that they appreciate is our legal system. It can be impossibly complex, with a language all its own, unfamiliar to many people with its laws and procedures. It can be a bewildering maze even for highly educated people, even for lawyers.

Now imagine that you are poor, uneducated, scared, and trying to navigate the legal system by yourself. Without legal representation, too many people are simply unable to vindicate their rights under the law. Think about victims of domestic violence who need protective orders from abusive partners, homeowners facing foreclosure—and indeed we have had too much of that in the last few years—or seniors who have been victimized by fraudulent lenders. Legal assistance is vital to ensure that these parties are treated fairly and made aware of their rights. That is why I have been a champion of Legal Services, which helps fund legal aid programs throughout the country.

Unfortunately, this bill cuts \$15 million from Legal Services Corporation, which will mean untold numbers of Americans will go unrepresented in court and unable to pursue justice. Even if this amendment passes and the funding is restored to the \$365 million level, it will be a far cry from what is really needed.

Consider this statistic, Mr. Chair. In 1995, the Legal Services Corporation was funded at a \$400 million level. That is higher than it was last year and higher than it would be if this amendment passes, by \$35 million. In today's dollars, that \$400 million figure would be \$600 million, and all we are asking is to get it to \$365 million.

Unfortunately, we have cut our commitment to this program, and it is having serious consequences. Nationally, nearly 50 percent of all eligible potential clients are turned away because of lack of funding. In the Memphis area, Legal Services lost 5 percent of its funding due to sequestration. When you add in State and local funds lost over recent years because of budget cuts, its funding was reduced by more than \$300,000, and its staff was reduced from 50 to 38.

The attorneys do heroic work, but to further reduce its funding will have serious consequences for their ability to serve those in need. The rights we are guaranteed under the law mean nothing if they can't go to court to enforce those rights. With no money to hire a lawyer, no ability to navigate this sys-

tem on their own, too many people are left without justice. Unless we ensure legal assistance, we effectively shut the courthouse doors to Americans who rely on attorneys to protect their rights.

This amendment would increase funding for LSC by reducing funds for the Drug Enforcement Administration, a \$2 billion agency that receives a \$35 million increase in this bill. This does not intend to stop DEA's important work to prevent prescription drug abuse or go after heroin and cocaine traffickers, but they can do their work with the funds that will be in this bill after this money is given to Legal Services.

□ 1300

DEA would barely notice this loss of funds, but in the hands of Legal Services it would change the lives of thousands of people who need legal representation.

We are still coming out of the Great Recession, and the disparity and wealth is greater than ever. So those people in the middle class, and those people who are poor particularly, which are greater than ever, have more and more and more need for Legal Services. It should not be cut at this time.

I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for cosponsoring this amendment. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment. The gentleman's amendment would cut the DEA by \$18 million to pay for a \$15 million increase for LSC.

The DEA primarily targets high-level drug trafficking organizations, disrupting and dismantling them, attacking the economic basis of the drug trade and contributing to counterterrorism activities tied to and financed by drugs. It does not focus on low-level criminals nor on users.

It has seen a huge challenge not only internationally but from the cartels. Every drug area in the Nation now is controlled pretty much by the Mexican cartels.

Also, our funding level for LSC is \$50 million above last year's House level. It is above the FY12 enacted level. The bill also includes an additional \$43 million under the Violence Against Women program specifically for legal assistance for domestic violence victims. This amount is nearly 50 percent above the enacted level.

Lastly, later today, we will likely consider amendments that significantly reduce or eliminate LSC. I plan to oppose those amendments that are

going to cut Legal Services. I oppose this amendment, and I ask for a “no” vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise to support the Cohen amendment. Legal aid programs are Federal, State, and private partnerships.

In Oregon and around the country, legal aid offices work hard to diversify funding, but cuts from a number of sources, including Federal cuts in recent years, have severely impacted their ability to serve low-income families.

Legal Services Corporation funds legal aid around the country, and they make a real difference for low-income and elderly Oregonians and Americans. Legal aid serves people with the most critical legal needs: food, shelter, medical care, income maintenance, and physical safety.

In my State of Oregon, about 40 percent of the cases handled by legal aid attorneys involve helping victims of domestic violence and their families, protecting them from abuse. About 80 percent of legal aid’s clients are women, most with children to support.

Under current levels, legal aid is able to assist only a fraction of the eligible population. In Oregon, legal aid serves only about 20 percent of the civil legal needs of eligible Oregonians.

I was proud to work at legal aid. Early in my career I spent many years there, and I will never forget the people we were able to help. They desperately need legal assistance at a time in their lives when they can least afford it.

Not low-income by choice—and that was the most poignant message about helping low-income people—most had unexpected medical bills, had lost a job, or lost a spouse. Legal aid helps real people.

Today, I am here for people like Beth, who thought she had escaped her son’s abusive father, only to have him turn up, kick in the door, and threaten her, all while she was pregnant. Legal aid was able to help her get a restraining order and custody of her son, who has asthma and only one kidney. Now Beth and her son are building safe and stable lives free from abuse.

I am here for people like Jennifer, a stage IV cancer survivor and Oregon Health Plan member, who got a bill from a medical center for a procedure performed years earlier. They threatened to shut her off from seeing her doctor, and took actions clearly illegal under Oregon law. Legal aid stepped in, and she was able to continue her followup visits with her doctor without collection agency harassment.

I am here for people like Natalie and her son, Zach, who has severe gastro-

intestinal disorder. When he was 3 years old, he was finally able to take food orally, but then Social Security cut off his disability benefits. Natalie tried to hire a lawyer but she couldn’t afford the fees. Legal aid stepped in and got those benefits restored, giving Zach a better chance at a normal, active life.

And today, I am here for people like Michael. He and his family lost everything in Hurricane Katrina and they came to Oregon to start over. Then the IRS penalized him for unpaid taxes. Legal aid helped him amend his tax return to fully account for his losses from Katrina, and instead of penalties, he was able to receive a refund.

These are the faces of legal aid. They are real people who have real needs who need real help. They need access to justice.

Low-income people can’t just open up a phone book and pick out an attorney to take a case. These are not cases that lawyers take on a contingency fee basis. Lawyers don’t help tenants who are wrongfully evicted on a contingency fee.

The President has asked for \$80 million more than what this bill provides for. This amendment asks for just \$15 million in addition. It is the least we can do.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, to establish justice, the Founders had embraced at the earliest moments the notion that access to our court system was a critically important, indispensable right of citizenship in our country. We had a Republican President, President Nixon, who created the Legal Services Corporation to provide access to our courts, notwithstanding the economic circumstances of Americans.

Legal Services operates in each of our States, and we have a responsibility as we consider this bill to think about where the gaps in justice exist. The chairman has been extraordinarily helpful in trying to focus on this question. However, I think that in terms of the numbers as presented, I side more with the author of the amendment inasmuch as that DEA we are funding—and it is critically important in a city like my own and in communities all across our country—but we are funding DEA at \$35 million above the request. That is after OMB, after DEA walked through their numbers, looked at the budget, ascertained what was needed. The committee’s mark at the moment, the chairman’s mark, would provide more than what was requested, whereas, when we look at Legal Services, it

is \$80 million shy of what was requested.

So I think that if we are trying to balance the scales of justice here, the idea that thousands of active service military personnel have relied on Legal Services to protect their homes from foreclosure, to deal with other types of issues, that we have veterans who depend on access to community Legal Services or Legal Services as provided under this program, that the House at this moment should consider the author of the amendment and his point, which is that we should provide an additional—it is less than \$20 million—is it \$15 million?—for the Legal Services Corporation; and that in terms of the DEA we would still be funding it higher than the requested level, but we would be making sure that not only citizens could have access to the courts, but that Active Duty military and our veterans would have access to lawyers that they otherwise could not afford to protect their legal rights, given the fact that they wear or have worn the uniform to protect our due process rights.

I stand in support of this amendment, and I hope that the House would vote in favor of it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me take this moment to thank the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. WOLF, for his longstanding service and commitment to so many issues that so many of us have worked on for such a very long period of time, helping the most vulnerable and helping those who often cannot help themselves.

Let me associate myself with the remarks that have been made by the author of this amendment, and also the ranking member, Mr. FATTAH, who spoke to the question of justice.

Mr. Chairman, I have served on the reiterations of the Legal Services Corporation in my own community way before coming to the United States Congress.

I am reminded of the early words of the Constitution that said that we organize to create a more perfect union. Then I matched that with our Bill of Rights that so many people, if they cannot recite all of them, they know issues like due process, right to a trial by jury, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of access and movement. All of those things are deprived to persons in many instances who cannot access the courts.

I remember, in particular, my Gulfoast Legal Services Corporation, which worked extensively on issues dealing with housing, for good hard-working people sometimes come up against a brick wall, a hard wall, where

they have done everything they could but they are facing eviction, they have come upon difficulty. There is relief for that eviction if they can get to the courthouse either to explain to their landlord or find some relief. Many have experienced housing discrimination, but they do not have access to the courts or to resources necessary to provide them with a lawyer to be able to address their injustice or their indignity.

I too am a strong supporter of the DEA. I sit on the House Judiciary Committee. I was hoping that we could find some pathway to move forward in recognizing that the numbers of those needing Legal Services Corporation dollars is mounting.

Lawyers in law firms have come to me who are members of the State Bar of Texas, the American Bar Association, and begged for the funding of the Legal Services Corporation. I believe that all of us on this floor have good intentions, and I know that we have a respect for the Legal Services Corporation.

I am hoping we can find a way to work with the gentleman's amendment and support it because I am, in essence, providing the documentation that I have seen firsthand, where people have stood under the scales of justice empty-handed. They were not balanced, they did not receive support, because they could not access the courthouse, a vital and important part of democracy in America.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment by Mr. POMPEO of Kansas.

Amendment by Mr. MCNERNEY of California.

Amendment by Mr. BRIDENSTINE of Oklahoma.

Amendment by Mr. KING of Iowa.

Amendment by Mr. COHEN of Tennessee.

Amendment by Mr. COHEN of Tennessee.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POMPEO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded

vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 129, noes 280, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 243]

AYES—129

Amash	Graves (GA)	Pittenger
Bachmann	Hall	Pitts
Bachus	Harper	Poe (TX)
Barton	Harris	Pompeo
Bentivolio	Hensarling	Price (GA)
Bilirakis	Holding	Ribble
Bishop (UT)	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Black	Huelskamp	Rogers (AL)
Blackburn	Huizenga (MI)	Rogers (MI)
Boustany	Hultgren	Rohrabacher
Brady (TX)	Hunter	Rokita
Bridenstine	Hurt	Rooney
Brooks (AL)	Issa	Roskam
Broun (GA)	Jenkins	Ross
Burgess	Johnson, Sam	Rothfus
Byrne	Jones	Royce
Carter	Jordan	Ryan (WI)
Chabot	King (IA)	Salmon
Chaffetz	Kingston	Sanford
Coble	Kline	Scalise
Coffman	Labrador	Schweikert
Collins (GA)	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin
Collins (NY)	Lamborn	Sensenbrenner
Conaway	Lance	Sessions
Cook	Latta	Smith (MO)
Cotton	Lummis	Smith (TX)
DeSantis	Marchant	Stewart
DesJarlais	Massie	Stockman
Duffy	McCarthy (CA)	Stutzman
Duncan (SC)	McCaul	Terry
Farenthold	McClintock	Thornberry
Fincher	McHenry	Tiberi
Fleming	Meadows	Tipton
Flores	Messer	Tipton
Fox	Miller (FL)	Walberg
Franks (AZ)	Mullin	Weber (TX)
Gardner	Neugebauer	Webster (FL)
Garrett	Nugent	Westmoreland
Gingrey (GA)	Nunes	Williams
Gohmert	Olson	Wilson (SC)
Goodlatte	Paulsen	Woodall
Gosar	Perry	Yoder
Gowdy	Petri	Yoho
		Young (IN)

NOES—280

Aderholt	Capps	Cuellar
Amodei	Capuano	Culberson
Barber	Cárdenas	Cummings
Barletta	Carney	Daines
Barr	Carson (IN)	Davis (CA)
Barrow (GA)	Cartwright	Davis, Danny
Bass	Cassidy	Davis, Rodney
Beatty	Castor (FL)	DeFazio
Becerra	Castro (TX)	DeGette
Benishek	Chu	Delaney
Bishop (GA)	Cielline	DeLauro
Bishop (NY)	Clark (MA)	DelBene
Blumenauer	Clarke (NY)	Denham
Bonamici	Clay	Dent
Brady (PA)	Clyburn	Deutch
Braley (IA)	Cohen	Diaz-Balart
Brooks (IN)	Cole	Doggett
Brown (FL)	Connolly	Doyle
Brownley (CA)	Conyers	Duckworth
Buchanan	Cooper	Duncan (TN)
Bucshon	Costa	Ellison
Bustos	Courtney	Ellmers
Butterfield	Cramer	Engel
Calvert	Crawford	Enyart
Camp	Crenshaw	Eshoo
Cantor	Crowley	Farr

Fattah	Long	Roby
Fitzpatrick	Lowenthal	Roe (TN)
Fleischmann	Lowey	Rogers (KY)
Forbes	Lucas	Roybal-Allard
Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Ruiz
Foster	Lujan Grisham	Runyan
Frankel (FL)	(NM)	Ruppersberger
Frelinghuysen	Luján, Ben Ray	Rush
Fudge	(NM)	Ryan (OH)
Gabbard	Lynch	Sánchez, Linda
Gallego	Maffei	T.
Garamendi	Maloney,	Sanchez, Loretta
Garcia	Carolyn	Sarbanes
Gerlach	Maloney, Sean	Schakowsky
Gibbs	Marino	Schiff
Gibson	Matheson	Schneider
Granger	Matsui	Schock
Graves (MO)	McAllister	Schrader
Grayson	McCollum	Schwartz
Green, Gene	McDermott	Scott (VA)
Griffin (AR)	McGovern	Scott, David
Griffith (VA)	McIntyre	Serrano
Grijalva	McKeon	Sewell (AL)
Grimm	McKinley	Shea-Porter
Guthrie	McMorris	Sherman
Gutiérrez	Rodgers	Shimkus
Hahn	McNerney	Simpson
Hanabusa	Meehan	Sinema
Hastings (WA)	Meeks	Sires
Heck (NV)	Meng	Smith (NE)
Heck (WA)	Mica	Smith (NJ)
Herrera Beutler	Michaud	Smith (WA)
Higgins	Miller (MI)	Southerland
Himes	Miller, George	Speier
Hinojosa	Moore	Stivers
Holt	Moran	Swalwell (CA)
Honda	Murphy (FL)	Takano
Horsford	Murphy (PA)	Thompson (CA)
Hoyer	Nadler	Thompson (PA)
Huffman	Napolitano	Tierney
Israel	Neal	Titus
Jackson Lee	Negrete McLeod	Tonko
Jeffries	Noem	Tsongas
Johnson (GA)	Nolan	Turner
Johnson (OH)	Nunnelee	Upton
Johnson, E. B.	O'Rourke	Valadao
Jolly	Owens	Van Hollen
Joyce	Pallone	Vargas
Kaptur	Pascrell	Veasey
Keating	Pastor (AZ)	Vela
Kelly (IL)	Payne	Velázquez
Kelly (PA)	Pearce	Visclosky
Kennedy	Pelosi	Wagner
Kildee	Perlmutter	Walden
Kilmer	Peters (CA)	Walorski
Kind	Peters (MI)	Walz
King (NY)	Peterson	Wasserman
Kinzinger (IL)	Pingree (ME)	Schultz
Kirkpatrick	Pocan	Waxman
Kuster	Polis	Welch
Langevin	Posey	Wenstrup
Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)	Whitfield
Larson (CT)	Quigley	Wilson (FL)
Latham	Rahall	Wittman
Lee (CA)	Rangel	Wolf
Levin	Reed	Womack
Lipinski	Reichert	Yarmuth
LoBiondo	Renacci	Young (AK)
Loeb sack	Richmond	
Lofgren	Rigell	

NOT VOTING—22

Bera (CA)	Hanna	Palazzo
Campbell	Hartzler	Ros-Lehtinen
Capito	Hastings (FL)	Shuster
Cleaver	Lankford	Slaughter
Dingell	Lewis	Thompson (MS)
Edwards	McCarthy (NY)	Waters
Esty	Miller, Gary	
Green, Al	Mulvaney	

□ 1344

Mr. LUCAS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NUNNELEE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Messrs. FLEISCHMANN, TIERNEY, RUSH, Ms. GRANGER, Messrs. GIBBS, AMODEI, CAMP, RICHMOND, and CRAMER changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

Messrs. BURGESS, ROONEY, FLORES, ROYCE, ISSA, YOUNG of Indiana, and ROTHFUS changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY DURING THE ALLIED INVASION OF JUNE 6, 1944

(By unanimous consent, Mr. MICHAUD was allowed to speak out of order.)

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Chairman, the Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman JEFF MILLER and I rise to ask that the House pause to remember the courageous sacrifice that our men and women went through when they lost their lives on the beaches of Normandy, France, during the Allied invasion of June 6, 1944.

We request a moment of silence in honor of the brave Americans who were lost 70 years ago on D-day and the families who mourn their loss.

The Acting CHAIR. All Members will rise for a moment of silence.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 306, noes 106, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 244]

AYES—306

Amodei Capps Davis, Danny
Bachmann Capuano Davis, Rodney
Barber Cárdenas DeFazio
Barletta Carney DeGette
Barr Cartwright Delaney
Barrow (GA) Cassidy DeLauro
Bass Castor (FL) DeBene
Beatty Chaffetz Denham
Becerra Chu Dent
Benishek Cicilline DesJarlais
Bera (CA) Clark (MA) Deutch
Bilirakis Clarke (NY) Diaz-Balart
Bishop (GA) Clyburn Doyle
Bishop (NY) Coble Duckworth
Bishop (UT) Cohen Duffy
Black Cole Duncan (TN)
Blackburn Collins (NY) Ellmers
Bonamici Cook Eshoo
Brady (PA) Cooper Enyart
Braley (IA) Costa Farr
Bridenstine Cotton Fattah
Brooks (IN) Courtney Fincher
Brown (FL) Cramer Fitzpatrick
Browley (CA) Crawford Fleischmann
Buchanan Crenshaw Forbes
Bucshon Crowley Fortenberry
Bustos Cuellar Foster
Butterfield Culberson Frankel (FL)
Calvert Daines Franks (AZ)
Camp Davis (CA) Franks (AZ)

Frelinghuysen Lujan Grisham
Fudge (NM)
Gabbard Luján, Ben Ray
Gallego (NM)
Garamendi Lynch
Garcia Maffei
Gerlach Maloney, Carolyn
Gibbs Maloney, Sean
Gibson Marino
Gingrey (GA) Matheson
Gosar Matsui
Graves (MO) McAllister
Grayson McCarthy (CA)
Green, Gene McCaul
Griffin (AR) McCollum
Griffith (VA) McDermott
Grimm McGovern
Guthrie McHenry
Gutiérrez McIntyre
Hahn McKinley
Hall McMorris
Hanabusa Rodgers
Harper McNeerney
Harris Meehan
Hastings (WA) Meeks
Heck (NV) Meng
Heck (WA) Messer
Herrera Beutler Mica
Higgins Michaud
Himes Miller (FL)
Honda Miller (MI)
Horsford Miller, George
Huffman Moore
Huizenga (MI) Moran
Hunter Murphy (FL)
Israel Nadler
Issa Napolitano
Jackson Lee Neal
Jeffries Negrete McLeod
Jenkins Noem
Johnson (GA) Nolan
Johnson (OH) Nugent
Johnson, E. B. Nunes
Jolly O'Rourke
Jones Owens
Joyce Pallone
Kaptur Pascrell
Keating Pastor (AZ)
Kelly (IL) Paulsen
Kelly (PA) Payne
Kennedy Pearce
Kildee Pelosi
Kilmer Perlmutter
Kind Peters (CA)
King (NY) Peters (MI)
Kinzinger (IL) Peterson
Kirkpatrick Pingree (ME)
Kuster Pittenger
LaMalfa Pocan
Lance Poe (TX)
Langevin Polis
Larsen (WA) Posey
Larson (CT) Price (GA)
Latham Price (NC)
Lee (CA) Quigley
Levin Rahall
Lipinski Reed
LoBiondo Reichert
Loeb sack Renacci
Lofgren Richmond
Lowenthal Rigell
Lowe y Yoder
Luetkemeyer Roe (TN)

NOES—106

Aderholt Collins (GA)
Amash Conaway
Bachus Connolly
Barton Conyers
Bentivolio Cummings
Blumenauer DeSantis
Boustany Doggett
Brady (TX) Duncan (SC)
Brooks (AL) Edwards
Broun (GA) Ellison
Burgess Farenthold
Byrne Fleming
Cantor Flores
Carson (IN) Foxx
Carter Gardner
Castro (TX) Garrett
Chabot Gohmert
Clay Goodlatte
Coffman Gowdy

Rogers (KY) Latta
Rokita Long
Rooney Lucas
Roskam Lummis
Ross Marchant
Rothfus Massie
Roybal-McClintock
Royce McClintock
Ruiz McKeon
Runyan Meadows
Ruppertsberger Mullin
Rush Murphy (PA)
Ryan (OH) Neugebauer
Salmon Olson
Sanchez, Loretta Scott (VA)
Sarbanes Esty
Schiff Scott, David
Schneider Sewell (AL)
Schock Shea-Porter
Schrader Sherman
Schwartz Shimkus
Schweikert Simpson
Scott (VA) Sinema
Scott, David Sires
Sewell (AL) Smith (MO)
Shea-Porter Smith (NE)
Sherman Smith (NJ)
Shimkus Smith (WA)
Simpson Speier
Sinema Stivers
Sires Swalwell (CA)
Smith (MO) Takano
Smith (NE) Terry
Smith (WA) Thompson (CA)
Speier Tiberti
Stivers Tierney
Swalwell (CA) Titus
Takano Tonko
Terry Tsongas
Thompson (CA) Turner
Tiberi Upton
Tierney Valadao
Titus Van Hollen
Tonko Vargas
Tsongas Veasey
Turner Vela
Upton Visclosky
Valadao Wagner
Van Hollen Walberg
Vargas Walden
Veasey Walorski
Vela Walz
Visclosky Wasserman
Wagner Schultz
Walberg Waxman
Walden Webster (FL)
Walorski Welch
Walz Westmoreland
Wasserman Whitfield
Webster (FL) Wilson (FL)
Welch Wittman
Westmoreland Wolf
Whitfield Womack
Wilson (FL) Yarmuth
Wittman Yoder
Wolf Young (AK)
Womack Young (IN)
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Pompeo Smith (TX)
Rangel Southerland
Rice (SC) Ribble
Rohrabacher Steward
Rogers (AL) Stockman
Rogers (MI) Stutzman
Ryan (WI) Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA) Thompson (PA)
Sanchez, Linda Thornberry
Tipton
Velázquez
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Woodall
Yoho

NOT VOTING—19

Campbell Hartzler Palazzo
Capito Hastings (FL) Ros-Lehtinen
Cleaver Lankford Shuster
Dingell Lewis Slaughter
Esty McCarthy (NY) Waters
Green, Al Miller, Gary
Hanna Mulvaney

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1353

Messrs. COLE, WESTMORELAND, PITTENGER, Mrs. ELLMERS, Messrs. LAMALFA and MCCAUL changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BRIDENSTINE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 340, noes 71, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 245]

AYES—340

Aderholt Brooks (AL) Chu
Amodel Brooks (IN) Cicilline
Bachmann Broun (GA) Clark (MA)
Bachus Brownley (CA) Coble
Barber Buchanan Coffman
Barletta Bucshon Cohen
Barr Burgess Cole
Barrow (GA) Bustos Collins (GA)
Barton Butterfield Collins (NY)
Benishek Byrne Conaway
Bentivolio Calvert Cook
Bera (CA) Camp Cooper
Bishop (GA) Cantor Costa
Bishop (NY) Capps Cotton
Bishop (UT) Cárdenas Courtney
Black Carney Cramer
Blackburn Carson (IN) Crawford
Bonamici Carter Crenshaw
Boustany Cartwright Crowley
Brady (PA) Cassidy Cuellar
Brady (TX) Castor (FL) Culberson
Braley (IA) Chabot Daines
Bridenstine Chaffetz Davis (CA)

Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Honda
Horsford
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee

Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCa ul
McClintock
Garcia
McCollum
McDermott
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci

Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrad er
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swailwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine

Amash
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Blumenauer
Brown (FL)
Capuano
Castro (TX)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Connolly
Conyers
Cummings
Davis, Danny
Deutch
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Farenthold
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Garrett
Grijalva
Hanna
Hartzler
Palazzo
Hastings (FL)
Lankford
Lewis
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Hanna
Palazzo
Hastings (FL)
Lankford
Lewis
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Palazzo
Ros-Lehtinen
Shuster
Slaughter
Waters
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn

Lance
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCa ul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunnelee
Olson
Paulsen
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Holt
McAllister
McCollum

NOES—71

NOT VOTING—20

□ 1359

Messrs. ADERHOLT, SHERMAN, and Ms. MCCOLLUM changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment. The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE
The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered. The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 218, noes 193, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 246]
AYES—218

Aderholt
Amash
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Buchson
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick

Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford

Davis (CA)	Kennedy	Price (NC)	Matheson	Posey	Smith (NE)
Davis, Danny	Kildee	Quigley	McAllister	Price (GA)	Smith (NJ)
DeFazio	Kilmer	Richmond	McCarthy (CA)	Rahall	Smith (TX)
DeGette	Langevin	Rohrabacher	McCaul	Reed	Southerland
Delaney	Larsen (WA)	Rooney	McClintock	Reichert	Stewart
DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Roybal-Allard	McHenry	Renacci	Stockman
DelBene	Lee (CA)	Rush	McIntyre	Ribble	Stutzman
Deutch	Levin	Ryan (OH)	McKeon	Rice (SC)	Terry
Doggett	Lipinski	Sánchez, Linda	McKinley	Rigell	Thompson (PA)
Doyle	Loeb sack	T. Sanchez, Loretta	McMorris	Roby	Thornberry
Duckworth	Lofgren	Sarbanes	Rodgers	Roe (TN)	Tiberi
Duncan (TN)	Lowenthal	Schakowsky	Meadows	Rogers (AL)	Tipton
Edwards	Lowey	Schiff	Meehan	Rogers (KY)	Turner
Ellison	Lujan Grisham	Schneider	Messer	Rogers (MI)	Valadao
Engel	(NM)	Schrader	Mica	Rokita	Wagner
Enyart	Maffei	Schwartz	Miller (FL)	Roskam	Walberg
Eshoo	Maloney,	Scott (VA)	Miller (MI)	Ross	Walden
Farr	Carolyn	Scott, David	Mullin	Rothfus	Walorski
Fattah	Maloney, Sean	Serrano	Murphy (PA)	Royce	Wasserman
Foster	Massie	Scott, David	Neugebauer	Ruiz	Wasserman
Frankel (FL)	Matsui	Sewell (AL)	Noem	Runyan	Schultz
Fudge	McCollum	Sherman	Nugent	Ruppersberger	Weber (TX)
Gabbard	McDermott	Sires	Nunes	Ryan (WI)	Webster (FL)
Garamendi	McGovern	Smith (WA)	Nunnelee	Salmon	Westrup
Garcia	McNerney	Speier	Olson	Sanford	Westmoreland
Gerlach	Meeks	Stivers	Paulsen	Scalise	Whitfield
Grayson	Meng	Swalwell (CA)	Pearce	Schock	Williams
Green, Gene	Michaud	Takano	Perry	Schweikert	Wilson (SC)
Gutiérrez	Miller, George	Thompson (CA)	Peters (CA)	Scott, Austin	Wittman
Hahn	Moore	Thompson (MS)	Peters (MI)	Sensenbrenner	Wolf
Hanabusa	Moran	Tierney	Peterson	Sessions	Womack
Heck (NV)	Murphy (FL)	Titus	Petri	Shea-Porter	Woodall
Heck (WA)	Nadler	Tonko	Pittenger	Shimkus	Woodall
Higgins	Napolitano	Tsongas	Pitts	Simpson	Yoho
Himes	Neal	Upton	Poe (TX)	Sinema	Young (AK)
Hinojosa	Negrete McLeod	Van Hollen	Pompeo	Smith (MO)	Young (IN)
Holt	Nolan	Vargas			
Honda	O'Rourke	Veasey	Campbell	Hartzler	Palazzo
Horsford	Owens	Vela	Capito	Hastings (FL)	Rangel
Huffman	Pallone	Velázquez	Cleaver	Lankford	Ros-Lehtinen
Jackson Lee	Pascarell	Visclosky	Dingell	Lewis	Shuster
Jeffries	Pastor (AZ)	Walz	Esty	McCarthy (NY)	Slaughter
Johnson (GA)	Payne	Waxman	Green, Al	Miller, Gary	Waters
Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi	Welch	Hanna	Mulvaney	
Jolly	Perlmutter	Wilson (FL)			
Kaptur	Pingree (ME)	Yarmuth			
Keating	Pocan	Yoder			
Kelly (IL)	Polis				

NOES—238

Aderholt	Cramer	Harris
Amash	Crawford	Hastings (WA)
Amodei	Crenshaw	Hensarling
Bachmann	Culberson	Herrera Beutler
Bachus	Daines	Holding
Barber	Davis, Rodney	Hoyer
Barletta	Denham	Hudson
Barr	Dent	Huelskamp
Barrow (GA)	DeSantis	Huizenga (MI)
Barton	DesJarlais	Hultgren
Benishek	Diaz-Balart	Hunter
Bentivolio	Duffy	Hurt
Bilirakis	Duncan (SC)	Israel
Bishop (NY)	Ellmers	Issa
Bishop (UT)	Farenthold	Jenkins
Black	Fincher	Johnson (OH)
Blackburn	Fitzpatrick	Johnson, Sam
Boustany	Fleischmann	Jones
Brady (TX)	Fleming	Jordan
Bridenstine	Flores	Joyce
Brooks (AL)	Forbes	Kelly (PA)
Brooks (IN)	Fortenberry	Kind
Broun (GA)	Fox	King (IA)
Buchanan	Franks (AZ)	King (NY)
Bucshon	Frelinghuysen	Kingston
Burgess	Galleo	Kinzinger (IL)
Bustos	Gardner	Kirkpatrick
Byrne	Garrett	Kline
Calvert	Gibbs	Kuster
Camp	Gibson	Labrador
Cantor	Gingrey (GA)	LaMalfa
Carter	Gohmert	Lamborn
Cassidy	Goodlatte	Lance
Chabot	Gosar	Latham
Chaffetz	Gowdy	Latta
Coble	Granger	LoBiondo
Coffman	Graves (GA)	Long
Cole	Graves (MO)	Lucas
Collins (GA)	Griffin (AZ)	Luetkemeyer
Collins (NY)	Griffith (AR)	Lujan, Ben Ray
Conaway	Grijalva	(NM)
Connolly	Grimm	Lummis
Cook	Guthrie	Lynch
Costa	Hall	Marchant
Cotton	Harper	Marino

ing of sustainable fisheries and recovery of these federally listed species.

Mr. KEATING. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LOBIONDO. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. KEATING. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey and also the gentleman from Virginia for addressing this important matter. I agree with my colleagues that habitat restoration programs are vital to coastal areas, including Massachusetts, and elsewhere throughout this country. In March, I led a letter with over 70 cosigners to the Appropriations Committee supporting funding for this important program.

NOAA's coastal programs serve as the front lines of defense in the fight to keep our communities resilient, create domestic jobs, and promote local economies while benefiting fish and wildlife and improving coastal ecosystems.

Further, each public-private partnership directly creates jobs and benefits local and regional coastal economies that generate more than half the Nation's GDP. These projects are improving lands that will benefit and be able to filter pollutants from storm water runoff, control flooding after storm events, provide vital nursery habitat for fish and shellfish, and create nesting and foraging habitat for coastal birds. The resulting clean water and more abundant habitats will benefit local economies by improving land values, supporting commercial fishing, improving tourism, and creating new business, and they also do beneficial work to enhance recreational opportunities.

I stand with my colleague from New Jersey in urging for adequate funding for NOAA's fisheries habitat restoration programs in order to allow NOAA to continue supporting community-based restoration programs that create jobs and help protect fragile communities like the ones in my district.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LOBIONDO. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentlemen from New Jersey and Massachusetts. I recognize the importance of NOAA's restoration programs, especially the community-based restoration program, and we will work to address your concerns as the bill moves forward toward conference with the Senate.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I thank the chairman. I thank Mr. KEATING.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LOBIONDO. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, this is extraordinarily important, and I want to share that I also am interested in seeing what we can do. Our support of these coastal communities is vitally important. Woods Hole and its work in

NOT VOTING—20

Cleaver	Hastings (FL)	Palazzo
Dingell	Lankford	Rangel
Esty	Lewis	Ros-Lehtinen
Green, Al	McCarthy (NY)	Shuster
Hanna	Miller, Gary	Slaughter
	Mulvaney	Waters

□ 1415

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

□ 1415

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I rise for the purpose of engaging in a colloquy with the gentleman from Virginia, Chairman WOLF, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING).

NOAA's habitat restoration programs yield substantial, long-term economic value and help create jobs, not only along the Jersey Shore, but among all coastal areas throughout this Nation. It is my understanding that the fiscal year 2015 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill provides \$25 million for habitat conservation and restoration, including sustainable habitat management, but it appears that no funding is specifically designated for the fisheries habitat restoration.

As you move forward with this bill, I ask that you try to fund NOAA's fisheries habitat restoration programs and thereby allow NOAA to continue supporting community-based restoration and provide expertise to the natural resource damage assessment restoration efforts. Fisheries habitat restoration directly supports the volunteer rebuild-

your great State, and the work of NOAA, have made a vital difference, and I share the chairman's concern on this matter, and we will work together on this issue.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I thank the chairman, I thank my colleagues, and I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 32, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$35,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to join my colleague from Georgia (Mr. BROWN) to offer this bipartisan and commonsense amendment.

The underlying CJS appropriations bill provides \$2.42 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration's salaries and expenses. That is \$35 million above last year's—fiscal year 2014—enacted level and above the President's budget request.

The report says the increase will "help DEA offset its necessary pay and non-pay base costs" and will also "support DEA's growing enforcement workload."

Again, a mysterious \$35 million above and beyond what the agency requested that Congress is adding without any description of where it is even going that means anything besides bureaucratic gobbledegook, as if we have all the money in the world to hand out to every agency above and beyond what they want at a time of deficits, Mr. Chairman, when this body, like the American people, needs to tighten our belts and where we can try to save money. And here is an opportunity to save \$35 million.

I have noticed that this same \$35 million has been targeted by other Members of this body for their project that is important to their district. Why don't we just add it to the deficit reduction account? What has the DEA done to deserve a \$35 million raise when many Americans are not getting raises? At a time when agencies across the board are being asked to tighten their belt, why are we singling out the DEA for receiving funds above what the DEA itself requested in the President's budget?

The DEA has demonstrated time and time again that it can't efficiently manage the resources that it already has. It is diverting funds to ridiculous things like impounding industrial hemp seeds which have no narcotic content, intimidating legal marijuana businesses in States like mine, and wasting money on marijuana infractions that are legal in States where they occur.

If they simply refocus those resources, frankly, Mr. Chairman, we

should be talking about cutting their budget to better meet their limited scope. Instead, we are giving them a raise?

Although legal under federal law, the DEA recently seized and impounded harmless, non-narcotic industrial hemp seeds in Kentucky. To be clear, industrial hemp is an agricultural commodity, not a drug. Don't they know this?

In testimony before a committee of this body, DEA Administrator Michele Leonhart refused to acknowledge that drugs like heroin and cocaine are worse or more addictive than marijuana. This is the head of our chief Drug Enforcement Agency? This is the type of thinking that leads to this kind of continued misappropriation of tax dollars.

Examples like these demonstrate that the DEA doesn't have a growing enforcement workload—other than in their own minds—but rather the DEA has simply allocated its enforcement workload in pursuit of misguided priorities. When they should be focused on prescription drug abuses, and on the rising heroin problem, they continue to focus on harmless seeds that have no narcotic content to the point of actually impounding them. Is that what they are using this over \$35 million more of taxpayer money for?

This amendment will ensure that DEA will have to tighten their belt just like agencies from DOD to the Department of Education. They have the money they need to complete their mission. We don't need to increase our deficit to fund misguided and misguided priorities.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this simple, commonsense amendment that simply strikes \$35 million from the DEA's budget, returns the DEA budget to the same funding levels as 2014 and the same funding levels as the President's budget.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. The reason the numbers are what they are, there was an indiscriminate cut by the administration of \$75 million. Secondly—and I know the gentleman from Colorado didn't mean this—but you kind of just blew off the DEA agents. A number of DEA agents have died—a number of DEA agents died in Afghanistan. A number of DEA agents have risked their lives for us here.

The head of the DEA is a career civil servant who was a city of Baltimore police officer who has given her life to law enforcement for the last 30 years. So I don't think you meant it, but if I were a DEA agent somewhere back in some remote area maybe watching C-SPAN in Afghanistan, where there is a number of DEA agents who are risking

their lives when we are in a very safe community surrounded by policemen, but maybe they are in Kabul right now where there were just some killings the other day—

So, I oppose the amendment. DEA is striving to cope with significant challenges. There is surging heroin. We have increased heroin. Members of Congress have come up, the committee has tried to address their needs—heroin Midwest, heroin Virginia, heroin all over, heroin, heroin. The DEA is dealing with that. The trafficking of prescription drugs, we just increased money for prescription drug abuse because it has the number one impact on young people.

DEA is the line of defense. DEA is the one that is fighting the Mexican drug cartels. Every community in the United States, the drug operations are impacted by the Mexican cartels, and it is the DEA that is doing this. This bill tries to help.

Also, it helps DEA out of the impact that they will hit with regard to sequester. So, I urge a "no" vote for the amendment.

Mr. POLIS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman from Virginia.

The DEA folks on the ground in Afghanistan deal with opium and heroin production, not marijuana. My remarks were with regard to marijuana.

In addition, with regard to the head of the DEA, she may, in fact, have been a fine line officer and cop on this beat, but she is a terrible agency head, and she has repeatedly embarrassed her agency before this body in committee.

Mr. WOLF. Let me say she has not embarrassed herself before the body. If this institution is going to go criticizing people who have served us that way, I think she has done an honorable job. I think she has represented the DEA well.

Also, I think there has been an effort by some in the administration to attack her in a way, it almost reminds me of the Nixon administration. I was in the Nixon administration. They had policies whereby they would go after civil servants and career people—I think some of the things that have been done against her. So I think this is a very bad amendment.

If you want to allow the cartels to come in—you can't just take \$35 million and say it has no impact on the agents that are working and giving their life and sacrificing their life in Afghanistan. This is a bad amendment, and I urge a "no" vote.

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

□ 1430

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. It is said that you need to be able to hold opposing, competing views all at once, so here we go.

First of all, I think that the DEA is one of our extraordinary law enforcement agencies under DOJ. I think the Attorney General has done a great job, and I definitely believe that the administrator of DEA has done a great job rounding up cartel members and doing all kinds of work, interfacing with Interpol in its efforts.

So on one level, I disagree with my colleague in his characterization. However, I also agree that the \$35 million plus-up over the requested amount is too large, which is why I supported and will support the notion that some percentage of those dollars should go into legal services versus going to an agency that didn't need it or request it, so I don't think we should be plussing it up by \$35 million, notwithstanding the fact that I don't agree with the gentleman, in terms of their performance, *per se*, on a host of issues.

Now, I think that the gentleman is really concerned about the underlying question about his home State and States similarly situated, and I agree with him there that the State has made a different decision and that there should not be unnecessary harassment relative thereto, but if we are going to repeal prohibition every 100 years or so—we did alcohol in 1933—maybe we are at the moment where we are going to do something similar on marijuana.

It does not mean, however, that we think every illegal narcotic in the world should be available without penalty or punishment for every single person who might desire it. So the country is trying to make some decisions, and we have to kind of parse through this as we work forward.

So I rise to say that I don't support the amendment in which we would take this \$35 million and put it into what is called deficit reduction. I suggest that the 41,000 veterans who are able to fight off foreclosure and other challenges by using legal services last year, those dollars should go to legal services, so that our veterans can have the legal services that they need in order to interface with our civil court system and to have the rights that they fought for protected.

So I think the House will be able to work its will. I hope that we vote against this amendment and that we support the effort to put these dollars into legal services and that we continue to hold high the great courage and sacrifice of our law enforcement agencies as they fight crime here and abroad.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to engage in a colloquy with my chairman.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I wanted to read, just briefly to the House, some of the names that are on the Wall of Honor of DEA agents who have given their life for our country, and I will put the whole list in the RECORD:

Special Agent James Terry Watson, June 21, 2013; Special Agent Michael E. Weston, October 26, 2009; Special Agent Chad L. Michael, October 26, 2009; Special Agent Forrest N. Leamon, October 26, 2009; FBI Special Agent Samuel S. Hicks, November 19, 2008; Special Agent Thomas J. Byrne, August 30, 2008; Task Force Officer Jay Balchunas, November 5, 2004; Special Agent Donald C. Ware, October 12, 2004; Special Agent Terry Loftus, May 28, 2004; Telecomm Specialist Elton Lee Armstead, March 18, 2003; Diversion Investigator Alice Faye Hall-Walton, March 1, 2001; Special Agent Royce D. Tramel, August 28, 2000; Pilot Instructor Larry Steilen, September 25, 1998; Special Agent Shaun E. Curl, December 12, 1997; Special Agent Kenneth G. McCullough, April 19, 1995; Carrie A. Lenz, April 19, 1995; Office Assistant Carrol J. Fields, April 19, 1995; Rona L. Chafey, April 19, 1995; Shelly Bland, April 19, 1995; Special Agent Frank S. Wallace, Jr., August 27, 1994; Special Agent Juan Vars, August 27, 1994; Special Agent Meredith Thompson, August 27, 1994; Special Agent Jay W. Seale, August 27, 1994; Special Agent Frank Fernandez, Jr., August 27, 1994; Special Agent Richard E. Fass, June 30, 1994; Detective Stephen J. Strehl, November 19, 1993; Special Agent Becky Dwojeski, October 21, 1993; Special Agent George D. Althouse, May 28, 1992; Special Agent Alan H. Winn, August 13, 1991; Special Agent Eugene T. McCarthy, February 2, 1991; Investigator Wallie Howard, Jr., October 30, 1990, and the list goes on.

I will put the whole list in the RECORD. This is to make up for what happened in sequestration. These people are literally giving their lives. We will also insert into the RECORD with regard to the helicopter crash that took the lives of those agents. For those reasons, I strongly oppose the amendment.

Mr. CULBERSON. Reclaiming my time, I join the chairman in strong opposition to this amendment. The last thing we need to do is take resources away from our men and women in uniform on the front line defending us, enforcing our laws.

The date that the chairman mentioned, April 19, 1995, it is important to remember that was the Oklahoma City bombing, when a lot of law enforcement officers lost their lives in Okla-

homa City. I urge all Members to oppose this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, this has been an interesting discussion. I want to join Chairman WOLF in commending the DEA agents who have lost their lives, most of which I am sure lost their lives way before sequestration and whose lives would have been lost—they are good men and women, but it is not because we didn't give them enough money.

When we are cutting other areas of the government and we just saw legal services getting cut by \$15 million, why are we giving DEA \$35 million more?

They just did a book here, "The Dangers and Consequences of Marijuana Abuse." I don't know how many of these were published, but it is almost a comic book when you read it.

They go so far as to have a section—and I love pets, I miss my cat, and I miss my dog—but they have a section that pets are also at risk. More dogs are being poisoned by marijuana.

They are really going to the bottom line, to try to find some rationalization for their work that they are protecting pets, and these pets are in areas where marijuana is not legal.

They also have a section in here about other consequences of marijuana use, and that is where they get the pet section. Then they have this section here, and they have this whole area about somebody breaking in and stealing cash from a marijuana dispensary and saying it is a problem.

Well, sure, it is a problem, just like people break into liquor stores and rob them. The reason they do is because there is a lot of cash money there, and the Federal Government hasn't allowed the marijuana dispensaries to use credit cards. Because of the fact that they have to use cash, they attract robbers and burglars.

That is not something that the marijuana causes. That is something that the government causes by requiring there to be a lot of cash there, and that is independent of the fact that it is marijuana. That is listed under other consequences of marijuana use.

That is not a consequence of marijuana use. That is a consequence of the government not allowing those people to use credit cards and, instead, having large amounts of cash on hand.

The director there has embarrassed herself time after time after time. She is the last supporter of the failed war on drugs. She refuses to accept the fact that President Obama said that alcohol has more damage to consumers than marijuana. She questioned the President on that, and she is wrong.

She also questioned mandatory minimums and thinks mandatory minimums are still the right thing to do. I

think most all of us know mandatory minimums are a colossal failure and waste of time. It is \$30,000 a year to put people in jail.

She criticized MITCH MCCONNELL. Senator MITCH MCCONNELL criticized her because they went and confiscated hemp seeds in Kentucky that were there for study. They are out of control, and the \$35 million additional that we are intending to give them is throwing money away. It is not going to have anything to do with DEA agents being killed. In fact, it might save some.

The fact is that we have to prioritize where we spend our moneys, and this is not a spot. If we want to put that money into education, if we want to put it into health care, if we want to put it into other areas that are important—and probably the \$35 million should go to the National Institutes of Health where we could find a cure for cancer or diabetes, find treatments for stroke or illnesses that deal with heart disease, AIDS, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, that is where money needs to go.

That is money that saves American people's lives, and giving money to DEA is not going to save a DEA agent, and more DEA agents are going to die from heart disease and cancer and diabetes and Parkinson's and AIDS than die because they have been shot, and that money would be better spent to save them by putting it into NIH in Bethesda, Maryland, and finding treatments and cures for the diseases that will kill us all, but we are not doing NIH, we are doing DEA. That is a mistake.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I was going to submit an amendment today regarding surveys on the red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico, but instead, I rise to engage Chairman WOLF in a colloquy.

I am pleased that the committee has recognized in its committee report the shortcomings of current methods used by NOAA fisheries to conduct stock assessments, specifically affirming the inadequacy of generated data, infrequency of surveys, and the insufficient use of independent research in developing these stock assessments.

However, I am inclined to stress that further efforts must be taken to address the agency's faulty data. In the Gulf of Mexico, for example, stock assessments meant to provide data for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Reef Fish Management Plan, which includes the red snapper, do not include data retrieved from reef structures on which these fish live and thrive, nor do they acknowledge that

reef structures, both natural and artificial, are even relevant to conducting stock assessments.

I have personally spent time with scientists from the Gulf Coast, including scientists from the University of South Alabama and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and have seen for myself the overabundance of fish which live on these reefs, of which there are 17,000 off the coast of Alabama alone.

Last Friday, Congressman SCALISE and I went out and fished in the Gulf of Mexico. It took us 45 minutes to go out. We fished for 15 minutes and caught our limit, and it took 45 minutes to go back. Those reefs are absolutely filled with fish.

Today, stock assessment data provided by NOAA fisheries has proven unreliable, and it has helped result in a broken management system. Just in March of this year, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia found that the NOAA survey process and the data is totally insufficient. That was a finding of a court in a court case.

In my district, we will experience, as a result of that, a 9-day red snapper season this year, starting June 1 and ending June 9, despite the fact that these fish are so abundant it is difficult to catch anything else.

In short, current stock assessments generated by NOAA fisheries lack the ability to adequately determine whether overfishing has occurred or to inform fishery managers how to prevent overfishing from occurring in the future.

I join the committee in calling for greater accountability over NOAA fishery stock assessments. It is simply insufficient, and they are not being responsive to the needs of the fisheries.

If NOAA fisheries are to receive a Federal appropriation at all for scientific data collection, it must prove that it will vastly improve the methods with which it conducts stock assessments, including taking into account the relevant habitats and biological features of the stock in question, and produce a stock assessment that can truly account for our fishery resources.

□ 1445

I appreciate the gentleman's attention to this matter, and I thank him for his time.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BYRNE. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. I appreciate the gentleman's concern, and we will continue to work on this. I thank the gentleman for his comments. We will work on this in an appropriate way for the people of your region.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BYRNE. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. I also will work on behalf of the red snapper.

Mr. BYRNE. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, first I would like to register my concern and support over the issues raised by Mr. POLIS. The question on the amendment that he offers has not to do with much of the policy, but the fact that we have to make budget decisions that are based on priorities. I think he is correct to raise the question as to whether a \$35 million plus-up is the proper priority when compared to the other competing interests that we are all trying to facilitate.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. Chair, very clearly there are two issues here. Why are we plussing up an agency above their own request level for a vague bureaucratic purpose—that is question number one—when other agencies are being cut? That is what this amendment addressed. However, there has been a lot of discussion on the floor about some of the wasted efforts in DEA. I wanted to address the very moving testimony that my colleague from Virginia gave with regard to names of the brave agents of the Drug Enforcement Agency that have given their lives in service to this Nation.

I would like to inquire of him: How many of those whose names he read, who gave their lives, would be alive today, with their families today, if it weren't for the failed Federal policy of prohibition with regard to marijuana?

I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Virginia if he has an answer.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan controls the time.

Mr. POLIS. I am happy to further yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

How many of those agents would be alive today with their families?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan controls the time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I would like to know if anybody in this body can answer the question and tell the surviving husband, the surviving wife, a 10-year-old child who lost their father to a failed Federal policy, how many of those agents would be alive today if it were not for the failed Federal policy on prohibition.

Does anybody have an answer?

I thought that might be the case, Mr. Chair.

Mr. KILDEE. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. I would like to speak on the amendment, and I yield to the chairman.

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentleman.

Four agents have died since 2009. Four agents have died since 2009.

Mr. GOSAR. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I would like to submit the full list of DEA agents who gave their lives to keep our communities safe.

Agent Stafford E. Beckett, March 22, 1921; Agent Charles Archie Wood, March 22, 1921; Agent Joseph W. Floyd, May 17, 1922; Agent Bert S. Gregory, October 25, 1922; Agent James T. Williams, October 16, 1924; Agent Louis L. Marks, October 24, 1924; Agent James E. Brown, June 7, 1928; Agent James R. Kerrigan, December 27, 1928; Agent John W. Crozier, November 16, 1934; Agent Spencer Stafford, February 7, 1935; Agent Andrew P. Sanderson, September 23, 1944; Agent Anker M. Bangs, September 24, 1950; Agent Wilson M. Shee, December 12, 1957; Agent Mansel R. Burrell, December 19, 1967; Agent Hector Jordan, October 14, 1970; Officer Gene A. Clifton, November 19, 1971; Special Agent Frank Tummillio, October 12, 1972; Special Agent George F. White, March 25, 1973; Special Agent Richard Heath, Jr., April 1, 1973; Special Agent Emir Benitez, August 9, 1973.

Detective Gerald Sawyer, November 6, 1973; Investigator Leslie S. Grosso, May 21, 1974; Special Agent Nickolas Fragos, August 5, 1974; Secretary Mary Keehan, August 5, 1974; Special Agent Charles H. Mann, August 5, 1974; Secretary Anna Mounger, August 5, 1974; Fiscal Assistant Anna Pope, August 5, 1974; Spvr Clerk-Typist Martha Skeels, August 5, 1974; Clerk-Typist Mary Sullivan, August 5, 1974; Special Agent Larry D. Wallace, December 19, 1975; Special Agent James T. Lunn, May 14, 1976; Special Agent Ralph N. Shaw, May 14, 1976; Special Agent Octavio Gonzalez, December 13, 1976; Office Assistant Susan Hoefler, August 16, 1986; Special Agent William Ramos, December 31, 1986; Special Agent Raymond J. Stastny, January 26, 1987; Special Agent Arthur L. Cash, August 25, 1987; Detective Terry W. McNett, February 2, 1988; Special Agent George M. Montoya, February 5, 1988; Special Agent Paul S. Seema, February 6, 1988.

Special Agent Everett E. Hatcher, February 28, 1989; Special Agent Rickie C. Finley, May 20, 1989; Investigator Joseph T. Aversa, March 5, 1990; Investigator Wallie Howard Jr., October 30, 1990; Special Agent Eugene T. McCarthy, February 2, 1991; Special Agent Alan H. Winn, August 13, 1991; Special Agent George D. Althouse, May 28, 1992; Special Agent Becky L. Dwojeski, October 21, 1993; Detective Stephen J. Strehl, November 19, 1993; Special Agent Richard E. Fass, June 30, 1994; Special Agent Frank Fernandez, Jr., August 27, 1994; Special Agent Jay W. Seale, August 27, 1994; Special Agent Meredith Thompson, August 27, 1994; Special Agent Juan C. Vars, August 27, 1994; Special Agent Frank S. Wallace, Jr., August 27, 1994; Shelly D. Bland, April 19, 1995; Rona L. Chafey, April 19, 1995; Office Assistant Carrol J. Fields, April 19, 1995; Carrie A. Lenz, April 19, 1995; Special Agent Kenneth G. McCullough, April 19, 1995.

Special Agent Shaun E. Curl, December 12, 1997; Pilot Instructor Larry Steilen, September 25, 1998; Special Agent Royce D. Tramel, August 28, 2000; Diversion Investigator Alice Faye Hall-Walton, March 1, 2001; Telecomm. Specialist Elton Lee Armstead, March 18, 2003; Special Agent Terry Loftus, May 28, 2004; Special Agent Francis J. Miller,

March 5, 1977; Special Agent Robert C. Lightfoot, November 23, 1977; Special Agent Thomas J. Devine, September 25, 1982; Special Agent Larry N. Carwell, January 9, 1984; Detective Marcellus Ward, December 3, 1984; Special Agent Enrique S. Camarena, March 5, 1985; Deputy Sheriff James A. Avant, July 24, 1986; Investigator Charles M. Bassing, July 24, 1986; Investigator Kevin L. Brosch, July 24, 1986; Special Agent Donald C. Ware, October 12, 2004; Task Force Officer Jay Balchunas, November 5, 2004; Special Agent Thomas J. Byrne, August 30, 2008; FBI Special Agent Samuel S. Hicks, November 19, 2008; Special Agent Forrest N. Leamon, October 26, 2009; Special Agent Chad L. Michael, October 26, 2009; Special Agent Michael E. Weston, October 26, 2009; Special Agent James Terry Watson, June 21, 2013.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado will be postponed.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chair, I rise to engage in a colloquy.

Mr. Chair, there is a situation right now that you and I have discussed several times already involving a former U.S. marine imprisoned in Mexico for making a wrong turn at the U.S.-Mexican border while in possession of three legally owned firearms.

Andrew Tahmooressi endured two combat tours in Afghanistan. He was meritoriously promoted to sergeant on the battlefield, a high honor for any servicemember; and he, like others returning from war, has been diagnosed with posttraumatic stress. That is why he was in San Diego, so he could seek therapy at the high-level institutions we have for that disorder in San Diego.

For 2 months now, Andrew has been in jail in Mexico. He has been mistreated. We found out yesterday he had been beaten. He had been chained to the wall and beaten by his Mexican prisoners. He has been threatened; and he has been looking for a way out since that night he was pulled over in secondary screening, he acknowledged his mistake and disclosed his firearms and wanted to come back to America. That was not good enough for Mexican authorities, and the legal proceedings in Andrew's case are only just beginning.

My problem, Mr. Chair, is that the State Department, beyond the consulate in Tijuana, has done nothing. Our Justice Department has done nothing, despite numerous appeals from me and a growing list of others, including yourself.

Mr. Chair, I know that we agree that Andrew served with honor and distinction, and an all-hands-on-deck approach is owed to him in return. I hope we can continue working together to ensure this Federal Government is doing all it can for Andrew. I hope you can weigh in also with the Department of Justice, encourage their coordination with the Department of State and urge greater action to support Andrew's legal defense.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HUNTER. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentleman for his efforts on this. I want to personally tell you that I appreciate it.

I also appreciate the fact that Greta Van Susteren was down there. I watched one of the interviews. It is painful to watch, to see how a United States citizen—I appreciate the gentleman's service, too, in the Marine Corps. I know you were in Fallujah. Your dad was very proud of what you had done. I know you have to have a feeling for this, but why we cannot get someone out.

We will do everything we can to work with you, to help you. We will call the Attorney General's Office tomorrow. I will try to talk to Mr. Holder, who I know will be very sympathetic and help to see what we can possibly do to get the gentleman out. I thank the gentleman. We will do anything you ask us to do.

Mr. HUNTER. Thank you.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HUNTER. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. I also would like to join in in whatever we can do from our side to help in this matter so they can come to a positive resolution.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chair, my initial intention was to offer an amendment today, but after consultation with both the offices of the chair and the ranking member, I now rise for the purpose of entering into a colloquy with Chairman WOLF and with Ranking Member FATTAH.

Seven years ago when the House considered reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act, I offered an amendment at that time with my colleagues, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and Congressman JERRY McNERNEY, to correct a longstanding inequity at the National Science Foundation.

Unlike their counterparts of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions

have not benefited from a specific program at the NSF to provide them with the grants for research, curriculum, and infrastructure development. The amendment corrected this inequity, requiring the NSF to create a separate program for HSIs. It was adopted and it became law at that time. To this day, the NSF has not implemented the programs as codified in law and funding has yet to be provided.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions serve the majority of nearly 2 million Latino students enrolled in college today. My district alone has about 10,000 students attending Hispanic-Serving Institutions offering degrees in the field of science.

Without access to targeted grants, HSIs have difficulty increasing the ranks of Latinos in the STEM fields, where they have been historically underrepresented. We must ensure the Latinos, the youngest and fastest-growing ethnic group in our Nation, are prepared with the knowledge and skills that will contribute to our Nation's future, economic strength, security, and global leadership.

I would like to work with Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH to aim for a dedicated stream of funding at the NSF to support STEM education programs at Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

At this time, I would be pleased to yield to Ranking Member FATTAH.

Mr. FATTAH. Let me thank the gentleman from the great State of New York, and I pledge to him that I would be more than willing to work with him to increase the number of Latino or Hispanic students who pursue STEM education and in support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions through the National Science Foundation.

I pledge to work with you on this matter.

Mr. CROWLEY. Thank you, Mr. FATTAH.

I would also like to yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

Mr. WOLF. Thank you.

I want to thank Mr. CROWLEY for raising this issue. Mr. SERRANO, I think, also raised it at one of the hearings, and also Mr. DIAZ-BALART. I will do everything I can to work with you and see if we can deal with this.

Thank you for raising the issue.

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank the chair and the ranking member for agreeing to work towards this funding stream, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, for training of State and local law enforcement agencies with or without reimburse-

ment, including training in connection with the training and acquisition of canines for explosives and fire accelerants detection; and for provision of laboratory assistance to State and local law enforcement agencies, with or without reimbursement, \$1,200,000,000, of which not to exceed \$36,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be available for the payment of attorneys' fees as provided by section 924(d)(2) of title 18, United States Code, and not to exceed \$20,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated herein shall be available to investigate or act upon applications for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available to investigate and act upon applications filed by corporations for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That no funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to transfer the functions, missions, or activities of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to other agencies or Departments: *Provided further*, That the Federal Building at 99 New York Avenue, NE, Washington, DC, headquarters of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, shall hereafter be known and designated as the Ariel Rios Federal Building.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 33, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$15,000,000)".

Page 63, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$23,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I offer this amendment. I represent Flint, Michigan, and Saginaw, Michigan, two cities that have dealt with significant violence. There are cities across the country that are plagued with extreme violence and are unable themselves, these communities, to deal with the challenges, simply having the resources to deal with the sorts of crime that they are seeing every day.

On occasion, the ATF has been able to provide support to these communities through their Violent Crime Reduction Partnership program, so-called "surge." What my amendment would do would be to provide an additional \$15 million to the ATF's budget to conduct additional surge operations in America's most violent communities.

As I said, there is a high correlation between communities experiencing serious violence, high rates of murder and other violent crime, and cities that are experiencing enormous problems, significant financial stress, such that they simply don't have the resources to deal with the tidal wave of violence and in fact, in many cases, see the loss of police and prosecutorial capacity. This amendment would address that by allowing ATF to utilize the additional

funding to support those communities, those most violent communities. It makes a difference. It pays off.

In 2012, when a surge was executed in my hometown of Flint, the murder rate, the homicide rate, was cut in half for that period. In Oakland, California, we saw violent crime go down, in just a 4-month period, by 14 percent.

These programs do work, because what they do is that they support those local law enforcement officials, local prosecutors to make cases against the most violent offenders. It is really an important thing.

The offset—and I know this will rankle some. I know the chairman is particularly concerned about this, as is the ranking member. I completely understand it. The offset comes from the NASA exploration fund.

I understand and I support the work—don't get me wrong—and the important priority that this Congress places on the work that NASA is doing in this regard. From my perspective, I think it is important that we keep, for this conversation, a sense of priority and proportion.

In the case of NASA's budget for exploration, we see a \$191 million increase over what was requested.

□ 1500

I understand if we could do that, and if we could do that and still deal with the other priorities I would be all for it. But when I see my hometown and other cities like it literally seeing their kids die because we don't have adequate resources to deal with the violence, it seems to me reasonable to take a small portion of a very large increase in funding to an important program—don't get me wrong, a very important program—but to take a small portion of an increase in order to support this kind of work that the ATF is doing when, if I could turn to the ATF and say: use your increased budget to fund this, I would certainly be willing to say that.

But in this case, what we see is the ATF with a modest reduction over what was being proposed, what was requested, and the budget within NASA that I am addressing seeing \$191 million added. It is a question of competing important priorities, I understand.

Where I live and where I come from, it is very difficult for me to find a higher priority than getting resources to help make cases against the bad guys who are killing kids on the streets of America's most violent cities.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman raises a good point. I am going

to oppose the amendment—and I will get into it—but we will be glad to work with them to see what we could. Because I think when you have—and Mr. FATTAH knows—when we have had different areas, we will be glad to meet with you and ATF to get them to do this.

The budget really hasn't been cut. It is flat. I think they are \$1 million off. This is the only agency that didn't get a big hit in sequestration.

But the reason I oppose the amendment—and I will get to your issue at the end—is it would take a reduction from NASA's commercial crew. You have seen the stories where Putin said, and the head of their space program, their general, said: If we want to get their space station, we are going to have to use a trampoline.

Funds for this program are critical to allow NASA to name the development schedule and to end our reliance on the Russians so we can get up there. Right now we pay them roughly \$60 million a ticket almost to get up there.

Less funding would mean fewer development testing activities being carried out, which in turn will put pressure on the overall program.

So for that reason, I oppose the amendment and ask for a "no" vote. But I would say, let's talk after this and we can have a meeting with you and Mr. FATTAH and myself with the ATF and see if we can get them, as we have in some communities, to kind of focus like a laser beam on your community because, rightly so, your people ought to know they can live in safe areas. We will be glad to do that no matter what the outcome of the amendment is.

But I urge a "no" vote on the amendment because of where he takes it from and what the impact would have on the commercial crew.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, early one morning, I went over and visited the ATF and met with Todd Jones, the administrator, and met a large number of his critical leaders there at the agency. They are doing an extraordinary job under difficult circumstances.

The chairman points out that they have had success where they have been able to focus. I would be willing to work with the gentleman on his area of concern to try to get some focus.

But to deal with his broader point, it is true that we need to be doing more to make the lives of Americans safer. We have 1,000 marines off the coast of Libya today because we are going to evacuate Americans. We have had eight

or so hearings, and we have a new investigation, over the tragic attack that took place that took the lives of our Ambassador and three others in Libya.

But we saw a shooting right here in America over the weekend in California, and you won't see a big clamor here for us to have hearings or to do a lot. And we do need to rebalance these issues. We need to be doing more. It is our responsibility to do more to protect the American people not just when they are abroad but here at home. The ATF and these other agencies play a critical role.

This amendment, its offset is problematic. I would hope, as the chairman said, that we can work with you on this so that we can try to provide more resources to ATF and not necessarily take it away from this particular activity in terms of what we have to do in terms of a commercial crew.

I hope that the gentleman will find a way to work with us on this rather than proceed forward with a vote. He would have my pledge that we would work with him and the chairman as we go forward into conference.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 33, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$6,000,000)".

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$6,000,000)".

Page 48, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$6,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to stand with veterans throughout the country and offer a simple amendment that seeks to bolster funds in this act for the Veterans Treatment Court initiative.

My amendment pays for this modest increase for this critical initiative by reducing funds for salaries and expenses from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives by \$6 million. The Bureau's salaries and expenses were increased by \$21 million from fiscal year 2014 levels, with a proposed appropriation of \$1.2 billion overall on this bill for the agency.

My amendment redirects funds from the bureaucrats in the mismanaged Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agency to a worthy treatment program for our Nation's veterans.

Veterans Court promotes sobriety and recovery through coordinated local partnerships among community corrections agencies, drug treatment pro-

viders, the judiciary, and other important community support groups. Veterans Treatment Courts have been extremely successful since they were first created in 2008 by a Buffalo judge to combat the growing number of veterans appearing before the court who were addicted to drugs and alcohol, as well as suffering from mental illness.

Many of our Nation's heroes returning from combat are traumatized due to the associated violence and pressure of war and often cope with such feelings with substance abuse. They need focused treatment and a helping hand, and these courts provide such an avenue.

The alternative to funding the Veterans Treatment Court initiative is jail. I think we would all agree that providing treatment for our veterans through a community partnership at the local level is a far better option.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the passage of my commonsense amendment and this worthwhile program.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I want the House to take note that we have increased this account already in last night's action, so this would be duplicative. Plus, it would take away funds from the agency that we were just referring to, that is Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. It doesn't make sense for us to take money away from this agency at a time when we need to be providing more resources to it.

Therefore, I will stand in opposition to this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Prison System for the administration, operation, and maintenance of Federal penal and correctional institutions, and for the provision of technical assistance and advice on corrections related issues to foreign governments, \$6,865,000,000: *Provided*, That the Attorney General may transfer to the Health Resources and Services Administration such amounts as may be necessary for direct expenditures by that Administration for medical relief for inmates of Federal penal and

correctional institutions: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Federal Prison System, where necessary, may enter into contracts with a fiscal agent or fiscal intermediary claims processor to determine the amounts payable to persons who, on behalf of the Federal Prison System, furnish health services to individuals committed to the custody of the Federal Prison System: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$5,400 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$50,000,000 shall remain available for necessary operations until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That, of the amounts provided for contract confinement, not to exceed \$20,000,000 shall remain available until expended to make payments in advance for grants, contracts and reimbursable agreements, and other expenses: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Federal Prison System may accept donated property and services relating to the operation of the prison card program from a not-for-profit entity which has operated such program in the past, notwithstanding the fact that such not-for-profit entity furnishes services under contracts to the Federal Prison System relating to the operation of pre-release services, halfway houses, or other custodial facilities.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$500,000)".

Page 38, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, again, let me offer my appreciation to Mr. WOLF and Mr. FATTAH for leading this appropriations legislation.

Commerce, Justice, Science—Commerce, Justice, Science—the reason I say it in that way is because many of us are on the authorizing committee that is impacted greatly by the appropriators. I sit on the Judiciary Committee and have sat on the Foreign Affairs Committee and now sit on Homeland Security, which has a very, very important commitment to fighting human trafficking.

Just a few weeks ago, on March 20, in Houston, Texas, we held a field hearing on human trafficking. Interestingly, the day before, 115 people were found in a stash house, women and children, all compounded, living in dire and devastating conditions. The witness testimony was overwhelming.

I know the leadership that both the chairman and ranking member have given to this issue. I want to thank them for their funding of the Violence Against Women Act, as it has grown to provide more resources for those who are impacted by domestic violence, but also by human trafficking.

My amendment is very straightforward. In the testimony given to us

by law enforcement officers, one of the local law enforcement officers—in fact, local sheriff—indicated the importance of providing local law enforcement officers the training needed to ensure that these victims who are traumatized will be willing to testify against a perpetrator, and the perpetrators are vile, they are vile. This has become one of the largest businesses in this Nation, billions of dollars, human trafficking and sex trafficking. It is an ugly thing to say, but in sex trafficking the product can be used over and over again, as interpreted by the person who has the business.

Houston has been known to be called the epicenter of human trafficking, sex trafficking. But it is a scourge on this Nation.

My amendment strengthens the ability by providing a half a million dollars to the Violence Against Women Act. It strengthens the ability of State and local law enforcement to identify, apprehend, and prosecute domestic child traffickers by requiring the Attorney General to make available the training and education that will empower them to gain the cooperation and active assistance of victims of human trafficking, who would otherwise refuse for fear of reprisal.

This, in fact, as I indicated, was clear in all testimony that was given and explained by those who were victims who were witnesses in this hearing and others.

Just recently, in the Border Security markup, I added an amendment to address the question of human trafficking resources in another agency, Department of Homeland Security. But trafficking in humans, and especially domestic child trafficking, has no place in a civilized society. In fact, it has been called "modern day slavery."

Those who engage in this illicit trade should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. We need the cooperation of victims. Sometimes they are scared. There are various resources, such as visas for nonimmigrant persons who are fearful of their present condition.

That means we need to ensure that State and local law enforcement agencies have the tools, resources, and the training necessary to identify, apprehend, and prosecute criminals who ruthlessly traffic in children and young persons.

I think it is important that Commerce, Justice, Science is involved in this particular area and covers this particular area. As I said, my amendment would cover the education on the availability of certain nonimmigrant visas for victims trafficked who cooperate in the investigation or the prosecution of the crime which the individual was a victim of.

So, in essence, this helps the victims. It gives them time, it gives them the ability to understand. It starts some-

times with local law enforcement. In the instance of these 115 persons in Houston, the arrest came, the notice came, or the call came to the local law enforcement, who later called ICE and others.

I would hope that this amendment would be passed because it, again, adds to our commitment to eliminate human trafficking, and it commits us to recognizing the vileness of child trafficking and sexual abuse of these individuals who come and the repetitiveness of this. In the instance of Houston, 99 were men; 16 were women, one of whom was pregnant; and 19 were juveniles. This happens over and over again.

The Jackson Lee amendment does strengthen the idea of making sure we are linked to local law enforcement, and that we are committed not only in the Federal system but we are committed in the system that we are in locally.

Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, by indicating that I hope that my colleagues will support this amendment.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, let me offer my appreciation and thanks to Ranking Member FATTAH and to Chairman WOLF for their work on this legislation and decades long commitment and advocacy on behalf of victims of crime, especially child victims, who are the most vulnerable and innocent victims.

Trafficking in humans, and especially domestic child trafficking, has no place in a civilized society. Those who engage in this illicit trade should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

That means we need to ensure that state and local law enforcement agencies have the tools, resources, and training necessary to identify, apprehend, and prosecute criminals who ruthlessly traffic in children and young persons.

And one of the most effective resources in bringing criminals to justice is the cooperation and assistance of their victims.

Perpetrators of crime know that they are more likely to evade detection and punishment when their victims refuse to assist or cooperate with law enforcement. That is why they make it a point to instill fear in their victims—for their own safety or that of family and loved ones.

My amendment strengthens and complements the bill by providing another tool in law enforcement's arsenal to tip the balance in favor of victims.

The Jackson Lee Amendment will help ensure that: The U.S. Attorney General shall provide training for State and local law enforcement agencies on the immigration law that may be useful for the investigation and prosecution of crimes related to trafficking in persons, including education on the availability of certain nonimmigrant visas for victims of trafficking who cooperate in the investigation or prosecution of the crime of which the individual was a victim.

In 2007, Congress passed the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act

(VTVPA), which created the T-Visa, and reserved it for those who are or have been victims of human trafficking.

The Nonimmigrant Status (“T-Visa”) protects victims of human trafficking and helps law enforcement by allowing victims to remain in the United States to assist in the investigation or prosecution of human traffickers.

Unfortunately, many victims of crime and victims of human trafficking are unaware of the existence and availability of this temporary relief.

And that is in part because many local and state law enforcement officers are not fully aware of the legal requirements governing this relief.

The Jackson Lee Amendment is intended to help fill this information gap by providing the informational resources to local law enforcement who will be able in turn to share that information with the victims.

On March 20, the Homeland Security Committee, of which I am a senior member, held a field hearing in my home city of Houston on “Combating Human Trafficking in Our Major Cities.”

It was a fitting venue because, regrettably, Houston is the human trafficking capital of the United States.

Ninety-nine were men, 16 were women, one of whom was pregnant, and 19 were juveniles.

All of them had been kidnapped or smuggled into the United States.

Who knows what those women and children may have faced had they not been rescued and the perpetrators caught?

The Jackson Lee Amendment strengthens the bill by strengthening the hand of state and local law enforcement in combating the scourge of human trafficking.

By helping them, we will catch more human trafficking criminals. And we help rescue and save children from becoming victims.

I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1515

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, the gentlelady makes a very powerful case, and I think she is absolutely right. I support the amendment. I will accept it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. I enthusiastically support the chairman’s decision to accept it.

I thank the gentlelady from Texas, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DELANEY

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 34, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 49, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Chairman, my amendment increases funding for Pay for Success within the existing evidence-based Justice program account by a modest \$1 million.

While it is a modest number, it does increase the account by 5 percent, which we think is important, and we think it is important for two reasons—first, as it relates to the merits of the program; but, secondly, as we think the government should be embracing the Pay for Success framework across all aspects of government services. We believe this for three reasons.

First, the Pay for Success model has been proven—and we believe it will continue to prove out—that it delivers a better service to our citizens. It does that by encouraging innovation and best practices within government.

The method it uses to do that is a unique partnership model within which the government partners with the private sector or with the philanthropic sector in developing specific programs that are designed to have better outcomes at lower costs. That is the first reason we like the Pay for Success model.

The second reason we like the Pay for Success model is that the model encourages the development of better metrics and of the better tracking of outcomes, which encourages creativity and the advancement of best practices within the government sector.

The third reason that we like the Pay for Success model is that it is very taxpayer friendly. By definition, under a Pay for Success framework, the government is only paying when certain predetermined outcomes are, in fact, delivered.

In addition to putting the government in a position in which it is only paying when outcomes are, in fact, met, it also encourages, through the process of the development, not only more effective methods, but more cost-effective methods.

For all of these reasons, we encourage Pay for Success generally across government services. In this particular program, we think the additional \$1 million, while modest, will encourage the development of innovative programs that are designed to reduce the burdens on our prisons. I encourage the passing of my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I have no objection to the amendment, and I support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak in favor of the amendment offered by my colleague Congressman DELANEY.

This amendment would increase funding for Pay for Success programs within the Department of Justice to reduce recidivism and improve reentry services for individuals returning to their communities after incarceration. It shifts funds from the federal prison system to support these programs because if we can reduce recidivism, we will reduce the number of people in our criminal justice system.

The Pay for Success model allows the government to use limited resources wisely. We can invest in innovative social programs intended to improve lives while only paying for those that actually make a difference.

The United States releases 700,000 prisoners every year. Most of these individuals struggle to find a job or a place to stay. Within three years, two-thirds of them are back in prison. We need to do more to help them turn their lives around and stop this vicious cycle, but we also need to ensure that our efforts are effective. This amendment will help us do both.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. DELANEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For planning, acquisition of sites and construction of new facilities; purchase and acquisition of facilities and remodeling, and equipping of such facilities for penal and correctional use, including all necessary expenses incident thereto, by contract or force account; and constructing, remodeling, and equipping necessary buildings and facilities at existing penal and correctional institutions, including all necessary expenses incident thereto, by contract or force account, \$115,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$25,000,000 shall be available only for costs related to construction of new facilities, of which not less than \$76,000,000 shall be available only for modernization, maintenance and repair, and of which not to exceed \$14,000,000 shall be available to construct areas for inmate work programs: *Provided*, That labor of United States prisoners may be used for work performed under this appropriation.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 35, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,200,000)”.

Page 35, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,200,000)”.

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 48, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I want to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH and their staffs for working with me and my staff and with other Members on a bipartisan basis to support this and similar amendments.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would increase funding for Veterans Treatment Courts by \$1 million. It does not cut the Census Bureau, however, to do it. With the additional funds provided by the amendment, a total of \$6 million would be available for Veterans Treatment Courts in fiscal year 2015.

Our Nation's heroes are returning home from more than a decade of war, including from the longest war in American history, in Afghanistan. Upon their return, they bear the visible and the invisible wounds of deployment.

Substance abuse, posttraumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury—various disabilities—and various mental health disabilities can lead our returning heroes often down a difficult and lonely road in their attempts to transition to civilian life.

Twenty percent of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder or from major depression. One in six battles with substance abuse. Left undiagnosed or untreated, these illnesses can result in an encounter with the justice system. Worse yet, these illnesses can also lead to suicide, which veterans commit at twice the rate of the civilian population.

Fortunately, specialized Veterans Treatment Courts are being developed across the country to assist veterans who do find themselves in the justice system and who suffer from substance addiction or mental health disorders, so that they can alter their courses and find the assistance they deserve. The first such court was established in Buffalo, New York, in 2008.

Virginia, which is my home State and that of the distinguished manager of the bill, is home to the six largest veterans' populations in the United States, with nearly 850,000 veterans, a large number of whom live in my district and in that of Mr. WOLF's, the distinguished manager.

I am pleased that, locally, our State and local leaders in Fairfax County have had preliminary conversations about creating their own Veterans Treatment docket, and that is great. We have 76 veterans in our local detention centers today—that is just in Fairfax County—more than half of whom are there for nonviolent violations. Of course, those are just the veterans who have self-identified themselves as veterans.

Clearly, we need to look at our intake process to ensure we are identifying these veterans who are in need of assistance. By bringing veterans service organizations, State veterans services departments, and volunteer men-

tors into the courtroom, Veterans Treatment Courts promote community collaboration and can connect veterans with the programs and benefits they have not only earned, but need.

Having a veteran-only court docket ensures that everyone—from the judge to the volunteers—specializes in veterans' care, and the involvement of fellow veterans allows the defendant to experience the camaraderie to which he or she became accustomed in the military itself.

We know this model works, and it is our hope that this amendment provides Veterans Treatment Courts with some of the resources they are going to need in order to help veterans who fall into the justice system get back on the right track and transition back into the society they swore to defend, as we swore to protect them when they came home.

Mr. Chairman, finally, let me take a moment of personal privilege to congratulate my friend and colleague, FRANK WOLF, on shepherding what is probably his last appropriations bill in the Congress.

Frank has been a leader on gang prevention in our community, on transportation—the Silver Line going to Dulles Airport—and on human rights all across the world.

Our community and Congress are very grateful for his service and especially for the integrity he brings to this institution. I am proud to call him a colleague. I am even prouder to call him my friend. I will miss him.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the gentleman's amendment.

As he stated better than I could, as more veterans return from combat, we are seeing their increased involvement in the justice system. The committee established the Veterans court program in fiscal year 2013, and it has increased its funding.

I thank the gentleman for offering an amendment. I urge an "aye" vote for it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

The Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, is hereby authorized to make such expenditures within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available, and in accord with the law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be

necessary in carrying out the program set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

Not to exceed \$2,700,000 of the funds of the Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, shall be available for its administrative expenses, and for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, to be computed on an accrual basis to be determined in accordance with the corporation's current prescribed accounting system, and such amounts shall be exclusive of depreciation, payment of claims, and expenditures which such accounting system requires to be capitalized or charged to cost of commodities acquired or produced, including selling and shipping expenses, and expenses in connection with acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance, improvement, protection, or disposition of facilities and other property belonging to the corporation or in which it has an interest.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance for the prevention and prosecution of violence against women, as authorized by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.) ("the 1968 Act"); the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322) ("the 1994 Act"); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-647) ("the 1990 Act"); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-21); the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.) ("the 1974 Act"); the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-386) ("the 2000 Act"); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) ("the 2005 Act"); and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4) ("the 2013 Act"); and for related victims services, \$425,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That except as otherwise provided by law, not to exceed 5 percent of funds made available under this heading may be used for expenses related to evaluation, training, and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided—

(1) \$195,000,000 is for grants to combat violence against women, as authorized by part T of the 1968 Act;

(2) \$25,000,000 is for transitional housing assistance grants for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or sexual assault as authorized by section 40299 of the 1994 Act;

(3) \$3,000,000 is for the National Institute of Justice for research and evaluation of violence against women and related issues addressed by grant programs of the Office on Violence Against Women, which shall be transferred to "Research, Evaluation and Statistics" for administration by the Office of Justice Programs;

(4) \$10,000,000 is for a grant program to provide services to advocate for and respond to youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; assistance to children and youth exposed to such violence; programs to engage men and youth in preventing such violence; and assistance to middle and high school students through

education and other services related to such violence: *Provided*, That unobligated balances available for the programs authorized by sections 41201, 41204, 41303 and 41305 of the 1994 Act, prior to its amendment by the 2013 Act, shall be available for this program: *Provided further*, That 10 percent of the total amount available for this grant program shall be available for grants under the program authorized by section 2015 of the 1968 Act: *Provided further*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this program;

(5) \$50,000,000 is for grants to encourage arrest policies as authorized by part U of the 1968 Act, of which \$4,000,000 is for a homicide reduction initiative;

(6) \$29,500,000 is for sexual assault victims assistance, as authorized by section 41601 of the 1994 Act;

(7) \$31,000,000 is for rural domestic violence and child abuse enforcement assistance grants, including as authorized by section 40295 of the 1994 Act;

(8) \$11,500,000 is for grants to reduce violent crimes against women on campus, as authorized by section 304 of the 2005 Act;

(9) \$42,500,000 is for legal assistance for victims, as authorized by section 1201 of the 2000 Act;

(10) \$4,250,000 is for enhanced training and services to end violence against and abuse of women in later life, as authorized by section 40802 of the 1994 Act;

(11) \$16,000,000 is for grants to support families in the justice system, as authorized by section 1301 of the 2000 Act: *Provided*, That unobligated balances available for the programs authorized by section 1301 of the 2000 Act and section 41002 of the 1994 Act, prior to their amendment by the 2013 Act, shall be available for this program;

(12) \$5,750,000 is for education and training to end violence against and abuse of women with disabilities, as authorized by section 1402 of the 2000 Act;

(13) \$500,000 is for the National Resource Center on Workplace Responses to assist victims of domestic violence, as authorized by section 41501 of the 1994 Act;

(14) \$1,000,000 is for analysis and research on violence against Indian women, including as authorized by section 904 of the 2005 Act: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred to "Research, Evaluation and Statistics" for administration by the Office of Justice Programs; and

(15) \$500,000 is for a national clearinghouse that provides training and technical assistance on issues relating to sexual assault of American Indian and Alaska Native women.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGO

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

On page 38, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert: "(increased by \$2,500,000)".

On page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert: "(increased by \$2,500,000)".

On page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert: "(reduced by \$2,500,000)".

On page 45, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert: "(reduced by \$2,500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEGO. I, too, want to start by thanking Chairman WOLF for his service and by wishing him the best of luck on his next steps after retirement.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Representative JOHN CULBER-

SON and Representative CORY GARDNER for their help on this amendment and for making this effort bipartisan.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment seeks to add additional revenue to the Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Assistance Program. It is a rural program that enhances the safety of children, youth, and adults who are victims of domestic violence or who are victims of stalking or of dating violence or of sexual assault.

Frankly, in rural areas across the 23rd District and in much of the country, domestic violence shelters survive on grant programs of various kinds, and money like this is the lifeblood of many of these shelters.

This amendment provides additional revenue to keep those shelters open and operating and protecting these victims of crimes, victims who so desperately need protection.

It also adds additional revenue to the Violence Against Women prevention and prosecution programs, which are programs that also help to assist the victims of crime. In addition to that, it helps to make sure that we put these people behind bars.

I have had a long history of being involved with the criminal justice movement, and I have had the opportunity in the Texas legislature to serve as chairman of the committee with jurisdiction over crime victims and crime victims' rights, and I can think of no better way to spend revenue than to make sure that victims are protected and taken care of, particularly the victims who are children, who are so in need of our assistance.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that this amendment be adopted.

Again, I thank my colleagues, Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. GARDNER and Chairman WOLF and our ranking member as well for their help in drafting the amendment and in making sure that all of the i's were dotted and the t's were crossed.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentleman for the amendment. I think it helps those who need help, particularly in the rural areas. I accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, in rural areas, a lot of times, these challenges go without the same notice that they might bring in a large, metropolitan area. I think it is so useful that the gentleman has brought this matter to our attention, and I am glad that we were able to work through this.

I indicate our support for this amendment, and I thank the gentleman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment to H.R. 4660.

This amendment transfers \$2.5 million to the Office on Violence Against Women. The amendment provides additional resources for domestic violence and child abuse enforcement assistance grants.

My colleague from Texas and I each represent significantly rural and large geographic districts. In fact, my district is the size of South Carolina.

I appreciate the gentleman's willingness to bring this bill to the floor today, and I ask for its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEGO).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 ("the 1968 Act"); the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 ("the 1974 Act"); the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771 et seq.); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-21); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-405); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) ("the 2005 Act"); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-647); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-473); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248) ("the Adam Walsh Act"); the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-401); subtitle D of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296) ("the 2002 Act"); the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-180); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4) ("the 2013 Act"); and other programs, \$124,250,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) \$47,250,000 is for criminal justice statistics programs, and other activities, as authorized by part C of title I of the 1968 Act: *Provided*, That beginning not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, as part of each National Crime Victimization Survey, the Attorney General shall include statistics relating to honor violence;

(2) \$42,000,000 is for research, development, and evaluation programs, and other activities as authorized by part B of title I of the 1968 Act and subtitle D of title II of the 2002 Act; and

(3) \$35,000,000 is for regional information sharing activities, as authorized by part M of title I of the 1968 Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 42, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,250,000)”.

Page 42, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,250,000)”.

Page 42, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,250,000)”.

Page 44, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,250,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment which seeks to bolster a critical law enforcement program within the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. That program is the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, also known as Byrne-JAG.

My amendment is fully paid for by cutting unnecessary spending elsewhere in the bill. Specifically, the Office of Justice Programs, Research, Evaluation, and Statistics budget was increased by \$4.25 million from the FY14 levels. This amendment takes that increase and redirects those funds to the Byrne-JAG Grant Program to bolster law enforcement nationwide.

As we all know, one of the Federal Government’s core responsibilities is to secure the peace.

The government establishes a National Guard and a standing military for security purposes, but it can also assist local law enforcement with funding, critical information, and joint efforts between local, State, and Federal officials, or any of these combined.

My home State of Arizona, in particular, has some serious issues and needs when it comes to law enforcement. Being that Arizona shares an international border with Mexico, we have seen increased amounts of illegal trafficking operations—from noncitizens to illicit drugs to illegal firearms.

I believe the Federal Government, in conjunction with State and local law enforcement, has a duty to uphold the rule of law and to combat these activities in the best ways possible.

My State of Arizona uses multijurisdictional task forces, or MJTFs.

It also funds probation-based drug monitoring programs and other probation-related services, including drug courts, pro bono defense services, and other metrics-based programs aimed at curbing drug abuse.

In the 2010 fiscal year, Byrne-JAG contributed to 58 worthwhile Arizona programs. This local investment assisted Arizona’s 16 multijurisdictional drug task forces with arresting over 6,000 drug offenders. These same drug task forces seized over 847,000 grams of

cocaine, nearly 50,000 grams of heroin, more than 200,000 grams of methamphetamine, over 300,000 pounds of marijuana, and more than 40,000 marijuana plants.

Finally, and perhaps most satisfying, the combined efforts of these drug task forces and tandem prosecution resulted in over \$23 million in forfeited assets.

These Byrne-JAG programs nationwide have proven themselves worthy of sustained Federal resources.

As a member of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I will strive to keep American homes and communities safe by providing important resources to worthwhile law enforcement programs that protect local communities.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of my commonsense amendment.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I have no objection to the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. I rise to object to the amendment, not because of the purpose thereof, but because of the offset.

The Byrne-JAG Grant Program has enjoyed a great deal of support in the chairman’s mark, and obviously we need to do more, if we could. But the gentleman seeks to take money away from the research efforts at DOJ, and I want to make a point about this.

The notion that we should continue to do what we have been doing as a country flies in the face of all the facts. We imprison more people than any other country on the face of the Earth on a per capita basis. We have created a circumstance in which we have violent crimes at levels that are not seen in any other developed country on Earth.

We need to be thinking anew about this. That is what the Criminal Justice Task Force that the chairman and I have worked on has been created to do. That is why we moved to evidence-based justice investment activities, so that we can measure safety of communities based on what is being done.

The idea that being tough on crime is going to make our families safer hasn’t worked out all that well. What we need to do is to be smart on crime.

So the idea that we want to take money away from researching and understanding what works and what doesn’t work works against—normally—the position of the other team. The other team usually is here on the floor saying that we should fund those

things that work and not fund those things that don’t work.

The research efforts at DOJ are designed exactly for that purpose. They are designed to determine what is actually working.

I met with the heads of court systems and criminal justice efforts throughout our country, Democrat and Republicans alike. They say that this research effort has enabled them to focus in on what can make communities safer in terms of policing in criminal justice and prison-related activities.

So I support his goal, but I reject his offset. I would ask for Members to oppose this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322) (“the 1994 Act”); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (“the 1968 Act”); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-405); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-647) (“the 1990 Act”); the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-164); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) (“the 2005 Act”); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248) (“the Adam Walsh Act”); the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-386); the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-180); subtitle D of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296) (“the 2002 Act”); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199); the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-403); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-473); the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-416); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4) (“the 2013 Act”); and other programs, \$1,235,615,000, to remain available until expended as follows—

(1) \$376,000,000 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program as authorized by subpart 1 of part E of title I of the 1968 Act (except that section 1001(c), and the special rules for Puerto Rico under section 505(g) of title I of the 1968 Act shall not apply for purposes of this Act), of which, notwithstanding such subpart 1, \$2,500,000 is for an initiative to improve the quality of juvenile indigent defense services, \$15,000,000 is for a Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officer Resilience and Survivability Initiative (VALOR), \$4,000,000 is for use by the National Institute of Justice for research targeted toward developing a better understanding of the domestic radicalization phenomenon, and advancing evidence-based strategies for effective intervention and prevention, and \$3,000,000 is for competitive grants to distribute firearm safety materials and gun locks;

(2) \$210,000,000 for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, as authorized by section 241(i)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(i)(5)); *Provided*, That no jurisdiction shall request compensation for any cost greater than the actual cost for Federal immigration and other detainees housed in State and local detention facilities;

(3) \$8,000,000 for competitive grants to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to prevent or combat juvenile delinquency, and to assist victims of crime (other than compensation);

(4) \$45,365,000 for victim services programs for victims of trafficking, as authorized by section 107(b)(2) of Public Law 106-386, and for programs authorized under Public Law 109-164;

(5) \$41,000,000 for Drug Courts, as authorized by section 1001(a)(25)(A) of title I of the 1968 Act;

(6) \$9,000,000 for mental health courts and adult and juvenile collaboration program grants, as authorized by parts V and HH of title I of the 1968 Act, and the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-416);

(7) \$12,000,000 for grants for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners, as authorized by part S of title I of the 1968 Act;

(8) \$2,000,000 for the Capital Litigation Improvement Grant Program, as authorized by section 426 of Public Law 108-405, and for grants for wrongful conviction review;

(9) \$10,000,000 for economic, high technology and Internet crime prevention grants, including as authorized by section 401 of Public Law 110-403;

(10) \$21,000,000 for sex offender management assistance, as authorized by the Adam Walsh Act, and related activities, of which \$1,000,000 is for the National Sex Offender Public Website;

(11) \$22,250,000 for the matching grant program for law enforcement armor vests, as authorized by section 2501 of title I of the 1968 Act;

(12) \$58,500,000 for grants to States to upgrade criminal and mental health records for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, including as authorized by the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-180);

(13) \$125,000,000 for DNA-related and forensic programs and activities, of which—

(A) \$117,000,000 is for a DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program and for other local, State, and Federal forensic activities, including the purposes authorized under section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-546) (the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program); *Provided*, That up to 4 percent of funds made available under this paragraph may be used for the purposes described in the DNA Training and Education for Law Enforcement, Correctional Personnel, and Court Officers program (Public Law 108-405, section 303);

(B) \$4,000,000 is for the purposes described in the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Program (Public Law 108-405, section 412); and

(C) \$4,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, including as authorized by section 304 of Public Law 108-405;

(14) \$36,000,000 for grants to address backlogs of sexual assault kits at law enforcement agencies;

(15) \$6,000,000 for the court-appointed special advocate program, as authorized by section 217 of the 1990 Act;

(16) \$35,000,000 for assistance to Indian tribes;

(17) \$62,500,000 for offender reentry programs and research, as authorized by the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199), without regard to the time limitations specified at section 6(1) of such Act;

(18) \$5,000,000 for a veterans treatment courts program;

(19) \$1,000,000 for the purposes described in the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program (section 240001 of the 1994 Act);

(20) \$8,000,000 for a program to monitor prescription drugs and scheduled listed chemical products;

(21) \$15,000,000 for prison rape prevention and prosecution grants to States and units of local government, and other programs, as authorized by the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-79);

(22) \$2,000,000 to operate a National Center for Campus Public Safety;

(23) \$30,000,000 for a justice reinvestment initiative, for activities related to criminal justice reform and recidivism reduction, of which not less than \$1,000,000 is for a task force on Federal corrections;

(24) \$75,000,000 for the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, described in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That section 213 of this Act shall not apply with respect to the amount made available in this paragraph; and

(25) \$20,000,000 for existing evidence-based criminal justice programs as described in the report accompanying this Act:

Provided, That, if a unit of local government uses any of the funds made available under this heading to increase the number of law enforcement officers, the unit of local government will achieve a net gain in the number of law enforcement officers who perform non-administrative public sector safety service.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$8,500,000)"

Page 66, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$8,500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by acknowledging the extraordinary leadership of Chairman WOLF, who, as I was recounting earlier, I remember as a young law student arriving in Washington, and hearing about his work.

So much of his work has been longstanding. I particularly want to acknowledge his work on gang violence and gang violence reduction. I know this will be his last appropriations bill, so I thank him for his many years of service to our country.

I also want to thank and recognize our ranking member, Congressman FATTAH, for his great work.

I rise today to offer an amendment that will invest in making our communities safe from gangs and gun violence.

This amendment restores \$8.5 million in funding for the Violent Gang and

Gun Crime Reduction Program, also known as Project Safe Neighborhoods. It provides the same level of funding that was provided for this critical program in fiscal year 2014.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a proven, effective program for intervening in communities in order to enhance public safety and combat gang violence.

Today, this competitive grant program invests in partnerships led by U.S. attorneys and allows local and State law enforcement, community leaders, and prosecutors to collaborate together on efforts to fight gang crime and reduce gun violence—and to do it in a strategically thoughtful way and to bring resources to this important work.

Project Safe Neighborhoods provides communities across the country with the resources they need to coordinate effectively and to prevent violence. Most importantly, this program employs a multifaceted approach to address the ongoing problem of gang and gun violence. Many communities use this funding for both prevention and enforcement efforts.

Stakeholders have used fund from Project Safe Neighborhoods to scale up efforts related to prosecuting and investigating gang activity. They have also used these resources to engage at-risk populations with innovative outreach and intervention strategies.

The positive results of this initiative have been very well documented. A 2009 National Institute of Justice evaluation demonstrated that communities receiving Project Safe Neighborhoods funding saw a four times greater decline in crime than those in cities that did not receive funding.

When I was mayor of Providence, I saw firsthand the importance of this approach to prevent and stop gang crime and gun violence.

Together, we targeted gangs by both prosecuting criminals and also dispatching street outreach workers through community leaders like the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence. These street workers could successfully convince our young people to end the cycle of violence. This is a program that has a proven record of saving lives by preventing gun violence and proactively working in the community to prevent violence.

Importantly, this has always been a bipartisan experience. I know my colleagues, many of whom are former prosecutors, community activists, and local and State-elected officials, have seen the tremendous benefit of Project Safe Neighborhoods.

In fiscal year 2013, 16 communities from Nebraska and Tennessee to Rhode Island and Maine received funding. Since its inception in 2001, dozens of other communities have also relied on funding from Project Safe Neighborhoods to make communities safer and to reduce gun violence.

So I am asking my colleagues to support this proven program. This is literally about saving the lives of young people in this country. I urge my colleagues to support the critical investments in this very collaborative public safety approach led by our U.S. attorneys and to support funding for Project Safe Neighborhoods. The safety of our communities and our ability to help reduce gun violence and gang violence depends on it.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I rise in opposition to the amendment, but I do appreciate what the gentleman said. As we move on and we get to conference, there may be something we can do. I know Mr. FATTAH feels the same way with regard to gang violence in the inner city.

The underlining bill has already reduced NASA's construction budget by \$69 million. Further reductions—which this would do—would negatively impact NASA's ability to meet mission critical construction needs for the human spaceflight program, address urgent safety-related repairs at centers around the country—which certainly need them—and discharge legal requirements to remediate environmental damage.

Construction projects are, by definition, long lead items that must be started early in order to be ready. By cutting these funds now, we will create a programmatic ripple effect that will be felt in our high-priority space program for the years to come.

So for these reasons—and where the money is taken from—I urge a “no” vote.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. There is no one in this House that has been more focused on the problems of gangs and has talked about it more than Chairman WOLF. So when he says that this is a matter he is concerned about, he has shown that over the years.

This is an important effort. It is a program that, if we can find a way to fund it, we should.

My colleague, who served as mayor of one of America's great cities and is now a Member of the Congress, is right to point this out. I look for an opportunity where, perhaps as we move to complete this bill in conference, we can see if there are other resources available.

I think in the offset there probably is some wiggle room, but we need to pay a little bit closer attention to it.

So I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment, but I may have some concerns about the offset. And whatever the result of the amendment, you have heard the chairman say—and I join in—that we would be glad to work with you on this effort.

Thank you for offering the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island will be postponed.

□ 1545

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me, again, express my appreciation for this appropriation and make a statement regarding some of the jurisdiction that comes under Commerce and Justice that is not particularly being discussed at this moment, but I thought it was appropriate because we do have discussions regarding civil rights.

I wanted to mention that, over the last couple of months, we have had some unfortunate discussions around the National Basketball Association regarding issues of discriminatory conversations that were not responsible to the vastness of the NBA or its regulatory scheme.

We regulate, on Judiciary, the National Basketball Association, the NFL, and Major League Baseball and many other sports. Over the years, we have had the opportunity to raise questions about diversity and about the outreach into minority communities.

Today, in Houston, Major League Baseball is having what they call the civil rights weekend. I will be looking forward to calling in Major League Baseball to address some of the questions of diversity and race in their particular support.

It is interesting that they are having an event in Houston now, with not one local elected official present, or respected or asked to be present. To me, that raises the question of whether or not Major League Baseball even gets it.

We are delighted that they have chosen to honor some icons, and I honor them as well and will, hopefully, have the opportunity to recognize them by way of my office tomorrow.

Again, as we talk about justice questions, as I sit on the Judiciary Com-

mittee, over the years, have dealt with players' associations and antitrust issues, questions of discrimination that cross the gamut of sports organizations, it is really disturbing that we come to the 21st century and 2014 and have these same issues being raised again.

Just as I turn, for a moment, to the NBA, I just want to make the point that, as there is a decision to look at options for the Clippers, I am not from the area, but I would hope that, as there are options to look at a purchase of the Clippers, that it is not done without opportunities for minority purchasers to be involved—investors.

We are not where we need to be, and, again, the Justice Department deals with civil rights, and Major League Baseball is not where it needs to be when it comes to a city, has an event on civil rights, and has no local elected officials that are engaged, no outreach programs that are extensive the way they need to be.

I thank the chairman for allowing me to raise this point regarding the question of civil rights that falls under the jurisdiction of this committee, the funding of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, but also, under my authorizing committee, and raise a concern that we have work to do, not only in this Congress, but we have work to do into these major sports organizations that represent diversity, but they don't really have diversity.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KILMER

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 44, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 46, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 62, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order. We are just looking at the amendment, so, in order to protect the time, Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would increase funding for the Economic High-Tech and Cyber Crime Prevention grant program by \$2 million.

In my home State of Washington, we develop some of the Nation's most advanced software and aircraft and tools for our men and women in uniform. We need to be ready to help our private sector partners protect their intellectual property, competitive edge, and the capabilities of our warfighters.

The Economic High-Tech and Cyber Crime Prevention program is one of the best opportunities for the Federal Government to assist State and local law enforcement entities to address cyber crimes through the funding of training and technical assistance projects.

Specifically, the program was designed to leverage State and local support to help national agencies involved in protecting our homeland security through the prevention of law enforcement against cyber crimes.

Cyber crime is not new, but it is becoming an even greater threat to our families, our businesses, and to our national security. As far back as 2012, the Federal Bureau of Investigation made headlines for arresting dozens of cyber criminals worldwide who were involved in a complicated scheme.

Recently, the Director of the FBI testified before the other Chamber that state-sponsored cyber crime is "an enormous challenge," noting the Department of Justice recently issued a 31-count indictment against hackers backed by the Chinese Government.

As a member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats, and Capabilities, I know that we need to double down on protecting our intellectual property from electronic theft and intrusion.

We cannot have innovation stifled out of fear of protection, loss of intellectual property, and future profits. After all, innovation is the engine behind our economy and our national defense. It is what keeps small businesses and large conglomerates devising the next tools to protect our servicepeople and keep shipping lanes open.

This amendment would help State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies with technical assistance, training, and outreach activities. It would provide training in the investigation and prosecution of cyber crimes, increasing the odds that those that seek to do harm are brought to justice.

Moreover, it gives the Federal Government a greater opportunity to leverage their counterparts' abilities to attain our national goals.

One month ago, I was privileged to join representatives of local utilities, the Washington State Military Department, academia, and law enforcement to discuss ways to protect our Nation's critical infrastructure from cyber attacks.

This summit provided an opportunity for us to bring all of the stakeholders into a room and discuss known vulnerabilities and how we can help each other.

One of the most important outcomes of that summit was the need to work together at the local, State, and Federal level, hand in hand with our private sector partners to fully address this threat. That is what this amendment does. It would provide Federal as-

sistance to complement such efforts and would increase our security.

With my brief time remaining, I would just like to thank the ranking member and echo the good words of the previous speakers thanking the gentleman, the chairman, for his excellent work and partnership.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw the point of order, and I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I think we have—we never saw the amendment, and it is really pretty tough to really—but just looking at it quickly, I think we are at a record level for cyber, ever, in the history of this great body.

The gentleman has a good point. He takes away from aeronautics, and aeronautics is our number one export, if we were not exporting even aircraft from the gentleman's home State, our balance of payment, so to take away from aeronautics, when we have plussed up aeronautics, so America can continue to be number one, and put it in an area that is ill-defined.

Secondly, we have given more for cyber than any other time—cyber money in NIST, cyber money in the FBI, national security business, cyber money in the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Criminal Division; so, because of that, I would urge a "no" vote.

Cyber is important. Every major company in this country has been hit by the Chinese Government. Law firms in this town are being hit by the Chinese Government. Seventeen Members of Congress had their computers stripped by the Chinese Government. A committee had their computers stripped by the Chinese Government.

So I think we should focus the cyber where we have it and not go after aeronautics. Because of that, I think the gentleman is well-intentioned. Obviously, Boeing has been hit, but Boeing is better served by what we are doing with regard to aiding the FBI to deal with this and the U.S. attorney.

I commend and did a letter to the Attorney General last week, thanking him and thanking the FBI for their cyber cases that they are bringing against the People's Liberation Army.

In light of where we are, I would oppose the amendment. I think it is bad to take it from aeronautics, and I think we should focus on the cyber the way that we have done in the bill with the FBI, the National Security Division, the U.S. attorneys.

Again, I want to thank the Justice Department and the FBI for the great work they have done with regard to the People's Liberation Army and that we expect them to do in the future.

I urge a "no" vote on the amendment.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, when you listen to our highest law enforcement officials in the country and our national security officials, they join the Chairman's very early point.

When he was saying it, no one was paying attention, I think, that cyber attacks are the greatest threat in terms of our economic infrastructure and some of our national military infrastructure is challenged by cyber attacks also.

There is an account in DOJ that is the target of affection for this amendment; that is cyber and high economic crimes. This is a very important area.

We remember the fiasco with the retailers being attacked by cyber attacks, mainly centered from Ukraine, and the disaster that occurred over the holiday shopping season.

This is a very important area. I would be glad to work with the gentleman to see whether we can do something to make sure that this account has the resources it needs.

Aeronautics, on the other hand, we are well above \$100 million or so than the requested level, but it is a very important area, and I join with the chairman in prioritizing it.

I went out to Washington State. I visited Everett, a plant of almost 100 acres under one roof, the largest and widest building anywhere in the country, and saw them constructing these Dreamliners, tens of thousands of Americans working every day.

We don't want those secrets stolen either, however, through cyber attacks; so we need to find a happy medium that meets the country's interests.

I don't know that we want to cut that account. The chairman is right. Our balance of trade in aeronautics is well over \$200 billion. It is our most significant export on the manufacturing side, so we have to be careful as we proceed.

I thank the gentleman for offering the amendment, and whatever the result of the amendment, I think that the chairman and I want to work to make sure that we are doing everything we can do to protect against cyber attacks.

In the economic atmosphere that the country is in and the competition that we face, we don't need to be innovative and then have our innovation stolen by others.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

The amendment was rejected.

□ 1600

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 44, line 24, strike "\$3,000,000" and insert "\$6,000,000".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would increase from \$3 million to \$6 million the amount of funds appropriated for competitive grants to distribute firearm safety materials and gun locks under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program. The Edward Byrne program is funded at \$376 million total, as recently amended up to \$380 in this appropriations bill. The \$3 million increase that I am seeking is less than 1 percent of the total allocation of the program and has received a budget-neutral score from the Congressional Budget Office.

I think that increasing the level of gun safety in America is a priority, and I hope that my colleagues would agree. Nothing in this amendment would restrict any American citizen's Second Amendment rights. The only thing that this amendment seeks to do is to achieve greater gun literacy, safety, and avoid accidents.

This amendment makes good sense, it will save lives, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I have no objection to the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 ("the 1974 Act"); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 ("the 1968 Act"); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) ("the 2005 Act"); the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771 et seq.); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-21); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-647) ("the 1990 Act"); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248) ("the Adam Walsh Act"); the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-401); the Violence

Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4) ("the 2013 Act"); and other juvenile justice programs, \$223,500,000, to remain available until expended as follows—

(1) \$45,000,000 for programs authorized by section 221 of the 1974 Act;

(2) \$90,000,000 for youth mentoring grants;

(3) \$19,000,000 for programs authorized by the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990;

(4) \$68,000,000 for missing and exploited children programs, including as authorized by sections 404(b) and 405(a) of the 1974 Act (except that section 102(b)(4)(B) of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-401) shall not apply for purposes of this Act); and

(5) \$1,500,000 for child abuse training programs for judicial personnel and practitioners, as authorized by section 222 of the 1990 Act:

Provided, That not more than 10 percent of each amount may be used for research, evaluation, and statistics activities designed to benefit the programs or activities authorized: *Provided further*, That not more than 2 percent of the amounts designated under paragraphs (1) through (3) and (5) may be used for training and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That the two preceding provisos shall not apply to grants and projects authorized by sections 261 and 262 of the 1974 Act and to missing and exploited children programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS

For payments and expenses authorized under section 1001(a)(4) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, such sums as are necessary (including amounts for administrative costs), to remain available until expended; and \$16,300,000 for payments authorized by section 1201(b) of such Act and for educational assistance authorized by section 1218 of such Act, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for such disability and education payments, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to "Public Safety Officer Benefits" from available appropriations for the Department of Justice as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS

For activities authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 ("the 1968 Act"); and the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) ("the 2005 Act"), \$96,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any balances made available through prior year deobligations shall only be available in accordance with section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading—

(1) \$10,000,000 is for anti-methamphetamine-related activities, which shall be transferred to the Drug Enforcement Administration upon enactment of this Act;

(2) \$16,500,000 is for improving tribal law enforcement, including hiring, equipment,

training, and anti-methamphetamine activities; and

(3) \$70,000,000 is for grants under section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (42 U.S.C. 3796dd) for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers under part Q of such title notwithstanding subsection (i) of such section: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding section 1704(c) of such title (42 U.S.C. 3796dd-3(c)), funding for hiring or rehiring a career law enforcement officer may not exceed \$125,000 unless the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grants a waiver from this limitation: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, \$16,500,000 shall be transferred to the Tribal Resources Grant Program: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, \$10,000,000 is for regional anti-gang task forces.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. JEFFRIES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 53, line 22, after the period insert: "Provided further, That no less than \$5,000,000 is allocated to establish and implement innovative programs to increase and enhance proactive crime control and prevention programs involving law enforcement officers and young persons in the community (42 U.S.C. 3796dd(b)(11))."

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Chairman, let me first just thank the chairman and the ranking member for their tremendous effort in connection with this bill. As well, I thank the chairman for his distinguished service and work as it relates to the issue of gun violence prevention, to which this amendment relates.

In order to address the growing problem of youth gang violence, this amendment sets a minimum allocation amount with respect to funds issued under the Department of Justice's authority to make public safety and community policing grants. It would do so by requiring that no less than \$5 million of funding for COPS grants be used "to establish and implement innovative programs to increase and enhance proactive crime control and prevention programs involving law enforcement officers and young persons in the community."

This category is presently one of 17 uses of grant amounts authorized under law. However, there is no funding minimum set in law to ensure that these program grants are being allocated to address youth violence. With the growing amount of gang activity that involves young people throughout our country, funding in this particular area is essential.

There are currently at least 1.4 million criminal street gang members and

33,000 street gangs in the United States. This represents a 40 percent increase since 2009. Much of this rapid expansion of criminal street gang activity is caused by the active recruitment of juveniles. According to the FBI, almost 40 percent of gang members presently are young people under the age of 18.

In a report issued by the National Gang Threat Assessment report, criminal street gangs cause 48 percent of violent crime in most jurisdictions. Consequently, there are neighborhoods throughout our country, including many in New York City, that continue to be plagued by violence attributed to rising street gang activity. This, of course, has led to increased drug trafficking, gun violence, human trafficking, and the prostitution of minors, as well as school-based assaults, robberies, and thefts.

The COPS grant program has been a tremendous success, but more must now be done in the area of gang-related youth violence. This issue presents a discreet problem that requires targeted law enforcement solutions. Accordingly, this amendment is designed to ensure that additional funding under the COPS program is allocated to proactive law enforcement programs targeted at the reduction of criminal street gang activity and youth violence.

By setting a funding floor of \$5 million in total grants connected to a category already authorized under law, we can take an additional step toward providing State and local law enforcement with the resources needed to protect communities throughout America. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan objective by voting in favor of this amendment.

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

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I make a point of order against the amendment because it provides an appropriation for an unauthorized program and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

Clause 2 of rule XXI states in pertinent part:

“An appropriation may not be in order as an amendment for an expenditure not previously authorized by law.”

Madam Chair, the amendment proposes to appropriate funds for a program that has not been reauthorized. It was last authorized in 2009. The amendment, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR (Mrs. BLACK). Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. FATTAH. I would like to be heard, Madam Chair, if the gentleman would reserve his point of order.

Mr. WOLF. Out of courtesy to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, I will reserve my point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, this program has not been reauthorized by the Congress. So let's go back to that.

This is a program that was created to provide support to local communities to be able to hire 1 million additional police officers nationwide, and it was put into place. It has operated well, and ever since this became the law of the land in the Clinton administration, the crime rate nationwide has gone down.

We have not reauthorized it, but we have funded it each and every year because it is the right thing to do. On one level, the American public is paying taxes, and safety, to them, is having police officers in their communities and that when they dial 911, there is someone there to respond.

At the same time that we have had this back and forth about the COPS program, we have provided well over \$6 billion of the American taxpayers' money for police officers and training in Iraq and in places like Afghanistan to provide police officers in communities in countries far away from the streets of the gentleman's city, New York City, or my hometown of Philadelphia.

Now, it is true that the Congress has not done its work. We haven't reauthorized the transportation bill or the education bill or the COPS program. There is a whole line of bills that we have not found the ability to come together around, and there are a host of programs in these appropriations bills that are being funded, even though the authorization has lapsed.

So I think that in this particular instance, even though the point of order is correct and proper, it moves aside what should be the primary concern, which is to have cops on the street and connecting young people up with cops, which is the point of this amendment, to say that law enforcement officers are paid for under this grant program.

I want to let every Member know that when this bill is finished, when it comes out of conference, there will be money for the COPS program. The only thing that this amendment seeks to say is that some of those cops should have, as their primary responsibility, interacting and intervening in the development of youth gangs because we know that if we can grab ahold of these young people while the concrete has not yet hardened, we can prevent them from taking on a life of criminal or antisocial activity.

So I thank the gentleman for offering the amendment. I think it is correctly on point, and I appreciate the chairman reserving his point of order so

that I can make the point that, even though unauthorized, we have the authority to appropriate this money—and we will, as we did last year and the year before and the year before that. Because at the end of the day, cops on the street, when someone dials 911, they are not dialing in the hopes of help. They are dialing because they really need help, and we need to have police officers who can respond.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, before I make a point of order, I do want to say that I do share what the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) said.

I would like to tell the gentleman from New York, it isn't only the law enforcement. We had a similar problem. We had MS-13 and violent gangs. It is law enforcement. It is also the mentoring that Mr. FATTAH mentioned. It is after-school programs.

So, if we were to just go after the gang issue as a law enforcement issue, you will never solve the problem. It has to be law enforcement. The schools have to be involved. There have to be after-school programs. It is almost like a three-legged stool.

But as we move ahead, we can look to see because I think everyone who lives in these areas that have been impacted by gangs, that is as much of terrorism for them as it is for somebody that is faced with terrorism from al Qaeda.

Having said that, I do agree with what Mr. FATTAH said.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I now make a point of order against the amendment because it provides an appropriation for an unauthorized program and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

Clause 2 of rule XXI states, in pertinent part:

“An appropriation may not be in order as an amendment for an expenditure not previously authorized by law.”

Madam Chair, the amendment proposes to appropriate funds for a program that has not been reauthorized. And I agree with the gentleman; it probably should have been reauthorized. It was last authorized in 2009. The amendment, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member seek to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair will rule.

The proponent of an item of appropriation carries the burden of persuasion on the question whether it is supported by an authorization in law.

Having reviewed the amendment and entertained argument on the point of

order, the Chair is unable to conclude that the item of appropriation in question is authorized in law.

The Chair is, therefore, constrained to sustain the point of order under clause 2(a) of rule XXI.

□ 1615

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SEC. 201. In addition to amounts otherwise made available in this title for official reception and representation expenses, a total of not to exceed \$50,000 from funds appropriated to the Department of Justice in this title shall be available to the Attorney General for official reception and representation expenses.

SEC. 202. None of the funds appropriated by this title shall be available to pay for an abortion, except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or in the case of rape: *Provided*, That should this prohibition be declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this section shall be null and void.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 54, line 8, after the word "rape" add "or incest".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Chair, I wish to reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, I would like to state at the outset of offering this particular perfecting amendment that I really wish that this section 202 of this bill located on page 54 didn't appear in it. It reads as follows:

None of the funds appropriated by this title shall be available to pay for an abortion, except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or in the case of rape.

Again, I disagree with this section of the bill and its limiting principle, but I feel that we should, at the very least, perfect it in the manner that also includes the words "or incest."

In short, there is an allowance here for abortions in the case of endangering the mother, and there is an allowance in the case of rape, but somehow or other this bill forbids abortions in the case of incest.

Throughout the U.S. Code, whether it be in 10 U.S.C. 1093 pertaining to abortions for armed services personnel, 42 U.S.C. 1397ee or jj, dealing with exceptions to abortion limitations within

the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP, or 42 U.S.C. 18023, a section containing provisions of the Affordable Care Act, Federal law is clear: abortion exceptions consistently include protections to the life of the mother in cases of rape and cases of incest.

Were one to examine comprehensively the statutes and regulations of this Nation, there are numerous similar occasions referred to colloquially as the Hyde Amendment. I think that this amendment itself is explanatory. I believe it is perfecting in nature. I think it is quite possible that the drafters inadvertently omitted "incest" from this bill, and I think that it carries the protection necessary for all American women, whether incarcerated or not.

I don't think that the purpose of this bill was inadvertently or through silence to narrow the protections that are afforded to women under our Constitution. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I recognize that there may be a point of order to be raised here. I would specifically urge my colleague to think twice before raising that point of order. We are talking here about incest, a vile crime. Even if there is a point of order to be raised here, it is optional. I would hope that my colleagues would recognize that it is optional and that a higher important principle is involved here.

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

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Chairman, I make a point of order against the Grayson amendment on the ground that it constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The amendment does seek to change existing statutory law in a bill designed to appropriate money by amending an existing provision, adding the word "or incest" to the list of exceptions contained in the statute.

Making a determination whether incest has occurred is not currently required by this statutory provision and would result in a requirement that the new determination be made. So, therefore, the amendment falls outside of the standard of "merely perfecting" precisely because it requires a new determination that is not required under the current provision.

The amendment expands the universe of exceptions, Madam Chairman, provided for in this section, and the existing determinations of whether the life of the mother is in danger or there has been a rape do not provide the information that would allow the determination that incest has occurred.

As a result, the amendment violates clause 2 of rule XXI which states:

"An amendment to a general appropriations bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order? Mr. FATTAH. Yes.

The Acting CHAIR. For what purpose does the gentleman from Pennsylvania seek recognition?

Mr. FATTAH. If the gentleman would reserve his point of order.

Mr. CULBERSON. Yes, I would be glad to reserve the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. In every single instance and when we deal with this question in law, we provide an exception for incest, and for some reason in the language, that is missing in this instance. So I thank the gentleman for pointing that out.

I do realize that we are probably not on the right side of the point of order, but I do think that it is an important point and that none of us would want to create a circumstance where someone's choices were limited if they were the victim of incest. So, hopefully, we will find a way to deal with this notwithstanding the point of order. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Chairman, I do insist on the point of order and ask the Chair for a ruling.

Mr. GRAYSON. I would like to be heard on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas insists on the point of order that he argued earlier. The gentleman from Florida is recognized on the point of order.

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, laws have consequences. The scenario that we are describing here is one where a female prisoner is the victim of incest. If this law passes as currently written that female prisoner will be forced to carry to term the child of an incestuous relationship. I regard this as absolutely indefensible.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. CULBERSON. Parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CULBERSON. If I could ask the gentleman to confine his remarks to whether or not his amendment changes existing law.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair reminds Members to reserve their remarks to the point of order.

Mr. GRAYSON. I would ask the gentleman to consider the consequences of his action and withdraw the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. Are there any other Members who wish to be heard on the point of order? If not, the Chair will rule.

The gentleman from Texas makes a point of order that the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida

proposes to change existing law in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

Under settled precedent, where legislative language is permitted to remain in a general appropriation bill, a germane amendment merely perfecting that language and not adding further language is in order, but an amendment effecting further legislation is not in order.

The Chair finds that section 202 of the bill contains a legislative limitation on the use of funds in the bill for abortion. Section 202 exempts from the limitation on funds those abortions involving rape and those involving endangerment of the life of the mother were the fetus carried to term. The amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida seeks to expand the exemptions to include cases of incest.

The Chair finds the ruling of July 16, 1998, instructive. On that date, the Committee considered a general appropriation bill prescribing legislative exceptions to a limitation on certain funding for abortion. Those legislative exceptions included rape, incest, and the life of the mother. In response to a point of order under clause 2 of rule XXI, the exceptions were ruled out as requiring new determinations not required by existing law.

While the exceptions in section 202 require certain determinations by the agencies funded in the bill, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida requires an additional determination, to wit: whether the pregnancy to be terminated by abortion was the result of incest.

As such, the amendment does not merely perfect the legislative limitation in section 202.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI. The point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 203. None of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used to require any person to perform, or facilitate in any way the performance of, any abortion.

SEC. 204. Nothing in the preceding section shall remove the obligation of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to provide escort services necessary for a female inmate to receive such service outside the Federal facility: *Provided*, That nothing in this section in any way diminishes the effect of section 203 intended to address the philosophical beliefs of individual employees of the Bureau of Prisons.

SEC. 205. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

SEC. 206. The Attorney General is authorized to extend through September 30, 2015, the Personnel Management Demonstration Project transferred to the Attorney General pursuant to section 1115 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296; 28 U.S.C. 599B) without limitation on the number of employees or the positions covered.

SEC. 207. None of the funds made available under this title may be used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the United States Marshals Service for the purpose of transporting an individual who is a prisoner pursuant to conviction for crime under State or Federal law and is classified as a maximum or high security prisoner, other than to a prison or other facility certified by the Federal Bureau of Prisons as appropriately secure for housing such a prisoner.

SEC. 208. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used by Federal prisons to purchase cable television services, or to rent or purchase audiovisual or electronic media or equipment used primarily for recreational purposes.

(b) Subsection (a) does not preclude the rental, maintenance, or purchase of audiovisual or electronic media or equipment for inmate training, religious, or educational programs.

SEC. 209. None of the funds made available under this title shall be obligated or expended for any new or enhanced information technology program having total estimated development costs in excess of \$100,000,000, unless the Deputy Attorney General and the investment review board certify to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the information technology program has appropriate program management controls and contractor oversight mechanisms in place, and that the program is compatible with the enterprise architecture of the Department of Justice.

SEC. 210. The notification thresholds and procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act shall apply to deviations from the amounts designated for specific activities in this Act and in the report accompanying this Act, and to any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this title in previous years.

SEC. 211. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to plan for, begin, continue, finish, process, or approve a public-private competition under the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 or any successor administrative regulation, directive, or policy for work performed by employees of the Bureau of Prisons or of Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated.

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds shall be available for the salary, benefits, or expenses of any United States Attorney assigned dual or additional responsibilities by the Attorney General or his designee that exempt that United States Attorney from the residency requirements of section 545 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 213. At the discretion of the Attorney General, and in addition to any amounts that otherwise may be available (or authorized to be made available) by law, with respect to funds appropriated by this title under the headings "Research, Evaluation and Statistics", "State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance", and "Juvenile Justice Programs"—

(1) up to 3 percent of funds made available to the Office of Justice Programs for grant or reimbursement programs may be used by such Office to provide training and technical assistance; and

(2) up to 2 percent of funds made available for grant or reimbursement programs under such headings, except for amounts appropriated specifically for research, evaluation, or statistical programs administered by the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, shall be transferred to and merged with funds provided to the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, to be used by them for research, evaluation, or statistical purposes, without regard to the authorizations for such grant or reimbursement programs.

SEC. 214. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, section 20109(a) of subtitle A of title II of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13709(a)) shall not apply to amounts made available by this or any other Act.

SEC. 215. None of the funds made available under this Act, other than for the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (18 U.S.C. 922 note), may be used by a Federal law enforcement officer to facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to an individual if the Federal law enforcement officer knows or suspects that the individual is an agent of a drug cartel, unless law enforcement personnel of the United States continuously monitor or control the firearm at all times.

SEC. 216. (a) None of the income retained in the Department of Justice Working Capital Fund pursuant to title I of Public Law 102-140 (105 Stat. 784; 28 U.S.C. 527 note) shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2015.

(b) Not to exceed \$30,000,000 of the unobligated balances transferred to the capital account of the Department of Justice Working Capital Fund pursuant to title I of Public Law 102-140 (105 Stat. 784; 28 U.S.C. 527 note) shall be available for obligation in fiscal year 2015, and any use, obligation, transfer or allocation of such funds shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act.

(c) Not to exceed \$10,000,000 of the excess unobligated balances available under section 524(c)(8)(E) of title 28, United States Code, shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2015, and any use, obligation, transfer or allocation of such funds shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act.

(d) Of amounts available in the Assets Forfeiture Fund in fiscal year 2015, \$154,700,000 shall be for payments associated with joint law enforcement operations as authorized by section 524(c)(1)(I) of title 28, United States Code.

(e) The Attorney General shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act detailing the planned distribution of Assets Forfeiture Fund joint law enforcement operations funding during fiscal year 2015.

This title may be cited as the "Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2015".

TITLE III SCIENCE

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

For necessary expenses of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in carrying out the purposes of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), hire of passenger motor vehicles, and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, not to exceed \$2,250 for official

reception and representation expenses, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, \$5,555,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 60, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 100, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chairman, this amendment would reduce the Office of Science and Technology Policy by \$1 million and apply that amount to the spending reduction account.

As chairman of the House Science Oversight Subcommittee, it has come to my attention that there is, or at least was, an Affordable Care Act Information Technology Exchanges Steering Committee, chaired by White House officials and established in May 2012, almost a year and a half before the rollout of healthcare.gov.

That White House Steering Committee’s charter explicitly directed the formulation of working groups, including one on security. It also turns out that a cochairman of this ObamaCare Web site Steering Committee is the U.S. Chief Technology Officer in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Mr. Todd Park.

Upon learning this, I, as chairman of the Oversight Subcommittee, along with full committee Chairman SMITH, and Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Dr. BUCSHON, sent a December 20, 2013, letter to the White House requesting that Mr. Park make himself available to the committee to answer questions regarding the security issues with healthcare.gov by January 10.

As we stand here today, OSTP has ignored the committee’s request for Mr. Park to testify and has done so three times. Don’t the American people deserve answers from those who are in charge of overseeing the implementation of the ObamaCare Web site’s security protocol? After all, Mr. Park is a deputy to OSTP Director Holdren.

But when asked at a March 26, 2014, hearing before the Science Committee about Mr. Park’s refusal to testify, Director Holdren stated that Todd Park “doesn’t report to me. I can’t compel him to come and testify.”

Well, if he does not report to the OSTP director, why are he and his Office of the Chief Technology Officer an official part of the Office of Science and Technology Policy that the OSTP director supposedly directs, manages, and supports?

If Mr. Todd Park does not, in fact, report to OSTP, then his office should

not be funded by OSTP, and I seek now, through this amendment to make that correction immediately.

I offered a similar amendment, which passed by a voice vote, during the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology markup of H.R. 4186, the FIRST Act.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I rise in opposition to the amendment, but I would hope that we can work it out. If you wanted to offer a different amendment with regard to the health care issue, I will support it, if we can find a way, but the concern I have is OSTP is a small office.

This is roughly cutting 20 percent of their entire budget. In the last 2 years alone—and I agree with what the gentleman said on the health care aspect—our subcommittee has tasked OSTP with coordinating a major interagency effort on neuroscience, overseeing the implementation of policy across the government on public access to Federally funded research results, cochairing an effort to streamline and prioritize Federal STEM education and spending, and assessing the American supply chain vulnerability stemming from the lack of domestic access to rare earth elements, which is another problem that we are beginning to have with China.

If we reduce the OSTP by 20 percent and if the gentleman would offer another amendment to reduce it by, you know, \$50,000, I would accept the amendment or take the amendment, I can’t speak for the other side, but to cut it by 20 percent, that is just too much.

So until there is a different amendment that would meet the gentleman’s need, as I agree with him on health care, we would accept it, but to take 20 percent out, particularly since—and I know Mr. FATTAH has been working with the whole issue of neuroscience and the brain, I would oppose the amendment.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I appreciate the chairman’s willingness to work this out. Of course, we don’t have time to come back with another amendment. I suspect, as soon as we finish with this one, we will move forward, but I would like to work with you, Mr. Chairman, as well as the ranking member, to try to find something.

Mr. Holdren says Mr. Park doesn’t answer to him, and supposedly, this guy is a member of the OSTP staff, and

he has refused to come before our Oversight Committee. We just have to find some way. If he is not part of OSTP, why should we fund anything dealing with what he is doing there? That is the point of this.

Mr. WOLF. Reclaiming my time, I completely agree. What I will do is we will call the OSTP and ask Mr. Holdren to come up with the gentleman and get him, and you can come to the meeting, too.

Quite frankly, if he doesn’t come, I will offer, when we go to conference, to take a chunk out of this to make sure that you get answers. We would like to bring Mr. Holdren up so that Chairman BROUN will have an opportunity to talk to the individual. I will help him get the individual up.

It will be in your office, not in mine. We will ask Holdren to come up the week we come back in.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Would you agree to a \$150,000 cut?

Mr. WOLF. Yes. If he doesn’t come up, I would. If he does not come up, I would. I will.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, OSTP is doing enormously important work on behalf of our country, and Congress also has an oversight role, and if the chairman of the Oversight Committee is having difficulty getting an answer to a question, I would be glad to try to help facilitate that and work with the chairman.

We do have some arcane rules here in Washington about advisers to the President not being in a position to be able to talk directly to Congress, but the head of the agency, as the chairman said, could be brought up with his subordinate, Mr. Park, to answer whatever questions there may be.

I kind of think that we are closing the door on that particular issue relative to the Affordable Care Act, but you deserve answers, no matter what, on this question, but when we talk about the budget of this agency, when there are 50 million Americans suffering from brain-related diseases, when China has almost an absolute monopoly on rare earth elements that we need to find our way around for national security and other reasons, OSTP is doing some vitally important work, and we can’t take 20 percent of their budget, but we can get to the point where you can get the answers that you desire and rightfully.

You are the anchor of the Thursday prayer group, and you are someone who is a responsible Member of Congress, and we want to make sure that you get

your answers. I will work with the chairman.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I appreciate that. The question we have—we have asked Mr. Park to come three times, and then we had Mr. Holdren come to the full committee, and Mr. Park is in OSTP, and Mr. Holdren is chairman of OSTP, and he said Mr. Park doesn't work for him.

So if he doesn't work for him, then why should we be paying salary and expenses and things like that? That is the point.

Mr. FATTAH. What the chairman offered—he said \$150,000 if we can't get you Holdren or someone to give you a satisfactory answer to your question. There are some rules about executive branch agents, individuals, and advisers to the President not being compelled to testify, but when you have line staff people running an agency, Holdren is available, and we can have him come with his staff and answer these questions.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, I appreciate the offer of both gentlemen to work with me. It is our responsibility in Congress to have oversight. I am the chairman of the Oversight Committee on Science, Space and Technology. We have had tremendous problems with not only this department, but many others, in getting people to come and just tell us what is going on, to testify before our committee.

We have been rebuffed and rebuffed time and time again, ignored time and time again by this administration. This is the only way I see to get at these people.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, let me say: Let's work through it. We can work together.

The chairman has given you his assurances that he will work with you, but there is no possibility that we can afford to cut this agency by 20 percent. I need to oppose this amendment.

We would love to work with you to get you the answers because you are not trying to punish OSTP, you are trying to get legitimate answers to legitimate questions, and we want to help you and facilitate that.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I appreciate that.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I think we have resolved this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUL-

BERSON) having assumed the chair, Mrs. BLACK, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LIMITING AMENDMENT DEBATE
DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4660, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 4660 in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 585:

One, each amendment (other than pro forma amendments addressed in this order) shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent;

Two, each amendment shall not be subject to amendment except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations (or a respective designee) each may offer one pro forma amendment to an amendment for the purpose of debate; and

Three, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies thereof may offer pro forma amendments to the bill at any point in the reading for the purposes of debate but that no other pro forma amendments to the bill will be in order.

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

There was no objection.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 585 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4660.

Will the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1641

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015,

and for other purposes, with Mrs. BLACK (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, an amendment by Mr. BROUN of Georgia had been disposed of and the bill had been read through page 60, line 22.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE
ADMINISTRATION
SCIENCE

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$5,193,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That the formulation and development costs (with development cost as defined under section 30104 of title 51, United States Code) for the James Webb Space Telescope shall not exceed \$8,000,000,000: *Provided further*, That should the individual identified under subsection (c)(2)(E) of section 30104 of title 51, United States Code, as responsible for the James Webb Space Telescope determine that the development cost of the program is likely to exceed that limitation, the individual shall immediately notify the Administrator and the increase shall be treated as if it meets the 30 percent threshold described in subsection (f) of section 30104: *Provided further*, That \$100,000,000 shall be for pre-formulation and/or formulation activities for a mission that meets the science goals outlined for the Jupiter Europa mission in the most recent planetary science decadal survey.

AERONAUTICS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of aeronautics research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$666,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of space research and technology development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles;

and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$620,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. KAPTUR

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 63, line 8, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$7,000,000)”.

Page 64, line 22, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$7,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to shift \$7 million in funding from the NASA space operations account to NASA’s space technology mission. I strongly support and urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I strongly support the improvements to the overall NASA budget, but I am concerned that we are missing a critical opportunity in the space technology account.

The space technology mission supports game-changing research and development that enhances our current missions and expands the opportunity for future missions.

For example, at NASA Glenn in Ohio, space technology research supports the Solar Electric Propulsion project, developing critical energy technologies to enable cost-effective trips to Mars and across the inner solar system to enrich a variety of next-generation journeys and to do so more energy effectively and efficiently.

□ 1645

This transformative work advances not only our space exploration program, but our economy and our national well-being, with spin-off benefits to advanced manufacturing, our commercial energy sector, defense, automotive, and commercial aviation industries and countless other applications.

The Space Technology Mission Directorate’s focus on partnerships and strategic integration promotes technology transfer and commercialization within private sector companies, sprouting new businesses and the important jobs that accompany the future. This exciting work challenges our brightest minds, including many of our young people, to excel and create a pipeline of innovation driving our economy into the future.

I understand limitations of the constrained budget we are working with and want to thank Ranking Member FATTAH and our esteemed chairman, FRANK WOLF, to better fund NASA’s

Space Technology Program and other critical research and development efforts.

My amendment merely shifts \$7 million in funding to the space technology account from the space operations account. It is a small but important step in the right direction, and space operations has been given quite a substantial increase. In addition, my amendment would actually reduce outlays by \$2 million for fiscal year 2015.

So I think it is a win-win-win on all fronts. I look forward to continuing to work with the chairman and the ranking member and our colleagues as the bill moves forward in the Senate and further address the needs of this important program.

I would urge support of the Kaptur amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I rise in very, very, very strong support of the amendment and will increase the funding and work with you to do what we possibly can. I appreciate the gentlewoman’s interest and advocacy for space technology, as well as her cooperation in working with us to find a way to dedicate more resources to it.

I have no objection, and I ask for a strong “aye” vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the chairman so very much.

This is my moment also to add my voice to the other Members here who have celebrated and expressed gratitude to Chairman WOLF for his years of service to the people of the United States and this great Republic.

I don’t think I will ever hear the word “Darfur” and not see FRANK WOLF’s face in my mind’s eye. I don’t think that I will ever read articles that deal with child hunger, wherever it might exist, in some of the most forgotten places on Earth, and not think of FRANK WOLF.

I will always remember, sir, your gentlemanly manner, your great passion. I will always recall the work that you have done to stand up for those who speak for liberty in places, forgotten corners in China, for religious leaders who have been suppressed around the world. And what a great patriot you are and a gentleman who can work across the aisle and whose word is always gold.

I thank you very, very much for your support on this amendment. We wish you Godspeed in the years ahead. I know all my colleagues join me in wishing you well and thank you for your exemplary service.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I share the sentiments of the chairman. Space technology is critically important. I want to acknowledge the work that was originally done by Bobby Braun, who is now at Georgia Tech, Mike Gazarik, who now is the chief space technologist at NASA doing an extraordinary job, but the resources are needed.

I want to thank you for offering this amendment because it points us toward greater resources in that regard. I am familiar with the great work that is being done in your home State of Ohio at the Glenn Research Center.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. I just want to thank the ranking member who had such a broad range, Ranking Member FATTAH, certainly in the space science arena, but also in urban development, energy, and so many other facets of what we do as a committee and as a country. I want to thank you very much for being able to work in a collegial way on this amendment. We thank you very much for remaining true to your commitment to true science.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

EXPLORATION

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of exploration research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$4,167,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That not less than \$1,140,000,000 shall be for the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle: *Provided further*, That not less than \$1,915,000,000 shall be for the Space Launch System, which shall have a lift capability not less than 130 metric tons and which shall have an upper stage and other core elements developed simultaneously: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available for the Space Launch System, \$1,600,000,000 shall be for launch vehicle development and \$315,000,000 shall be for exploration ground systems.

SPACE OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of space operations research and development

activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities, including operations, production, and services; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$3,885,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

EDUCATION

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of aerospace and aeronautical education research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$106,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which \$9,000,000 shall be for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research and \$30,000,000 shall be for the National Space Grant College program.

SAFETY, SECURITY AND MISSION SERVICES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science, aeronautics, space technology, exploration, space operations and education research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$63,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$2,779,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

For necessary expenses for construction of facilities including repair, rehabilitation, revitalization, and modification of facilities, construction of new facilities and additions to existing facilities, facility planning and design, and restoration, and acquisition or condemnation of real property, as authorized by law, and environmental compliance and restoration, \$446,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That hereafter, notwithstanding section 20145(b)(2)(A) of title 51, United States Code, all proceeds from leases entered into under that section shall be deposited into this account: *Provided further*, That such proceeds shall be available for a period of 5 years to the extent and in amounts as provided in annual appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That such proceeds referred to in the two preceding provisos shall be available for obligation for fiscal year 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$9,584,100: *Provided further*, That each annual budget request shall include an annual estimate of gross receipts and collections and proposed use of all funds collected pursuant

to section 20145 of title 51, United States Code.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$34,000,000, of which \$500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Funds for any announced prize otherwise authorized shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation, until the prize is claimed or the offer is withdrawn.

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers. Balances so transferred shall be merged with and available for the same purposes and the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

The spending plan required by this Act shall be provided by NASA at the theme, program, project and activity level. The spending plan, as well as any subsequent change of an amount established in that spending plan that meets the notification requirements of section 505 of this Act, shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The unexpired balances of a previous account, for activities for which funds are provided in this Act, may be transferred to the new account established in this Act that provides such activities. Balances so transferred shall be merged with the funds in the newly established account, but shall be available under the same terms, conditions and period of time as previously appropriated.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

For necessary expenses in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), and Public Law 86-209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.); services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; maintenance and operation of aircraft and purchase of flight services for research support; acquisition of aircraft; and authorized travel; \$5,973,645,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which not to exceed \$520,000,000 shall remain available until expended for polar research and operations support, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for operational and science support and logistical and other related activities for the United States Antarctic program: *Provided*, That receipts for scientific support services and materials furnished by the National Research Centers and other National Science Foundation supported research facilities may be credited to this appropriation.

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for the acquisition, construction, commissioning, and upgrading

of major research equipment, facilities, and other such capital assets pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including authorized travel, \$200,760,000, to remain available until expended.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Chair, I wish to enter into a colloquy with Chairman WOLF.

I rise today to highlight an increasingly abused law enforcement tactic known as "civil asset forfeiture." This process is an ugly development that enables law enforcement to take legal action against property of individuals, regardless of whether the property owner is guilty, innocent, or even charged with a crime at all.

Although criminal forfeiture is a legitimate tool for law enforcement that has helped in the war on drugs and human trafficking, the civil forfeiture system has created the opportunity for local and State law enforcement to police for profit in coordination with the Department of Justice.

Specifically, the practice of equitable sharing between local and/or State Departments and the Federal Government has increased 250 percent over the last 12 years, reaching \$657 million in 2013 alone, according to The Heritage Foundation. Equitable sharing allows State and local agencies to work around State laws that prohibit civil forfeitures so long as the State agency partners with the Department of Justice and splits the profits.

State and local governments, in their pursuit of the fruits of seizures have at times been too eager to seize property, with the result that innocent citizens have been adversely affected with little or no compensation for their damages and economic losses. The recent story of Terry Dehko from Michigan exemplifies the problems that can occur under the civil asset forfeiture policy.

On January 22, 2013, the IRS obtained a secret warrant and used their civil asset forfeiture powers to empty Mr. Dehko's bank account of over \$35,000 based on spurious evidence that the longtime grocer was a money launderer. The IRS offered to settle the case for 20 cents on the dollar. Unfortunately, this is a normal procedure for IRS, Department of Justice, and the law enforcement partners: seize property, then negotiate without having to prove guilt in a court of law.

It is time to rethink our Federal policies on civil asset forfeiture and end the abusive era of seize, forfeit, and profit. Law-abiding citizens should not fall prey to police departments and their Federal partners. I believe we can find a solution to this problem that maintains a legitimate policing tool while respecting our Constitution.

I will continue to work with the chairman, the Judiciary Committee, and my colleagues in the House to craft a sensible forfeiture policy that helps law enforcement but protects our constitutionally protected property rights.

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentleman for bringing this matter to the attention of the committee and your leadership in making us aware of the pressing need to review Federal forfeiture policies.

As you were speaking, I thought: Why don't we ask the inspector general to look into this? So we will work with you to do a letter asking the IG to see if he has the authority to look in to see, because based on what you said, we don't want this to happen.

Although an appropriation bill is not the best place to address civil asset forfeiture reform, we look forward to a constructive partnership to make sure we are protecting Americans. We will work with you on crafting a letter to the inspector general to see what we can find out and how we can make this not happen again.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I would join and sign such a request to the IG.

Secondly, I do think that, given what you said and given the overreach, we do need to see if we can work with the authorizing committee and if, perhaps, a package that could be acceptable to the authorizers, it could even be included in such a conference committee when we finalize this bill, because we should protect Americans from the loss of property absent due process.

So what you have explained is a process that is backwards under our system of laws. Before someone is penalized, there should be an allegation, there should be a fact hearing, people should have a chance to answer and hear from their accusers, versus a circumstance where their property is taken and then they have to fight a rear guard action to try to get it back.

I am very concerned about this. I would be glad to work with the chairman.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF TEXAS

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 69, line 4, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$15,350,000)(increased by \$15,350,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, first I want to thank the majority leader, Mr. CANTOR, for his earlier comments about our National Science Foundation amendment. I appreciate his efforts to hold the NSF accountable for its grant funding decisions.

The Smith-Cantor amendment reduces the fiscal year 2015 funding in the bill, the National Science Foundation's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences directorate, or SBE directorate, by more than \$15 million. This reduction will freeze SBE at its current funding level rather than increase it to the level requested by the President.

The Smith-Cantor amendment maintains the overall level of National Science Foundation research funding in the bill. It redirects the amount of the SBE cut to the physical sciences and engineering, the areas that were prioritized in the NSF authorization act reported out of the Science Committee yesterday.

Much of the research funded through the SBE directorate has obvious scientific merit and is in the national interest. But the SBE directorate has also funded dozens, perhaps hundreds, of questionable grants. For example, when the National Science Foundation pays a researcher more than \$227,000 to thumb through the pages of old National Geographic magazines to look at animal pictures, taxpayers feel as though the NSF is thumbing its nose at them.

The NSF also spent \$340,000 for a study of human-set forest fires 2,000 years ago in New Zealand. Americans who have lost their homes and businesses to wildfires could ask how this helps them.

Taxpayers can't help but wonder why NSF spent \$1.5 million of their money to study rangeland management in Mongolia rather than, say, in Texas.

□ 1700

We shouldn't reward frivolous use of taxpayer money with even more money. This is what the President has proposed.

The Smith-Cantor amendment zeros out the SBE increase for fiscal year 2015. This should encourage the NSF to apply higher standards when awarding its grants.

Yesterday, the House Science Committee marked up the FIRST Act, legislation that reauthorizes NSF programs.

My colleagues and I approved an amendment to the bill that cuts the SBE directorate to \$150 million, \$100 million less than the current fiscal year. That is where we think the discussion ought to start next year. So this amendment is only the first step.

I also want to point out the SBE directorate isn't the only source of ques-

tionable NSF grants. For instance, NSF that handed out \$700,000 for "The Great Immensity," a climate change musical, and \$5.6 million for a climate change scavenger hunt and phone game.

Such grants make taxpayers even more skeptical about how their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent and diminishes public support for scientific research.

Investments in science are essential if our country is to continue to lead the world in nanotechnology, supercomputing, and other fields that yield new jobs, new businesses, and, in fact, entire new industries.

The way to restore public support is not to continue funding questionable grants with taxpayer money.

The Smith-Cantor amendment is a small but important step in the right direction. It sets the precedent for the Science Committee, the Appropriations Committee, and the House to take additional steps in the future to assure that NSF-funded research is, in fact, in the national interest.

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I have no objection to the amendment.

I share the opinion that NSF must exercise caution. I should tell Members, the NSF funding here is at an all-time high. This is a Republican committee, if you will. The House and we support the sciences. I want our country to stay ahead of China and the other countries. I want America to be number one.

But I appreciate what Mr. SMITH, the chairman, said: NSF must exercise caution and grant awards and ensure—and I hope NSF is listening today—that every grant is both scientifically, meritorious, and responsive to the national interest. The subcommittee has already taken steps to help improve accountability and transparency in its NSF operations by including language in the FY15 CGS report and is working with NSF to understand improvements that the agency is making in its review and communication process.

In addition, last week, I sent a letter to the NSF director, Ms. Cordova. She is a very impressive person, very knowledgeable, she is brand new, I think she is committed to making sure that they only fund scientific things. But this letter emphasizes the need for the agency to be judicious in a grant it awards and to ensure that taxpayer funds are used wisely.

The subcommittee will continue to provide oversight on this topic as needed.

I thank the gentleman. I think it is important for NSF to know that since

the funding is at a record high in order that America can be and will always be number one in math and science and physics and chemistry and biology and lead the world, with that excess funding, extra funding, goes the responsibility to make sure there are not grants that then weaken the program and give there an opportunity for people to say this program is out of kilter. I appreciate Mr. SMITH raising these.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I want to acknowledge the great work of the gentleman from Texas on patent reform. We worked together and he led the effort that has reformed our patent system, I think, in a remarkable way.

The majority leader and I spent some time on one of the last vote days here to go over to NIH and hear from Dr. Collins about great research, particularly interested in pediatric cancers and the like.

So these are two gentlemen, the authors of this amendment, who have been very positive and focused in a number of areas that I share with them. However, this amendment is misguided, and I want to speak in opposition to it.

The notion that we would want to eliminate certain investigations by the National Science Foundation into economic science or behavioral science, when we talk about disasters, the reason why we have saved so many lives, it is not just that we have improved weather forecasting, even though that would be eliminated in terms of the moneys here for investigative purposes by the National Science Foundation, but also understanding the behaviors of people facing disasters is very important. That would be cut.

This area of posttraumatic stress is a critical area. We know now that many of our returning soldiers face posttraumatic stress, but we also know that children living in very difficult circumstances in our country are more traumatized than if they were living in a war zone, an active war zone in another country. So eliminating, cutting back scientific investigations in this regard would be, I think, disastrous.

That is why I am hoping that whatever is causing this, there will be some reversal of it eventually. But in the meantime, I want to suggest to the House that we should oppose this amendment, we should oppose the notion that somehow we don't want to know certain things.

I was at the University of Pittsburgh. I saw some results of National Science Foundation funding that started out 30 years ago that a Member on this floor would be on the floor complaining

about now. It was the examination of what happens in the neurons of a monkey when they move their arm, what neurons fire off in their brain.

Well, that research today, 30 years later, literally has a woman who, because of a disease, has no control of her body, but can now move an artificial arm through her thoughts. This is the result of research by the National Science Foundation. It is the world premier basic science foundation, it is the model for our economic competitors. They are imitating it.

A small country like Singapore with less than 5 million people is investing \$7 billion in their national science foundation. Here we are, the wealthiest country in the world, and we are putting \$7.4 billion, which is the highest ever, and I thank the chairman.

But now we want to put handcuffs on the agency about what it is that they can look at in terms of improving the life chances of Americans. The research has paid off. That is why we are the great country that we are today. The World Economic Forum says our Nation and our Nation's economy is driven by innovation.

The last thing that we should be doing on the floor of this House is equivocating or compromising or making it more challenging for those who are engaged in the innovation ecosystem to do their work.

Even though I compliment the gentleman, Mr. SMITH, and the majority leader, Mr. CANTOR, for all their efforts, I can't imagine for the life of me why we would be on this floor tonight debating a retreat on behavioral science, on economic science. It makes no sense. I would hope that the House, notwithstanding the fact that the majority is held by the other team, I hope in this instance, as the chairman said, we would realize that this is not a competition between Democrats and Republicans. We are competing against countries that have big and plus populations like China and India, they want to eat our lunch economically, and what we need to do is stop the bickering back and forth and figure out what is best for our country.

The chairman and I voted for Simpson-Bowles. We were one of just less than 40 Members who did so. I might be in the minority on this vote, but I am going to vote on what is in the best interest of our Nation, and that is to continue to invest in innovation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by

the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES
CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for the acquisition, construction, commissioning, and upgrading of major research equipment, facilities, and other such capital assets pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including authorized travel, \$200,760,000, to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF
GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 69, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$760,000)".

Page 70, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$29,500,000)".

Page 70, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$37,000,000)".

Page 71, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$70,000)".

Page 100, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$67,330,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, this amendment would cut about \$67 million from the National Science Foundation's appropriations increase—again, increase; not reduce their funding, but reduce the increase—and apply that amount to the spending reduction account.

The cuts in this amount are to four areas not directly involved in basic research such as construction, education and human resources, agency operations, and the Office of the National Science Board.

In 2007 and again in 2010, NSF was granted funding to launch new STEM education programs under the America COMPETES Act, not to mention the Recovery Act stimulus with the same focus.

Unfortunately, the U.S. continues to fall behind in producing enough STEM workers to compete globally, and our high school graduates' math and science scores are stagnant.

A 2013 GAO study found that 209 different Federal STEM education programs overlap across 13 agencies, spending a total of \$3 billion—\$3 billion, with a b. GAO also found that 173 of these programs shared similarities in objectives and focus.

The underlying committee report acknowledges program reductions and consolidation and yet increases spending on education and human resources

by \$29.5 million for an abandoned program that will be taken over by existing programs.

More often than not, increasing Federal Government spending on non-research science initiatives grows the Federal Government, not just the next generation of scientists.

Today, we are the world's leader in combined Federal as well as private sector investment in research and development, at last estimate, \$465 billion for 2014.

Some are worried that China will catch up to our spending by the 2020s. Of course, those making that assumption also estimate that both the U.S. and China will be spending \$600 billion each by 2022. Is Federal spending a race in which we want to engage with China?

National government expenditure per capita on R&D in China is \$218 per capita—again, research and development in China is \$218 compared to the U.S. per person amount of \$1,276. This is not sustainable.

As the science community can attest, Congress often overpromises on funding and pulls the rug out on projects halfway through.

NSF is sitting on unnecessary and outmoded facilities without needed action on whether to close and sell. NSF should not be given more money for new facilities until it is established that NSF is operating existing facilities efficiently and effectively.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, in defense of the National Science Foundation and in opposition to these cuts, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman HOLT. This is another one of these amendments that works against the effort of the committee, which is to try to increase—in fact, we did increase—the National Science Foundation's budget.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Chair, I should point out, first of all, that as a percentage of our economy, the Federal Government's support for scientific research is half of what it was back when I was in college many decades ago. The point is that we are not keeping up.

Part of the problem is, here in this Chamber and around the country, people value the fruits of research, but they don't have a clue about how it is done. We see here, on the floor, people ridiculing research because of the title.

A prominent politician recently ridiculed NSF-funded research in fruit flies or game theory. Obviously, she didn't

understand that one of the principal biological organisms that has been studied is *Drosophila*, which is the so-called fruit fly.

Social and behavioral research is important in understanding how people make decisions about energy use or about how to invest or about disaster response. It tells us a great deal about brain processes; so, in pointing out NSF studies to ridicule because they sound foolish, we here—we policy-makers—can look like the fools.

I am a physicist by background, so I am pleased to hear the chairman talk about research in physics and chemistry and math, but we also need studies, based on evidence, as NSF studies are, on human behavior. Let's look at library science.

It would be easy to ridicule a study that I saw described not long ago in library science, which was funded by the National Science Foundation. It just so happens that it turned out to be the basis for what we now know as Google.

Yes, that research was done with taxpayer money, and it could have been ridiculed as foolish, as a waste of taxpayer money, but I think the country's economy has benefited, maybe several thousand times over—maybe many thousands of times over—the amount that was spent on that foolish research on library science.

We should be asking, through NSF studies, why humans engage in unhealthy behavior. We could learn a lot about applicable public health programs through such things.

This idea of cutting back on funding in the taxpayers' interest is terribly misguided. As a country, we are greatly underinvesting in research. I thank the gentleman for standing up for NSF research.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, in reclaiming my time, there will also be another amendment on NSF that the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) may speak to, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment of my good friend from Georgia because it would negatively impact a range of NSF activities. The amendment would hamstring NSF's main operational account that funds activities like financial management, grant oversight, and procurement.

I know the gentleman cares very strongly about protecting the taxpayers' interests, and I don't believe that making it more difficult for NSF to monitor and to oversee its funds helps those interests in any way.

The memo would eliminate the increase that the bill provides for NSF's critical STEM education programs.

These funds are urgently needed to address widespread and serious challenges that we have currently in our U.S. economy.

Compared to our major international competitors, our K-12 students do not perform well in STEM-related subjects, and our universities produce a smaller percentage of STEM-related graduates.

In addition, our STEM workforce is not big enough to meet the current or projected demand for skilled employees by high-tech companies. NSF's STEM education programs will play a major role in solving these programs by improving the quality of STEM instructors, by attracting more students to STEM fields, and by enabling talented students to pursue STEM degrees.

These investments are important to the economy and to the overall importance of the Nation as a whole. For this reason, I would urge my fellow Members to reject this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, in closing, I am not cutting basic research here at all. I am suggesting cuts in the directorate.

There are just silly things that they have—the Climate Change Narrative Game, for instance, and the climate change media exhibition that portrays scientists and students at work in Amazonia, which is the indoctrination of young girls. There is "The Matter of Origins." I could go on and on.

I believe in research. I am an applied scientist, and I am a physician. We are not cutting research. In fact, I believe in research, yet what we are doing is just trying to cut the directorate and save the taxpayers money.

We are broke as a Nation, and we have just got to stop spending money at random and without, really, responsibility. I encourage the acceptance of my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), who represents, in part, one of the greatest research triangles in the country outside of Philadelphia.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank my friend for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to these efforts to target the funding for the National Science Foundation's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences directorate (SBE).

The world is changing rapidly, and we need quality research to help us understand how imminent and unforeseen changes in areas such as technology,

climate, immigration, and the economy will affect our society and our future. And these things do have policy implications.

We shouldn't be wasting hard-earned taxpayer money, in fact, on policy solutions that are not rooted in sound research, precisely the type of research that some of these efforts here today seek to curtail.

As a result of research funded by the SBE directorate, for example, we are learning how to better respond to natural and economic disasters, how to improve the educational methods practiced in our Nation's classrooms, how to expand outreach to children regarding STEM education.

We have learned how to increase the safety of our troops in combat, how to better reduce violence among our young people, and we have expanded our knowledge of how the human mind works through the BRAIN Initiative, led by Ranking Member FATTAH and Chairman WOLF.

In this era of Tea Party preeminence and so-called fiscal discipline at the expense of rational policy decisions, taking cheap shots at Federal programs and research projects has become a favorite indoor sport.

I wish my conservative colleagues would spend as much time learning the facts about the programs they deride as they do in preparing the flurry of floor amendments and floor speeches to target them.

Helping policymakers make informed decisions is what NSF's Political Science Program (PSP), in particular, is all about. Let me just say a word about the SBE's Political Science Program, which is close to my heart by virtue of my previous life.

The PSP has consistently produced valuable, practical research that informs policymakers and government agencies on issues as vital as natural disaster response, environmental regulation, and foreign policy. Here are a few examples.

NSF's Political Science Program helps us gain a better understanding of public reactions to natural disasters, including Hurricane Katrina, which was researched at Rice University, as well as to the BP oil spill, which was researched at Louisiana State University. It has helped Federal, State, and local authorities develop more effective evacuation and recovery plans.

It has supported research on the causes and consequences of terrorist attacks, at Pennsylvania State University and at UNC-Chapel Hill; on competition for natural resources as a driving force in international conflict, research at the University of Georgia and at the University of Colorado; on third-party peacemaking, research at the University of Notre Dame; and on dispute resolution mechanisms that lead to lasting peace, at the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa.

But this isn't just about political science research; it's about the entire SBE. NSF's rigorous peer-review process assures that only meritorious proposals are funded.

In an era when a quick Internet search can generate a statistic or an opinion to support any argument, it is more important than ever that we have clear, dependable, peer-reviewed research into the most pressing social, behavioral, and economic questions of the day.

Should you question the quality of such research, I simply note that nearly a quarter—that is 50 of 212—of the Nobel Prize winners in science funded by NSF since 1951 were recipients of funding from the SBE program. Every winner of the Nobel Prize in economic sciences since 1998 has been an NSF grantee.

In short, SBE taps the best minds in the country to help us better understand and address some of the most vexing policy dilemmas we face. The body of work it has produced informs the decisions of America's first responders, military leaders, regulators, diplomats, and policymakers.

I urge my colleagues to reject misguided attempts to target the work of NSF and, in particular, of the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate, which is and will be uniquely valuable in informing our country's policy decisions as we face the future.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

For necessary expenses in carrying out science, mathematics and engineering education and human resources programs and activities pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, authorized travel, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, \$876,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

AGENCY OPERATIONS AND AWARD MANAGEMENT

For agency operations and award management necessary in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.); services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia; and reimbursement of the Department of Homeland Security for security guard services; \$335,000,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$8,280 is for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That contracts may be entered into under this heading in fiscal year 2015 for maintenance and operation of facilities and for other services to be provided during the next fiscal year: *Provided further*, That of the

amount provided for costs associated with the acquisition, occupancy, and related costs of new headquarters space, not more than \$27,370,000 shall remain available until expended.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) involved in carrying out section 4 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1863) and Public Law 86-209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), \$4,370,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$14,430,000, of which \$400,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Science Foundation in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 15 percent by any such transfers. Any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

This title may be cited as the "Science Appropriations Act, 2015".

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Commission on Civil Rights, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$9,000,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used to employ in excess of four full-time individuals under Schedule C of the Excepted Service exclusive of one special assistant for each Commissioner: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used to reimburse Commissioners for more than 75 billable days, with the exception of the chairperson, who is permitted 125 billable days: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used for any activity or expense that is not explicitly authorized by section 3 of the Civil Rights Commission Act of 1983 (42 U.S.C. 1975a).

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as authorized by title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act (GINA) of 2008 (Public Law 110-233), the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-325), and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-2), including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by section 1343(b) of title

31, United States Code; nonmonetary awards to private citizens; and up to \$29,500,000 for payments to State and local enforcement agencies for authorized services to the Commission, \$364,000,000: *Provided*, That the Commission is authorized to make available for official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$2,250 from available funds: *Provided further*, That the Chair is authorized to accept and use any gift or donation to carry out the work of the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the International Trade Commission, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and not to exceed \$2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, \$84,500,000, to remain available until expended.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

For payment to the Legal Services Corporation to carry out the purposes of the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, \$350,000,000, of which \$319,650,000 is for basic field programs and required independent audits; \$4,350,000 is for the Office of Inspector General, of which such amounts as may be necessary may be used to conduct additional audits of recipients; \$18,000,000 is for management and grants oversight; \$4,000,000 is for client self-help and information technology; \$3,000,000 is for a Pro Bono Innovation Fund; and \$1,000,000 is for loan repayment assistance: *Provided*, That the Legal Services Corporation may continue to provide locality pay to officers and employees at a rate no greater than that provided by the Federal Government to Washington, DC-based employees as authorized by section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, notwithstanding section 1005(d) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996(d)): *Provided further*, That the authorities provided in section 205 of this Act shall be applicable to the Legal Services Corporation: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of section 505 of this Act, the Legal Services Corporation shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

□ 1730

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. AUSTIN SCOTT OF GEORGIA

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 74, line 13 after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$350,000,000)”.

Page 100, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$350,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Chair, I, along with my colleague from Arizona (Mr. SALMON), am offering an amendment to cut all funding from the Legal Services Corpora-

tion and to allocate that money to the Spending Reduction Account.

Legal Services Corporation was established 40 years ago, and I have no doubt that it was for the right reasons, but it hasn’t been reauthorized since 1980. At no point in the last 34 years has either party in Congress felt that this agency was so important that it needed to be reauthorized.

In fact, in 2012, it was estimated that over 94 percent of the services that Legal Services was set up to provide were provided by State and local governments, bar associations, and pro bono work by attorneys.

This means that taxpayers are footing the bill of a million dollars a day for this service, yet this organization handles less than 6 percent of all indigent cases.

The purpose of this bill, Madam Chair, is to provide law enforcement to the American people. With \$350 million, we could employ thousands of FBI agents, U.S. Marshals, and others to protect Americans from domestic threats every day. Instead, this bill proposes to provide significant funding to an entity that is plagued by abuse.

Allow me to provide a few examples, Madam Chair, from the recent LSC inspector general’s report published April 30. The report found continued systemic deficiencies in the Legal Service Corporation grant program.

The Inspector General’s Office opened 12 new investigations, including criminal cases that involved fraudulent activity and financial irregularities by grantee employees. The investigation also discovered unauthorized outside practice of law, as well as time and attendance abuse.

We are spending millions simply on the inspector general’s investigations of Legal Services Corporation.

Additionally, cases arising from the Office of Inspector General resulted in the restitution of client trust fund moneys that had been converted to personal use.

As one example, these investigations resulted in the recovery of more than \$21,000 in Legal Services funds for time spent by a grantee’s attorney in unauthorized outside practices.

At a time of record deficits and climbing debt, we should eliminate the funding of this program, which has not been reauthorized by Congress, including this one, in 34 years.

Let’s take the Legal Services Corporation off the taxpayers’ payroll.

With that, Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Chairman, I do rise in opposition to the amendment of my colleague from Georgia.

The recommendation in this amendment provides \$350 million for Legal

Services, which is a reduction to 2008 level of almost \$70 million. It is \$80 million below the 2010 request.

I understand there are some concerns with Legal Services Corporation-funded programs, but the bill contains several important restrictions on political activity by the LSC grantees. That would include lobbying, abortion litigation, and class action lawsuits. These restrictions cover both the Legal Services funds as well as private funds.

The administration proposed to eliminate several of these restrictions, but the House bill rejects this proposal.

We have included language in the committee report directing Legal Services to vigorously enforce the restrictions on political activity, which we think is very important.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have supported Legal Services for Americans who would not otherwise have adequate access to civil legal assistance. We are facing an extremely challenging budgetary environment—and I realize that—but the recommendation is a fair compromise between the need for austerity and also the balance to provide civil legal assistance to low-income Americans.

For that reason, Madam Chair, I would urge a “no” vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. I am opposed to this amendment.

I do, however, want to yield to the gentledady from the great State of Florida—part of the Space Coast, and who does an extraordinary job—to speak on behalf of Legal Services. Before I do that, I want to make one point.

Last year alone, Legal Services helped 41,000 veterans of the United States of America who were facing foreclosure and had other challenges related to disability claims.

This notion that we should do away with access to courts for people who have worn the uniform to protect our rights, I think, is wrongheaded.

I yield to the gentledady from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) to speak further on this subject.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Thank you to the ranking member for yielding to me.

I rise today to oppose the Scott amendment and urge the House to oppose the excessive cuts to the nonprofit and independent Legal Services Corporation. I am right in sync with the ranking member’s comments, and appreciate the Republican committee chair’s opposition to this amendment as well.

Legal Services has a mission to “provide equal access to the system of justice” in America. It is the most important provider of civil legal aid for

Americans who cannot afford high-priced legal counsel. In fact, legal representation often is out of reach for many American families.

This amendment will make the lives of millions of American families even more challenging. Plus, if you take away legal counsel, you also complicate the resolution of disputes for businesses and others as well.

You all know Legal Services is not a Washington-based bureaucratic program. To the contrary, there are legal aid attorneys and professionals in every State, with more than 800 offices. Legal Services' moneys are put to work back home across America outside of Washington. In my Tampa Bay community, Bay Area Legal Services has a number of community-based offices and is helping the wheels of justice turn for everyone.

What type of legal help? Foreclosure, consumer assistance, domestic violence. Many of the domestic violence victims are simply trying to keep their children safe and their families together.

Others include veterans returning from war, families with housing issues, those that were hit hard by natural disasters and are dealing with the aftermath, and families involved in child custody disputes.

I have seen these advocates in action. Many Members of Congress actually refer cases to Legal Services groups in our area. They help families navigate the justice system. They also boost the economy through avoided costs and swift resolution of disputes.

I would also like to remind my colleagues that Legal Services has already undergone significant cuts, as mentioned by the chairman, over the past few years. The chairman's mark of \$350 million is a 4 percent cut from current funding.

Funding for Legal Services was \$420 million in fiscal year 2010. It was cut—especially after sequestration in 2013—and any further cuts will do severe damage.

This amendment jeopardizes access to justice and the rule of law. There have already been layoffs back home, closed offices, and reduced services. What you are doing there is saying to families, You can't get help. You can't avoid a foreclosure. You can't escape an abusive relationship or defend yourself against consumer scams.

We cannot allow hundreds of thousands of veterans, elderly victims of foreclosure, and women and children desperate to escape domestic violence to be denied assistance.

So I strongly urge a "no" vote on the Scott amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, in closing, I participated with the former Attorney General, Dick Thornburgh, in a pro bono effort for some of our major law firms, which is great. However, national Legal Serv-

ices in many of these rural communities, unlike a big city like Philadelphia, don't have the benefit of the law firms where they can have pro bono partners and the like. If they are going to have a lawyer for a soldier, a veteran who needs help on a foreclosure, it is going to be Legal Services.

So to cut off their access to the court is the wrong thing for us to do, and I oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Chair, if only Legal Services were limited to the things that the gentlelady and the gentleman have discussed, like helping our veterans with foreclosures and other things, but in my part of the country, in the rural areas that I come from, Legal Services Corporation has hired plaintiffs that are pursuing our farmers and, quite honestly, attempting to put farmers out of business in Georgia. That is unacceptable and taxpayer funds should not be used for that.

With that, Madam Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Chair, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the gentleman stated, we have no problem with the services that the Legal Services Corporation offers to the poor and to our veterans. What we do have a problem with is the fact that they are targeting our farmers, especially in Georgia.

We have brought this to the attention of Legal Services Corporation more than one time. We feel like some of the tactics that are being used on our farmers are not the right way and not the intent of what the Legal Services Corporation is trying to do.

If we look at the indigent here, both civil and criminal, for this country, including State funds, local funds, from lawyers' interest trust funds, and other funds, we spend \$5.7 billion a year in indigent defense.

And so the point is, we believe in giving the poor representation. We just don't agree in the manner that it is being done.

We hope that, through this amendment, attention will be brought to that and there can be work on all sides to make sure that the intent of the Legal Services Corporation is to do what it was intended to do—to not go out and solicit clients, but to help the poor.

I admire them for the help that they have given all the veterans across this great country, but at some point you have to draw a line. I think this amendment sends a clear message to Legal Services that we want to get their attention and we want them to act appropriately, especially as far as our agriculture goes. These people work very hard every day to produce our food, and we do not need to take advantage of them in the situation that we have now.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION—LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

None of the funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be expended for any purpose prohibited or limited by, or contrary to any of the provisions of, sections 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, and 506 of Public Law 105-119, and all funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be subject to the same terms and conditions set forth in such sections, except that all references in sections 502 and 503 to 1997 and 1998 shall be deemed to refer instead to 2014 and 2015, respectively.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Marine Mammal Commission as authorized by title II of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), \$3,250,000.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE
REPRESENTATIVE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and the employment of experts and consultants as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$53,500,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$124,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the State Justice Institute, as authorized by the State Justice Institute Authorization Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10701 et seq.) \$5,121,000, of which \$500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,250 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of section 505 of this Act, the State Justice Institute shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

TITLE V
GENERAL PROVISIONS
(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress, or for contracts to provide training for agency employees to engage in such publicity or propaganda purposes.

SEC. 502. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 503. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 504. If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of each provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 505. None of the funds provided under this Act, or provided under previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2015, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that: (1) creates or initiates a new program, project or activity; (2) eliminates a program, project or activity; (3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted; (4) relocates an office or employees; (5) reorganizes or renames offices, programs or activities; (6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees; (7) augments existing programs, projects or activities in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, or reduces by 10 percent funding for any program, project or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent; or (8) results from any general savings, including savings from a reduction in personnel, which would result in a change in existing programs, projects or activities as approved by Congress; unless the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds by agencies (excluding agencies of the Department of Justice) funded by this Act and 45 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds by agencies of the Department of Justice funded by this Act.

SEC. 506. (a) If it has been finally determined by a court or Federal agency that any person intentionally affixed a label bearing a "Made in America" inscription, or any inscription with the same meaning, to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in the United States, the person shall be ineligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds made available in this Act, pursuant to the debarment, suspension, and ineligibility procedures described in sections 9.400 through 9.409 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b)(1) To the extent practicable, with respect to authorized purchases of promotional items, funds made available by this Act shall be used to purchase items that are manufactured, produced, or assembled in the United States, its territories or possessions.

(2) The term "promotional items" has the meaning given the term in OMB Circular A-87, Attachment B, Item (1)(f)(3).

SEC. 507. (a) The Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall provide to the

Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a quarterly report on the status of balances of appropriations at the account level. For unobligated, uncommitted balances and unobligated, committed balances the quarterly reports shall separately identify the amounts attributable to each source year of appropriation from which the balances were derived. For balances that are obligated, but unexpended, the quarterly reports shall separately identify amounts by the year of obligation.

(b) The report described in subsection (a) shall be submitted within 30 days of the end of each quarter.

(c) If a department or agency is unable to fulfill any aspect of a reporting requirement described in subsection (a) due to a limitation of a current accounting system, the department or agency shall fulfill such aspect to the maximum extent practicable under such accounting system and shall identify and describe in each quarterly report the extent to which such aspect is not fulfilled.

SEC. 508. Any costs incurred by a department or agency funded under this Act resulting from, or to prevent, personnel actions taken in response to funding reductions included in this Act shall be absorbed within the total budgetary resources available to such department or agency: *Provided*, That the authority to transfer funds between appropriations accounts as may be necessary to carry out this section is provided in addition to authorities included elsewhere in this Act: *Provided further*, That use of funds to carry out this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That for the Department of Commerce, this section shall also apply to actions taken for the care and protection of loan collateral or grant property.

SEC. 509. None of the funds provided by this Act shall be available to promote the sale or export of tobacco or tobacco products, or to seek the reduction or removal by any foreign country of restrictions on the marketing of tobacco or tobacco products, except for restrictions which are not applied equally to all tobacco or tobacco products of the same type.

SEC. 510. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel of the Department of Justice to obligate more than \$770,000,000 during fiscal year 2015 from the fund established by section 1402 of Public Law 98-473 (42 U.S.C. 10601).

□ 1745

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COSTA

Mr. COSTA. Madam Chairwoman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 81, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by 230,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order upon the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 4660. This amendment would increase the cap on the Crime Victims Fund to \$1 billion, providing needed funding for victims, while maintaining the stability of the fund for years to come.

Since 1984, the Victims of Crime Act has provided Federal grants to provide essential and, oftentimes, lifesaving services for victims of crimes across America.

The Crime Victims Fund is not financed—let's be clear about this—by taxpayer dollars, but by fines, forfeitures, and other penalties paid by Federal criminal offenders who have been convicted.

By statute, the fund is dedicated to solely supporting victims' services. Because these nontax dollars have already been collected and deposited into the fund, raising the cap does not add to the deficit or to the debt.

Right now, the Crime Victims Fund has more than \$10 billion sitting in the account waiting to reach the hands of our Nation's victims of crime. However, budgetary rules that make no sense whatsoever, in my opinion, are preventing this critical fund from serving our Nation's crime victims.

The underlying bill caps the Crime Victims Fund to \$770 million,—that is what is in the bill—leaving billions of dollars for the government to use to offset for other Federal spending. This is wrong. It is immoral. It is what our taxpayers don't like about the system here in Washington.

Thankfully, there is a solution. Congressman Judge POE—my good friend—and I have introduced legislation, H.R. 1624, the Crime Victims Fund Preservation Act, which would create a lockbox for the fund. Because the fund contains no taxpayer dollars, it should not be considered as a part of the budget.

Without this legislation, Congress will continue to place artificially low caps on the fund, which only denies and delays necessary services for victims of crime.

Congressman POE and I intend to withdraw the amendment with the recognition we must fix this problem going forward.

I would like to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for your good work on this bill, and I would hope that Judge POE and I could work with you and your staff to fix the rules that prevent this funding from reaching crime victims.

I yield the balance of my time to the Congressman from Texas, Judge TED POE, my good friend and cochair of the Victims' Rights Caucus.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), my friend, for this amendment and not only this, but his hard work on victims' issues, even before he came to

Congress, in California, being the author of the concept of the three strikes and you are out rule that is in California and many other States. I want to congratulate him on this.

Madam Chair, the VOCA fund, Victims of Crime Act fund, is a great idea. What it is is, when criminals are convicted in Federal court, Federal judges impose fees and fines on that criminal, and that money goes into a fund that is designed to go to victims of crime.

Great idea, let those criminals pay the rent on the courthouse, pay for the system they have created. \$10 billion is in that fund, but less than 10 percent of it gets spent every year. Why is that? Because more money keeps coming in; those Federal judges are nailing those criminals, and more money keeps coming into the fund every year. It is \$10 billion. Now, we are only spending a little bit of it for victims services.

The reason is—this is my opinion—fuzzy math in the accounting procedure. If more money is spent, for some reason, that is counted as an increase in spending, even though it is not taxpayer money. The money belongs to victims, funded by criminals; so, because of the accounting procedure, we are only able to spend a fraction of the money each year.

We want to spend more of the money because more keeps coming in. Victims deserve it. As my friend said, it is immoral that this money is not spent for victims that is in this fund.

We understand the problem with the point of order. We would like future possibility to have the bill that Mr. COSTA and I have sponsored, to get it on the floor. To make it very simple, the money that goes in the fund goes to victims, and it is not used to pay offsets for other government projects.

I thank the gentleman. I do want to thank Chairman WOLF for working with us—he understands the problem—working with us to try to spend more of the money that belongs to victims that criminals have donated, maybe unwillingly, to the system.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Chair, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas, my good friend and cochair of the Victims' Rights Caucus. I could not have said it any better. Common sense suggests that we fix this problem.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member.

Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment, and I hope we can work on this in the future.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed in the following order:

Amendment by Mr. THOMPSON of California.

Amendment by Mr. POLIS of Colorado.

Amendment by Mr. CICILLINE of Rhode Island.

Amendment by Mr. SMITH of Texas.

Amendment by Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 260, noes 145, answered “present” 1, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 249]

AYES—260

Amodei	DeLauro	Israel
Bachus	DelBene	Issa
Barber	Denham	Jackson Lee
Barletta	Dent	Jeffries
Beatty	Deutch	Johnson (GA)
Becerra	Diaz-Balart	Jolly
Bera (CA)	Doggett	Jones
Bishop (GA)	Doyle	Joyce
Bishop (NY)	Duckworth	Kaptur
Blumenauer	Duffy	Keating
Bonamici	Edwards	Kelly (IL)
Brady (PA)	Ellison	Kelly (PA)
Bralley (IA)	Engel	Kennedy
Brooks (IN)	Enyart	Kildee
Brown (FL)	Eshoo	Kilmer
Brownley (CA)	Esty	Kind
Buchanan	Farr	King (NY)
Bucshon	Fattah	Kinzinger (IL)
Bustos	Fitzpatrick	Kirkpatrick
Butterfield	Poster	Kuster
Camp	Frankel (FL)	Lance
Cantor	Frelinghuysen	Langevin
Capps	Fudge	Larsen (WA)
Capuano	Gabbard	Larsen (CT)
Cardenas	Gallego	Latham
Carney	Garamendi	Lee (CA)
Carson (IN)	Garcia	Levin
Cartwright	Gerlach	Lipinski
Castor (FL)	Gibbs	LoBiondo
Castro (TX)	Gibson	Loebsack
Chu	Goodlatte	Lofgren
Cicilline	Gowdy	Lowenthal
Clark (MA)	Grayson	Lowey
Clarke (NY)	Green, Gene	Luetkemeyer
Clyburn	Grijalva	Lujan Grisham
Coffman	Grimm	(NM)
Cohen	Gutiérrez	Lujan, Ben Ray
Connolly	Hahn	(NM)
Conyers	Hanabusa	Lynch
Cooper	Hastings (WA)	Maffei
Costa	Heck (NV)	Maloney,
Courtney	Heck (WA)	Carolyn
Crenshaw	Herrera Beutler	Maloney, Sean
Crowley	Higgins	Marino
Cuellar	Himes	Matheson
Cummings	Hinojosa	Matsui
Davis (CA)	Holt	McCollum
Davis, Danny	Honda	McDermott
Davis, Rodney	Horsford	McGovern
DeFazio	Hoyer	McIntyre
DeGette	Huffman	McKinley
Delaney	Hurt	

McMorris	Reichert	Sires
Rodgers	Renacci	Smith (NJ)
McNerney	Ribble	Smith (WA)
Meehan	Rice (SC)	Speier
Meeks	Richmond	Stivers
Meng	Rigell	Swalwell (CA)
Michaud	Rogers (KY)	Takano
Miller, George	Rogers (MI)	Thompson (CA)
Moore	Roskam	Thompson (MS)
Moran	Ross	Thompson (PA)
Mulvaney	Rothfus	Tiberi
Murphy (FL)	Roybal-Allard	Tierney
Murphy (PA)	Royce	Titus
Nadler	Ruiz	Tonko
Napolitano	Runyan	Tsongas
Neal	Ruppersberger	Turner
Negrete McLeod	Rush	Upton
Noem	Ryan (OH)	Valadao
Nolan	Ryan (WI)	Van Hollen
O'Rourke	Sánchez, Linda	Vargas
Owens	T.	Veasey
Pallone	Sanchez, Loretta	Vela
Pascrell	Sarbanes	Velázquez
Pastor (AZ)	Schakowsky	Visclosky
Paulsen	Schiff	Wagner
Payne	Schneider	Walden
Pelosi	Schock	Walz
Perlmutter	Schrader	Wasserman
Peters (CA)	Schwartz	Schultz
Peters (MI)	Scott (VA)	Waxman
Pingree (ME)	Scott, David	Welch
Pitts	Sensenbrenner	Whitfield
Pocan	Serrano	Wilson (FL)
Polis	Sewell (AL)	Wolf
Price (NC)	Shea-Porter	Woodall
Quigley	Sherman	Yarmuth
Reed	Sinema	Young (IN)

NOES—145

Aderholt	Gosar	Pearce
Amash	Granger	Perry
Bachmann	Graves (GA)	Peterson
Barr	Graves (MO)	Petri
Barrow (GA)	Griffin (AR)	Pittenger
Barton	Griffith (VA)	Poe (TX)
Bentivolio	Guthrie	Pompeo
Bilirakis	Hall	Posey
Bishop (UT)	Harper	Price (GA)
Black	Harris	Rahall
Blackburn	Hensarling	Roby
Boustany	Holding	Roe (TN)
Brady (TX)	Hudson	Rogers (AL)
Bridenstine	Huelskamp	Rohrabacher
Brooks (AL)	Huizenga (MI)	Rokita
Broun (GA)	Hultgren	Rooney
Burgess	Hunter	Salmon
Byrne	Jenkins	Sanford
Calvert	Johnson (OH)	Scalise
Carter	Johnson, Sam	Schweikert
Cassidy	Jordan	Scott, Austin
Chabot	King (IA)	Sessions
Coble	Kingston	Shimkus
Cole	Kline	Simpson
Collins (GA)	Labrador	Smith (MO)
Collins (NY)	LaMalfa	Smith (NE)
Conaway	Lamborn	Smith (TX)
Cook	Latta	Southerland
Cotton	Long	Stewart
Crawford	Lucas	Stockman
Culberson	Lummis	Stutzman
Daines	Marchant	Terry
DeSantis	Massie	Thornberry
DesJarlais	McAllister	Tipton
Duncan (SC)	McCarthy (CA)	Walberg
Duncan (TN)	McCauley	Walorski
Ellmers	McClintock	Weber (FL)
Farenthold	McHenry	Webster (TX)
Fincher	Meadows	Wenstrup
Fleischmann	Messer	Westmoreland
Fleming	Mica	Williams
Flores	Miller (FL)	Wilson (SC)
Forbes	Miller (MI)	Wittman
Fox	Mullin	Womack
Franks (AZ)	Neugebauer	Yoder
Gardner	Nunes	Yoho
Garrett	Nunnelee	Young (AK)
Gingrey (GA)	Olson	
Gohmert		

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Johnson, E. B.

NOT VOTING—25

Bass	Campbell	Chaffetz
Benishek	Capito	Clay

Cleaver Hastings (FL)
Cramer Lankford
Dingell Lewis
Fortenberry McCarthy (NY)
Green, Al McKeon
Hanna Miller, Gary
Hartzler Palazzo

Rangel
Ros-Lehtinen
Shuster
Slaughter
Waters

Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Eilmlers
Engel
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Fattah
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
Gingrey (GA)
Gomert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson

Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCauley
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moore
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan

Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schiff
Schneider
Schwartz
Scott, Austin
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southernland
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski

Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman

Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

□ 1823

Messrs. HOLDING, GRIFFIN of Arkansas, NUNNELEE, LAMBORN, NEUGEBAUER, TIPTON, ROKITA, HUNTER, McALLISTER, DESJARLAIS, WILSON of South Carolina, RAHALL, and ROHRBACHER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, LUETKEMEYER, BECERRA, PETERS of California, GRAYSON, MULVANEY, ROTHFUS, and MEEKS changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DENHAM). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 66, noes 339, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 250]

AYES—66

Amash	Huelskamp	Petri
Bentivolio	Hunter	Pingree (ME)
Blumenauer	Jeffries	Pocan
Bonamici	Jones	Polis
Bralley (IA)	Kind	Rohrabacher
Broun (GA)	Labrador	Royce
Capps	Lee (CA)	Salmon
Cárdenas	Lofgren	Sanford
Cohen	Lowenthal	Scalise
Conyers	Lummis	Schakowsky
DeSantis	Maffei	Schrader
DesJarlais	Massie	Schweikert
Deutch	McDermott	Scott (VA)
Duncan (TN)	McNerney	Scott, David
Edwards	Miller, George	Sensenbrenner
Ellison	Moran	Sherman
Eshoo	Mulvaney	Speier
Farr	Nadler	Stewart
Hahn	Negrete McLeod	Stockman
Hensarling	O'Rourke	Thompson (CA)
Holt	Owens	Van Hollen
Honda	Pelosi	Yoho

NOES—339

Aderholt	Bilirakis	Brown (FL)
Amodei	Bishop (GA)	Brownley (CA)
Bachmann	Bishop (NY)	Buchanan
Bachus	Bishop (UT)	Bucshon
Barber	Black	Burgess
Barletta	Blackburn	Bustos
Barr	Boustany	Butterfield
Barrow (GA)	Brady (PA)	Byrne
Barton	Brady (TX)	Calvert
Beatty	Bridenstine	Camp
Becerra	Brooks (AL)	Cantor
Bera (CA)	Brooks (IN)	Capuano

Green, Gene	Griffin (AR)	Griffith (VA)
Grijalva	Grimm	Guthrie
Groff	Gutierrez	Hall
Hanabusa	Hanna	Harper
Harris	Harris	Harris

Holding
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCauley
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
Gingrey (GA)
Gomert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson

Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schiff
Schneider
Schwartz
Scott, Austin
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southernland
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski

NOT VOTING—26

Bass
Benishek
Campbell
Capito
Chaffetz
Clay
Cleaver
Cramer
Dingell

Garcia
Green, Al
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hurt
Lankford
Lewis
McCarthy (NY)
McKeon

Miller, Gary
Palazzo
Rangel
Ros-Lehtinen
Schock
Shuster
Slaughter
Waters

□ 1827

Ms. DUCKWORTH changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against;

Mr. HURT. Mr. Chair, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 250. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 196, noes 212, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 251]

AYES—196

Barber	Cuellar	Hahn
Barletta	Daines	Hanabusa
Barrow (GA)	Davis (CA)	Heck (NV)
Beatty	Davis, Danny	Heck (WA)
Becerra	Davis, Rodney	Herrera Beutler
Bera (CA)	DeFazio	Higgins
Bishop (GA)	Bishop (NY)	Himes
Bishop (NY)	Delaney	Holding
Blumenauer	DeLauro	Honda
Bonamici	DelBene	Horsford
Brady (PA)	Dent	Hoyer
Bralley (IA)	Doyle	Hudson
Brooks (IN)	Duckworth	Huffman
Bustos	Duncan (TN)	Israel
Butterfield	Ellison	Jeffries
Capps	Engel	Johnson (GA)
Capuano	Enyart	Jones
Cárdenas	Eshoo	Kaptur
Carney	Esty	Keating
Carson (IN)	Farr	Kelly (IL)
Cartwright	Fattah	Kennedy
Chu	Fitzpatrick	Kildee
Cicilline	Fleischmann	Kilmer
Clark (MA)	Fortenberry	Kind
Clarke (NY)	Foster	King (NY)
Cohen	Gabbard	Kirkpatrick
Collins (GA)	Garamendi	Kline
Connolly	Garcia	Langevin
Conyers	Gibson	Larsen (WA)
Cooper	Grayson	Larson (CT)
Costa	Grijalva	Latham
Courtney	Grimm	Lee (CA)
Crowley	Gutiérrez	Levin

Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem

Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Richmond
Roe (TN)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schneider

Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Vargas
Veasey
Visclosky
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner

Valadao
Van Hollen
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Wasserman
Schultz
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland

Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer

Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford

Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Noem
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—23

Bass
Benishak
Campbell
Capito
Chafetz
Clay
Cleaver
Cramer
Dingell
Green, Al
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Lankford
Lewis
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Palazzo
Rangel
Ros-Lehtinen
Shuster
Slaughter
Velázquez
Waters

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1831

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”
So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF TEXAS
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.
The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.
A recorded vote was ordered.
The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 208, noes 201, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 252]

AYES—208

NOES—212
Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barr
Barton
Bentivolio
Billirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cummins
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx

Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallego
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Hinojosa
Holt
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Lofgren
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant

Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Renacci
Baretta
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Cantor
Carter
Cassidy
Coble

Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen

Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren

Barber
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Camp
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummins
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett

Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gibson
Grayson
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)

Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley

NOES—201

Rahall	Schwartz	Titus
Reed	Scott (VA)	Tonko
Richmond	Scott, David	Tsongas
Ross	Serrano	Van Hollen
Roybal-Allard	Sewell (AL)	Vargas
Ruiz	Shea-Porter	Veasey
Runyan	Sherman	Vela
Ruppersberger	Sinema	Velázquez
Rush	Sires	Visclosky
Ryan (OH)	Smith (WA)	Walz
Sánchez, Linda	Speier	Wasserman
T.	Swalwell (CA)	Wasserman
Sanchez, Loretta	Takano	Schultz
Sarbanes	Thompson (CA)	Waxman
Schakowsky	Thompson (MS)	Welch
Schiff	Thompson (PA)	Whitfield
Schneider	Tiberi	Wilson (FL)
Schrader	Tierney	Yarmuth

Pompeo	Salmon	Walberg
Posey	Sanford	Walorski
Price (GA)	Scalise	Weber (TX)
Ribble	Schweikert	Webster (FL)
Rice (SC)	Scott, Austin	Wenstrup
Rogers (AL)	Sensenbrenner	Westmoreland
Rohrabacher	Smith (NE)	Whitfield
Rokita	Southerland	Williams
Ross	Stewart	Wilson (SC)
Rothfus	Stutzman	Woodall
Royce	Thornberry	Yoho
Ryan (WI)	Tipton	

Schwartz	Swalwell (CA)	Velázquez
Scott (VA)	Takano	Visclosky
Scott, David	Terry	Wagner
Serrano	Thompson (CA)	Walden
Sessions	Thompson (MS)	Walz
Sewell (AL)	Thompson (PA)	Wasserman
Shea-Porter	Tiberi	Schultz
Sherman	Tierney	Waxman
Shimkus	Titus	Welch
Simpson	Tonko	Wilson (FL)
Sinema	Tsongas	Wittman
Sires	Turner	Wolf
Smith (MO)	Upton	Womack
Smith (NJ)	Valadao	Yarmuth
Smith (TX)	Van Hollen	Yoder
Smith (WA)	Vargas	Young (AK)
Speier	Veasey	Young (IN)
Stivers	Vela	

NOES—290

Aderholt	Fattah	Lummis
Amodei	Fincher	Lynch
Bachus	Fitzpatrick	Maffei
Barber	Fleischmann	Maloney,
Barletta	Forbes	Carolyn
Barr	Fortenberry	Maloney, Sean
Barrow (GA)	Poster	Marino
Beatty	Frankel (FL)	Massie
Becerra	Frelinghuysen	Matheson
Bera (CA)	Fudge	Matsui
Bishop (GA)	Gabbard	McAllister
Bishop (NY)	Galleo	McCarthy (CA)
Blumenauer	Garamendi	McCaul
Bonamici	Garcia	McCollum
Boustany	Gerlach	McDermott
Brady (PA)	Gibson	McGovern
Braley (IA)	Gohmert	McIntyre
Brooks (IN)	Gowdy	McKeon
Brown (FL)	Granger	McKinley
Brownley (CA)	Graves (MO)	McMorris
Buchanan	Grayson	Rodgers
Bucshon	Green, Gene	McNerney
Burgess	Griffin (AR)	Meehan
Bustos	Griffith (VA)	Meeks
Butterfield	Grijalva	Meng
Byrne	Grimm	Messer
Camp	Guthrie	Michaud
Capps	Gutiérrez	Miller (MI)
Capuano	Hahn	Miller, George
Cárdenas	Hanabusa	Moore
Carney	Hanna	Moran
Carson (IN)	Harper	Murphy (FL)
Carter	Heck (NV)	Murphy (PA)
Cartwright	Heck (WA)	Nadler
Cassidy	Herrera Beutler	Napolitano
Castor (FL)	Higgins	Neal
Castro (TX)	Himes	Negrete McLeod
Chu	Hinojosa	Nolan
Cicilline	Holt	O'Rourke
Clark (MA)	Honda	Olson
Clarke (NY)	Horsford	Owens
Clyburn	Hoyer	Pallone
Coffman	Huffman	Pascrell
Cohen	Hultgren	Pastor (AZ)
Cole	Israel	Payne
Collins (GA)	Jackson Lee	Pelosi
Connolly	Jeffries	Perlmutter
Conyers	Johnson (GA)	Peters (CA)
Cooper	Johnson, E. B.	Peters (MI)
Costa	Jolly	Peterson
Courtney	Joyce	Pingree (ME)
Crawford	Kaptur	Pocan
Crenshaw	Keating	Poe (TX)
Crowley	Kelly (IL)	Polis
Cuellar	Kelly (PA)	Price (NC)
Culberson	Kennedy	Quigley
Cummings	Kildee	Rahall
Daines	Kilmer	Reed
Davis (CA)	Kind	Reichert
Davis, Danny	King (NY)	Renacci
Davis, Rodney	Kinzinger (IL)	Richmond
DeFazio	Kirkpatrick	Rigell
DeGette	Kuster	Roby
Delaney	Lance	Roe (TN)
DeLauro	Langevin	Rogers (KY)
DeBene	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (MI)
Dent	Larson (CT)	Rooney
Deutch	Latham	Roskam
Diaz-Balart	Lee (CA)	Roybal-Allard
Doggett	Levin	Runyan
Doyle	Lipinski	Rush
Duckworth	LoBiondo	Ryan (OH)
Duncan (TN)	Loeb sack	Sánchez, Linda
Edwards	Lofgren	T.
Ellison	Lowenthal	Sanchez, Loretta
Engel	Lowey	Sarbanes
Enyart	Luetkemeyer	Schakowsky
Eshoo	Lujan Grisham	Schiff
Esty	(NM)	Schneider
Farenthold	Luján, Ben Ray	Schock
Farr	(NM)	Schrader

Bass	Green, Al	Ros-Lehtinen
Benishek	Hartzler	Ruiz
Campbell	Hastings (FL)	Ruppersberger
Capito	Lankford	Shuster
Chaffetz	Lewis	Slaughter
Clay	McCarthy (NY)	Stockman
Cleaver	Miller, Gary	Waters
Cramer	Palazzo	
	Rangel	

NOT VOTING—25

NOT VOTING—22

Bass	Dingell	Palazzo
Benishek	Green, Al	Rangel
Campbell	Hartzler	Ros-Lehtinen
Capito	Hastings (FL)	Shuster
Chaffetz	Lankford	Slaughter
Clay	Lewis	Waters
Cleaver	McCarthy (NY)	
Cramer	Miller, Gary	

□ 1836

Mr. ROONEY changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. AUSTIN SCOTT OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 116, noes 290, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 253]

AYES—116

Amash	Flores	Kingston
Bachmann	Foxx	Kline
Barton	Franks (AZ)	Labrador
Bentivolio	Gardner	LaMalfa
Bilirakis	Garrett	Lamborn
Bishop (UT)	Gibbs	Latta
Black	Gingrey (GA)	Long
Blackburn	Goodlatte	Lucas
Brady (TX)	Gosar	Marchant
Bridenstine	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Brooks (AL)	Hall	McHenry
Broun (GA)	Harris	Meadows
Calvert	Hastings (WA)	Mica
Cantor	Hensarling	Miller (FL)
Chabot	Holding	Mullin
Coble	Hudson	Mulvaney
Collins (NY)	Huelskamp	Neugebauer
Conaway	Huizenga (MI)	Noem
Cook	Hunter	Nugent
Cotton	Hurt	Nunes
Denham	Issa	Nunnelee
DeSantis	Jenkins	Paulsen
DesJarlais	Johnson (OH)	Pearce
Duffy	Johnson, Sam	Perry
Duncan (SC)	Jones	Petri
Ellmers	Jordan	Pittenger
Fleming	King (IA)	Pitts

NOT VOTING—25

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) having assumed the chair, Mr. DENHAM, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4745, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4681, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-465) on the resolution (H. Res. 604) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4681) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency

Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 585 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4660.

Will the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1845

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. DENHAM (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

□ 1845

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, an amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) had been disposed of and the bill had been read through page 81, line 24.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available to the Department of Justice in this Act may be used to discriminate against or denigrate the religious or moral beliefs of students who participate in programs for which financial assistance is provided from those funds, or of the parents or legal guardians of such students.

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 513. Any funds provided in this Act used to implement E-Government Initiatives shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act.

SEC. 514. (a) The Inspectors General of the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Legal Services Corporation shall conduct audits, pursuant to the Inspector General Act (5 U.S.C. App.), of grants or contracts for which funds are appropriated by this Act, and shall submit reports to Congress on the progress of such audits, which may include preliminary findings and a description of areas of particular interest, within 180 days after initiating such an audit and every 180 days thereafter until any such audit is completed.

(b) Within 60 days after the date on which an audit described in subsection (a) by an Inspector General is completed, the Secretary,

Attorney General, Administrator, Director, or President, as appropriate, shall make the results of the audit available to the public on the Internet website maintained by the Department, Administration, Foundation, or Corporation, respectively. The results shall be made available in redacted form to exclude—

(1) any matter described in section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) sensitive personal information for any individual, the public access to which could be used to commit identity theft or for other inappropriate or unlawful purposes.

(c) A grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this Act may not be used for the purpose of defraying the costs of a banquet or conference that is not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or contract was awarded, such as a banquet or conference held in connection with planning, training, assessment, review, or other routine purposes related to a project funded by the grant or contract.

(d) Any person awarded a grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this Act shall submit a statement to the Secretary of Commerce, the Attorney General, the Administrator, Director, or President, as appropriate, certifying that no funds derived from the grant or contract will be made available through a subcontract or in any other manner to another person who has a financial interest in the person awarded the grant or contract.

(e) The provisions of the preceding subsections of this section shall take effect 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, determines that a uniform set of rules and requirements, substantially similar to the requirements in such subsections, consistently apply under the executive branch ethics program to all Federal departments, agencies, and entities.

SEC. 515. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation to acquire a high-impact or moderate-impact information system, as defined for security categorization in the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 199, "Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems" unless the agency has—

(1) reviewed the supply chain risk for the information systems against criteria developed by NIST to inform acquisition decisions for high-impact and moderate-impact information systems within the Federal Government;

(2) reviewed the supply chain risk from the presumptive awardee against available and relevant threat information provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other appropriate agencies; and

(3) in consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other appropriate Federal entity, conducted an assessment of any risk of cyber-espionage or sabotage associated with the acquisition of such system, including any risk associated with such system being produced, manufactured, or assembled by one or more entities identified by the United States Government as posing a cyber threat, including but not limited to, those that may be owned, directed, or subsidized by the People's Republic of China.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be

used to acquire a high-impact or moderate-impact information system reviewed and assessed under subsection (a) unless the head of the assessing entity described in subsection (a) has—

(1) developed, in consultation with NIST and supply chain risk management experts, a mitigation strategy for any identified risks;

(2) determined that the acquisition of such system is in the national interest of the United States; and

(3) reported that determination to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 516. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used in any way whatsoever to support or justify the use of torture by any official or contract employee of the United States Government.

SEC. 517. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or treaty, in the current fiscal year and any fiscal year thereafter, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act or any other Act may be expended or obligated by a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States to pay administrative expenses or to compensate an officer or employee of the United States in connection with requiring an export license for the export to Canada of components, parts, accessories or attachments for firearms listed in Category I, section 121.1 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (International Trafficking in Arms Regulations (ITAR), part 121, as it existed on April 1, 2005) with a total value not exceeding \$500 wholesale in any transaction, provided that the conditions of subsection (b) of this section are met by the exporting party for such articles.

(b) The foregoing exemption from obtaining an export license—

(1) does not exempt an exporter from filing any Shipper's Export Declaration or notification letter required by law, or from being otherwise eligible under the laws of the United States to possess, ship, transport, or export the articles enumerated in subsection (a); and

(2) does not permit the export without a license of—

(A) fully automatic firearms and components and parts for such firearms, other than for end use by the Federal Government, or a Provincial or Municipal Government of Canada;

(B) barrels, cylinders, receivers (frames) or complete breech mechanisms for any firearm listed in Category I, other than for end use by the Federal Government, or a Provincial or Municipal Government of Canada; or

(C) articles for export from Canada to another foreign destination.

(c) In accordance with this section, the District Directors of Customs and postmasters shall permit the permanent or temporary export without a license of any unclassified articles specified in subsection (a) to Canada for end use in Canada or return to the United States, or temporary import of Canadian-origin items from Canada for end use in the United States or return to Canada for a Canadian citizen.

(d) The President may require export licenses under this section on a temporary basis if the President determines, upon publication first in the Federal Register, that the Government of Canada has implemented or maintained inadequate import controls for the articles specified in subsection (a), such that a significant diversion of such articles has and continues to take place for use in international terrorism or in the escalation of a conflict in another nation. The

President shall terminate the requirements of a license when reasons for the temporary requirements have ceased.

SEC. 518. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the current fiscal year and any fiscal year thereafter, no department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving appropriated funds under this Act or any other Act shall obligate or expend in any way such funds to pay administrative expenses or the compensation of any officer or employee of the United States to deny any application submitted pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2778(b)(1)(B) and qualified pursuant to 27 CFR section 478.112 or .113, for a permit to import United States origin "curios or relics" firearms, parts, or ammunition.

SEC. 519. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to include in any new bilateral or multilateral trade agreement the text of—

(1) paragraph 2 of article 16.7 of the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement;

(2) paragraph 4 of article 17.9 of the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement; or

(3) paragraph 4 of article 15.9 of the United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

SEC. 520. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize or issue a national security letter in contravention of any of the following laws authorizing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to issue national security letters: The Right to Financial Privacy Act; The Electronic Communications Privacy Act; The Fair Credit Reporting Act; The National Security Act of 1947; USA PATRIOT Act; and the laws amended by these Acts.

SEC. 521. If at any time during any quarter, the program manager of a project within the jurisdiction of the Departments of Commerce or Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation totaling more than \$75,000,000 has reasonable cause to believe that the total program cost has increased by 10 percent or more, the program manager shall immediately inform the respective Secretary, Administrator, or Director. The Secretary, Administrator, or Director shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 30 days in writing of such increase, and shall include in such notice: the date on which such determination was made; a statement of the reasons for such increases; the action taken and proposed to be taken to control future cost growth of the project; changes made in the performance or schedule milestones and the degree to which such changes have contributed to the increase in total program costs or procurement costs; new estimates of the total project or procurement costs; and a statement validating that the project's management structure is adequate to control total project or procurement costs.

SEC. 522. Funds appropriated by this Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence or intelligence related activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414) during fiscal year 2015 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 523. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract in an amount greater than \$5,000,000 or to award a grant in excess of such amount unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the contractor or grantee has filed all Fed-

eral tax returns required during the three years preceding the certification, has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and has not, more than 90 days prior to certification, been notified of any unpaid Federal tax assessment for which the liability remains unsatisfied, unless the assessment is the subject of an installment agreement or offer in compromise that has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service and is not in default, or the assessment is the subject of a non-frivolous administrative or judicial proceeding.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 524. (a) Of the unobligated balances available for "Department of Commerce, Departmental Management, Franchise Fund", \$2,906,000 is hereby rescinded.

(b) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Justice, the following funds are hereby rescinded, not later than September 30, 2015, from the following accounts in the specified amounts—

(1) "Working Capital Fund", \$54,000,000;

(2) "Legal Activities, Assets Forfeiture Fund", \$193,000,000;

(3) "United States Marshals Service, Federal Prisoner Detention", \$122,000,000;

(4) "State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Office on Violence Against Women, Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs", \$12,200,000;

(5) "State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Office of Justice Programs", \$59,000,000; and

(6) "State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Community Oriented Policing Services", \$26,000,000.

(c) The Department of Justice shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report no later than September 1, 2015, specifying the amount of each rescission made pursuant to subsection (b).

SEC. 525. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to purchase first class or premium airline travel in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 526. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees from a Federal department or agency at any single conference occurring outside the United States unless such conference is a law enforcement training or operational conference for law enforcement personnel and the majority of Federal employees in attendance are law enforcement personnel stationed outside the United States.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chair, I would like to engage in a colloquy with the chairman.

As the gentleman from Virginia is aware, I have serious concerns about the nonresponsiveness of certain Federal officials to legitimate congressional oversight activities. In some of these situations, there have been actions taken by the House to hold these officials in contempt of Congress.

As the gentleman is aware, I was considering offering an amendment to this

bill that would simply prohibit funding for any Federal employee who has been found in contempt of Congress. It is my firm belief that the American people should not be footing the bill for Federal employees who stonewall Congress or rewarding government officials' bad behavior. If the average American failed to do his or her job, she would hardly be rewarded.

However, based on conversations I have had with the chairman and other Members, I do not plan to offer such an amendment to the bill, with the understanding that the chairman and the committee will continue to work with me to assure that this matter is considered in an appropriate bill.

I would like to ask the gentleman if he would commit to working with me to find a satisfactory vehicle for addressing the issue of compensation for public officials found in contempt of Congress.

Mr. WOLF. I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to address this important issue, and it is an important one. I can assure him that we will work with him on this as we move forward in the appropriations process.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 527. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with the principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to trade remedy laws to preserve the ability of the United States—

(1) to enforce vigorously its trade laws, including antidumping, countervailing duty, and safeguard laws;

(2) to avoid agreements that—

(A) lessen the effectiveness of domestic and international disciplines on unfair trade, especially dumping and subsidies; or

(B) lessen the effectiveness of domestic and international safeguard provisions, in order to ensure that United States workers, agricultural producers, and firms can compete fully on fair terms and enjoy the benefits of reciprocal trade concessions; and

(3) to address and remedy market distortions that lead to dumping and subsidization, including overcapacity, cartelization, and market-access barriers.

SEC. 528. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. MORAN

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk. The amendment would strike both section 528 and 529 so I ask that they would be considered en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the consideration of the amendment at this point?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike sections 528 and 529.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Sections 528 and 529 of this bill would restrict the Department of Justice from transferring detainees to the United States. The problem with this is that Guantanamo is now a rallying cry for extremists around the world. Until we transfer and try these detainees, there is no denying that Guantanamo is hurting our national security, and so my amendment would strike sections 528 and 529.

Mr. Chair, we are currently spending \$2,670,000 per detainee per year at Guantanamo compared to \$34,000 per year at a high-security Federal prison here in the United States.

In fiscal year 2014, the Department of Defense estimates that it is going to spend \$435 million in operations and personnel costs to operate this facility. That money could so much better be spent on military readiness, medical research, improving the quality of life for our men and women in uniform.

The fact is, Mr. Chair, nearly 500 defendants charged with crimes related to international terrorism have been successfully convicted in the United States since 9/11, quoting a former Gitmo detainee: the Times Square bomber; the shoe bomber; and a 9/11 co-conspirator, Zacarias Moussaoui. All of them are incarcerated in 98 Federal prisons here in the United States with no security incidents.

Now, by comparison, military commissions, which is the alternative, have managed to prosecute eight cases in that time, and many of them have, in fact, been overturned on appeal.

There are six DOD facilities where Gitmo detainees could be held in the United States that are currently only at 48 percent capacity.

The political and legal expediency of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay is not worth the cost to America's reputation around the world nor to the erosion of our legal and ethical standards here at home.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I want to thank the gentleman. We visited Guantanamo Bay

together. I think any Member who has not been down there, you should go down and see what is there. These are important provisions that have been put in appropriation bills for the last several years. They represent a strong and enduring consensus in Congress.

Striking these provisions would have unknown consequences for U.S. communities. Imagine bringing Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who beheaded Daniel Pearl, and who was the mastermind of the 9/11 attack. About 170 people from my district died in the attack on the Pentagon. Can you imagine, they were initially going to bring him to New York City, and Mayor Bloomberg and Senator SCHUMER all opposed it because they knew what the impact was going to be and the security requirements. So this would have an unbelievable impact on communities.

Putting detainees in U.S. prisons, as the administration originally proposed, would be disruptive and, I think, disastrous. Former FBI Director Mueller stated: "To transfer detainees to local jails could affect or infect other prisoners or have the capability of affecting events outside the prison system."

One of the things I think Members have to understand is this. There was a pirate, if you saw the movie "Captain Phillips." He was arrested. He was arrested and tried. And they said that he would be convicted, and there would be no way that he would ever be released.

You ought to go see "Captain Phillips." It is a fascinating movie.

He was tried and he was acquitted, and now he is seeking asylum. He is in Virginia. He is seeking asylum maybe in Virginia.

There was another case, if you recall, Attorney General Holder said there is no way that this guy will ever get off, and he was only convicted on one count; and had that count not been a conviction, he would have been released.

Lastly, there were Uighurs that were arrested in Tora Bora in a training camp run by Osama bin Laden. They were there to learn how to kill Americans, but also to kill Chinese, if you follow the concerns of the Uighur issue in China. The administration had reserved apartments. They were in Guantanamo Bay. They reserved apartments in northern Virginia at Seven Corners for them to live here.

□ 1900

I know the gentleman is well meaning, but I think to bring Guantanamo Bay detainees here, people like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, people like that, and then what if they ever were tried here and were acquitted, and then can you imagine they then apply for asylum, because we are now going to see a case where one pirate acquitted is applying for asylum and now is living in Virginia and may very well want to stay in Virginia.

I urge defeat of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), from the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman.

I understand that there is an irrational fear of bringing Guantanamo detainees into the United States, even though we would only do so to bring them to justice. In contrast to the military commissions at Guantanamo, which have not reached one verdict other than by plea, the Federal Court system in the United States has been extremely successful at prosecuting terrorists and safely imprisoning them for long periods of time.

One of the 9/11 terrorists is in a U.S. prison. The shoe bomber is in a U.S. prison. The underwear bomber is in a U.S. prison. The Times Square bomber is in a U.S. prison. One of the Boston Marathon bombers is in a U.S. prison. We have tried and convicted terrorist masterminds in U.S. courts in my own district.

But others are being held at Guantanamo without any prospect of a trial. Ever since Magna Carta, we have denied the government the power to imprison and punish people on mere accusation. Just because the government labels someone a terrorist doesn't make him one. The government must be asked to prove the accusation in court. That has always been a bedrock American principle until we opened Guantanamo. Now we imprison people indefinitely without trial. By what claim of right do we do this?

How can we be sure we are punishing actual terrorists and not actual people when we hold no trials? Mr. WOLF said someone may be acquitted. If he is acquitted he should be released. That is our basic principle of justice for the last thousand years.

Guantanamo should be closed and its inmates either tried or released. It is beyond time to close Guantanamo so it can no longer be used to rally our enemies to recruit terrorists, to undermine our ability to bring terrorist suspects to justice, and to violate bedrock American principles of due process of law.

I am astonished, frankly, that I would hear on the floor of the United States Congress someone say that people might be acquitted, therefore, they should be held in jail forever because maybe the evidence doesn't exist because someone in the government in the all powerful, almighty, all knowing bureaucracy says that if someone is a terrorist that person must be held in jail indefinitely because maybe we

don't have the proof. That is not American.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, Politico talks about this case and said:

The failed prosecution of an alleged Somali pirate—and the fact that that failure could leave him living freely, and permanently, inside U.S. borders—is highlighting anew the risks of trying terror suspects in American courts.

Just a few weeks ago, Ali Mohamed Ali was facing the possibility of a mandatory life sentence in a 2008 shipjacking off the coast of Yemen—an incident much like the one dramatized in the film 'Captain Phillips.' Now, the Somali native is in immigration detention in Virginia and seeking permanent asylum in the United States.

One current Federal terrorism prosecutor said the Ali case and the potential for his eventual release is another reason why foreign al Qaeda suspects picked up overseas should not be brought to the United States but should instead be detained at Guantanamo or some other facility.

I personally would think the very thought of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, or some of the people when you go down to Guantanamo Bay and see them, walking the streets here in the United States should they be acquitted—they ought not to be brought to the United States.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, the person that my good friend refers to is not a Guantanamo detainee. The reality is that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed is not representative of the vast majority of Gitmo detainees who were brought 13, 14 years ago. There are a handful several years later that were brought to Guantanamo. They are really bad guys. They are kept separately. But I am talking about the people, 86 percent of whom were turned in for bounties, the majority of whom were not involved in combat activity against the United States or its allies.

We ought to look at this Guantanamo population and do what this country, our Founding Fathers, intended that we do. Give them a right to trial, prosecute them, and punish them.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment.

As for myself, I believe that America and our ideals, the notion that someone could have their liberty taken, be held with secret evidence, be denied an opportunity to appear before a court of law, be denied counsel or outside contact, is something that our country would never engage in.

The problem with this theory is that we are engaged in it. The problem is that, under President Bush, Sr., he would say about China: You all are arresting people with no charges, no pub-

lic evidence, no tribunal of any sort, and that this is not part of the civilized world.

I remember questioning the former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich. We had a talk right after 9/11. He was talking, and I said: Well, if we are a Nation of laws, how are we going to reconcile that in this new circumstance? He said: It is going to be very difficult. And here we are. It is very difficult.

We are spending \$3 million per prisoner to house people in a foreign land under charges that we are not prepared to make public, no offering of a trial, most of whom were turned over for bounty or for ransom paid out by our government. I don't know how it is that we suggest that we want to project to the rest of the world what a Nation of laws actually looks like, but as for me and my district, I am going to cast a vote in favor of this amendment because the Constitution of the United States was drafted and written and signed in Philadelphia, and somehow I believe that the notion that our country would ever come to this moment is the voice from the source of those who wrote that document at that time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 529. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual described in subsection (c) for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 530. To the extent practicable, funds made available in this Act should be used to purchase light bulbs that are "Energy Star"

qualified or have the "Federal Energy Management Program" designation.

SEC. 531. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall instruct any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving funds appropriated under this Act to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts and include in its annual performance plan and performance and accountability reports the following:

(1) Details on future action the department, agency, or instrumentality will take to resolve undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

(2) The method that the department, agency, or instrumentality uses to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

(3) Identification of undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts that may be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

(4) In the preceding 3 fiscal years, details on the total number of expired grant accounts with undisbursed balances (on the first day of each fiscal year) for the department, agency, or instrumentality and the total finances that have not been obligated to a specific project remaining in the accounts.

SEC. 532. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) or the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to develop, design, plan, promulgate, implement, or execute a bilateral policy, program, order, or contract of any kind to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company unless such activities are specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to effectuate the hosting of official Chinese visitors at facilities belonging to or utilized by NASA.

(c) The limitations described in subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to activities which NASA or OSTP has certified—

(1) pose no risk of resulting in the transfer of technology, data, or other information with national security or economic security implications to China or a Chinese-owned company; and

(2) will not involve knowing interactions with officials who have been determined by the United States to have direct involvement with violations of human rights.

(d) Any certification made under subsection (c) shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate no later than 30 days prior to the activity in question and shall include a description of the purpose of the activity, its agenda, its major participants, and its location and timing.

SEC. 533. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel to deny, or fail to act on, an application for the importation of any model of shotgun if—

(1) all other requirements of law with respect to the proposed importation are met; and

(2) no application for the importation of such model of shotgun, in the same configuration, had been denied by the Attorney General prior to January 1, 2011, on the basis that the shotgun was not particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.

SEC. 534. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such

network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 535. The Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation shall submit spending plans, signed by the respective department or agency head, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 536. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 537. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 538. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

SEC. 539. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require a person licensed under section 923 of title 18, United States Code, to report information to the Department of Justice regarding the sale of multiple rifles or shotguns to the same person.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. ESTY

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk. I would like to offer and withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 100, strike lines 7 through 11.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, my amendment strikes section 539 of the bill.

Section 539 is an unnecessary and harmful gun rider that would bar the ATF from using any funds to inves-

tigate straw purchases or trafficking of certain highly dangerous weapons.

This "long gun" requirement, which has been in effect since 2011, is an essential tool for law enforcement to combat drug cartels and weapons trafficking.

In fact, in the first 8 months after the rule was enacted, more than 100 criminals and traffickers were identified for prosecution.

Mr. Chairman, it is clear that the reporting requirement is keeping guns out of the hands of criminals, and the ATF must be able to continue to do this important work.

I thank my colleagues who are in support of our gun violence prevention efforts, today and every day.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, law-abiding Americans shouldn't have to sacrifice their right to privacy to exercise their Second Amendment rights because they live in the southwestern part of the United States.

I don't understand why they want to take the people who stand on the border and take this onslaught of the failure of the administration to defend and prosecute those who violate the laws of our country, and they want to have something that imposes upon our right to privacy and our right to exercise our Second Amendment rights.

Law enforcement tools are not taken away by the fact that we have limited this intrusion upon the rights of the people in the States that are on our southwestern border. In fact, law enforcement has the right to at any time walk into a Federal firearms dealer and request any sales records, and they mandatorily must provide them. A bouncer can walk into a Federal licensed firearms dealer and get these records every day. The amendment doesn't prohibit gun dealers from reporting multiple sales of purchases. It just doesn't mandate on four States of this Union a violation of their right to privacy.

The playing field should be level in anything we do under the law. But the fact is we are unleveling the playing field for the very people that stand down in the direct onslaught of the invasion coming across our southern border as a result of this administration's failure to properly enforce immigration policy.

This is something that we shouldn't even be discussing, limiting the ability and making reporting requirements on four States and involving their right of privacy contrary to the rest of the union. I don't understand why this is even being discussed.

I oppose the attempts to toss out the Second Amendment rights of the people of the State of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1915

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut, ROSA DELAURO, my colleague.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Congresswoman ESTY's amendment, which strikes a dangerous rider that would bar the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives from enforcing a reporting requirement on certain semiautomatic weapons in four southwest border States.

It is over 16 months since the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, where six adults and 20 children were murdered in cold blood. It has been almost a week since the latest mass tragedy that occurred in California. Nineteen people were shot, and four were killed in New Orleans last weekend.

Even before what happened at UC Santa Barbara, over 80 Americans were killed by guns last week, and all of the families who have lost loved ones—the families in Newtown, in Santa Barbara, and all across America—are still waiting for Congress to act.

It is no secret that the appropriations bills have been used to incrementally chip away at the Federal Government's ability to enforce the gun laws and to protect the public from gun crime.

This is yet another example of the same bad behavior. Currently, licensed gun dealers in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas are required to report to the National Tracing Center when a dealer sells multiple assault rifles to one individual, just as all dealers have reported multiple handgun sales for over 20 years.

This requirement is narrowly tailored, applying only to the sales of rifles that are semiautomatic, that are greater than the .22 caliber, and that hold a detachable magazine.

Multiple assault rifle sales reports help law enforcement crack down on gun trafficking along the southwest border, where dealers are disproportionately fueling Mexican cartel violence.

This reporting requirement is effective. During the first 8 months it was in effect, the ATF initiated 120 investigations based on reports of multiple sales of assault rifles and recommended the prosecution of more than 100 defendants in 25 separate cases.

Furthermore, every Federal court has addressed this issue and has found that requiring dealers in these four border States to report multiple assault rifle sales is well within the ATF's authority. This requirement is critical to identifying straw purchasers who put guns in the hands of criminals.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment that will continue to give ATF the tools it needs to combat gun trafficking and to keep the public safe.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I want to point out that this recordkeeping is directed at multiple rifle and shotgun sales of a semiautomatic character. It becomes a habit around here to call anything that will fire six shots when you pull the trigger an assault rifle.

In fact, this requires the reporting of semiautomatic shotguns, as well as of semiautomatic rifles. People all over the United States—and particularly in our State—hunt every day with these weapons. Families have these weapons in their homes. They are not assault weapons. They are semiautomatic shotguns and rifles. This reporting requirement is on those weapons, and it doesn't say anything about assault weapons.

I question the logic of this whole thing when we are talking about the privacy of the individual under the Second Amendment and about the right for Americans to keep and bear arms.

Therefore, I think that the language that is in place today is the right language for the policies of the United States.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), my colleague.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Representative ESTY's amendment to remove this misguided rider that will only prevent law enforcement from doing its job.

Since the ATF launched this initiative—the so-called long gun rule—to track multiple purchases of rifles and assault weapons, it has become a crucial tool with which to investigate and prosecute straw purchasers who enable the flood of illegal guns to cities and towns across our Nation. In my home city of New York, 85 percent of guns used in crimes were originally sold in a different State.

When we see the toll that illegal guns takes on our streets, why do we in Congress stand idle, now blocking law enforcement from addressing this crisis?

In the first 8 months of this initiative, the Bureau launched 120 investigations into gun trafficking in high-powered assault weapons, and a former special agent has called this rule a huge tool to combat illegal sales.

Please vote “no” on this misguided rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I would point out that this law pertains only to the southwestern border States and that my friends from Connecticut and New York are not affected by this rule. There is no reason why you can't buy long guns in New York or in Connecticut and ship them down to the border. This is discriminatory against four States and four States only. It is bad policy.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I want to make a couple of points.

One is that this requirement is in place now and has been in place, and it has not disrupted life. It has saved lives, however.

This requirement does not actually apply to normal shotguns or to hunting rifles. I think it is important for the House to understand that it applies to semiautomatics that are greater than a .22 caliber and that can hold a detachable magazine. All this says is, if somebody shows up and buys 1,000 of these, the Federal firearms license dealer needs to report that multiple sale. It is a reasonable thing.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member on Appropriations.

Mrs. LOWEY. I want to thank the outstanding ranking member of this committee for his work on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment. Let me be very clear. The long gun rider currently in this bill makes it easier for drug cartels to smuggle weapons across the border and more difficult for law enforcement to identify straw purchasers and get weapons out of the hands of dangerous people.

The reporting of multiple purchases for powerful semiautomatic firearms is the same policy we have had for handguns for decades, and it saves lives.

Let me be very clear, my friends. The long gun reporting requirement would not stop a law-abiding person from purchasing a firearm. It only allows the reporting of multiple sales of powerful, semiautomatic rifles—greater than the .22 caliber—and only if they can hold detachable magazines.

The Justice Department found that more than half of the guns recovered in Mexico in connection with drug cartels originated in the United States of America. A case study of firearms trafficking by one drug cartel found that, during a 15-month period, the cartel purchased 251 assault rifles from U.S. gun dealers, all but one of which was purchased as part of a multiple sale.

Law enforcement needs more, my colleagues, not less to fight drug cartel violence. Support this amendment. Help law enforcement stop the trafficking of weapons and save lives.

Mr. FATTAH. In reclaiming my time, I would now like to yield to the gentlelady from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

Ms. ESTY. Thank you, Mr. Ranking Member, and thank you for your leadership on this issue.

I appreciate the kind words of my colleagues and their support for this amendment.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, here I stand in support of an amendment to the Commerce, Jus-

tice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriation Act. Specifically, the proposed amendment would strike Section 539 of this bill to allow funding to be used to mandate reporting to the Justice Department the name of an individual who has purchased multiple long-barreled arms in five days. The Republicans attempted to disallow the Justice Department from keeping these records, even though these records are crucial in cracking down on gun trafficking and straw purchasing.

I stand in the wake of another unconscionable mass shooting. A recent wound not yet healed, our nation still mourns the lives that were cut short by a mentally unstable gunman. I stand not only as a Member of Congress but also as a concerned United States citizen, outraged by the fact that no measures have been taken to defend our nation's people against gun violence. I stand just as many of my distinguished colleagues have, to implore the Republicans to finally pass gun control legislation. I also stand in frustration, knowing that the Republicans will decry such acts of violence as the recent UC-Santa Barbara massacre but will refuse to take action to protect our nation's innocent citizens.

I will do everything in my power to convince my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that it is our duty, as Members of Congress, to defend our nation's people while also upholding the second amendment of our Constitution.

Dare I invoke the names of the hundreds of victims of mass-shootings in the last few years? Should I mention the alarming number of Americans murdered by guns every day which averages to more than 30 people? Or perhaps I should comment on the startling statistic that 140 Americans are taken to the emergency room every day to be treated for a gun assault.

Of course, Republicans are aware of the thousands of people who are injured and murdered by guns every year. They know the toll that gun violence is taking on the American people. I am sure they also acknowledge that their pillar of conservatism, the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, supported gun control.

Yet, Republicans still attached a gun rider to this bill to bolster their NRA ratings at the risk of the safety of the American people. They don't seem to care that less than a week ago, an individual documented for struggling with mental illnesses legally purchased a firearm and proceeded to use said firearm to deprive families of their loved ones. Well, according to the FBI, more than 400 people were murdered in my home state of New York in 2012 alone and I am outraged.

It is in the honor of the victims of the UC-Santa Barbara tragedy and their families that I support this amendment. It is in the honor of those lost in other tragedies, who are not forgotten, and all victims of gun violence and their families who have wept at funerals that I support this amendment.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chair, once again, Americans are heartbroken by a gun violence tragedy, mourning the students killed in Santa Barbara.

Since that mass shooting on Friday, more than 120 others have lost their lives at the hands of a gun, including an 18-month-old

who was shot in front of his mother this morning in West Palm Beach.

This mother will never see her child go to school, graduate from college, or walk down the aisle—she will never hear him say, “I love you Mom.”

As a former Mayor of an urban city, I’ve seen firsthand how gun violence disrupts entire communities and devastates families.

Too many lives have been taken. Too many families have lost their daughters and sons, their sisters and brothers. And too many people have endured unimaginable pain and grief caused by senseless acts of gun violence.

And, it is unbelievable to me about in the wake of more heartbreaking killings with firearms that the reaction of some in this Congress is to weaken gun laws. That’s why I support the Esty amendment to keep strong laws against gun trafficking on the books.

Not only should we pass this amendment, we must do much more to improve our national background check system and strengthen mental health intervention and research.

From California to Florida, American families are counting on us to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and keep our children safe.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Chair, Congresswoman ESTY has introduced a common sense amendment to inhibit gun trafficking along the Southwest Border.

Her amendment seeks to strike Section 539, which prohibits the necessary funding required for federally licensed firearms dealers to report to DOJ when they sell multiple rifles or shotguns to the same person. This requirement applies to dealers in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas due to their proximity to Mexico. Nearly 80% of Mexico’s illegal firearms are imported illegally from the U.S.

Gun traffickers frequently buy multiple guns at one time and then resell them to prohibited persons. Section 539 blocks ATF’s ability to track the bulk buying of assault rifles in those border states.

Eliminating this key reporting requirement opens the door wide for criminals, and those who would normally not pass a background check, to obtain a gun. Each year nearly 12,000 gun murders are committed by people who have no legal right to a gun. I applaud Congresswoman ESTY for introducing the amendment to strike the language, thus curbing gun trafficking and allowing ATF to properly do its job.

We need to strike negative gun riders from CJS legislation, like section 539. I lend my support to this amendment and to Congresswoman ESTY and I hope you do, as well.

Ms. ESTY. With that, Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 540. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974

exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is \$0.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF WASHINGTON

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) add the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading “Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery” may be used for grant guidelines or requirements to establish minimum riparian buffers.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For the past 15 years, a large part of the success of the salmon recovery in the Northwest and in other States has been through locally driven solutions funded through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and I continue to support this program.

This amendment will ensure, however, that these funds continue to benefit salmon through on-the-ground projects, but without questionable buffer guidelines imposed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, as a condition of their use.

Agriculture is the background of my central Washington district, and it is estimated that these and other similarly imposed land set-aside guidelines by NOAA could restrict the use of vital crop protection tools on as much as 50 acres of farmland per mile. I am not alone in my concern about NOAA’s use of unverifiable salmon buffer requirements in other instances.

Last year, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals found similar NOAA salmon buffer requirements in a biological opinion that were based on scientific standards that “did not always appear to be logical, obvious, or even rational.”

In my home State of Washington, over two dozen agricultural associations strongly oppose NOAA’s recommendation of large buffers on agricultural lands, and one local recovery board group that has successfully used these funds to improve salmon survival in the upper Columbia River opposes mandatory buffers tied to these important salmon grant funds.

Let me be very clear. This amendment won’t cut Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funds, nor will it prohibit riparian buffers where they are appropriate, but it will ensure that NOAA does not make them a prerequisite for these funds to be awarded for on-the-

ground projects, respecting unique geographical priorities of agricultural areas and locally driven solutions to salmon recovery.

So, Mr. Chairman, I ask that this amendment be approved, so that the Federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funds, which have been proven effective over the years for farmers and local projects, will not be used as a backdoor way for NOAA to implement other controversial guidelines for these buffers.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, this is an attempt to authorize on an appropriations bill. These buffer zones that have been put in place under the expertise of NOAA have been part and parcel to making sure that the salmon in the hatchery system work properly. I think for us to delve into this at this point is difficult, and the wording is challenging.

Rather than deal with it here, I would ask if we could talk about it and see what we could do in conference, and that would be a good thing. I would hate for us, after having invested tens of millions of dollars in the salmon, to be taking a rash action here on the floor.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman, and I would like to work with you on this.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I respect that, but let me clarify what is going on here because the gentleman, with due respect, represents an urban area, and I represent a rural area. That is self-evident. That is not criticism. I am just pointing out the obvious.

Mr. FATTAH. In reclaiming my time, it is true that I represent an urban area, yes. I would be glad to continue to yield.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for that clarification.

I just want to make this point. These are suggested guidelines, and we have gone through this before. In fact, the EPA is working on this precisely.

□ 1930

I oppose what the EPA is doing, as a matter of fact, and most people on the ground.

I am just simply saying that through the funding mechanism, NOAA should not be able to impose these guidelines that have a great deal of controversy in the Pacific Northwest.

I know this is the start of this process. I know NOAA had some problems with the initial language. We changed that language now. They can’t say they

oppose this because this only affects particularly these guidelines that are being proposed.

So I think the amendment is something that needs to be passed, frankly, to send a message.

By the time we go through this process, if they want to have some other adjustments, when they make their adjustments, I would be more than willing to talk. But I think this amendment should be passed so we can send a message to NOAA.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, the United States taxpayers have invested a lot of money for the help of salmon in your neck of the woods. I am all for it. I like to make sure that whatever we are doing is correct. We have got treaty obligations. We have got hatcheries. We have got all kinds of stuff going on with both the Native Americans and the commercial fishermen operations there.

All I am saying is I don't want to come to the end of the night, after we have been debating this bill for 2 days, and rush something forward that may not be the way to go.

It is interestingly worded. I know that you have good intentions. I would like to work with you and the majority staff and see where we are. I just can't support this, given the complexities of the issues and the limitations of me being from an urban area. I want to make sure I have a complete grasp on the issue.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I appreciate that. I simply want to say that these are issues that I know are unique to mainly the Western part of the United States.

But in many respects, the gentleman made a statement that really supports my amendment. Because he said the American taxpayers are spending billions of dollars on salmon recovery. That is true. So are the ratepayers in the Bonneville power system. They are paying billions of dollars for salmon recovery.

The good news is the fish runs in the last 5 years have come back in record numbers.

To be very honest with you, these guidelines haven't been imposed, and the salmon are coming back. So why would you want to impose these buffer zones when it probably wouldn't add anything, and when a Federal court has said it is questionable science anyway.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, a lot of us would love to go out to dinner tonight and have salmon.

The issue for the science of this is that you can't make a mistake. This is a multiyear process. You have got a lot going on here. And if you blow it, you are going to blow it for a big industry that is important for America.

So I would like to work with you and make sure that we get it right. And the expertise of NOAA, I think, could be helpful in that process.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself the balance of my time.

I appreciate, again, the ranking member working with me. But I think this is sufficiently important that we should adopt this amendment.

Again, I will point out the American taxpayers, as have the ratepayers, spent billions of dollars recovering salmon.

The good news in the Pacific Northwest, as I mentioned, some of the salmon runs are coming back in record numbers in the last 4 or 5 years.

So if there is something that is before the final part of this bill becomes a law, and there needs to be some adjustment, I would be more than happy to talk about it. But I think it is sufficiently important to send a message right now to NOAA to not impose these guidelines when the evidence is contrary to what they are trying to do.

So I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DOYLE

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following:

SEC. __. Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, the United States Trade Representative, and United States International Trade Commission shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the following:

(1) The authorities of the Department of Commerce, the United States Trade Representative, and United States International Trade Commission, respectively, to impose sanctions against corporations or other legal entities that benefit from utilizing trade secrets or other information—

(A) obtained by such corporations or entities through cyber intrusions or other illegal methods; or

(B) provided to such corporations or entities by a national government, foreign intelligence service, or other entity using such means.

(2) If the Department of Commerce, the United States Trade Representative, or United States International Trade Commission does not have sufficient authorities described in paragraph (1), recommendations to improve or broaden the scope of such authorities to address the matters described in paragraph (1).

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Chairman, I want to start off by saying to my good friend the chairman that I plan to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, my good friend and colleague TIM MURPHY and I are offering this bipartisan amendment that directs the Department of Commerce, the United States Trade Representative, and the United States International Trade Commission to report to Congress on the sanctions they can bring against companies that benefit from information acquired by hacking into private computers in the United States.

The Justice Department recently indicted five Chinese military officers for stealing commercially valuable information from a number of companies in the United States. These indictments highlight what we have known for a long time: namely, that China and governments around the world are hacking into computers in the United States and using that information they steal for their own economic advantage.

These hackers have targeted the offices of Westinghouse, U.S. Steel, the United Steel Workers Union, Alcoa, Allegheny Technologies, and SolarWorld, five of which are located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The information they stole helped Chinese companies in negotiations or trade disputes with each of the targeted organizations. While these indictments are the first of their kind, businesses in the United States have been facing cyber attacks like this for years.

I would like to think that these cyber spies will be prosecuted and imprisoned for their actions at some point, but that won't do anything to reverse the damage that they have done. Congress needs to focus right now—today—on protecting the American workers and businesses who face these attacks every day.

I would urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support our amendment and begin taking the necessary measures to counter cyber espionage against American workers and businesses. This amendment would take the first step by determining whether the U.S. government has the tools it needs to do just that.

Let's send a clear message to bad actors around the world that the United States has the power and the will to punish those that engage in criminal trade practices.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I yield to my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank my friend, Mr. DOYLE.

On Monday, May 19, the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania filed an indictment against five members of the Communist Chinese military, affirming what I as chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus and other lawmakers have contended for quite some time. This indictment proves we are losing manufacturing jobs not because the U.S. stopped making great products, but because the Chinese Government is stealing ideas, inventions, and intellectual property straight out of western Pennsylvania.

The Chinese Government has hacked into our computers, stolen business blueprints, erected trade barriers, and manipulated currency markets to give state-owned enterprises an unfair and illegal advantage in the American marketplace.

For example, in 2010, as American factories were shutting down because of dumped and illegally traded Chinese pipe, Chinese agents were trying to cheat in court as well. The Chinese army hacked into computers at U.S. Steel and the United Steelworkers Union in 2010 to obtain privileged legal communications about the crucial unfair trade case then being litigated before the International Trade Commission on the oil country tubular goods from China.

This amendment will help us continue this effort and apply the same crackdown on trade crimes. By dumping sophisticated, high-cost oil country tubular goods onto the U.S. market, countries like China are in clear violation of their obligations under international trade agreements.

Western Pennsylvania—nor the rest of this country—won't be a welcome mat for the Chinese or any foreign competitor to walk over.

Mr. DOYLE. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman WOLF for his efforts and support. Hopefully, we can work together to achieve the goals of this amendment with language in the conference report or some other means.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield? Mr. DOYLE. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. This is one of the better amendments offered today. Frankly, I will do everything I can to make sure this is in the bill when it comes to the conference report.

If the Members would take the time to go out and look at the place where by you can see all the companies that are being hit, the Chinese are stealing jobs.

And so I thank Mr. DOYLE and Mr. MURPHY for offering this. I will do everything I can. I think the staff knows how strongly I feel. Mr. FATTAH has been a great help on these issues.

So if the amendment is ruled out of order, we will make sure that we try to

put it in the bill, and I thank both of you for offering it.

Mr. DOYLE. Reclaiming my time, I thank the chairman, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. I want to thank my colleagues from Pennsylvania.

And yes, the case that was referenced centered in Pennsylvania, and it is a case that is pending before our courts. I won't have much to say about it other than under our system, an indictment is merely a charge. We have to go through the process.

But the one thing that we do know—having nothing to do with the instant case—is Chairman WOLF has worked on this for a number of years. He has exposed all of us to information about this and arranged briefings from our highest levels of law enforcement officials in our country.

And clearly, there is a great deal of cyber snooping going on. It emanates from a number of different places, China included: Ukraine, Nigeria—we can go through the laundry list. But we have to do more to protect ourselves.

I want to thank the gentlemen from Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE and Mr. MURPHY, for bringing this amendment forward. As the chairman indicated, we will work with them in a way to make this as concrete as possible as we go forward.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____ (a) Each amount made available by this Act, except those amounts made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

(b) The reduction in subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the following accounts of the Department of Justice:

- (1) "Fees and Expenses of Witnesses".
- (2) "Public Safety Officer Benefits".
- (3) "United States Trustee System Fund".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin first by thanking Chair-

man WOLF for his patience. Every single year, as he has shepherded this appropriations bill, I have come to this floor and offered an amendment that would include a 1 percent across-the-board spending cut. He has been very gracious and very kind, even though he opposes. And even though I appreciate the good work that the committees have done to reduce spending and to get these levels down, I believe that we can do more—and that we should be doing more.

I think it is admirable that the committee is showing us a 0.8 percent reduction. But if we would pass my amendment, we would save another \$400 million. And that is a step that we need to take.

I think it is important to realize that this amendment exempts the \$8.5 billion budget that is for the FBI. We think it is important that they get that for their vital mission that they conduct every single day in protecting American citizens at home and abroad and in conducting the activities that do help to keep the homeland and our people safe.

My amendment will not affect the efforts that are combating terrorism, cyber crime, human trafficking or violent gangs. It is a targeted spending cut that will result in a savings to the taxpayers of over \$400 million.

□ 1945

Given the \$51 billion price tag of this bill, I do not feel that it is asking too much to cut a little bit more.

I think it is important to note also that across-the-board spending cuts have worked at the State level. There is no reason not to utilize them here in Washington.

We have heard from so many of our Governors and our mayors that have trumpeted the use of across-the-board spending cuts. We have heard Chris Christie, a 9 percent across-the-board spending cut; Rick Perry in Texas, a 5 percent savings.

We have Governor Cuomo, who was looking at reducing 10 percent across the board; Schweitzer in Montana, 5 percent across the board.

They work, and there is a reason they do—because it is an equitable cut.

Mr. Chairman, we are \$17 trillion in debt. This is something we can do for our children and our grandchildren and begin to responsibly roll back the amount that the Federal Government spends.

At this point in time, we are spending the money that our children have not made for programs that they do not want and will never, ever use. What we need to do is be wise stewards of the taxpayer dollar, now and in the future.

I also think this is an idea that the American people are beginning to support. I noted a recent poll—Washington Post-ABC News poll. This was March 6, 2013. Sixty-one percent of the American

public actually supports not a 1 percent or a 2 percent, but a 5 percent across-the-board cut in all Federal spending.

It is time for us to do a little more to save a little more, to make a few more spending reductions, and to think about what the addition of debt—piling on more debt does to our children and our grandchildren and to their futures.

It is, indeed, capping and trading our children's futures to the people that hold our publicly-traded debt.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly rise in opposition to the amendment. I understand what the gentleman is saying, and I think she makes a powerful case, but I think, to bring it back to this bill, the allocation for the bill already represents a cut of \$398 million below the FY14 level. Thirty-three individual programs have been terminated in the bill.

Moreover, and I will end with this, since the beginning of the 112th Congress, the allocation for Commerce-Justice-Science appropriation has been cut by \$13.1 billion, or over 20 percent, so you have had a 20 percent cut since the 112th.

As a result of that, I would ask for a "no" vote.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, on May 24, 2011, President Obama issued a memorandum on Federal fleet performance that requires all new light-duty vehicles in the Federal fleet to be alternative fuel vehicles, such as hybrid, electric, natural gas, or biofuel, by December 31, 2015.

My amendment echoes the Presidential memorandum by prohibiting funds in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act from being used to lease or purchase the new light-duty vehicles, except in accord with the President's memorandum.

This amendment has been supported by the majority and minority on appropriations bills eight times over the past few years, and I understand it will receive similar support today.

Our transportation sector is, by far, the biggest reason we send \$600 billion per year to hostile nations to pay for oil at ever-increasing costs, but America doesn't have to be dependent on foreign sources of oil for transportation fuel.

Alternative technologies exist today and, when implemented broadly, will allow any alternative fuel to be used in America's automotive fleet.

The Federal Government operates the largest fleet of light-duty vehicles in America. According to GSA, there are over 660,000 vehicles in the Federal fleet. By supporting a diverse array of vehicle technologies in our Federal fleet, we will encourage development of domestic energy resources, including biomass, natural gas, agriculture waste, hydrogen, renewable electricity, methanol, and ethanol.

When I was in Brazil a few years ago, I saw how they diversified their fuel by greatly expanding their use of ethanol. When people drove to a gas station, they saw what a gallon of gasoline would cost and what an equivalent amount of ethanol would cost and could decide which was better for them.

If they can do this in Brazil, then we can do it here. We can educate people on using alternative fuels and let consumers decide which is best for them.

Expanding the role these energy sources play in our transportation economy will help break the leverage over Americans held by foreign government-controlled oil companies and will increase our Nation's domestic security and protect consumers from price spikes and shortages in the world oil markets.

I also want to mention that Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and I have a bill which would mandate that, by a certain amount of time, all cars in America would be flex-fuel cars. We can build these cars for under \$100 per car, and I think it is ridiculous that we don't do it.

I want to thank Mr. WOLF and Mr. FATTAH for their courtesies, and I ask that the Engel amendment be supported.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. I want to thank the gentleman for bringing this amendment forward. It is so very important that our country move aggressively in this area.

As you travel around the world, you see other countries doing so much more in terms of renewable energy and utilizing cleaner energy sources.

In Ireland, it is wind energy. In France, it is nuclear. In Israel, you have solar along the Dead Sea. Morocco has got one of the largest solar operations.

One of the things that our government can do to save money, as was mentioned in the last discussion about the need to save money, is that we could be moving to a different type of fuel, and we also could be improving the circumstances under which the air that our grandchildren will breathe will be healthier.

I want to thank the gentleman for bringing this forward. There are vehicles that are coming forward that are going to be solar-powered and powered by other types of alternative fuel. Our military has been investing very significantly in this regard, in terms of aviation fuel.

There is work for us to do. We can actually do it together, Democrats and Republicans; and therefore, I rise in support of this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for operation, renovation, or construction at Thomson Correctional Facility in Illinois.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I do rise in support of my amendment to

shut down the Thomson Correctional Center in Illinois. The amendment would prohibit any funds being made available for operations, renovation, or construction at Thomson Correctional.

Section 529 of our CJS bill prohibits funds to construct, acquire, or modify a facility in the U.S. to house detainees. However, my amendment goes further, by not allowing any funds for operations at Thomson.

In addition, I recognize that CJS also prohibits the use of funds to transfer Guantanamo detainees to the U.S. However, the administration has proven resourceful at finding pots of money to achieve their goals.

Thomson Correctional Center is ground zero in this debate. As long as it remains operational, we run the risk of seeing Guantanamo Bay detainees on American soil.

One of the President's first acts in office was signing Executive Order 13492 on January 22, 2009, to close Guantanamo Bay detention center. The administration has attempted to purchase the facility since 2009 to hold these detainees.

We have the letter from December 15 to Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, which was signed by several administration officials, including Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, stating the following:

As the President has made clear, we need to continue to detain some individuals currently held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. To securely house these detainees, Federal agencies plan to work with me and other State officials to acquire the nearly vacant maximum security facility in Thomson, Illinois.

It later adds:

The Defense Department will operate part of the facility to house a limited number of detainees from Guantanamo.

Congress passed language in subsequent bills to prevent the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo prisons to the U.S. However, the administration, once again, went behind the intent of Congress and purchased the Thomson facility in 2012 for \$165 million, using money from various DOJ accounts. Supposedly, that was to combat prison overcrowding.

Mr. Chairman, today, the prison is still empty.

President Obama also requested \$43.7 million in his fiscal year 2014 budget to begin activating Thomson. I think that we all know that this administration intends to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center. When it is shut down, those detainees are going to go somewhere.

The handwriting is on the wall. President Obama, Hillary Clinton, and other Democrats have clearly stated their intent to bring those detainees to American soil.

I think that it is imperative that we accept this amendment and make certain that there is no money for operational funds for the Thomson facility.

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment and seek time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to voice my strong opposition to the amendment offered by the Congresswoman from Tennessee.

The amendment she offers that aims to deny funding for the Thomson Correctional Center in Thomson, Illinois, would not only negatively impact public safety and put our hardworking prison guards in harm's way, but it would also be a big disservice to our Nation's taxpayers.

On a personal level, it would also be another setback for Thomson, Illinois, and the surrounding communities that have been thirsting far too long for the good-paying jobs and the economic opportunity that will come with the long-awaited opening of this dormant facility.

□ 2000

When fully opened, the Thomson prison will create 1,100 jobs and will infuse more than \$200 million into our local community. But making sure this facility remains on track to open has very important ramifications for communities across our country as well.

Due to the shortage of prison bed space, high security prisons are today operating at 53 percent over capacity. This is especially alarming when considering that nearly nine out of every 10 high-security inmates have a history of violence. This overcrowding has put our hardworking prison guards and staff at facilities from coast to coast at risk of harm every day while they are on the job.

My husband ran our county jail for more than a decade, and I can tell you, I understand this on a very personal level.

Let me quote the Government Accountability Office, which says that overcrowding has affected Bureau of Prisons' "institutions, institution staff, and the infrastructure of Bureau of Prisons facilities, and has contributed to inmate misconduct, which affects staff and inmate security and safety."

Opening the Thomson prison will add critical high-security beds that will help alleviate overcrowding and make our prisons safer for guards, staff, and inmates.

In addition to increasing safety, opening the Thomson Correctional Center would also save taxpayers' hard-earned money. The cost of constructing a new facility comparable to Thomson would exceed \$400 million and take 3 to 4 years to complete. That is more than double the funding needed to open the existing Thomson facility.

In short, by purchasing Thomson from the State of Illinois, the Federal Government potentially saves the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Finally, the U.S. Attorney General has pledged, most recently at his House appropriations hearing, that no detainees from Guantanamo could or would be transferred to Thomson—zero, none. Additionally, there is language in the underlying bill that prohibits this. It is simply not going to happen. I repeat: it is not going to happen.

The Bureau of Prisons has already designated funding for the activation of Thomson prison, and local job hiring has already begun. We cannot turn the clock back now. To even make that attempt is a display of contempt for the American taxpayer.

The opening of the Thomson prison is good for prison guards. It helps relieve an overcrowded prison system and pays respect to our hardworking taxpayers who are seeking common sense, no more nonsense.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand with me in opposing this foolish and misguided amendment.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the amendment.

There are other priorities within the Bureau of Prisons, including bringing online two other recently constructed facilities and maintaining sufficient staffing levels at existing facilities to ensure safety.

I am also concerned—and I think what the problem is, if I could just maybe speak to the gentlelady from Illinois. I think if the administration were saying that there will never be any Guantanamo detainees transferred, but the problem is we see the veto threat on the DOD bill. No one is trying to hurt your community, and I commend you for fighting for it; but every time you begin to kind of say, okay, we will go that way, you then begin to see the veto threats. The administration has not set a veto threat to this bill but has expressed concern with regard to our Guantanamo Bay language.

And my sense is, if honestly, ethically, morally we were all convinced no Guantanamo Bay transfers—and, quite frankly, I don't think you want Khalid Sheikh Mohammed to come to your local community either. So I think you would probably agree with me as much as anything. But if there was convincing evidence that they were never going to be brought there, then I wouldn't have any problem.

But I think the gentlelady from Tennessee raises a very, very good, good point. And every time you come back

to that, it always comes back to, we are going to veto that.

So I think it is a good amendment. I guess the challenge would be: How could we remove this so that this does not become a problem? Eventually, I can understand. I think you make a legitimate case. But the hurdle is Members up here on both sides of the aisle believe that the administration ultimately will take people from Guantanamo to Thomson, and that becomes a problem.

If you could remove that risk whereby nobody will ever come back to it, then I think this problem would go away. Until that time, I think it is going to be a battle constantly, constantly, constantly. And I know that Senator DURBIN has made a strong effort, but there are some of us on this side who believe that it becomes a big political issue, too.

So if you can somehow make it whereby there is some convincing and not run the risk of, in 2 or 3 years from now, say, "Ah-hah, we have got you; we are going to take them there," then I think this problem would probably go away. But until that time, I support the gentlelady's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

Mr. LOEBSACK. I thank my good friend and colleague from Illinois, who has been a real leader on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, like Congresswoman BUSTOS, I rise in opposition to this amendment today. This amendment would harm our economy and would add greater stress to our prison system as well.

Iowans and Illinoisans have waited for years for a solution on the Thomson Correctional Center. For too long, politics in Washington—which I think is on display again tonight, unfortunately—got in the way of creating jobs in our region, and for me, it is in eastern Iowa. It is a type of partisan game that really must end. And I do appreciate the comments from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this.

The Thomson prison will bring more than 1,000 new jobs at a time when families badly need them and will spur economic development in our region. Money for this facility was included in the FY14 omnibus bill that we just passed in January, and it makes no sense to me to prevent progress on a facility that we just voted to enhance 4 months ago.

In addition to those economic benefits, I hope that I don't need to remind my colleagues of the fact that we have a capacity problem in our Nation's prisons. The problem only grows worse when we intentionally prevent more facilities from operating. And, again, while I understand the arguments that have been made tonight against it, those folks will not come here.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to remind my colleagues of a couple of things. Number one, going back to the letter dated December 15, 2009, it says in the letter: "The Defense Department will operate part of the facility to house a limited number of detainees from Guantanamo Bay."

Now, I have to ask my colleagues: Who do you think is going to be there? This is a prison that is empty. It is empty right now. We know what is going to happen. This is going to be used to receive Guantanamo Bay detainees.

The 9/11 families support this amendment. It is supported by these families. They do not want to see Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other detainees here on American soil. They do not want them to have access to our civilian court system. And passing this amendment will save us millions of taxpayer dollars that could end up being used not only to house, not only to give access to the courts, but to pay for lawyers to defend enemies who have taken up arms against our brave men and women in uniform.

It was clear from 2009 what the intent was. It said it in the letter: "The Defense Department will operate part of the facility to house a limited number of detainees."

I encourage support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Let me say a couple of things. One is I am opposed to this amendment.

Now, generally, I am opposed to us building new prisons. I think we would be much better off building new schools. But there are circumstances in which people have to be incarcerated to protect society from them.

I want to talk about one young man who lost his life, and I think it is important relative to this amendment. His name was Eric Williams. It was February of 2013. He worked for us. He worked for the Federal Government. He worked in a Federal prison in Pennsylvania, and he lost his life because of the overcrowding there.

So one of the things is that, if we are going to imprison more people than any other nation on the face of the Earth, then we have to do it. And we can't do it on the cheap. We have to have facilities that are well staffed so that our guards and the people who work for us are not put in unsafe circumstances.

Now, this political nonsense, this is a new theme of some of my colleagues on the other side. We can't pass immigration reform because the President might not do something or might do something. We can't do this prison that

we have already invested money in because the President might do something or not do something. So it is kind of like this hyperconcern about what the President may do.

We should do our job, and our job is that, if we want to take the prison census from 20,000 to 220,000, then we have to have the facilities. We can't stand on the floor and vote for prison sentences that go out years and decades, have people tried through the DOJ that we are funding, and then have no place to incarcerate them. It doesn't work that way.

So this amendment makes no sense, that you would have a facility that the taxpayers have paid for, you have a system that is overcrowded, you have people like Eric Williams who have lost their lives trying to do a job on behalf of the American public, and then we have politics intrude. This is not about criminal justice management. This is about politics. This is about, well, you know, Obama and this and that.

There is no place in America in which we can have a circumstance in which we incarcerate someone and make sure—we don't have any breakouts from Federal maximum security prisons. If you did, the Congress would be excited about it. It hasn't happened. So the idea that we can't incarcerate people safely is defied by the facts. What we can't do is safeguard our prison staff if we put them in a situation where overcrowding exists.

So I would hope that we would reject this amendment.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I would be glad to yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. It boils down to the issue of trust.

I was specifically told by the Justice Department that the Uighurs from Guantanamo Bay would not be released. We had a meeting in my office. The White House was there. They were all there. They said they will not be released.

We got a call from somebody in the administration who called us to say that the helicopters are getting ready and leaving Guantanamo. And, by the way, they have leased an apartment at Seven Corners. These were three people who had been picked up at Tora Bora in a camp.

I understand. I mean, if we could work this thing out, I would be happy.

So when you see the veto message, as the gentlelady from Tennessee said, the concern is that they will just blink and come and go. But they looked me directly in the eye and said: We will not release these inmates.

And then had I not gotten that telephone call—and, quite frankly, I think this person who stopped them from being released was the current mayor of Chicago, to his credit.

And so that is the concern we have. There needs to be a basic trust that if

somebody says something, there is absolutely no question that that is the word and it will never happen.

But I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, when I was back in school, I read a paper called "Metaphysical Madness," and the essence of it was that in politics the question was: How do you get ambitious, vindictive people to agree on something? That is how you make progress. Well, I don't know that we want to be vindictive. But the point here is that we still have to, in some way, come to a shared agreement about how this country is going to go forward.

If you think the majority leader of the U.S. Senate, who is from Illinois, is going to have this bill moved forward with this language in it, it is not going to happen. We are just asking for a bottleneck. So we should stop wasting time and find a way to go forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee will be postponed.

□ 2015

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HARPER). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Justice may be used to prevent a State from implementing its own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of industrial hemp, as defined in section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, my bipartisan amendment is very simple. It would move our country in line with industrialized countries around the world that long ago recognized the importance of industrial hemp as a natural resource, an agricultural commodity, and a versatile component in thousands of commercial products.

In fact, not only does this amendment bring America in line with much

of the rest of the industrialized world, it brings America back in line with its own history. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew it. The first drafts of our Constitution and many of our first laws were written on paper made from it. In fact, during World War II, the USDA encouraged patriotic American farmers to raise it for the war effort. They even produced a promotional film entitled "Hemp for Victory," and now at least 16 States have passed laws that will allow their farmers to grow it.

Unfortunately, the Federal Government stands in the way of family farmers who want to be able to grow industrial hemp. The senseless classification of hemp as a Schedule I drug does not further public safety, but it does rob our farm economies of a potentially multibillion dollar crop that can be used to make everything from rope to soap. In fact, it seems like the only thing you can't make out of hemp is dope.

Despite the fact that American farmers can't grow industrial hemp, hemp products here in this country account for nearly \$500 million in annual sales. Now, that is a sizable industry, but nothing compared to the economic impact that full-scale cultivation and commercialization would have if States were permitted to implement their laws and our hemp did not have to get imported from other countries.

This amendment would only allow farmers to grow hemp in accordance with their State's laws. It simply divests the Department of Justice and the DEA of their ability to treat industrial hemp like marijuana because it is not like marijuana. So far, 16 States have seen the value that hemp provides, and have passed laws to allow farmers to grow hemp and to closely regulate it.

Farmers in those States across the country are waiting for the Federal Government to get out of their way. But because the Department of Justice refuses to acknowledge what Washington and Jefferson knew—that hemp is an important agricultural commodity, it is not marijuana—these State laws must take a back seat to Federal overreach.

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and the American Farm Bureau Federation agree that we should allow our farmers to grow industrial hemp.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. The amendment seeks to fix a problem that does not exist. There is no restriction on use and transfer of domestically produced or traded indus-

trial hemp products or seed. They never sought a license. They have every right to do this had they got a license. And the DEA had a responsibility, as the Customs and Border Patrol does, to ensure that imports are legal and safe, including the imports of agriculture products. The responsibility falls to those who seek to import these products to secure necessary import licenses in a timely way to ensure Federal law enforcement can do its job and confirm that the commodity imported is legal.

There is no reason to restrict the exercise of this important law enforcement mission. So they never sought a license, and that is what the problem was.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, may I please inquire as to the remaining time?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Oregon has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. BONAMICI. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentlelady's courtesy as I appreciate her leadership on this.

The matter is that 22 States have moved to reduce the barriers, 17 States now, including our home State of Oregon, have removed barriers to production. But there is uncertainty. As a matter of fact, I think my friend from Kentucky may talk about a problem they had in the State of Kentucky now.

We need to approve this amendment to get the Federal Government out of the way of a revolution that is taking place at the State level. States across the country understand that this is an important commodity, it is part of our heritage, and it is part of our future. The DEA has more important things to do than interfere with legal activities at the State level.

We need to remove the cloud of uncertainty and approve this amendment, and I respectfully request that people approve it.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE), my cosponsor.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, officials in my home State of Kentucky were recently forced to file a lawsuit in Federal Court to compel the DEA to release industrial hemp seeds intended for a university research pilot program. What a waste of time, money, and the court system's limited resources.

States can't launch industrial hemp pilot programs if the DEA seizes the seeds before they reach their destination. And although the DEA did recently agree to release the seeds, they still insist that they have the authority to regulate industrial hemp—which

was clearly conveyed to the States in the farm bill.

Isn't it ironic that thousands of pounds of cocaine and heroin are somehow passing across our borders every week, yet the DEA thinks that seizing hemp seeds, industrial hemp seeds, is a worthwhile use of its time and resources? I say it is not.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) as a courtesy to my colleague to speak on the question of hemp.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania as well as the gentlewoman from Oregon and the gentleman from Kentucky.

I am very pleased to support both this amendment as well as a very similar one along with Representatives MASSIE, BLUMENAUER, BONAMICI, and BARR, thanking them for their leadership on a very commonsense issue that helps my home State of Colorado.

Last year, I was thrilled to be part of a successful effort to pass an amendment to the farm bill that allows colleges like Colorado State University in my district to grow hemp and cultivate hemp for academic and agricultural research purposes. But in no other instance can I think of urgent emails and texts that I have got from farmers where they are in dire straits and need my help in getting the seed they need to grow their crop approved through our own State Department of Agriculture.

Our current ag commissioner in Colorado is a former colleague of ours in this body, former Congressman John Salazar, as some of you may recall. He is our ag commissioner. They set up a rule process around industrial hemp farming. But farmers are unable to get the seed they need to be able to grow their legal crop.

Industrial hemp is critical for our economy. It is already used in countless products from clothing to a flag that is flown over this very United States Capitol last year to, in fact, some of the very first American flags, which were made of hemp. And yet we are forced to import it from other countries, driving jobs away from American agriculture and farmers to farms overseas.

It is really hard to grow industrial hemp when the DEA, without any clear reason, any argument, or any sense throws itself down as a roadblock to success. The DEA recently seized industrial hemp seeds intended for a university research pilot program. It is es-

sential that our institutions of higher education are not prevented from growing or cultivating hemp seed.

In addition, hemp, as we know, is an important agricultural commodity and a historic one. We can do a lot better as a country. That is why Representative BONAMICI and others are offering this very simple amendment which states that the DOJ and DEA cannot use funds to prevent State agricultural agencies and universities from growing industrial hemp in States where it is always legal.

Let us have access to the seed to ensure that we can continue to grow this crop here doing the research we need to ensure that the next great generation of hemp products that are bought and sold in our country are made in America. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Bonamici amendment as well as the Massie amendment. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania kindly.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, in the hope that perhaps whatever the circumstances that might emerge from these couple of amendments, maybe it might bring greater harmony in our country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. WOLF. I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I join him in opposition to this amendment.

Mr. Chair, the purpose of this amendment ostensibly is to make it easier to import seeds for the purpose of research with regard to growing or cultivating industrial hemp, and for that reason the amendment is unnecessary and inappropriate. Current law imposes no impediment to legitimate research on industrial hemp being carried out in accordance with section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Under current law, institutions of higher education and State Departments of Agriculture may import the seeds needed to conduct research authorized by section 7606 of the Agricultural Act.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Ms. BONAMICI. Parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentleman yield for a parliamentary inquiry?

Mr. GOODLATTE. I do not. I don't have enough time, I don't believe, to finish my remarks.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Such institutions of higher education or State departments of agriculture simply need to first become registered with the DEA as an importer or as a researcher and,

second, obtain an import permit authorizing the shipment of seeds.

The process is not burdensome. Within the last 10 days, the DEA registered two State departments of agriculture in Colorado and Kentucky to import industrial hemp seeds and issued an import permit to the Kentucky department of agriculture.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentleman yield for a parliamentary inquiry?

Ms. BONAMICI. It is a parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR. The Member having the floor would need to yield for a parliamentary inquiry to be entertained.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I do not yield, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman does not yield.

The gentleman from Virginia may proceed.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR. As the Chair stated, the gentleman from Virginia controls the time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I just want to make sure the record is clear. There are two amendments. It appears that the gentleman is talking about the other amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is not recognized.

The gentleman from Virginia may proceed.

Mr. GOODLATTE. This amendment would require the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to choose between ignoring existing law or barring all imports of seeds. Removing DEA from the registration and permit process without changing existing law would eliminate the only lawful means of importing Cannabis seeds for industrial hemp cultivation pursuant to section 7606.

To protect our Nation from the importation of potentially dangerous materials, our customs laws have always required the importer to demonstrate before the materials enter this country that the materials may lawfully be imported. In carrying out this function, the CBP consults with the appropriate government agencies, including the Department of Justice and the DEA. By cutting the DOJ and DEA out of this process, the amendment creates uncertainty and could potentially be construed to require CBP to allow any shipment by anyone to enter the U.S. as long as the shipper claims the goods are industrial hemp seeds. Since there is no way to tell just from looking at a bag of seeds whether they will actually yield Cannabis plants that fall within the TAT limits of section 7606, CPB, DOJ, and DEA consultation is important.

Requiring CBP to accept bare representations from anyone claiming to

be a legitimate importer exposes the possibility of others importing any item under the guise of industrial hemp. The existing permit and registration process provides some protection against that risk. For that reason, I would join in opposing the amendment.

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

□ 2030

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. FATTAH. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. FATTAH. There may be some confusion. The entire comments of the gentleman who just spoke, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, was on an amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE). That is not the amendment that was being debated and is being offered by my colleague from Kentucky, and we were trying to clarify that because the House could be confused.

The Acting CHAIR. In response to the inquiry, the Clerk will report the pending amendment.

The Clerk read the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the Investigative and Public Affairs Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation except for the Ten Most Wanted Fugitives, the Most Wanted Terrorists, and missing children programs.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, taxpayers should not foot the bill for the FBI to be consultants for Hollywood producers. However, this is the case with the FBI Investigative Publicity and Public Affairs Unit.

Although this unit does important work like publicize the Most Wanted Fugitives list, it also provides screen-

writers, as well as movie and TV producers, advice on costumes, props, scenery, and weapons, as well as b-roll footage and fact-checking.

Now, I am confident that Hollywood and their hundred-million-dollar production budgets can afford to hire ex-FBI agents to consult on their projects. It just seems to make good common sense.

This unit's activities and most of its \$1.5 million annual budget should be highlighted for what it really is, and that is Department of Justice waste.

If Hollywood can make millions from these movies and television shows, such as "Without a Trace," "CSI," and "The Closer," and also movies like "Shooter," featuring—and no relation I might add—Mark Wahlberg, that grossed over \$80 million, as well as "The Kingdom," which also grossed over \$80 million, it does not need, I believe, the American taxpayer and FBI to help fund its research.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support my amendment that simply states that no taxpayer funds can be used by the unit except—and I make this clear—it doesn't zero out the entire budget, but funds can only be used by this unit for the Ten Most Wanted Fugitives, the Most Wanted Terrorists, and missing children programs. I think it is a reasonable amendment, Mr. Chairman, and I ask for support of this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. It won't take long to make this point. All of us grew up during a time in which part of the ability to attract people to Federal service, particularly to law enforcement, were shows that highlighted the FBI and its prowess, but think about it today, in order to recruit people, in order to have job fairs and career fairs and to communicate information about the agency.

For instance, it is trying to recruit now people who can help in cyber crimes, and they have had a problem getting people who can get past some of the screening, so they have to do even more public relations in order to attract people who are capable of helping to build the cases like some of the ones which were discussed here earlier on the floor in which American companies were being cyber hacked and they were stealing essentially American jobs and wealth in that process.

I think, in this effort to separate the FBI from Hollywood, we might be separating the agency from its ability to promote itself. There is no Member of Congress that doesn't understand and appreciate the fact that there are times in which you need to be able to communicate with the public, and so it is the case with a Federal agency.

I think that the amendment—and I understand the impulse, and I am sure there is waste, and I can show you waste in the FBI and in any of these other agencies, but I don't believe that communicating with the American public is something that we should consider as wasteful. I, therefore, oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I would concur with the need to communicate; but, again, we are talking over 600 Hollywood projects, most of which are grossing millions of dollars, \$80 million, as I mentioned, for "Shooter," \$80 million for "The Kingdom."

It seems like, with that kind of grossing that is taking place, taxpayers shouldn't be on the bill to support the research that goes on. You have retired FBI agents, CIA, and others that can be brought in to do the research, as well as consult on these films.

We want accuracy, and yet we also understand that the taxpayer should only be footing the bill as necessary, and I don't think this is. Nothing against Mark Wahlberg or any others that are being used in these movies, especially with my name attached.

I still think the taxpayer deserves consideration here, and so I ask for this reasonable amendment to be supported. It allows the continued working on Most Wanted Fugitives and Most Wanted Terrorists and missing children programs. I think that is legitimate. Beyond that, I reject it. I ask for support of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local)

contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, just for the sake of perfect clarity, may I have the first few words of the amendment read.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the amendment.

Mr. GRAYSON (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is identical to other amendments that have been inserted by voice vote into every appropriations bill this year and last year that has been considered under an open rule.

This amendment would expand the list of parties the Federal Government is prohibited from contracting with because of misconduct on the part of those contractors. This list would include contractors who have been convicted of fraud; have violated Federal or State antitrust laws; who have been convicted of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, violation of Federal tax laws, and other items outlined in section 52.209-5 of title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

These are all offenses which any contractor doing business with the Federal Government must disclose to the contracting officer, but oddly enough, the contracting officer, absent this amendment, would then be free to ignore these transgressions and award contracts to the offending entities.

I commend the authors of this bill for their inclusion of sections 536 and 537. I still believe, however, that we can improve on the bill by prohibiting agencies from contracting with those enti-

ties who have engaged in the activities described above.

It is my hope that this amendment will remain noncontroversial, as it has been, and, again, will be passed unanimously by the House.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I accept the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. ROHRBACHER

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin, to prevent such States from implementing their own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in favor of my amendment, which would prohibit the Department of Justice from using any of the funds appropriated in this bill to prevent States from implementing their own medical marijuana laws. Twenty-nine States have enacted laws that allow patients access to medical marijuana and its derivatives, such as CBD oils.

It is no surprise then that public opinion is shifting, too. A recent Pew Research Center survey found that 61 percent of Republicans and a whopping 76 percent of Independents favor making medical marijuana legal and available to their patients who need it.

As I have said, 29 States have already enacted laws that will permit patients access to medical marijuana and their derivatives. By the way, 80 percent of Democrats feel the same way.

Despite this overwhelming shift in public opinion, the Federal Government continues its hard-line oppression against medical marijuana. For those of us who routinely talk about the 10th Amendment, which we do in conservative ranks, and respect for State laws, this amendment should be a no-brainer.

Our amendment gives all of us an opportunity to show our constituents that we are truly constitutionalists and that we mean what we say when we talk about the importance of the 10th Amendment.

In addition, this also gives us the opportunity to prove that we really do believe in respecting the doctor-patient relationship.

I proudly offer this amendment that has the support of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I am joined by Republican cosponsors DON YOUNG, TOM MCCLINTOCK, Dr. PAUL BROWN, STEVE STOCKMAN, and JUSTIN AMASH, as well as Democrat cosponsors SAM FARR, EARL BLUMENAUER, STEVE COHEN, JARED POLIS, BARBARA LEE, and DINA TITUS.

I urge my colleagues to support our commonsense, states' rights, compassionate, fiscally responsible amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I yield myself 1 minute.

The following national medical organizations are currently opposed to medical marijuana: American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, American Glaucoma Society, Glaucoma Research Foundation, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and American Psychiatric Association.

Also, recent research has demonstrated that marijuana use during teen years decreases IQ rates by an average of eight points.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

□ 2045

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose the amendment. My State is named in the amendment.

Look, everyone supports compassionate, effective medical care for patients with cancer, epilepsy, chronic pain. You will probably hear anecdotal reports, maybe even during the testimony this evening, about how medical marijuana can solve some of these problems.

There are two problems with medical marijuana. First, it is the camel's nose under the tent; and second, the amendment as written would tie the DEA's hands beyond medical marijuana.

With regard to the camel's nose under the tent, let me just quote from

the DEA report just published this month: Organizers behind the medical marijuana movement did not really concern themselves with marijuana as a medicine. They just saw it as a means to an end, which is the legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes. They did not deal with ensuring that the product meets the standards of modern medicine: quality, safety, and efficacy.

Because, Mr. Chairman, the term "medical marijuana" is generally used to refer—and this is from the NIH. We respect the NIH. This is the National Institute on Drug Abuse: The term "medical marijuana" is generally used to refer to the whole, unprocessed marijuana plant or its crude extracts.

Mr. Chairman, that is not what medicine is about. Medicine is about refining the components THC and CBD, actually making sure they are efficacious, giving the exact dose, not two joints a day, not a brownie here, a biscuit there. That is not modern medicine. In fact, the DEA supports those studies, looking at the safety and efficacy and dosing regimens for these, THC, CBD. They have licensed some of the drugs.

Mr. Chairman, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, medical and street marijuana are not different. Most marijuana sold in dispensaries as medicine, again reading from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, is the same quality and carries the same health risks as marijuana sold on the street.

Mr. Chairman, we know there are health problems. The problem is that the way the amendment is drafted, in a State like Maryland which has medical marijuana, if we ever legalized it, the amendment would stop the DEA from going after more than medical marijuana.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. We have 2½ minutes each.

I yield 1 minute to my colleague from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chair, I am not here to talk about brownies and biscuits. I am here to talk about a serious medical issue, cannabidiol, the CBD oil that comes from the cannabis plant. It is very low in THC and is nonpsychoactive. Research has shown very promising results in children with epilepsy, autism, and other neurological disorders. CBD oil is also showing promising results in adults with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and PTSD.

We need to remove the roadblocks to these potential medical breakthroughs. This amendment would do that. The Federal Government should not countermand State law. In this case, the absurd result of that is that medical discoveries are being blocked.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. FLEMING.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, let me say that in this discussion you may have heard reference to the 10th Amendment and the Commerce Clause. Let me address that. I want to get that out of the way, because I have talked tremendously over the past few days and weeks about the dangers of marijuana.

This controversy came before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2005 in *Gonzales v. Raich*. The Supreme Court reviewed the Federal Government's authority to enforce the Controlled Substances Act. In a 6–3 decision, Justice Scalia, a strong states' rights advocate, concurred with the majority ruling that the CSA does not violate the Commerce Clause or the principles of State sovereignty.

Just to read what he said:

Not only is it impossible to distinguish controlled substances manufactured and distributed intrastate from controlled substances manufactured and distributed interstate, but it hardly makes sense to speak in such terms.

Drugs like marijuana are fungible commodities, as the Court explains marijuana that is grown at home and possessed for personal use is never more than an instant from the interstate market, and this is so whether or not the possession is for medicinal use or lawful use under the laws of a particular State.

Again, if we want to make a statement principle on the Tenth Amendment, fine, but don't do it on the backs of our kids and our grandkids. This is dangerous for them. How do we know this? The health risks: brain development, schizophrenia, increased risk of stroke. A study at Northwestern University recently showed profound changes in the brain just in casual marijuana users. Heart complications, three times normal in such use. Recent studies shows, as I said, not only damage in certain structures in the brain, but the same structures that attend to motivation, which again underlines the amotivational syndrome that we have all heard about.

So again, it is settled law. The Supreme Court has already spoken on the constitutionality of this. It is settled when it comes to medicine. We hear anecdotal stories, but there is no widespread accepted use of marijuana, medicinal marijuana and so forth. There is no acceptance of this by the medical community. It is not evidence-based.

Fine, if you want to do research on it, but this will take away the ability of the Department of Justice to protect our young people.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Virginia has expired.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN), our doctor in the House. We do believe in the doctor-patient relationship and that the government shouldn't interfere.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I am a family physician and an addictionologist. Marijuana is addicting if it is used improperly. But used medically, and there are very valid medical reasons to utilize extracts or products from marijuana in medical procedures, it is a very valid medical use under the direction of a doctor. It is actually less dangerous than some narcotics that doctors prescribe all over this country.

Also, this is a states' rights, states' power issue, because many States across the country—in fact, my own State of Georgia is considering allowing the medical use under the direction of a physician. This is a states' rights, Tenth Amendment issue. We need to reserve the states' powers under the Constitution.

Please support this amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word, and I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I am listening to our friends on the other side of the aisle in opposition here and the notion about camel's nose, this train has already left the station. Eighteen years ago, the State of California voters approved medical marijuana. We now have 22 States that are doing so.

My good friend from Georgia is right. I mean, there are a million Americans now with the legal right to medical marijuana as prescribed by a physician. The problem is that the Federal Government is getting in the way. The Federal Government makes it harder for doctors and researchers to be able to do what I think my friend from Louisiana wants than it is for parents to self-medicate with buying marijuana for a child with violent epilepsy.

This amendment is important to get the Federal Government out of the way. Let this process work going forward where we can have respect for states' rights and something that makes a huge difference to hundreds of thousands of people around the country now and more in the future.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment as a coauthor of it and to point out this is six Democrats and six Republicans that are authoring this. There are 33 States, three

of which have just passed laws and the Governors have indicated they will sign them.

This is essentially saying, look, if you are following State law, you are a legal resident doing your business under State law, the Feds just can't come in and bust you and bust the doctors and bust the patient. It is more than half the States. So you don't have to have any opinion about the value of marijuana. This doesn't change any laws. This doesn't affect one law, just lists the States that have already legalized it only for medical purposes, only medical purposes, and says, Federal Government, in those States, in those places, you can't bust people. It seems to me a practical, reasonable amendment in this time and age.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chair, for the District of Columbia and 22 States, including Nevada, with laws in place allowing the legal use of some form of marijuana for medical purposes, this commonsense amendment simply ensures that patients do not have to live in fear when following the laws of their States and the recommendations of their doctors. Physicians in those States will not be prosecuted for prescribing the substance, and local businesses will not be shut down for dispensing the same.

I urge you vote in favor.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentlewoman from Oakland, California, Congresswoman LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan amendment, which I am proud to cosponsor along with my colleagues. This amendment will provide much-needed clarity to patients and businesses in my home State of California and 31 other jurisdictions that provide safe and legal access to medicine. We should allow for the implementation of the will of the voters to comply with State laws rather than undermining our democracy.

In States with medical marijuana laws, patients face uncertainty regarding their treatment, and small business owners who have invested millions creating jobs and revenue have no assurances for the future. It is past time for the Justice Department to stop its unwarranted persecution of medical marijuana and put its resources where they are needed.

In States with medical marijuana laws, people with multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, cancer, HIV, and AIDS and other medical issues continue to face uncertainty when it comes to accessing the medicine that they need to provide some relief. So it is time to pass this. It is time to give these patients the relief that they need.

This is the humanitarian thing to do, it is the democratic thing to do, and I hope this body will vote for it and pass

it on a bipartisan basis. It is long overdue. Enough is enough.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words, and I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, Dr. HARRIS.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, marijuana is neither safe nor legal. Let's get it straight. The Controlled Substances Act makes marijuana in the United States illegal because it is not safe.

□ 2100

Mr. Chairman, there is more and more evidence every day that it is not safe. The effect on the brains, developing brains of teenagers and young adults, is becoming more and more clear, as the doctor from Louisiana has talked about, the effect on affect, the effect on mood; it is not safe.

Mr. Chairman, this is not a medicine. This would be like me as a physician saying: You know, I think you need penicillin, go chew on some mold. Of course I wouldn't do that. I write: for 250 milligrams of penicillin q.6 hours times 10 days. I don't write: chew on a mold a couple of times a day.

Mr. Chairman, why don't we have therapeutic tobacco? Nicotine, one of the substances in tobacco, purified is actually useful as a drug to treat autosomal dominant nocturnal frontal lobe epilepsy. Nobody writes a prescription: smoke a couple of cigarettes and cure your epilepsy. But that is what we are being asked to do.

Mr. Chairman, worse than that, this blurs the line in those States that have gone beyond medical marijuana. For instance, in Colorado, under Amendment 64, a person can grow six plants under the new law for general use, but if it is medical marijuana you can grow as many plants as you want as long as you can prove you have a medicinal use.

So how is the DEA going to enforce anything when, under this amendment, they are prohibited from going into that person's house growing as many plants as they want, because that is legal under the medical marijuana part of the law, not under the new law?

Mr. Chairman, this is not the right place for this. The Ogden memorandum from this administration clearly states that the Department of Justice does not prioritize prosecution for medical marijuana—clearly states it. They don't do it. This is a solution in search of a problem that opens many other doors to the dangers of marijuana.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. FLEMING.

Mr. FLEMING. May I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend, Mr. WOLF.

Look, first of all, let's be clear, marijuana is an addicting substance. It is schedule I, it is against Federal law, it was passed that way into the CSA in 1970.

What this amendment would do is, it wouldn't change the law, it would just make it difficult, if not impossible, for the DEA and the Department of Justice to enforce the law.

Members on my side have been criticizing President Obama for selective enforcement of ObamaCare and for immigration and other laws like that. So now we are going to start going down the road of selective enforcement for our drug policy.

Medicinal marijuana, what is it exactly? Folks, I can tell you it is nothing more than the end run around the laws against the legalization of marijuana. There is nothing medical or medicinal about it. It is not accepted by physicians. Oh, somebody claims it may do something for glaucoma, perhaps. Well, maybe it will, maybe it won't. But there are a lot more drugs that do a much better job than that and they are much safer.

But the most important thing I want everybody to know, Mr. Chairman, today is the fact that marijuana is highly addicting. It is the most common diagnosis for addiction in admissions to rehab centers for young people. Why in the world do we want to take away drug enforcement and leave our young people out there vulnerable? Yes, you say it can only be used by adults. Well, if it is sitting around on shelves at home the kids are going to get into it. We are already hearing about Colorado fourth-graders dealing with it. We hear about more poisonings in the emergency room.

If you look at other places that have gone down this road like Alaska, they retracted from their legalization. So I don't think we should accept at all that this is history in the making and that we are never going to go back. You look at Amsterdam, they put a lot more restrictions back in the control even in that very, very liberal nation.

So for that and many reasons I would just say tonight from a legal standpoint this amendment would not be constitutional. Our laws are currently constitutional, as found so in 2005 by the Supreme Court. And this is an extremely dangerous drug for our children and future adults and future generations.

Mr. WOLF. I yield the remainder of my time.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Is this the close of the debate?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is correct.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, this is the most incredible debate we have had. Over half the States have already gone through every argument that was presented and decided against what you just heard. There are doctors

at every one of those States that participated in a long debate over this and found exactly the opposite of what we have heard today.

Some people are suffering and if a doctor feels that he needs to prescribe something to alleviate that suffering, it is immoral for this government to get in the way, and that is what is happening. The State governments have recognized that a doctor has a right to treat his patient any way he sees fit, and so did our Founding Fathers.

I ask for support of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHR-ABACHER).

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. . . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons to solicit, offer, or award a contract in which the federal government is required to provide a minimum number of inmates to a private correctional institution or a private detention center.

Mr. GRAYSON. For avoidance of data, I would like to have the first few words of the amendment read, please.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is simple. It prohibits the Federal Bureau of Prisons from soliciting, offering, or awarding a contract—and by the way, I am talking about a new contract, not an existing contract—to a for-profit prison that guarantees the number of prisoners that will be housed there.

I believe it is not only bad policy but fundamentally immoral to guarantee that our government will incarcerate a specific number of people so that a for-

profit entity can guarantee its profit margin. Whether or not we agree on the main impetus for incarceration—punishment, rehabilitation, or some combination of both—I would hope that we can all agree that a perverse conflict of interest, such as the one that this amendment addresses, should not be allowed to exist to be able to guarantee a profit on human bodies.

This amendment seeks to eliminate any potential for a repeat of the “kids for cash” scandal that unfolded in 2008. In that instance, two judges from Pennsylvania accepted money from the builder of two private for-profit juvenile facilities in return for imposing harsh sentences on juveniles brought before their courts. All told, those two individuals received \$2.6 million in payments from the managers at that company.

American citizens’ freedom and the length of a convicted person’s prison sentence should never be a line item on a business sheet. I would hate to imagine a world in which certain segments of our society could honestly question whether or not they are being targeted purely for filling an incarceration quota guaranteed to a for-profit prison.

Let me be clear. I may not like for-profit prisons, but this amendment would not ban them nor would it have any effect on existing contracts that the Federal Government has already entered into. What it does do is it bans a practice of guaranteeing under new contracts a specific number of human beings that will be jailed or imprisoned in a given year. I think that is wrong. I hope that you do too.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I am concerned what this means for the Bureau of Prisons. I am inclined to maybe take the amendment. I think that is one of the concerns, somebody comes in without knowing.

Mr. GRAYSON. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. The author of this amendment, namely me, is open to whatever ameliorating second order amendments the gentleman may care to offer. I think we may be on the same wavelength here, and I would not oppose a second order amendment if the gentleman so sought one.

Mr. WOLF. Well, we may be, and I think that is probably not a bad idea.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the full Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I have reservations about this that are

very significant. I would oppose this amendment very strongly in its current form.

All private prison contracts provide for a guaranteed population. Without this, the contractors would operate at a significant risk which could only be addressed by significantly raising their annual operating cost, and also such language would adversely impact competition. Would contractors be willing to propose a 1,000 bed facility without guaranteed minimums for private prison services? Lack of competition would likely result in higher costs.

But here is the thing. The Federal Bureau of Prisons has both prisons operated by the government and prisons that they privately contract for. So there is never an instance where they are going to house somebody just for the purpose of meeting the obligations here. If the prison population declines and they have a contractual obligation to house them in the private prison, they will reduce the population in the government-operated facility.

The Bureau of Prisons certainly wants to retain the ability to strategically prepare and issue solicitations which allow for guaranteed population minimums.

Also, with regard to children, there are so few children in the Federal prison population because we don’t want to put them in a Federal-operated prison with adults, we usually contract out for the incarceration of juveniles. To pass this amendment would make that increasingly more difficult.

Mr. GRAYSON. Will the gentleman yield for a question again?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Would the gentleman agree that the gentleman’s principles of guaranteeing a contract to the prison companies can be achieved by simply giving them a certain dollar amount in the contract, which I will concede my amendment does not prohibit? All my amendment prohibits is guaranteeing a certain number of bodies. Would the gentleman concede that allowing them to get their guaranteed contract through dollar amounts would achieve the same purpose, and would the gentleman concede that this amendment allows that?

Mr. GOODLATTE. First of all, let me say that it would not achieve the purpose of having a competitive bid process for the operation of prisons. Because if you would accept that premise you would have the Federal Government offering contracts; then if they are not utilizing those contracts the taxpayers are going to suffer the loss as a result of that.

As long as the Federal Government, which operates a very large prison system, has both publicly-run facilities and privately contracts you are not going to have the problem that the gentleman’s amendment is concerned

about addressing, and that is somehow people being incarcerated simply for the purpose of meeting the contractual obligations.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I am going to rise in opposition to the amendment. There are just so many questions. I think Chairman GOODLATTE raises them.

We are open to work with you as we go through it. It is quarter after 9. Nobody is there at the Bureau of Prisons. We are not going to get a constructive answer, and we don't want to do something that causes damage.

One, I am going to oppose the amendment. Mr. GOODLATTE was so convincing.

And secondly, we will be willing to work with you though to see. Because I understand what you are trying to do, and I am sort of sympathetic to it. But for now with the way it is drafted I will oppose the amendment and ask for a "no" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2115

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but the prison system that the Federal Government is operating, which has been growing exponentially over the last decade, will have gobbled up—by the time we pass this bill—about a fourth of the DOJ's budget. This is like the Pac-Man arcade game that keeps eating money.

Now, there are very interesting things going on in the land. There are Democrats and Republicans. There are the most conservative people in our country and the most liberal who are saying things that are fascinating, like we need to stop incarcerating so many people, that America really should not be the leading nation in the world in the percentage of people that we put in jail and that maybe we need to rethink part of what we are doing.

We have the problem of having very violent criminals we don't seem to have enough prison space for because we are locking up nonviolent people for things that we should probably find some way to have diversions for.

We have had multiple amendments today for diversion programs. You might not want to call them that, but that is what they are—drug courts, veterans courts. These are vehicles by which to divert people from the prison system because we know something about the prison system.

We know that, if you put people in there, the most likely circumstance is that they are going to go back again and again and again and that they are going to go back for increasingly more serious and more violent activities be-

cause the one thing that is happening in the prisons is that they are becoming involved in a vocation that is essentially antisocial.

I am not dealing with the amendment itself because the chairman is right, in that we need to know what it says, and we need to act in a responsible way, but we should not be, in any way, under some illusion that we are going to continue, as a country, to just put more and more people away.

It doesn't make sense, and as politicians who are supposed to be leading the most powerful nation in the world, we need to start to make some sense on this point.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the gentleman. That is why, last year, we launched an overcriminalization of Federal law task force. We are looking at prison overpopulation and who is getting sentenced and what kind of alternative sentencing should be looked at and what kind of attention should be given to prisoners when they are in prison, so that we reduce the recidivism rate, which also can reduce the prison population.

As to one of the things I think we should do, there are a number of States that are seeing declining populations in their prisons, and they are not getting high recidivism rates. We should be looking at those States and finding out what they are doing.

Mr. FATTAH. In reclaiming my time, I can tell you that those are States that the chairman and the former ranking member, Mollohan—and now myself—have been investing in, in the Justice reinvestment programs, that help States think through how to do just that and operate a more safe environment for their people.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the gentleman will withdraw his amendment and work with the chairman and me, and we will see to what degree we might be able to meet his concerns.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, based upon the kind representations of the Chair and based upon the kind representations of the ranking member, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HOLDING

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, add the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer or temporarily assign employees to the Office of the Pardon Attorney for the purpose of screening clemency applications.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Chairman, my amendment prohibits funds from this bill from being used to transfer or to detail employees to the Office of the Pardon Attorney.

The President possesses the constitutional authority to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States. However, in the first 5 years of this President's administration, President Obama granted fewer pardons and commutations than any of his recent predecessors.

Earlier this year, the Deputy Attorney General took the unprecedented step of asking the defense bar for assistance in recruiting candidates for executive clemency, specifically Federal drug offenders.

The Justice Department intends to beef up its pardon attorney's office to process applications for commutations of sentence for Federal drug offenders. This is clear, and this amendment would prohibit that.

The Constitution gives the President the pardon power, but the fact that the President has finally chosen to use that power and to use it solely on behalf of drug offenders shows that this is little more than a political ploy by the administration to bypass Congress yet again.

This is not as the Founders intended, an exercise of the power to provide for exceptions in favor of unfortunate guilt, but the use of the pardon power to benefit an entire class of offenders who were duly convicted in a court of law and is serving a sentence. It is also just the latest example of executive overreach by this administration.

I am urging the support of this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, this is impractical. If there were a resignation in the office and if you needed to have a temporary detailee, it would be prohibited from this amendment. The last thing we would want is the President using such extraordinary power without the benefit of proper staff and due diligence.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, no one denies the constitutional power of the President to grant clemency. The question here is whether this power is being used by the President of the United States as a way around the enforcement of the law as passed by the Congress when you invite mass representations of defense attorneys that thousands of their clients are entitled to have clemency granted to them. That is not a proper use of this power, and the Congress should not fund that office for that purpose.

I think the gentleman's amendment is well-advised, and I strongly support it, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Holding amendment.

Mr. HOLDING. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING).

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLORES

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement Executive Order 13547 (75 Fed. Reg. 43023, relating to the stewardship of oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes), including the National Ocean Policy developed under such Executive Order.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer a simple amendment to address an overreach by the executive branch of our government.

My amendment bans the use of Federal funds for the implementation of Executive Order No. 13547. Executive Order No. 13547, signed in 2010, requires that 63-plus bureaucracies essentially zone the ocean and the sources thereof.

This amendment addresses a critical executive branch encroachment into the powers of Congress as set forth in our Constitution. The activities being conducted under E.O. 13547 have not been authorized by Congress, nor have appropriations been made by Congress to fund these activities.

Mr. Chair, since 2010, this body has voted several times in support of this amendment in a bipartisan manner. Today, I am offering this amendment, again, because concerns have been raised that the effects of the recently created National Ocean Policy may extend well beyond restricting the ocean and inland activities.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlelady from California (Mrs. CAPPES).

Mrs. CAPPES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this harmful amendment. This amendment would cripple the important ocean planning efforts supported by the National Ocean Policy.

Our oceans are not just important to coastal regions, like the one I represent on the central coast of California, but they are important to our Nation as a whole, and the many uses of the ocean, such as tourism, shipping, fishing, and construction, are increasingly complex and require a cohesive decisionmaking process.

That is why I support funding for the National Ocean Policy, which simply aims to coordinate marine activities in harmony with existing laws. By reducing redundancies and conflicting government actions, we can remove burdens on ocean stakeholders and better focus our efforts on the more serious issues jeopardizing ocean health, and we can give our local communities the ability to make informed choices about how they use their marine environments.

A vote against the National Ocean Policy is a vote against government efficiency through smart ocean planning.

I urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this.

I was around when this National Ocean Policy was before Congress and was heard in the committee. In fact, the commission that created it was created by Congress, and the members were appointed by President George Bush, and those members included members of the oil and gas industry.

They came up with recommendations that we need to do the conflicts of sea resolution, and that is what the National Ocean Policy does. It gets all of the Federal agencies together, and because they are together and can talk about what they each do when they are in conflict, the priorities it supports are consistent with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, which is supported by Governor Perry and the Gulf State Governors.

It supports activities at Texas A&M, as they have signed a letter opposing any legislation that would undermine the National Ocean Policy. It affects the Texas coastal programs based in Houston, and they have also signed a letter in opposition to this amendment.

A local example of National Ocean Policy work is with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Navy, NOAA, the U.S. Geological Survey, and NASA. They have all worked on sensitive shorelines just north and south of Houston, which are key destinations for birders and beachgoers. They were able to resolve the critical conflicts between these agencies. Also, it would have an impact on the Port of Houston.

So there are reasons you want to avoid a conflict of interest. This is a great one with which to do it. We do it in law enforcement, we do it in firefighting, and we ought to do it with our conflicts in the oceans. Oppose this amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlelady from the great State of Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Thank you for yielding me the time and for recognizing that it is the great State of Maine.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment, which would block funding for the implementation of the National Ocean Policy.

This important policy seeks to improve the coordinated management of our oceans and coasts to address the most pressing issues facing our oceans, our resources, and our coastal communities. I happen to live on an island 12 miles off the coast of Maine, so I am well aware of the need for the improved coordination between Federal agencies and the inclusion of stakeholders in the policymaking process.

The National Ocean Policy brings together a variety of agencies at a single table, and it improves government efficiency and decision outcomes.

The work and research conducted under the National Ocean Policy supports tens of millions of jobs, which, in turn, generate billions of dollars for our coastal communities.

□ 2130

For example, in Maine, working waterfronts are critically important to Maine's coastal economy. These working waterfronts are critical for a variety of water-dependent activities, like ports and fishing docks, that are at the heart of our coastal culture and economy.

These water-dependent businesses, many of which are icons in Maine, are struggling to maintain their access to water in the face of increasing development pressure.

The National Ocean Policy will provide a framework to preserve waterfront access to traditional groups like fishermen. It is an extremely important issue for fishermen and the residents of Maine.

One of the constituents in my district, Richard Nelson, a lobsterman, says: "The ocean is our workplace, our cultural heritage, and it economically sustains us and our extended communities."

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting wise stewardship of our Nation's oceans and our ocean economy by opposing this amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming the balance of my time, without oceans that are alive and healthy, we are going to be challenged ourselves to live.

Our Nation has the responsibility for the greatest amount of oceans anywhere in the world. It is tough being the United States of America. We have some responsibility.

We now, for the first time ever, have an ocean policy, and the gentleman offers a proposal to prohibit the implementation of a policy to create better health for our coastal communities and for our oceans.

I reject the amendment, and hope that the House would do likewise.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 3¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I think now that you have heard the arguments against my amendment, it is important to set the record straight as far as what the real history was.

Congress did pass an act to establish a National Ocean Commission. That Commission was appointed by President Bush. And it made recommendations, but it did nothing else.

Those recommendations were considered by the 108th, 109th, 110th, and 111th Congresses, and Congress elected to take no action on those recommendations. Therefore, it is the intent of Congress that no further activity take place.

The President has wired around Congress by signing this executive order to establish a commission to empower 63 agencies to go spend money for which no funds have been appropriated and under which it has no statutory authority.

I have got 93 interests that include fishing, agricultural, farming, energy, and other industries that are concerned about the impact of this Federal overreach.

Again, this is a simple amendment that just stands up for the constitutional rights of this Congress to create the statutes under which this activity can be conducted.

We may not be against ocean planning. What we are for, though, is for the Constitution and to stand up for our congressional rights to enact the statutes related to this activity.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 541. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enforce section 221 of title 13, United States Code, with respect to the American Community Survey.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, the American Community Survey, first of all, is not the Census. What it is is a survey conducted by the Census Bureau of a portion of the American population every year. It has 48 questions, and those questions are intrusive.

There is, in my opinion, intimidation by the Community Survey workers to get this information from citizens.

A single mother in my district told me one of the workers came by her house and started peeping in the window, knocking on the door, and sat in the street waiting for her to come home from work to get this information from her.

The information is intrusive. It violates the right of privacy, in my opinion. It asks questions like: How many times have you been married? Does anyone in your household have a mental problem? What time do you go to work? And: How many toilets do you have?

It is 48 very intrusive questions.

My amendment is very simple. It prohibits the Federal Government from enforcing a potential fine against a person for failure to fill out this information. Right now, if a person doesn't fill out this information, Community Survey workers tell the citizen that they can be fined \$5,000.

Do we really want to fine Americans \$5,000 for not telling the government how many toilets they have in their home?

There are other ways this information can be gathered by the government without being intrusive and without violating the right of privacy.

I would ask Members to support my amendment to prohibit a fine being imposed on the American Community Survey, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. I will not take more than 50 seconds.

Simply put, the notion that we as a country are better off having less infor-

mation defies most logic that I can think of at this hour of the night.

I think more information is probably good, and I would ask that we vote against this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I would make this simple comment. This information can be gathered by other means without violating the right of privacy of citizens, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas.

As a longtime supporter of the Census Bureau's work and the American Community Survey, I urge the Committee to keep this survey as current law provides.

The ACS is a vital resource for all of us in Congress, the federal agencies, and private businesses.

The accurate, timely data collected through this survey is the basis for over \$415 billion allocated by the federal government to states and localities—over two-thirds of all federal grant funding.

Accurate data ensures that these federal dollars go where they are needed—and where Congress intended. This amendment would undermine the accuracy of the ACS and deprive our agencies of this vital information.

But it's not just government. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its members know the value of census data. The Chamber stated that "ACS data points are critical for business decision-making and long range planning."

Businesses from restaurants, to retailers, to developers know that accurate information about our population is critical for their marketing and expansion activity. This amendment would remove a crucial recourse that helps businesses expand and create jobs.

What's more, we know what would happen if this amendment passes.

In 2003, the Census Bureau tested a voluntary ACS to disastrous results. Response rates plummeted by at least 20 percent, and in 2012, the Bureau estimated that a voluntary survey maintaining the current reliability would cost taxpayers an additional \$120 million each year.

A voluntary response survey would especially undermine our information about rural areas and low-income households. The Census Project estimates that with the change proposed by this amendment, the Bureau could not publish data for up to 40 percent of all counties in the country.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to look beyond the quick headline or talking point, and truly understand the importance of the American Community Survey.

For policymakers, for researchers, for businesses—this data set helps answer our most pressing questions.

This misguided amendment will undermine the ACS and deprive all Americans of this critically important information.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of bill, before the short title, add the following new section:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act for the "DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE—ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEALS" may be used in contravention of sections 509 and 510 of title 28, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is a simple amendment, as well, that I can imagine nothing more than bipartisan support for.

First of all, I want to again thank the chairman, Mr. WOLF, and the ranking member, for their steadfastness and leadership on this appropriations bill, and to again acknowledge Mr. WOLF in his service and tenure not only to his district, but to the Nation.

I believe that we all have come for the common understanding that this Nation is founded on principles of due process and justice, and as well the recognition that we have a system of criminal justice laws that there are people who will be incarcerated.

I am very glad that I serve on the Judiciary Committee, where my chairman, Chairman GOODLATTE, along with Ranking Member CONYERS, established an overcriminalization task force.

With that in mind, it is to discuss how you look at laws and be fair to the individual that may be the victim, but also the person that was the perpetrator, or to look at the different charges and various offenses and determine whether or not today, in 2014, they are still appropriate.

My amendment is an amendment that addresses the question of the existing authority of the Attorney General to manage executive responsibilities under 28 U.S.C. 509 and 28 U.S.C. 510 as relates to authorizing the performance by any other officer and as it relates to all functions of agencies and employees.

It speaks to the question of prison overcrowding. It is straightforward, as I indicated. It makes a positive contribution to the problem.

The United States incarcerates nearly 25 percent of the world's inmates, even though it only has 5 percent of the world's population. Thirty years ago, there were less than 30,000 inmates in the Federal system. Today, there are nearly 216,000—an increase of 800 percent.

Mr. Chairman, I have worked on this issue for almost two decades. In the early 1990s, I offered an amendment for good time, early release legislation, to look at providing relief to inmates who

had been in the Federal system and reached the age of 45, had in fact not been engaged in any violent crime with a weapon, and had no violent incidents while they were incarcerated. We made the recommendation that we would have the opportunity to release those older inmates.

I am very glad to say that Senator Kennedy had the same kind of legislation. Over the years, we managed to get it into the authorization bill.

But, as I indicated, no other country imprisons a larger percentage of its population. The prison system costs \$6.5 billion. That is part of the appropriations today.

My amendment will alleviate this overcrowding by clarifying that nothing in this bill prohibits the Attorney General from exercising his statutory authorities to expand the use of executive clemency to address prison overcrowding and redress sentencing injustices, so long as he does so in a manner consistent with the law and the Constitution.

Much of the overcrowding of our Federal prison system is a direct and proximate result of a proliferation of offenses carrying mandatory minimums. That is the basis of the Over-Criminalization Task Force. Again, I applaud the Judiciary Committee for that.

Heretofore, we had the 100 to 1 disparity between crack and powder cocaine. We in the Judiciary Committee changed that, along with the Senate. The President signed that legislation.

We now know the cost of imprisoning so many nonviolent offenders is fiscally unsustainable and morally unjustifiable. Remember, my emphasis has been that which is within the context of the law. And the legislation that I offered for the good time, early release was for nonviolent offenders.

It will take the combined efforts of policymakers, reform advocates, legal professionals, and private citizens to solve the problem. I can assure you there is a bar of lawyers that are interested in making sure that their clients come under the law and are treated fairly under the law.

My amendment gives life to this question by allowing the Attorney General, whoever it might be, to act within the law.

Just quickly, I give an example of Clarence Aaron of Mobile, Alabama, who was arrested in 1992 with 20 kilograms of power cocaine and distributed it as crack cocaine. It was in 1992. He received an enormous sentence. He was a first-time offender, and received a life sentence.

These are the kinds of issues that can be addressed if we are acting within the law.

My amendment simply says to act within the law using the authority that is given and to be able to address these questions of the overincarceration of persons and to give people a second chance.

I ask my colleagues to support my amendment.

Thank you for this opportunity to briefly explain my amendment.

Let me offer my appreciation and thanks to Ranking Member FATTAH and to Chairman WOLF for their work on this legislation and decades long commitment to the administration of justice and to developing sensible reforms to make our criminal justice system better.

Thank you for the opportunity to explain my amendment, which is simple, straightforward, and makes a positive contribution to the problem of overcrowding in our federal prisons.

The United States incarcerates nearly 25 percent of the world's inmates, even though it only has 5 percent of the world's population.

Thirty years ago, there were less than 30,000 inmates in the federal system; today, there are nearly 216,000, an increase of 800 percent!

No other country imprisons a larger percentage of its population than the United States or spends anywhere near the \$6.5 billion that we spend annually on prison administration.

The Jackson Lee Amendment will help alleviate this overcrowding by clarifying that nothing in the bill prohibits the Attorney General from exercising his statutory authorities to expand the use of executive clemency to address prison overcrowding and redress sentencing injustices so long as he does so in a manner consistent with law and the Constitution.

TEXT OF AMENDMENT

At the end of bill, before the short title, add the following new section:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act for the "DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE—ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEALS" may be used in contravention of sections 509 and 510 of title 28, United States Code.

Much of the overcrowding of our federal prison system is the direct and proximate result of proliferation of offenses carrying mandatory minimums and the prior unjust and discriminatory 100 to 1 disparity between crack and powder cocaine sentences in federal law.

We now know the cost of imprisoning so many non-violent offenders is fiscally unsustainable and morally unjustifiable and it will take the combined efforts of policy makers, reform advocates, legal professionals, and private citizens to solve the problem.

There is no shortage of stories about the damage done to the lives of thousands of individuals and their families by the draconian sentencing laws passed by Congress and state legislatures beginning in the late 1980s in the "War on Drugs."

An example is Clarence Aaron, of Mobile, Alabama who was arrested in 1992 by federal law enforcement officers and charged with conspiring to process 20 kilograms of powder cocaine and distribute it as crack cocaine.

Even though this was his first offense, Clarence was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole because the judge was powerless to adjust the punishment to fit the crime because he was required by law to impose the sentence called for by the then-mandatory federal sentencing guidelines.

The case of Clarence Aaron is not an aberration. The sad fact is that half of all inmates

in the federal system (52%) were incarcerated for drug offenses, a rate more than three times as great (17%) as found in the state penal system.

And the racial and ethnic composition of federal inmates incarcerated for drug offenses is equally troubling because while whites and African Americans use drugs at similar rates, African Americans are much more likely to be arrested and sentenced for drug offenses.

Indeed, African Americans and Hispanics comprise more than 6 in 10 federal inmates incarcerated for drug offenses.

And African American offenders receive sentences that are 10 percent longer than white offenders for the same crimes and are 21 percent more likely to receive mandatory-minimum sentences than white defendants according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

In 2010, after years of working to reform our drug sentencing laws, our efforts finally bore fruit when the Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the "Fair Sentencing Act of 2010" (P.L. 111–220), which finally ended the discriminatory 100:1 sentencing ratio.

But since the provisions of the "Fair Sentencing Act" are not retroactive there is still much work left to be done.

We need to keep working for reform until all federal inmates sentenced under the old regime are afforded the opportunity to have their sentences reconsidered under the provisions of current law.

Fortunately, Clarence Aaron will not be one of those who still must wait because after serving more than 20 years in federal prison, he was freed on April 17 because he was one of eight persons granted executive clemency, or a reduction in sentence, by President Obama on December 19, 2013.

The power to grant a reduction in sentence is among the powers vested exclusively to, and committed to the sound discretion of, the President by the Pardon Clause (Art. II, §2, Clause 1) of the U.S. Constitution.

In exercising clemency powers under the Constitution, the President typically relies upon the counsel and recommendations of the Attorney General.

President Obama's grant of executive clemency to Clarence Aaron and seven others was an act of simple justice and a welcome development.

So too is the announcement by the Department of Justice that it intends to be more aggressive in identifying and recommending to the President additional candidates for executive clemency consideration.

Let me emphasize that executive clemency is not amnesty. These inmates have been incarcerated for many years.

Applications for executive clemency that are most likely to receive favorable consideration are those submitted by non-violent, low-level drug offenders who were not leaders of, or had any significant ties to, large-scale organizations, gangs, or cartels.

Mr. Chair, until and unless the provisions of the "Fair Sentencing Act of 2010" (P.L. 111–220), are made retroactive, the need for innovative and effective measures to reduce prison overcrowding and bring greater fairness to federal sentencing policy will remain great.

The Jackson Lee Amendment ensures that the Attorney General retains the latitude to de-

velop and implement policies relating to requests for executive clemency for deserving petitioners, which will help reduce prison overcrowding and save the taxpayers millions of dollars.

I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment.

[From Justice News]

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS—ANNOUNCING NEW CLEMENCY INITIATIVE, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES M. COLE DETAILS BROAD NEW CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

As part of the Justice Department's new clemency initiative, Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole announced six criteria the department will consider when reviewing and expediting clemency applications from federal inmates.

Under the new initiative, the department will prioritize clemency applications from inmates who meet all of the following factors:

1. They are currently serving a federal sentence in prison and, by operation of law, likely would have received a substantially lower sentence if convicted of the same offense(s) today;
2. They are non-violent, low-level offenders without significant ties to large scale criminal organizations, gangs or cartels;
3. They have served at least 10 years of their prison sentence;
4. They do not have a significant criminal history;
5. They have demonstrated good conduct in prison; and
6. They have no history of violence prior to or during their current term of imprisonment.

"For our criminal justice system to be effective, it needs to not only be fair; but it also must be perceived as being fair," said Deputy Attorney General Cole. "Older, stringent punishments that are out of line with sentences imposed under today's laws erode people's confidence in our criminal justice system, and I am confident that this initiative will go far to promote the most fundamental of American ideals—equal justice under law."

In December 2013, President Obama commuted the sentences of eight individuals who were sentenced under an outdated regime—many of whom would have already paid their debt to society if they had been sentenced under current law. Since that time, President Obama has said he wants to consider more applications for clemency from inmates similarly situated.

28 U.S.C. §509: The Attorney General may from time to time make such provisions as he considers appropriate authorizing the performance by any other officer, employee, or agency of the Department of Justice of any function of the Attorney General.

28 U.S.C. §509: All functions of other officers of the Department of Justice and all functions of agencies and employees of the Department of Justice are vested in the Attorney General except the functions—

1. vested by subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5 in administrative law judges employed by the Department of Justice;
2. of the Federal Prison Industries, Inc.; and
3. of the Board of Directors and officers of the Federal Prison Industries, Inc.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I accept the amendment. I understand it says you must follow the law.

I accept the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MASSIE

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 7606 ("Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research") of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113–79) by the Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today with four of my colleagues to offer a bipartisan amendment that simply requires the DEA to comply with Federal law.

Despite clear language in the recently passed farm bill that specifically allows State agricultural agencies and universities to grow industrial hemp for research, the DEA decided to ignore the plain text of a Federal statute.

Officials in my home State of Kentucky were recently forced to file a lawsuit in Federal court to compel the DEA to release industrial hemp seeds intended for a university research pilot program. What a waste of time, money, and the court system's limited resources.

□ 2145

States cannot launch industrial hemp pilot programs if the DEA seizes the seeds before they reach their destination, and although the DEA did recently agree to release the seeds, my amendment ensures that this type of DEA action won't happen again.

If this were simply about seeds, I wouldn't be here. We have got that resolved, but there are further issues. There are more issues.

For instance, the DEA has been very ambiguous on whether they are going to assert authority to say that hemp can't be grown on private property. Listen, where else are you going to grow it? It is not like the government has farms.

The farm bill is clear on this language. The farm bill says that the

State authorities shall register these sites, not the DEA; yet the DEA refuses to acknowledge that.

Furthermore, with regard to the seeds, the DEA requires—and this I find ridiculous—that the seeds—and these are industrial hemp seeds with no active THC—must be kept under lock and key, with only three keys available.

The way we have got these stored in Kentucky now is you put your handprint on the door and you can get into these hemp seeds. You want to know how ridiculous that is?

By the end of this growing season, we are going to have thousands of pounds of hemp seeds, not 250 pounds of hemp seeds. The question is: What is the DEA going to do going forward?

We just want them to simply obey the law. The fact is that growing hemp for research purposes has always been legal. So why hasn't it been done? Because it required interfacing with the DEA, and the DEA purposely used regulations to stop any of this research.

The farm bill that I cosponsored was to clear the way for hemp industrial research, not to perpetuate a broken process where the DEA obfuscates and delays, but to give that freedom to State and local governments.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, this is where I came in a little while ago. The gentlewoman was correct, that I was speaking earlier about this amendment and not hers. However, I oppose both these amendments. The principle is the same.

With regard to this amendment, I would say to the gentleman that the gentleman's amendment in the farm bill is new law, and it is being implemented, but it does not exclude the role of the DEA.

Your amendment here today would strip funds from the ability of the DEA to be involved, and the involvement is as described in your amendment with regard to the confiscation, seizure, and otherwise impeding the importation, transfer, and movement in interstate or interstate commerce of seeds intended for the purpose of growing or cultivating industrial hemp.

Mr. MASSIE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOODLATTE. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. MASSIE. That is not my amendment that you just read.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Okay. What is your amendment then?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. MASSIE. The Clerk read it, but if you may, it says:

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 7606 ("Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research") of the Agricultural Act of 2014 by the Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration.

My amendment at the desk says nothing about seeds.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Okay. Well, seeds or hemp, you have to still have the involvement of the DEA because seeds and hemp can be used to grow marijuana, as well as to grow hemp.

So if you don't have the ability to determine, just by looking at it, whether or not it is something that is going to be used for research purposes for hemp or whether it is going to be used to grow illegal marijuana to be sold to whoever, you need to have the DEA involved in that process.

If you take the DEA out of the process, which your amendment in the farm bill did not do and which I would strongly oppose having occur now, you are going to have a situation where this law will be honored in name only and will not be used for the purpose for which I presume you intended it, which is to do research with regard to the growing of hemp.

That is not what you are going to have here because you cannot determine, for example, the THC limits of cannabis plants simply by looking at them. You have got to have this examined, you have got to have it licensed, and that is a proper thing to do since the law requires it to be done.

The DEA needs to fulfill the role that the law requires them to do for that very purpose. As a result, I must strongly oppose this amendment.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman be willing to share a minute of that with our side?

Mr. MASSIE. Yes. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the bipartisan amendment I am proud to cosponsor with Mr. MASSIE of Kentucky.

This amendment simply says that none of the funds in the CJS bill can be used by the Department of Justice or the DEA in contravention of the section of the farm bill—the duly-enacted farm bill, which I supported for many reasons, one of which was that it had an industrial hemp research program, that authorizes industrial hemp research.

This is very simple. We passed a bipartisan farm bill. Its provisions are law. In Kentucky, one of the States conducting research, the DEA inter-

vened. Only when Kentucky sued did the DEA get out of the way.

The amendment restates a law that is already on the books, but maybe the DEA needs to hear it twice. Remember, it is rope, not dope.

I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. MASSIE. I hope the chairman will vote for my amendment. Basically, it just says that we are going to enforce the farm bill, the language of the farm bill, and the farm bill is very clear in its language. It says no other Federal law withstanding.

Isn't it ironic that thousands of pounds of cocaine and heroin are somehow passing our borders every week? Yet the DEA thinks that seizing industrial hemp seeds in Kentucky is worthwhile use of its time and resources.

Furthermore, what are they going to do this fall when we harvest the hemp seeds?

There is no import-export there. These are Kentucky hemp seeds once they are grown in Kentucky. There is no Federal nexus this fall, so I hope that the farm bill and the language in the farm bill will be honored. We voted for it. It was signed by the President.

Our amendment is simple. It states that no funds may be used by the Department of Justice or Drug Enforcement Administration to violate the clear language of the farm bill, which says: States are allowed to grow and cultivate industrial hemp if the industrial hemp is grown or cultivated for the purposes of research conducted under an agricultural pilot program or other agricultural or academic research.

The DEA is not above Congress. It is not above the law. Executive branch agencies like the DEA must follow the laws passed by the legislative branch.

Please join us in support of this commonsense, reasonable amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HUFFMAN

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to assess or collect the fee established by section 660.115 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking two of my colleagues, Mr. DEFAZIO and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, for their hard work. I have been collaborating with them on this and related efforts to bring relief to our west coast fishermen.

This is a simple amendment. It would defer for 1 year the collection of a cost recovery fee in the west coast trawl program and provide some relief to groundfish fishermen who are facing mounting costs at a time when they can ill afford it.

The west coast groundfish industry has been rebuilding its stocks for several years. They have made hard decisions and taken hard cuts to ensure the long-term sustainability of that fishery, and they should be commended for that.

One aspect of that rebuilding plan was the adoption of a catch share program which, under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, required the collection of a fee to cover costs of managing the program, and that was implemented this year.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HUFFMAN. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. We accept the amendment.

Mr. HUFFMAN. I thank the gentleman. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I want to thank my colleague from California, Representative HUFFMAN for his leadership on this issue. I also want to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for working with us on this important amendment.

West Coast fishermen are in a tough spot, and in a very unique spot. Unlike other regions of the country where fishermen had their buyouts funded by taxpayers, our fishermen took on the loan willingly and knowing they would have to pay it back. And they are paying it back—but at an interest rate that is two points above prime and therefore costing them 5 percent of their landings.

Representative HUFFMAN, Representative HERRERA BEUTLER, and I are working to legislatively refinance this loan. In fact, today, that refinance bill passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources and it has already passed the Senate Committee. But it's going to take some time to implement.

West Coast fishermen are facing increased observer costs. We are transitioning to electronic monitoring, but that's going to take time—too much time in my opinion. But until electronic monitoring is adopted by the Council and NOAA, fishermen will have to pay for 100 percent observer coverage—which can be as high as \$350–\$450 per day.

And now, fishermen are bearing an additional cost—\$2.4 million this year to help pay for the management of the fishery—known as the “cost recovery fee.” West Coast fishermen are willing to pay this fee. They knew the fee was coming. But, right now, with the mounting costs of the buyback loan, the observer costs, and pending trailing amendments that will make the fishery more economically viable—this additional financial burden is too much.

This amendment would provide one year of relief to West Coast fishermen. It would mean the difference for many fishermen of selling their boats and trying to find a different livelihood in already distressed coastal communities, or staying in business.

This amendment is bipartisan. It does not score. And it might not seem like a lot of money to people in this body, but it's a huge deal for my fishermen, their families, and small businesses that depend on the fleet to make a living. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. SOUTHERLAND

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to develop, approve, or implement a new limited access privilege program (as that term is used in section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1853a)) that are not already developed, approved, or implemented for any fishery under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England, or Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of the Southerland-Tierney-Jones amendment, a bipartisan provision that reaffirms, for the third time, the House's intent that no funding under the underlying bill should be allocated for new limited access privilege programs, also known as catch shares in the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

Catch shares is a fishery management tool that allocates a portion of a once-open public fishery to a select group of fishermen, forcing the others off the water and out of business. Put more simply, it is cap-and-trade for the oceans.

Our bipartisan amendment takes a big step towards halting the perpetua-

tion of economic harm on our coastal communities, one of which my family has lived in for 200 years.

Let me be clear, our amendment has zero impact on catch shares already in place. If you have catch shares now, you will have them tomorrow, but we owe our fishermen a voice in addressing these issues through the House and Senate reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management Act before we consider funding for the development, implementation, or approval of new catch share programs. That is proper process. It is common sense.

I encourage all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan Southerland-Tierney-Jones amendment and preventing the funding of development, implementation, and approval of new catch share programs going forward.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words. We accept the amendment.

Mr. FATTAH. If the chairman would yield, we have a member of the committee who wanted to say a few words on this and had some concerns. She is only going to take a minute.

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Maine.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Chairman, I want to oppose the amendment offered here tonight because I think we shouldn't be prohibiting any new catch share programs because it is such an important tool to manage our Nation's fisheries. This effectively supersedes the Regional Fisheries Management Council process that was already set up by Congress.

We have a lot of families in Maine who have very deep ties to the ocean, generations of Mainers who have worked in the fishing industry, but fisheries are facing a crisis.

Every year, our fishermen struggle to make a living on fewer fish and fewer trips going out fishing. The New England Fisheries Management Council is working very hard to develop solutions for these challenges by implementing catch share programs as an effective way to manage the fisheries.

This results in success stories, many that we have seen in Maine. Take a look at Port Clyde, one of our largest inshore fisheries communities. The fishermen in this sector have developed a fishermen's cooperative, Port Clyde Fresh Catch, as a way to market their fish using environmentally conscious fishing methods.

The result is sustainable fish, better quality fish, better prices for the fishermen. Membership in the sector has led to a profitable and sustainable on and offshore fishing industry.

I just want to say that fishermen in New England are not being forced into enrolling in the catch share programs.

They can choose to stay in the common pool fishery or join a sector, but if we remove catch share as a management option, we would only be hindering fisheries management efforts around our Nation, stifling the creativity and innovation within the fishing industry, and preventing fishermen from working in an industry that is safer and more profitable.

□ 2200

Catch shares work. I have seen the benefits firsthand in Maine. I don't think we should be denying fishing communities the chance to improve their industry by removing a management option.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I respect Chairman WOLF's ability to accept the amendment. I just wanted to register my opposition to it.

And I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. WOLF. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Chairman, I also want to remind my colleagues that no one was a greater champion of my amendment than former Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank. He is definitely a stalwart in New England fisheries. So though he is not here, his spirit in favor of this amendment rings true.

I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT).

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND) for his work on this issue and his leadership on it, and I would like to thank the Democrats for allowing us to have this.

I want to just tell you, as a father who spends time in the Gulf of Mexico, in 2007, we were allowed to fish, as a family, 194 days out of the year. For 194 days, I could go out with my son and we could catch snapper, and we could catch up to four fish apiece. Today, we have now been reduced to 9 days. We have lost 95 percent. Mr. Chairman, 95 percent of the time that a family could spend on the water fishing together has been taken from us as sportsmen in the Gulf of Mexico with regard to red snapper.

So I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND) for his work on this. I want to thank the other Members of the House for understanding us and how important this issue is to those of us who are the recreational anglers.

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I want to start by saying that I want every father and son to be able to fish year-round in our Federal waters. Nine days is a problem—it absolutely is a problem—and I look forward to working with both the gentlemen from Florida and Georgia to ensure open access to our Federal waters.

I am also upset with NOAA and their continuously low stock assessment and flawed assessment methods.

My opposition to this amendment comes from the negative impacts that it will have on head boat captains in the EFP. This is a pilot program.

The Texas gulf coast, the area that I proudly represent, has a strong fishing heritage. Recreational and commercial fishing supports nearly 40,000 jobs in my State and generates \$4.2 billion in sales.

I have talked to fishermen in my district, Mr. Chairman, and they are against this amendment. They don't believe that the bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., should be telling—I agree with the gentledady from Maine—regional fishing councils and local fishermen how to manage their fishery.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is comprised of local fishermen and folks that have lived on the gulf their whole life. This council is developing and testing a very successful pilot program, where head boat captains have access to the water year-round—not just 9 days, year-round.

Under this program, they catch the same amount of fish but have the flexibility and freedom to go out when it is most convenient for their customers. I have heard from my constituents, and they want this program to grow, like the gentledady said. This amendment would gut that pilot program and kick people out of the water.

Mr. Chairman, as a proud conservative, I believe that fishery management decisions should be made at the local level. Given the challenges our fishermen face, Congress should ensure local councils have all the tools in the fishery management toolbox available to them.

I will vote against this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND).

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of any of the following:

(1) The fifth and 14th amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

(2) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (relating to nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs).

(3) Section 809(c)(1) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (relating to prohibition of discrimination).

(4) Section 210401(a) of the Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (relating to unlawful police pattern or practice).

Mr. ELLISON (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ELLISON. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I have read that amendment. It says that you are to follow the law. I agree with that, so I accept the amendment.

Mr. ELLISON. I will take "yes" for an answer, Mr. Chairman.

So with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

Mr. PERRY. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 100, after line 17, insert the following new section:

SEC. 541. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Advanced Food Technology Project.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman WOLF for offering me this opportunity.

This amendment prohibits the funding for NASA's Advanced Food Technology project, the AFT. The AFT project is responsible for providing spaceflight crews with a food system

that is safe, nutritious, and acceptable to the crew while efficiently balancing appropriate vehicle mass, volume, waste, and food preparation time for exploration missions to Mars. The problem is we are not going to Mars anytime soon.

Since we have accepted as a fact that other nations such as Russia will be taking the lead on space exploration and we have no plans to go back into space over the next fiscal year—at least to Mars—there is no reason to waste taxpayer money on food research for a mission to Mars.

This project has been highlighted as a source of waste for years by my colleagues in the United States Senate, starting with NASA's use of taxpayer money to develop pizza and hundreds of other recipes for, again, a mission to Mars, which NASA has no plans to undertake. I want to ensure that taxpayer funding is not wasted on projects that are not going to happen.

I urge passage of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I accept the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, with brevity, I reject the entire predicate of the amendment, that we are not going to Mars or that Russia is leading space exploration or any of the other things.

However, I understand the gentleman would not like to not waste the taxpayers' money, and, therefore, he has offered this amendment. The chairman has accepted it. But the idea that our country is not the leading premier nation in the world in space exploration, I do not accept.

And with that point, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

Mr. ELLISON. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition outlined in 48 CFR 52.209-7(c)(1)(i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term "Fair Labor Standards Act."

Mr. ELLISON (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, no hardworking American should ever have to worry about whether her employer will refuse to pay her when she works overtime or take money out of her paycheck, especially if she works for a Federal contractor. This practice is known as wage theft.

Right now, Federal contractors who violate the Fair Labor Standards Act are still allowed to apply for Federal contracts. My amendment would deny Federal contracts to those who violate the Fair Labor Standards Act to deny workers the pay they have earned. The amendment ensures that those in violation of the law do not get taxpayer support. We should only reward good actors.

Taxpayer money must be spent wisely, and as the largest purchaser of goods and services, the Federal Government must find a way to make sure that funds are going to companies that treat their workers fairly and according to the law and that give every American family a chance to succeed. More importantly, it signals to working Americans around the country that wage theft will not be tolerated.

Low-wage workers are fighting back. They are demanding that they be treated fairly. And now it is time for Congress to stand with these low-wage workers and say clearly that wage theft is not anything that we are willing to tolerate.

So we may not agree on the minimum wage or we may not agree on a lot of other things, but I believe Americans on both sides of the aisle believe that a penny earned is a penny that must be paid. Any time a Federal contractor is found to have violated a worker's rights and is found to have been guilty of that, according to the law, that Federal contractor should not benefit from the money in this particular bill.

So with the remainder of my time, I would like to just add that this is a very serious problem. A recent report by the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in the United States Senate reveals that 32 percent of the largest Department of Labor penalties for wage theft were levied against Federal contractors. There should be a consequence. Similarly, the National Employment Law Project

study found that 21 percent of Federal contract workers were not paid overtime, and 11 percent have been forced to work off the clock.

So, Mr. Chairman, I do hope that we can get cooperation from all Members on this.

I yield the remainder of my time to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment and will add the point that many of these Federal workers are women who are the head of their household, and, therefore, the undermining of their compensation based upon overtime and the theft of wages because they are not paid fully for their work and hours really undermines the family.

□ 2215

So I believe that this is a very important amendment, and I ask my colleagues to support the gentleman.

Mr. ELLISON. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. No one knows what the amendment does. If you know what this amendment does, you should vote for it because nobody else seems to know. And that is one of the problems of these things coming rolling in at 10:15. I don't know what it does, and I wouldn't want to vote for it since I don't know what it does. So if you know what it does and you are for it, you can vote for it. But no one knows what it does.

So I strongly urge, in the interest of making sure that this place does not mess up, a "no" vote. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a loan guarantee for Innovative Technologies in Manufacturing under the heading "Economic Development Administration, Economic Development Assistance Programs."

Mr. BROUN of Georgia (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would prohibit funds from being used for the loan guarantee program created by the America COMPETES Act of 2010, a program which is essentially an \$84 billion science experiment in stimulus spending.

The America COMPETES Act directed the Commerce Department to establish loan guarantees within the Innovative Technologies in Manufacturing program of the Economic Development Administration, or EDA.

These government-backed loans are meant to provide small or medium-sized manufacturers with new opportunities to use, manufacture, or commercialize any innovative technology. However, authorization for America COMPETES ran out in 2013 with little passing interest from industry. In fact, not one loan has been issued under this program to date—not one, not the first one.

In July of 2013, the Government Accountability Office found that the EDA had done nothing with its appropriated funds outside of establishing a staffing budget and a timeline for executing the program. At the same time, GAO noted that EDA officials had reached out to the Small Business Administration for technical assistance on how to run a loan guarantee program.

Mr. Chairman, think about this for a moment. If one government agency needs to consult another government agency about how to run a program which is similar to a program that is already established elsewhere, is the new program really necessary?

There are similar programs sprinkled throughout the Federal Government, yet we keep authorizing more and more. Congress needs to seriously re-evaluate this approach and instead focus on real innovation in manufacturing. I would submit that if the Federal Government simply stopped taxing small and medium-sized businesses out of the country—or out of business—we would see an immediate increase in growth and new jobs, no new programs needed.

The America COMPETES loan guarantee program is a wasteful, duplicative attempt to spur innovation in manufacturing by creating more bureaucracy, and we should not allow it

to go any further. Not one loan has been put out by this program.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. So we have had about 30,000 small and medium manufacturers close their shop in our country over last 20 years. We have 11 million Americans who go to work every day making things with their hands. We still lead the world as the number one manufacturer, but what used to be an absolute lead is now relative. Part of the challenge is technology.

This Congress has provided writeoffs for new machinery and other types of write-downs on capital equipment. We need to fortify our manufacturing base, and we also need to provide technical support. We provide billions of dollars to our National Laboratories. I went out to visit Oak Ridge in Tennessee. They have a manufacturing center there that helps small manufacturers think through their challenges. And the last thing we need to do is to retreat on this battlefield on manufacturing.

So the gentleman from Georgia is headed in the wrong direction. I hope that the Congress does not follow him. I will be voting against this amendment, and I support this technology loan guarantee program. In fact, I authored it in this bill, and, yes, it has been built up over the last couple years to make sure that before they do anything that they do it correctly because we want to get it right.

But the one thing we should be certain about is that small and medium manufacturers, which are at the heart of our manufacturing industry in our country, they need our support, and this is a way to help them. It is not a handout, it is a loan, and it is actually a loan guarantee.

It is a way to go to help manufacturers across our land, and I hope that even at this late hour that we not fall victim to the suggestion that we can't do what we should do to make sure that this country can continue to lead in this critical area.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, during the public comment period, there was absolutely zero interest in this program—zero. The SBA already does this. I am all for manufacturing. I am all for small and medium businesses. But we do not need this program. It is an \$84 billion program with no interest in it within small or medium businesses. Not one loan has been given out. All it has done is fund the bureaucrats that are established to do this program, and no loans have

been made since 2010. In 4 years, zero loans, zero interest. We need to eliminate it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to negotiate an agreement that includes a waiver of the 'Buy American Act'.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this concerns the Buy American Act and how it interacts with the work of the Trade Representative under this bill.

The Buy American Act dates back to every Republican's favorite President, President Hoover, who signed it into office on his last day in office in 1933. It requires the U.S. Government to prefer U.S.-made products in its purchases, and there already is precedent for this in the trade organization agreement called the WTO 1996 Agreement on Government Procurement. The Buy American Act was specifically excluded from the government procurement agreements program.

We are coming up upon a time when, according to news reports, the President may be presenting us with trade agreements. He may be presenting us with a fast track procedure for those trade agreements. The fast track procedure would basically give us a take-it-or-leave-it situation on these principles. Obviously, these trade agreements that have been negotiated are complex, but I think that we shouldn't be throwing out the baby with the bath water.

This is an 80-year-old law. It requires that the American Government give preference to American-made products when making procurement decisions. This is a commonsense principle that guides purchasing throughout the Federal Government, as it should.

Hard-earned American taxpayer dollars should be reused here at home. They should be going back into our economy and putting Americans back to work. I would hate to see this fundamental principle of government procurement slurred or undermined in any way by any agreement that is now being negotiated by the Trade Representative or anybody else in this administration or any future administration.

Therefore, I submit this amendment to make certain that the agreements now being negotiated, the ones being negotiated in the future, respect this basic, fundamental principle that American dollars and American jobs are what the American Government is all about.

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

The Acting CHAIR. Does any Member seek recognition on the amendment? If not, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SALMON

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 100, after line 17, insert the following new section:

SEC. 541. None of the funds made available to the National Science Foundation by this Act may be used to examine climate effects on tea quality and socioeconomic responses under award number 1313775-CNH.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to cut all funding for the National Science Foundation's program to study the climate effects on tea quality and socioeconomic responses in China and other locations. In fact, I find it deeply troubling that while our country is facing fiscal challenges of gigantic proportions, staring down over \$17.5 trillion in debt, that I can quickly find programs such as this that are being funded on the back of the American taxpayer.

To date, this program has already received about \$1 million in funding. Regardless of whether or not you believe that we must get our national debt under control, I believe we can all agree that these are difficult times for American families. With this in mind, how can we seriously look our constituents in the face and assure them we are looking out for their best interest when we allow their money to be spent like this?

While I certainly understand the value of predicting agricultural trends for tea, I believe that that is a task that ought to be left to the private sector, the ones that benefit from this kind of information.

Now, amendments like this are a high watermark. If we can't make the easy choices to eliminate these kinds of programs, how are we going to do the tough cuts? In a time where things are tough enough for the average American family, we certainly don't need to add another burden such as

programs like this. And I might just say, finally, that our history has shown us that government getting involved in tea policy, as Great Britain did, can lead to a very, very slippery slope. I think government needs to stay out of tea policy.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. REED). The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. I will take about 50 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, I am opposed to this amendment. I think intruding on the National Science Foundation and the work that is based on merit and peer-reviewed science, we should not be using politics in the political process as a substitute for it.

I hope that Congress would in its wisdom vote against the amendment offered by my friend, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Chairman, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague for bringing this amendment forward. I rise in strong support of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, we are talking about appropriations bills, and, of course, people across the country are concerned, as we are, about the fact that our country is spending money we don't have. Washington spends almost 40 cents of every dollar with borrowed money. This is money we are borrowing from countries like China, ironically, and then here you have an amendment that highlights the fact that we are spending money through the National Science Foundation on grants to study the effects of global warming on tea grown in China.

I mean, is this part of the deal that we cut with China when they loan us money to continue deficit spending? This is ludicrous. This is a classic example of wasteful Washington spending. And I commend, again, the gentleman for bringing this amendment because there are opportunities we have to highlight areas of wasteful Washington spending where we should at least be able to agree, as Republicans and Democrats, that every single dollar we are looking at we ought to ask the first question: Is this program—is this program worth borrowing money not only from countries like China, but borrowing money from our children? Our children are going to have to pay for these bills. And does this really rise to that level that it is worth borrowing money from our children, who are going to be getting that credit card bill, \$931,000 of tax payer money, to study the effects of climate change on tea grown in China?

□ 2230

This is ludicrous. This is ludicrous spending. We ought not be doing it. We ought to at least be able to set priorities and agree, as Republicans and Democrats, that we are going to get serious about fiscal responsibility, and it starts with the little things.

This is not billions and trillions that we are talking about, but this is how you get to billions and trillions of dollars of debt. So while China holds maybe over a trillion dollars of our debt, I don't think it is going to cause any kind of international relations problem, that fact that we are going to say we should not spend \$931,000 of money we don't have that is being borrowed from countries like China to study the effects of global warming on tea grown in China.

This is ludicrous. This doesn't pass the laugh test. When they say it is not all of the tea in China, this is a place where we should agree to stop spending taxpayer money on something that is incredibly wasteful.

Again, this is money borrowed from our children and borrowed from countries like China. We ought not be doing it.

Again, I thank the gentleman for bringing this amendment. It is a great example where we should be able to agree and say enough is enough.

Mr. SALMON. I will just say in summation, I think the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) said it very well, and that is: How in the world are we going to get to the serious cuts to try to get our budget balanced if we can't even cut a million dollars to give to China to see how China's tea is going to grow with climate change?

This is ridiculous. If we can't do an easy thing like this, I fear for America. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. . . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to compel a journalist or reporter to testify about information or sources that the journalist or reporter states in a motion to quash the subpoena that he has obtained as a journalist or reporter and that he regards as confidential.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, I regret bringing this up at 10:30 at night. I

apologize for that because this is a weighty matter, and I think it deserves fair consideration. I hope we are not all too tired to deny this question the attention that it deserves.

The purpose of this amendment is to raise the possibility of a Federal shield law that corresponds to shield law already in place in 49 States, but not at the level of the Federal Government.

A shield law is legislation designed to protect a reporter's privilege or the right of news reporters to refuse to testify as to information and sources of information obtained during a news gather and dissemination process. In short, a reporter should not be forced to reveal his or her source, and that is in fact the law in 49 States, the only exception being Wyoming.

This has come up in court cases at the Federal level and at the Supreme Court level, beginning with the 1972 case *Branzburg v. Hayes*, which I think poses this question in the microcosm.

In that case, a reporter wanted to inform his readers about the nature of the drug hashish, and he realized the only way to go about that was to find and interview people who had actually used the drug hashish, and so he did that.

After he published his article, relying upon these two confidential sources, at that point, he was subpoenaed to provide those sources, compromising their identity and compromising the principle of protecting your sources.

This is an issue that comes up from time to time, often at the State level, occasionally at the Federal level.

Some of us may remember the case of the Plame affair, the CIA leak scandal. A reporter was asked to release the name of the person to whom he had been perceived to leak regarding Valerie Plame. Reporters were asked, in general: Who are your sources with regards to this leak?

One reporter, Judith Miller of *The New York Times*, was jailed for 85 days in 2005 for refusing to disclose her source in the government probe.

At this point, under current law, journalists are in a quandary. They realize the need to protect their sources. That right is recognized in 49 States, but it is not codified at the Federal level, so what I seek to do at this late hour today is to do just that.

I think this is a very important principle, as *Branzburg* pointed out, that springs from the foundation of our law. The Constitution and the First Amendment provide for freedom of speech and of the press. It is completely incongruous to say we have freedom of the press, but the Federal Government can subpoena your sources and put them and you in prison—you, if you don't comply.

This is something that should have been handled perhaps years, if not decades ago. It falls upon us tonight, at this late hour, to try to handle it our-

selves. I respectfully submit this amendment as being a much-needed and long-delayed clarification that the Federal Government treats this matter no differently than 49 States now do, and therefore, I ask for support on this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I rise in opposition to the amendment. It is significant change. The authorizers should be looking at this. This is not something to put on an appropriation bill at 10:35 at night.

I listened to the gentleman, and a lot of what he said, I seem to agree with, but you have to really look at this and have hearings, and for those reasons, I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I share the gentleman from Florida's interest and support for shield laws as well, but I don't believe this has been carefully vetted. There are implications here about exactly who has the right to make the determination about whether or not funds could or could not be used. The way the language reads suggests that maybe the reporter would have that right, rather than a court.

To me, this is not the best way to go about doing this. We will continue to work on shield law legislation in the House Judiciary Committee, which has passed out forms of shield law in the past, and we will continue to work on it.

I must oppose this amendment in these circumstances. I don't think this is the right place to legislate something as complicated as this issue.

Mr. WOLF. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his comments and think he is exactly right.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Without claiming my own time, I just want to support the thrust of this proposed amendment, which is that we should provide a shield law. The idea that, in 2005, a reporter was jailed for over 85 days is wrong, and we do want to have the freedom.

We have a constitutional responsibility to protect the freedom of press, but I agree with the chairman, we don't want to do it on an appropriations bill at 10:30 at night. We want to make sure it is clear what we are doing, so I oppose the amendment under those circumstances.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

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

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I want to point out that the Supreme Court decision that we are talking about here was decided in 1972. There have already been hearings. There has been plenty of draft legislation. It is hard enough to get anything voted on around here. It is time to vote on this.

After 42 years since the Supreme Court first addressed this, we don't have this body on record saying whether or not there should be a Federal shield law. I understand the reservations that have been expressed, but the time is now.

The reporters in this country have waited long enough. It is time to be fair and show fealty to the First Amendment and to pass this amendment tonight.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chair, with regard to my votes on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act:

I voted for and helped pass the Grayson amendment, confident that as the bill proceeds, a sophisticated, nuanced, and balanced reporter shield provision will be inserted in lieu of the current text of the amendment. The rules and traditions of the House require that amendments to appropriations bills offered on the floor conform to strict rules that preclude balanced and detailed formulation. The Conference Committee will have the latitude needed to insert a balanced reporter shield provision and I will urge such an approach.

Additionally, I voted for final passage with the assumption that certain problematic provisions would be removed in Conference Committee.

I am pleased that we can move forward with the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act and expect that upon passage in the Senate, the Conference Committee will improve the bill.

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (H.R. 4660) is an appropriations bill that funds various Federal Government programs and entities, including the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

My amendment reads as follows, "None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to compel a journalist or reporter to testify about information or sources that the journalist or reporter states in a motion to quash the subpoena that he has obtained as a journalist or reporter and that he regards as confidential."

For purposes of this amendment, the definition of a "reporter" includes: any person, natural person, or entity who releases, reports on, or provides information of a classified or unclassified nature to a public audience or on the internet, does so on a regular basis, and receives compensation for doing so. The term "reporter" is a description of a profession.

For purposes of this amendment, the definition of a "journalist" includes: any person, natural person, or entity who releases, reports on, or provides information of a classified or unclassified nature to a public audience or on

the internet, and does so on a regular or an irregular basis. The term “journalism” describes an act, not a profession. A person, entity, or natural person is a journalist so long as he or she is engaged in the act of journalism. An act of journalism involves the collection, analysis, description, dissemination, and/or publication of information.

James Risen, Julian Assange, Wikileaks, and Glenn Greenwald meet the definitions of reporters and journalists under these definitions.

This amendment also prohibits the use of any funds made available by this Act to compel testimony from any individual who is engaged in journalism in any supporting role, such as assisting a journalist with analysis, collection, description, dissemination, and/or publication of information to a public audience.

Funds appropriated under this Act may not be used to compel testimony by journalists or reporters to reveal confidential sources.

This amendment mirrors the language supplied in other federal statutes defining journalism. For instance, the Freedom of Information Act defines a “representative of the news media” as “any person or entity that gathers information of potential interest to a segment of the public, uses its editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work, and distributes that work to an audience.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(4)(A)(ii)(III).

This amendment also follows the spirit of the United States Supreme Court and Circuit Court precedents, which have widely and historically protected the vital newsgathering function performed by journalists. The patriot pamphleteers had no corporate affiliations, no professional societies, and no journalism degrees. The key test is whether individuals are engaged in news-related activities. Former Chief Justice Warren Burger observed that adopting a narrower definition would be “reminiscent of the abhorred licensing system of Tudor and Stuart England—a system the First Amendment was intended to ban from this country.” *First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti*, 435 U.S. 765, 801 (1978) (Burger, C.J., concurring).

Early Supreme Court jurisprudence recognized a broad definition of journalism, noting that the function of the press is “performed by lecturers, political pollsters, novelists, academic researchers, and dramatists.” *Branzburg v. Hayes*, 408 U.S. 665, 705 (1972) (Powell, J., concurring); see also *Lovell v. Griffin*, 303 U.S. 444, 452 (1932) (“The liberty of the press is not confined to newspapers and periodicals. It necessarily embraces pamphlets and leaflets. These indeed have been historic weapons in the defense of liberty, as the pamphlets of Thomas Paine and others in our own history abundantly attest. The press in its connotation comprehends every sort of publication which affords a vehicle of information and opinion.”)

This amendment is consistent with the holdings of several federal appellate circuits which take a functional view of journalism, defining a reporter as an individual who engages in news-related activities to disseminate information to an audience. For example, the First Circuit Court of Appeals has held that reporters should be protected based on function, rather than credentials or status. *Glik v.*

Cunnille, 655 F.3d 78, 84 (1st Cir. 2011) (“Changes in technology and society have made the lines between private citizen and journalist exceedingly difficult to draw [and] news stories are now just as likely to be broken by a blogger at her computer as a reporter at a major newspaper. Such developments make clear why the news-gathering protections of the First Amendment cannot turn on professional credentials or status.”); see also *Von Bulow v. Von Bulow*, 811 F.2d 136, 144 (2d Cir. 1987) (“The individual claiming the privilege must demonstrate, through competent evidence, the intent to use material—sought, gathered or received—to disseminate information to the public and [] such intent existed at the inception of the newsgathering process.”).

The Second Circuit’s standard, based on newsgathering function articulated in *Von Bulow*, was reiterated by the Ninth and D.C. Circuit Courts. See *Shoen v. Shoen*, 5 F.3d 1289, 1293 (9th Cir. 1993); *Alexander v. FBI*, 186 F.R.D. 21, 50 (D.D.C. 1998). A similar bar is set in the Tenth Circuit. *Silkwood v. Kerr-McGee Corp.*, 563 F.2d 433, 436–37 (10th Cir. 1977) (concluding that a documentary filmmaker was not precluded from the privilege because his mission was investigative reporting for use in preparing a documentary film, regardless of the fact that he was “not a salaried newspaper reporter”).

Finally, this amendment is consistent with the views of First Amendment scholars, who agree that a functional definition is most appropriate. See generally Sonja R. West, *Awakening the Press Clause*, 58 UCLA L. Rev. 1025, 1065–66 (2011) (“[The functional] approach avoids some of the pitfalls of the definition-by-affiliation approach.”); see also Linda L. Berger, *Shielding the Unmedia: Using the Process of Journalism to Protect the Journalist’s Privilege in an Infinite Universe of Publication*, 39 Houston L. Rev. 1371, 1407 (2003) (“[N]o patriot printer or colonial pamphleteer had a journalism degree. Certification by a government agency or by a professional group carries the possibility of de-certification based on value judgments or viewpoints.”).

This amendment was passed in an environment in which the Department of Justice has increased pressure upon journalists and their sources. Many of the nation’s most respected reporters have characterized this as an assault on press freedom that chills investigative reporting and the public’s right to know.

Recent revelations that the Department of Justice secretly subpoenaed twenty phone lines at the Associated Press, and a legal brief filed by the Justice Department calling a Fox News journalist a “co-conspirator” for simply protecting a source, have provoked widespread, bipartisan criticism. Many are concerned that the Department of Justice is actively impeding newsgathering activities protected by the First Amendment. The House of Representatives intends, by passing this amendment, to reject this harassment of journalists by the Department of Justice.

Moreover, recently-disclosed digital surveillance activities by the United States government have had an inherent chilling effect on the act of journalism and the exercise of the First Amendment. This amendment is intended to ensure that the rights and newsgathering

activities of reporters and journalists are not chilled when uncovering information involving or implicating the United States government or associated institutions. Furthermore, both Congress and the President have recognized the problem of ‘over-classification’ of documents by agencies across the Federal Government. If journalists are prevented from publishing classified information, and the government classifies enormous quantities of information that should rightfully be in the public domain, the public is prohibited from knowing the workings of its government. Using Federal Government resources to undermine legitimate news-related activities or chill journalism, particularly when those activities aim to disclose the workings of government because that information is classified, constitutes a threat to the self-government of the American public. Federal government attempts to undermine legitimate news-related activities and/or chill journalism, are prohibited by this amendment.

Finally, the act of journalism has been transformed by the internet. New methods for uncovering and publishing newsworthy information, and for financing such newsgathering and dissemination, are now available. This amendment protects the ability for those who may not have traditionally been considered journalists to engage in journalism. It is further intended to allow for experimentation in publication and dissemination of news without the threat of the Department of Justice using its resources to compel the revelation of journalistic sources through legal coercion.

This amendment is to be construed liberally and broadly, to effectuate its purpose of protecting journalists and their sources from any coercive action taken by the government and the legal system. Its spirit applies to other government agencies, and to litigation between private parties. The terms “information or sources” and “confidential” are to be given the widest possible construction. The limitation applies not only to the quashing of subpoenas, but also to every form of discovery, civil and criminal contempt, arrest and imprisonment, and any form of coercion within the legal system.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

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

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to create or maintain a national firearm registry.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study the social effects of online interactive games.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study how humans react to popular baby names.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study how humans react to trends in popular culture.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study any facet of professional or collegiate sports, their games, or their playoff systems.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study whether or not humans are more or less racially-focused when seeking love online.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study the effects of romance novels on human activities.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study whether or not any social media application is able to predict trends in the stock market or any global trading market.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study how rumors are started.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study how much housework a member of one household creates for the rest of such household.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study the relationship between online virtual world users and their avatars.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study how long animals can run on treadmills.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study how humans ride bikes.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study robot rodeo hoedowns (defined as assemblies of robotic devices brought to central locations for the purposes of being programmed to move in unison for no other purpose than entertainment, record-setting, or to generally recreate or attempt to recreate any form of dance) or what they look like.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to study how dog became man's best friend.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to continue to withhold from the Treasury undisbursed grant balances for grants which were initiated before January 1, 2013.

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to instruct any financial institution to designate a firearms dealer as a "high-risk" merchant customer for the purposes of restricting or regulating commerce.

Mr. GOSAR (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a multifaceted amend-

ment to limit funds within the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act to programs that are constitutional, appropriate, and sane.

For the sake of time, I will just highlight some of the provisions within my amendment.

My amendment protects Second Amendment rights and individual liberties. It does so by prohibiting a Federal firearm registry from being created with funds in this bill. Similar language has previously passed the House.

I also want to bring the House's attention to some of the ludicrous studies that taxpayers have funded via the National Science Foundation.

First, I appreciate the National Science Foundation's mission and its work. The National Science Foundation grantees and funds have been instrumental in advances in the Internet, astronomy, energy, chemistry, and many other important aspects of scientific scholarship; but, like our well-funded government operations, the bureaucracy begins to grow and proper oversight of the grant process begins to wane.

In 2011, Senator TOM COBURN released a publication titled "The National Science Foundation: Under the Microscope." In that document, he outlined a litany of wasteful, superfluous, and seemingly idiotic studies, some of which I will outline here.

There was a study on human reaction to popular baby names. There was a \$580,000 grant to study racial preferences in online dating. There was nearly \$1 million in multiple grants to study how rumors are started.

There have been nearly two decades of grants awarded to a certain panel in which the National Science Foundation has granted about \$60 million. One of the panel's studies covered how much housework a man creates for a wife in his household. There was a \$90,000 grant to study the relationship between a researcher and their online avatar in virtual worlds and differences in their behaviors.

Since 2000, grants provided by the National Science Foundation have been used to study crustaceans running on tiny treadmills after being exposed to different microbes.

These little shrimp were also given tiny backpacks to weigh them down, so researchers could study test variables such as weight and resistance. In 2011, the lab said it planned to build treadmills and create studies for lobsters and blue crabs as well. This amendment would prevent these types of abuses.

There was a 2009 grant disbursed to the tune of \$300,000, to study how humans ride bicycles. There was another \$300,000, which actually came from the stimulus funds, that was disbursed to a married couple to travel to seven coun-

tries around the world to study stray dogs in an effort to discover how dogs became man's best friend. Sounds like a heck of a honeymoon to me.

Possibly the most ridiculous grant highlighted by Senator COBURN's report was a National Science Foundation grant to support a robot rodeo hoedown. Let me repeat that: a robot rodeo hoedown. I would like to point out how laughable it was to my staff to work with legislative counsel to define what a hoedown is for the purpose of this amendment.

The project involved programming small robots to dance to "Chicken Coop Shuffle," but I suppose the event wasn't a total loss. It produced hundreds of YouTube views.

I want to, again, thank Senator COBURN and his staff for producing these reports that shed light on these issues. My amendment will not prohibit all future ridiculous taxpayer-funded studies, but hopefully, I can take part in shedding a little bit of light of those that are the most egregious.

The hope is that those people awarding these moneys wake up and use a little more discretion with hard-earned taxpayer money, but I have a feeling I will be back here next year offering a similar amendment. I urge passage of this commonsense amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment requires new determinations.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order? If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination. The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI. The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

□ 2245

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, add the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to obtain the contents of wire or electronic communications in a remote computing service as described

in section 2703(b)(1)(B) of title 18, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment which seeks to correct a serious injustice against U.S. citizens and the United States Constitution.

As many of us learned from the intelligence disclosures last year, the Federal Government is engaged in a wide variety of surveillance practices. These practices, though mostly focused internationally, also encompass domestic communications on a regular basis.

I hear many in the executive branch—and the legislative branch, no doubt—making excuses as to why this happens or how that is not all that bad, but I say that it is. It is an absolute violation of our basic civil liberties and the Fourth Amendment.

I could go on and on about the different practices that violate our Constitution and the trust of the people, but my amendment focuses on one simple statute, one simple statute I believe almost everyone will agree needs to be changed. Section 2703 of title 18, U.S.C., United States Code, allows the Federal Government to obtain your personal emails in your email account if they are 180 days or older. It is essentially a carte blanche authority to do so.

What is it about a piece of email being 180 days old that suddenly makes it the business of the government? What is it about a piece of email being 180 days old that suddenly makes it no longer your property? After 6 months, are those emails suddenly a threat to national security? Moreover, if these personal emails do discuss plots against the Nation, in many cases it is a little too little, a little too late to do anything since the government is 6 months behind the ball.

I do not know anyone who can make a legitimate argument to keep this provision of law. I know of no real justification.

To put support for this amendment in perspective, I will point out that there are a handful of bills in the House that abolish or significantly alter this provision of law.

One of these bills is H.R. 1847, introduced by my friend and colleague Congressman MATT SALMON of Arizona. The other is H.R. 1852, introduced by my friend Congressman KEVIN YODER of Kansas. If you add up all the Republicans and Democrats cosponsoring these two bills alone, the number is 217, just about enough to pass this amendment. I can tell you that our constituencies certainly do not accept this gross violation of privacy and abuse of power.

We saw a good bill in the U.S. Freedom Act get watered down and mutilated last week, which was a disgrace. I supported the original act because it made real reforms. I voted against the version that came to the floor because it extended section 215 of the PATRIOT Act for another 2 years.

But can we not agree on this one simple change?

Must the NSA or the FBI or the Department of Homeland Security have access to our emails that are several years old with no other justification than an arbitrary date? I think not.

I urge passage of my commonsense amendment.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) for raising this important issue.

The Electronic Communications Privacy Act was written long before the Internet was in common use. It is out of date. It needs to be modernized. It needs to have some of the requirements that not only the gentleman has noted, but also some of the courts of appeals have noted.

However, the particular way this amendment works on the particular section of the Stored Communications Act, which is a part of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, has implications beyond what I think the gentleman intends would have a significant impact on not only Federal, but also State and local law enforcement ability to carry out their job.

If the gentleman would agree to work with me, as have the two individuals that you referred to have introduced bills and many others in this Congress who know that this needs to be modified—I have had conversations with Senator LEAHY, chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Senate, and we have agreed that this is a priority for both of us to significantly reform this law and address some of the very concerns that the gentleman raises. If he would agree to withdraw the amendment, I would look forward to working with him and others to accomplish that goal in what I think would be a better setting. We have already held two hearings on this issue, and we will be continuing to work on this in an expeditious manner in the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, with the understanding that the chairman has given, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to design, implement, administer, or carry out the U.S. Global Climate Research Program National Climate Assessment, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report, the United Nation's Agenda 21 sustainable development plan, or the May 2013 Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866.

Mr. PERRY (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, it is my understanding the chairman accepts the amendment. If that is the case, I yield to the chairman.

Mr. WOLF. I accept the amendment.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DUFFY

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to relinquish the responsibility of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration with respect to Internet domain name system functions, including responsibility with respect to the authoritative root zone file and the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chair, I think most Americans are aware that the President has recently stated that he intends to transfer the core functions of the Internet to an international or foreign body. What my amendment does today will prohibit the President from using any of these funds to relinquish control of those core functions to the Internet.

I think this is an incredibly important amendment because America and

our zest for freedom of speech has made sure that the Internet is an open forum for dialogue, an open forum for ideas. By relinquishing these rights or core functions to a foreign body, I don't think we will retain the current system of the Internet and the current rights of freedom of speech that the Internet currently enjoys.

If you look at stakeholders, you have a say in how the Internet is run. I think when we use the term "stakeholders," what we are really referring to are foreign governments and corporations. I think we have to ask the question: Do we think that China, that Russia, that Iran, who have a say in the core functions of the Internet, have the same concern for the freedom of speech that we Americans do?

I think it is important that this institution use its control of the purse strings to limit the President's authority to transfer those core functions to this foreign body.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I strongly support the gentleman's amendment, and I appreciate him offering it.

Have you seen how difficult it is to get sanctions in Syria from Putin? Sanctions against the Sudanese with regard to the genocide from China?

The gentleman is right. I accept the amendment and urge all Members to accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Mr. DUFFY's amendment.

The current way the Internet is governed is soon set to change, as we all know, and the question remains: Who will take over? The answer will have consequences for human rights, for the global economy, as well as Internet security and stability.

We must get it right. It is important to the future of our economy. It is important to the type of world we want to live in. We need to ensure the continuation of an open and accessible Internet which can serve to fulfill people's aspirations for freedom and for democracy. And when it comes to Internet policy, the administration has botched consultations over the transition of the duties at the NTIA.

We cannot allow countries to use their influence to stifle speech and commerce on the Internet. This amendment will give us more time to ensure we get this right.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Wisconsin has expired.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, the process that the gentleman seeks to intervene in with this amendment started some 16 years ago. And I would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect this, that apparently if a Presidential election doesn't go in the right direction, the other team's notion is to yank all of the authority away from the person who did win.

Unfortunately in our democracy, it doesn't work like that. When they are not calling for some Member of the Cabinet to resign or doing something else to intervene in the President's authority, they have these theories. Well, this new theory is that Obama has concocted some strategy to turn over the Internet to our enemies.

This is a process that started 16 years ago, and through the Bush administration and the Clinton administration. It is a process having to do with what we might want to call the yellow pages for the Internet, the domain names and how people can create their addresses on the Internet.

The theory of the Internet was to have no government in control. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America has been one of the major proponents of this. I don't believe that anyone on the other team would suggest that somehow they have concocted this scheme with the President to have us empower the Syrians or someone with control of the Internet.

So it is hard for me to focus on this as a substantive matter, because the truth is so far from what has been stated it is hard to reconcile the two things. But the point here is that one of the things that we have tried to say to the rest of the world is that the Internet is not controlled by government, that it is an opportunity for people to enjoy an American ideal, which is freedom of speech, freedom of association.

There were those on the other team who were happy when, during the Arab Spring, people were using social media and Twitter to interact against oppressive regimes around the world. So we have this kind of selective amnesia on these issues. It seems to come into play having anything to do with the Obama administration. There is nothing I can do about it this evening. Maybe it is covered under the Affordable Care Act. But I oppose this amendment, and I oppose the knee-jerk, irresponsible actions that would suggest to countries like China and others that we want to control the Internet versus we want it to be an opportunity for people to gather information, speak freely, and associate freely.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARRETT

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Department of Justice to enforce the Fair Housing Act in a manner that relies upon an allegation of liability under 24 C.F.R. 100.500.

Mr. GARRETT (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

□ 2300

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment that stops the Justice Department from using one of the most dangerous and illogical legal theories of all times: the theory of disparate impact.

In short, disparate impact liability allows the government to allege discrimination on the basis of race or other factors based solely on the statistical analysis that finds disproportionate results among different groups of people.

In recent years, the Justice Department has increasingly used this dubious theory in lawsuits against mortgage lenders, insurers, and landlords, and forced these companies to pay multimillion dollar settlements.

What is wrong with this, one might ask? Well, under disparate impact, one could never intentionally discriminate in any way, and even then have strong antidiscriminatory policies in place, and still be found to have discriminated.

If, for example, a mortgage lender uses a completely objective standard to assess the credit risk, such as the debt-to-income ratio, they can still be found to have discriminated if the data show different loan approval rates for different groups of consumers.

Some of these statistical differences and outcomes may actually be due to

discrimination, but others may not be. It is impossible to tell which is which from the statistics alone. Under disparate impact it doesn't matter though. All statistical differences are considered by themselves discrimination.

To be clear, none of us have a tolerance for intentional discrimination. If there is intentional discrimination, we must prosecute it to the fullest extent of the law. The Justice Department's use of disparate impact, however, tries to fight one injustice with another.

On a more practical level, disparate impact will make it difficult, if not impossible, for lenders to make rational economic decisions about risk. Lenders will feel the pressure to weaken their current standards to keep their lending statistics in line with whatever the Justice Department bureaucrats consider nondiscriminatory.

We have seen what this discriminatory and damaging risky lending can do to our economy. It is truly reckless for our government to be encouraging those dangerous and short-sighted practices to continue.

Ironically, disparate impact forces lenders, insurers, and landlords to constantly take race, ethnicity, gender, and other factors into account or risk running afoul of the Justice Department.

You and I both know, Mr. Chairman, that even an accusation of discrimination could have a devastating impact on a small business.

I quote Roger Clegg, who is the president and general counsel for the Center for Equal Opportunity. He said:

The disparate impact standard for anti-discrimination law pushes people to do one of two things: Get rid of legitimate selection criteria, or use a racial double standard to ensure that the numbers come out right.

On balance, Mr. Chairman, disparate impact will make it more difficult and expensive for families to buy a home, and will result in more discrimination not less.

For these reasons, both philosophical and practical, I ask my colleagues to reject this misguided theory by supporting my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CONAWAY). The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I want to know whether I can raise a point of order against this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is already pending.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I won't waste the Congress' time going

through a great deal of debate. But as brief as I can, what the gentleman's amendment says is no matter what the result, if whole classifications of people are discriminated against based on a set of policies, the DOJ can do nothing about it. That is the America he wants, and I hope the Congress would register our opinion on it when we get a chance to vote. We will be seeking a roll call vote on this matter.

Mr. GARRETT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. GARRETT. You just said something. You said that the Justice Department will not go after them if a whole set of policies result in discriminations.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, what I said is what the gentleman offers to the House is an opportunity where no matter what the result, if whole classifications of people are left out, i.e., there is a disparate impact, that DOJ can't go after it. That is what you offered to the House.

I appreciate your offering, and we will see what kind of America we would like to have when we cast a vote on this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Chairman, I think what America wants is to only be able to bring lawsuits against discrimination when there was, in fact, intentional discrimination, not just because, at the end result from some statistics, some may believe that there was discrimination. If there was intentional discrimination, this amendment does not do anything that would prevent the Justice Department from proceeding.

I would like to enter into the RECORD support for legislation from a number of organizations, including the Consumer Mortgage Coalition, Credit Union National Association, National Association of Federal Credit Unions, and also NAMIC, PCI, and American Insurance Association, which in part states:

All 50 States have a strong and comprehensive antidiscrimination regulatory regime, including definitions of unacceptable conduct and full panoply of enforcement tools that includes rate approval, license revocation, and fines. There is no evidence that these regimes are insufficient.

Furthermore, they state:

Under the disparate impact theory, even when a lender takes every step to prevent discrimination and treats all consumers fairly and equally, a neutral policy can serve as a basis for very serious and harmful results.

And "could increase the cost and undermine the availability of credit throughout the economy."

AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION, AMERICAN FINANCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION, CONSUMER MORTGAGE COALITION, CREDIT UNION NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKERS OF AMERICA, MORTGAGE BANKERS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

May 29, 2014.

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The undersigned organizations support Representative Garrett's amendment to H.R. 4660, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015. The amendment would prohibit any funds made available by the Act from being used for litigation in which the Department of Justice (DOJ) seeks to prove illegal discrimination based on the "disparate impact" theory.

All of our organizations and their member companies view illegal discrimination in housing and lending as morally, ethically, and legally abhorrent and do not tolerate it in any size, shape or form. They are committed to providing financial services to American consumers in full compliance with all lending laws.

Recently, the Department of Justice, along with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), entered into a \$98 million settlement with Ally Financial and Ally Bank over allegations that it discriminated against minority borrowers in its indirect auto lending program. The order represents the federal government's largest auto loan discrimination settlement in history. The CFPB and DOJ based their allegations solely on a disparate impact theory of discrimination. They do not allege that Ally intentionally discriminated against any consumers. This settlement was only a part of a larger joint effort between the CFPB and DOJ to address disparate impact in the auto lending market.

Disparate impact claims also have been brought under the Fair Housing Act pursuant to rules issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is notwithstanding that the basis for such claims under the Act is in considerable dispute.

Under the disparate impact theory, even when a lender takes every step to prevent discrimination and treats all consumers fairly and equally, a neutral policy can serve as a basis for very serious and harmful claims in the absence of intentional discrimination. Smaller lenders, in particular, will find it difficult to manage this type of litigation risk. Left unchecked, disparate impact enforcement could increase the cost and undermine the availability of credit throughout the economy.

We ask the Members of the House of Representatives to vote in favor of Representative Garrett's amendment.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANIES, PROPERTY CASUALTY INSURERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, AMERICAN INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

May 29, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI, Minority Leader, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: The undersigned insurance trade organizations strongly support Rep. Scott Garrett's amendment to H.R. 4660 to prevent the Department of Justice (DOJ)

from using funds to litigate in order to prove illegal discrimination based on the “disparate impact” theory. In particular, we are concerned about the use of the “disparate impact” theory in relation to a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rule (24 C.F.R. 100.500) issued on February 15, 2013. The new rule would allow HUD and DOJ to hold insurers liable for discrimination when a housing-related practice has a discriminatory effect based on “disparate impact” theory.

We individually and collectively abhor any unfair discrimination in any aspect of insurance. However, application of the rule to the provision and pricing of homeowners insurance as HUD intends is impractical and contrary to existing State and Federal law. All 50 States have a strong and comprehensive anti-discrimination regulatory regime, including definitions of unacceptable conduct and a full panoply of enforcement tools that includes rate approval, license revocation, and fines. There is no evidence that these regimes have been insufficient.

The rule could be used to challenge common and regulator-approved factors used for risk-based pricing—including an applicant’s claims history, construction materials, the presence or absence of a security system, and distance from a firehouse—if they were found to result in a statistical disparity for a class defined by race, ethnicity, or gender. However, accurate risk classification is essential to the business of insurance and treating similar risk profiles in a similar manner is a form of reasonable and fair underwriting that is at the very heart of the business of insurance. The rule ignores this and under it, an insurance company acting in full compliance with a State rating law standard could see itself challenged under the “disparate impact” theory.

Accordingly, the rule is impractical and contrary to existing law. Therefore, we support passage of Mr. Garrett’s amendment to H.R. 4660 to prevent DOJ from funding litigation to prove illegal discrimination based on the “disparate impact” theory.

Sincerely,

American Insurance Association, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, Property Casualty Insurers Association of America.

Mr. GARRETT. In the end, Mr. Chairman, what we are intending to do here is to allow for the Justice Department to proceed when there is evidence of intentional discrimination. But when there is no evidence whatsoever, when it is purely on statistics, then it should not proceed under that theory of law.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I want to make just one other point here.

Every single Federal appellate court has upheld a way to proceed in terms of looking at the impact of policies.

What the gentleman offers is that if American baseball looks like it looked prior to Jackie Robinson, that that is just perfectly fine. I happen to think that American baseball is a little bit as a pastime more enjoyable for all of us after the Jackie Robinson decision, which was to take into account those

who have been left out and to take an affirmative action to include them in. That is the America I want my children to grow up in.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LUETKEMEYER

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to carry out Operation Choke Point.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Chairman, how does the Federal Government get rid of an industry it simply doesn’t like? Easy. It cuts that industry off from the financial services it needs to operate.

Sound impossible? Sure, it does. However, that is exactly what the Department of Justice is doing in conjunction with the FDIC. This program even has a name: Operation Choke Point. It is designed to force legally operating and licensed entities out of business by choking them off from the financial services they need.

What started with nondepository lenders is spreading to other industries. Media reports indicate that DOJ is now pressuring financial institutions that service the gun and ammunition industries. As a former bank examiner and banker, I know how they are using the power of their position to intimidate the banks and undermine the banks’ ability to serve their customers who are doing a legal business. It is just plain wrong, Mr. Chairman.

However, I want to be very clear. I strongly support DOJ’s authority to go after the bad actors. Those actions should be commended and should not be inhibited. But what cannot be tolerated is the Federal Government using its authority to broadly target entire industries, including those that obey the law and are living within the rules.

The staff report just released in the Oversight Committee summarizes 853

pages of internal DOJ documents. Many of these internal documents show that even DOJ officials question the legality of their actions, and yet they continue.

This isn’t a Republican or Democrat issue. This isn’t a conservative or liberal issue. This is an issue of DOJ stepping outside the law.

We have worked on a bipartisan basis to inform DOJ and other regulators of the unintended consequences of Operation Choke Point, but those concerns have fallen on deaf ears.

As a result, this bipartisan amendment is an important step to ensuring that DOJ can continue to do its job, but makes clear the Department must not abuse its authorities.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER), my good friend.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

I supported the original intent of Operation Choke Point, which sought to restrict online payday lenders, usually operating from overseas, from lending in States that prohibit payday lending, but the program expanded and is now being pushed well beyond its stated objective.

Eliminating fraud and illegal transactions from our Nation’s payment system should continue to be a priority for the Department of Justice and other Federal regulators, but employing a “dragnet” on companies engaged in legitimate business activities is wrong.

State banking commissioners have also expressed concerns the Federal agencies are attempting to deny essential banking services to lawful State-licensed firms.

Operation Choke Point pressures banks to close accounts and stop processing payments for those businesses that pose a reputational risk.

What is happening here is this approach, this dragnet approach, causes a chilling effect on legitimate businesses and legitimate banking services. As a consequence, going after bad guys, the Department of Justice needs to do that, but not in such a broad, all-inclusive way to chill legitimate business.

That is why I support this amendment, and ask for an “aye” vote.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. With that, Mr. Chairman, I just want to close by saying I appreciate the gentleman from Colorado’s support.

This is an agency that has gone well beyond the scope of its authority. It even questions its own authority in its internal memos. The original intent is questionable, but at this point it has gone well beyond even the original intent. There is now even a list of other industries to go after.

I think that this is a situation where we need to stop what is going on, and I think my amendment clearly sets out what needs to be done.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. Consumer and financial fraud are major crimes in the country, and fraud investigations are a matter of high priority for the FBI.

I just think this issue ought to be addressed by the committee of jurisdiction. In this case, the Judiciary Committee, also the Financial Services Committee.

We do hear stories of, outside of military bases, veterans being exploited.

I am just concerned about what it actually means, and I think it ought to be looked at by the committee of jurisdiction and not by the Appropriations Committee at 11:15 at night. So for that reason I oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. I concur with the chairman. Maybe it will get approved, but not in our bill and not at this time because we don't completely understand it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading "Department of Justice—Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance" may be used in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373(a)).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

□ 2315

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, my amendment prohibits any of the funds used within this portion of the bill from going to cities that have passed and enacted what we call sanctuary cities or sanctuary political subdivisions. The section of the code that we refer to, 8 U.S.C. 1373, reads this way:

Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal, State, or local law, a Federal, State, or local government entity or official may not prohibit or in any way restrict any government entity or official from sending to or receiving from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which would now be ICE, information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual.

This is current law. We have multiple cities in the country that are violating current law, and they are doing so with impunity, and when we send funds out of this appropriations bill to those cities, it simply ignores an opportunity that we have to restrain these cities, which is for them to come back and comply with Federal law.

I was brought up in a law enforcement family. I had the Constitution waved at me on a regular basis. It was expressed to me clearly that it is the supreme law of the land, and the enumerator powers in it, which this Congress does assert and defend, are included within 8 U.S.C. 1373.

In other words, Mr. Chairman, if these cities and if these political subdivisions disagree with Federal law, they can come here and ask Congress to change the law, but to defy it and to do so with the level of impunity that they have cannot be accepted by the United States Congress. We have a responsibility to assert our constitutional and statutory authority.

That is what my amendment does. It says any cities that have sanctuary policies and that implement those sanctuary policies are not going to receive funds out of this section of the bill, and the dollar figure we are dealing with here is from a fund of \$1.235 billion.

I would point out that, today, the Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, testified before the Judiciary Committee. He was speaking specifically of Secure Communities, the act that allows for fingerprints to be transferred back and forth between the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, or the NCIC.

He said:

Even with the Secure Communities issue, we have mayors and Governors pursuing laws that limit the effectiveness of Secure Communities.

This addresses Secure Communities in this way, and it addresses sanctuary city policies, of which the Secure Communities policy, according to Secretary Jeh Johnson, is a very worthy one.

So this supports at least the tone of the message delivered today in the Judiciary Committee, and it supports what this Congress has done multiple times in the past. I urge the adoption of my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, obviously, between the Garrett amendment on disparate impact and this, this is, I guess, not actually part of their effort to reach out for a greater fan base—the idea that local communities can't make decisions in their own interests and that we need the heavy hand of the Federal Government to herd them into some particular set of responsibilities that are actually our responsibilities.

Immigration law is our responsibility. It is not a local community's responsibility. When the fire department shows up, it is supposed to put the fire out, not worry about where someone's papers are. I just think that it is somewhat contradictory of what we hear from the other team about where they are headed, but this might be representative thereof, rather than doing comprehensive immigration reform.

We must do our job as the United States Congress. Now, the Senate has done its job. The President has said that he wants to sign a comprehensive bill. The Chamber of Commerce and all of the various religious and faith-based groups in our country have come forward, but rather than the Congress taking up a bill—any bill—on immigration reform, what we have is this constant effort to get at local communities that are just trying to make the best of a very tough situation that the Federal Government is creating.

Now, we will burden them because we don't want to take our responsibility and enact a comprehensive immigration program.

I am opposed to this amendment, but I am pleased that the gentleman has reminded us that this is, in essence, the immigration program that has some currency from the majority party. We should do something different than this, and we can.

There are 218 votes on this floor that would do comprehensive immigration reform if we would bring it, then we wouldn't have to deal with these kinds of amendments year in and year out, bill in and bill out, because we would have dealt with the problem.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I would point out that these political subdivisions, particularly in the cities, are contravening and ordering their officers not to cooperate with Federal immigration officers, refusing to allow them to collaborate with or to transport or to otherwise cooperate with our Federal immigration officers.

We simply cannot have a law enforcement structure in the United States where you don't have local and State and Federal officers cooperating with each other. It is not good for our communities' security, and it is not good for our national security.

This is in defiance with and in contravention of Federal law that directs that they cannot do this. They write these ordinances anyway in defiance of

the law, and this Congress must assert its primary authority over the funding that flows to those communities.

If we fail to do that, we shouldn't be surprised if there are many other Federal laws that are contravened or defied, so I would urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MEADOWS

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to negotiate or enter into a trade agreement that establishes a limit on greenhouse gas emissions. The limitation described in this section shall not apply in the case of the administration of a tax or tariff.

Mr. MEADOWS (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Chairman, I have a very simple amendment. Currently, there are negotiations going on with the USTR. This amendment would prohibit funding to have any of the negotiations to enter into a trade agreement that would establish a limit on greenhouse gas emissions.

The 110th Congress—Democratically-controlled Congress—rejected the cap-and-trade in 2009. It would be very clear in supporting this amendment that we would carry on the will of the House in terms of making sure that we wouldn't use any funds to circumvent the will of Congress.

Additionally, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce came out recently with proposed rules from the EPA, which are set to come out next week, that would indicate that these types of rules could cost anywhere in the neighborhood of 3.5 million jobs over the next 15 years.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any Member wish to seek time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment?

Seeing none, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HUDSON

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the amounts made available by this Act may be used for any program not authorized by law as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise this evening to offer an amendment to the CJS appropriations bill that would prohibit the funding for any program that is not authorized by law.

For far too long, Congress has continued to appropriate spending on government programs with little or no oversight. Our country has essentially been on autopilot towards a cliff of fiscal and economic disaster.

This has resulted in a massive and out-of-control, bloated bureaucracy. In this bill alone, there are 141 unauthorized programs. Some of these programs were last authorized in 1993, and there are others that have never been authorized.

In total, these unauthorized and unchecked programs in this legislation receive \$57 billion. With over \$17 trillion in debt, it is time for us to say: enough is enough.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HUDSON. Yes, I will yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania when I get a second.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment prohibits funding in the bill for unauthorized programs. It parallels my Sunset Act of 2014, H.R. 3847, which would force Congress to actually do oversight and evaluate each individual program.

This type of sweeping reform would dramatically overhaul the way Washington budgets and spends hard-earned taxpayer dollars, and it would allow Congress to finally take back control, scale back our bloated bureaucracy,

and provide accountability for the Federal Government.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I thought the gentleman would yield for a second.

My question was that a large swath of our bill has not been authorized, including NASA, so we have to deal with transport back and forth to the International Space Station.

Even though it has not been reauthorized, your amendment, as written, would seem to prohibit NASA from being able to conduct life-sustaining activities relative to the space station.

That was my question. The gentleman neglected to yield, but I will have it stand as a rhetorical question for the moment, and I oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. COLLINS OF GEORGIA

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide assistance to a State, or political subdivision of a State, that has in effect any law, policy, or procedure in contravention of immigration laws (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I do appreciate the opportunity, and it looks like I am probably bringing up the boots. I think I am on a boat, as they say. I am the last one coming in.

I just want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for the time. I have been watching all night, and I

just want to thank you all for the work you have done on this bill, and I look forward to offering this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer this amendment to ensure that no funds appropriated under H.R. 4660 are used to assist States and localities whose laws and policies are in direct contradiction to Federal immigration law and enforcement efforts.

State and local jurisdictions are implementing policies that directly contradict U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's statutorily-mandated mission to identify and ultimately remove illegal aliens who are currently incarcerated.

Not only do these policies go against the spirit and the letter of the laws enacted by this body, but they ultimately do a disservice to the very communities that they are designed to protect.

Local jurisdictions are increasingly implementing policies that bar State and local officials, including law enforcement officials, from asking people about their immigration statuses, from reporting them to Federal immigration authorities, or otherwise cooperating with or assisting Federal immigration authorities.

Some jurisdictions are even going farther to defy Federal law by implementing antideporter policies that restrict local and State police from cooperating with Federal authorities that are seeking to remove aliens who have been arrested and charged with other crimes, and when local sheriffs choose to follow the Federal law and honor ICE detainers, some have been slapped with a lawsuit for cooperating with these detainers.

In response to a number of local jurisdictions for their refusing to honor ICE detainers in all or in many cases, former ICE Director John Morton warned of what would occur.

He said that:

The approach of one particular county is ultimately going to lead to additional crimes that would have been prevented had we been able to enforce the law as the law is presently written.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this amendment and send a clear message that, if localities and jurisdictions refuse to honor ICE detainers and implement policies in contradiction to Federal immigration law, they should not be eligible to receive funds under this act, specifically Federal reimbursement grants under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.

With that, Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 2330

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly rise in direct opposition to the amendment, and I rise with mixed emotions. I am very pleased this is the last amendment. But, nonetheless, I am opposed to it—not in the main. That is to say, of course, none of the funds in this bill should be used to operate contrary to our laws, but some of the vagueness of the language as it intersects with State and local communities and decisions they may make.

So, for instance, a local community may say that in an emergency situation public safety officers should not engage in questions about whether you have papers or not. Or, when you are seeking information about a child that has been kidnapped, and you go to a certain home or family, you shouldn't be questioning them about their immigration status when you are trying to save a child who could be in imminent danger.

There could be circumstances in which this apparent language would create a real problem.

I reluctantly oppose the amendment. I thank the gentleman for joining the party and closing us out tonight, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I do appreciate the ranking member's opinion on that. As the son of a Georgia State trooper, I think the descriptions that you have just made are basically a little bit of hyperbole in the sense that when an officer or others go in an emergency and have this situation in which they would not act in the best interest of the situation which they are in.

All we are simply saying is we are not going to give Federal funds to cities and localities and States who want to directly contradict immigration local law in the normal course of business. That is exactly what this amendment does, and will continue to do so. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the minority leader.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, first, let me briefly say I rise to speak on this bill which directly impacts our economy, our competitiveness, and our ability to create jobs that pay well and open doors of opportunity.

While there are many positives to this bill—not limited to the strong support of NASA and the Goddard Space Flight Center, which is in my district, as well as robust funding for the National Science Foundation—this bill nonetheless makes two deep cuts to vital programs that protect against crime, promote innovation, and facilitate exports.

But the reason I wanted to come to the floor is because I wanted to take a moment to congratulate my friend, Representative FRANK WOLF of Virginia, the chairman of the subcommittee who is managing this bill on the Republican side.

FRANK was elected in 1980. I was elected a few months later in a special election in 1981. We served together for 23 years on the Appropriations Committee. We served all that time until I left when I was elected majority leader.

We served on the Helsinki Commission together, which fought for human rights while the Soviet Union existed and so many were enslaved behind the Iron Curtain.

FRANK WOLF has chaired this subcommittee for many, many years. He has done so with honor, with honesty, and with fairness.

He and I have served together in this House for 33 years. We sat together on the Appropriations Committee, as I said, for 23. When he retires at the end of this Congress, it will be a significant loss to the people of his district and to this House, which he has served so well.

We may sit, FRANK, on opposite sides of the aisle, but that has done nothing to diminish the friendship and alliance we have forged over the course of our service together, and the level of respect I have for him as a legislator and as a human being.

He has been indefatigable, Mr. Chairman, in his work on behalf of his constituents, on behalf of our Federal employees, and on behalf of the interests of the Washington metropolitan area.

This is his final Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill, at least as being initiated on this House floor.

I know his passion and professionalism when it comes to these issues will be greatly missed, not only by the many outside groups that provide input to him and the subcommittee each year, but to his Democratic colleagues on the subcommittee, including Ranking Member CHAKA FATTAH, with whom he has worked so well, and previous ranking members who have worked well with him. I applaud them for their work.

FRANK WOLF is a principled, courageous, tenacious advocate for human rights in every corner of the Earth. I have traveled with him frequently behind the Iron Curtain to argue for those who were discriminated against, whose human rights were undermined, and whose civil rights did not exist.

FRANK WOLF is always prepared to go anywhere, anytime, in the toughest of circumstances, by himself and yes, with others, to advocate on behalf of those who had no advocate.

I have had the privilege of working with Congressman WOLF on many issues over the years. I have always

found him focused on the merits of issues and not on their politics.

Mr. Chairman, I join all my colleagues in thanking him for his service to this House, to the subcommittee, to the Nation he served in the uniform of the United States Army, and to the people of his district.

I look forward, FRANK, to working with you the balance of this year as you continue your focus and advocacy on behalf of the issues which you so ably support.

The 113th Congress will come to an end, and FRANK WOLF will leave us. He will still have many things to accomplish. He will still make many significant and important contributions to his country and to his community.

I know that all the Members join me, FRANK, in thanking you for your service, your dedication, and your friendship.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I think we all owe thanks to FRANK WOLF and Mr. FATTAH for all of the work that they have done today.

This has been a long, hard slog. There has been dozens of amendments and almost endless debate, but they have stayed at the chore and they have guided us through this maze that we have been coming through—and, I think, done really well.

So I want to thank both of them for the hard work they have done on this bill yesterday, last night, and today and tonight.

In addition to what the minority leader has said about FRANK WOLF, I want to say that he and I came here together in the same class. There are only three of us left out of 54 now; two after he leaves.

FRANK WOLF, as the leader has said, never fails in compassion and honesty and transparency. He is above board. What you see is what you get. They say that character is when you do the right thing when no one is watching. Certainly, that is true of FRANK WOLF.

He is a patriot. He served his State, his district, his Nation, and the people of the world, for that matter, in an exemplary way. I can think of no one in this body that I have served with in these years together who better exemplifies honesty, integrity, and devotion to his country and family as has FRANK WOLF.

So, FRANK, we are going to miss you dearly. This is the last time that you will chair this bill on the House floor. You have been a great chairman of this subcommittee which I had the pleasure and honor of serving as chairman of for several years, and as a member of that subcommittee for many, many years. No one has done it better.

Our hearts are open when it comes to our love of FRANK WOLF. We wish him

the very best in the next chapter of his life.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that my request for a recorded vote on my amendment be withdrawn to the end that the amendment stand adopted by the earlier voice vote.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the request for a recorded vote is withdrawn, and the amendment stands adopted in accordance with the earlier voice vote thereon.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 13 by Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

Amendment No. 14 by Mrs. BLACKBURN of Tennessee.

Amendment No. 15 by Mrs. BLACKBURN of Tennessee.

Amendment by Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon.

Amendment No. 25 by Mr. ROHR-ABACHER of California.

Amendment by Mr. HOLDING of North Carolina.

Amendment by Mr. MASSIE of Kentucky.

Amendment No. 24 by Mr. SOUTHERLAND of Florida.

Amendment by Mr. ELLISON of Minnesota.

Amendment by Mr. GRAYSON of Florida.

Amendment by Mr. DUFFY of Wisconsin.

Amendment by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

Amendment by Mr. KING of Iowa.

Amendment by Mr. MEADOWS of North Carolina.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. MORAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 169, noes 230, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 254]

AYES—169

Amash	Grayson	Negrete McLeod
Bass	Grijalva	Nolan
Beatty	Gutiérrez	O'Rourke
Becerra	Hahn	Pallone
Bera (CA)	Hanabusa	Pascarell
Bishop (GA)	Heck (WA)	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Higgins	Payne
Blumenauer	Himes	Pelosi
Bonamici	Hinojosa	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Holt	Peters (CA)
Braley (IA)	Honda	Pingree (ME)
Brown (FL)	Horsford	Pocan
Butterfield	Hoyer	Polis
Capps	Huffman	Price (NC)
Capuano	Israel	Quigley
Cárdenas	Jackson Lee	Rice (SC)
Carney	Jeffries	Richmond
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Rush
Castro (TX)	Jones	Ryan (OH)
Chu	Kaptur	Sánchez, Linda
Cicilline	Keating	T.
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)	Sanford
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Clyburn	Kildee	Schakowsky
Cohen	Kilmer	Schiff
Connolly	Kind	Schneider
Conyers	Kirkpatrick	Schradler
Cooper	Kuster	Schwartz
Costa	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Courtney	Larsen (WA)	Scott, David
Crowley	Larson (CT)	Serrano
Cummings	Lee (CA)	Sewell (AL)
Davis (CA)	Levin	Sherman
Davis, Danny	Loeback	Sires
DeFazio	Lofgren	Smith (WA)
DeGette	Lowenthal	Speier
Delaney	Lowe	Stewart
DeLauro	Lujan Grisham	Stockman
DelBene	(NM)	Swalwell (CA)
Deutch	Luján, Ben Ray	Takano
Doggett	(NM)	Thompson (CA)
Doyle	Lynch	Thompson (MS)
Duncan (TN)	Maloney,	Tierney
Edwards	Carolyn	Titus
Ellison	Matsui	Tonko
Engel	McCollum	Tsongas
Enyart	McDermott	Van Hollen
Eshoo	McGovern	Vargas
Esty	Meeks	Veasey
Farr	Meng	Velázquez
Fattah	Michaud	Vislosky
Foster	Miller, George	Walz
Frankel (FL)	Moore	Wasserman
Fudge	Moran	Schultz
Gabbard	Nadler	Welch
Garamendi	Napolitano	Yarmuth
Gibson	Neal	Yoho
	NOES—230	
Aderholt	Buchanan	Crenshaw
Amodei	Bucshon	Cuellar
Bachmann	Burgess	Culberson
Bachus	Bustos	Daines
Barber	Byrne	Davis, Rodney
Barletta	Calvert	Denham
Barr	Camp	Dent
Barrow (GA)	Cantor	DeSantis
Barton	Carter	DesJarlais
Bentivolio	Cassidy	Diaz-Balart
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	Duffy
Black	Coble	Duncan (SC)
Blackburn	Coffman	Ellmers
Boustany	Cole	Farenthold
Brady (TX)	Collins (GA)	Fincher
Bridenstine	Collins (NY)	Fitzpatrick
Brooks (AL)	Conaway	Fleischmann
Brooks (IN)	Cook	Fleming
Broun (GA)	Cotton	Forbes
Brownley (CA)	Crawford	Fortenberry

Foxx Long
 Franks (AZ) Lucas
 Frelinghuysen Luetkemeyer
 Gallego Lummis
 Garcia Maffei
 Gardner Maloney, Sean
 Garrett Marchant
 Gerlach Marino
 Gibbs Massie
 Gingrey (GA) Matheson
 Gohmert McCarthy (CA)
 Goodlatte McCaul
 Gosar McClintock
 Gowdy McHenry
 Granger McIntyre
 Graves (GA) McKeon
 Graves (MO) McKinley
 Green, Gene McMorris
 Griffin (AR) Rodgers
 Griffith (VA) McNerney
 Grimm Meadows
 Guthrie Meehan
 Hall Messer
 Hanna Mica
 Harper Miller (FL)
 Harris Miller (MI)
 Hastings (WA) Mullin
 Heck (NV) Mulvaney
 Hensarling Murphy (FL)
 Herrera Beutler Neugebauer
 Holding Noem
 Hudson Nugent
 Huelskamp Nunes
 Huizenga (MI) Nunnelee
 Hultgren Olson
 Hunter Owens
 Issa Paulsen
 Jenkins Pearce
 Johnson (OH) Perry
 Johnson, Sam Peters (MI)
 Jolly Peterson
 Jordan Petri
 Joyce Pittenger
 Kelly (PA) Pitts
 King (IA) Poe (TX)
 King (NY) Pompeo
 Kingston Posey
 Kinzinger (IL) Price (GA)
 Kline Rahall
 Labrador Reed
 LaMalfa Reichert
 Lamborn Renacci
 Lance Ribble
 Latham Rigell
 Latta Roby
 Lipinski Roe (TN)
 LoBiondo Rogers (AL)

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 148, noes 253, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 255]

AYES—148

Amash
 Barr
 Barrow (GA)
 Barton
 Bentivolio
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (UT)
 Black
 Blackburn
 Boustany
 Brady (TX)
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (IN)
 Broun (GA)
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Burgess
 Capps
 Carter
 Chabot
 Coble
 Coffman
 Collins (GA)
 Collins (NY)
 Conaway
 Cook
 Cooper
 Cotton
 Daines
 DeSantis
 DesJarlais
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Duncan (TN)
 Farenthold
 Fincher
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Flores
 Foxx
 Franks (AZ)
 Gardner
 Garrett
 Gibbs
 Mica
 Gingrey (GA)
 Gohmert
 Goodlatte
 Gosar
 Gowdy
 Granger

Esty
 Farr
 Fattah
 Fitzpatrick
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Frelinghuysen
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garcia
 Gerlach
 McGovern
 Gibson
 Grayson
 Green, Gene
 Griffin (AR)
 Grimm
 Gutierrez
 Hahn
 Pearce
 Hanabusa
 Hanna
 Hastings (WA)
 Heck (NV)
 Heck (WA)
 Herrera Beutler
 Higgins
 Himes
 Hinojosa
 Holt
 Honda
 Horsford
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Israel
 Jackson Lee
 Jeffries
 Rothfus
 Jenkins
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Joly
 Joyce
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kind
 King (NY)
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kirkpatrick
 Kuster
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Latham
 Lee (CA)
 Levin
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Loeb sack
 Lofgren

NOT VOTING—32
 Benishek
 Bilirakis
 Campbell
 Capito
 Castor (FL)
 Chaffetz
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Cramer
 Dingell
 Duckworth

NOT VOTING—30
 Benishek
 Camp
 Campbell
 Capito
 Chaffetz
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Cramer
 Dingell
 Duckworth
 Green, Al

NOES—253

Cantor
 Capuano
 Cardenas
 Bachmann
 Bachus
 Barber
 Barletta
 Bass
 Beatty
 Becerra
 Bera (CA)
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Brady (PA)
 Braley (IA)
 Brooks (AL)
 Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Byrne
 Calvert

NOT VOTING—0011
 Grijalva
 Hartzler
 Hastings (FL)
 Kaptur
 Lankford
 Larson (CT)
 Lewis
 Maloney, Carolyn
 McCarthy (NY)
 Miller, Gary

□ 0008
 Ms. JENKINS, Messrs. GRAVES of Missouri and MCKINLEY changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. JONES, STOCKMAN, and LARSON of Connecticut changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 255, I was unexpectedly detained and therefore missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs.

BLACKBURN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 198, noes 208, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 256]

AYES—198

Aderholt Graves (GA) Nunnelee
 Amodei Graves (MO) Olson
 Bachmann Griffin (AR) Paulsen
 Bachus Griffith (VA) Pearce
 Barletta Grimm Perry
 Barr Guthrie Peterson
 Barton Hall Petri
 Bentivolio Hanna Pittenger
 Bilirakis Harper Pitts
 Bishop (UT) Harris Poe (TX)
 Black Hastings (WA) Pompeo
 Blackburn Hensarling Posey
 Boustany Herrera Beutler Price (GA)
 Brady (TX) Holding Reichert
 Bridenstine Hudson Renacci
 Brooks (AL) Huelskamp Roby
 Brooks (IN) Huizenga (MI) Roe (TN)
 Broun (GA) Hunter Rogers (AL)
 Buchanan Hurt Rogers (KY)
 Buchson Issa Rogers (MI)
 Burgess Jenkins Rohrabacher
 Byrne Johnson (OH) Rooney
 Calvert Johnson, Sam Doyle
 Cantor Jolly Edwards
 Carter Jones Rothfus
 Cassidy Jordan Royce
 Chabot Kelly (PA) Runyan
 Coble King (IA) Ryan (WI)
 Coffman King (NY) Salmon
 Cole Kingston Scalise
 Collins (GA) Kline Schweikert
 Collins (NY) Labrador Scott, Austin
 Conaway LaMalfa Sensenbrenner
 Cook Lamborn Sessions
 Cotton Lance Smith (MO)
 Crawford Latham Smith (NE)
 Crenshaw Latta Smith (NJ)
 Culberson LoBiondo Smith (TX)
 Daines Long Southerland
 Dent Lucas Stewart
 DeSantis Luetkemeyer Stivers
 DesJarlais Lummis Stockman
 Duffy Marchant Stutzman
 Duncan (SC) Marino Terry
 Duncan (TN) Massie Thompson (PA)
 Ellmers Matheson Thornberry
 Farenthold McAllister Tiberi
 Fincher McCarthy (CA) Tipton
 Fitzpatrick McCaul Turner
 Fleischmann McClintock Upton
 Fleming McHenry Wagner
 Flores McKeon Walberg
 Forbes McKinley Walden
 Fortenberry McMorris
 Foxx Rodgers Walorski
 Franks (AZ) Meadows Weber (TX)
 Frelinghuysen Meehan Wenstrup
 Gardner Mica Westmoreland
 Garrett Miller (FL) Williams
 Gerlach Miller (MI) Wilson (SC)
 Gibbs Mullin Wittman
 Gingrey (GA) Mulvaney Wolf
 Gohmert Murphy (PA) Womack
 Goodlatte Neugebauer Yoder
 Gosar Noem Yoho
 Gowdy Nugent Young (AK)
 Granger Nunes Young (IN)

NOES—208

Amash Barrow (GA) Beatty
 Barber Bass Becerra

Bera (CA) Heck (NV)
 Bishop (GA) Heck (WA)
 Bishop (NY) Higgins
 Blumenauer Himes
 Bonamici Hinojosa
 Brady (PA) Holt
 Braley (IA) Honda
 Brown (FL) Horsford
 Brownley (CA) Hoyer
 Bustos Huffman
 Butterfield Hultgren
 Camp Israel
 Capps Jackson Lee
 Capuano Jeffries
 Cárdenas Johnson (GA)
 Carney Johnson, E. B.
 Carson (IN) Joyce
 Cartwright Kaptur
 Castor (FL) Keating
 Castro (TX) Kelly (IL)
 Chu Kennedy
 Cicilline Kildee
 Clark (MA) Kilmer
 Clarke (NY) Kind
 Clyburn Kinzinger (IL)
 Cohen Kirkpatrick
 Connolly Kuster
 Conyers Langevin
 Cooper Larsen (WA)
 Costa Larson (CT)
 Courtney Lee (CA)
 Crowley Levin
 Cuellar Lipinski
 Cummings Loeb sack
 Davis (CA) Lofgren
 Davis, Danny Lowenthal
 Davis, Rodney Lowey
 DeFazio Lujan Grisham
 DeGette (NM)
 Delaney Luján, Ben Ray
 DeLauro (NM)
 DelBene Lynch
 Hunter Maffei
 Deutch Maloney,
 Diaz-Balart Carolyn
 Doggett Maloney, Sean
 Doyle Matsui
 Edwards McCollum
 Ellison McDermott
 Engel McGovern
 Enyart McIntyre
 Eshoo McNeerney
 Esty Meeks
 Farr Meng
 Fattah Messer
 Foster Michaud
 Frankel (FL) Miller, George
 Fudge Moore
 Gabbard Moran
 Gallego Murphy (FL)
 Garamendi Nadler
 Garcia Napolitano
 Gibson Neal
 Grayson Negrete McLeod
 Green, Gene Nolan
 Grijalva O'Rourke
 Gutiérrez Owens
 Hahn Pallone
 Hanabusa Pascrell
 Bera (CA) Heck (NV)
 Bishop (GA) Heck (WA)
 Bishop (NY) Higgins
 Blumenauer Himes
 Bonamici Hinojosa
 Brady (PA) Holt
 Braley (IA) Honda
 Brown (FL) Horsford
 Brownley (CA) Hoyer
 Bustos Huffman
 Butterfield Hultgren
 Camp Israel
 Capps Jackson Lee
 Capuano Jeffries
 Cárdenas Johnson (GA)
 Carney Johnson, E. B.
 Carson (IN) Joyce
 Cartwright Kaptur
 Castor (FL) Keating
 Castro (TX) Kelly (IL)
 Chu Kennedy
 Cicilline Kildee
 Clark (MA) Kilmer
 Clarke (NY) Kind
 Clyburn Kinzinger (IL)
 Cohen Kirkpatrick
 Connolly Kuster
 Conyers Langevin
 Cooper Larsen (WA)
 Costa Larson (CT)
 Courtney Lee (CA)
 Crowley Levin
 Cuellar Lipinski
 Cummings Loeb sack
 Davis (CA) Lofgren
 Davis, Danny Lowenthal
 Davis, Rodney Lowey
 DeFazio Lujan Grisham
 DeGette (NM)
 Delaney Luján, Ben Ray
 DeLauro (NM)
 DelBene Lynch
 Hunter Maffei
 Deutch Maloney,
 Diaz-Balart Carolyn
 Doggett Maloney, Sean
 Doyle Matsui
 Edwards McCollum
 Ellison McDermott
 Engel McGovern
 Enyart McIntyre
 Eshoo McNeerney
 Esty Meeks
 Farr Meng
 Fattah Messer
 Flores Michaud
 Fortenberry Miller, George
 Foster Moore
 Frankel (FL) Moran
 Fudge Murphy (FL)
 Gabbard Nadler
 Gallego Napolitano
 Garamendi Neal
 Garcia Negrete McLeod
 Gibson Nolan
 Grayson O'Rourke
 Green, Gene Nolan
 Grijalva O'Rourke
 Gutiérrez Owens
 Hahn Pallone
 Hanabusa Pascrell

NOT VOTING—25

Green, Al Ros-Lehtinen
 Hartzler Shuster
 Hastings (FL) Slaughter
 Lankford Vela
 Lewis Waters
 McCarthy (NY) Waxman
 Miller, Gary Woodall
 Palazzo
 Rangel

□ 0015

So the amendment was rejected.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 237, noes 170, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 257]

AYES—237

Amash Frankel (FL) Michaud
 Amodei Fudge Miller, George
 Barber Gabbard Moore
 Barr Garamendi Moran
 Bass Gardner Mulvaney
 Beatty Garrett Nadler
 Becerra Gibson Napolitano
 Bentivolio Graves (GA) Neal
 Bera (CA) Grayson Negrete McLeod
 Bilirakis Griffith (VA) Nolan
 Bishop (GA) Grijalva O'Rourke
 Bishop (NY) Gutiérrez Owens
 Blumenauer Hahn Pallone
 Bonamici Hanabusa Pascrell
 Brady (PA) Hanna Pastor (AZ)
 Braley (IA) Heck (NV) Payne
 Brooks (AL) Heck (WA) Pelosi
 Broun (GA) Herrera Beutler Perlmutter
 Brown (FL) Higgins Perry
 Brownley (CA) Himes Peters (CA)
 Bucshon Holt Peters (MI)
 Butterfield Honda Peterson
 Capps Horsford Petri
 Capuano Hoyer Pingree (ME)
 Cárdenas Huelskamp Pocan
 Carney Huffman Poe (TX)
 Carson (IN) Hunter Polis
 Cartwright Hurt Price (NC)
 Cassidy Israel Quigley
 Castor (FL) Jackson Lee Reed
 Castro (TX) Jeffries Ribble
 Chu Jenkins Rice (SC)
 Cicilline Johnson (GA) Richmond
 Clark (MA) Johnson, E. B. Rigell
 Clarke (NY) Jones Roe (TN)
 Clyburn Kaptur Rohrabacher
 Coble Keating
 Coffman Kelly (IL) Roybal-Allard
 Cohen Kennedy Ruppertsberger
 Collins (NY) Kildee Rush
 Conaway Kilmer Ryan (OH)
 Connolly Kind Sánchez, Linda
 Conyers T. T.
 Cooper Kirkpatrick Sanchez, Loretta
 Costa Kline Sanford
 Courtney Kuster Sarbanes
 Crowley Langevin Schakowsky
 Cummings Larsen (WA) Schiff
 Daines Lee (CA) Schneider
 Davis (CA) Levin Schrader
 Davis, Danny Lipinski Schwartz
 Davis, Rodney Loeb sack Schweikert
 DeFazio Lofgren Scott (VA)
 DeGette Lowenthal Scott, David
 Delaney Lowey Serrano
 DeLauro Lujan Grisham Shea-Porter
 DelBene (NM) Sherman
 DeSantis Luján, Ben Ray Sinema
 DesJarlais (NM) Sires
 Deutch Lummis Smith (WA)
 Doggett Maffei Speier
 Doyle Maloney, Carolyn Stivers
 Duckworth Caroly Stockman
 Edwards Maloney, Sean Swalwell (CA)
 Ellison Massie Takano
 Ellmers Matsui Thompson (CA)
 Engel McClintock Thompson (MS)
 Enyart McCollum
 Eshoo McDermott Tierney
 Esty McGovern Titus
 Farr McKinley Tonko
 Fattah McNeerney Tsongas
 Flores Upton Valadao
 Fortenberry Meng Van Hollen
 Foster Messer

Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walorski

Walz
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)

NOES—170

Aderholt
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Carter
Chabot
Cole
Collins (GA)
Cook
Cotton
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Denham
Dent
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)

Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Hinojosa
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Issa
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lynch
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
McMorris
Rogers
Meadows
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee

Olson
Paulsen
Pearce
Pittenger
Pitts
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reichert
Renacci
Robby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schock
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Wagner
Walberg
Wasserman
Schultz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yoder

NOT VOTING—24

Benishek
Campbell
Capito
Chaffetz
Clay
Cleaver
Cramer
Dingell

Green, Al
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Lankford
Lewis
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Palazzo

Rangel
Ros-Lehtinen
Shuster
Slaughter
Vela
Waters
Waxman
Woodall

□ 0018

Mr. CAMP changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

Mr. CONAWAY changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

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

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. ROHRABACHER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) on which further proceedings

were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 219, noes 189, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 258]

AYES—219

Amash
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Beatty
Becerra
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSantis
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Elmiers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garcia

Garrett
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Hunter
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kildee
Kilmer
Clark (MA)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Lee (CA)
LoBiondo
Loeb
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
Lujan, Ben Ray
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod

Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarella
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Reed
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Tanche, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schradner
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Welch

Westmoreland
Woodall

Yarmuth
Yoho

NOES—189

Aderholt
Bachmann
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Bilirakis
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Coble
Cole
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (MO)

Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hinojosa
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
Long
Lucas
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rogers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes

Nunnelee
Olson
Paulsen
Pearce
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reichert
Renacci
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Wasserman
Schultz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yoder

NOT VOTING—23

Benishek
Campbell
Capito
Chaffetz
Clay
Cleaver
Cramer
Dingell

Green, Al
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Lankford
Lewis
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Palazzo

Rangel
Ros-Lehtinen
Shuster
Slaughter
Vela
Waters
Waxman

□ 0022

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HOLDING

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 219, noes 189, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 259]

AYES—219

Aderholt	Griffin (AR)	Petri
Amodעי	Griffith (VA)	Pittenger
Bachmann	Grimm	Pitts
Bachus	Guthrie	Poe (TX)
Barletta	Hall	Pompeo
Barr	Hanna	Posey
Barrow (GA)	Harper	Price (GA)
Barton	Harris	Rahall
Bentivolio	Hastings (WA)	Reed
Bilirakis	Heck (NV)	Reichert
Bishop (UT)	Hensarling	Renacci
Black	Herrera Beutler	Ribble
Blackburn	Holding	Rice (SC)
Boustany	Hudson	Rigell
Brady (TX)	Huelskamp	Roby
Bridenstine	Huizenga (MI)	Roe (TN)
Brooks (AL)	Hultgren	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (IN)	Hunter	Rogers (KY)
Broun (GA)	Hurt	Rogers (MI)
Buchanan	Issa	Rohrabacher
Bucshon	Jenkins	Rokita
Burgess	Johnson (OH)	Roskam
Byrne	Johnson, Sam	Ross
Calvert	Jolly	Rothfus
Camp	Jones	Royce
Cantor	Jordan	Runyan
Carter	Joyce	Ryan (WI)
Cassidy	Kelly (PA)	Salmon
Chabot	King (IA)	Salmon
Coble	King (NY)	Sanford
Coffman	Kingston	Scalise
Cole	Kinzinger (IL)	Schock
Collins (GA)	Kline	Schweikert
Collins (NY)	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin
Conaway	Lamborn	Sensenbrenner
Cook	Lance	Sessions
Cotton	Latham	Shimkus
Crawford	Latta	Simpson
Crenshaw	LoBiondo	Smith (MO)
Culberson	Long	Smith (NE)
Daines	Lucas	Smith (NJ)
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Smith (TX)
Denham	Lummis	Southerland
Dent	Marchant	Stewart
DeSantis	Marino	Stivers
DesJarlais	McAllister	Stockman
Diaz-Balart	McCarthy (CA)	Stutzman
Duffy	McCaul	Terry
Duncan (SC)	McClintock	Thornberry
Duncan (TN)	McHenry	Tiberi
Ellmers	McIntyre	Tipton
Farenthold	McKeon	Turner
Fincher	McKinley	Upton
Fitzpatrick	McMorris	Valadao
Fleischmann	Rodgers	Wagner
Fleming	McNerney	Walberg
Flores	Meadows	Walden
Forbes	Messer	Walorski
Fortenberry	Mica	Weber (TX)
Foxx	Miller (FL)	Weber (FL)
Franks (AZ)	Miller (MI)	Wenstrup
Frelinghuysen	Mullin	Westmoreland
Gardner	Mulvaney	Whitfield
Garrett	Murphy (PA)	Williams
Gerlach	Neugebauer	Wilson (SC)
Gibbs	Noem	Wittman
Gingrey (GA)	Nugent	Wolf
Gohmert	Nunes	Womack
Goodlatte	Nunnelee	Woodall
Gosar	Olson	Yoder
Govdy	Paulsen	Yoho
Granger	Pearce	Young (AK)
Graves (GA)	Perry	Young (IN)
Graves (MO)	Peterson	

NOES—189

Amash	Grayson
Barber	Green, Gene
Bass	Grijalva
Beatty	Gutiérrez
Becerra	Hahn
Bera (CA)	Hanabusa
Bishop (GA)	Heck (WA)
Bishop (NY)	Higgins
Blumenauer	Himes
Bonamici	Hinojosa
Brady (PA)	Holt
Braley (IA)	Honda
Brown (FL)	Horsford
Brownley (CA)	Hoyer
Bustos	Huffman
Butterfield	Israel
Capps	Jackson Lee
Capuano	Jeffries
Cárdenas	Johnson (GA)
Carney	Johnson, E. B.
Carson (IN)	Kaptur
Cartwright	Keating
Castor (FL)	Kelly (IL)
Castro (TX)	Kennedy
Chu	Kildee
Cicilline	Kilmer
Clark (MA)	Kind
Clarke (NY)	Kirkpatrick
Clyburn	Kuster
Cohen	Labrador
Connolly	Langevin
Conyers	Larsen (WA)
Cooper	Larson (CT)
Costa	Lee (CA)
Courtney	Levin
Crowley	Lipinski
Cuellar	Loeb sack
Cummings	Lowenthal
Davis (CA)	Lowey
Davis, Danny	Lujan Grisham (NM)
DeFazio	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
DeGette	Lynch
Delaney	Maffei
DeLauro	Maloney
DelBene	Maloney, Sean
Deutch	Massie
Duffy	Matheson
Doggett	Matsui
Doyle	McCollum
Duckworth	McDermott
Edwards	McGovern
Ellison	Meehan
Engel	Meeks
Enyart	Meng
Eshoo	Michaud
Esty	Miller, George
Farr	Moore
Fattah	Moran
Foster	Murphy (FL)
Frankel (FL)	Garamendi
Fudge	García
Gabard	Nadler
Gallo	Napolitano
Garamendi	
García	
Gibson	

NOT VOTING—23

Benishek	Green, Al	Rangel
Campbell	Hartzler	Ros-Lehtinen
Capito	Hastings (FL)	Shuster
Chaffetz	Lankford	Slaughter
Clay	Lewis	Vela
Cleaver	McCarthy (NY)	Waters
Cramer	Miller, Gary	Waxman
Dingell	Palazzo	

□ 0025

Mr. CONAWAY changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MASSIE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 246, noes 162, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 260]

AYES—246

Amash	Fudge	Meeks
Barber	Gabbard	Meng
Barr	Gallego	Messer
Bass	Garamendi	Michaud
Beatty	García	Miller, George
Becerra	Gardner	Moore
Bentivolio	Garrett	Moran
Bera (CA)	Gibson	Mulvaney
Bishop (GA)	Gowdy	Nadler
Bishop (NY)	Graves (GA)	Napolitano
Blumenauer	Grayson	Neal
Bonamici	Griffith (VA)	Negrete McLeod
Brady (PA)	Grijalva	Nolan
Braley (IA)	Guthrie	Nunnelee
Broun (GA)	Gutiérrez	O'Rourke
Brown (FL)	Hahn	Owens
Brownley (CA)	Hanabusa	Pallone
Bucshon	Hanna	Pascrell
Butterfield	Hastings (WA)	Pastor (AZ)
Capps	Heck (NV)	Paulsen
Capuano	Heck (WA)	Payne
Cárdenas	Herrera Beutler	Pelosi
Carney	Higgins	Perlmutter
Carson (IN)	Himes	Perry
Cartwright	Holt	Peters (CA)
Cassidy	Honda	Peters (MI)
Castor (FL)	Horsford	Peterson
Castro (TX)	Hoyer	Petri
Chu	Huelskamp	Pingree (ME)
Cicilline	Huffman	Pocan
Clark (MA)	Hunter	Poe (TX)
Clarke (NY)	Hurt	Polis
Clyburn	Israel	Price (NC)
Coffman	Jackson Lee	Quigley
Cohen	Jeffries	Reed
Collins (NY)	Jenkins	Ribble
Connolly	Johnson, E. B.	Rice (SC)
Conyers	Jones	Richmond
Cooper	Kaptur	Rigell
Costa	Keating	Roe (TN)
Courtney	Kelly (IL)	Rohrabacher
Crowley	Kennedy	Rokita
Cuellar	Kildee	Royal-Ballard
Cummings	Kilmer	Ruppersberger
Daines	Kind	Rush
Davis (CA)	Kinzinger (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Davis, Danny	Kirkpatrick	Sanchez, Loretta
Davis, Rodney	Kline	Sanford
DeFazio	Kuster	Sarbanes
DeGette	Labrador	Schakowsky
Delaney	Langevin	Schiff
DeLauro	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
DelBene	Larson (CT)	Schock
Denham	Lee (CA)	Schrader
DeSantis	Lipinski	Schwartz
DesJarlais	Loeb sack	Schweikert
Deutch	Lofgren	Scott (VA)
Doggett	Lowenthal	Scott, David
Doyle	Lowey	Serrano
Duckworth	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Shea-Porter
Duffy	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Sherman
Duncan (TN)	Edwards	Shimkus
Edwards	Ellison	Sinema
Ellison	Lummis	Sires
Ellmers	Maffei	Smith (WA)
Engel	Maloney,	Speier
Enyart	Carolyn	Stivers
Eshoo	Maloney, Sean	Stockman
Esty	Marchant	Stutzman
Farr	Massie	Swalwell (CA)
Fattah	Matsui	Takano
Flores	McClintock	Thompson (CA)
Fortenberry	McCollum	Thompson (MS)
Foster	McDermott	Tierney
Frankel (FL)	McGovern	Tipton

Titus Velázquez Whitfield
Tonko Visclosky Wilson (FL)
Tsongas Walden Wilson (SC)
Upton Walorski Woodall
Valadao Walz Yarmuth
Van Hollen Welch Yoho
Vargas Wenstrup Young (AK)
Veasey Westmoreland Young (IN)

NOES—162

Aderholt Griffin (AR) Nugent
Amodei Grimm Nunes
Bachmann Hall Olson
Bachus Harper Pearce
Barletta Harris Pittenger
Barrow (GA) Hensarling Pitts
Barton Hinojosa Pompeo
Bilirakis Holding Posey
Bishop (UT) Hudson Price (GA)
Black Huizenga (MI) Rahall
Blackburn Hultgren Reichert
Boustany Issa Renacci
Brady (TX) Johnson (GA) Roby
Bridenstine Johnson (OH) Rogers (AL)
Brooks (AL) Johnson, Sam Rogers (KY)
Brooks (IN) Jolly Rogers (MI)
Buchanan Jordan Rooney
Burgess Joyce Roskam
Bustos Kelly (PA) Ruiz
Byrne King (IA) Rothfus
Calvert King (NY) Royce
Camp Kingston Ruiz
Cantor LaMalfa Runyan
Carter Lamborn Ryan (WI)
Chabot Lance Salmon
Coble Latham Sánchez, Linda
Cole Latta T.
Collins (GA) Levin Scalise
Conaway LoBiondo Scott, Austin
Cook Long Sensenbrenner
Cotton Lucas Sessions
Crawford Luetkemeyer Sewell (AL)
Crenshaw Lynch Simpson
Culberson Marino Smith (MO)
Dent Matheson Smith (NE)
Diaz-Balart McAllister Smith (NJ)
Duncan (SC) McCarthy (CA) Smith (TX)
Farenthold McCaul Sutherland
Fincher McHenry Stewart
Fitzpatrick McIntyre Terry
Fleischmann McKeon Thompson (PA)
Fleming McKinley Thornberry
Forbes McMorris Tiberi
Foxx Rodgers Turner
Franks (AZ) McNeerney Wagner
Frelinghuysen Meadows Walberg
Gerlach Meehan Wasserman
Gibbs Mica Schultz
Gingrey (GA) Miller (FL) Weber (TX)
Gohmert Miller (MI) Webster (FL)
Goodlatte Mullin Williams
Gosar Murphy (FL) Wittman
Granger Murphy (PA) Wolf
Graves (MO) Neugebauer Womack
Green, Gene Noem Yoder

NOT VOTING—23

Benishek Green, Al Rangel
Campbell Hartzler Ros-Lehtinen
Capito Hastings (FL) Shuster
Chaffetz Lankford Slaughter
Clay Lewis Vela
Cleaver McCarthy (NY) Waters
Cramer Miller, Gary Waxman
Dingell Palazzo

□ 0029

Ms. PELOSI changed her vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. SOUTHERLAND

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 185, noes 223, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 261]

AYES—185

Amash Graves (MO) Pearce
Bachmann Grimm Perry
Barletta Guthrie Petri
Barr Harris Pittenger
Barrow (GA) Heck (NV) Pompeo
Bentivolio Holding Posey
Bilirakis Hudson Price (GA)
Bishop (NY) Huizenga (MI) Reed
Bishop (UT) Hultgren Ribble
Black Hunter Roe (TN)
Issa Rogers (KY)
Jenkins Rogers (MI)
Johnson (OH) Rohrabacher
Jones Rokita
Jordan Rooney
Joyce Roskam
Keating Ross
Kelly (PA) Rothfus
Kennedy Royce
King (IA) Runyan
King (NY) Ryan (WI)
Kinzinger (IL) Salmon
Kline Scalise
Labrador Schock
Lamborn Schweikert
Larsen (WA) Scott, Austin
Latham Sensenbrenner
Latta Sherman
LoBiondo Stewart
Long Shimkus
Lucas Simpson
Luetkemeyer Smith (MO)
Lummis Smith (NE)
Lynch Smith (NJ)
Marchant Smith (TX)
Marino Sutherland
Massie Stewart
Matheson Stivers
McAllister Stockman
McCarthy (CA) Stutzman
Terry
Tierney
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—223

Aderholt Bonamici Cárdenas
Amodei Brady (PA) Carney
Bachus Brady (TX) Carter
Barber Braley (IA) Cartwright
Barton Brooks (AL) Cassidy
Bass Brown (FL) Castor (FL)
Beatty Brownley (CA) Castro (TX)
Becerra Bustos Chu
Bera (CA) Butterfield
Bishop (GA) Byrne Cicilline
Blumenauer Capps Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)

Clyburn Huffman Pingree (ME)
Cohen Hurt Pitts
Connolly Israel Pocan
Conyers Jackson Lee Poe (TX)
Cooper Jeffries Polis
Costa Johnson (GA) Price (NC)
Crowley Johnson, E. B. Quigley
Cuellar Johnson, Sam Rahall
Culberson Jolly Reichert
Cummings Kaptur Renacci
Davis (CA) Kelly (IL) Rice (SC)
Davis, Danny Kildee Richmond
DeGette Kilmer Rigell
Delaney Kind Roby
DeLauro Kingston Rogers (AL)
DelBene Kirkpatrick Roybal-Allard
Deutch Kuster Ruiz
Doggett LaMalfa Ruppertsberger
Duckworth Lance Rush
Edwards Langevin Ryan (OH)
Ellison Larson (CT) Sánchez, Linda
Engel Lee (CA) T.
Enyart Levin Sanchez, Loretta
Eshoo Lipinski Sanford
Esty Loeb sack Sarbanes
Farenthold Lofgren Schakowsky
Farr Lowenthal Schiff
Fattah Lujan Grisham Schneider
Fitzpatrick (NM) Schrader
Fleming Luján, Ben Ray Schwartz
Flores (NM) Scott (VA)
Forbes Maffei Scott, David
Fortenberry Foster Serrano
Foster Foxx Sessions
Frankl (FL) Maloney, Sean Sewell (AL)
Fudge Matsui Shea-Porter
Gabbard McCollum Sinema
Gallego McDermott Sires
Garamendi McGovern Smith (WA)
Gibson McHenry Speier
Goodlatte McMorris Swailwell (CA)
Granger Rodgers Takano
Grayson McNeerney Thompson (CA)
Green, Gene Meeks Thompson (MS)
Griffin (AR) Meng Thompson (PA)
Griffith (VA) Michaud Thornberry
Grijalva Miller, George Tiberi
Gutiérrez Moore Titus
Hahn Moran Tonko
Hall Murphy (FL) Tsongas
Hanabusa Nadler Van Hollen
Hanna Napolitano Vargas
Harper Negrete McLeod Veasey
Hastings (WA) Nolan Velázquez
Heck (WA) Nunnelee Visclosky
Hensarling O'Rourke Walz
Herrera Beutler Owens Wasserman
Higgins Pascrell Schultz
Himes Pastor (AZ) Weber (TX)
Hinojosa Payne Welch
Holt Pelosi Wilton (FL)
Honda Perlmutter Wittman
Horsford Peters (CA) Womack
Hoyer Peters (MI) Yarmuth
Huelskamp Peterson

NOT VOTING—23

Benishek Green, Al Rangel
Campbell Hartzler Ros-Lehtinen
Capito Hastings (FL) Shuster
Chaffetz Lankford Slaughter
Clay Lewis Vela
Cleaver McCarthy (NY) Waters
Cramer Miller, Gary Waxman
Dingell Palazzo

□ 0033

Messrs. PALLONE and AMASH changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 196, noes 211, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 262]

AYES—196

Barber	Gibson	Neal
Barrow (GA)	Grayson	Negrete McLeod
Bass	Green, Gene	Nolan
Beatty	Grijalva	O'Rourke
Becerra	Gutiérrez	Owens
Bera (CA)	Hahn	Pallone
Bilirakis	Hanabusa	Pascarell
Bishop (NY)	Heck (WA)	Pastor (AZ)
Blumenauer	Higgins	Payne
Bonamici	Himes	Pelosi
Brady (PA)	Hinojosa	Perlmutter
Braley (IA)	Holt	Peters (CA)
Brown (FL)	Honda	Peters (MI)
Brownley (CA)	Horsford	Peterson
Butterfield	Hoyer	Pingree (ME)
Capps	Huffman	Pocan
Capuano	Jackson Lee	Poe (TX)
Cárdenas	Jeffries	Polis
Carney	Johnson (GA)	Price (NC)
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	Quigley
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Rahall
Castor (FL)	Keating	Richmond
Castro (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Roybal-Allard
Chu	Kennedy	Ruiz
Ciçilline	Kildee	Ruiz
Clark (MA)	Kilmer	Ruiz
Clarke (NY)	Kind	Ruiz
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Ruiz
Coffman	Kuster	Ruiz
Cohen	Langevin	Ruiz
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Ruiz
Conyers	Larsen (CT)	Ruiz
Cooper	Lee (CA)	Ruiz
Costa	Levin	Ruiz
Courtney	Lipinski	Ruiz
Crowley	LoBiondo	Ruiz
Cuellar	Loeb sack	Ruiz
Cummings	Loftgren	Ruiz
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Ruiz
Davis, Danny	Lowe	Ruiz
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham	Ruiz
DeGette	(NM)	Ruiz
Delaney	Lujan, Ben Ray	Ruiz
DeLauro	(NM)	Ruiz
DelBene	Lynch	Ruiz
Deutch	Maffei	Ruiz
Doggett	Maloney,	Ruiz
Doyle	Carolyn	Ruiz
Duckworth	Maloney, Sean	Ruiz
Duncan (TN)	Matheson	Ruiz
Edwards	Matsui	Ruiz
Ellison	McCollum	Ruiz
Engel	McDermott	Ruiz
Enyart	McGovern	Ruiz
Eshoo	McIntyre	Ruiz
Esty	McKinley	Ruiz
Farr	McNerney	Ruiz
Fattah	Meeks	Ruiz
Fitzpatrick	Meng	Ruiz
Foster	Michaud	Ruiz
Frankel (FL)	Miller, George	Ruiz
Fudge	Moore	Ruiz
Gabbard	Moran	Ruiz
Gallego	Murphy (FL)	Ruiz
Garamendi	Nadler	Ruiz
Garcia	Napolitano	Ruiz

NOES—211

Aderholt	Barr	Boustany
Amash	Barton	Brady (TX)
Amodei	Bentivolio	Bridenstine
Bachmann	Bishop (UT)	Brooks (AL)
Bachus	Black	Brooks (IN)
Barletta	Blackburn	Broun (GA)

Buchanan	Hudson	Reed
Bucshon	Huelskamp	Reichert
Burgess	Huizenga (MI)	Renacci
Byrne	Hultgren	Ribble
Calvert	Hunter	Rice (SC)
Camp	Hurt	Rigell
Cantor	Issa	Roby
Carter	Jenkins	Roe (TN)
Cassidy	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (AL)
Chabot	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (KY)
Coble	Jolly	Rogers (MI)
Cole	Jones	Rohrabacher
Collins (GA)	Jordan	Rokita
Collins (NY)	Joyce	Rooney
Conaway	Kelly (PA)	Roskam
Cook	King (IA)	Ross
Cotton	King (NY)	Rothfus
Crawford	Kingston	Royce
Crenshaw	Kinzinger (IL)	Ryan (WI)
Culberson	Kline	Salmon
Daines	Labrador	Sanford
Davis, Rodney	LaMalfa	Scalise
Denham	Lamborn	Schock
Dent	Lance	Schweikert
DeSantis	Latham	Scott, Austin
DesJarlais	Latta	Sensenbrenner
Diaz-Balart	Long	Sessions
Duffy	Lucas	Shimkus
Duncan (SC)	Luetkemeyer	Simpson
Ellmers	Lummis	Smith (MO)
Farenthold	Lurch	Smith (NE)
Fincher	Marino	Smith (NJ)
Finch	Massie	Smith (TX)
Fleischmann	Fleming	Southerland
Fleming	McAllister	Stewart
Flores	McCarthy (CA)	Stivers
Forbes	McCaul	Stockman
Fortenberry	McClintock	Stutzman
Fox	McHenry	Terry
Franks (AZ)	McKeon	Thompson (PA)
Frelinghuysen	McMorris	Thornberry
Gardner	Rodgers	Tiberi
Garrett	Meadows	Tipton
Richmond	Meehan	Turner
Gibbs	Messer	Upton
Gingrey (GA)	Mica	Valadao
Gohmert	Miller (FL)	Wagner
Goodlatte	Miller (MI)	Walberg
Gosar	Mullin	Walden
Gowdy	Mulvaney	Walorski
Granger	Murphy (PA)	Weber (TX)
Graves (GA)	Neugebauer	Webster (FL)
Graves (MO)	Noem	Westrup
Griffin (AR)	Nugent	Westmoreland
Griffith (VA)	Nunes	Whitfield
Grimm	Nunnelee	Williams
Guthrie	Olson	Wilson (SC)
Hall	Paulsen	Witman
Hanna	Pearce	Wolf
Harper	Perry	Womack
Harris	Petri	Woodall
Hastings (WA)	Pittenger	Yoder
Hick (NV)	Pitts	Yoho
Heck (NV)	Pompeo	Young (IN)
Hensarling	Posey	
Herrera Beutler	Price (GA)	
Holding		

NOT VOTING—24

Benishak	Dingell	Palazzo
Bishop (GA)	Green, Al	Rangel
Campbell	Hartzer	Ros-Lehtinen
Capito	Hastings (FL)	Shuster
Chaffetz	Lankford	Slaughter
Clay	Lewis	Vela
Cleaver	McCarthy (NY)	Waters
Cramer	Miller, Gary	Waxman

□ 0036

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against: Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 262, I intended to vote "no" rather than the recorded vote of "yes." I would have voted "no."

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 225, noes 183, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 263]

AYES—225

Amash	Gallego	Murphy (PA)
Barber	Garamendi	Nadler
Bass	Garcia	Napolitano
Beatty	Gardner	Neal
Becerra	Garrett	Negrete McLeod
Bentivolio	Gibbs	Nolan
Bera (CA)	Gibson	O'Rourke
Bilirakis	Gosar	Owens
Bishop (GA)	Grayson	Pallone
Bishop (NY)	Green, Gene	Pascarell
Blumenauer	Grijalva	Pastor (AZ)
Bonamici	Gutiérrez	Payne
Brady (PA)	Hahn	Pelosi
Brady (IA)	Hanabusa	Perlmutter
Broun (GA)	Hanna	Peters (CA)
Brown (FL)	Harris	Peters (MI)
Brownley (CA)	Heck (WA)	Peterson
Burgess	Higgins	Pingree (ME)
Bustos	Himes	Pocan
Butterfield	Holt	Poe (TX)
Capps	Honda	Polis
Capuano	Horsford	Posey
Cárdenas	Huffman	Price (NC)
Carney	Israel	Quigley
Carson (IN)	Jackson Lee	Reed
Cartwright	Jeffries	Richmond
Cassidy	Johnson, E. B.	Rogers (AL)
Castor (FL)	Jones	Rohrabacher
Castro (TX)	Jordan	Rooney
Chu	Kaptur	Ross
Ciçilline	Keating	Roybal-Allard
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)	Runyan
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy	Ruppersberger
Clyburn	Kildee	Rush
Cohen	Kilmer	Ryan (OH)
Collins (NY)	Kind	Kirkpatrick
Conaway	Kirkpatrick	Salmon
Conyers	Kuster	Sánchez, Linda
Cooper	Labrador	T.
Courtney	LaMalfa	Sanchez, Loretta
Crowley	Lamborn	Sanford
Cuellar	Langevin	Sarbanes
Cummings	Larsen (WA)	Schakowsky
Davis (CA)	Larsen (CT)	Schiff
Davis, Danny	Lee (CA)	Schneider
DeFazio	Levin	Schrader
DeGette	Loeb sack	Schwartz
Delaney	Loftgren	Schweikert
DeLauro	Lowenthal	Scott, David
DelBene	Lowe	Serrano
Deutch	Lujan Grisham	Shea-Porter
Doggett	(NM)	Sherman
Doyle	Lujan, Ben Ray	Sinema
Duckworth	(NM)	Smith (NJ)
Duncan (SC)	Lummis	Smith (WA)
Duncan (TN)	Lynch	Speier
Edwards	Maffei	Stockman
Ellison	Maloney,	Swalwell (CA)
Ellmers	Carolyn	Takano
Engel	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (CA)
Enyart	Massie	Thompson (MS)
Eshoo	Matheson	Tiberi
Esty	Matsui	Tierney
Farenthold	McClintock	Tipton
Farr	McCollum	Titus
Fattah	McDermott	Tsongas
Fitzpatrick	McGovern	Upton
Flores	McNerney	Van Hollen
Foster	Meadows	Vargas
Frankel (FL)	Flores	Veasey
Franks (AZ)	Meng	Velázquez
Fudge	Miller, George	Vislosky
Gabbard	Moore	Walden
	Moran	Walz
	Murphy (FL)	

Wasserman Westmoreland Young (AK)
Schultz Wilson (FL)
Welch Yarmuth

NOES—183

Aderholt Hastings (WA) Petri
Amodei Heck (NV) Pittenger
Bachmann Hensarling Pitts
Bachus Herrera Beutler Pompeo
Barletta Hinojosa Price (GA)
Barr Holding Rahall
Barrow (GA) Hoyer Reichert
Barton Hudson Renacci
Bishop (UT) Huelskamp Ribble
Black Huiזנגa (MI) Rice (SC)
Blackburn Hultgren Rigell
Boustany Hunter Roby
Brady (TX) Hurt Roe (TN)
Bridenstine Issa Rogers (KY)
Brooks (AL) Jenkins Rogers (MI)
Brooks (IN) Johnson (GA) Rokita
Buchanan Johnson (OH) Roskam
Buchson Johnson, Sam Rothfus
Byrne Jolly Royce
Calvert Joyce Ruiz
Camp Kelly (PA) Ryan (WI)
Cantor King (IA) Scalise
Carter King (NY) Schock
Chabot Kingston Scott (VA)
Coble Kinzinger (IL) Kline
Coffman Kline Sensenbrenner
Cole Lance Sessions
Collins (GA) Latham Sewell (AL)
Connolly Latta Shimkus
Cook Lipinski Simpson
Costa LoBiondo Sires
Cotton Long Smith (MO)
Crawford Lucas Smith (NE)
Crenshaw Luetkemeyer Smith (TX)
Culberson Marchant Southerland
Davis, Rodney Marino Steward
Denham McAllister Stivers
DeSantis McCarthy (CA) Stutzman
DesJarlais McCaul Terry
Diaz-Balart McHenry Thompson (PA)
Duffy McIntyre Thornberry
Fincher McKeon Tonko
Fleischmann McKinley Turner
Fleming McMorris Valadao
Forbes Rodgers Walberg
Fortenberry Meehan Wagner
Foxy Messer Walberg
Frelinghuysen Mica Walorski
Gerlach Michaud Weber (TX)
Gingrey (GA) Miller (FL) Webster (FL)
Gohmert Miller (MI) Wenstrup
Goodlatte Mullin Whitfield
Gowdy Mulvaney Williams
Granger Neugebauer Wilson (SC)
Graves (GA) Noem Wittman
Graves (MO) Nugent Wolf
Griffin (AR) Nunes Womack
Griffith (VA) Nunnelee Woodall
Grimm Olson Yoder
Guthrie Paulsen Yoho
Hall Pearce Yoho
Harper Perry Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—23

Benishek Green, Al Rangel
Campbell Hartzler Ros-Lehtinen
Capito Hastings (FL) Shuster
Chaffetz Lankford Slaughter
Clay Lewis Vela
Cleaver McCarthy (NY) Waters
Cramer Miller, Gary Waxman
Dingell Palazzo

□ 0039

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DUFFY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 229, noes 178, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 264]

AYES—229

Aderholt Grayson Peterson
Amash Green, Gene Petri
Amodei Griffin (AR) Pittenger
Bachmann Griffith (VA) Pitts
Bachus Grimm Poe (TX)
Barletta Guthrie Pompeo
Barr Hall Posey
Barrow (GA) Hanna Price (GA)
Bentivolio Harper Rahall
Bilirakis Harris Reed
Bishop (UT) Hastings (WA) Reichert
Black Heck (NV) Renacci
Blackburn Hensarling Ribble
Boustany Herrera Beutler Rice (SC)
Brady (TX) Holding Rigell
Bridenstine Hudson Roby
Brooks (AL) Huelskamp Roe (TN)
Brooks (IN) Huiזנגa (MI) Rogers (AL)
Buchanan Hunter Rogers (KY)
Buchson Hurt Rogers (MI)
Burgess Issa Rohrabacher
Byrne Jenkins Rokita
Calvert Johnson (OH) Rooney
Camp Johnson, Sam Roskam
Cantor Jolly Ross
Jones Rothfus
Jordan Royce
Joyce Runyan
Kelly (PA) Ryan (WI)
King (IA) Salmon Salmon
King (NY) Sanford
Kingston Scalise
Kinzinger (IL) Schock
Kline Schweikert
Labrador Scott, Austin
LaMalfa Sensenbrenner
Lamborn Sessions
Lance Shimkus
Latham Simpson
Latta Smith (MO)
LoBiondo Smith (NE)
Long Smith (NJ)
Lucas Smith (TX)
Luetkemeyer Southerland
Lummis Stewart
Maffei Stivers
Marchant Stockman
Marino Stutzman
Massie Terry
McAllister Thompson (PA)
McCarthy (CA) Thornberry
McCaul Tiberi
McClintock Tierney
McHenry Tipton
McIntyre Turner
McKeon Upton
McKinley Valadao
McMorris Wagner
Rodgers Walberg
Meadows Walden
Meehan Walorski
Messer Weber (TX)
Mica Webster (FL)
Miller (FL) Wenstrup
Miller (MI) Westmoreland
Mullin Whitfield
Mulvaney Williams
Murphy (PA) Wilson (SC)
Neugebauer Wittman
Noem Wolf
Nugent Womack
Nunes Woodall
Nunnelee Yoder
Olson Yoho
Pearce Young (AK)
Perry Young (IN)

NOES—178

Barber Garcia Neal
Barton Grijalva Negrete McLeod
Bass Gutiérrez Nolan
Beatty Hahn O'Rourke
Becerra Hanabusa Owens
Bera (CA) Heck (WA) Pallone
Bishop (GA) Higgins Pascrell
Bishop (NY) Himes Pastor (AZ)
Blumenauer Hinojosa Payne
Bonamici Holt Pelosi
Brady (PA) Honda Perlmutter
Braley (IA) Horsford Peters (CA)
Brown (FL) Hoyer Peters (MI)
Brownley (CA) Huffman Pingree (ME)
Bustos Israel Pocan
Butterfield Jackson Lee Polis
Capps Jeffries Price (NC)
Cárdenas Johnson (GA) Quigley
Carney Johnson, E. B. Richmond
Carson (IN) Kaptur Roybal-Allard
Cartwright Keating Ruiz
Castor (FL) Kelly (IL) Ruppersberger
Castro (TX) Kennedy Rush
Chu Kildee Ryan (OH)
Cicilline Kilmer Sánchez, Linda
Clark (MA) Kind T.
Clarke (NY) Kirkpatrick Sanchez, Loretta
Clyburn Kuster Sarbanes
Cohen Langevin Schakowsky
Connolly Larsen (WA) Schiff
Conyers Larson (CT) Schneider
Cooper Lee (CA) Schrader
Costa Levin Schwartz
Courtney Lipinski Scott (VA)
Crowley Loeb sack Scott, David
Cuellar Lofgren Serrano
Cummings Lowenthal Sewell (AL)
Davis (CA) Lowey Shea-Porter
Davis, Danny Lujan Grisham Sherman
DeFazio (NM) Sinema
DeGette Luján, Ben Ray Sires
Delaney (NM) Smith (WA)
DeLauro Lynch Speier
DelBene Maloney, Carolyn Swalwell (CA)
Deutch Carolyn Takano
Doggett Maloney, Sean Thompson (CA)
Doyle Matheson Thompson (MS)
Duckworth Matsui Titus
Edwards McCollum Tonko
Eilling McDerrott Tsongas
Engel McGovern Van Hollen
Enyart Mc Nerney Vargas
Eshoo Meeks Veasey
Esty Meng Velázquez
Farr Michaud Vislosky
Fattah Miller, George Walz
Foster Moore Wasserman
Frankel (FL) Moran Schultz
Fudge Murphy (FL) Welch
Gallego Nadler Wilson (FL)
Garamendi Napolitano Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—24

Benishek Green, Al Paulsen
Campbell Hartzler Rangel
Capito Hastings (FL) Ros-Lehtinen
Chaffetz Lankford Shuster
Clay Lewis Slaughter
Cleaver McCarthy (NY) Vela
Cramer Miller, Gary Waters
Dingell Palazzo Waxman

□ 0042

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

Stated for:
Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 264, I missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARRETT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 216, noes 190, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 265]

AYES—216

Aderholt	Griffith (VA)	Petri
Amash	Grimm	Pittenger
Amodei	Guthrie	Pitts
Bachmann	Hall	Poe (TX)
Bachus	Harper	Pompeo
Barletta	Harris	Posey
Barr	Hastings (WA)	Price (GA)
Barton	Heck (NV)	Reed
Bentivolio	Hensarling	Reichert
Bilirakis	Herrera Beutler	Renacci
Bishop (UT)	Holding	Ribble
Black	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Blackburn	Huelskamp	Rigell
Boustany	Huizenga (MI)	Roby
Brady (TX)	Hultgren	Roe (TN)
Bridenstine	Hunter	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (AL)	Hurt	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (IN)	Issa	Rogers (MI)
Broun (GA)	Jenkins	Rohrabacher
Buchanan	Johnson (OH)	Rokita
Bucshon	Johnson, Sam	Roskam
Burgess	Jolly	Ross
Byrne	Jones	Rothfus
Calvert	Jordan	Royce
Camp	Joyce	Runyan
Cantor	Kelly (PA)	Ryan (WI)
Carter	King (IA)	Salmon
Cassidy	King (NY)	Sanford
Chabot	Kingston	Scalise
Coble	Kinzinger (IL)	Schock
Coffman	Kline	Schweikert
Cole	Labrador	Scott, Austin
Collins (GA)	LaMalfa	Sensenbrenner
Collins (NY)	Lamborn	Sessions
Conaway	Lance	Shimkus
Cook	Latham	Simpson
Cotton	Latta	Smith (MO)
Crawford	LoBiondo	Smith (NE)
Crenshaw	Long	Smith (NJ)
Culberson	Lucas	Smith (TX)
Daines	Luetkemeyer	Southerland
Davis, Rodney	Lummis	Stewart
Denham	Marchant	Stivers
Dent	Marino	Stockman
DeSantis	Massie	Stutzman
DesJarlais	McAllister	Terry
Diaz-Balart	McCarthy (CA)	Thompson (PA)
Duffy	McCaul	Thornberry
Duncan (SC)	McClintock	Tiberi
Duncan (TN)	McHenry	Tipton
Ellmers	McKeon	Upton
Farenthold	McKinley	Valadao
Fincher	McMorris	Wagner
Fitzpatrick	Rodgers	Walberg
Fleischmann	McNerney	Walden
Fleming	Fleming	Walorski
Flores	Meehan	Weber (TX)
Fortenberry	Messer	Webster (FL)
Fox	Mica	Wenstrup
Franks (AZ)	Miller (FL)	Westmoreland
Gardner	Miller (MI)	Whitfield
Garrett	Mullin	Williams
Gerlach	Mulvaney	Wilson (SC)
Gibbs	Murphy (PA)	Wittman
Gingrey (GA)	Neugebauer	Wolf
Gohmert	Noem	Womack
Goodlatte	Nugent	Woodall
Gosar	Nunes	Yoder
Gowdy	Nunnelee	Yoho
Granger	Olson	Young (AK)
Graves (GA)	Paulsen	Young (IN)
Graves (MO)	Pearce	
Griffin (AR)	Perry	

NOES—190

Barber	Beatty	Bishop (GA)
Barrow (GA)	Becerra	Bishop (NY)
Bass	Bera (CA)	Blumenauer

Bonamici	Hahn	O'Rourke
Brady (PA)	Hanabusa	Owens
Braley (IA)	Hanna	Pallone
Brown (FL)	Heck (WA)	Pascrell
Brownley (CA)	Higgins	Pastor (AZ)
Bustos	Himes	Payne
Butterfield	Hinojosa	Pelosi
Capps	Holt	Perlmutter
Capuano	Honda	Peters (CA)
Cárdenas	Horsford	Peters (MI)
Carney	Hoyer	Peterson
Carson (IN)	Huffman	Pingree (ME)
Cartwright	Israel	Pocan
Castor (FL)	Jackson Lee	Polis
Castro (TX)	Jeffries	Price (NC)
Chu	Johnson (GA)	Quigley
Cicilline	Johnson, E. B.	Rahall
Clark (MA)	Kaptur	Richmond
Clarke (NY)	Keating	Roybal-Allard
Clyburn	Kelly (IL)	Ruiz
Cohen	Kennedy	Ruppersberger
Connolly	Kildee	Rush
Conyers	Kilmer	Ryan (OH)
Cooper	Kind	Sánchez, Linda
Costa	Kirkpatrick	T.
Courtney	Kuster	Sanchez, Loretta
Crowley	Langevin	Sarbanes
Cuellar	Larsen (WA)	Schakowsky
Cummings	Larson (CT)	Schiff
Davis (CA)	Lee (CA)	Schneider
Davis, Danny	Levin	Schrader
DeFazio	Lipinski	Schwartz
DeGette	Loebsack	Scott (VA)
Delaney	Loftner	Scott, David
DeLauro	Lowenthal	Serrano
DeBene	Lowe	Sewell (AL)
Deutch	Lujan Grisham	Shea-Porter
Doggett	(NM)	Sherman
Doyle	Luján, Ben Ray	Sinema
Duckworth	(NM)	Sires
Edwards	Lynch	Smith (WA)
Ellison	Maffei	Speier
Engel	Maloney,	Swalwell (CA)
Enyart	Carolyn	Takano
Eshoo	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (CA)
Esty	Matheson	Thompson (MS)
Farr	Matsui	Tierney
Fattah	McCollum	Titus
Forbes	McDermott	Tonko
Foster	McGovern	Tsongas
Frankel (FL)	McIntyre	Turner
Frelinghuysen	Meeks	Van Hollen
Fudge	Meng	Vargas
Gabbard	Michaud	Veasey
Gallego	Miller, George	Velázquez
Garamendi	Moore	Visclosky
García	Moran	Walz
Gibson	Murphy (FL)	Wasserman
Grayson	Nader	Schultz
Green, Gene	Napolitano	Welch
Grijalva	Negrete McLeod	Wilson (FL)
Gutiérrez	Nolan	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—25

Benishek	Hartzler	Rooney
Campbell	Hastings (FL)	Ros-Lehtinen
Capito	Lankford	Shuster
Chaffetz	Lewis	Slaughter
Clay	McCarthy (NY)	Vela
Cleaver	Miller, Gary	Waters
Cramer	Neal	Waxman
Dingell	Palazzo	
Green, Al	Rangel	

□ 0045

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

Stated against:
Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chair, during rollcall vote No. 265 on H.R. 4660, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "aye" when I should have voted "nay".

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 214, noes 194, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 266]

AYES—214

Aderholt	Griffith (VA)	Petri
Amash	Grimm	Pittenger
Amodei	Guthrie	Pitts
Bachmann	Hall	Poe (TX)
Bachus	Hanna	Pompeo
Barletta	Harper	Posey
Barr	Harris	Price (GA)
Barrow (GA)	Hastings (WA)	Reed
Bentivolio	Hensarling	Renacci
Bilirakis	Holding	Ribble
Bishop (UT)	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Black	Huelskamp	Rigell
Blackburn	Huizenga (MI)	Roby
Boustany	Hultgren	Roe (TN)
Brady (TX)	Hunter	Rogers (AL)
Bridenstine	Hurt	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (AL)	Issa	Rogers (MI)
Brooks (IN)	Jenkins	Rohrabacher
Brown (GA)	Johnson (OH)	Rokita
Buchanan	Johnson, Sam	Rooney
Bucshon	Jolly	Roskam
Burgess	Jones	Ross
Byrne	Jordan	Rothfus
Calvert	Joyce	Royce
Camp	Kelly (PA)	Runyan
Cantor	King (IA)	Ryan (WI)
Carter	King (NY)	Salmon
Cassidy	Kingston	Sanford
Chabot	Kinzinger (IL)	Scalise
Coble	Kline	Schock
Cole	Labrador	Schweikert
Collins (GA)	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin
Collins (NY)	Lamborn	Scott, Austin
Conaway	Lance	Sensenbrenner
Cook	Latham	Sessions
Cotton	Latta	Shimkus
Crawford	LoBiondo	Simpson
Crenshaw	Long	Smith (MO)
Culberson	Lucas	Smith (NE)
Daines	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NJ)
Davis, Rodney	Lummis	Smith (TX)
Dent	Marchant	Southerland
DeSantis	Marino	Stewart
DesJarlais	Massie	Stivers
Duffy	McAllister	Stockman
Duncan (SC)	McCarthy (CA)	Stutzman
Duncan (TN)	McCaul	Terry
Ellmers	McClintock	Thompson (PA)
Fincher	McHenry	Thornberry
Fitzpatrick	McIntyre	Tiberi
Fleischmann	McKeon	Tipton
Fleming	McKinley	Turner
Flores	McMorris	Upton
Forbes	Rodgers	Wagner
Fortenberry	Meadows	Walberg
Fox	Meehan	Walden
Franks (AZ)	Messer	Walorski
Frelinghuysen	Mica	Weber (TX)
Gardner	Miller (FL)	Webster (FL)
Garrett	Miller (MI)	Wenstrup
Gerlach	Mullin	Westmoreland
Gibbs	Mulvaney	Whitfield
Gibson	Murphy (PA)	Williams
Gingrey (GA)	Neugebauer	Wilson (SC)
Gohmert	Noem	Wittman
Goodlatte	Nugent	Wolf
Gosar	Nunes	Womack
Gowdy	Nunnelee	Woodall
Granger	Olson	Yoder
Graves (GA)	Paulsen	Yoho
Graves (MO)	Pearce	Young (AK)
Griffin (AR)	Perry	Young (IN)

NOES—194

Barber	Garcia	Negrete McLeod
Barton	Grayson	Nolan
Bass	Green, Gene	O'Rourke
Beatty	Grijalva	Owens
Becerra	Gutiérrez	Pallone
Bera (CA)	Hahn	Pascrell
Bishop (GA)	Hanabusa	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Heck (NV)	Payne
Blumenauer	Heck (WA)	Pelosi
Bonamici	Herrera Beutler	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Peters (CA)
Braley (IA)	Himes	Peters (MI)
Brown (FL)	Hinojosa	Peterson
Brownley (CA)	Holt	Pingree (ME)
Bustos	Honda	Pocan
Butterfield	Horsford	Polis
Capps	Hoyer	Price (NC)
Capuano	Huffman	Quigley
Cárdenas	Israel	Rahall
Carney	Jackson Lee	Reichert
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Richmond
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Royal-Allard
Castor (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Ruiz
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Ruppersberger
Chu	Keating	Rush
Ciilline	Kelly (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Clark (MA)	Kennedy	Sánchez, Linda
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	T.
Clyburn	Kilmer	Sanchez, Loretta
Coffman	Kind	Sarbanes
Cohen	Kirkpatrick	Schakowsky
Connolly	Kuster	Schiff
Conyers	Langevin	Schneider
Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Schrader
Costa	Larson (CT)	Levin
Courtney	Lee (CA)	Lipinski
Crowley	Levin	Loeb sack
Cuellar	Lipinski	Lofgren
Cummings	Loeb sack	Lowenthal
Davis (CA)	Lofgren	Lowe y
Davis, Danny	Lowenthal	Lujan Grisham
DeFazio	Lowe y	(NM)
DeGette	Lujan Grisham	(NM)
Delaney	(NM)	Luján, Ben Ray
DeLauro	Luján, Ben Ray	(NM)
DelBene	(NM)	Sires
Denham	Lynch	Smith (WA)
Deutch	Maffei	Speier
Diaz-Balart	Maloney,	Swalwell (CA)
Doggett	Carolyn	Takano
Doyle	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (CA)
Duckworth	Matheson	Thompson (MS)
Edwards	Matsui	Tierney
Ellison	McCollum	Titus
Engel	McDermott	McColum
Enyart	McGovern	McDermott
Eshoo	McNerney	Engel
Esty	Meeks	Eshoo
Farenthold	Meng	Esty
Farr	Michaud	Farr
Fattah	Miller, George	Fitzpatrick
Foster	Moore	Foster
Frankel (FL)	Moran	Frankel (FL)
Fudge	Murphy (FL)	Fudge
Gabbard	Nadler	Gabbard
Gallego	Napolitano	Gallego
Garamendi	Neal	Garamendi

NOT VOTING—23

Benishek	Green, Al	Rangel
Campbell	Hartzler	Ros-Lehtinen
Capito	Hastings (FL)	Shuster
Chaffetz	Lankford	Slaughter
Clay	Lewis	Vela
Cleaver	McCarthy (NY)	Waters
Cramer	Miller, Gary	Waxman
Dingell	Palazzo	

□ 0048

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MEADOWS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 226, noes 179, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 267]

AYES—226

Aderholt	Graves (GA)	Olson
Amash	Graves (MO)	Paulsen
Amodei	Grayson	Pearce
Ruiz	Griffin (AR)	Perry
Bachmann	Griffith (VA)	Peterson
Bachus	Grimm	Petri
Barletta	Guthrie	Pittenger
Barr	Hall	Pitts
Barrow (GA)	Hanna	Poe (TX)
Barton	Harper	Pompeo
Bentivolio	Harris	Posey
Bilirakis	Hastings (WA)	Price (GA)
Bishop (UT)	Heck (NV)	Rahall
Black	Hensarling	Reed
Blackburn	Herrera Beutler	Reichert
Boustany	Holding	Renacci
Brady (TX)	Hudson	Ribble
Bridenstine	Huelskamp	Rice (SC)
Brooks (AL)	Huizenga (MI)	Rigell
Brooks (IN)	Hultgren	Roby
Broun (GA)	Buchanan	Roe (TN)
Bucshon	Bucshon	Rogers (AL)
Burgess	Burgess	Rogers (KY)
Byrne	Byrne	Rogers (MI)
Calvert	Calvert	Rohrabacher
Camp	Camp	Rokita
Cantor	Cantor	Rooney
Carter	Carter	Roskam
Cassidy	Cassidy	Ross
Chabot	Chabot	Rothfus
Coble	Coble	Royce
Coffman	Coffman	Runyan
Cole	Cole	Ryan (WI)
Collins (GA)	Collins (GA)	Salmon
Collins (NY)	Collins (NY)	Sanford
Conaway	Conaway	Scalise
Cook	Cook	Schock
Cotton	Cotton	Schweikert
Crawford	Crawford	Scott, Austin
Crenshaw	Crenshaw	Sensenbrenner
Cuellar	Cuellar	Sessions
Culberson	Latta	Shimkus
Daines	LoBiondo	Simpson
Davis, Rodney	Long	Smith (MO)
Denham	Lucas	Smith (NE)
Dent	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NJ)
DeSantis	Lummis	Smith (TX)
DesJarlais	Marchant	Southerland
Diaz-Balart	Marino	Stewart
Duffy	Massie	Stivers
Duncan (SC)	McAllister	Stockman
Duncan (TN)	McCarthy (CA)	Stutzman
Ellmers	McCaul	Terry
Enyart	McClintock	Thompson (PA)
Farenthold	McHenry	Thornberry
Fincher	McIntyre	Tiberi
Fleischmann	McKeon	Tipton
Fleming	McKinley	Turner
Flores	McMorris	Upton
Forbes	Rodgers	Valadao
Fortenberry	Meadows	Wagner
Fox	Meehan	Walberg
Franks (AZ)	Messer	Walden
Frelinghuysen	Mica	Walorski
Gardner	Miller (FL)	Weber (TX)
Garrett	Miller (MI)	Webster (FL)
Gerlach	Mullin	Wenstrup
Gibbs	Mulvaney	Westmoreland
Gingrey (GA)	Murphy (PA)	Whitfield
Gohmert	Neugebauer	Williams
Goodlatte	Noem	Wilson (SC)
Gosar	Nugent	Wittman
Gowdy	Nunes	Wolf
Granger	Nunnelee	

Womack
Woodall

Yoder
Yoho

Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—179

Barber	Green, Gene	Negrete McLeod
Bass	Grijalva	O'Rourke
Beatty	Gutiérrez	Owens
Becerra	Hahn	Pallone
Bera (CA)	Hanabusa	Pascrell
Bishop (GA)	Heck (WA)	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Higgins	Payne
Blumenauer	Himes	Pelosi
Bonamici	Hinojosa	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Holt	Peters (CA)
Braley (IA)	Honda	Peters (MI)
Brown (FL)	Horsford	Pingree (ME)
Brownley (CA)	Hoyer	Pocan
Bustos	Huffman	Polis
Butterfield	Israel	Price (NC)
Capps	Jackson Lee	Quigley
Capuano	Jeffries	Richmond
Cárdenas	Johnson (GA)	Royal-Allard
Carney	Johnson, E. B.	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Keating	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Kelly (IL)	Rush
Castor (FL)	Kennedy	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Kildee	Sánchez, Linda
Chu	Kilmer	T.
Ciilline	Kind	Sanchez, Loretta
Clark (MA)	Kirkpatrick	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kuster	Schakowsky
Clyburn	Langevin	Schiff
Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Larson (CT)
Connolly	Larson (CT)	Schneider
Conyers	Lee (CA)	Schrader
Cooper	Levin	Schwartz
Costa	Lipinski	Scott (VA)
Courtney	Loeb sack	Scott, David
Crowley	Loeb sack	Serrano
Cummings	Lofgren	Sewell (AL)
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Shea-Porter
Davis, Danny	Lowe y	Sherman
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham	Sinema
DeGette	(NM)	Sires
Delaney	(NM)	Smith (WA)
DeLauro	Lynch	Speier
DelBene	Maffei	Swalwell (CA)
Denham	Maloney,	Takano
Deutch	Carolyn	Thompson (CA)
Doggett	Carolyne	Thompson (MS)
Doyle	Maloney, Sean	Tierney
Duckworth	Matheson	Titus
Edwards	Matsui	McColum
Ellison	McCollum	McDermott
Engel	McGovern	Engel
Enyart	McNerney	Eshoo
Eshoo	Meeks	Esty
Esty	Meng	Farr
Farenthold	Michaud	Fitzpatrick
Farr	Miller, George	Foster
Fattah	Moore	Frankel (FL)
Foster	Moran	Fudge
Frankel (FL)	Murphy (FL)	Gabbard
Fudge	Nadler	Gallego
Gabbard	Nadler	Garamendi
Gallego	Napolitano	Garcia
Garamendi	Neal	Gibson

NOT VOTING—26

Benishek	Green, Al	Palazzo
Campbell	Hartzler	Rangel
Capito	Hastings (FL)	Ros-Lehtinen
Chaffetz	Kaptur	Shuster
Clay	Lankford	Slaughter
Cleaver	Lewis	Vela
Cramer	McCarthy (NY)	Waters
Dingell	Miller, Gary	Waxman
Fattah	Nolan	

□ 0051

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read the last two lines of the bill.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the "Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015".

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move the Committee do now rise and report the bill back to the House with sundry

amendments, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND) having assumed the chair, Mr. CONAWAY, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, directed him to report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under House Resolution 585, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Ms. MOORE. Yes, sir, in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Moore moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4660 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

Page 38, line 2 (relating to amounts made available for Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs), after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 38, line 8 (relating to amounts made available for grants to combat violence against women), after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 44, line 6 (relating to amounts made available for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance), after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 47, line 21 (relating to amounts made available for grants to address backlogs of sexual assault kits at law enforcement agencies), after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 52, line 18 (relating to amounts made available for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Programs), after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 53, line 6 (relating to amounts made available for grants for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers under the COPS Program), after the

dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 70, line 17, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Ms. MOORE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment of this bill. This amendment will not kill the bill nor will it merely send it back to committee, but rather, if adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit is straightforward and simple. It would increase funding for three critical priorities: first, our chronically underfunded Violence Against Women Act programs; second, for grants to process the backlog on rape kits; and, third, for our Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, grants program, which was slashed deeply in the appropriations bill before us tonight.

Now, given the limited time that I have and the late hour that I have to discuss all these issues, I just want to focus my remarks on one of the Nation's staggering backlogs that we haven't talked about. We have talked, and importantly, about the backlog at the Veterans Administration, but we have been silent about the backlog of the sexual assault kits that have not been analyzed. We have not seen a similar amount of attention paid to the crisis in these rape kits that have been backlogged.

We have all heard these harrowing tales from our communities from young women and men who have waited so long for justice—and waited, and waited, and waited, and waited some more. These victims have not only endured the initial assault, but they have also endured an invasive exam to collect DNA shortly after the attack.

Mr. Speaker, these exams last for over 4 hours in some cases. It is unimaginable how difficult this is to bear. It takes so much courage for a victim to come forward and endure in hopes that the perpetrator will be caught. You know, it is the very least we owe to these victims to process all of the evidence, yet thousands of victims across the country never hear anything ever again.

Police already possess the evidence that is needed to identify and convict the perpetrators of these crimes, yet criminals remain at large primarily because these unprocessed kits remain in back rooms, warehouses, and labs. And given the sad reality that most sex offenders are recidivists, it is imperative that we close the loop on these old

cases so offenders don't seek out new victims.

Part of the terror of being raped is knowing that the perpetrator is still out there, he can come back to get you, someone else, you don't know who he is, and it puts not only that individual in terror, but puts the whole community in terror.

On the aggregate level, the Department of Justice has tallied about 400,000 rape kits that remain sitting in evidence lockers, largely because local authorities can't afford the \$500 to \$1,500 it costs to test these kits. Some of these kits go back to the 1980s. And even though this evidence is old, Mr. Speaker, we shouldn't assume that they are meaningless.

In Detroit, law enforcement personnel, as an example, are currently analyzing 11,000 abandoned kits they found in a warehouse. Six years, these kits have been sitting there for 6 years. After processing only 10 percent of these rape kits, they have identified 46 serial rapists that they have identified.

□ 0100

In New York City, they showed that after they processed their backlog of 17,000 kits, the arrest rate for rape kits increased from 40 percent to 70 percent.

The overwhelmingly scourge of backlogged kits require nothing less than a national commitment, Mr. Speaker, including a dedicated response from the United States Congress.

I am pleased that the bill before us tonight fulfills the request from the Obama administration to provide funding for a new grant program to inventory and test rape kits, develop units to pursue new investigative leads, and offer support to victims during the process.

The new investment through this bipartisan bill is an important first step.

However, through simple addition, we can tally the pending cost of clearing the backlog.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, we have now spent more than 15 hours debating and amending this bipartisan bill—and I appreciate Mr. FATTAH's help in it—that sufficiently and responsibly funds Federal programs that provide for our safety and economic well-being.

This legislation ensures that our laws are enforced, that our businesses have the tools needed to succeed, and that uncertainty doesn't hinder progress.

This bill already provides targeted increases for counterterrorism and cybersecurity, fights the scourge of drug abuse, and bolsters American scientific innovation and manufacturing.

This is also a landmark bill for reducing violence against women. It strengthens services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking by funding above the current level and above the President's request for these programs.

In addition, it increases funding for victim assistance and programs that will address human trafficking.

After amendments, the bill includes \$41 million for the Community Response Teams to address the sexual assault kit backlog program.

This is \$6 million—17 percent—above the President's request.

The bill also includes \$125 million for core DNA programs, including the Debbie Smith program.

This is \$25 million above the President's request.

Moreover, we do all this while staying within our allocation for this bill—\$400 million less than last year. Making commonsense reductions and eliminating waste wherever possible helps make a more efficient government that won't create undue doubt about the fiscal future of the Nation.

The bill has had bipartisan support throughout the process, and I believe it deserves bipartisan support today.

I urge my colleagues to reject this motion to recommit and pass H.R. 4660 tonight, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 185, noes 220, answered "present" 2, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 268]

AYES—185

Barber	Capuano	Courtney
Barrow (GA)	Cárdenas	Crowley
Bass	Carney	Cuellar
Beatty	Carson (IN)	Cummings
Becerra	Cartwright	Davis (CA)
Bera (CA)	Castor (FL)	Davis, Danny
Bishop (GA)	Castro (TX)	DeFazio
Bishop (NY)	Chu	DeGette
Blumenauer	Cicilline	Delaney
Bonamici	Clark (MA)	DeLauro
Brady (PA)	Clarke (NY)	DeBene
Braley (IA)	Clyburn	Deuch
Brown (FL)	Cohen	Doggett
Brownley (CA)	Connolly	Doyle
Bustos	Conyers	Duckworth
Butterfield	Cooper	Edwards
Capps	Costa	Ellison

Engel	Loebsack
Enyart	Lowenthal
Eshoo	Lowe
Esty	Lujan Grisham
Farr	(NM)
Fattah	Luján, Ben Ray
Foster	(NM)
Frankel (FL)	Lynch
Fudge	Maffei
Gabbard	Maloney,
Gallego	Carolyn
Garamendi	Maloney, Sean
Garcia	Matheson
Grayson	Matsui
Green, Gene	McCollum
Grijalva	McDermott
Gutiérrez	McGovern
Hahn	McIntyre
Hanabusa	McNerney
Heck (WA)	Meeks
Higgins	Meng
Himes	Michaud
Hinojosa	Miller, George
Holt	Moore
Honda	Moran
Horsford	Murphy (FL)
Hoyer	Nadler
Huffman	Napolitano
Israel	Neal
Jackson Lee	Negrete McLeod
Jeffries	Nolan
Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke
Kaptur	Owens
Keating	Pallone
Kelly (IL)	Pascrell
Kennedy	Pastor (AZ)
Kildee	Payne
Kilmer	Pelosi
Kind	Perlmutter
Kirkpatrick	Peters (CA)
Kuster	Peters (MI)
Langevin	Peterson
Larsen (WA)	Pingree (ME)
Larson (CT)	Pocan
Lee (CA)	Polis
Levin	Price (NC)
Lipinski	Quigley

NOES—220

Aderholt	Diaz-Balart
Amash	Duffy
Amodei	Duncan (SC)
Bachmann	Duncan (TN)
Bachus	Ellmers
Barletta	Farenthold
Barr	Fincher
Barton	Fitzpatrick
Bentivolio	Fleischmann
Bilirakis	Fleming
Bishop (UT)	Flores
Black	Forbes
Blackburn	Fortenberry
Boustany	Fox
Brady (TX)	Franks (AZ)
Bridenstine	Frelinghuysen
Brooks (AL)	Garrett
Brooks (IN)	Gerlach
Broun (GA)	Gibbs
Buchanan	Gibson
Bucshon	Gingrey (GA)
Burgess	Gohmert
Byrne	Goodlatte
Calvert	Gosar
Camp	Gowdy
Cantor	Granger
Carter	Graves (GA)
Cassidy	Graves (MO)
Chabot	Griffin (AR)
Coble	Griffith (VA)
Coffman	Grimm
Cole	Guthrie
Collins (GA)	Hall
Collins (NY)	Hanna
Conaway	Harper
Cook	Harris
Cotton	Hastings (WA)
Crawford	Heck (NV)
Crenshaw	Hensarling
Culberson	Herrera Beutler
Daines	Holding
Davis, Rodney	Hudson
Denham	Huelskamp
Dent	Huizenga (MI)
DeSantis	Hultgren
DesJarlais	Hunter

Rahall	Murphy (PA)
Richardson	Neugebauer
Roybal-Allard	Noem
Ruiz	Nugent
Ruppersberger	Nunes
Rush	Nunnelee
Ryan (OH)	Olson
Sánchez, Linda	Paulsen
T.	Pearce
Sanchez, Loretta	Perry
Sarbanes	Petri
Schakowsky	Pittenger
Schiff	Pitts
Schneider	Poe (TX)
Schrader	Pompeo
Schwartz	Posey
Scott (VA)	Price (GA)
Scott, David	Reed
Serrano	Reichert
Sewell (AL)	Renacci
Shea-Porter	Ribble
Sherman	Rice (SC)
Sinema	Rigell
Sires	Roby
Smith (WA)	Roe (TN)
Speier	Rogers (AL)
Swalwell (CA)	Rogers (KY)
Takano	Rogers (MI)
Thompson (CA)	
Thompson (MS)	
Tierney	
Titus	
Tonko	
Tsongas	
Van Hollen	
Vargas	
Veasey	
Velázquez	
Visclosky	
Walz	
Wasserman	
Schultz	
Welch	
Wilson (FL)	
Yarmuth	

Rohrabacher	Terry
Rokita	Thompson (PA)
Rooney	Thornberry
Roskam	Tiberi
Ross	Tipton
Rothfus	Turner
Royce	Upton
Runyan	Valadao
Ryan (WI)	Wagner
Salmon	Walberg
Sanford	Walden
Scalise	Walorski
Schock	Weber (TX)
Schweikert	Webster (FL)
Scott, Austin	Wenstrup
Sensenbrenner	Westmoreland
Sessions	Whitfield
Shimkus	Williams
Simpson	Wilson (SC)
Smith (MO)	Wittman
Smith (NE)	Wolf
Smith (NJ)	Womack
Smith (TX)	Woodall
Southerland	Yoder
Stewart	Yoho
Stivers	Young (AK)
Stockman	Young (IN)
Stutzman	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Johnson, E. B. Lofgren

NOT VOTING—24

Benishek	Gardner	Palazzo
Campbell	Green, Al	Rangel
Capito	Hartzler	Ros-Lehtinen
Chaffetz	Hastings (FL)	Shuster
Clay	Lankford	Slaughter
Cleaver	Lewis	Vela
Cramer	McCarthy (NY)	Waters
Dingell	Miller, Gary	Waxman

□ 0108

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 321, nays 87, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 269]

YEAS—321

Aderholt	Camp	Denham
Amodei	Cantor	Dent
Bachmann	Capps	DeSantis
Bachus	Carney	DesJarlais
Barber	Carson (IN)	Deutch
Barletta	Carter	Diaz-Balart
Barr	Cartwright	Doyle
Barrow (GA)	Cassidy	Duckworth
Barton	Castor (FL)	Duffy
Beatty	Chabot	Duncan (SC)
Bentivolio	Chu	Ellmers
Bera (CA)	Clyburn	Engel
Bilirakis	Coble	Enyart
Bishop (GA)	Coffman	Esty
Bishop (NY)	Cohen	Farenthold
Bishop (UT)	Cole	Farr
Black	Collins (GA)	Fattah
Blackburn	Collins (NY)	Fincher
Boustany	Conaway	Fitzpatrick
Brady (PA)	Cook	Fleischmann
Braley (IA)	Costa	Fleming
Bridenstine	Cotton	Flores
Brooks (AL)	Crawford	Forbes
Brooks (IN)	Crenshaw	Fortenberry
Brown (FL)	Crowley	Foster
Brownley (CA)	Cuellar	Fox
Buchanan	Culberson	Frankel (FL)
Bucshon	Cummings	Frelinghuysen
Burgess	Daines	Fudge
Bustos	Davis (CA)	Gallego
Butterfield	Davis, Rodney	Garamendi
Byrne	Delaney	Garcia
Calvert	DeBene	Gardner

Garrett Lance
 Gerlach Langevin
 Gibbs Larsen (WA)
 Gibson Larson (CT)
 Gohmert Latham
 Goodlatte Latta
 Gosar Levin
 Gowdy Lipinski
 Granger LoBiondo
 Graves (GA) Loeb sack
 Graves (MO) Long
 Grayson Lowey
 Green, Gene Lucas
 Griffin (AR) Luetkemeyer
 Griffith (VA) Lujan Grisham
 Grimm (NM)
 Guthrie Luján, Ben Ray
 Hall (NM)
 Hanna Lynch
 Harper Maffei
 Harris Maloney,
 Hastings (WA) Carolyn
 Heck (NV) Maloney, Sean
 Hensarling Marchant
 Herrera Beutler Marino
 Higgins Matsui
 Himes McAllister
 Hinojosa McCarthy (CA)
 Holding McCaul
 Honda McHenry
 Horsford McIntyre
 Hoyer McKeon
 Hudson McKinley
 Huelskamp McMorris
 Huizenga (MI) Rodgers
 Hultgren McNerney
 Hunter Meadows
 Hurt Meehan
 Israel Meeks
 Issa Meng
 Jackson Lee Messer
 Jenkins Mica
 Johnson (GA) Michaud
 Johnson (OH) Miller (FL)
 Johnson, E. B. Miller (MI)
 Johnson, Sam Mullin
 Jolly Murphy (FL)
 Jordan Murphy (PA)
 Joyce Nadler
 Kaptur Negrete McLeod
 Keating Neugebauer
 Kelly (IL) Noem
 Kelly (PA) Nolan
 Kilmer Nugent
 King (IA) Nunes
 King (NY) Nunnelee
 Kingston O'Rourke
 Kinzinger (IL) Olson
 Kirkpatrick Owens
 Kline Pascrell
 Kuster Pastor (AZ)
 LaMalfa Paulsen
 Lamborn Pearce

Pelosi Perlmutter
 Perry
 Peters (CA)
 Peters (MI)
 Peterson
 Pittenger
 Poe (TX)
 Polis
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Rahall
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Rosskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Royce
 Ruiz
 Runyan
 Ruppertsberger
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Scalise
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schock
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Sessions
 Sewell (AL)
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Simpson
 Sinema
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Southerland
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stutzman

Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tonko
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Veasey
 Amash
 Bass
 Becerra
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Brady (TX)
 Broun (GA)
 Capuano
 Cárdenas
 Castro (TX)
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Courtney
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 Doggett
 Duncan (TN)
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Eshoo
 Franks (AZ)
 Gabbard
 Gingrey (GA)
 Grijalva
 Benishek
 Campbell
 Capito
 Chaffetz
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Cramer
 Dingell
 Green, Al
 Hartzler
 Hastings (FL)
 Lankford
 Lewis
 McCarthy (NY)
 Miller, Gary
 Palazzo
 Rangel
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Shuster
 Slaughter
 Vela
 Waters
 Waxman

BUILD SITES RESERVOIR
 (Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)
 Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, at a time in the West—especially in California—of severe drought, we need to take immediate action to address the issues of water storage and of building supply that California and the West need for our future—for agriculture, for the great needs we have—that have been neglected for so many years.
 We haven't built any significant storage in California for at least 40 years, and it is high time that, in this time of drought, we seize this opportunity to move forward with bipartisan legislation, such as what I am carrying, H.R. 4300, to build Sites Reservoir—whatever it is going to take—to add to our water supply in the State and for our Western States.
 I ask for the Congress and for the Senate to come together and get behind a measure to build water storage for the West.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
 By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:
 Mrs. CAPITO (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of a familial obligation.

ADJOURNMENT
 Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.
 The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until today, Friday, May 30, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2013 and the first and second quarters of 2014, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, ALEXIS COVEY-BRANDT, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 12 AND APR. 18, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Alexis Covey-Brandt	4/12	4/18	Tanzania	2,639,947	1,599.00	11,106,268	6,727.10	.....	.....	13,746,215	8,326.00
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, KATHERINE HALEY, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 12 AND APR. 18, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Katherine Haley	4/13	4/18	Tanzania		1,590.00		6,727.10				8,317.10
Amount returned to U.S. Treasury											-190.00
Committee total											8,127.10

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

KATHERINE HALEY, May 13, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, EMILY MURRY, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 12 AND APR. 18, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Emily Murry	4/13	4/18	Tanzania		1,379.00		12,089.80				13,468.80
Amount returned to U.S. Treasury											-190.00
Committee total											13,278.80

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

EMILY MURRY, May 12, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, AFGHANISTAN, TURKEY, AND PORTUGAL, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 12 AND APR. 20, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John Boehner	4/12	4/13	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. John Kline	4/12	4/13	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. Doc Hastings	4/12	4/13	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. Dave Camp	4/12	4/13	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. Tom Latham	4/12	4/13	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. Devin Nunes	4/12	4/13	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. Greg Walden	4/12	4/13	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. Steve Womack	4/12	4/13	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Brian Monahan	4/12	4/15	UAE		1,714.00		(3)				1,714.00
Jennifer Stewart	4/12	4/13	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Michael Steel	4/12	4/13	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Amy Lozupone	4/12	4/15	UAE		1,714.00		(3)				1,714.00
Hon. John Boehner	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan				(3)				
Hon. John Kline	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan				(3)				
Hon. Doc Hastings	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan				(3)				
Hon. Dave Camp	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan				(3)				
Hon. Tom Latham	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan				(3)				
Hon. Devin Nunes	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan				(3)				
Hon. Greg Walden	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan				(3)				
Hon. Steve Womack	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan				(3)				
Jennifer Stewart	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan				(3)				
Michael Steel	4/13	4/14	Afghanistan				(3)				
Hon. John Boehner	4/14	4/15	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. John Kline	4/14	4/15	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. Doc Hastings	4/14	4/15	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. Dave Camp	4/14	4/15	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. Tom Latham	4/14	4/15	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. Devin Nunes	4/14	4/15	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. Greg Walden	4/14	4/15	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. Steve Womack	4/14	4/15	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Jennifer Stewart	4/14	4/15	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Michael Steel	4/14	4/15	UAE		538.00		(3)				538.00
Hon. John Boehner	4/15	4/17	Turkey		826.00		(3)				826.00
Hon. John Kline	4/15	4/17	Turkey		826.00		(3)				826.00
Hon. Doc Hastings	4/15	4/17	Turkey		826.00		(3)				826.00
Hon. Dave Camp	4/15	4/17	Turkey		826.00		(3)				826.00
Hon. Tom Latham	4/15	4/17	Turkey		826.00		(3)				826.00
Hon. Devin Nunes	4/15	4/17	Turkey		826.00		(3)				826.00
Hon. Greg Walden	4/15	4/17	Turkey		826.00		(3)				826.00
Hon. Steve Womack	4/15	4/17	Turkey		826.00		(3)				826.00
Brian Monahan	4/15	4/17	Turkey		826.00		(3)				826.00
Jennifer Stewart	4/15	4/17	Turkey		826.00		(3)				826.00
Michael Steel	4/15	4/17	Turkey		826.00		(3)				826.00
Amy Lozupone	4/15	4/17	Turkey		826.00		(3)				826.00
Hon. John Boehner	4/17	4/20	Portugal		843.00		(3)				843.00
Hon. John Kline	4/17	4/20	Portugal		843.00		(3)				843.00
Hon. Doc Hastings	4/17	4/20	Portugal		843.00		(3)				843.00
Hon. Dave Camp	4/17	4/20	Portugal		843.00		(3)				843.00
Hon. Tom Latham	4/17	4/20	Portugal		843.00		(3)				843.00
Hon. Devin Nunes	4/17	4/20	Portugal		843.00		(3)				843.00
Hon. Greg Walden	4/17	4/20	Portugal		843.00		(3)				843.00
Hon. Steve Womack	4/17	4/20	Portugal		843.00		(3)				843.00
Brian Monahan	4/17	4/20	Portugal		843.00		(3)				843.00
Jennifer Stewart	4/17	4/20	Portugal		843.00		(3)				843.00
Michael Steel	4/17	4/20	Portugal		843.00		(3)				843.00
Amy Lozupone	4/17	4/20	Portugal		843.00		(3)				843.00
Committee total					33,216.00						33,216.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER, May 19, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Visit to Germany, Kenya, Somalia, Egypt, Libya, Qatar, Austria, January 15–24, 2014 with STAFFDEL Kuiken:											
Peter Villano	1/16	1/17	Germany		314.55						314.55
	1/17	1/18	Austria		199.14						199.14
	1/18	1/20	Kenya		445.00						445.00
	1/19	1/19	Somalia		0.00						0.00
	1/20	1/21	Egypt		582.50						582.50
	1/21	1/21	Libya		0.00						0.00
	1/21	1/22	Turkey		174.40						174.40
Commercial airfare							13,814.20				13,814.20
Peter Villano	1/16	1/17	Germany		314.55						314.55
	1/17	1/18	Austria		199.14						199.14
	1/18	1/20	Kenya		445.00						445.00
	1/19	1/19	Somalia		0.00						0.00
	1/20	1/21	Egypt		582.50						582.50
	1/21	1/21	Libya		0.00						0.00
	1/21	1/22	Turkey		174.40						174.40
	1/22	1/23	Qatar		263.00						263.00
Commercial airfare							13,814.20				13,814.20
Paul Arcangeli	1/20	1/21	Egypt		582.50						582.50
	1/21	1/21	Libya		0.00						0.00
	1/22	1/22	Turkey		174.40						174.40
Commercial airfare							3,633.50				3,633.50
Visit to Vienna, Austria-Cairo, Egypt-Tel Aviv, Israel, January 16–23, 2014 with CODEL Rohrbacher:											
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	1/17	1/18	Austria		621.80						621.80
	1/18	1/20	Egypt		184.00						184.00
	1/20	1/23	Israel		976.00						976.00
Commercial airfare							7,487.00				7,487.00
Visit to Azerbaijan, Georgia, Romania, Kosovo, Spain, January 17–25, 2014:											
Kimberly Shaw	1/18	1/19	Azerbaijan		353.81						353.81
	1/19	1/21	Georgia		605.00						605.00
	1/21	1/22	Romania		299.07						299.07
	1/22	1/23	Kosovo		441.40						441.40
	1/23	1/23	Germany		0.00						0.00
	1/23	1/25	Spain		491.16						491.16
Commercial airfare							16,984.00				16,984.00
Craig Greene	1/18	1/19	Azerbaijan		363.81						363.81
	1/19	1/21	Georgia		610.00						610.00
	1/21	1/22	Romania		233.97						233.97
	1/22	1/23	Kosovo		441.40						441.40
	1/23	1/25	Spain		505.16						505.16
Commercial airfare							16,984.00				16,984.00
Ryan Crumpler	1/18	1/19	Azerbaijan		363.81						363.81
	1/19	1/21	Georgia		610.00						610.00
	1/21	1/22	Romania		233.97						233.97
	1/22	1/23	Kosovo		441.40						441.40
	1/23	1/25	Spain		505.16						505.16
Commercial airfare							16,984.00				16,984.00
Debra Wada	1/18	1/19	Azerbaijan		363.81						363.81
	1/19	1/21	Georgia		610.00						610.00
	1/21	1/22	Romania		223.97						223.97
	1/22	1/23	Kosovo		441.40						441.40
	1/23	1/25	Spain		505.16						505.16
Commercial airfare							16,984.00				16,984.00
Delegation expenses			Kosovo						386.64		386.64
Delegation expenses			Georgia						108.55		108.55
Visit to Korea, Japan, Burma, Hawaii, January 16–26, 2014:											
Kari Anne Bingen Tytler	1/18	1/21	Korea		748.29						748.29
	1/21	1/23	Japan		486.00						486.00
	1/23	1/24	Burma		0.00						0.00
Commercial airfare							11,370.70				11,370.70
Spencer Johnson	1/18	1/21	Korea		748.29						748.29
	1/21	1/23	Japan		1,002.90						1,002.90
	1/23	1/24	Burma		0.00						0.00
Commercial airfare							10,513.10				10,513.10
Stephen Kitay	1/18	1/21	Korea		748.29						748.29
	1/21	1/23	Japan		1,002.90						1,002.90
	1/23	1/24	Burma		0.00						0.00
Commercial airfare							11,370.70				11,370.70
Delegation expenses			Korea						1,815.61		1,815.61
Delegation expenses			Japan				1,971.97				1,971.97
Visit to Hawaii, Guam, Japan, Hong Kong—January 17–26, 2014:											
Hon. Robert Wittman	1/20	1/22	Guam		0.00						0.00
	1/22	1/24	Hong Kong		0.00						0.00
	1/24	1/26	Japan		625.93						625.93
Commercial airfare							3,473.30				3,473.30
Hon. Madeleine Bordallo	1/20	1/22	Guam		0.00						0.00
	1/22	1/24	Hong Kong		0.00						0.00
	1/24	1/26	Japan		625.93						625.93
Commercial airfare							8,741.30				8,741.30
Hon. Carol Shea-Porter	1/20	1/22	Guam		0.00						0.00
	1/22	1/24	Hong Kong		0.00						0.00
	1/24	1/26	Japan		625.93						625.93
Commercial airfare							8,741.30				8,741.30
Michele Pierce	1/20	1/22	Guam		0.00						0.00
	1/22	1/24	Hong Kong		0.00						0.00
	1/24	1/26	Japan		625.93						625.93
Commercial airfare							8,175.30				8,175.30
Brian Garrett	1/20	1/22	Guam		0.00						0.00
	1/22	1/24	Hong Kong		0.00						0.00
	1/24	1/26	Japan		625.93						625.93
Commercial airfare							8,741.30				8,741.30
Delegation expenses			Japan				567.45				567.45
Visit to Guatemala, Mexico—January 19–24, 2014:											
Katie Sendak	1/20	1/21	Mexico		354.00						354.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—Continued
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial airfare	1/21	1/23	Guatemala		450.92						450.92
Michael Amato	1/20	1/21	Mexico		354.00		1,537.40				1,537.40
	1/21	1/23	Guatemala		450.92						354.00
Commercial airfare							1,537.40				1,537.40
Delegation expenses			Mexico							84.00	84.00
Visit to Canada—January 29–30, 2014:											
Jesse Tolleson	1/29	1/30	Canada		217.17						217.17
Commercial airfare							440.00				440.00
Douglas Bush	1/29	1/30	Canada		217.17						217.17
Commercial airfare							440.00				440.00
Visit to Germany—January 30–February 2, 2014 with CODEL McCain:											
Hon. Michael Turner	1/31	2/2	Germany		995.41						995.41
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	1/31	2/2	Germany		995.41						995.41
Visit to Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Panama—February 14–23, 2014:											
Hon. Howard McKeon	2/14	2/16	Colombia		739.20						739.20
	2/16	2/18	Chile		576.86						576.86
	2/18	2/22	Brazil		1,705.71						1,705.71
	2/22	2/23	Panama		326.00						326.00
Hon. Austin Scott	2/14	2/16	Colombia		739.20						739.20
	2/16	2/18	Chile		576.86						576.86
	2/18	2/22	Brazil		1,705.71						1,705.71
	2/22	2/23	Panama		326.00						326.00
Hon. Vicky Hartzler	2/14	2/16	Colombia		739.20						739.20
	2/16	2/18	Chile		576.86						576.86
	2/18	2/22	Brazil		1,705.71						1,705.71
	2/22	2/23	Panama		326.00						326.00
Hon. Doug Lamborn	2/14	2/16	Colombia		739.20						739.20
	2/16	2/18	Chile		576.86						576.86
	2/18	2/22	Brazil		1,705.71						1,705.71
	2/22	2/23	Panama		326.00						326.00
Michael Amato	2/14	2/16	Colombia		739.20						739.20
	2/16	2/18	Chile		576.86						576.86
	2/18	2/22	Brazil		1,705.71						1,705.71
	2/22	2/23	Panama		326.00						326.00
Cathrine Sendak	2/14	2/16	Colombia		739.20						739.20
	2/16	2/18	Chile		576.86						576.86
	2/18	2/22	Brazil		1,705.71						1,705.71
	2/22	2/23	Panama		326.00						326.00
Bob Simmons	2/14	2/16	Colombia		739.20						739.20
	2/16	2/18	Chile		576.86						576.86
	2/18	2/22	Brazil		1,705.71						1,705.71
	2/22	2/23	Panama		326.00						326.00
John Noonan	2/14	2/16	Colombia		739.20						739.20
	2/16	2/18	Chile		576.86						576.86
	2/18	2/22	Brazil		1,705.71						1,705.71
	2/22	2/23	Panama		326.00						326.00
Delegation expenses			Panama						2,319.04		2,319.04
Visit to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Hong Kong—February 15–25, 2014 with CODEL Royce:											
Hon. Madeleine Bordallo	2/16	2/17	Japan		433.90						433.90
	2/17	2/18	Korea		357.44						357.44
	2/18	2/20	Taiwan		561.81						561.81
	2/20	2/21	Philippines		237.99						237.99
	2/21	2/23	Hong Kong		930.40						930.40
Visit to Germany, Belgium—February 17–21, 2014:											
Kimberly Shaw	2/18	2/19	Germany		307.40						307.40
	2/19	2/21	Belgium		330.00						330.00
Commercial airfare							2,889.40				2,889.40
Ryan Crumpler	2/18	2/19	Germany		307.40						307.40
	2/19	2/21	Belgium		330.00						330.00
Commercial airfare							2,889.40				2,889.40
Jack Schuler	2/18	2/19	Germany		307.40						307.40
	2/19	2/21	Belgium		330.00						330.00
Commercial airfare							2,889.40				2,889.40
Lynn Williams	2/18	2/20	Germany		614.80						614.80
Commercial airfare							1,731.90				1,731.90
Visit to Korea, Cambodia, Thailand—March 15–23, 2014:											
Craig Green	3/16	3/19	Korea		1,022.19						1,022.19
	3/19	3/22	Cambodia		681.00						681.00
	3/22	3/23	Thailand		249.00						249.00
Commercial airfare							13,791.20				13,791.20
Dave Giachetti	3/16	3/19	Korea		1,022.18						1,022.18
	3/19	3/22	Cambodia		539.00						539.00
	3/22	3/23	Thailand		249.00						249.00
Commercial airfare							13,791.20				13,791.20
Paul Arcangeli	3/16	3/19	Korea		1,022.18						1,022.18
	3/19	3/22	Cambodia		539.00						539.00
	3/22	3/23	Thailand		249.00						249.00
Commercial airfare							13,791.20				13,791.20
Debra Wada	3/16	3/19	Korea		1,022.18						1,022.18
	3/19	3/22	Cambodia		539.00						539.00
	3/22	3/23	Thailand		249.00						249.00
Commercial airfare							13,791.20				13,791.20
Delegation expenses			Korea					370.26	602.55		972.81
Delegation expenses			Cambodia					190.00			190.00
Visit to UAE, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Chad, Cameroon, Germany—March 14–23, 2014:											
Hon. Rob Whittman	3/15	3/19	United Arab Emirates		844.13						844.13
	3/16	3/18	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
	3/19	3/20	Chad		287.72						287.72
	3/20	3/21	Cameroon		413.12						413.12
	3/21	3/23	Kenya		355.00						355.00
Commercial airfare							20,614.22				20,614.22
Hon. Madeleine Bordallo	3/15	3/19	United Arab Emirates		844.13						844.13
	3/16	3/18	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
	3/19	3/20	Chad		287.72						287.72

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—Continued
EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
	3/20	3/21	Cameroon		393.13						393.13
	3/21	3/23	Kenya		355.00						355.00
Commercial airfare							14,409.22				14,409.22
Hon. Ron Barber	3/15	3/16	United Arab Emirates		413.82						413.82
	3/16	3/18	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Commercial airfare							10,175.70				10,175.70
Hon. Brad Wenstrup	3/15	3/19	United Arab Emirates		844.13						844.13
	3/16	3/18	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
	3/19	3/20	Chad		287.72						287.72
	3/20	3/21	Cameroon		413.12						413.12
	3/21	3/23	Kenya		355.00						355.00
Commercial airfare							14,409.22				14,409.22
Alex Gallo	3/15	3/19	United Arab Emirates		844.13						844.13
	3/16	3/18	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
	3/19	3/20	Chad		287.72						287.72
	3/20	3/21	Cameroon		413.12						413.12
	3/21	3/23	Kenya		355.00						355.00
Commercial airfare							9,878.60				9,878.60
Ryan Crumpler	3/15	3/19	United Arab Emirates		844.13						844.13
	3/16	3/18	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
	3/19	3/20	Chad		287.72						287.72
	3/20	3/21	Cameroon		413.12						413.12
	3/21	3/23	Kenya		355.00						355.00
Commercial airfare							14,409.22				14,409.22
Brian Garrett	3/15	3/19	United Arab Emirates		844.13						844.13
	3/16	3/18	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
	3/19	3/20	Chad		287.72						287.72
	3/20	3/21	Cameroon		413.12						413.12
	3/21	3/23	Kenya		355.00						355.00
Commercial airfare							14,409.22				14,409.22
Delegation expenses			United Arab Emirates						1,425.62		1,425.62
Delegation expenses			Bahrain						1,129.31		1,129.31
Delegation expenses			Kenya						692.03		692.03
Delegation expenses			Cameroon						4,803.22		4,803.22
Visit to Afghanistan, UAE—March 27–31, 2014:											
Hon. Howard McKeon	3/28	3/31	UAE								
	3/28	3/30	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Hon. Duncan Hunter	3/28	3/31	UAE								
	3/28	3/30	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Hon. Joaquin Castro	3/28	3/31	UAE								
	3/28	3/30	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Hon. Jeff Denham	3/28	3/31	UAE								
	3/28	3/30	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Bob Simmons	3/28	3/31	UAE								
	3/28	3/30	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Kari Bingen	3/28	3/31	UAE								
	3/28	3/30	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Committee total					78,512.74		348,820.68		13,282.57		440,615.99

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, Chairman, May 1, 2014.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Devin Nunes	11/21	11/25	Europe		706.00						
Commercial airfare							6,780.60				7,486.60
Andy Keiser	11/21	11/25	Europe		706.00						
Commercial airfare							2,351.60				3,057.60
Hon. Mike Rogers	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Hon. C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Hon. Mike Pompeo	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Hon. Terri A. Sewell	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Darren Dick	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Tom Corcoran	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Susan Phalen	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Robert Minehart	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,799.20				2,588.59
Hon. Mike Thompson	12/13	12/19	S. America		1,614.00						
Commercial airfare							11,540.37				13,154.37
Linda Cohen	12/13	12/19	S. America		1,920.00						
Commercial airfare							11,072.37				12,992.37
Hon. Michele Bachmann	12/14	12/16	Middle East		605.75						
	12/16	12/17	Middle East		75.00						
	12/17	12/17	Middle East		0.00						
	12/17	12/19	Middle East		843.00						
	12/19	12/20	Europe		417.00						
	12/20	12/21	Europe		344.42						
Commercial airfare							13,850.40				16,135.57
Committee total											73,500.13

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MIKE ROGERS, Chairman, May 9, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5811. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-Transportation (DFARS Case 2012-D057) (RIN: 0750-AH90) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5812. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Detection and Avoidance of Counterfeit Electronic Parts (DFARS Case 2013-D055) (RIN: 0750-AH88) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5813. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Report to Congress on Head Start Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2011" and "Report to Congress on Head Start Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2012"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5814. A letter from the Acting Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vertical Tandem Lifts [Docket ID: OSHA-2010-0028] (RIN: 1218-AC72) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5815. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Annual Update of Filing Fees [Docket No.: RM14-6-000] received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5816. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-56, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5817. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's Semiannual Report to Congress for the six-month period ending March 31, 2014, as required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5818. A letter from the Director, Diversity and Inclusion Division, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5819. A letter from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General of the Farm Credit Administration for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5820. A letter from the Senior Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Offi-

cer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, transmitting the 2013 management report and statement of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5821. A letter from the Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, transmitting the 2013 management report of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5822. A letter from the Officer, Equal Employment Opportunity, International Boundary and Water Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5823. A letter from the Public Printer, Government Printing Office, transmitting the Office's annual report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on House Administration.

5824. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Annual Report to Congress on the Refugee Resettlement Program for the period October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 as required by section 413(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1523(a); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5825. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V-626, Utah [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0094; Airspace Docket No. 14-ANM-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5826. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Holdrege, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0596; Airspace Docket No. 13-ACE-11] received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5827. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Warsaw, MO [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0606; Airspace Docket No. 13-ACE-12] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5828. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-35 and V276; Eastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0961; Airspace Docket No. 13-AEA-13] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5829. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification, Revocation, and Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Charlotte, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0915; Airspace Docket No. 12-ASO-41] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5830. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tax

Treatment of Qualified Retirement Plan Payment of Accident or Health Insurance Premiums [TD 9665] (RIN: 1546-BG12) received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah:
Committee on Rules.

House Resolution 604. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4681) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability system; and for other purposes (Rept. 113-465). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania
(for himself and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 4755. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include recreational therapy among the therapy modalities that constitute an intensive rehabilitation therapy program in an inpatient rehabilitation hospital or unit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself and
Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 4756. A bill to require reporting of bullying to appropriate authorities and assist with equal protection claims against entities who fail to respond appropriately to bullying, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LATHAM:

H.R. 4757. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand certain exceptions to the private activity bond rules for first-time farmers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 4758. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to create a searchable database containing a credentials registry, a skills database, and a jobs bank; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LOBIONDO:

H.R. 4759. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which eligible veterans may elect to receive hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 4760. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of veterans to receive health care at private medical facilities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and
Mr. COLE):

H.R. 4761. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the maximum nameplate capacity of a small wind turbine qualifying for an energy credit from 100 kilowatts to 20 megawatts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. PETRI):

H.R. 4762. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to cover transitional care services to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of care under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 4763. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 with respect to requirements for domestic industries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 4764. A bill to require Federal agencies to provide notice and consideration of evidence before submitting debts to the Secretary of the Treasury for collection through reduction of tax refunds, and to restore the 10-year statute of limitations applicable to collection of debt by administrative offset; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 4765. A bill to address childhood obesity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mrs. LUMMIS):

H.R. 4766. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from paying bonuses to certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs until the backlog of disability claims is resolved, to establish a commission to evaluate such backlog, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FATTAH, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 4767. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen Federal-State partnerships in postsecondary education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 4768. A bill to prohibit the Export-Import Bank of the United States from providing financial support for certain high carbon intensity energy projects; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 4769. A bill to amend part Q of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize grant funds to be used for the Troops-to-Cops Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 4770. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to notices of claim of maritime lien, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PITTS (for himself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 4771. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to more effectively regulate anabolic steroids; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HOLDING (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COBLE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. CHU, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. JEFFRIES):

H.R. 4772. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide for the payment of royalties for the performance of sound recordings fixed before February 15, 1972, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROKITA (for himself, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. HARPER, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. GOWDY):

H.R. 4773. A bill to expand opportunity through greater choice in education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4774. A bill to require accountability in the Veterans Health Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS:

H. Res. 603. A resolution electing certain Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to, considered and agreed to.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MENG, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H. Res. 605. A resolution recognizing the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in May as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the Nation's history; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr.

GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. WATERS, Mr. HONDA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. POLIS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. VEASEY):

H. Res. 606. A resolution recognizing the month of June as Immigrant Heritage Month in honor of the accomplishments and role of immigrants in shaping the history and culture of the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SCHOCK (for himself, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H. Res. 607. A resolution recognizing the importance of the historic 2014 Indian Elections; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4755.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; and including, but not solely limited to Article I, Section 8, Clause 14.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4756.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 (relating to the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.)

By Mr. LATHAM:

H.R. 4757.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 4758.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power *** To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. LOBIONDO:

H.R. 4759.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. RIBBLE:
H.R. 4760.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:
H.R. 4761.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
US Constitution, Article I, Section 8, which provides Congress with the power to collect taxes, affirmed by the 16th Amendment thereto.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:
H.R. 4762.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:
H.R. 4763.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 1.
All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. FINCHER:
H.R. 4764.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 4765.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GARDNER:
H.R. 4766.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HINOJOSA:
H.R. 4767.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:
H.R. 4768.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Impost and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:
H.R. 4769.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:
H.R. 4770.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states that the Congress shall have Power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. PITTS:
H.R. 4771.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which states that Congress shall have the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states. . ."

By Mr. HOLDING:
H.R. 4772.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution; and, Article I, Section 8, clause 8 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation exercises legislative power granted to Congress by that clause "to promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries"

By Mr. ROKITA:
H.R. 4773.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:
H.R. 4774.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 14.
"["The Congress shall have Power] To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces"

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 270: Mr. TONKO.
- H.R. 351: Mr. PETERS of California.
- H.R. 411: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
- H.R. 482: Mr. KILMER.
- H.R. 532: Ms. DELAURO.
- H.R. 543: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
- H.R. 563: Ms. ESHOO.
- H.R. 676: Mr. CLYBURN.
- H.R. 713: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
- H.R. 755: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
- H.R. 794: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. RAHALL.
- H.R. 831: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H.R. 920: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
- H.R. 1015: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Ms. BORDALLO.
- H.R. 1020: Mr. BARTON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. CAPUANO.
- H.R. 1024: Ms. BASS.
- H.R. 1179: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 1252: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
- H.R. 1284: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
- H.R. 1313: Mr. ROYCE and Mr. WALZ.
- H.R. 1362: Mrs. BEATTY.
- H.R. 1416: Mr. POMPEO.
- H.R. 1428: Mr. HUFFMAN.
- H.R. 1518: Mr. PETERSON.
- H.R. 1563: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. BYRNE.
- H.R. 1666: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. WELCH.
- H.R. 1728: Mr. DOYLE.
- H.R. 1771: Mr. CRAMER.
- H.R. 1838: Mr. RICHMOND.
- H.R. 1852: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
- H.R. 1907: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
- H.R. 2021: Mr. WITTMAN.
- H.R. 2036: Ms. HAHN.

- H.R. 2041: Mr. CRAMER.
- H.R. 2088: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
- H.R. 2315: Mr. LONG.
- H.R. 2377: Mr. BARTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. BERA of California.
- H.R. 2453: Ms. HANABUSA, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. MEEHAN.
- H.R. 2500: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
- H.R. 2504: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LATTA, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. CARNEY.
- H.R. 2519: Mrs. LOWEY.
- H.R. 2529: Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 2536: Mr. GARDNER and Mr. OLSON.
- H.R. 2543: Mr. SCALISE.
- H.R. 2549: Mr. HINOJOSA.
- H.R. 2607: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
- H.R. 2656: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
- H.R. 2663: Mr. POMPEO.
- H.R. 2801: Mr. GIBSON.
- H.R. 2807: Mr. FARR, Mr. MAFFEI, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
- H.R. 2852: Mr. RICHMOND.
- H.R. 2932: Mr. GERLACH.
- H.R. 2955: Ms. ESHOO.
- H.R. 3121: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
- H.R. 3383: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 3418: Mr. DAINES.
- H.R. 3424: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
- H.R. 3461: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
- H.R. 3489: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
- H.R. 3531: Mr. REED and Mr. GIBBS.
- H.R. 3560: Mr. MORAN, Ms. HANABUSA, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
- H.R. 3670: Mr. LONG.
- H.R. 3708: Mr. OWENS.
- H.R. 3723: Mr. LONG and Mr. SESSIONS.
- H.R. 3740: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
- H.R. 3852: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Ms. EDWARDS.
- H.R. 3858: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BARR, Mr. LONG, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. PEARCE.
- H.R. 3877: Mr. KING of New York.
- H.R. 3899: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. PASCRELL.
- H.R. 3978: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
- H.R. 3988: Ms. SPEIER.
- H.R. 3992: Mr. WALZ, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
- H.R. 4035: Mr. OLSON.
- H.R. 4047: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
- H.R. 4158: Mr. PETRI, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
- H.R. 4162: Mr. PETERS of California.
- H.R. 4169: Mr. CARNEY and Mrs. LOWEY.
- H.R. 4187: Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
- H.R. 4188: Mr. NADLER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MAFFEI, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
- H.R. 4190: Mr. OLSON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. SHUSTER.
- H.R. 4208: Mr. VARGAS.
- H.R. 4284: Mr. CONAWAY.
- H.R. 4299: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
- H.R. 4305: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
- H.R. 4317: Mr. CONAWAY.
- H.R. 4325: Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 4351: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. DEUTCH.
- H.R. 4365: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
- H.R. 4383: Mr. BYRNE, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 4385: Mr. MEEHAN.
 H.R. 4395: Mr. ENYART, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 4415: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 4436: Mr. COTTON.
 H.R. 4440: Mr. DeFAZIO, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
 H.R. 4449: Mr. ROYCE.
 H.R. 4450: Mr. BYRNE.
 H.R. 4510: Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. MAFFEL.
 H.R. 4515: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 4531: Mrs. LUMMIS.
 H.R. 4574: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
 H.R. 4577: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. COLE.
 H.R. 4582: Mr. TONKO, Ms. BASS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
 H.R. 4608: Mr. LEWIS.
 H.R. 4619: Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 4622: Ms. BASS and Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 4631: Mr. HECK of Nevada.
 H.R. 4640: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. PIERLUISI.
 H.R. 4643: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
 H.R. 4646: Mr. MULLIN.
 H.R. 4653: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Ms. MENG.
 H.R. 4664: Mr. FARR, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 4678: Ms. JENKINS.
 H.R. 4714: Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 4715: Mr. DESANTIS.
 H.R. 4718: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 4720: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. LAMALFA.
 H.R. 4731: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. OLSON.
 H.J. Res. 20: Ms. TITUS.
 H.J. Res. 68: Mr. HECK of Washington.
 H.J. Res. 113: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H. Con. Res. 16: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. YOHO.
 H. Con. Res. 97: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Mr. ENYART.
 H. Con. Res. 98: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. TERRY, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
 H. Res. 30: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
 H. Res. 190: Mr. WALZ.
 H. Res. 532: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. PETERS of California.
 H. Res. 562: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
 H. Res. 593: Mr. PETERS of California.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The Manager's amendment to be offered to H.R. 4681, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015, by Representative Rogers of Michigan, or a designee, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. WALBERG

AMENDMENT NO. 27: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the Investigative and Public Affairs Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation except for the Ten Most Wanted Fugitives, the Most Wanted Terrorists, and missing children programs.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. POE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 28: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 541. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enforce section 221 of title 13, United States Code, with respect to the American Community Survey.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MS. KAPTUR

AMENDMENT NO. 29: Page 63, line, 8, increase the dollar amount by \$85,500,000.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MS. BONAMICI

AMENDMENT NO. 30: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Justice may be used to prevent a State from implementing its own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of industrial hemp, as defined in section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79).

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. HUDSON

AMENDMENT NO. 31: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the amounts made available by this Act may be used for any program not authorized by law as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. HUFFMAN

AMENDMENT NO. 32: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to assess or collect the fee established by section 660.115 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 33: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to negotiate an agreement that includes a waiver of the 'Buy American Act'.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 34: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Institute of Standards and Technology ("NIST") to incorporate any weaknesses known to NIST into encryption standards.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 35: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to imprison a person if that person has been incarcerated continuously for 15 years or more and if the sole basis for the incarceration is a conviction for a nonviolent crime resulting in a pecuniary gain to the prisoner of less than \$1,000,000 and a pecuniary loss to the victim or victims of less than \$1,000,000, as stated in the prisoner's sentencing report.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 36: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to prosecute any person for violations of an online service's user agreement or terms of service.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 37: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to compel a journalist or reporter to testify about information or sources that the journalist or reporter informs the Attorney General that he has obtained as a journalist or reporter and that he regards as confidential.

H.R. 4660

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 38: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to detain, prosecute, or incarcerate a person who is adjudged by the courts of the United States to have disclosed violations of the constitutional rights of 1,000 or more persons for such disclosure or disclosures.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote No. 241 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 599); and “yes” on rollcall vote No. 242 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 503, as amended).

HONORING MR. BOB LOTT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Bob Lott. For over twenty years Bob Lott has documented and produced numerous videos that have been used to teach and inform African American people about their ancestral lineage to help combat the disproportionate ills they have suffered compared to other races.

Mr. Bob Lott and then partner Walt Gavin pioneered a nationally syndicated black music show on commercial television with The Gavin & Lott Show. He then followed that effort with the breakthrough production of City Sounds. Over the years, Mr. Lott has worked with many legendary recording artists at Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff’s Philadelphia International Records, including Teddy Pendergrass, McFadden & Whitehead, Patti LaBelle, Bunny Sigler, and The O’Jays.

Moreover, Mr. Lott produced numerous documentaries shedding much needed light on important historical figures, including my friends Kenny Gamble and the great Representative David Richardson. Over the years, he has produced music videos, eleven nationally aired infomercials, television commercials, and promotional videos for countless corporations and non-profits. Mr. Lott will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014 for his dedication to aiding African American people through film.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and commitment have inspired and supported so many in our region. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Bob Lott for his lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania’s First Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF FERNANDO GARCIA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished life of Mr. Fernando Garcia.

Mr. Garcia, who served as Bristol Community College’s Chair of the Board of Trustees, passed away after a long and valiant battle that lasted several years. During his life, he was a tireless advocate for students as well as educational opportunities for all, and his devotion and dedication to Bristol Community College was unsurpassed. When he was appointed the Chair of the Board of Trustees at Bristol Community College in 2012, Gov. Deval Patrick called Mr. Garcia a “critical partner” in the Commonwealth’s “collective efforts to better serve our students and employers.” An exceptional role model for students and a valuable asset to his colleagues at the Bristol Community College, Mr. Garcia will be sorely missed.

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Mr. Garcia was also a local business leader in the South Coast region for over 30 years. In 2001, Mr. Garcia was named Fall River’s Business Person of the Year, and only a year later he was inducted into the New Bedford Area Business Hall of Fame. Mr. Garcia has also served on the Board of Directors for the Fall River Chamber of Commerce for several years and held a post as the Vice Chair for the Fall River Office of Economic Development. As a friend and leader in the South Coast community, Mr. Garcia understood Bristol Community College’s role in the local economy and in the livelihoods of its students and faculty.

We celebrate Fernando Garcia’s life and his proactive role in the business community of Fall River. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Fernando Garcia for over three decades of outstanding service to the community and economy in southeastern Massachusetts. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Garcia for his countless contributions.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS WITH THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE OLDER CITIZENS FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in order to recognize volunteers

with the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Foster Grandparent Program, which pairs people aged 60 and older with students for tutoring and mentorship purposes. The impact that simply spending time with children has on their development cannot be overstated. As a father myself, I see that impact first-hand.

It is my honor to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the 2013–2014 Foster Grandparent Program volunteers:

Irene Bailey, Lucille Baker, Minnie Baker, Betty Barker, Moe Dennison, Shirley Gardner, Ruth Gibson, Bess Gillenwater, Ruth Hogue, Carolyn Johnson, Patsy King, Sheila Miller, Edith Moore, Sharon Mullins, Bonnie Olinger, Sarah Parsons, Mary Rogers, Ruth Shawver, Marie Smith, Thelma Smith, Betty Stewart, Aleatha Strong, and Thelma Welch.

Mr. Speaker, I want to send my deepest thanks to folks working with and volunteering for the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Foster Grandparent Program, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these volunteers for their efforts on behalf of Southwest Virginia’s young people.

HONORING ELIZABETH GILBERTSON FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND COMMITMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered today at the new UNITE HERE HEALTH healthcare center in Atlantic City, New Jersey celebrates its grand opening and is named in honor of an outstanding health care advocate and my dear friend, Elizabeth Gilbertson. Betsy has dedicated her professional life and much of her personal time to ensuring that everyone has access to affordable, quality health care. The dedication of this new health center in her honor is a testament to the extraordinary commitment she has shown to this effort as well as the distinguished reputation she has earned as an advocate healthcare provider.

From the earliest days of her career Betsy combined her passion for advocacy with that of her belief that quality, affordable healthcare was a right, not a privilege. As a member of the Connecticut Nurses Association and District 1199, New England SEIU, Betsy represented her fellow nurses in collective bargaining. She also led a non-profit women’s health center before joining UNITE HERE HEALTH, a Taft-Hartley labor management trust fund that aims to provide health benefits that offer high quality, affordable health care to their participants, where she held a number of leadership roles prior to her current position as Chief of Strategy.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Betsy's dedication to quality, affordable healthcare extends far beyond her professional career. She has served on National Quality Forum Task Forces on patient safety and ambulatory care measures; was founder as well as Chair/Co-Chair of the Health Services Coalition, a labor-management organization that contracts with hospitals and advocates for public policies that improve quality health care, affordability, and access in Nevada; and was a Board member of the National Committee for Quality Assurance for five years. Today she continues her good work serving on the Lown Institute Advisory Council and the federal Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of thanks to Betsy for her many years of friendship, support, and guidance. She has not only been an invaluable resource to me on healthcare issues, but a cherished friend. I, like so many of those who have the opportunity to work with her, continued to be inspired by her passion and compassion. I consider myself fortunate to call her my friend.

Betsy's commitment to quality, affordable healthcare, not only for the members UNITE HERE HEALTH but for all, is unparalleled and it is no surprise that the labor and management Trustees of UNITE HERE HEALTH voted unanimously to honor her service to this organization by naming this new center in her honor. I am so proud to join her husband, John Wilhelm, their children Tom and Vinnie, their grandson, Alonzo, and the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered in extending my heartfelt congratulations to Elizabeth B. Gilbertson on this very special occasion.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL KRUEGER
FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE AS
OTTAWA COUNTY CLERK

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel Krueger and his commendable service to Michigan's Western District as Ottawa County Clerk.

Daniel Krueger, the longest serving county clerk in the state, has served as the Ottawa County Clerk for over 35 years. During this time Daniel Krueger has proudly served the people of Ottawa County, as well as all of West Michigan.

Daniel Krueger received his Bachelor's in History from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. He then went on to receive his Masters Degree from Michigan State University. In 1978, Daniel Krueger was appointed to serve as the Ottawa County Clerk, and in 2012, he was elected as the Ottawa County Clerk and Register of Deeds. He is a member of the Michigan Association of County Clerks, and he has been on the legislative committee serving as chair and co-chair since 1990. He was also appointed to the board of the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds in 2013 where he continues to serve.

Throughout his career, Daniel Krueger has worked to improve and enhance the efficiency

of the county clerk's office. Beginning in 1980, Mr. Krueger initiated the computerization of court processes, and in 2006 he began the process of digitalizing all of the county court records. He has continued to work toward a paperless court process with electronic transmittal of records between county court offices, electronic certification of court documents, and online jury processes. For his efforts in promoting efficiency and the education of others, Mr. Krueger has been selected as County Clerk of the Year, and was selected as the Michigan State University Continuing Education's Clerk of the Year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Daniel Krueger for his service to Ottawa County and the Western District.

COMMEMORATING REPUBLIC DAY
IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. JIM BRIDENSTINE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 96th anniversary of Republic Day in Azerbaijan. Yesterday, in 1918, Azerbaijan received its independence from the Russian Empire and officially declared the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR).

At the time of its independence, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was the first-ever modern parliamentary republic in the Muslim world and was an early adopter of full political rights for women. The Azerbaijan parliament granted women the right to vote shortly after its nation's founding, preceding even the United States in granting such a right to men and women equally.

Unfortunately, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic's initial independence was short lived, as the Soviet Union invaded the country in 1920. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Azerbaijan regained full independence and reestablished the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

For the last 23 years, Azerbaijan has been a reliable strategic ally of the United States in an often-hostile region of the world. Azerbaijan has been a partner with the U.S. on economic, trade and military issues, even supporting U.S. and NATO operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In my state of Oklahoma, our National Guard has established a strategic relationship with Azerbaijan through the National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP). This program connects state and territorial National Guards to military and civilian personnel in 70 partner nations and I am proud of the relationship between the Oklahoma National Guard and our friend, Azerbaijan.

I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on this important anniversary and thank them for their continued support and partnership.

RECOGNITION OF RIO VISTA HIGH
SCHOOL AP GOVERNMENT CLASS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of California's Third Congressional District, I want to congratulate the AP Government students and their teacher at Rio Vista High School for completing a class project on three major policy issues: welfare reform, health care, and unequal access to education.

They demonstrated hard work in this inspiring program. Education is about developing knowledge and critical thinking skills. These students are civically engaged, reaching their lawmakers with policy recommendations on key issues facing our nation.

I was honored to learn more about their recommendations during a class visit on Tuesday, May 28.

Their willingness to work together in good faith and to build consensus is laudable and a lesson for us all.

DR. ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a statement on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Rabbi Zoberman asked me to enter the following remarks into the RECORD:

At this sacred season for the Jewish community, retelling a searing saga of monumental suffering and heroic survival shaking the foundation of heaven and earth, we are embracing Yom Ha'Shoah's (Holocaust commemoration) crushing burden of sorrow as well as Yom Ha'Azmaut's (the 66th anniversary of the State of Israel) uplifting joy. We acknowledge the Holocaust's helplessness and Hatikvah's (Israel's national anthem) hopefulness. These too are our Days of Awe, no less than the High Holy Days, sanctified by our people's blood and resolve, so close in time and theme to Passover's twin poles of bitter enslavement and ever-beckoning redemption for Israel and all humanity.

We are the Shoah's wounded survivors and memory's defending warriors. In truth, Jewish progressive ideas and ideals have been a thorn in the side of destructive dictators of all ages, for we have dared declare that every human being is created in the divine image with infinite value; that each human life is unique, indispensable and irreplaceable; that God's divinity and human dignity are forever inseparable.

I was born in 1945 in Chu, Kazakhstan (USSR), to Polish Holocaust survivors Yechiel Zoberman and Chasia Bobrov, who had met in Siberia. My following poem is in gratitude to my paternal grandparents Zvi and Rachel Zoberman who along with my parents and uncles Norman and Arthur Zoberman, watched over me during perilous times.

In the 1947 photo taken in Germany's / Wetzlar D.P. Camp, the American zone./Following an escape from Poland and a / Sojourn in Austria./ Clad in refugees newly acquired garb/Grandparents Zvi (Son of martyred Rabbi/Yaacov and Dena Manzies Zoberman)/ And Rachel (Daughter of martyred Yitzhak/ And Zipora Anker) of Zamosc, Poland,/Gratefully raised me high./ Their little Torah they managed to save/In the face of the many scrolls/ They could not.

We also observe the 20th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide; mourn the loss at the hands of an American Nazi (what a tragic contradiction!) of three precious lives in Overland Park, Kansas, fourteen year old Reat Griffin Underwood and his grandpa, Dr. William Lewis Corporon, and Frazier Glenn Miller; the fourth year of massacres in Syria claiming over 150,000 lives with millions of refugees; Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and the abduction of about 300 Nigerian school girls by the Boko Haram.

The State of Israel, home to most of the Holocaust survivors including my own family remains, at 66 years young, a beacon of light and hope, America's steadfast ally with shared democratic values in a shaky region deeming Israel's and America's Western agenda a threat. Iran's continued nuclear ambitions cast a menacing shadow on Israel, the Arab world and beyond. Iran emboldens Hezbollah and Hamas to persist in their obstructionist course with the Palestinian Authority unwisely joining forces with the latter. I have had the great opportunity to visit the Arab states of Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and most recently Morocco, building with fellow rabbis Shalom's essential bridges of peace. I was in Morocco from May 11-18, 2014, on a "Jewish Roots & Diplomacy Trip" sponsored by The Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform), connecting to the remnant of an over 2,000 year old Jewish community with a rich history in a Muslim environment that has largely been appreciative and protective. Matt Lussenhop, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Rabat, Morocco, most graciously addressed our delegation on a host of issues, referring to Morocco as "A very good partner for the U.S." which interestingly recognized the U.S. early on in its independence.

IN CELEBRATION OF DR. ROLF HABERECHT'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Rolf Haberecht as he celebrates his eighty-fifth birthday on Wednesday, June 4, 2014. Dr. Haberecht is a man who has made an impact on the Dallas community through his business success and philanthropic endeavors.

Dr. Haberecht earned his doctoral degree in Chemistry and Physics from the Technical University of Berlin, Germany. He and his wife, Ute, moved to Dallas, Texas in 1962 when he accepted a position with Texas Instruments as a Research Scientist, subsequently rising to become Senior Vice President, responsible for the company's worldwide semiconductor operations. In 1984 Dr. Haberecht launched VLSIP Technologies, a start-up company that has grown to become a

worldwide manufacturer of electronic medical modules that are part of a number of medical devices. His achievements in science and technology have made such an impact that he was selected as the 2013 inductee into the prestigious "Tech Titans Hall of Fame."

Dr. Haberecht is also celebrated in the Dallas community for generously donating his time and efforts, as well as significant financial support, to numerous philanthropic endeavors. He has served on various civic and philanthropic boards, including the Lamplighter School, Episcopal School of Dallas, Southwestern Medical Foundation, and Chairman of the Texas State Technical College System Board of Regents. Dr. and Mrs. Haberecht have made generous donations to a multitude of organizations, including Children's Medical Center of Dallas and its Children's Research Institute, the George W. Bush Presidential Center, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, which has named an academic center, a deanship, and a research fund in honor of the philanthropic couple. Their philanthropic and volunteer civic leadership has been recognized with the Charles Cameron Sprague Community Services Award given by the Southwestern Medical Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Haberecht as he celebrates his eighty-fifth birthday and our commendations to him for having successfully pursued the American Dream of achieving success in life while helping others.

RECOGNIZING MOTHER BRUNETTE WASHINGTON ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the celebration of Mother Brunette Washington. On June 6 she will be celebrating her 100th year of life.

Born in 1914, Mother Washington has seen some of the greatest accomplishments of our country. Furthermore, she has added to them with the love and kindness her community currently treasures her for. To this day she is an active member of the American Baptist Association, the Pratt Willard Center and fellowships with the Crucial Center.

As a member of the Macedonia Baptist Church, Mother Washington has been a pillar of her community. Volunteering throughout her entire life, Mother Washington has devoted her time to giving back, participating in the community through such positions as Sunday School Teacher, Senior Choir President and the President of the Missionary Society.

As a result of her tireless service for both her church and community, Mother Washington has received numerous rewards for her achievements including the Queen of Macedonia, Senior Choir Service Award, and the Pratt Willert Senior Award.

In addition to her numerous community endeavors, Mother Washington is a family lead-

er. She has four children and is the proud grandparent to ten grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren. Mother Washington is truly fortunate to have such a large and loving family.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to recognize the long life and legacy of a woman who has devoted so much of her life to the betterment of those around her. For 100 years Mother Washington has made an impact on the lives of those who have had the great fortune of knowing her. She has cultivated a loving family and been an exemplary member of her community, who has had a lasting impact on others because of her caring ways. It is my honor to celebrate her birthday here with you and hope you will join me in wishing a very joyous birthday celebration and wishing her many more years of good health.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, I missed two rollcall votes as I was home in Arkansas attending the funeral of Theodosia Murphy Nolan.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 241 and "aye" on rollcall vote 242.

GEORGIA INDEPENDENCE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the National Council of Georgia declared Georgia's independence on May 26, 1918. After 117 years, the statehood of Georgia was finally restored. But Georgia's fight for independence was not over.

In February 1921, Georgia was attacked by the Red Army. The Democratic Republic of Georgia was no more.

Now the Georgia Soviet Socialist Republic, Georgia was in the midst of World War II. Georgia contributed almost 700,000 fighters, and provided vital textiles and munitions to the Allies.

For the next 46 years, the Soviets occupied Georgia but Georgia was not complacent with Soviet rule. After the Soviet Union fell apart, Georgia finally became free again.

Since regaining its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Georgia has been a steadfast U.S. strategic partner in an important and often turbulent part of the world.

But a certain country to the north does not like the fact that we are friends. In fact, the Napoleon of Siberia—as I like to call Putin—is set on breaking U.S. apart and restoring the glory days of the Soviet Union.

As a country that continues to struggle against Russia's tyranny, Georgia knows better than anyone the threat Putin poses. Mr. Putin cannot be allowed to invade another

sovereign country. The best way to stand up to Russia is to stand up together, as we have done so many times before.

From the American perspective, there are few NATO strategic partners as capable and committed as Georgia. Georgia has been a key ally in our war on terror. Georgia's soldiers have stood shoulder to shoulder with ours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Georgia is the largest non-NATO contributor to the mission in Afghanistan. It has also served as a key logistical hub bringing troops and supplies in and out of the region. We have in turn, demonstrated our commitment to our relationship with the U.S.-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership.

Since the signing of the Charter, the United States and Georgia have strengthened their mutual cooperation—cooperation based on U.S. support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and its commitment to further democratic and economic reforms.

I would like to see the U.S. be more vocally supportive of Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations and provide a clear path to its eventual membership in NATO.

In February, Representative KEATING and I proudly introduced a bill that affirms the U.S. Government's support for Georgia's eventual membership in NATO. It also calls on the Obama administration and our allies in Europe to formally extend to Georgia a Membership Action Plan at this year's NATO Summit in Wales.

We must stand with those who have stood with us. We must honor independence by preserving independence. Together, I believe the United States and Georgia can help all peoples of the world hold on to the sweet taste of freedom.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING RANI ENGINEERING &
PRESIDENT SUSAN PARK RANI

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Susan Park Rani on being named one of eleven "Champions of Change" by the White House for ensuring that our transportation facilities, services, and jobs help connect individuals and their communities to greater opportunities.

Ms. Rani is the Founder and the President of Rani Engineering, which has grown from having two employees and a vision to a team of more than 45 people with offices in Minnesota, California and South Dakota. Under Ms. Rani's leadership, Rani Engineering has worked to deliver high-quality solutions and build long lasting relationships within the communities she serves. As a result of the company's efforts, Rani Engineering was named the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Contractor of the Year in 2012 by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Ms. Rani is an inspiration for women, minorities, immigrants and anyone who aspires to start their own business. She moved to the United States as a child from South Korea

without knowing English, but excelled in school and obtained a civil engineering degree in 1993. She is one of the first minority women to own an engineering firm in Minnesota. There is no doubt that Ms. Rani's ambition and dedication have enabled her company to compete with the largest institutions in the industry.

Ms. Rani's many achievements have been recognized by regional groups and national organizations. She has earned the Minority Business Award for Small Business Excellence by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, Debener Award for Small Business Growth by St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Engineering Excellence Award by the American Consulting Engineering Companies, SBA Emerging 200 by the U.S. Small Business Administration and many more highly renowned awards.

With her past positions on the boards of the American Consulting Engineering Companies of Minnesota, the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Mounds Park Academy, the Association of Women Contractors, and the National Association of Minority Contractors, Upper Midwest along with her recent position on the Destination Medical Center Corporation Board, she is inarguably a Champion of Change.

I commend Ms. Rani on her award and her thoughtful contributions as both an entrepreneur and as an excellent member of the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, due to a weather related travel delay, I was absent for rollcall votes on May 28, 2014. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 241—H. Res. 599—Urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the freedom of assembly, expression, and religion and all fundamental human rights and the rule of law for all its citizens and to stop censoring discussion of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and their violent suppression—"yea."

Rollcall No. 242—H.R. 503—National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial Act—"yea."

HONORING PONSIE BARCLAY
HILLMAN

HON. CHAKA FATAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FATAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ponsie B. Hillman, an educator, an advocate, and pioneer in the civil rights and labor movements. Her life was defined by a love for education and driven by the staunch determination to share it. She passed away on June 26, 2008, but her legacy remains vivid.

Ms. Hillman was born in Maryland, October 7, 1918. The determination and success that characterized her early education would foreshadow her later success. She battled overwhelming social odds by prioritizing her schooling and pulling ahead of her peers. During Ms. Hillman's senior year, she received the highest grade in the county on the state exam. She supported herself through college on scholarships and summer jobs, graduating from Morgan State College in 1939.

Ms. Hillman moved to Philadelphia in 1948. She taught business at Vaux High School for 6 years before taking a post as a mathematics teacher at Roosevelt Junior High. She spent her summers furthering her own education by taking classes at Columbia University, earning a Masters in Mathematics and Education. Never ceasing to take every opportunity to learn, she continued attending classes at Sarah Lawrence College where she was able to offer her children their first view of higher education. She also studied Intergroup Education at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1959, Prince Edward County, VA, had closed its public schools to avoid court ordered integration. Ponsie Hillman arrived in the summer of 1963 to partake in the United Federation of Teacher's effort to establish Freedom Schools. She volunteered as a teacher for those students no longer able to receive an education. She was greeted with hostility from those who did not understand integration and from those who refused to accept change. Using the local church for classroom space, Ms. Hillman was successful in providing quality education to over 600 students that summer. She received an American Federation of Teachers award for her work at the Freedom Schools in Prince Edward County.

In addition to her selfless dedication to educating others, Ms. Hillman's contributions to the education community matched her passionate appetite for learning. She became an integral part of the community and consistently fought for teachers' rights, fair wages, and higher quality teaching. She won the NAACP's highest individual award for outstanding achievement as a teacher and was named a lifetime member. Ms. Hillman completed a 5-year term as a delegate to the national convention of the American Federation of Teachers where she served on the executive board, sharing her experience and cultivating ways to combat national education challenges. During her tenure, she organized the Afro-American Heritage Committee, the Asian American Committee, and initiated United Federation of Teachers summer camps. She was noted for her solidarity to the Union and her commitment to serving the community of educators.

I am pleased to honor Ponsie B. Hillman for her unceasing efforts and outstanding progress in working to make education equitable and attainable for all students. Her legacy in Prince Edward County and her mark on the national education system will inspire generations to come.

HONORING THE REVEREND J. CLETUS KILEY ON THE CELEBRATION OF HIS 40TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to celebrate the 40th Pastoral Anniversary of my good friend, the Reverend J. Cletus Kiley. Over the course of his 40 years as a priest, Father Kiley has served the church and his congregations with great dedication and commitment. Today, as he reflects on all that he has accomplished through his ministry, he can be proud of the impact he has had on the lives of so many.

Father Kiley has a rich and diverse career with the church. A priest of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, in his earliest years he served as a member of Cardinal Bernardin's Cabinet and Director for Personnel Services for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Having studied at the Centro de Artes y Lenguas in Cuernavaca, Mexico as well as the Seminario Arcivescovile di Milano in Venegono, Italy, Father Kiley is fluent in both Spanish and Italian. His trilingual knowledge was particularly helpful during his service as Acting Vicar for Religious, Chairman of the Comision del Plan Pastoral Hispano and as Asesor for El Movimiento del Encuentro Conyugal Arquidiocesano, and as an Associate Dean of Formation and spiritual director at Mundelein Seminary.

Father Kiley went on to serve as Rector/President of Niles College Seminary/St. Joseph College Seminary at Loyola University where he developed and implemented a new strategic plan that led to the relocation of the seminary on to the main campus of Loyola University. Before joining the Conference of Bishops where he was Executive Director of the Secretariat for Priestly Life and Ministry, Fr. Kiley was pastor of St. Agnes of Bohemia parish in Chicago, one of the largest parishes in Chicago serving over 5,000 immigrant families.

In June of 2006, Father Kiley became the President and CEO of the Faith & Politics Institute and during his four-year tenure he worked closely with members of Congress from both political parties. He hosted an annual program for members of Congress and members of the Labor and Business communities to reflect on the lives and issues of importance to America's working people, oversaw the development of a dialogue group for over 35 Senate chiefs of staff, and conducted weekly reflection groups for members of Congress. I, along with many of my colleagues, consider it fortunate that the Congress has had such a dedicated and compassionate advocate working with us.

Today, Father Kiley continues his ministerial work as the Director for Immigration Policy for UNITE HERE where he works on immigration reform strategies with the union's national leadership and its local members throughout the country. He serves as a staff member to

the Immigration Committee of the AFL-CIO. He also works with a variety of allies including serving on the steering committee for the Justice for Immigrants Initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and is a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies at the Catholic University of America. Father Kiley also oversees a project to train a new generation of Catholic Labor priests with more than 125 priests now a part of this network. The initiative is housed at the National Federation of Priests' Councils and done in consultation with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The initiative was recently endorsed by the U.S. Association of Catholic Priests and was honored by the Association of Chicago Priests.

As a religious leader, advocate, mentor and friend, Father Kiley has touched the lives of thousands—helping to shape public policy and improving the quality of life for those most in need. Through all of his good work he has inspired others to join in his efforts—instilling hope and promise in all of those who have had the good fortune to work with him. His spiritual guidance has nourished the souls of many and his compassion has encouraged others to give more of themselves. Today, as he celebrates his 40th year as a priest, he continues to make a difference in the lives of others—his work a reflection of the heart of Catholic teachings. I am proud to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation as well as my heart-felt congratulations to Father J. Cletus Kiley as he celebrates this very special milestone. Happy 40th Anniversary and best wishes for many more years of success.

IN RECOGNITION AND HONOR OF ALL VETERANS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and honor of all veterans on this Memorial Day, celebrated on Monday. In gratitude of all freedom lovers who made our freedom and our ability to stand on this floor today as a free people possible—in particular the 400,000 men and women who gave their lives and the 16.5 million men and women who served during World War II.

This Memorial Day is particularly poignant as it is the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the World War II Memorial on the Mall. And on June 6th, we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the invasion of 150,000 Allied troops' landing on the heavily-fortified coastline of Normandy, France—D-Day.

On this year of anniversaries, as we think about the importance of this Memorial's place in American history, let us remember the significance of what these greatest Americans, this greatest generation of Americans, did for the freedom of humankind.

When we dedicated the memorial in 2004, more than four million of the 16 million American veterans of World War II were still alive. Today, fewer than a million remain. We lose more than 500 of them every day. And ten years from now, at the 20th anniversary ceremony, only 80,000, roughly, will survive.

At the memorial, what Abraham Lincoln called "the mystic chords of memory" are played with grandeur and grace. And that is what the memorial is all about. It was built to preserve a memory—

The memory of gallantry and devotion, of honor and sacrifice, of dedication to a cause bigger than oneself.

The memory of a generation of ordinary Americans who did something extraordinary—answering duty's call, saving democracy, and then modestly returning to their communities and their families, to work in the factory, to work on the farm . . . or simply to carry the mail.

The World War II Memorial will be there long after the World War II veterans are gone. While they are still with us, take the opportunity to let them know that a grateful nation will always pay tribute to their courageous service and they will always be remembered as heroes.

Mr. Speaker, let us not forget the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice of all World War II participants, and those who served in the conflicts that followed.

THE DEPARTURE OF JODY CALEMINE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to one of the most loyal, dedicated and creative members of my staff, Jody Calamine, who is leaving my staff on the Education and Labor Committee after more than 10 years of service.

I also want to thank Jody's wife Daria and their wonderful daughter Bella for sharing Jody with us and for their support and sacrifice all these years.

During his time on my staff, Jody quickly moved up the ranks, from labor policy advisor, to general counsel and for the last three years staff director.

Throughout this time, Jody has impressed us with his intimate, detailed knowledge of the laws, regulations and policies impacting workers and families across the country.

Jody's tireless advocacy on behalf of workers has been remarkable. During his time on the Committee staff Jody has earned the admiration and respect of Members of Congress, his colleagues on the Hill and in the Obama Administration, and among the labor and business community across the country.

Jody played an invaluable role in many of the Committee's accomplishments over the years including the enactment of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which was the first bill signing ceremony of the Obama Administration.

And I want to thank him and acknowledge his tireless work and leadership on the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, the Affordable Care Act, the Employee Free Choice Act, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and a number of mine safety initiatives.

Jody is leaving the Committee for a position with the Communications Workers of America

where he will continue to work on these issues that he cares so much about.

I speak for everyone on the Committee and all of those who have worked with Jody over the years when I say how much we will miss him.

Jody has made significant contributions to improving the lives of the American people. I cannot thank him enough for all that he has done. On behalf of myself, his fellow staff and the members of the Committee, we wish him the very best in his new position.

SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS FOR
NON-VIOLENT POLITICAL
PROTESTORS IN EGYPT

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the dire condition of an American political prisoner in Egypt, Mohamed Soltan.

Mohamed is an Egyptian-American citizen who grew up in the United States. He graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in economics.

The Arab Spring inspired Mohamed to support democracy, freedom, and human rights in Egypt. Last year he joined thousands of peaceful protestors in Egypt to oppose the military coup that toppled the government of Mohamed Morsi.

While demonstrating in Rabba Square last August, the Egyptian military shot him in the arm. He was treated in a makeshift clinic with no anesthetic medication.

Mohamed was one of the lucky ones that day. Hundreds of unarmed demonstrators were killed and thousands were injured.

Shortly after being shot, Mohamed was arrested by Egyptian authorities for protesting. From his jail cell he continues to protest the repression of pro-democracy advocates in Egypt.

Mohamed has been on a hunger strike. He has lost almost half of his body weight and can no longer stand.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to give voice to the struggle for human rights and real democracy in Egypt.

The United States should stand on the side of those like Mohamed who are striving for human rights and democracy in the Middle East.

HONORING DELTA AIRLINES ON
ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
SERVICE TO THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, twenty-five years ago on June 1, 1989, Delta Air Lines launched its first flight in a twice weekly service from Tokyo's Narita airport to Saipan in the North-

ern Mariana Islands. Operated then as Northwest Airlines and using a Boeing 747-200, this inaugural flight was a milestone in air service to my district; and I want to celebrate that event today.

Then and now, tourism is the lifeblood of our islands' economy; and this air connection with Japan, begun twenty-five years ago, has been essential to the growth and stability of our visitor industry. Other airlines have come and gone from the market, but Delta's commitment has been unwavering.

Today, the company is the only airline providing direct, scheduled, daily flights to and from Japan, carrying some 2,000 passengers per week on Boeing 757s. And these numbers add up: in the past ten years 23,000 Delta flights have provided seats for 4.25 million of our Japanese tourists.

Those flights to the Northern Marianas are, of course, only a tiny part of Delta's worldwide business. The company serves nearly 165 million passengers annually, flies to over 300 destinations worldwide, and employs almost 80,000 individuals. But those daily Japan/Marianas flights are crucial to our local economy, supporting numerous businesses and creating jobs.

And not only does Delta transport tourists. For many of the residents of the Northern Mariana Islands, whether traveling for business or pleasure, Delta is the airline of choice. The company provides a comfortable lounge at the Narita Airport hub and convenient connections: Delta is the only U.S. flag air carrier offering our community one-stop service to the mainland United States.

Delta stands out, too, for its good corporate citizenship, supporting many worthy groups and causes, including the Rotary Club of Saipan, the American Red Cross, the Marianas March Against Cancer, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, NMI Crime Stoppers, the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, and numerous sporting events. Of special note, Delta has been the sole airline sponsor for the Saipan Marathon since 2008.

Please, join me in honoring the management and employees of Delta Air Lines as we commemorate their twenty-five years of air service between the Northern Mariana Islands and Japan, and in wishing them many more years of continued success and growth.

RECOGNIZING THE 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my best wishes to the people of Azerbaijan as they celebrate Republic Day. This year marks the 96th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, when the people of Azerbaijan first gained their independence from the Russian Empire on May 28, 1918. Although Azerbaijan's independence was ended by Soviet forces in

1920, it is noteworthy that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was the world's first secular parliamentary democratic republic in a predominantly Muslim nation—earning diplomatic recognition from the United States during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. We also recall with admiration that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted universal suffrage to its citizens in 1918, making it the first Muslim country to give women the right to vote.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan restored its independence in 1991. Parliament adopted the Constitution Act on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on October 18, 1991.

For the people of Azerbaijan, these last two decades of independence have not been without challenges. At the top of the list would be the ongoing conflict with Armenia. Although a cease fire was signed in 1994, more than 20% of Azerbaijan's territory—including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts—remains under Armenian occupation, leaving Azerbaijan to cope with hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons. In 1993, the U.N. Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. I am happy that Azerbaijan is committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict with Armenia, and I support a swift and peaceful resolution to this conflict as well.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. Azerbaijan and the United States cooperate in countering terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and narcotics trafficking. Azerbaijani troops serve shoulder to shoulder with U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan, as they previously did in Kosovo and Iraq. In support of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights as well as regularly providing landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Azerbaijan also plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan, by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities.

Azerbaijan has emerged as a key player for enhancing global energy security, at a particularly critical time in light of ongoing events in Ukraine. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline are the main arteries delivering Caspian Sea energy resources to global markets, and completion of the Southern Gas Corridor—which will run from the Caspian Sea through Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, and Albania into Italy—will increase the energy security of key American allies by increasing the amount of natural gas from the Caspian Sea to European markets.

Notably, Azerbaijan also provides roughly 40% of Israel's oil consumption. What may be more surprising to some is that Azerbaijan—a predominantly Muslim country—enjoys friendly ties with Israel beyond oil sales. Jews have resided in Azerbaijan for 2,500 years without persecution and today, the Jewish community in Azerbaijan numbers as high as 35,000.

Azerbaijan is also home to Christian communities and has been praised for its religious tolerance by the European Parliament.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on the occasion of Republic Day. I hope the United States and Azerbaijan will continue to work together to advance a partnership that benefits both of our nations.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STATE TROOPER SEAN O'CONNELL

HON. SUZAN K. DeIBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Trooper Sean O'Connell, who was tragically killed one year ago on May 31, 2013.

Trooper O'Connell, a 16-year veteran of the Washington State Patrol, lost his life in an on-duty motorcycle collision while working traffic control in the aftermath of the Skagit River Bridge collapse.

Trooper O'Connell was a highly respected police officer who valued the importance of law enforcement. He strongly believed in bringing the community together to help promote safety among families. He was an endearing man; dedicated to his work and to strengthening communities in Washington state.

Trooper O'Connell was a strong leader, highly respected, and loved by his fellow officers. He exemplified what it means to be a Washington State trooper, and his community continues to honor his commitment, courage, and dependability as an officer.

In remembering his life one year after his passing, I ask that thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, children, family and others who continue to miss him every day. He will be remembered as a hero for helping many after the devastating collapse of a bridge which now holds his name, Trooper Sean. M. O'Connell, Jr.

HONORING MARK G. SKLARZ 2014 RECIPIENT OF THE TORCH OF LIBERTY AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, friends, family and colleagues will gather to pay tribute to one of our community's most outstanding citizens. I am proud to stand today and join the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League as they honor Mark G. Sklarz with the 2014 Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Award.

Our communities would not be the same without the efforts of individuals whose work benefits our families and neighborhoods. Each year, the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League presents the prestigious Torch of Liberty Award to an outstanding leader in the community, recognizing their unique commitment and

dedication. Mark is a remarkable reflection of the spirit of community service. With extraordinary compassion and generosity, he has touched the lives of many throughout the Greater New Haven community.

A partner in the Corporate and Business Law Department of Day Pitney, LLP, Mark is an active member of the New Haven County and Connecticut Bar Associations, serving as vice chair of the Business Law Section of the CBA as well as a member of the organization's Executive Committees of the Business Law and Tax Sections. He was a longtime member of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee, a twenty-four member committee charged with the responsibility of determining whether candidates are qualified to be admitted to the Connecticut bar. Mark was also a member of the Business Taxation and Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Sections of the American Bar Association. He has enjoyed great success in his professional career, earning a distinguished reputation among his colleagues and the community alike.

Mark has made many invaluable contributions through his professional career, however, it has been through his personal service to our community that he has made a real difference and touched the lives of many. Chairman and Past President of the Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, President of First City Fund Corporation, past president of Congregation Mishkan Israel and the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven, as well as a past member of the Board of Trustees of the Hopkins School in New Haven, he has left an indelible mark on our community. Mark's extraordinary generosity and compassion is reflected in the myriad of awards and honors he has received including the Hopkins School Medal for distinguished service and the Gold Ring award from the New Haven Boys Club Alumni Association.

It is my honor and privilege to stand today to join his wife, Judy, their children, Jeff and his wife Karen and Rick and his wife Cambra, as well as the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League and the New Haven community in paying tribute to Mark G. Sklarz for his invaluable contributions. Every community should be so fortunate as to have such a selfless, dedicated individual who so willingly commits his time and energy to enriching the community and improving the quality of life for all.

HONORING MS. DOLORES M. BOJAZI

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Dolores M. Bojazi. A graduate of Temple Law School, Ms. Bojazi began her career working to aid battered women and union workers, and she continues to advocate for important causes in her career as an attorney.

Ms. Bojazi is an accomplished attorney who began her career as an advocacy coordinator at Women Against Abuse. While there, she trained the Philadelphia Police Force in legal

response procedure and proposed an appeal procedure for emergency protection orders, which was adopted into law in 1988. She continued her advocacy work as a union organizer for the United Auto Workers, where she represented the union at the National Labor Relations Board. Ms. Bojazi then began working as a Public Defender in the Philadelphia Defender Association, and later worked in the Burlington and Camden Public Defenders Office. She has also worked at Freedman and Lorry and Mattleman, Weinroth, and Miller. Ms. Bojazi currently practices law in her own office where she focuses on criminal and family law. Ms. Bojazi will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Bojazi for her countless years of dedication to improving the lives of those in Pennsylvania's First District. She has and continues to work tirelessly in her advocacy to help others in Philadelphia.

ANTHONY EDWARDS TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Anthony Edwards. Mr. Edwards, the sole proprietor at San Juan Law Office, LLC, in Silverton will be appointed County Court Judge for San Juan County Sixth Judicial District on July 1, 2014.

An Oklahoma native, Mr. Edwards moved to Silverton, Colorado, in 1999. Mr. Edwards holds a Masters of Water Resources from University of New Mexico, and a Business and Technology degree from Capella University. Prior to attending Law School at the University of New Mexico, where he graduated in 2010, Mr. Edwards promoted economic development in San Juan County. He is the co-founder of Crowdfunding Offerings, Ltd., an online platform to facilitate small investments in startup enterprises in Colorado.

Mr. Edwards has also served his community with his business expertise, serving on a number of development and consulting committees to assist the business community in business planning, civil matter, securing financing, and in real estate matters. As the Owner's Representative for San Juan School District, he led the project to renovate two of Silverton's School buildings, which received the Leadership in Energy and Efficiency Design Gold certification, the only K-12 public school to attain this status. Mr. Edwards' dedication to improving and expanding his community has greatly contributed to the State of Colorado, and his service will continue to be an asset as he fills his role as Judge for San Juan County's Sixth Judicial District.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Anthony Edwards for his work and congratulate him on his judicial appointment.

RECOGNIZING NORMAN RICE ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound gratitude that I rise to congratulate Norman B. Rice on his retirement after a distinguished tenure as President of The Seattle Foundation. Norm has contributed immeasurably to the Seattle community through a variety of roles over the last forty years.

First elected to the Seattle City Council in 1978, Norm went on to serve on the Council for eleven years. Throughout his tenure, he was a champion for the marginalized, including fighting for the passage of the Women and Minority Business Enterprise Ordinance.

After winning the 1989 mayoral election, Norm became the first African-American mayor in Seattle's history. His two terms were characterized by his drive to create a thriving Seattle that worked for all of its citizens. Norm's initiatives as mayor included rejuvenating downtown, enhancing Seattle's public school system, and developing public-private partnerships to serve Seattle's homeless population. His service as mayor has left a legacy that will endure well into the future.

Since the conclusion of his tenure as an elected official, Norm has continued to work tirelessly for the well-being of the Seattle area. Since June of 2009, he has held the position of CEO of the Seattle Foundation. As a leader of one of the largest community foundations in the nation, Norm has been praised for his commitment to community development and his ability to build consensus.

Norm has used these skills on the national stage as well, serving a two year appointment on the White House's Council for Community Solutions. Norm's service has benefitted many individuals and families, both in Seattle and across the country. His vision for just communities and selfless commitment to public service has left a legacy for future generations to follow.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise to recognize Norman B. Rice. We all owe him the utmost gratitude and respect, and I wish him well in all future endeavors.

HONORING MS. AUDREY R.
JOHNSON-THORNTON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of my friend, Ms. Audrey R. Johnson-Thornton. Ms. Johnson-Thornton is the president and founder of the American Women's Heritage Society, and was instrumental in turning the broken down Belmont Mansion into a museum to honor those who aided slaves in their flight to freedom.

The Belmont Mansion was named as the most significant structure to be at risk in an

assessment of ten historic structures in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. This finding was followed by a historical study and architectural analysis of the Belmont Mansion Historical Structures Report and then became the first major project of the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust in 1994. The Underground Railroad Museum at Belmont Mansion is one of the first 2,000 recipients to receive funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and its partner the American Association for State and Local History. The American Women's Heritage Society still operates the now restored mansion as a historic site. Ms. Johnson-Thornton will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and commitment to preserving our city's history has enriched the lives of countless individuals. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Johnson-Thornton for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING PRESENCE MERCY
MEDICAL CENTER'S SAFETY AND
SECURITY DEPARTMENT

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Safety and Security Department of Presence Mercy Medical Center in Aurora, Illinois. Safety and security is a growing concern for healthcare facilities, and Presence Mercy Medical Center has responded by preparing their security team to prevent crimes before they begin and respond to criminal activity promptly.

The 2012 Crime and Security Trends Survey conducted by the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety (IAHSS) highlights the increasing dangers healthcare workers face. The survey found that in 2012 there were over 20,500 crimes committed in healthcare facilities, a 37 percent rise from 2010.

The Safety and Security Department at Presence Mercy Medical Center has responded to these recent developments by exposing their security officers to comprehensive training and preparation programs. All of their department's members have studied, tested, and received certification in Basic Training by the IAHSS, 92 percent have received Advanced certification, and 83 percent have received Supervisor certification.

These efforts have made Presence Mercy a model security team at a time when healthcare safety and security is a significantly mounting concern.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Safety and Security Department members for their excellence in safety and security preparation:

Doug Kaiser; Robert Lea; Christian Pfister; Darin Northern; Jim Rees; Victor Jimenez; Miguel Saenz; Kerry Haggard; Tom Greiner; David Oliver; Nora Rodriguez.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014
SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES
FROM THE 21ST CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2014 Service Academy appointees from the 21st Congressional District of Texas.

The following individuals have accepted academy appointments:

Lois May Agabon, MacArthur High School, Northwestern Preparatory School, United States Air Force Academy; Austin Wayne Beals, Fredericksburg High School, United States Air Force Academy; David Phillip Castaneda, San Antonio Christian High School, Naval Academy Preparatory School, United States Naval Academy; Jonathan Castaneda, San Antonio Christian High School, United States Naval Academy; Sterling Michael Clark, Canyon High School, United States Naval Academy; Conner Hugh Drum, Canyon Lake High School, Greystone Preparatory School at Schreiner University, United States Military Academy; Devlin Patrick Gilligan, Claudia Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson High School, United States Air Force Academy; Preston Joseph Horejsi, Medina High School, United States Military Academy; Aldon William Clifford Pagio, AFNorth International High School (the Netherlands), University of Texas at San Antonio, United States Merchant Marine Academy; Jackson Symon Parrish, Saint Mary's Hall, United States Naval Academy; Travis John Phelan, John S. Burke Catholic School (New York), United States Military Academy; James Cooper Rast, Claudia Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson High School, United States Air Force Academy; Jordan Gregory Sekula, New Braunfels Christian Academy, United States Merchant Marine Academy; and Collin Taylor Stone, Alamo Heights High School, United States Military Academy.

Again, congratulations to these outstanding students. I know they will serve our country well and I trust success will follow them in all their endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, due to attending a previously scheduled event in Maryland, I was absent from votes in the House on Monday evening, May 19 and missed rollcall votes 218-219. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both rollcall No. 218, H.R. 2203, and No. 219, H.R. 685.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL WIND ENERGY EXPANSION ACT OF 2014

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "Rural Wind Energy Development Act," to provide an investment tax credit to ranchers, farmers, and small businesses to offset the up-front costs of owning a distributed wind turbine. I am pleased to again be working with my friend Congressman Cole of Oklahoma in offering this modest expansion of current law that will keep small business energy jobs growing across the United States.

Distributed wind systems are electric generators that produce up to 20 megawatts of clean and renewable energy for homes, farms, and small businesses. With these turbines, individuals can generate their own power, often independent from the electric grid. These wind turbines allow farmers, ranchers, and other consumers to cut their energy bills and, at times, sell power back into the grid. They also allow thousands of businesses—from "mom and pop" stores, to retailers, to ranches, and to breweries—to reduce their energy load, to help clean the environment, and to save money. All you need is pretty good wind and a little land.

At best there has been unsteady federal support for distributed wind systems and there has been no federal tax support until the past several years.

In many cases, this is not only American produced electricity, but American manufactured electricity as well. Approximately 90 percent of distributed wind turbines sold in the U.S. are made here, according to domestic manufacturing content.

My bill also supports locally owned, or "community," wind power. The Department of Energy's national laboratories estimate that community wind generates a strong economic multiplier for local communities, helping rural areas rebound from challenging economic times.

The federal Production Tax Credit, PTC, applies mainly to large utility-scale wind projects, not to individuals who install their own wind systems for on-site power. The existing investment credit, which may be taken in lieu of the PTC, has worked very well. My legislation provides an additional option and bars taking a double-benefit from these tax supports. This additional tool will provide stability and certainty for the distributed wind market to unlock the necessary investment to grow our global leadership role in distributed wind power. It will also help farmers, consumers, and businesses afford pollution-free energy.

This legislation strikes the existing 100 kilowatt nameplate limitation for small wind systems, and expands the maximum wind turbine size to 20 megawatts, in line with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission definition of distributed wind power. Other agencies depend on this figure as a cut off between smaller-scale or "community" wind power and larger wind farms. There is no similar cap for

solar, and, as the community wind industry grows and produces jobs, so should the opportunity for projects that still meet the threshold for distributed wind.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important policy to promote wind power, which produces no harmful greenhouse gas emissions, involves no environmentally damaging natural resource extraction, and is made right here in America.

HONORING MS. PATRICIA JACKSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Patricia Jackson, whose energy and initiative has helped a number of people in the Philadelphia region through her corporation Alpha Security & Consulting Incorporated.

After graduating from Perdue University, Ms. Jackson began working for General Mills in Human Resources and Labor relations, where she spearheaded a minority equality reform campaign for the corporation. She soon left to join Lever Brothers Company. There she worked tirelessly in its Training and Development Department to aid women climbing the corporate ladder. Ms. Jackson couldn't stay still for too long, soon beginning work at Conrail, which brought her to Philadelphia. Soon after, the University of Pennsylvania asked her to join their staff where she was the head of the Department of Affirmative Action for the University. As CEO and founder of Alpha Security & Consulting Incorporated, she worked with local construction companies to create nearly 600 jobs. She helped in building the New High School for Creative and Performing Arts, and as a result served as chairs of both the Ridgway Library and the Performing Arts Theater. Ms. Jackson extended Alpha to create a Culinary Arts Training Program for underprivileged youth. In 2005, Ms. Jackson took a position as the Director of Immigration Reform at the National Union of American Families. She now serves on the Board of Directors for the National Historical Marian Anderson Society and is an advisory director for a number of other boards and organizations. Ms. Jackson will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and initiative have aided so many in the Philadelphia region. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Jackson for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

HONORING THE WORK OF GUSTAVO RAMOS, JR.

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gustavo Ramos, Jr., who will be

retiring this month from his position as Executive Director for the Housing Authority of Skagit County.

Mr. Gustavo Ramos, Jr., has dedicated a lifetime of hard work in the field of affordable housing and community development. With more than 40 years of combined service within six different housing authorities since 1972, Gustavo has helped numerous families in Skagit County and throughout Washington State.

Gustavo's hard work and dedication to the communities, families, and housing authority of Skagit County earns him a well-deserved and honorable retirement celebration. Upon retirement, Gustavo will be returning to Nevada to be near his family and begin a new chapter in his career in economic and community development.

I would personally like to thank Gustavo for his many years of service and commitment to helping families. He has been a tremendous contributor to the Housing Authority in the Skagit County area and will be missed dearly.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARTIN SEVERANCE CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Martin Severance Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution upon its 100th anniversary.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) is a historic institution, with more than 120 years of service. The NSDAR has 177,000 members across the world; they aim to preserve history and improve their communities.

The Martin Severance Chapter of the NSDAR was founded by Mrs. Adeline Belle Barry and named in honor of her ancestor Martin Severance, a sergeant and veteran of both the Revolutionary War and the French and Indian War.

The Martin Severance Chapter has been a part of the Pasadena community since the beginning. Its members supported the Pasadena Red Cross during both World Wars and have participated in storied local institutions including the Tournament of Roses Parade. The Martin Severance Chapter currently supports high school students, homeless veterans, local libraries, and teachers. The Chapter has reinstated the American History Essay contest, and "adopted" the women at Villages of Cabrillo, Long Beach, a part of the homeless veterans' community Advance program. Additionally, the Chapter annually presents DAR Good Citizens Awards and JROTC Medals to local high school students.

In honor of their centennial, the Chapter is preserving the memory of the American Independence and those who fought for freedom. The Chapter will award grants to Pasadena Unified School District teachers who meet

core curriculum standards in Colonial American History. The Martin Severance Chapter is also working on a living history project that presents female patriots to elementary school children in the Pasadena area—chapter members will portray historically significant revolution-era women and share their stories, costumes, and legacies with students and community organizations.

I ask all members to join with me in commending the Martin Severance Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for preserving the history of the American Revolution for future generations and for 100 years of dedicated service to the greater Pasadena community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VERIFY IT ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my bill, the Verify It Act, which requires Federal agencies to provide notice to American families that they owe a debt to a Federal agency and verify the debt is a legally enforceable debt.

Mr. Speaker, by introducing this bill people will not have their tax refunds seized without proper notification and justification. Federal agencies have the right to try to collect debt that is owed to the government; there is a legal process that must be followed before any action can be taken. Each Federal agency must provide 60 days notice to the debtor. This notice requires a written notification of the nature and amount of the debt, the intention of the agency to collect the debt through administrative offset, and an explanation of the debtor's rights. If the agency is unable to collect from the debtor, the debt can be referred to the Department of the Treasury for administrative offset. Through its Treasury Offset Program (TOP), the Treasury reduces or withholds certain payments, often a Federal tax refund, to individuals who owe debts to the government.

Mr. Speaker, the legal process to collect outstanding debts from Americans owing money to the Treasury is simply not being followed. As reported by the Washington Post, Federal agencies are collecting delinquent debt without providing proper notice or that the debt being collected was incurred by the person the Federal agency claims owes the debt. It appears that in certain cases, Federal agencies are collecting money from children in order to pay the outstanding debts to the U.S. Treasury their parents incurred. What legal reason or law gives a Federal agency the right to collect a debt from a person when the debt is incurred in someone else's name? How many years is this Administration going to go back to collect debts? How can the government justify collecting debts from the children of deceased parents?

This bill is all about transparency and accountability. My legislation will ensure that Americans are given proper notification and have time to dispute the debt. This legislation

will ensure every Federal agency determines the debt is legally enforceable and restore the 10 year statute of limitations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the Verify It Act, in order to ensure American families and taxpayers have trust in their government and policies implemented.

DEDICATION OF THE FOX TORAH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the dedication of a Torah is always an extremely important occasion in the Jewish community. But next week's dedication of the Fox Torah at Ezra Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation in Skokie, is truly something special.

The Fox Torah was underwritten by Martin Fox, who found some comfort from the terrors he experienced during the Holocaust in knowing that he could make such an enormous contribution to his faith and to his synagogue.

Martin Fox was 34 years old when the Nazis marched into Poland in 1939. He watched as his wife and three daughters were murdered. Then he was herded onto a train and sent to Auschwitz. He survived, came to Chicago, settled in Chicago's West Rogers Park Community, and became a successful businessman. But while he remarried, he never again had children, and the horrors of what he experienced during the Holocaust never left him.

Martin Fox joined Ezra Habonim but was emotionally unable to say the Kaddish, the prayer for the dead. After many conversations with Rabbi Shlomo Levin, then the congregation's rabbi, Mr. Fox was finally able to say Kaddish for his lost family and light the Memorial Candle at the synagogue's Kristal Nacht service.

The spiritual and personal support that Mr. Fox received from Ezra Habonim, Skokie's oldest synagogue, made a powerful difference in his life. It provided him with a safe and nurturing place, and gave him the emotional strength to recite the Kaddish in remembrance of his lost family. He in turn helped others by becoming a "gabbai" or "trustee" of the synagogue.

Today, Ezra Habonim continues its commitment to creating a warm, caring and supportive community under the leadership of Rabbi Jeffrey Weill. In addition to maintaining the tradition of giving each individual and family the personalized attention they need, the synagogue provides for the educational, religious and social needs of the Jewish community. And, as it did with Martin Fox, it gives members of the congregation the opportunity not just to take part but to give back.

While Martin Fox died in 1981, the Torah that he funded and that will be dedicated on June 1 is a true gift. As Rabbi Weill says, "This Torah symbolizes not only Martin Fox's story, but the remarkable story of the Jewish People. It represents continuity, bravery, fortitude, and the indomitable human spirit."

I want to join the Jewish community in Skokie in celebrating the completion and dedication of the Fox Torah and in thanking Ezra Habonim for the important role it plays in our community.

RECOGNIZING SOUVENISE JEANNE BAZILE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Souvenise Jeanne Bazile, who passed away on May 11, 2014.

Mrs. Bazile, who lived in Spring Valley, New York, was 107 at the time of her passing. Originally from Haiti, she moved to the United States in 1978 to join her husband. Mrs. Bazile was a loving mother who dedicated herself to her six children, fifteen grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Just a few months ago, Mrs. Bazile fulfilled one of her dreams—becoming an American citizen. After living here for three decades, working hard and contributing to society, Mrs. Bazile became one of the oldest immigrants ever to gain citizenship. She is truly an inspiration for all those who hope to one day achieve the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my constituent, Mrs. Souvenise Jeanne Bazile. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her tremendous life.

TRIBUTE TO GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an organization whose dedication and contributions to the Southern California community are exceptional. For the past 40 years, Guide Dogs of the Desert have tirelessly committed themselves to the service of the legally blind community. We have all heard the age-old adage, "a dog is a man's best friend," but a guide dog is so much more than a best friend. Guide dogs are essential to the legally blind in ways that are simple, such as crossing the street to go grocery shopping, and ways that can be more complex, like airplane travel. These dogs dedicate their lives so that the blind may see, and in light of all they have done for the community, I would like to recognize these faithful and dutiful animals as well as their equally devoted trainers and volunteers at Guide Dogs of the Desert.

Founded in 1972, Guide Dogs of the Desert was built on the premise that every legally blind person should have the opportunity to adopt a guide dog, regardless of the depths of their hardship. This dream could only be made into a reality because of the amazing volunteers that give their time and effort to this organization's mission. These volunteers selflessly provide love, food, shelter, discipline

and socialization to puppies that are just beginning on their journey toward guide dog graduation. The fingerprints of these individuals are found at every juncture of this organization. Among many other responsibilities, these volunteers take in 12 week-old puppies, assist with student interaction to increase awareness in the community, and complete the basic office tasks that allow Guide Dogs of the Desert to run smoothly. These individuals go above and beyond the call of duty to help those visually impaired come one step closer to independence and today they deserve commendation.

While many of us know the pleasure of canine companionship and loyalty from our family pet, we cannot appreciate the complexity of the relationship that develops between a visually impaired person and their guide dog. These dogs help these individuals in such a wide variety of ways, and their service enriches these lives powerfully, improving their daily quality of life. With over 1,000 dogs trained, many of these success stories may be found scattered throughout the Nation.

The organization's tireless passion for service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the visually impaired community. Although there are many schools, Guide Dogs of the Desert is one of the most exceptional. As one guide dog recipient stated, "Frankly, all of the schools do an adequate job in developing extraordinary animals, but only Guide Dogs of the Desert adapts the training according to the very special needs of the people with multiple disabilities, veterans and even difficult cases like mine." I am certain that many more individuals and families are grateful for the guide dogs, the volunteers, and the organization itself for all of their services and I salute their efforts moving forward into their fourth decade of dedicated assistance.

RECOGNIZING TERESITA BATAYOLA, RECIPIENT OF THE CHAMPION OF CHANGE AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound admiration that I rise to congratulate Teresita Batayola on being honored as a White House Champion of Change. Teresita has been an advocate for the Puget Sound region's Asian-American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) community for many years and is incredibly deserving of this award.

Since the beginning of her tenure as CEO of International Community Health Services (ICHS) in July of 2005, Teresita has worked tirelessly to ensure that the healthcare needs of the AAPI community are met. She has overseen the opening of new clinics in Bellevue and the Rainier Valley, and developed a mobile dental clinic that visits Seattle area middle and high schools. Each year ICHS serves over 19,000 patients in 50 languages, a feat that I am confident would not be possible without Teresita's commitment to understanding the needs and dynamics of the communities her organization serves.

This commitment has taken on a new and innovative form in the last year as ICHS has worked to help AAPI communities in the Seattle area access the benefits of the Affordable Care Act. Under Teresita's leadership, ICHS has enrolled over 5,800 individuals in health plans through their multi-lingual and multi-cultural in-person assister team. This effort to provide culturally appropriate healthcare assistance will have a deep impact on the health and wellbeing of these communities for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with great respect to honor Teresita Batayola. She has truly made our community a healthier and more just place, and I wish her and her organization well in the future.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN A. DAVITT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dr. John A. Davitt, retired Superintendent-President of Glendale Community College, who passed away on Saturday, May 24, 2014.

John received his Bachelor's Degree at the University of San Francisco in 1954, a Master's Degree in Secondary Education in 1958, also from the University of San Francisco, and his Doctorate in Community College Administration from the University of Southern California. Before coming to Glendale Community College (GCC), John served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, taught at a junior high school in San Francisco, was a counselor at Merritt College in Oakland, and was an Assistant Professor at California State University, Los Angeles.

Dr. Davitt began his 38 years of service at GCC in 1968, when he took a position as a history professor. Serving as Administrative Dean of Personnel Services, Vice President, and in 1985, Superintendent-President, he brought his inclusive, enthusiastic and open style of management to GCC, transforming the GCC campus into an innovative and productive center for learning. The longest-tenured head of a community college in California, Dr. Davitt cared deeply about the institution and took pride in GCC being a top transfer college.

An active volunteer in the Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge communities, John's record of community service is impressive. He served on the boards of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce, Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, Glendale Roundtable, Glendale Symphony and the Glendale College Foundation. In addition, he served on Holy Family High School's Board of Regents, Crestview Preparatory School's Board of Directors, Glendale Memorial Hospital's Community Liaison Council, St. Bede's Pastoral Council and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles' Board of Education.

Some of the honors Dr. Davitt received include the Presidential Leadership Award from the California Community College Foundation, Glendale Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award, the GCC Alumni Asso-

ciation Award for Outstanding Contributions to GCC, induction into GCC's Athletic Hall of Fame and the naming of the John A. Davitt Administration Building at GCC.

Married for over half a century, John and his wife Gael, have four children, Terry Davitt, Laure Heale, Vincent Davitt and Michael Davitt.

John Davitt will be sorely missed. He was a respected leader among community college presidents across the state and nation, a dedicated public servant and admired by all as a man of impeccable character. I ask all members to join me in remembering one of our community's most admired citizens, Dr. John A. Davitt.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL ROBERT D. MORIG

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Army Colonel Robert D. Morig on the occasion of his retirement after 51 years of service in the Department of Defense. Colonel Morig enlisted in the United States Army in September 1962, and was commissioned as a field artillery officer in July of 1964 upon his graduation from Washington State University. He later continued his education, earning a Master's degree in Industrial Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Colonel Morig also completed extensive military training, attending the Airborne and Ranger schools at Fort Benning, Georgia, the General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Army War College at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. During his time as an officer, he held staff and command posts in Vietnam, South Korea, and West Germany. For his commendable service, Colonel Morig received numerous awards, including a citation for valor in combat. At home, Colonel Morig worked with a number of different offices at the Pentagon, handling congressional issues, program analysis, and industrial base policy. Of particular note was his work in writing Army Doctrine and developing the Army Civilian Acquisition Workforce and Corps. After 30 years of distinguished service, Colonel Morig retired from the Army and joined the civil service. His final assignment in this capacity was teaching business and financial management to the acquisition workforce through the Defense Acquisition University. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank Colonel Morig for his service and wish him all the best in retirement.

REMEMBERING THE WERETH 11

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Gerlach amendment to H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act

for Fiscal Year 2015 considered en bloc. This amendment recognizes the sacrifice of the Wereth 11, a group of eleven African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion of the United States Army who lost their lives in dedicated service to this country during the Battle of the Bulge in Wereth, Belgium. The adoption of this amendment would ensure that history remembers and pays tribute to these men, and I was pleased to work with Mr. GERLACH on this effort.

ENERGY SAVINGS LEAD TO
EDUCATION FUNDING

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, over the past two years, Plainfield, New Jersey Public Schools has saved nearly \$1.2 million in energy costs. That is 26 percent of the school district's utilities budget over the same time span. These savings are the result of a district-wide, behavioral-based energy savings program. With the help of Plainfield School's energy specialist, Michael Pate, Plainfield School District achieved these savings by encouraging changes in behavior, like turning off lights and computers, and improving maintenance practices, like ensuring the right amount of Freon is used in HVAC systems.

The use of data helped drive this successful initiative. The school district can break down energy consumption of each appliance to the hour and, therefore, derive a cost per hour for each device. As a result, individuals know exactly the size of their energy footprint and how much money can be saved district-wide. Most important, teachers and administrators know that these savings can be redirected into funding classroom supplies and increasing educational services.

Imagine if all school districts in America trimmed their energy expenditures by 26 percent and then reinvested that savings in decreasing class sizes, updating technology, providing science equipment, hiring nurses, psychologists, and special education teachers, creating after-school activities, and organizing events and services that make their public schools the cornerstone of the community. We must give all students the opportunity to obtain a quality education and increase our children's academic competitiveness with their international peers. The \$1.2 million savings Plainfield Public Schools achieved is the reason why I introduced the School Building Enhancement Act (H.R. 115), which would provide grants to states to assist educational agencies in implementing energy-saving practices. As demonstrated by Plainfield, the savings will be significantly higher than the costs. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING MS. ENID ADLER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Enid Adler, whose tireless work for human rights has bettered the city of Philadelphia. A graduate of Temple University, Villanova University School of Law, and Dickinson University School of Law, Ms. Adler has had a lifelong career as a human rights advocate.

Enid Adler operates her own practice, which focuses on asylum immigration, family reunification, and international human rights. Ms. Adler is the past chairwoman of the International Law Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association and, in 1997, formulated the only United States Twinning Program between the Philadelphia Bar and the Barreau de Lyon in France. In 2001, Ms. Adler was a founding member of the International Criminal Board and was crucial in creating its Code of Ethics. Ms. Adler is a member of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) and serves on the Coalition's Team on the Crime of Aggression negotiations. This team created an amendment to the criteria to give the court jurisdiction over the crime, and it was completed and passed in June 2010 at the International Criminal Court First Review Conference. She is a member of the CICC's teams for Women for Gender Justice, Legal Initiative, Victims Rights, Trust Fund for Victims, and serves on the Philadelphia Bar's International Business Initiative, Civil Rights, and other committees. In 2012, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the International Criminal Court, Ms. Adler initiated a series of three celebratory symposiums in Philadelphia, which were attended by the President and Vice President Judges from The Hague. Ms. Adler will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose commitment to human rights advocacy has brought attention to this issue for the Philadelphia region. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Adler for her lifetime of service as a human rights attorney.

HONORING TERESA C. YOUNGER
FOR HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pride that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered in celebration of Teresa C. Younger, former Executive Director of the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, who has left that post to begin her new position as President/CEO of the MS. Foundation for Women. Though cer-

tainly a loss for Connecticut, it is an extraordinary opportunity for this remarkable woman.

Teresa is among the most genuine, committed and talented people that I have had the pleasure of working with. I first met her thirteen years ago when she served as, not only the first woman, but the first African American Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut. I was immediately struck by her wealth of knowledge and seemingly boundless energy. Since that time she has continued to build an impeccable reputation among all of those fortunate enough to work with her.

Over the course of the last decade, I have worked closely with Teresa in her role as the Executive Director of Connecticut's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, the largest women's non-partisan public policy legislative commission in the country. She has led the battle and given voice to women on policies critical to leveling the playing field. From pay equity, minimum wage, protections for sexual assault victims, and securing earned paid sick leave to access to quality, affordable health care, supports for working families including child care, education and job training programs, her leadership has helped to make Connecticut a leader in the nation on those issues that most impact women and their families. She is a bastion of knowledge and a wealth of energy—never backing away from the right fight.

Teresa has not only been a partner but a friend. I cannot count the number of times I have reached out to her to coordinate efforts on a variety of issues and educational platforms—and she has delivered every time. Teresa is also the volunteer president of the board of the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, a member of the board of the Women's Campaign School at Yale University as well as the Hunt Alternative Fund's national Political Parity Leadership Team. In 2010, she was one of eight women selected from Connecticut to travel to Saudi Arabia as part of the Global Women's Leadership Institute and in 2009 she was chosen to participate in the National Council of State Legislatures Legislative Management Institute. Quite simply, she is everywhere, all the time—respected and trusted by all.

Teresa's daily presence will be missed and though her professional career will take her from Connecticut, I have no doubt that she will continue to make a difference in our state and in our communities. Teresa C. Younger is an exceptional leader, advocate, friend, and mentor and I consider myself fortunate to call her my friend. I wish her and her husband, Ronald Preston, all the best as she begins this new endeavor. With her extraordinary passion, unique vision, and unparalleled commitment, I have no doubt she will enjoy great success.

H.R. 4435, THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, first, thank you to Mr. CARNEY for working with me to craft this

amendment, and Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for accepting it.

The issue of America's cyber capabilities has moved to the forefront of our national security discussion. The Secretary of Defense, the Intelligence Community, congressional leaders and even the President have all pointed to the need to strengthen our nation's capabilities in this arena.

The National Guard has experienced personnel and capabilities that are unique not only to their branches, but to the military as a whole.

This is reinforced to me every time I visit the 184th Intelligence Wing, and its component 177th Information Warfare Aggressor Squadron, both located at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita.

The work done by the 184th, and that done by men and women like them in Guard units around the country, provides critical intelligence to our warfighters across the globe and is absolutely integral to our national security.

Our amendment simply requires the Director of National Intelligence certify that the recommendations of the report required under Section 933 of the FY 2014 NDAA are consistent with the cyber operations capability needs of the United States before implementing any changes recommended by the study.

Because these Guard units provide experience and capability that exist nowhere else in the military, it is critically important that any proposed changes to their mission and structure are completely vetted. America's security, and the men and women of our National Guard, deserve nothing less.

HONORING HARRIETT MARTIN
STOKES

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Harriett Martin Stokes, a proud native of Salem, Virginia, who passed away on May 18, 2014. Harriett, who was born on June 21, 1914, would have turned 100 on the longest day of the year—the first day of summer.

Harriett graduated from Salem High School in 1931, was one of the first women to graduate from Roanoke College, and also earned degrees from the Richmond Professional Institute and the Chicago School of Design. She served as an elementary school teacher during World War II, also teaching art in her home and serving local hospitals as an artist-in-residence. Harriett helped to start the Virginia Watercolor Society, was an original member of the Roanoke Valley Sidewalk Art Show, and coordinated Art in the Alley which, for forty years, highlighted many local artists and was a hot spot for collectors of art.

An active member of the Salem community, Harriett was a lifelong member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. She was inducted into the Salem Alumni Hall of Fame in 1997, and among her other awards are the Walter Biggs

Award for Cultural Achievement, the Distinguished Alumni Award from Roanoke College, and the Perry Kendig Individual Artist Award.

Harriett is survived by her three sons: Clay Stokes and wife Janice of Canton, Georgia, Dr. Robert D. Stokes of Paoli, Pennsylvania, and Dr. William Stokes and wife Mary Ellen of Roanoke; two grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and many adoring nieces, nephews, and devoted friends.

Harriett's legacy and love for family, neighbors, church, and community will live on not only in her beautiful art—some of which remains on display in homes, businesses, and schools throughout the Roanoke Valley—but also in the continuing work of the many artists she mentored and influenced throughout her lifetime. My thoughts and prayers go out to Harriett's family and loved ones.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF
OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 25 World War II veterans and the Vietnam War veteran from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial on June 3rd in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Robert A. Davis, U.S. Army Air Force; Otis E. Huskey, U.S. Army Air Force; Donald G. Severson, U.S. Army Air Force; Elvis A. Warthen, U.S. Army Air Force; George F. Cooper, U.S. Army; John Crisp, U.S. Army; Warren L. Goold, U.S. Army; Kenneth C. Holgate, U.S. Army; Willard W. Miller, U.S. Army; James E. Smith, U.S. Army; Donald Thiel, U.S. Army; Erhard H. Ulrich, U.S. Army; Dale W. Jackson, U.S. Marines; Howard E. Wells, U.S. Marines; Charles W. Anglin, U.S. Navy; Oliver C. Hardy Jr., U.S. Navy; Clayton E. McCormick, U.S. Navy; Richard S. McLaughlin, U.S. Navy; Richard W. Miller, U.S. Navy; Douglass O. Nicholson, U.S. Navy; Marvin T. Rogers Sr., U.S. Navy; Charles B. Salt, U.S. Navy; John Stuart Sherbeck, U.S. Navy; Adelbert L. Taylor, U.S. Navy; Harvey A. Tofte, U.S. Navy; and Vietnam War veteran, Ronald K. Stogsdill, U.S. Air Force.

These 26 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, has journeyed from their home states to Washington, D.C. to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Gail Yakopatz for

her tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon.

HONORING MR. DANIEL J. TANN,
ESQUIRE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Daniel J. Tann, Esquire, who was born and raised in Philadelphia and has continued to work tirelessly as an "attorney for all generations." A graduate of LaSalle University and Drake University Law School, Mr. Tann has not only fulfilled his dream of founding his own law offices but has also worked as a tireless advocate for a number of social organizations in Philadelphia.

Mr. Tann began his illustrious legal career at Drake University, where he was named President of the local chapter of the Black Law Students of America, and was recognized in "Who's Who Among American Law Students." In 1985, he began practicing law in Philadelphia at Spear, Wilderman, Sigmond, Borish, Endy, and Silverstein, where he soon became the department manager of the general practice group. Later, he became the Senior Litigation Attorney with Gordon and Weinberg, P.C., and in January 2002, he fulfilled his personal dream when he founded the Law of Offices of Daniel J. Tan. He is involved in work with The National Bar Association, The Philadelphia Bar Association, The American Bar Association, The NAACP, Volunteers in Aid of Sickle Cell Anemia, the Gloucester County Minority Coalition, American Diabetes Foundation, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Philadelphia Boy Scouts of America, and the Fair Housing Council of Southern New Jersey. Mr. Tann will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and commitment have inspired and supported so many in our region. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Tann for his lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

HONORING CARLTON L. HIGH-
SMITH, 2014 RECIPIENT OF THE
TORCH OF LIBERTY AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, friends, family and colleagues will gather to pay tribute to one of our community's most outstanding citizens. I am proud to stand today and join the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League as they honor Carlton L. Highsmith with the 2014 Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Award.

Our communities would not be the same without the efforts of individuals whose work benefits our families and neighborhoods. Each

year, the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League presents the prestigious Torch of Liberty Award to an outstanding leader in the community, recognizing their unique commitment and dedication. Carlton is a remarkable reflection of the spirit of community service. With extraordinary compassion and generosity, he has touched the lives of many throughout the Greater New Haven community.

A corporate executive turned successful business owner, Carlton is a reflection of the American entrepreneurial spirit upon which our nation was built. He founded Specialized Packaging Group in New Haven in 1983 and over the course of the next two decades led the company as it grew to employ 600 people with 11 locations across North America. Following its merger with Paperworks Industry Inc., Carlton stayed on as Vice Chairman of the Board until his retirement four years ago. He continues his involvement with the business and education communities as a member of the Board of Directors of First Niagra Bank, the Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology and the National Center for Arts and Technology. He also serves as the Vice Chair of Quinnipiac University's Board of Trustees, a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's New England Economic Advisory Council. Co-Chairman of the Career Advancement Committee of the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission and a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, his alma mater.

The difference Carlton has made in our community extends far beyond his professional contributions. Having served as Chair of I Have a Dream, Chairman of the Finance Board of the Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church, a Director of Achievement First, a Director of Amistad Academy Charter School, and a Trustee of Yale-New Haven Hospital, his generosity, compassion, and leadership has enriched the New Haven community—making it a better place to live, learn and grow.

Through his invaluable professional contributions and his unparalleled service to our community, Carlton has left an indelible mark on our community. Together with his wife, Leta, their children Alexis and her husband Ken and Jennifer and her husband Larry, it is my honor and privilege to stand today to join the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League and the New Haven community in paying tribute to Carlton L. Highsmith for his invaluable contributions. Every community should be so fortunate as to have such a selfless, dedicated individual who so willingly commits his time and energy to enriching the community and improving the quality of life for all.

TRIBUTE TO FREDDIE EDWARD
SCAGGS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of Freddie Edward Scaggs of Salem, Virginia, who passed away on May 16, 2014.

Freddie was born in Troutville, Virginia, was a life member of the Boy Scouts, and served our country in the United States Navy. He was an active member of Salem Baptist Church, serving as an usher.

He also attended Barber School, mastering his craft before owning and operating Scaggs Barber Shop in Salem. Freddie loved cutting hair and developing relationships with his clients, doing so until a couple of months before his death. Freddie was loved by generations of customers, many of whom got their first haircuts from the gentleman barber and continued to do so even when he cut his schedule back to a couple of days a week. As one of his customers, I would vouch for Freddie's services but, more importantly, for his kind-hearted, grounded, and honest disposition.

Freddie is survived by his wife of 61 years, Lena Inez Scaggs; daughter, Nancy Scaggs Canfield; two sons, Douglas Edward Scaggs and wife Jill, John Mark Scaggs; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Freddie's family and loved ones. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING RUTH CLAPP ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the career and retirement of Ruth Clapp, a loyal public servant to the constituents of Washington's Ninth Congressional District dating back to the 1990s.

As a Member of Congress, the importance of a strong caseworker staff cannot be understated. Often times, when constituents have exhausted all other avenues they call their Congressional representatives for help. For caseworkers, these constituent contacts are unique in nature, necessitating short turnarounds and requiring a discerning mind.

After just a few months in Congress it became clear that our staff was missing something; or, more accurately, someone. The residents of the Ninth needed someone with a background in State Department issues. The job would be part-time and—like all caseworker positions—required a genuine passion for helping others.

At the time, Ruth Clapp was enjoying the early days of her retirement after years spent working for the World Association for Children and Parents (WACAP), an adoption and international humanitarian organization. During her time with WACAP, Ruth helped families to navigate adoptions in countries around the world. The work was rewarding, yet it was time to enjoy some well-earned quiet days at her picturesque home along the water in Browns Point. And that was when the phone rang.

On the other end was a young Chief of Staff. He let Ruth know about a freshman Member of Washington State's delegation that required someone with her background. The job could be tailored to her needs: it would be

part-time and only for a few years. She accepted the position and, as we know now, that "temporary" job stretched into seventeen years of service.

Ruth's personnel file grew and grew over the years, into what today resembles a stack of phone books. It is filled with hundreds of letters thanking her for help with issues including immigration, adoptions, and visas. These notes are from mothers, fathers, grandmothers, sons, and daughters. They recount Ruth creatively solving problems and demonstrate the consistency by which she went the extra mile for constituents. If getting a problem solved meant calling a consulate at 4 am on behalf of a constituent, that was what she did—gladly and without complaint.

Ruth's accomplishments are too many to list. Highlights include the critical assistance she provided an entire Afghan family to become U.S. citizens. She is passionate about conditions at the Northwest Detention Center and has provided assistance to dozens of inmates there. Travel up and down the Ninth District and chances are you will meet someone whose life has benefited from Ruth's service.

In the years ahead, Ruth undoubtedly will stay busy. She remains passionate about international adoption, loves world travel, serves on the board of a non-profit, and is a proud grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ruth Clapp for her distinguished career. I am confident that others will continue to benefit from her selflessness.

HONORING WILLIAM MACALONEY

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my respects to William "Bill" MacAloney, the Chairman and CEO of Jax Markets in Anaheim, California. Bill who is a long-time friend of mine recently passed after a long and brave struggle with cancer.

Bill's successful journey to becoming an industry leader in the grocery store business started in a very humble way. He grew up in a succession of orphanages and foster homes in Massachusetts. At the age of 16, Bill hit the road, hitch hiking all the way to California, arriving in Los Angeles with little money and no place to stay.

With a great attitude, hard work and a "can do" spirit, Bill nudged his way into the food industry and opened up his first grocery store in the late 1960's. Several other stores followed under the Jax banner, one in Buena Park and another in Anaheim.

During his career in the supermarket industry which spanned more than four decades, Bill MacAloney was Chairman of the nation's largest retail business, Certified Grocer of California. He also served as Chairman of the California Grocery Association and was Co-Chair of the Food Marketing Institute (FMI), the national supermarket trade association headquartered in our Nation's Capital.

With a love for politics and community, Bill MacAloney served on the Villa Park City

Council in 2002 and 2009. And Bill was an active philanthropist, and received awards and recognition from a wide range of highly respected organizations including the National Conference of Christians and Jews and B'nai B'rith among others. I should also mention that Bill was appointed to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Board of Accountancy and was on the St. Joseph Hospital Board of Trustees.

In closing, it has been an honor and a privilege for me to have known such an outstanding individual. He is a true gentleman, of great character who made the time to give back to the community and help others to achieve their dreams. Bill MacAloney is truly the classic All-American success story that we all should be proud of. I extend my sympathies to Bill's wife and loving companion of 45 years, Gwen, her four children, ten grandchildren and two great granddaughters.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,494,957,564,945.40. We've added \$6,868,080,516,032.40 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR FRANK A. GRIPPE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Frankfort, New York's own Command Sergeant Major Frank A. Grippe, United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and selfless service to the United States of America. Command Sergeant Major Grippe will soon retire from his present assignment as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader, United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida.

Command Sergeant Major Grippe entered the United States Army in April 1981 through Syracuse, New York. He trained as a light infantryman and graduated from Airborne School at Fort Henning, Georgia, after which he went on to serve in a variety of duty positions and organizations: Rifleman, Machine-gunner and Team Leader in 1-509th Airborne Battalion Combat Team, Vicenza, Italy; Team Leader, Rifle Squad Leader and Reconnaissance Squad Leader in 2-325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort

Bragg, North Carolina; Rifle Squad Leader, Rifle Platoon Sergeant, Battalion Operations Sergeant and Company First Sergeant with 2-75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, Washington; ROTC Senior Military Instructor at San Diego State University, San Diego, California; Command Sergeant Major for 1-87th Infantry Regiment, Fort Drum, New York, CSM of Task Force Summit (OEF Afghanistan, September 2001-April 2002); Command Sergeant Major for 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (LI), Fort Drum, New York; CSM of Combined Joint Task Force Warrior (OEF Afghanistan, July 2003-May 2004); Post and Division Command Sergeant Major of the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) and Fort Campbell, Kentucky, CSM of Task Force Band of Brothers; Multi-National Division North (OIF, September 2005-September 2006). From August 2007 December 2011, he was assigned as the Command Sergeant Major of I Corps and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington and served as the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Command Sergeant Major from March 2009 to March 2010. Command Sergeant Major Grippe is presently the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for the United States Central Command.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Command Sergeant Major Grippe's long and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful nation, I commend Command Sergeant Major Grippe for his dedicated service to the United States of America. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by Command Sergeant Major Grippe's wife Carla and daughter Madeline. We are a nation truly indebted to all of the service members, veterans, and military families who continue to give so much to defend our American values and liberties. I extend my best wishes to Command Sergeant Major Grippe and his family on the occasion of his retirement.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, which will be celebrated with a series of public programs and exhibits.

Originally founded in the former Capitol Hill townhouse of Frederick Douglass, the museum was first opened by my friend Warren Robbins on June 3, 1964.

Over the ensuing decades, the museum has come to take a greater role in furthering cultural development in our Nation's capital. In 1979, it joined the Smithsonian Institution, and it relocated to its current location on the National Mall in 1987.

As the only national museum in the United States dedicated to the arts of Africa, it plays an important role in elevating the knowledge and understanding of visitors and academics alike. As a repository of stirring and thought-provoking artifacts, and a place for evocative performances and dialogues, it serves as a

source of inspiration so many of our artists—luminaries like the late Maya Angelou who was a tireless advocate for the museum.

This museum has come a long way over the past 50 years, to play an important role in the Smithsonian Institution, in the Washington, D.C. community, and in the cultural life of our Nation and the world.

I congratulate them on a wonderful 50 years, and I wish them another flourishing 50 more.

HONORING MS. BLANCHE BURTON-LYLES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of the great pianist Ms. Blanche Burton-Lyles, a native of South Philadelphia, whose dedication to music and service has left a lasting mark on Philadelphia.

Ms. Burton-Lyles attended the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music, on the recommendation of her mentor Marian Anderson. There she studied under Madam Isabella Vengerova, one of the founders of the Curtis Institute, and Leo Ornstein, Sr., world renowned composer and pianist. Ms. Burton-Lyles also received a music degree from Temple University. She worked as a music educator in the Philadelphia Public School System for many years. A recipient of many performance awards and humanitarian honors, Ms. Burton-Lyles is the first African-American woman to perform in Carnegie Hall with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and played a number of times in the personal home of Marian Anderson. In January of 1998, she received Anderson's historical residences, which are now international attractions for visitors worldwide. Ms. Burton-Lyles is the Founder and President of the Marian Anderson Historical Society, Inc. and maintains the Marian Anderson residence and museum. Ms. Burton-Lyles will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and commitment have inspired and supported so many in our region. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Blanche Burton-Lyles for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lupus Awareness Month. As co-chair of the Congressional Lupus Caucus, I am honored to help raise awareness of lupus throughout the month of May.

Despite affecting an estimated 1.5 million Americans—approximately 90 percent of

whom are women—lupus is not very well known. And for those who have heard of the disease, it is much more widespread than most realize.

Lupus is a chronic illness that can affect any organ in the body. It occurs when the immune system is out of balance, damaging the body's organs and tissues. Most puzzling, no two lupus patients experience the same symptoms. Thus, a variety of medications are used to treat the disease since its manifestations vary dramatically between cases. Many symptoms of Lupus mimic those of other illnesses, and can change over time, making diagnosis difficult. Consequently, diagnoses of Lupus can take up to four years and require visits to more than three physicians.

My goal in founding the Congressional Lupus Caucus was to raise awareness and help further research efforts in regard to this little understood, life-threatening disease. Researchers are working to better understand the disease's complexity and are making great strides in finding effective treatments. Today, there are more than two dozen potential drugs for lupus in the development pipeline. Because of research, initiatives such as Lupus Awareness Month, and other grassroots efforts, more and more people with lupus are leading healthier lives and living longer than at any time in history.

I am proud to report that in my home state of Massachusetts, excellent resources are available to those affected by lupus. These resources include a support group at the Bourne Council on Aging and a state-of-the-art Lupus Program at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Despite local successes, Federal funding for advocacy and research remains critical. Increased funding will lead to improved knowledge of the disease and earlier and more accurate diagnoses, helping to improve disease management, diminish adverse effects, and increase quality of life for individuals living with lupus. I pledge to continue to raise awareness and do what I can to secure the resources needed to build upon the steady strides already achieved in lupus research and development. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to continue to support lupus research and treatment and to help spread the word about this disease.

RECOGNIZING MR. AMR NASSAR

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Amr Nassar, for his acceptance to the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC. Mr. Nassar was selected for his academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship.

The People to People mission is to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange. To this end, People to People offers domestic and international educational programs that promote cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and leadership. It is my hope that Mr. Nassar benefitted greatly from

his participation in the World Leadership Forum, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

ANN MILLER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ann Miller. Ms. Miller is the Executive Director of Unlimited Learning, Incorporated, in southwest Colorado.

Ms. Miller has been working with refugees and minority groups on educational and occupational issues such as providing English language instruction, life skills training and cross-cultural classes since the mid-1970s.

Since 1990, she has been Director of the Adult Education Program for Montezuma and Dolores Counties in southwest Colorado, and in 2001 founded Unlimited Learning and is currently serving as the institution's Executive Director. Unlimited Learning is a nonprofit educational organization, primarily focused on distance education programming. They ensure that Native Americans, rural area residents, and adults seeking a GED have access to adult education, college level education courses, and degrees. Unlimited Learning serves in partnership with the College of Eastern Utah, which is part of the Utah State University system, to provide educational services to over 5,000 square miles spanning Colorado, Arizona, Utah, and Alaska.

Ms. Miller is driven by the desire to provide innovative ways to reach and educate rural, low-income, and minority citizens, so that they have an opportunity for a better life—socially, economically, and physically. She truly has made a great difference in the lives of many people.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Director Ann Miller. I rise today to thank her for her work on behalf of the citizens of Montezuma and Dolores Counties.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE TRANSITIONAL CARE ACT OF 2014

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing The Medicare Transitional Care Act, which will address continuity of care problems. This legislation will provide high-risk Medicare beneficiaries access to evidence based transitional care services that are provided by an eligible transitional care entity, such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and community based-organizations. The bill will also provide incentives for the use of technology and other tools to improve care transitions.

Transitions from hospital to home can be complicated and risky, especially for individuals with multiple chronic illnesses. Patients frequently report difficulty remembering clinical

instructions, confusion over correct use of medications, and uncertainty over their prognosis. In cases where multiple providers are involved, patients often get conflicting instructions from different providers.

Researchers with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation have estimated that inadequate care coordination, including inadequate management of care transitions, was responsible for \$25 to \$45 billion in wasteful spending in 2011 through avoidable complications and unnecessary hospital readmissions.

In its June 2012 Report, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) highlighted the need for an explicit payment for transitional care services, given the documented evidence that effective and coordinated care transitions improve health outcomes, reduce readmission rates, and generate significant savings to the U.S. health care system. The Congressional Budget Office has echoed these findings. In a report documenting lessons from Medicare's demonstration projects, the CBO emphasized that "programs that smoothed transitions (for example, by providing additional education and support to patients moving from a hospital to a nursing facility or between a primary care provider and a specialist) tended to have fewer hospital admissions."

It is our hope that stakeholders involved in the care delivery system will carefully evaluate this legislation and provide comments or suggested improvements to me and the other sponsors. We are interested in ensuring that the legislation's terms are adequately tailored to the different circumstances and settings in which these transitions occur.

Providing a transitional care benefit within Medicare will help coordinate care, develop a care plan for patients and their caregivers, identify potential health risks, and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations. I thank my cosponsors and look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 28, I missed two recorded votes. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 241, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall No. 242, I would have voted "aye."

THANKING MARA SACCENTE FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many friends, family and colleagues who have gathered to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Mara Saccente who served as a

member of my District staff for 15 years. As a Caseworker and Scheduler, Mara dedicated an enormous amount of her personal time and energies to addressing the needs and concerns of the residents of Connecticut's 3rd Congressional District and I cannot thank her enough for all the outstanding work she has done.

A native of Orange, Connecticut, during her senior year at the University of Connecticut, Mara spent the fall semester as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office. She was energetic and full of enthusiasm, assisting our press secretary and writing constituent correspondence. It was fortunate timing that upon her graduation, I had an opening for a caseworker in my District Office. Mara officially came on board on July 1, 1998. During the first three years of her tenure, she was responsible for a variety of casework areas including issues with Social Security, immigration, and the environment. Her compassion and understanding lent itself to the position and she thrived—the myriad of thank you notes she received is a testament to the difference she was able to make in the lives of others.

As anyone in this Chamber can understand, the position of scheduling in a Congressional office requires a unique combination of patience and organization as well as the ability to manage the many personalities of constituents vying for your time. With a seemingly never ending list of events, invitations, and meetings coming in, in the twelve years that Mara served as my district scheduler, she managed to balance it all with both poise and integrity—earning a distinguished reputation among her colleagues and the many community members she interacted with every day.

Though I can hardly figure out where she was able to find the time, Mara is also very involved with her community. A member of Or Shalom Synagogue, she served as Secretary of the Board of Directors, she has been a leader for her daughter's Girl Scouts troop, as well as an active member of the PTA and the local Democratic Town Committee. Mara's strong desire to give back to her community has made a real difference and serves as an example to us all of how one person's actions can enrich the lives of others.

Mara has embarked on a new professional endeavor, however, she will always be more than just a staffer or a colleague—she is family. I, like all of those who have had the opportunity to work with her, will miss her. Today, I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to Mara Saccente for all of her good work both on my behalf and that of the residents of the 3rd Congressional District. I wish her, her husband, Ken, and their children, Anna and Nathan, as well as her parents, Paul and Debbie Davis, the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 8TH ANNUAL DC LATINO PRIDE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 8th annual DC Latino Pride, the national capital region's celebration of our Latino lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

The Washington, DC metropolitan area has had an identifiable Latino LGBT community since the early 1960s. However, the community remained largely invisible until the first LGBT March in Washington in 1987. DC Latino Pride's parent organization, the Latino Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender History Project, began in 2000. The organization grew out of a private archive kept since 1993 by its founder, José Gutierrez, who, in turn, organized the first DC Latino Pride, in 2007.

It has been both a pleasure and an inspiration to watch DC Latino Pride grow from a panel discussion held the day before the annual Capital Pride parade to this year's series of events between May 25 and June 5. The Latino Pride events include La Coronación on May 25th; La Plática, a panel discussion at the Human Rights Campaign on May 29th; La Fe, a bilingual worship service with the Metropolitan Community Church Ministerio Español and Grupo Latino Dignidad de Washington on May 31st, and La Fiesta Latino Dance Party at Towne Danceboutique on June 5th.

The Latino and Latino gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender GLBT History Project and Empoderate Youth Center of La Clínica del Pueblo jointly host DC Latino Pride and coordinate this celebration with their partners: El Zol Radio 107.9, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the DC Office of Human Rights, the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, the Mayor's Office of GLBT Affairs, D&P Creative Strategies, Brother Help Thyself, The DC Center, GLOV, the Raben Group, Lambda Legal, Whitman Walker, Reasons, Verizon, Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, Latinos Ready for Hilary, Identity, and Food & Friends.

This year's organizers include: David M. Pérez, President; Esther Hidalgo, Vice President of Historical Archives; José Gutierrez, Founder & Historical Archives Co-Chair; Jorge A. Soto, Secretary; Wilmer Gutiérrez, Treasurer; May Sifuentes, Finance Committee Co-Chair; Board Members Jose Plaza and Alexa Rodriguez; José Ramírez, Outreach Chair; Jennifer Sánchez, Outreach Committee; and Jesús "Chuche" Chavez, Program Coordinator.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 8th annual DC Latino Pride, welcoming all those who will attend, and congratulating the Latino GLBT History Project's officers, board, and volunteers for work well done, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that the United States citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

HONORING THE WORK AND CAREER OF DR. D. WALTER COHEN

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impact of the work of Dr. D. Walter Cohen. Dr. Cohen's career brought extraordinary accomplishments to both Philadelphia and the global medical community. He set the highest standards in education and forged international partnerships for the promotion of peace. Today, I am pleased to honor Dr. D. Walter Cohen's contributions to education and science.

Dr. Cohen was born and raised in Philadelphia. He earned both his undergraduate degree and a D.D.S. from the University of Pennsylvania. After completing a research fellowship in Pathology and Periodontics at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, he returned to Philadelphia to commence a distinguished academic career.

In 1951, Dr. Cohen returned to Penn as an associate professor and embarked on a career that would exemplify leadership, dedication, and the highest standard of innovation. During his tenure, he established Penn's Department of Periodontics and served as its first chairman, became a Professor of Periodontics, and ultimately became Dean of Penn Dental Medicine.

As Dean, Dr. Cohen is widely credited for revitalizing the school's educational program by establishing a preceptor model of education, introducing new courses, recruiting a new faculty, and establishing a residency. His book describes the innovative program that changed the way Penn educates dental students: "Educating the dentist of the future: The Pennsylvania Experiment." Dr. Cohen's career was ultimately recognized with the 2013 William J. Gies Award from the American Dental Education Association, which honored his superior achievements in dental education.

His accomplishments have considerable international impact. In the 1950's, he initiated a fellowship exchange between the U.S. and Israel. After raising \$500,000, he was able to bring over 18 full-time faculty members to train at Penn. The program's success paved the way for the creation of The D. Walter Cohen Middle East Center for Dental Education in Israel. The center allowed dentists throughout the Middle East to study at the Hebrew University Hadassah School in Jerusalem. The program strengthened the partnership between the U.S. and Israel while promoting peace and education.

Dr. Cohen's exemplary leadership helped to unite 41 U.S. dental schools under the Alliance for Oral Health Across Borders. The Alliance is committed to promoting peace through health education. By crossing borders, health providers build bridges among dental and health professionals around the world. These connections provide education, improve the state of oral health globally, develop leadership and advocacy, and promote collaborative research.

His legacy will endure through lasting contributions and through those who have recognized them. He was awarded honorary membership by the British Society of Periodontology, and given the Legion of Merit Award from the French Government. The American Academy of Periodontology offers a grant in his name, the Dr. D. Walter Cohen Teaching Award. It is my privilege to recognize the distinguished career of Dr. Walter Cohen for contributing to peace and education around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, my scheduled flight into Washington yesterday was delayed significantly by bad weather. As a result, I was absent from the House floor during Wednesday's two rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both H. Res. 599 and H.R. 503.

CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF
TURKEY

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues offering their condolences and prayers to the people of Turkey in the wake of the worst mining disaster in that country's history. I am deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life, and share the pain of the victims' families and friends.

As a former Air Force pilot who continues to serve in the Air National Guard, I have experienced our close relationship with Turkey, and can attest to the sincerity, kindness, and generosity of the Turkish people.

The way forward will be long and painful, but the people of Turkey should know they are not alone, and are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALPHA XI OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC., DALLAS, TEXAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 85th anniversary of the Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated—the first Greek letter sorority for African-American women. The Alpha Xi Omega Chapter was established in Dallas, Texas on June 6, 1929. Since its inception, its members

have provided outstanding community service throughout the City of Dallas. They have displayed a constant commitment to serving those in need through varied volunteer activities—from tutoring children, raising money to fight cancer, increasing awareness to combat AIDS, supporting research for sickle cell anemia to feeding the hungry.

Through programs of service, they encourage young men and women to develop high standards of character and excellence in education. They support a myriad of other programs, including: health and social services for women and children and the development of art, cultural, and educational groups. They understand the great price of liberty—the duty of each of us to give back freely. They understand that by investing their time, energy and talent, they strengthen the very fiber of our Nation.

While my colleagues and I draft education reform legislations, we cannot be on the ground in every community: staffing after-school programs, coordinating back-to-school supply drives or organizing domestic violence seminars. Our success as a nation is, in no small part, due to the leadership and passion of citizens who are helping people lead healthier and more purposeful lives—those who focus on student achievement to foster innovation and creativity. The Alpha Xi Omega Chapter has improved the social stature of Dallas' youth by cultivating and encouraging high scholastic and ethical standards. Because of their work, the next generation of leaders is energized to innovate and move the country forward.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of this organization for more than 40 years, and I can say with great pride that the City of Dallas is a better place because of the dedicated and selfless service of the distinguished women of The Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Their unparalleled and unprecedented community involvement will impact the Dallas community for years to come. They epitomize the power of an engaged citizenry and reflect our nation's great tradition of service. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their service today in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNITION OF THE 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLIC DAY IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 96th anniversary of Republic Day in Azerbaijan on May 28. Azerbaijan is a secular, modern, Muslim country, which practices broad religious tolerance. Established in May 28, 1918, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was the first republic in any majority-Muslim country. In 1920 Russia occupied Azerbaijan and several Azeris lost their lives fighting for their independence. After years of living under Soviet rule, Azerbaijan reclaimed its independence in 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Over the last twenty-three years, the Republic of Azerbaijan has strengthened its sovereignty and independence, and has developed into one of the fastest growing economies in the region. Azerbaijan is also a staunch ally and strategic partner of the United States in the decisively important Caspian region. As a valuable international ally, Azerbaijan provided aid to the United States directly following the devastating events of 9/11, assisting the United States on matters of international security.

Azerbaijan resides in one of the world's most dangerous neighborhoods, with Russia to the north and Iran to the south; however, the United States and Azerbaijan have developed a steadfast relationship through the opening of Caspian energy sources for development. Making significant contributions to the energy security of Europe, Turkey, and Israel, Azerbaijan has materialized as a fundamental player in global energy security.

Again, it is my pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 96th anniversary of the Republic Day, and to distinguish the many achievements of Azerbaijan along with the remarkably valuable partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan.

CONGRATULATING THE HONOREES OF THE ELLSWORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner. The Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business communities of the region, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the area and the state.

Each year, the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity, prosperity, and community service in Maine.

The 2014 award winners are: Merrill Enterprises, Top Drawer Award; Eleanor Jones, Citizen of the Year; Friends and Family, Customer Service Award; Shinbashi, Revitalization Award; and Z Photography, Chamber New Business of the Year.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and their incredible commitment to their communities and to the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce and the award recipients on their outstanding service and achievements.

CONFERENCE REPORT WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT (H.R. 3080)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted in support of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (H.R. 3080) Conference Report. Unfortunately, I attended the funeral for a family member and missed the vote.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mission, ensuring our nation's waterways have the resources to improve infrastructure and create jobs while providing flood protection and environmental restoration. Long overdue, the conference report to H.R. 3080 will ensure economic growth for years to come.

I'm pleased that the conference report includes my language addressing the threat of Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries. The Fish and Wildlife Service in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, and the Geological Survey will lead a multi-agency preventative effort working with state and local governments. These federal agencies will provide critical technical assistance, coordination, best practices, and support to slow and eventually eliminate the threat posed by Asian carp.

I want to thank the coalition of governmental agencies, private, and non-governmental organizations that have supported my bill. Particularly, I want to thank the Upper River Services, LLC, Water Ways Council, National Wildlife Federation, and Trout Unlimited.

I look forward to working with these groups and the Administration to implement this language and to ensure that our communities have the resources and tools they need to better respond to the dangers posed by these invasive species.

IN HONOR OF OUR BRAVE VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every Memorial Day, Americans come together to honor the brave individuals who have selflessly given their lives for our continued prosperity, founding ideals, and democracy. Every American is indebted to their service and should be inspired by these exemplars of courage.

The month of May is also Military Appreciation month. As we honor our fallen veterans, we must not only speak to their accomplishments, but actively reaffirm our appreciation and commitment to the veterans among us. Throughout our nation's history, veterans have contributed to the strength and resilience of our great democracy like no other group. We

must express our gratitude by ensuring that they as well as their families receive the benefits they need, deserve, and have earned. Therefore, we must continue to support, assist, and hold the Department of Veterans Affairs accountable. The assistance and medical treatment the agency provides to our veterans as well as their families must always be accessible and of the highest standard.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, as we honor our veterans on this Memorial Day, I call on our entire nation to reaffirm its commitment and leave no veteran behind. This is the least a grateful nation can do.

HONORING ANNE LOUISE TAYLOR

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Ms. Anne Louise Taylor, a devoted mother, sister, friend, and colleague. With her passing on March 31, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of her life's work as a public servant.

Born on August 15, 1957 and raised in Alameda, California, Ms. Anne Taylor graduated from Alameda High School. She went on to graduate from the University of Maryland summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

After completing her studies, Ms. Taylor began her career in the political arena working for California State Assemblymember and California Board of Equalization Member Johan Klehs. She later served as the District Director for former California State Assemblymember Ellen Corbett and as the head of Government Relations for California State University, East Bay.

In addition to Ms. Taylor's work in public office, she worked closely with many non-profits and community groups. At the East Bay Community Foundation, Ms. Taylor helped simplify the process for submitting grants by developing a "one-stop" shop website for non-profit organizations. This website has garnered recognition and won awards, and it remains a shining example of government and non-profit collaboration. Ms. Taylor also had an extensive nonprofit fundraising background, having worked for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Moreover, Ms. Taylor was an advocate in the community and nation on women's health issues. She worked with the National American Red Cross, raising more than \$6 million for the "Help Can't Wait" program. She was also named the American Red Cross Community Service Hero for her efforts to educate women about the risks of heart disease. Ms. Taylor actively volunteered for the American Heart Association and the Mended Hearts Organization.

Ms. Anne Taylor served as District Director in my Oakland office for over five years, coordinating district outreach, including town hall meetings, forums, community events, and workshops. Ms. Taylor was the lead staff member on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and worked tirelessly to secure

more than \$1.9 billion in stimulus funds for the district.

Ms. Taylor's contributions to the residents of the East Bay were enormous. With true compassion and commitment, she touched the lives of thousands of people. Not only was she a true public servant and phenomenal woman, she was deeply passionate about her community, Alameda, where she loved the 4th of July parade and the Alameda Point Antique fair.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and dedicated public servant, Ms. Anne Taylor. Her invaluable service to improving the lives of the underrepresented and underserved will live on in the endless legacy of her life's work. I offer my sincerest condolences to her many loved ones, friends, and colleagues she touched over the course of her incredible life. May her soul rest in peace.

COMMENDING THE DANVILLE-SYCAMORE VALLEY ROTARY CLUB

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in commending the members of the Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary Club for their longstanding, strong support of K-12 Education in the 11th Congressional District in California. Living out the Rotarian motto of "Service Before Self", these men and women have marshalled their resources to reward outstanding students, teachers and administrators in local schools for the past 22 years.

Every month during the school year, the Rotarians highlight one K-12 school in the community. Each teacher and student, chosen by their principal, is recognized publicly with their family and colleagues in attendance. Without exception, the awardees are dedicated to their academic work and to community service in and out of the school setting.

Over the past two years, it has been my pleasure to participate in special celebrations recognizing the individual achievements of students and teachers from 11 Danville schools.

From Creekside Elementary School, the Rotarians honored students Mackenzie Michel and Griffin Snyder and teachers Kristen Berg and Nancy Rugani. From Hidden Hills Elementary they honored student Lohith Dasari and teacher Sherri Wright. From John Baldwin Elementary they honored students Lauren Batza and James Goldberg and teachers Chara Rodrigues and Dawn-Monique Elkin. From Tassajara Hills Elementary they honored students Kayla Sapir and Lauren Spain and teachers Sia Yfantis and Jeanie Small. From Dougherty Valley High they honored students Seunghwa Madeleine Han and Nicole Giles and teachers Megan Keefer and Duane Ingram. From Del Amigo High School they honored students Josh Gorski and Cole Ortiz and teachers Bill Collins and Carole Edwards Van Muijen. From Diablo Vista Middle School they honored student Anya Nutakki and teacher Janet Darrimon. From Charlotte Wood Middle School they honored student Connor Kay

and teacher Kathleen Martins. From Coyote Creek Elementary they honored student Ashmit Gaba and teacher Stephanie Preston. And from Greenbrook Elementary School, they honored student Robert Corritone and teacher Kristen McDevitt. In addition to these outstanding students and teachers, the Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotarians honored members of the school district administration Chris Williams and Kirby Hoy for their outstanding work in support of K-12 education.

In recognizing the hard work of our students, teachers, and administrators, we distinguish what works in education and help find ways to replicate the very best practices. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the students, teachers and administrators who have been honored, and in thanking the Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotarians for their exceptional dedication to education and community service.

TO HONOR NEVADA CIVIL RIGHTS
LEADER BOB BAILEY

HON. STEVEN A. HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Nevada civil rights leader Bob Bailey, who passed away on Saturday.

Bob was a tireless advocate for equality in Nevada.

In the '50s and '60s, Vegas was as segregated as the Deep South. Bob saw injustice all around him and became a staunch advocate for equality.

He worked with Governor Grant Sawyer to investigate discrimination in employment, and he served as the first chairman of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission. His work helped desegregate hotel-casinos under the Nevada Civil Rights Act of 1965.

Bob later served as the president of Nevada Economic Development Company, which helped minority-owned businesses, and in 1990 he was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to serve as Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency.

Bob Bailey opened the doors for thousands of African-Americans in Las Vegas, including myself. He will be missed, and we will remember his legacy.

HONORING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TOWN OF
GOULDSBORO, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Gouldsboro, Maine as it celebrates its 225th anniversary.

Located on the Schoodic Peninsula in Hancock County, the Town of Gouldsboro includes the four villages of Corea, Prospect Harbor, West Gouldsboro, and Birch Harbor. Named

for one of its original proprietors, Robert Gould, the town was first incorporated into the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1789, predating Maine's statehood. Known for its scenic harbors, long coastline, fishing community, and views of Acadia National Park, the Town of Gouldsboro truly embodies the spirit of coastal Maine.

Gouldsboro is also home to four sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Prospect Harbor Light Station; Soderholtz, Eric E., Cottage; West Gouldsboro Union Church; and West Gouldsboro Village Library.

The Town of Gouldsboro reflects the values of the hardworking people of Maine who take great pride in the rich history they have created over the past 225 years. It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Gouldsboro in Congress, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to help them commemorate the town's 225th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the people of Gouldsboro and wishing them well on this joyous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE 96TH ANNIVERSARY
OF AZERBAIJAN'S REPUBLIC
DAY

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Azerbaijan on its Republic Day. On May 28, 1918, Azerbaijan declared its independence from the Russian Empire—making it the first democracy in the Muslim world. Unfortunately, only a few short years later in 1920 Azerbaijan was invaded by the Russian Red Army and was subsequently incorporated into the Soviet Union. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan regained its independence in 1991.

Azerbaijan continues to be an important partner with the United States in counter-terrorism efforts and initiatives to bolster energy security with strategic allies. With its vast resources of oil and gas, Azerbaijan is a key component to help our strategic allies in NATO and other European countries diversify their energy resources.

Many of our strategic allies in Europe are heavily dependent upon natural gas from one source or from unstable regions. And the ongoing events in Ukraine are a stark reminder that the United States must enhance our strategic partnerships with allies in Europe and Eurasia. That is why we must continue to support initiatives such as the Southern Gas Corridor which will route natural gas from Azerbaijan to Europe.

The Caspian Sea region holds significant energy resources and proven natural gas reserves. In particular, the Shah Deniz field in Azerbaijan is one of the world's largest gas fields, with over 30 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas. The Southern Gas Corridor will help our European allies diversify their energy resources by providing an alternative and reliable source of natural gas. This will increase global energy supplies and create a more competitive natural gas market, helping to bol-

ster energy security and help improve geopolitical stability in the region.

Successive U.S. administrations have supported the development of energy resources in the Caspian Sea region, including earlier oil and gas pipelines from Azerbaijan to neighboring nations, as well as developing stronger trade relationships and international partnerships with the countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

In fact, on April 2, 2014 Secretary of State John Kerry, in a joint statement with European energy leaders at a meeting of the EU-US Energy Council, stated "The Council reaffirmed the importance of the Southern Gas Corridor to bring gas to Europe, urged for timely construction of a dedicated, scalable pipeline which keeps the options open for additional supplies, and agreed to explore investments to strengthen gas supplies to Central and Southeast Europe."

The Southern Gas Corridor is an important starting point to provide Europe with an alternative and reliable source of energy. Establishment of the pipeline lays the foundation for opportunities for greater amounts of natural gas development and further pipeline infrastructure to bring additional energy resources to Europe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Azerbaijan on the 96th anniversary of its Republic Day.

HONORING WILLIAM H. COOPER

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Ranking Member LEVIN to honor William H. Cooper, Specialist in International Trade and Finance in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). Bill will retire at the end of June after 41 years of distinguished government service, including 32 years of invaluable analytical work for Congress and the Ways and Means Committee as a leading expert on U.S. trade policy and international economics.

Bill's authoritative, objective, and non-partisan support for Congress on international trade and economic issues is exemplified in his many reports, confidential memoranda, and consultative briefings. Over the span of three decades, his work for Congress has addressed nearly every major trade bill and U.S. trade law, as well as U.S. trade relations and negotiations with key U.S. trading partners and at the World Trade Organization. His deep expertise and knowledge have been vital to Congress and the Committee in particular in fulfilling its constitutional role on international trade.

I especially want to thank Bill for his substantial support on the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement and Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations; the international negotiations trade in services; U.S. trade and economic relations with South Korea, Japan, Russia, and Europe; the WTO global trading system; and Trade Promotion Authority. Bill's invaluable analytical contributions, intellectual

leadership, and institutional understanding of these and other vital policy issues before Congress over these past 32 years will leave an invaluable legacy.

Bill represents CRS at its finest in serving Congress. I wish him the very best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM H.
"DOC" LONG

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William H. "Doc" Long of Oak Ridge, North Carolina.

Doc Long, a veteran who served under the command of General Patton in World War II, has for the last three years been a tireless promoter of the Carolina Field of Honor Memorial in Triad Park in Kernersville, North Carolina.

Ground was broken for this memorial in November of last year, and the project is now complete. I will have the privilege of attending the unveiling of this important monument on Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, it's our responsibility to ensure that our military remains strong and our veterans receive the care and benefits they have earned, but we should always take time to recognize those individuals in our communities who tirelessly work to ensure the sacrifices made on behalf of our nation are not forgotten. Doc Long is one such individual, I look forward to seeing him in Kernersville Saturday, and it's a privilege to recognize him in this House today.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR UNITED STATES ARMY COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR MARTIN R. BARRERAS

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Command Sergeant Major Martin R. Barreras, who died on May 12, 2014 from wounds he suffered on May 6 when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Harat Province, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his wife, Melinda; mother, Gloria; father, Ray; brothers Dave and Andy; three children, Calvin, Victoria and Amice; three grandchildren; and numerous friends.

Born in New Mexico, Command Sergeant Major Barreras spent most of his childhood in Tucson, Arizona. He attended Sunnyside High School before joining the military. In the last assignment of his long military career, he was assigned as the highest-ranking enlisted member of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team based in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Command Sergeant Major Barreras was on his sixth deployment to Afghanistan, after serving 29 honorable years defending our country in both the Army and Marine Corps.

Nicknamed "Gunny" from his time in the Marines, Command Sergeant Major Barreras was a great soldier. Over his career he earned 50 awards and distinctions including a Bronze Star with valor and two Purple Hearts. However, his illustrious career depicted through his medals will not be the only thing to highlight his service to our country. The men and women he led and fought with will always remember his selflessness and war-fighting spirit

that will undoubtedly be passed on for generations to come.

As an Army Ranger, he helped rescue former prisoner of war Jessica Lynch from an Iraqi hospital in 2003. Command Sergeant Major Barreras was the leader of the Army battalion that conducted the successful rescue of Lynch. He personally handed Lynch to another soldier to transfer her to the helicopter that evacuated her from the area. Without any hesitation, he then led the fight against multiple attacks in order to retrieve all nine bodies of the other U.S. soldiers missing in action.

We remember Command Sergeant Major Barreras and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. I am heartsick for their loss and my words cannot offer adequate consolation.

Everyone in our great country owes Command Sergeant Major Barreras and his family a debt of gratitude for his selfless sacrifice and courage. It is vital that we keep our men and women in uniform who are in harm's way in our thoughts and prayers. I call on my fellow colleagues and all Americans to remember, on this Memorial Day weekend, Command Sergeant Major Barreras and his fellow fallen comrades—those who have paid the ultimate price.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on May 28, 2014, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 241 and 242. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 599 and "yea" on H.R. 503.

SENATE—Friday, May 30, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACK REED, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 30, 2104.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACK REED, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. REED thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
JUNE 2, 2014, AT 2 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2014.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:00 and 31 seconds p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 2, 2014, at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, May 30, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, thank You for giving us another day.

Quicken our spirits so that we will know the blessings of living together in unity and peace. We have our personal aspirations and ideas of what is best. Grant that we might know the satisfaction from sharing our common concerns and experiencing the joy of mutual accomplishment.

Bless the Members of the people's House with success in bringing fruition to all efforts to work toward common solutions to the issues facing our Nation, solutions which seem so distant in these days.

During the days of the coming week, may the American people be able to communicate their hopes for the efforts of their Congressmen and -women. May they understand, as well, that a unified nation is equally the work of each of us where we live.

May we be men and women who live without excuse, and may all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. KILMER)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE STUDENTS OF TIANANMEN SQUARE

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, we mark the 25th anniversary of the massacre of peaceful protesters in Tiananmen Square in the People's Republic of China. These protesters were merely calling for democracy, an end to the dictatorship of the Communist Party, and an end to government corruption.

The Chinese Government has tried to remove Tiananmen Square from the consciousness of its people by censoring social media and preemptively arresting those who would raise questions, pick quarrels, and provoke trouble. We will always remember.

We will remember the art students who sculpted the "Goddess of Democracy," a defining image of the Tiananmen Square protests, inspired by the Statue of Liberty. We will remember the Tank Man, who singlehandedly stopped Chinese tanks in their tracks. We will remember the hundreds, perhaps thousands—there has never been an official counting—of those who died that day.

The spirit of the protesters lives on in these stories of heroism. That spirit lives on in all those around the world who value freedom and human rights.

We will always remember the students of Tiananmen Square. And to the Chinese people who yearn for freedom, do not give up hope. One day, you too will breathe free.

IN MEMORY OF PUYALLUP TRIBAL CHAIRMAN HERMAN DILLON, SR.

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a historic leader for the Puyallup Tribe, for the State of Washington, and for our Nation. The longtime Puyallup tribal chairman, Herman Dillon, Sr., passed away last week at the age of 82.

Chairman Dillon led a life dedicated to ensuring that the tribe and our region can continue to thrive for generations to come.

Chairman Dillon began a long career of service first by joining the U.S. Naval Reserve. And during the Korean war, he was drafted into the Army and spent 2 years honorably serving our country in Pusan, Korea.

Elected to the Puyallup Tribal Council in 1971, Chairman Dillon played an instrumental role in seeing through a number of historic achievements, including the Puyallup Indian Land Claims Settlement, the Washington State Gaming Compact, and key economic decisions that led to the Puyallup Tribe becoming the third largest employer in Pierce County, Washington.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman Dillon and his wife, Darlene, also served their community as foster parents, opening their hearts and homes to support many children in need.

The tribe and our entire region are stronger and more prosperous as a result of his vision and unwavering efforts to build a brighter future. He will be sorely missed by the tribe, by our region, and by me.

THE PRESIDENT HAS FAILED VETERANS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President's failure to provide lifesaving services to our veterans is a tragedy. Complaints of delays, preventable illnesses, and deaths have plagued the Veterans Administration for years.

The President promised corrections while campaigning for the White House in 2008, yet the failures have accelerated, with more scandal, neglect, and incompetence. It is shameful that the President finally discussed this issue after claiming to have recently heard about it in the news.

This week, I joined others asking for the President to remove VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and appoint a new Secretary who can get the job done and

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

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

give our veterans the health care they have earned and deserve for ensuring our freedom.

I appreciate Keven Cohen, “The Point” talk show host, for promoting veterans. American Legion Commander Dan Dellinger recently said, “This isn’t personal. VA needs a fundamental shift in leadership if it is to defeat its systematic lack of accountability.” As a Legionnaire myself, I couldn’t agree more. The best way forward is to change course to restore faith for our veterans, military families, and the American people.

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

EPA CARBON POLLUTION STANDARDS

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Speaker BOEHNER said he was not qualified to debate the science of climate change, but he was confident that all plans to deal with climate change would hurt jobs and our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am a scientist, but that doesn’t uniquely qualify me to debate climate change. As Members of Congress, we rely on the expertise of others to inform our decisionmaking.

And I agree with the overwhelming consensus among scientists: the climate is changing largely as a result of human activities, and we can and must act now—not because I am, myself, a scientist, but because of peer-reviewed reports, like the IPCC and the National Climate Assessment.

Less than a year ago, in a speech announcing his Climate Action Plan, President Obama said that he would direct “the Environmental Protection Agency to put an end to the limitless dumping of carbon pollution.” This coming Monday, the President will make good on his promise when the EPA proposes the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants, which are responsible for about 40 percent of U.S. carbon pollution.

We, as a country, have already been forced to endure the costs of unlimited carbon pollution as more frequent and intense extremes continue to cost us in lives and dollars. While the draft carbon pollution rules have yet to be released, of this I am sure: no matter the perceived cost of action, the costs of inaction will be far greater.

RESTORING TRUST WITH OUR VETERANS THROUGH VA ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, disclosures of abuse and neglect at our VA hospitals have been absolutely intolerable. This week’s release of the interim report from the VA inspector general highlights the urgency in identifying the full scope of these tragic and potentially deliberate abuses and the need to hold officials at all levels to account for these failures.

Since elected, I have remained in close contact with the VA hospitals serving the Fifth District of Pennsylvania, and I want to thank the committed public servants who work so very hard to provide the best possible care and support to our veterans in those facilities in this region of the country.

Last week, the House, with bipartisan support, passed H.R. 4031, the VA Management and Accountability Act, and I am a proud cosponsor of that bill. While I am glad the House came together to pass this important reform, I encourage the Senate to do the same. So much more must be done to correct these specific abuses and impose accountability and trust across the VA system moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform deserve nothing less.

IN MEMORY OF MAYA ANGELOU

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of sadness, yet gratitude, that I rise to honor the life and the memory of a great, phenomenal warrior woman, Dr. Maya Angelou. I offer my condolences to Dr. Angelou’s friends and family, including her son Guy Johnson, who is both a friend and constituent, as they celebrate and mourn her spirit-filled life.

I will forever cherish the private moments I had the privilege to share with Maya. One I recall was when, years ago, she invited me to her beautiful home, where we talked in her living room as sisters about our lives, our struggles, our passions for improving the human condition. I confided in her about the many challenges I faced after voting against the authorization to use military force. She encouraged me, and the affirmation she gave to me during those trying times will always be with me.

I tell you, Dr. Angelou lived life to its fullest, and she shared with the world the essence of a purposeful life. I will hold her words, “be certain that you do not die without having done something wonderful for humanity,” close to my heart, knowing that she was one of humanity’s greatest gifts.

While the world grieves in Dr. Maya Angelou’s passing, we can take comfort in the fact that her words and her leg-

acy live on in generations of people who have been touched, challenged, and inspired by her work. We will miss her tremendously, but Dr. Maya Angelou’s legacy and her spirit will live on forever.

FLOODING IN SERBIA, BOSNIA, AND CROATIA

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere condolences to the people of Serbia, Bosnia, and Croatia affected by severe flooding in recent weeks. The epic flooding is the worst the region has seen in 120 years. Making matters worse, there are reports that landmines from the most recent Balkan war are being shifted due to the landslides, only adding to the dangers of people and rescuers in the affected areas.

Having experienced flooding that displaces families myself and, more importantly, having served in the region during my military career, the people of the Balkans hold a special place in my heart. My thoughts and prayers are with them, and I wish them Godspeed.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, this year, we celebrate the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the brave Americans of our Armed Forces who served our country with great courage and patriotism. Today I stand before you to honor their heroic sacrifice.

As a fighter pilot in World War II, my father flew 63 missions in a P-47 Thunderbolt. He provided air cover while my father-in-law stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. In a dogfight during the Battle of the Bulge, my father was shot down by the Germans. He spent the next 6 months in a German POW camp behind enemy lines until being liberated by Allied forces on D-Day.

But it was through my father’s stories that I came to understand the courage, resilience, and sacrifice of veterans and military families all across our great Nation. And this is the reason that I am deeply committed to easing the transition for veterans back to civilian life, expanding their job opportunities, strengthening their health care benefits, and improving mental health services for the dedicated men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States.

D-Day is a reminder of the great sacrifice borne by our servicemen and -women and their families.

□ 0915

HONORING JEANNE MANFORD

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a real American hero—Queens' own Jeanne Manford. In 1972, Jeanne's openly gay son, Morty Manford, was beaten during a gay rights protest. That year, Jeanne marched with Morty in one of New York's earliest Pride parades.

She carried a now-famous sign that read, "Parents of Gays Unite in Support for Our Children."

The phrase sparked Jeanne to found the organization Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, now known as PFLAG. Our Queens chapter was cofounded by Jeanne and Councilman Danny Dromm, who founded the Queens Pride Parade.

Today, I introduce a resolution honoring Jeanne, and this Sunday, I will march in the Queens Pride Parade, remembering that my neighbor, Jeanne Manford, opened doors that led to progress we have seen these last few decades. I will march with the pride of knowing I live in a nation where history moves us toward accepting all people as equals, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity. Thank you, Jeanne.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4745, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4681, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 604 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 604

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with

clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. (a) At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4681) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule.

(b) In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-45. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived.

(c) No amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in subsection (f).

(d) Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(e) All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in subsection (f) are waived.

(f) It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this subsection shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and con-

trolled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(g) At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from June 2, 2014, through June 6, 2014—

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

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

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

SEC. 5. The Committee on Appropriations may, at any time before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, file privileged reports to accompany measures making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

SEC. 6. House Resolution 567 is amended by adding the following:

“SEC. 7. TRAVEL.

“Clauses 8(a), (b), and (c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Select Committee.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 1 hour.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days with which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be with you here today. It seems as if only a few hours ago we were all here together—because it was only a few hours ago.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution before us today provides a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 4681, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015, and it makes in order a number of amendments for consideration. In addition, this combined

resolution provides for an open rule for the consideration of H.R. 4745, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2015.

This resolution provides for 1 hour of general debate on each of these bills equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the appropriate committees of jurisdiction.

The intention of the Rules Committee was to provide ample opportunity to debate issues related to our intelligence community. The intelligence community has done very good bipartisan work on this bill, which is being brought forward under regular order. And while the committee was able to work with some Members to modify their amendments so they would comply with House rules and be made in order, some amendments were still subject to a point of order or were already debated and voted on last week during the USA FREEDOM Act. Some amendments were simply not possible to debate on the floor in open session due to the national security implications.

The net result is that this rule makes in order a total of 11 amendments to the intelligence bill, four Republican, six Democrat, and one bipartisan amendment. So the process is inclusive, the rule is fair, and will provide a wide ranging debate on a topic of interest to all Americans.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for Utah for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, once again, we are considering a rule that combines two bills together under one single rule. That rule provides an open rule for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill, or T-HUD, and a structured rule for the Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 Intelligence Authorization Act.

T-HUD is an appropriate acronym, Mr. Speaker, because that is how we can describe this House's action on the bill last year. The Appropriations Committee tried to come up with a bill that funds our Transportation, Housing and Urban Development programs, but it was so woefully inadequate that it never made it to the House floor.

Although the T-HUD bill may be \$1.2 billion above last year's enacted levels, due to a reduction in offsets caused by a decline in Federal Housing Administration receipts, the program level in this bill is actually \$1.8 billion below last year's level.

On the transportation side, this bill provides no funding for high-speed rail, and it cuts \$200 million from Amtrak's capital funding. And if that weren't bad enough, I want to highlight one

particularly egregious rider in the T-HUD bill, a rider that would exempt Wisconsin, Mississippi, and Idaho from Federal truck weight limits on their interstates.

Mr. Speaker, there have been no reviews by highway safety experts or cost-benefit analysis on the effect of increased size and weight limits on these roads and bridges, yet the majority decided to go forward with these extraneous riders anyway.

I would remind my colleagues that in the last surface transportation reauthorization bill, Congressman LOU BARLETTA offered an amendment that required DOT to conduct a comprehensive study on the impact of increasing truck size and weight on road safety and infrastructure costs. It passed with strong bipartisan support, and the Department of Transportation is currently in the process of completing the study, which should be finished by the fall of this year.

Mr. BARLETTA sent a letter to the Rules Committee before last night's meeting requesting that a point of order against this rider be made available. I support Mr. BARLETTA's request, and I wish the Rules Committee would not have protected this provision. We should not be raising truck size and weights in a State-by-State patchwork approach before DOT even has a chance to finish its study, especially when the highway trust fund is expected to run out of money this summer and our roads and our bridges are already in horrible disrepair.

I will insert letters from AAA, the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, law enforcement officers, first responders, and road safety groups all opposing this rider.

AMERICAN
AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2014.

Hon. HAROLD ROGERS,
Chair, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. NITA LOWEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS AND RANKING MEMBER LOWEY: AAA opposes Section 125 of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2015 that would increase the current federal truck size and weight limits. This section carves out special interest exemptions from federal truck size and weight regulations for Idaho, Mississippi and Wisconsin. We urge you to remove Section 125 from the bill.

Study after study has shown that increasing truck size or weight increases wear and tear on roads and dramatically impacts bridges. At a time when the federal Highway Trust Fund and many state budgets across the country are nearly tapped out, we cannot afford to allow bigger trucks to run up the cost of maintaining infrastructure.

We also are concerned with the safety impact of allowing heavier trucks on the nation's roadways. According to NHTSA, fatalities in crashes involving large trucks increased four percent from 3,781 in 2011 to 3,921 in 2012. Of these fatalities in 2012, 73 per-

cent were occupants of other vehicles, 10 percent were non-occupants, and 18 percent were occupants of large trucks.

Congress has recognized the importance of a stronger national freight program and work is underway to establish a robust national freight strategy. Considering changes to truck size and weight limits outside the context of this national discussion, and the two-year truck size and weight study required by MAP-21, is premature.

Thank you for consideration of AAA's views on this important safety issue.

Sincerely,

AVERY ASH,
Director, Federal Relations.

OWNER-OPERATOR
INDEPENDENT DRIVERS ASSOCIATION,
May 20, 2014.

Hon. HAROLD ROGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. NITA M. LOWEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS AND RANKING MEMBER LOWEY: On behalf of our nation's small business trucking professionals, the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) writes in opposition to language in the FY2015 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill that allows trucks weighing up to 129,000 pounds on Interstate Highways in Idaho.

Not only is the expansion of existing weight limits on these roads outside of the highway reauthorization process, but this provision comes as the Department of Transportation is conducting a Congressionally-mandated study on truck size and weight provisions nationally. This study should be allowed to continue without Congress passing legislation, such as the Idaho provision, which would put heavier trucks on Interstate Highway System miles where they currently are not permitted.

Current federal Interstate System weight limits were put in place to halt an "arms race" between states attempting to garner favor with major shippers as a way to attract business. Today's generally uniform limits focus attention on the national nature of our Interstate System. The Idaho provision, a state-wide allowance of trucks on currently designated Interstate Highway miles above the existing Interstate weight cap, would be a step backwards from this sensible approach.

While proponents of this provision argue that Idaho is at a disadvantage compared to neighboring states with higher weight limits on Interstate highways, it is critical to remember that those states operated these heavier-weight vehicles on their Interstate system prior to the passage of federal legislation in 1991 that froze maximum weights on longer-combination vehicles. Idaho's state government could have enacted legislation prior to the 1991 freeze setting an Interstate weight allowance equal to its neighboring states, but it did not. Additionally, neighboring states also have strict permitting requirements for these heavier weight loads, requirements that are absent from the provision included in the THUD bill.

While Idaho conducted a pilot study regarding use of heavier weight trucks, it is important to note that none of those trucks in the study operated on Idaho Interstate System roads. Federal studies that have examined operations of heavier vehicles on Interstate System roads, including the initial work completed for the on-going MAP-21

truck size and weight study, show significant infrastructure and safety concerns with bigger and heavier trucks. These are facts that OOIDA members and other small business truckers know full well given that the highway is their workplace.

Further, while proponents of bigger and heavier trucks argue that the entire trucking industry is supportive of a weight increase, the overwhelming majority of drivers and motor carriers do not see a benefit from increasing truck size and weights. Heavier weights may lead to cost savings for shippers and receivers; however, for the small business truckers that make up more than 90 percent of the trucking industry, heavier trucks only mean higher fuel, repair, and equipment costs.

Bearing in mind that that MAP-21 study has yet to be completed, we urge the Appropriations Committee to remove this language from the FY2015 Transportation Appropriations Bill. Should you have any questions, please contact Ryan Bowley in our Washington Office.

Sincerely,

TODD SPENCER,
Executive Vice President.

NATIONAL TROOPERS COALITION,
NAEMT, AND NATIONAL SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION.

May 29, 2014.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, We are writing on behalf of the nation's law enforcement officers and first responders to express our opposition to any truck size or weight increases. We understand that proposals to allow heavier trucks and thaw the freeze on longer combination vehicles are being considered as part of annual appropriations legislation. We urge you to reject these proposals.

Bigger trucks would add new dangers to our roads. Allowing heavier or longer trucks would threaten the safety of motorists as well as law enforcement officers and first responders because heavier and longer trucks would be more difficult to control, take longer to stop, and increase crash severity. Studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation have found that trucks with multiple trailers and trucks that are heavier are associated with higher crash rates. (2000 US DOT Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Study; 2013 US DOT "Desk Scan")

Bigger trucks also would impose a huge economic cost in terms of further damage to our already deteriorating highway infrastructure, the additional strain to our aging and deficient bridges and the costs associated with cleaning up crashes. These are additional costs that would be borne by all levels of government and ultimately by the taxpayers.

The current proposals to allow bigger trucks have not been the subject of congressional hearings. We question the appropriateness of making changes such as these that affect public safety in a funding bill without full and open public debate.

Representing law enforcement and first responders across the country, we are united in opposing bigger trucks. Not only do these trucks endanger the traveling public, but they also put at risk law enforcement officers and first responders. Please oppose any provisions that would increase the size or weight of trucks.

Thank you,

MAT HODAPP,
Chairman, National Troopers Coalition.

DON LUNDY, BS,

NREMT-P,
President, National Association of Emergency Management Technicians.

AARON D. KENNARD,
Executive Director, National Sheriffs' Association.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this rule, as I noted earlier, also covers debate on H.R. 4681, the Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 Intelligence Authorization Act.

The intelligence authorization bill is one of the many important pieces of legislation that comes before the House every year—or nearly every year. Last year, for fiscal year 2014, the bill was marked up in committee, but the majority never seemed to be able to find the time to bring it to the House floor, which is why today we are dealing with a 2-year authorization for both the current fiscal year, FY 2014, and the coming fiscal year, FY 2015.

Now, a great deal has happened since the fiscal year 2013 intelligence bill was approved in December of 2012—everything from Edward Snowden to the sequester, from extreme weather events to drone strikes that also killed innocent civilians, from new technologies and cyber sabotage to protecting our human assets on the ground in dangerous regions. While the underlying bill attempts to deal with these and other issues in a bipartisan manner, some of the choices it makes weaken rather than strengthen our ability to accurately assess potential and real threats to our security.

One particularly troubling example is the bill's failure to strengthen the intelligence community's ability to analyze and assess how climate change affects our national security. Over a decade ago, the National Intelligence Estimate—or NIE—noted with grave concern how extreme weather and environmental changes were adversely affecting global food security, as well as increased refugee and IDP populations due to droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events.

□ 0930

The NIE described how such events contribute or can even drive social and political instability, which might threaten our national security interests. Given the acceleration of extreme weather and climate change over the last decade or so, I would think that we would want to encourage our intelligence agencies to analyze the national security implications of climate change, whether that is how storm surges and rising sea levels and temperatures might affect our Navy, or how competition over resources might affect the opening of the Arctic or water wars in the Middle East and northern Africa—but no.

Instead, this bill continues the Republican foolishness of pretending that

climate change does not exist. Some of my Republican colleagues would rather stick their heads in the sand. That is not the way to run a government, Mr. Speaker.

Over 30 amendments were submitted to the Rules Committee for consideration, and I wish that all of them were made in order under this rule. It doesn't take long to debate 30-something amendments. I believe that the House is fully capable of handling such a debate.

After all, we should be pretty rested after a 5½-day break at the beginning of this week and a 9-day recess starting tomorrow. Surely, we could use the 2½ days when we are in Washington to actually debate the intelligence bill.

Several of these amendments dealt with highly controversial aspects of drone strikes, many of which have killed or wounded innocent civilians. I was glad to see that the U.S. did not carry out any drone strikes for the past month in Pakistan, where our use of drones has contributed to tensions between our two nations.

Our colleague and a member of the Intelligence Committee, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), submitted an amendment to ban so-called signature strikes against unknown targets.

Her amendment modestly calls for the U.S. Government to know, with near-certainty, that at least one individual who is a known target will be present before the strike is launched. I am outraged that her amendment was not made in order under this rule.

Other amendments, including bipartisan amendments, dealt with increasing the transparency of decision-making and reporting from drone strikes; others would have simply banned their use.

The U.S. is increasingly dependent on the use of unmanned weaponized aerial vehicles to deliver deadly force against individuals and groups residing or operating in other countries.

As we wind down the war in Afghanistan, we need to take a hard look at how we should pursue the so-called global war on terror, especially the use of drone strikes and operations outside the boundaries of international law enforcement.

I regret that all of the amendments brought before the Rules Committee dealing with drone strikes were not made in order, as each dealt with a different facet of the policy and each deserved to be debated by this House.

I would also like to say a word about the McCollum amendment, which was also denied by the Rules Committee. Our intelligence agencies should never ever use humanitarian work or workers as a cover for covert operations or a means to gather intelligence.

Whether we are talking about a vaccination campaign to protect children from polio or the delivery of food to

desperate refugees, leave such plots and machinations to the movies. Keep them out of U.S. policy and covert operations.

They endanger all humanitarian workers and place obstacles in the way of carrying out urgent and essential global health and humanitarian work in places where too many dangers already exist.

Mr. Speaker, before I reserve my time, I also want to point out that this rule contains a provision which makes a change in the procedures for the special Select Committee on Benghazi, which was established by the House just a few weeks ago. The new provision allows the chairman of the new select committee to authorize foreign travel as part of the investigation.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress has already conducted seven investigations of the Benghazi matter—seven. Many of us have argued that an additional eighth inquiry is not necessary, but since the House insists on proceeding, we would like to make sure that some of the partisan abuses that marked the previous inquiries will not be repeated by the new select committee, particularly with regard to foreign travel.

Mr. CUMMINGS has often protested the partisan abuses of foreign travel at the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and I insert in the RECORD a letter from Mr. CUMMINGS to Mr. ISSA, asking him to delay a Republican-only delegation to Libya, so that Democrats could join the delegation as well.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, September 20, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL E. ISSA,

Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to request that you immediately postpone your upcoming delegation to Libya and several other countries until you come into compliance with your own Committee directives, stop your partisan efforts to deliberately exclude Democrats from this trip, and provide adequate notice to allow Democratic Members to join this delegation at a later date.

On April 6, 2011, upon becoming Chairman of the Committee, you issued a memorandum to all Committee Members entitled "Rules for Committee-Authorized Foreign Travel." According to that memorandum, "All delegations must be bipartisan."

Earlier today, however, I obtained a copy of an itinerary for a trip you apparently have been planning to Libya and several other countries next week, presumably as part of the Committee's ongoing investigation into the attack in Benghazi in 2012. The only congressional travelers on this itinerary are you and your Republican staffer. No Democratic Members are listed on the itinerary, and you have not contacted me or my staff about this trip. According to this itinerary, you are planning to leave this Sunday, which means Democratic participation at this late date is impossible.

Your 2011 memo also says that the "purpose must be very specific for each country."

Yet, your itinerary states only that the Libya portion of the trip is "TBD," although it may include a "visit" to the embassy and a "working lunch." Your itinerary does not identify a single U.S. government official, Libyan official, or other individual the Committee plans to interview or speak with during this delegation.

Your 2011 memo also says that the only exception to conducting bipartisan international delegations is "in rare circumstances and at the sole discretion of the Chairman." However, you have not identified any such circumstances in this case that would justify excluding Democratic Members. Moreover, I have obtained other documents showing that you have been planning this delegation for more than a week, so there are no exigencies that would have prohibited you from consulting with Democrats.

Although you claim that your investigation of the Benghazi attacks is bipartisan, your efforts to secretly plan an official trip to Libya—and then deliberately exclude Democrats from joining—is part of an unfortunate pattern of partisanship that undermines the credibility of this investigation.

Last October, Rep. Jason Chaffetz undertook exactly the same partisan maneuver when he traveled to Libya—at your direction—and excluded Democratic Members from that trip. At that time, my staff obtained a last-minute copy of his itinerary that listed the Committee activity in Libya as "TBD" and failed to identify any officials to be interviewed. We now know that Rep. Chaffetz met personally with General Carter Ham, the Commander of AFRICOM, as well as Gregory Hicks, the Deputy Chief of Mission, who was then called before the Committee to testify.

The problem with these actions is that they effectively deny Democratic Members the ability to effectively investigate this incident. Since your secret delegation appears to violate your own directive to the Committee, I request that you postpone it until such time as Democratic Members are given an adequate opportunity to join.

Sincerely,

ELLJAH E. CUMMINGS,
Ranking Member.

Mr. MCGOVERN. In October of 2012, Oversight Committee Republicans went on a delegation to Libya, but they did not inform Democratic members until 24 hours before they departed.

In September 2013, Oversight Committee Republicans planned a second delegation to Libya without contacting Democratic members at all. Ranking Member CUMMINGS requested that the trip be postponed to allow Democrats to join, but his request was denied.

This is no way to conduct a serious investigation, and this is one of the reasons why so many people on our side of the aisle have called foul over the way the House Republican leadership is dealing with this important issue.

So before the House grants any new authorities to the select committee, I would be grateful for some assurance from my chairman that this new authority will not be misused in the highly partisan manner demonstrated by Chairman ISSA at the Oversight Committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for yielding to me, and I appreciate him bringing this issue up, as he did in the Rules Committee at the time of the hearing.

I want to assure the gentleman and each of the Members of this body that the gentleman who will be the new chairman of the committee, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GOWDY), has every intent to make sure that his work, the assignments that will be given as they move forward, including travel, will be done on a fair basis.

Mr. GOWDY is aware of and knows the sensitive nature of not only the investigation, but also how this will be handled; and Mr. GOWDY, I assure you, is very prepared to match and to meet the Members that Ms. PELOSI has put on the committee, and I think that you will see that the Members who will serve as a result of the Speaker appointing them will serve with honor and distinction and will work well and fairly together.

I thank the gentleman for asking the question.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I thank the gentleman for his answer and for his reassurances, and we will certainly be watching. In our opinion, fairness means consultation with the Democrats and not leaving us out of the loop.

Again, I would point out to my colleagues that the inquiries into the Benghazi situation thus far have been highly partisan, and the Oversight Committee, in particular, I think, has been run in an inappropriate manner.

So I appreciate the gentleman's assurances, and we will watch and hope that what the gentleman just said will actually occur.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule that allows for consideration of H.R. 4681, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

I am troubled that just 11 amendments were allowed under the rule and many solid amendments that would enhance oversight and transparency were blocked, particularly an amendment by Representative GABBARD to expand the authority and oversight of the intelligence community by the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

With respect to the underlying bill, I would like to discuss a number of provisions that deserve to be highlighted.

The bill sets the stage for potentially significant reforms to government contract employees' ability to access classified information that warrant thoughtful consideration by the House and further clarification.

Specifically, H.R. 4681 directs the Director of National Intelligence to ensure that elements of the intelligence community engage in continuous evaluation of its employees to detect behaviors that may result in unauthorized disclosures.

The bill also directs a cost-benefit analysis of replacing the standard periodic reinvestigation process with automated continuous evaluation programs. While I agree that there are weaknesses in the current security clearance process that warrant reform, it is important that, before wholesale changes are made, Congress expresses its expectations about the scope of such programs, establishes metrics for evaluating their efficacy, and ensures that due process protections for impacted individuals are available.

We have an obligation to 5.2 million Americans whose livelihoods depend on maintaining their security clearances to ensure that agencies that establish these programs do so in a manner that guards against abuses, including targeting and retaliation by supervisors, as well as improper or excessive invasions of privacy.

The urge to adopt continuous evaluation in response to high-profile incidents involving individuals with access to classified information who violated the terms of their oath is understandable. However, the adoption of continuous evaluation does not absolve the intelligence community of its obligations to bolster the protection of its classified holdings.

Regrettably, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4681 may send the wrong message to agencies, as it does not include language to direct agencies to raise the bar on access controls, thereby giving the impression that our concern is principally about employees' actions and behaviors.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I also have concerns, Mr. Speaker, about the bill's view of the future of security clearance investigations and adjudications and the degree to which it sets the stage for computers and algorithms to replace humans in the process.

Specifically, it direct the DNI to conduct a cost-benefit analysis on reducing or eliminating the manual process for security clearance investigations and adjudications.

The guiding principle in the adjudication process is the concept of the whole person, where information is

brought to bear to give a picture of an individual. The prospect that we would empower a computer to render judgment of a person's integrity, character, and loyalty to our Nation is troubling.

In the coming weeks, I will be introducing a comprehensive security clearance reform bill that, among other things, addresses known weaknesses in the current system, establishes expectations for continuous evaluation programs, and demands proper performance from investigative service providers.

It also would greatly expand the resources and responsibilities of the Public Interest Declassification Board. A well-resourced and robust board is essential to increasing accountability of the intelligence community. I am pleased that the underlying bill will renew the authorization of the board.

Before I yield back, Mr. Speaker, I would note that, while I am pleased that the bill authorizes intelligence operations within DHS, I am disturbed that, in advance of today's vote, members of the Homeland Security Committee staff were not granted access to the classified annex of this legislation, as it is relevant to the committee's oversight jurisdiction.

I would hope that, as this bill moves through the legislative process, the stovepipes that exist within this Chamber that hinder critical information-sharing and oversight can be overcome for the benefit of the American people.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. May I inquire of the gentleman if he has any additional speakers?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I am ready to close whenever you are.

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

I urge my colleagues to oppose this rule for all of the reasons I stated earlier, but, Mr. Speaker, I want to close with one final thought: this intelligence bill includes several provisions regarding the use of contractors, security clearance reform, strengthening investigations by the inspector general, and so on.

We need to recognize that these reforms were not initiated by us. They are a result of the massive release of leaked information that brought very serious matters about actual and potential abuses by our intelligence agencies on how they monitor and maintain data on ordinary law-abiding citizens.

This leaked information caused alarm throughout our society, by our constituents, by our press, and by Members of Congress—and rightfully so. It caused alarm among some of our closest international allies—and rightfully so.

So while we may hold different views about the individual who confiscated and leaked the information, let us all recognize that none of the NSA and

FISA reforms recently passed by this House—and none of the reforms included in this bill—would have happened if that information had not been leaked because we would not have known about the abuses being carried on in our name by various intelligence agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I respect those men and women who serve our Nation in our intelligence agencies, but I don't respect a culture that intentionally keeps the American people and the Congress in the dark about the extent and nature of our intelligence operations.

More reforms are still needed; more transparency is still needed. I believe we can be safe and protect the American people without sacrificing the liberties that we all treasure.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 0945

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am actually pleased to stand before the House today in support of this rule as well as the underlying pieces of the legislation, H.R. 4681 about intelligence and H.R. 4745 called the T-HUD bill.

From the testimony that we received in the Rules Committee on these measures, it appears that both of these measures have enjoyed bipartisan cooperation in their formation and from their respective committee processes.

One of the toughest responsibilities that a Member of the Congress has is to help prioritize the Federal expenditures of resources that we take from the American people. Sometimes, worthy projects and programs have to be trimmed to meet budget requirements and prioritization. While there are some spending choices—which I disagree—contained in H.R. 4745, overall, it is still a balanced measure which will provide for American infrastructure so essential for the economic growth and jobs, and maintains discipline by adhering to the top-line funding levels arrived at through that 2-year budget agreement that was passed by Congress. The \$52 billion for transportation provided in these agencies is \$7.8 billion below the President's request and still actually \$1.8 billion less than the 2014 enacted level.

Members have a chance, under the open rule of this resolution provided, to argue for changes in the prioritization. I am pleased that one of the things this bill recognizes is that States are different. Those of us who live in the wide-open West have been able to use transportation to help the desert blossom. We should not try to restrict every State to the same standards with a one-size-fits-all approach. The committee was very wise in what they actually did.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The Chair would ask occupants of the gallery to cease audible conversation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, switching gears to the intelligence reauthorization measure, every Member of the House takes seriously our responsibility to preserve individual liberty and freedoms under the Constitution.

We also have a constitutional obligation to provide for the common defense, because without a strong national defense, which includes the indispensable work of the defense intelligence agencies, personal freedoms are also at risk. The question is achieving and maintaining a balance in deciding how to best preserve inalienable constitutional rights against possible incursions by technologists, whether inadvertent or intentional, as our Nation deals with the very real threats both at home and abroad.

Technology gives us wonderful tools, but it can also be a fertile ground for abuse of privacy. We have a responsibility as Members of Congress to exercise oversight in U.S. intelligence agencies, and that can be difficult since much cannot be debated in open forums with any degree of specificity without bringing great harm to the national security. That is why we have the expertise of standing committees. Not only do they understand these issues, it saves time by allocating the proper amount of time to the discussion of these issues in advance. And from the testimony received in the Rules Committee, I believe that Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER have demonstrated a strong bipartisan commitment on this issue.

Provisions of this bill are aimed at bolstering personal and individual privacy. Passage of H.R. 4681, when you combine it with the passage last week of the U.S. FREEDOM Act, is a good step towards enhancing our U.S. intelligence capability as well as congressional oversight on these issues.

It is a good bill. It is a fair rule. I urge its adoption.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Rule for H.R. 4681, the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014," and H.R. 4745, the "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2015."

H.R. 4681 is a bill authorizing appropriations for our nation's intelligence agencies for Fiscal Year 2014 through Fiscal Year 2015. The bill provides funds for the conduct of intelligence and intelligence-related activities.

H.R. 4745 makes appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

Our nation is long past due for a Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. This bill is about jobs—jobs—jobs.

Unfortunately, H.R. 4745's \$17.1 billion in discretionary appropriations for the Depart-

ment of Transportation for fiscal year 2015, is \$727.3 million below the funding for fiscal year 2014.

Included in the legislation is \$15.7 billion in total budgetary resources for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which is \$7.3 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$446 million above the request.

This will provide full funding for all air traffic control personnel, including 14,800 air traffic controllers, 7,300 safety inspectors, and operational support personnel.

The bill also fully funds the FAA's Next Generation Air Transportation Systems (NextGen) at \$852.4 million, and funds Contract Towers at \$140 million.

These investments will help ease future congestion and help reduce delays for travelers in U.S. airspace.

The Bush Intercontinental Airport and William P. Hobby Airport will benefit from funding provided under this bill: nearly 40 million passengers traveled through Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and an additional 10 million traveled through William P. Hobby (HOU); more than 650 daily departures occur at IAH; IAH is the 11th busiest airport in the U.S. for total passenger traffic; IAH has 12 all-cargo airlines handles more than 419,205 metric tons of cargo in 2012.

The funds being sent back to states will repair critical transportation infrastructure that is vital to local, state and the national economy.

Further the bill provides for funding for our Nation's housing and urban development programs that fund block grants, special housing programs that serve our Nation's elderly, young, disabled, and veterans.

The legislation includes a total of \$40.3 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, a decrease of \$769 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$2 billion below the Administration's request.

The bill does not contain funding for any new, unauthorized "sustainable," "livable," or "green" community development programs.

Affordable safe housing is vital to the well-being of elderly, low-wage workers, the unemployed, under-employed, disabled persons and our Nation's veterans.

In 2012, Texas ranked second among the 50 states among states with workers earning at or below the federal minimum wage.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the 6.1 million workers paid hourly rates in Texas in 2012, 282,000 earned exactly the prevailing federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, while 170,000 earned less.

In the State of Texas the percentage of persons living in poverty makes the funds provided for housing and mass transit systems including light rail critical: 34% of children live in poverty; 21% of adults (19–64) live in poverty; and 17% of elderly live in poverty.

The funds provided will make it possible for low wage workers to have affordable options for travel as well as support access to affordable housing.

SECTION 8 AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Included in the bill is \$26.3 billion for Public and Indian Housing. This is an increase of \$6.2 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$1.2 billion below the requested level. This funding will provide for continued assistance to all families and indi-

viduals currently served by this program. The bill also fully funds the President's request for veterans' housing vouchers at \$75 million.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The bill contains \$6.2 billion for Community Planning and Development programs—a reduction of \$383 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level.

The Community Development Block Grant formula program is funded at \$3 billion—effectively equal to last year's level.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program is funded at \$700 million, a reduction of \$300 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level.

Homeless assistance grants are funded at \$2.1 billion—the same as the previous year's level—which is sufficient for all current grants to be continued.

My thanks to the House Rules Committee for making my amendment in order under the rule for H.R. 4681, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

The Jackson Lee Amendment is simple and one that the majority of the House can support.

The Jackson Lee Amendment requires the Director of the Office of National Intelligence to conduct an assessment of the reliance of intelligence activities on contractors to support Government activities, including an assessment of contractors performing intelligence activities, which would include intelligence analysis.

I want to thank the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for including my amendment in an en bloc for consideration during the debate on amendments, which will take place later.

I will speak more on the Jackson Lee Amendment when it comes before the House for consideration under an en bloc amendment to H.R. 4681.

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

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4681.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 604 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4681.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0951

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4681) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, with Mr. POE of Texas in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

The Intelligence Authorization Act is the annual blueprint for the work of the intelligence community and America's military intelligence efforts. The bill sets the priorities for our critical intelligence efforts and the legal framework of guidance and oversight for those efforts.

Since the ranking member and I have assumed the leadership of this committee, we passed three intelligence authorization bills in a bipartisan fashion and hope to continue the tradition and trend with H.R. 4681. Passing a yearly intelligence authorization bill is the primary method by which Congress exerts its budgetary and oversight authority over the intelligence community.

As most of the intelligence budget involves highly classified programs, the bulk of this committee's recommendations each year are found in the classified annex to the bill which have been available for Members to review. Among other initiatives, the bill increases funding to address insider threats and improve personnel security programs.

At an unclassified level, I can report that the annex for fiscal year 2014 authorizes funding that is slightly below the President's budget request level. Its funding levels are in line with the levels appropriated by the enacted appropriations act for the National Intelligence Program and with the National Defense Authorization Act for the Military Intelligence Program.

For fiscal year 2015, the bill increases the President's budget request by less than 1 percent and stays within the Bipartisan Budget Act funding caps. The modest increase reflects the committee's concern that the President's request does not properly fund a number of important initiatives and leaves several unacceptable shortfalls.

The legislative provisions that the committee and Congress consider each year are comprised of changes to statute that better enable the community to conduct its important mission and strengthen oversight mechanisms where needed.

Mr. Chairman, we find ourselves in a very interesting time in history. Al Qaeda has metastasized into dangerous affiliates, safe havens have emerged in Syria, parts of Libya, Yemen, Somalia, and the tribal areas of Pakistan. Al Qaeda is also regaining a foothold in northeast Afghanistan just as the President announced a complete withdrawal of U.S. military forces and the counterterrorism capability that comes with it by the end of 2016.

Uneven leadership in recent years has emboldened adversaries like Russia and China, who are increasing their military and intelligence spending and working to change the international order, as we speak, to the detriment of U.S. interests. Russia occupies 20 percent of the nation of Georgia, invaded and occupied Crimea, threatens invasion of eastern Ukraine. China is bullying its neighbors and expanding claims in the South and East China Seas through which 40 percent of world trade travels.

At the same time, North Korea continues its belligerent behavior, and Iran is maneuvering to preserve its capability to develop a nuclear weapon. A nuclear Iran would threaten Israel with annihilation and send the Middle East into a dangerous nuclear arms race.

We rightly demand that our intelligence agencies provide policymakers with the best and most timely information possible on all these and other threats. We ask them to track terrorists wherever they train, plan, fundraise. We ask them to stop devastating cyber attacks that are stealing American prosperity and American jobs. We ask them to track nuclear and missile threats. And we demand that they get it right every time. Now we are asking them do it with fewer resources and with what can be described as confusing direction from our Commander in Chief.

The dedication of men and women of the intelligence community who volunteer to serve in some of the most difficult places on Earth are some of the finest patriots I have ever had the privilege to meet. And within budget constraints and unclear policy guidance from the White House, this bill ensures that they have resources and authorities necessary to keep our Nation and our people safe and accomplish their mission.

As this is the last authorization act I will advance as chairman of the Intelligence Committee, I want to publicly thank my ranking member, my friend, DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER. I can't tell what you a privilege it has been to have a partner like DUTCH in working

through some very difficult issues at a very difficult time in our Nation's history.

National security policy should not be partisan, and we have done everything in our power to ensure that this committee at least takes as non-partisan a view of national security as is humanly possible. It is an honor to work with someone who is also interested in governing and in making progress on an issue so important to our Nation's future.

I would like to thank the Chair and urge Member support of H.R. 4681, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Chairman ROGERS, I thank you for your comments. I also have the same comments for you.

When we took the leadership of this committee, we knew that the stakes were so high and that we had to work together on behalf of the people of the United States of America. We came together with Republicans, Democrats, liberals, conservatives, moderates, all realizing that we had to come together. Because of your leadership, because of your focus, we have been able to pass FISA, and hopefully we will be able to pass these bills today.

We are going to miss you, but you will always be there as my friend, and I will always respect you as a great American who cares about the United States. Thank you.

Now, we need to pass this Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 to ensure rigorous oversight and accountability over all U.S. intelligence agencies and all U.S. intelligence activities. This is so important.

We cannot go back to the days when we give the intelligence agencies a blank check to spend as they see fit. We must have oversight. Remember, Congress specifically amended the National Security Act of 1947 to replace blanket intelligence appropriations with specific authorization.

Why did we do this? To ensure that our intelligence agencies spend money only on programs of which Congress is informed and approves. So today we need to make sure we maintain this means of critical oversight by passing the bill.

The Intelligence Authorization Act for 2014 and 2015 is in four parts: the unclassified legislative text; the unclassified report; the classified annex, which explains our intent for the classified aspects of the bill; and the classified schedule of authorizations for both fiscal years. We have been encouraging all Members to review all parts of the bill, and I am pleased to say that they have come to the Intelligence Committee's SCIF, classified spaces, to do so.

The budget for fiscal year 2014 is slightly below the President's budget

request, while the budget for fiscal year 2015 is less than 1 percent above the President's budget request.

□ 1000

We both, we made cuts to certain areas and added money in other areas in a responsible, well thought-out way, and a fiscally prudent way.

Since Chairman ROGERS and I assumed leadership of the committee, we reduced the Intelligence Committee's budget by 20 percent, but this year's bill acknowledges the need to right the ship after the storm of sequestration.

The bill sets the priorities of our intelligence professionals and their agencies, and it allocates resources to critical national security programs, including those that detect, prevent, and disrupt potential terrorist attacks.

Let me also mention some specifics. The bill continues to emphasize the value of our satellites; scales back the intelligence community's use of contractors; pushes for further improvements in the continuous evaluation of insider threats; provides critical forward-looking funding for Navy airborne intelligence surveillance reconnaissance to maintain military intelligence capabilities during the transition to newer, more capable aircraft; and invests in both the recruitment and retention of the best and the brightest for our cyber workforce, particularly within the FBI. Our younger generation, we must educate them and have them work in this area.

We have spent months poring over this bill and its specific authorizations in great detail—in our committee spaces, at the agencies, and in the remotest corners of the Earth where our intelligence professionals operate—and then I can say this is a very good bill, and I am proud to support it.

Many of the amendments on the floor today also promise to make a great bill even better.

For the sake of keeping the country and its allies safe, and for the sake of rigorously overseeing even the most classified intelligence programs, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTEMBERG).

Mr. PITTEMBERG. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman ROGERS for this opportunity to speak. I just really want to commend you for your exceptional leadership as a Member of this body and for your service on behalf of the security of our Nation.

Over the past year, it has really been a privilege to get to know you and work with you on several initiatives. I am just grateful for the way that you handle the people's business, look forward to working with you more, and also congratulate you on your future endeavors.

The legislation before us today provides the intelligence community the authorization needed to protect and defend the United States and supports critical national security programs, such as those protecting Americans against terrorism and cyber attacks.

As Members of Congress, we took an oath to the Constitution, which sets forth our duty to provide for the defense of the United States.

Passing the yearly Intelligence Authorization Act is a critical component of living up to our constitutional obligations, ensuring America's intelligence agencies have the resources necessary to keep Americans safe.

Passing the intelligence authorization is also vital to our important responsibility of providing oversight to the current administration.

This legislation ensures Congress, and not the executive branch, is controlling how taxpayer money is being spent on intelligence activities and doing so in the most efficient and effective way possible.

We must remember that we have not defeated the threat of terrorism. The terrorists we face today are not a backyard gang; they are sophisticated and have access to the most modern of technologies.

Over the last 2 years, we have seen the number of worldwide deaths from terrorism attacks double from 10,000 in 2012 to 20,000 in 2013.

The fact that we in America are able to sleep soundly at night is a credit to the men and women who serve our country selflessly. We must continue to provide these brave men and women every tool possible as they continue to provide for our safety.

That is why I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, my good friend and a member of our committee, who has been very thoughtful and has allowed us to do the things that we needed to do.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

I want to begin by saying that I really appreciate the way in which our committee operates and has come to present this authorization bill to the floor, but I do want to raise some concerns.

One of the most controversial issues surrounding our national security is the use of the drone program. A number of us tried to introduce some amendments that would be considered on the floor of the House so that we, along with the American people, could have a conversation about that. These amendments were not made in order. And I want to express what my amendment would have done.

It would have prohibited elements of the intelligence community from en-

gaging in so-called signature strikes. That is, lethal strikes in which the target is not specifically identified but whose so-called pattern of life fits the profile, or signature, of a terrorist.

In these situations, we don't know the identity of the target. Instead, we draw conclusions from surveillance about whether someone is affiliated with a terrorist organization, or engaged in terrorist conduct. The stakes are high, and inevitably mistakes will be made. There are reports from human rights organizations in past years that we have already made several grave errors, and innocent lives have been lost as a result.

We need to recognize that each mistake we make in these situations killing innocent people spawns more numerous and more determined adversaries, undermining our mission there in the first place.

How we are perceived abroad matters. Even if some of the strikes reported as mistakes are not mistaken, the fact is that the rest of the world perceives our activities as killing innocent civilians and painting all adult male Muslims in these regions as our enemies.

I understand the targeted use, but I think that we cannot kill our way out of this problem and our way to victory.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to thank the gentlelady from Illinois for her strong and passionate position that she takes on some of the counterterrorism strategy issues that are very well debated and certainly well discussed and well overseen in the spaces where appropriate and under the appropriate form and function to do that because they are significant. There is no aspect of that counterterrorism strategy that isn't reviewed both in policy leading up to the daily and monthly counterstrategy meetings that happen in the appropriate agencies and departments and as a part of regular oversight of these particular programs.

But I do think it is important to understand something: that all of the focus seems to be on the type of a weapon system that we have used or decided to use or may be using to fight what is a large and growing threat to the United States of America.

I think it was interesting that in the Boko Haram case of the 300 girls, it caught the world's attention, that you could have a group that would be so diabolical that they would kidnap 300 girls and sell them into slavery or force them into marriage and do other unspeakable things. Yes, that is right, that is who these groups are. This is the same group that has threatened the United States of America with terrorist attacks. It is an al Qaeda affiliate. We have watched them cut off the heads of other human beings for the

purposes of intimidation, we have watched them cut off hands, we have watched them shoot little girls who get on buses to try to go and get an education.

We need to understand what threat faces the United States of America. Because our intelligence services have been so good and so aggressive, we haven't had an attack here in the same 9/11 fashion—and some of that, by the way, was just sheer luck preparing for the opportunity to catch them.

We need to step back and make sure we are understanding what we are trying to accomplish here and how we try to accomplish it. I think disparaging the very men and women who I know spent hours and months and years in preparation for any counterterrorism strategy that we engage in, and do it in a way that is so responsible—I think Americans would be so proud if they had the opportunity to sit down and talk with these people about how they get to where they are.

But I will tell you, aspects of that counterterrorism strategy—some have been referenced—are the most impactful, disruptive activity we have been able to do to stop attacks against the United States and our allies overseas.

So I just again caution in this vacuum of safety and relative security that so many have given us, we should be cautious about what we are asking changes to do—and what that would mean for exposure of, say, U.S. pilots or U.S. Special Forces—that we have not had to do for some length of time and still accomplish the mission. By the way, I can clearly say that any reference to some mass civilian casualties or collateral damage is absolutely false, it is false, it is a false narrative for those who seek to stop an effort that we know, in fact, is degrading the ability for attacks against the United States.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California, Mr. ADAM SCHIFF, a valued member of our Intelligence Committee, who has worked closely with me and our committee on very important issues.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

This bill provides the resources and support the intelligence community needs to accomplish their mission while enhancing oversight in several important respects. I want to commend the bipartisan leadership of Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER on this bill. I congratulate them on, again, advancing an Intelligence Authorization Act. I also want to acknowledge my colleague from Nevada, Dr. HECK, for his work with me

on the Technical and Tactical Subcommittee. Chairman HECK did a fabulous job supporting investments in technology and capacity that will pay dividends in years to come.

In addition to funding our intelligence priority, the bill includes important new provisions to improve greater oversight of the NSA and other IC elements. It creates an independent inspector general within the NSA who will be fully empowered to investigate abuse, waste, and fraud. The bill also requires an annual report to the Intelligence Committees on violations of law and executive order, including Executive Order 12333. This provision fixes a blind spot under current law and improves the Intelligence Committee's capacity for oversight.

While I support the bill, I was disappointed that an amendment I proposed with my colleague WALTER JONES was not made in order. This amendment would have required an annual public report on the total number of civilian and combatant casualties caused by drone strikes. By publicly reporting on the use of drones, we would provide additional accountability and transparency, helping to ensure the legitimacy of the actions that we take overseas. The report would also provide a counterpoint to the inflated estimates of civilian casualties frequently seen in the news, in part due to active efforts of our enemies to mislead.

I plan to continue working with my colleagues on the committee to provide greater transparency, but this is a very simple method of doing so. In sum, it would simply require that there be an annual accounting of how many combatants are killed and how many non-combatants are killed. It would also have required that the administration or the DNI define those terms so we understand who is being defined as a combatant or noncombatant.

The President has set a high standard for the use of drones, that they not be used unless there is a near certainty there will be no civilian casualties. This is a way of holding us accountable to meet that very high standard. It is also, I think, all the more important when we consider that, while we may be the first Nation to use drones in this capacity, we will not be the last, and the standard that we set or fail to set will be one that may be emulated by others around the world.

I support this bill. I wish we had the opportunity on the floor to vote on this amendment, but I look forward to working with the committee in the years that follow to incorporate this provision and others to improve transparency and accountability.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY), a great Member of Congress.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and ranking member for their hard work on this important legislation.

Every day, America faces threats to our national security. Some threats are evolving, like cyber attacks on our infrastructure. Some are emerging, like the radicals of Boko Haram. And some are right in front of us demanding direct action.

Because we face a diverse array of threats, our security depends on an intelligence community that is equally diverse. In a 2011 address to Morehouse College, CIA Director Leon Panetta stated that we need an intelligence community with a workforce that reflects the world it engages.

□ 1015

My amendment helps the intelligence community meet its strategic diversity goals by providing grants to predominantly black institutions that educate future generations of intelligence experts through advanced language training, study abroad, and cultural immersion programs.

To remain globally secure, we must have human assets on the ground who can blend in easily abroad, especially in Africa and the Middle East. Overcoming cultural, language, and educational barriers is critical to achieving this goal. I ask that my colleagues support this commonsense amendment.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, a great Member of Congress.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the ranking member for yielding and, as well, the chairperson, and let me collectively add my appreciation for the two leaders of this committee. They have committed themselves, without question, to the security of this Nation. I thank them for their collaboration.

Mr. ROGERS, I thank you for the work that you have done for the Nation and, certainly, for the commitment that you have made to the very important business of this committee.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, let me thank you for your friendship as well and for the continued collaboration on an issue of great concern to me, but I will speak generally about this legislation and will, again, acknowledge some of the issues that you have looked at and considered and have even included in this legislation as it comes forward.

Mr. Chairman, I agree that detecting and disrupting and preventing a national security crisis is of paramount responsibility for this committee and many others, including the committee that I serve on, the Committee on Homeland Security. For that reason, I have interfaced with this committee on a number of issues.

I am very glad to note, in particular, that the issue of dealing with the expansive use that has been used, which I will talk about in the en bloc amendment, is clearly something that we should have considered, and in this bill, it did.

It got its hand around the enormous use of outside contractors in the intelligence business, and it emphasized recruitment and training. That is positive. There are young, bright persons who I know are willing to serve their country, and this legislation has committed itself to doing that.

Now, particularly with this legislation, I also want to appreciate the collaboration between the Judiciary Committee and this committee on the USA FREEDOM Act, and I want to say to America that we have corralled the megadata collection. We have done it in a bipartisan manner, and we will do more and do better.

So it is with appreciation for this legislation and in thanking the committee for working with my staff on my amendment that I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Chair, I rise to speak on H.R. 4681, the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014.

I want to thank the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for including my amendment in an en bloc.

My amendment to H.R. 4681 is simple and will be an important addition to the legislation, which I believe can be supported by every member of this Committee.

My amendment seeks greater transparency to Congress on the people who the Nation relies upon to perform certain types of work required of the Intelligence Community.

The Jackson Lee amendment requires the Director of the Office of National Intelligence to conduct an assessment of the reliance of intelligence activities on contractors to support Government objectives, including an assessment of contractors performing intelligence activities, which would include intelligence analysis.

The amendment would seek information on the skills necessary to perform intelligence related work and whether Federal employees had these skills. The amendment would also seek statistics on contractors performing intelligence related work for agencies under the purview of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Something is very wrong when the process for screening and vetting government contractors does not identify someone who would have access to—as well as the ability to collect and remove sensitive information from government computers and publicly disclose that information.

If each person working in an intelligence role within the government decided to act on their own thoughts for their own purposes on whether they would or would not keep their oath to defend and protect our Nation's secrets then there would be chaos.

Our Nation suffers harm in ways we can see, as well as ways that we cannot see when unauthorized disclosures regarding intelligence resources occur.

It harms our ability to work with other nations who rely on our ability to keep secret the information they share with our Nation's intelligence agencies.

If our global assets and allies cease to trust our ability to keep their work with our intelligence, national defense or diplomatic agencies secret then they will not cooperate with us in our efforts to defend our Nation and our interest around the world.

Reckless disclosures make us vulnerable to our Nation's enemies who could make changes to how they hide information because the disclosure of national secrets reveals means and methods.

The world is a dangerous place—we have seen within the last 18 months—a bombing during the Boston Marathon, the rise in sectarian violence in Syria that included incidents involving the use of nerve gas; and Boko Haram which kidnapped nearly 300 girls from their school in northern Nigeria.

According to the United States Department of State Country Report on Terrorism 2013, published in April of this year indicates that there are 53 Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs).

Designation of FTOs is important to our Nation's fight against terrorism and is effective in cutting off support for those groups so designated.

In 2013, Ansar al-Dine, Boko Haram, and Jama'atu Ansarul Muslimina Bi Biladis-Sudan were added to the list of FTOs.

FTOs are legally defined under Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which states the group must be: a foreign organization; engage in terrorist activity or retain the capacity and intent to engage in terrorist activity or terrorism; and participating in terrorist activity or terrorism that threatens the security of the United States or its citizens.

United States' National security encompasses national defense, foreign relations, or economic interest.

The unauthorized intelligence disclosures last year impacted U.S. national security.

The intelligence breach came as a result of a government contractor making public sensitive information is still resonating both internationally and within the United States, where an important debate on privacy and civil liberties is still ongoing.

But also around the world the consequences of the unauthorized release of international activity by intelligence agencies is still playing out.

The timing of the release of information on the non-U.S. activity of our intelligence agencies caused tremendous tension in our relations with allies at a time when the United States was working to form a global response to the use of chemical weapons against civilians in Syria.

In addition to frustrating our efforts to form a strong global response to the use of chemical weapons in Syria it also caused economic harm to U.S. companies internationally.

Congress is not able to fully investigate the circumstances that resulted in last year's intelligence breach because the person with many of the answers to questions many of us have is now living in Russia.

However, we can look prospectively on how the work of the Intelligence Community under

the direction of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence should fill positions that require security clearances.

The intelligence work by contractors and Federal employees is critical to the protection of the United States and our interest both domestically and around the world. We should approach the work of the intelligence community as we do when considering the work of the Department of Defense.

The work that our Intelligence professionals perform is critical, and a defense in depth approach is necessary to assure that no matter the challenge or the circumstances there will be well trained professionals in place to do what must be done to defend and protect the nation.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence 2013 Report on Security Clearance Determinations provides information on the number of persons with security clearance levels of Confidential, Secret, or Top Secret and had access to classified information as well as those who were favorably adjudicated but did not have access to classified information.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Special Security Directorate (SSD) of the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive for compiling and processing the data for this report.

The 2013 Report on Security Clearance Determinations states that by October 1, 2013, the Nation had 3,738,026 Federal agency employees working for the: Office of the Director of National Intelligence Scattered Castles; Department of Defense; Joint Personnel Adjudication System; Office of Personnel Management; and Central Verification System (CVS).

In addition to surveying these agencies a special data call was made to the seven intelligence community agencies with delegated authority to conduct investigations or adjudications to fulfill specific reporting requirements directed by the fiscal year 2010 Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. These agencies were the: Central Intelligence Agency; Defense Intelligence Agency; Federal Bureau of Investigation; National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; National Reconnaissance Office; National Security Agency; and Department of State.

In 2013, the total number of persons with a Confidential, Secret or Top Secret security clearance totaled 5,150,379 individuals—of this number 3,738,026 were government agency personnel, 1,056,309 were contractors and 356,044 were categorized as other.

Between January and October 1, 2013 there were 777,168 security clearances approved—152,490 were government agency employees and 131,209 were contractors with an additional 12,785 designated as other.

Congress must have the ability to make decisions regarding how intelligence agencies fill positions that require security clearances because it has implications for the appropriations process.

The Information Security Oversight Office of the National Archives 2012 Report to the President focuses on the classification practices of intelligence agencies.

The report addresses the power of "original classification authorities" also called "original classifiers," which are individuals designated with Top Secret original classification authority to classify information.

Only original classifiers are authorized to determine what information, if disclosed without authorization, would be expected to cause damage to national security.

The original classification authority process comes before all other aspects of the security classification system. In 2004, the total number of original classifications was 351,150 and in 2012 the number was 74,477.

The cost of government security classification in 2005 was \$7.66 billion and in 2011 the total was \$11.36 billion.

The amount expended in 2011 included: 5.65 billion for protection maintenance; 1.53 billion for security management oversight and planning; 502.51 million for professional education, training and awareness; 352.4 million for classification management; and 52.76 million for declassification.

These costs cited are not all encompassing, but were generated by 41 executive branch agencies including the Department of Defense.

The funds expended do not include activity by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, Office of the Director for National Intelligence, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the National Security Agency.

The focus on training is critical in the work of the Intelligence Community and it is important that this is a high priority for the agencies represented in the National Archive report.

The work by the Intelligence Community to address classification in an evenhanded way can help create and maintain a firm basis for classification of information that is sustainable can go a long way in addressing questions regarding what secrets are critical to our nation's national security and what the public has a right to know.

I thank my colleagues on the Intelligence Committee for their hard work in bringing this bill before the full House for consideration. I ask that members of the Congress vote in favor of this bipartisan en bloc amendment to H.R. 4681.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 17 minutes remaining.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont, Mr. PETER WELCH, my good friend and a great Member of Congress.

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentleman. I thank you for your good work.

Mr. ROGERS, I thank you for your good work, and we are going to miss you. Your leadership on the Intel Committee has been of great benefit to this institution. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I have been working with a number of my colleagues, particularly with CYNTHIA LUMMIS of Wyoming, on a question that we think is quite important to the security status of our country, and that is more transparency in the budget.

This is debated because, by definition, if it is intelligence activity, it is "secret," but on the other hand, the whole point of having transparency in budgets is so the rules of accountability apply across the board. We have 16 different intelligence-gathering agencies, and in all cases, the topline budget is absolutely secret.

The 9/11 Commission that was a bipartisan commission of respected national security credentialed people—Lee Hamilton and the Governor of New Jersey, Governor Kean—recommended that this topline number in the intelligence agency budgets be transparent.

Why? So that there is a basis for taxpayers and for all of us to start to evaluate whether we are getting our money's worth, whether there is duplication in efforts, whether one agency is stumbling into another, whether there is coordination, whether there is cooperation.

The same reasons that we would have the food stamp budget subject to rigid review and accountability applies as well to our security. In fact, it is enormously important that this country be getting its money's worth.

The principle of transparency would not in any way compromise, in the view of many respected intelligence leaders like Lee Hamilton, the intelligence gathering and the effort and responsibility to keep us secure.

So I was disappointed that we were not allowed to have an amendment on that bill, but I do appreciate the willingness of the ranking member to work with me and also of the chairman to listen to many of us in this body who would like that opportunity to make the case that Lee Hamilton made for transparency.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

I thank the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for his diligent work in the area of transparency on behalf of the American people.

As we have seen in this last year, trust in the intelligence community by the citizens it serves is incredibly important.

As the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, we take seriously the responsibility to provide to the public as much information as possible while protecting sensitive sources and methods.

When classification permits, the budget of the intelligence community has been released. In other cases, the American people rely on our committee and on all of their Representatives, like Representative WELCH, to review the budget of the intelligence community on their behalf.

I look forward to working with Representative WELCH to continue to find

ways to increase the trust of the American people in the intelligence community as it relates to transparency.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

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

For the sake of rigorous oversight and accountability over all U.S. intelligence agencies and all U.S. intelligence activities, I urge my colleagues to vote for this important, bipartisan bill. I also urge my colleagues to support this bill for the sake of our brave intelligence professionals, who, like our military, work day and night, often in the most austere of places, to keep us safe and our allies safe; and for the sake of all of us—not just in America, but around the world—who benefit from the work of our intelligence agencies, I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill. It is a solid bill that we should be proud to support.

Finally, once again, Mr. Chairman, let me thank you for your leadership, our relationship, and your commitment to the people of the United States of America. You served in the military, and you served in the FBI. We are going to miss you.

Thank you also to every member on the Intelligence Committee. We have had many debates, many hard negotiations, and many tough struggles, but at all times, whether or not one member or another agreed or disagreed, we respected the fact that another member had another point of view, and then we resolved those issues.

Each of us has worked even harder to find common ground on behalf of the American people to protect us from terrorist attacks and other issues that are out there that relate to national security.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank the ranking member for his work.

Let the American public understand what happens. There are so many aspersions thrown at the members who serve on the Intelligence and on other committees who must do their work in secret, and certainly, the staff fights through and works through all of these difficult issues.

There is plenty of oversight happening. It might not be on the front page of the newspaper. We call that "disaster day" in the business of trying to protect American secrets.

When the ranking member and I first took over the committee, we re-instituted all of the regular oversight patterns: counterintelligence matters, covert action matters, regular counterterrorism strategy updates, and reviews.

Again, every piece of that strategy that is implemented is reviewed by the committee, and it is certainly read and reviewed by me, personally, and, I know, by others on the committee as well.

There is a tremendous amount of effort and energy applied to trying to get this right, to making sure that two things happen—one, that they are comporting with the law. They want to do that despite what you might read in the newspaper. They want to do that.

They, too, have taken an oath to the Constitution of the United States of America, and they believe that following the law is the right way to do it. They want Congress' support for what they are doing, and they want the American people's support for what they are doing—because it is so difficult and so hard to come to the right conclusions in a very murky and dangerous world—so that oversight does happen. It happens regularly.

I want to thank all of the members of both parties for rigorous debate behind those closed doors. There is no lovefest when those doors close and a "let's just do what we have to do to get to tomorrow."

The debates are real and vigorous, and we have different philosophies on how we move forward on some of these intelligence matters and collection matters and on how we balance privacy and civil liberties and security. All of that happens.

Sometimes, we find members who just don't agree, but what we do in that space is understand and try to get and make sure that we have all of the resources and all of the policies and all of the authorities our intelligence services need to be impactful to save the United States and to, yes, maybe even save 300 girls or to, yes, maybe even allow for girls in a place like Afghanistan to get an education. That part needs to be right, too.

Nuclear proliferation—we have a cyber world that is the single largest national security threat to this country that we are not prepared to handle, and there are a lot of sidebar discussions that have nothing to do with the fact that nation-states are stealing our intellectual property—nation-states like China.

You have, according to public reports, countries like Iran that are probing financial institutions right here in the United States and are trying to do destructive attacks.

According to public reports, North Korea even attacked a bank in South Korea some months ago. You see China rising up in its influence in the South and East China Seas. You see potential conflict between Vietnam, Japan, and China.

These are serious, serious matters. Because they are so far away, I think sometimes we forget, and we come to talk about things that are important—

in how we move forward in the intelligence business and how we empower them to do the work of the United States.

At the same time, this recent year of, I think, aspersion to the men and women who serve in these capacities is disheartening. This isn't a new thing. George Washington used the intelligence business to try to win the war against the British.

Ben Franklin is credited with the first covert action programs by trying to influence British and Tory opinion during the first years of the war. John Jay created the first counterintelligence unit to try to fight back against what the British were doing in spying against the Americans.

Jefferson and Madison had secret funds that they took, by the way, which we would no longer approve or support today—secret funds—in order to do covert action-type activities in the earliest days of the founding of our Nation.

We need to stop for a minute and think about what is at stake. I think the future and safety and security of the United States is at stake, and we have somehow, over the last year, decided that our intelligence services are the problem.

No. I have bad news. Actually, I have good news: they are part of the solution. If you don't want troops engaged in many countries, then you want to support your intelligence services, and you want them to be the best in the world.

If you don't want to have to engage in the withdrawal of certain diplomatic and economic and trade arrangements around the world, then you want the best intelligence services that you can possibly get. Here is the good news: we have them. We just need to stand behind them.

When they come home from doing hard things, when they lose their colleagues—and they do—they are not looking for a ticker tape parade in New York City. They know that is not going to happen.

What they do want to understand is that, when they turn around, the American population and the American citizens are standing with them. Even though Americans can't give them the "attaboy," we can. Those of us who do this work, we can.

So I will tell them, on this floor today, on behalf of a grateful Nation, thank you for your service. Stop reading the newspaper. Keep doing your job. It will mean the difference of lives saved around the world.

We have so many challenges, and I only say this—and I wasn't planning to say this, Mr. Chairman—that someone came on this floor and said: I don't mind the intelligence people, but I don't like their culture.

□ 1030

These are people who are willing to risk their lives for that flag that

stands in the well of this House. They were willing to give their lives for the Constitution they stuck up their hand to support.

Is that the culture we don't like and appreciate anymore in America?

There have been some bumps in the road, but we ought to applaud these people. We ought to sing their praises. We ought to thank them every single day that they are away from their families, in dangerous places, and risking their lives to collect that one piece of information that maybe saves the girls of Boko Haram or maybe saves the girls who get on their bus today in the United States of America.

I hope we shake ourselves out of this notion that we can just continue to beat them and disparage them and call them everything but great patriots and expect them to get up every day and do the job that they need to do to protect this country.

This bill, I think, actually does that. We give them clear guidance. We invest in technology that we need to make sure that we keep up with our adversaries around the world who, by the way, are trying to beat us and take advantage of us—places like space, places like cyber, places like HUMINT intelligence, and what they believe is a perceived weakness to deal with a rising tide of terrorists who want to kill Americans here at home.

This is an important bill because it is bipartisan. A lot of these issues that are talked about have been fought in the bowels of this House, basically. And we worked through it and we have come to an agreement that this is the right direction, in a bipartisan way, that will serve to protect the United States.

So, Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to strongly support this bill. Give them the tools, give Congress the oversight, and give America the ability to sleep well at night, knowing that very brave men and women will do the work that so many would not be interested in doing.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4681, the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015".

As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I understand the importance of this legislation. H.R. 4681 enhances the national security of the United States and is a vital tool for Congressional oversight of the activities of the Intelligence Community. It is critical that our intelligence agencies have all of the resources and authorities they need to accomplish the important responsibility of keeping Americans safe. I commend Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER for their tireless work on these issues and the exhaustive process of drafting a bipartisan authorization.

H.R. 4681 authorizes Federal intelligence, intelligence-related, and information sharing activities, including those of the Department of

Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A). I&A is an element of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as well as the Intelligence Community, and its activities support missions in both. As such, I&A occupies the unique role as a central conduit for analysis and information sharing among stakeholders which include the intelligence agencies, components of the DHS, other Federal partners, and State, local, tribal, and territorial entities. In this role, I&A supports and collaborates with State and local partners through the National Network of Fusion Centers, and provides analytic support to the DHS components.

Consistent with our jurisdiction, the Committee on Homeland Security has conducted extensive oversight over these programs and missions, to include the July 2013 release of a report on "The National Network of Fusion Centers."

While I support the overall purpose of the bill, I am concerned that the effort includes provisions that seek to limit the support I&A provides DHS, its component agencies, and to the 78 fusion centers around the nation. I believe this risks depriving the Homeland Security Enterprise of valuable information and expertise at a time when we know the threats to the homeland persist.

As the bill moves through the process and negotiations begin with the Senate, I will continue to work to ensure that these issues are addressed and that State and local law enforcement, and other first responders, receive the support they need from the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Under Section 307 of this Act, the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community, along with the respective Chief Information Officers of each element that comprise the IC, are required to conduct an inventory of all existing software licenses—both used and unused—and then assess the actions that could be carried out to achieve the greatest possible economies of scale and cost-savings in software procurement and usage.

My commonsense amendment simply ensures that when those assessments are carried out, the CIOs will examine leading software license management practices.

By adopting Connolly #12, Congress will ensure that when the IC examines potential actions to enhance software license management and save taxpayer dollars, four leading practices will be included in the analysis.

The management practices contained in my amendment are derived from a recent report issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office on May 22, 2014, entitled, "Federal Software Licenses: Better Management Needed to Achieve Significant Savings Government-Wide."

GAO consulted with software license management experts from the public and private sectors, prior to concluding that Federal agencies are generally not following best practices that could achieve significant cost-savings.

These best practices include increasing the centralization of the management of software licenses; increasing the regular tracking and maintaining of comprehensive inventories of

software licenses using automated discovery and inventory tools and metrics; analyzing software license data to inform investment decisions; and providing appropriate personnel with sufficient software licenses management training.

I urge all my colleagues to support my straightforward amendment that will enhance the IC's ability to spend taxpayer dollars in the most effective and efficient manner possible when procuring and managing software licenses.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-45. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H. R. 4681

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015".

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

- Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 102. Classified Schedule of Authorizations.
- Sec. 103. Personnel ceiling adjustments.
- Sec. 104. Intelligence Community Management Account.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

- Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—General Matters

- Sec. 301. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law.
- Sec. 302. Restriction on conduct of intelligence activities.
- Sec. 303. Specific authorization of funding for High Performance Computing Center 2.
- Sec. 304. Clarification of exemption from Freedom of Information Act of identities of employees submitting complaints to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.
- Sec. 305. Functional managers for the intelligence community.
- Sec. 306. Annual assessment of intelligence community performance by function.
- Sec. 307. Software licensing.
- Sec. 308. Plans to respond to unauthorized public disclosures of covert actions.
- Sec. 309. Auditability.
- Sec. 310. Public Interest Declassification Board.
- Sec. 311. Official representation items in support of the Coast Guard Attaché Program.

Sec. 312. Declassification review of certain items collected during the mission that killed Osama bin Laden on May 1, 2011.

Sec. 313. Merger of the Foreign Counterintelligence Program and the General Defense Intelligence Program.
Subtitle B—Reporting

- Sec. 321. Annual report on violations of law or executive order.
- Sec. 322. Submittal to Congress by heads of elements of intelligence community of plans for orderly shutdown in event of absence of appropriations.
- Sec. 323. Reports on chemical weapons in Syria.
- Sec. 324. Reports to the intelligence community on penetrations of networks and information systems of certain contractors.
- Sec. 325. Report on electronic waste.
- Sec. 326. Promoting STEM education to meet the future workforce needs of the intelligence community.
- Sec. 327. Assessment of security of domestic oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure.
- Sec. 328. Repeal or modification of certain reporting requirements.

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

- Sec. 401. Gifts, devises, and bequests to the Central Intelligence Agency.
 - Sec. 402. Inspector General of the National Security Agency.
- TITLE V—SECURITY CLEARANCE REFORM**
- Sec. 501. Continuous evaluation and sharing of derogatory information regarding personnel with access to classified information.
 - Sec. 502. Requirements for intelligence community contractors.
 - Sec. 503. Technology improvements to security clearance processing.
 - Sec. 504. Report on reciprocity of security clearances.
 - Sec. 505. Improving the periodic reinvestigation process.
 - Sec. 506. Appropriate committees of Congress defined.

TITLE VI—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 601. Technical amendments to the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949.
- Sec. 602. Technical amendments to the National Security Act of 1947 relating to the past elimination of certain positions.
- Sec. 603. Technical amendments to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (1) **CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.**—The term "congressional intelligence committees" means—
(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and
(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.
- (2) **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.**—The term "intelligence community" has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for the conduct of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the following elements of the United States Government:

- (1) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

- (2) The Central Intelligence Agency.
- (3) The Department of Defense.
- (4) The Defense Intelligence Agency.
- (5) The National Security Agency.
- (6) The Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force.
- (7) The Coast Guard.
- (8) The Department of State.
- (9) The Department of the Treasury.
- (10) The Department of Energy.
- (11) The Department of Justice.
- (12) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- (13) The Drug Enforcement Administration.
- (14) The National Reconnaissance Office.
- (15) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

(16) The Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 102. CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SPECIFICATIONS OF AMOUNTS AND PERSONNEL LEVELS.—

(1) FISCAL YEAR 2014.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 101 and, subject to section 103, the authorized personnel ceilings as of September 30, 2014, for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the elements listed in paragraphs (1) through (16) of section 101, are those specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations for fiscal year 2014 prepared to accompany the bill H.R. 4681 of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress.

(2) FISCAL YEAR 2015.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 101 and, subject to section 103, the authorized personnel ceilings as of September 30, 2015, for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the elements listed in paragraphs (1) through (16) of section 101, are those specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations for fiscal year 2015 prepared to accompany the bill H.R. 4681 of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AVAILABILITY.—The classified Schedules of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a) shall be made available to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the President.

(2) DISTRIBUTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), the President shall provide for suitable distribution of the classified Schedules of Authorizations, or of appropriate portions of the Schedules, within the executive branch.

(3) LIMITS ON DISCLOSURE.—The President shall not publicly disclose the classified Schedules of Authorizations or any portion of such Schedules except—

(A) as provided in section 601(a) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (50 U.S.C. 3306(a));

(B) to the extent necessary to implement the budget; or

(C) as otherwise required by law.

SEC. 103. PERSONNEL CEILING ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) AUTHORITY FOR INCREASES.—The Director of National Intelligence may authorize employment of civilian personnel in excess of the number authorized for fiscal year 2014 or 2015 by the classified Schedules of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) if the Director of National Intelligence determines that such action is necessary to the performance of important intelligence functions, except that the number of personnel employed in excess of the number authorized under such section may not, for any element of the intelligence community, exceed 3 percent of the number of civilian personnel authorized under the Schedule for such element during the fiscal year covered by such Schedule.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL.—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish guidelines that govern, for each element of the

intelligence community, the treatment under the personnel levels authorized under section 102(a), including any exemption from such personnel levels, of employment or assignment in—

(1) a student program, trainee program, or similar program;

(2) a reserve corps or as a reemployed annuitant; or

(3) details, joint duty, or long term, full-time training.

(c) NOTICE TO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The Director of National Intelligence shall notify the congressional intelligence committees in writing at least 15 days prior to each exercise of an authority described in subsection (a).

SEC. 104. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) FISCAL YEAR 2014.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence for fiscal year 2014 the sum of \$528,229,000. Within such amount, funds identified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2015.

(2) FISCAL YEAR 2015.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence for fiscal year 2015 the sum of \$505,476,000. Within such amount, funds identified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

(b) AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL LEVELS.—The elements within the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence are authorized 855 positions as of September 30, 2014, and 777 positions as of September 30, 2015. Personnel serving in such elements may be permanent employees of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence or personnel detailed from other elements of the United States Government.

(c) CLASSIFIED AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(A) FISCAL YEAR 2014.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Community Management Account for fiscal year 2014 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a). Such additional amounts for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2015.

(B) FISCAL YEAR 2015.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Community Management Account for fiscal year 2014 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a). Such additional amounts for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONNEL.—

(A) FISCAL YEAR 2014.—In addition to the personnel authorized by subsection (b) for elements of the Intelligence Community Management Account as of September 30, 2014, there are authorized such additional personnel for the Community Management Account as of that date as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

(B) FISCAL YEAR 2015.—In addition to the personnel authorized by subsection (b) for elements of the Intelligence Community Management Account as of September 30, 2015, there are author-

ized such additional personnel for the Community Management Account as of that date as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund \$514,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—General Matters

SEC. 301. INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Appropriations authorized by this Act for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for Federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in such compensation or benefits authorized by law.

SEC. 302. RESTRICTION ON CONDUCT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

The authorization of appropriations by this Act shall not be deemed to constitute authority for the conduct of any intelligence activity which is not otherwise authorized by the Constitution or the laws of the United States.

SEC. 303. SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING CENTER 2.

Funds appropriated for the construction of the High Performance Computing Center 2 (HPCC 2), as described in the table entitled Consolidated Cryptologic Program (CCP) in the classified annex to accompany the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6; 127 Stat. 198), in excess of the amount specified for such activity in the tables in the classified annex prepared to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-277; 126 Stat. 2468) shall be specifically authorized by Congress for the purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094).

SEC. 304. CLARIFICATION OF EXEMPTION FROM FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF IDENTITIES OF EMPLOYEES SUBMITTING COMPLAINTS TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 103H(g)(3)(A) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(g)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “undertaken;” and inserting “undertaken, and this provision shall qualify as a withholding statute pursuant to subsection (b)(3) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’);”.

SEC. 305. FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS AUTHORIZED.—Title I of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 103I the following new section:

“SEC. 103J. FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

“(a) FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS AUTHORIZED.—The Director of National Intelligence may establish within the intelligence community one or more positions of manager of an intelligence function. Any position so established may be known as the ‘Functional Manager’ of the intelligence function concerned.

“(b) PERSONNEL.—The Director shall designate individuals to serve as manager of intelligence functions established under subsection (a) from among officers and employees of elements of the intelligence community.

“(c) DUTIES.—Each manager of an intelligence function established under subsection (a) shall have the duties as follows:

“(1) To act as principal advisor to the Director on the intelligence function.

“(2) To carry out such other responsibilities with respect to the intelligence function as the Director may specify for purposes of this section.”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 103I the following new item:

“Sec. 103J. Functional managers for the intelligence community.”.

SEC. 306. ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE BY FUNCTION.

(a) ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED.—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 506I the following new section:

“SEC. 506J. ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE BY FUNCTION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with the Functional Managers, submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on covered intelligence functions during the preceding year.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include for each covered intelligence function for the year covered by such report the following:

“(1) An identification of the capabilities, programs, and activities of such intelligence function, regardless of the element of the intelligence community that carried out such capabilities, programs, and activities.

“(2) A description of the investment and allocation of resources for such intelligence function, including an analysis of the allocation of resources within the context of the National Intelligence Strategy, priorities for recipients of resources, and areas of risk.

“(3) A description and assessment of the performance of such intelligence function.

“(4) An identification of any issues related to the application of technical interoperability standards in the capabilities, programs, and activities of such intelligence function.

“(5) An identification of the operational overlap or need for de-confliction, if any, within such intelligence function.

“(6) A description of any efforts to integrate such intelligence function with other intelligence disciplines as part of an integrated intelligence enterprise.

“(7) A description of any efforts to establish consistency in tradecraft and training within such intelligence function.

“(8) A description and assessment of developments in technology that bear on the future of such intelligence function.

“(9) Such other matters relating to such intelligence function as the Director may specify for purposes of this section.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered intelligence functions’ means each intelligence function for which a Functional Manager has been established under section 103J during the year covered by a report under this section.

“(2) The term ‘Functional Manager’ means the manager of an intelligence function established under section 103J.”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 506I the following new item:

“Sec. 506J. Annual assessment of intelligence community performance by function.”.

SEC. 307. SOFTWARE LICENSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 108 the following new section:

“SEC. 109. SOFTWARE LICENSING.

“(a) REQUIREMENT FOR INVENTORIES OF SOFTWARE LICENSES.—The chief information officer of each element of the intelligence community, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community, shall biennially—

“(1) conduct an inventory of all existing software licenses of such element, including utilized and unutilized licenses;

“(2) assess the actions that could be carried out by such element to achieve the greatest possible economies of scale and associated cost savings in software procurement and usage; and

“(3) submit to the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community each inventory required by paragraph (1) and each assessment required by paragraph (2).

“(b) INVENTORIES BY THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community, based on the inventories and assessments required by subsection (a), shall biennially—

“(1) compile an inventory of all existing software licenses of the intelligence community, including utilized and unutilized licenses; and

“(2) assess the actions that could be carried out by the intelligence community to achieve the greatest possible economies of scale and associated cost savings in software procurement and usage.

“(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a copy of each inventory compiled under subsection (b)(1).”.

(b) INITIAL INVENTORY.—

(1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ELEMENTS.—

(A) DATE.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the chief information officer of each element of the intelligence community shall complete the initial inventory, assessment, and submission required under section 109(a) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(B) BASIS.—The initial inventory conducted for each element of the intelligence community under section 109(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall be based on the inventory of software licenses conducted pursuant to section 305 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–277; 126 Stat. 2472) for such element.

(2) CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community shall complete the initial compilation and assessment required under section 109(b) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a).

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended—

(1) by striking the second item relating to section 104 (relating to Annual national security strategy report); and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 108 the following new item:

“Sec. 109. Software licensing.”.

SEC. 308. PLANS TO RESPOND TO UNAUTHORIZED PUBLIC DISCLOSURES OF COVERT ACTIONS.

Section 503 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3093) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) For each type of activity undertaken as part of a covert action, the President shall establish in writing a plan to respond to the unauthorized public disclosure of that type of activity.”.

SEC. 309. AUDITABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 509. AUDITABILITY OF CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

“(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL AUDITS.—The head of each covered entity shall ensure that there is a full financial audit of such covered entity each year beginning with fiscal year 2014. Such audits may be conducted by an internal or external independent accounting or auditing organization.

“(b) REQUIREMENT FOR UNQUALIFIED OPINION.—Beginning as early as practicable, but in no event later than the audit required under subsection (a) for fiscal year 2016, the head of each covered entity shall take all reasonable steps necessary to ensure that each audit required under subsection (a) contains an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of such covered entity for the fiscal year covered by such audit.

“(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The chief financial officer of each covered entity shall provide to the congressional intelligence committees an annual audit report from an accounting or auditing organization on each audit of the covered entity conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

“(d) COVERED ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered entity’ means the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 508 the following new item:

“Sec. 509. Auditability of certain elements of the intelligence community.”.

SEC. 310. PUBLIC INTEREST DECLASSIFICATION BOARD.

Section 710(b) of the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–567; 50 U.S.C. 3161 note) is amended by striking “2014.” and inserting “2018.”.

SEC. 311. OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION ITEMS IN SUPPORT OF THE COAST GUARD ATTACHE PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other limitation on the amount of funds that may be used for official representation items, the Secretary of Homeland Security may use funds made available to the Secretary through the National Intelligence Program for necessary expenses for intelligence analysis and operations coordination activities for official representation items in support of the Coast Guard Attaché Program.

SEC. 312. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW OF CERTAIN ITEMS COLLECTED DURING THE MISSION THAT KILLED OSAMA BIN LADEN ON MAY 1, 2011.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall—

(1) in the manner described in the classified annex to this Act—

(A) complete a declassification review of documents collected in Abbottabad, Pakistan, during the mission that killed Osama bin Laden on May 1, 2011; and

(B) make publicly available any information declassified as a result of the declassification review required under paragraph (1); and

(2) report to the congressional intelligence committees—

(A) the results of the declassification review required under paragraph (1); and

(B) a justification for not declassifying any information required to be included in such declassification review that remains classified.

SEC. 313. MERGER OF THE FOREIGN COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM AND THE GENERAL DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of National Intelligence shall carry out the merger of the Foreign Counterintelligence Program into the General Defense Intelligence Program as directed in the classified annex to this Act. The merger shall go into effect no earlier than 30 days after written notification of the merger is provided to the congressional intelligence committees.

Subtitle B—Reporting

SEC. 321. ANNUAL REPORT ON VIOLATIONS OF LAW OR EXECUTIVE ORDER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.), as amended by section 309, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 510. ANNUAL REPORT ON VIOLATIONS OF LAW OR EXECUTIVE ORDER.

“(a) ANNUAL REPORTS REQUIRED.—The Director of National Intelligence shall annually submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on violations of law or executive order by personnel of an element of the intelligence community that were identified during the previous calendar year.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include a description of, and any action taken in response to, any violation of law or executive order (including Executive Order 12333 (50 U.S.C. 3001 note)) by personnel of an element of the intelligence community in the course of such employment that, during the previous calendar year, was determined by the director, head, general counsel, or inspector general of any element of the intelligence community to have occurred.”.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The first report required under section 510 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a), shall be submitted not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended by section 309 of this Act, is further amended by adding after the section relating to section 509, as added by such section 309, the following new item:

“Sec. 510. Annual report on violations of law or executive order.”.

SEC. 322. SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS BY HEADS OF ELEMENTS OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY OF PLANS FOR ORDERLY SHUTDOWN IN EVENT OF ABSENCE OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the head of an applicable agency submits a plan to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with section 124 of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11, pertaining to agency operations in the absence of appropriations, or any successor circular of the Office that requires the head of an applicable agency to submit to the Director a plan for an orderly shutdown in the event of the absence of appropriations, such head shall submit a copy of such plan to the following:

- (1) The congressional intelligence committees.
- (2) The Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.
- (3) The Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.
- (4) In the case of a plan for an element of the intelligence community that is within the Department of Defense, to—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) HEAD OF AN APPLICABLE AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “head of an applicable agency” includes the following:

- (1) The Director of National Intelligence.
- (2) The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.
- (3) Each head of each element of the intelligence community that is within the Department of Defense.

SEC. 323. REPORTS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SYRIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report on the Syrian chemical weapons program.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

- (1) A comprehensive assessment of chemical weapon stockpiles in Syria, including names, types, and quantities of chemical weapons agents, types of munitions, and location and form of storage, production, and research and development facilities.
- (2) A listing of key personnel associated with the Syrian chemical weapons program.
- (3) An assessment of undeclared chemical weapons stockpiles, munitions, and facilities.
- (4) An assessment of how these stockpiles, precursors, and delivery systems were obtained.
- (5) A description of key intelligence gaps related to the Syrian chemical weapons program.
- (6) An assessment of any denial and deception efforts on the part of the Syrian regime related to its chemical weapons program.

(c) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Every 90 days until the date that is 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a progress report providing any material updates to the report required under subsection (a).

SEC. 324. REPORTS TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ON PENETRATIONS OF NETWORKS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS OF CERTAIN CONTRACTORS.

(a) PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING PENETRATIONS.—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish procedures that require each cleared intelligence contractor to report to an element of the intelligence community designated by the Director for purposes of such procedures when a network or information system of such contractor that meets the criteria established pursuant to subsection (b) is successfully penetrated.

(b) NETWORKS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS SUBJECT TO REPORTING.—The Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with appropriate officials, establish criteria for covered networks to be subject to the procedures for reporting system penetrations under subsection (a).

(c) PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) RAPID REPORTING.—The procedures established pursuant to subsection (a) shall require each cleared intelligence contractor to rapidly report to an element of the intelligence community designated pursuant to subsection (a) of each successful penetration of the network or information systems of such contractor that meet the criteria established pursuant to subsection (b). Each such report shall include the following:

- (A) A description of the technique or method used in such penetration.
- (B) A sample of the malicious software, if discovered and isolated by the contractor, involved in such penetration.
- (C) A summary of information created by or for such element in connection with any pro-

gram of such element that has been potentially compromised due to such penetration.

(2) ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PERSONNEL.—The procedures established pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(A) include mechanisms for intelligence community personnel to, upon request, obtain access to equipment or information of a cleared intelligence contractor necessary to conduct forensic analysis in addition to any analysis conducted by such contractor;

(B) provide that a cleared intelligence contractor is only required to provide access to equipment or information as described in subparagraph (A) to determine whether information created by or for an element of the intelligence community in connection with any intelligence community program was successfully exfiltrated from a network or information system of such contractor and, if so, what information was exfiltrated; and

(C) provide for the reasonable protection of trade secrets, commercial or financial information, and information that can be used to identify a specific person (other than the name of the suspected perpetrator of the penetration).

(3) LIMITATION ON DISSEMINATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—The procedures established pursuant to subsection (a) shall prohibit the dissemination outside the intelligence community of information obtained or derived through such procedures that is not created by or for the intelligence community except—

- (A) with the approval of the contractor providing such information;
- (B) to the congressional intelligence committees or the Subcommittees on Defense of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate to perform oversight; or
- (C) to law enforcement agencies to investigate a penetration reported under this section.

(d) ISSUANCE OF PROCEDURES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CRITERIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall establish the procedures required under subsection (a) and the criteria required under subsection (b).

(2) APPLICABILITY DATE.—The requirements of this section shall apply on the date on which the Director of National Intelligence establishes the procedures required under this section.

(e) COORDINATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO PREVENT DUPLICATE REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall establish procedures to permit a contractor that is a cleared intelligence contractor and a cleared defense contractor under section 941 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 10 U.S.C. 2224 note) to submit a single report that satisfies the requirements of this section and such section 941 for an incident of penetration of network or information system.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLEARED INTELLIGENCE CONTRACTOR.—The term “cleared intelligence contractor” means a private entity granted clearance by the Director of National Intelligence or the head of an element of the intelligence community to access, receive, or store classified information for the purpose of bidding for a contract or conducting activities in support of any program of an element of the intelligence community.

(2) COVERED NETWORK.—The term “covered network” means a network or information system of a cleared intelligence contractor that contains or processes information created by or for an element of the intelligence community

with respect to which such contractor is required to apply enhanced protection.

(g) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or limit any otherwise authorized access by government personnel to networks or information systems owned or operated by a contractor that processes or stores government data.

SEC. 325. REPORT ON ELECTRONIC WASTE.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on the extent to which the intelligence community has implemented the recommendations of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community contained in the report entitled “Study of Intelligence Community Electronic Waste Disposal Practices” issued in May 2013. Such report shall include an assessment of the extent to which the policies, standards, and guidelines of the intelligence community governing the proper disposal of electronic waste are applicable to covered commercial electronic waste that may contain classified information.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED COMMERCIAL ELECTRONIC WASTE.—The term “covered commercial electronic waste” means electronic waste of a commercial entity that contracts with an element of the intelligence community.

(2) ELECTRONIC WASTE.—The term “electronic waste” includes any obsolete, broken, or irreparable electronic device, including a television, copier, facsimile machine, tablet, telephone, computer, computer monitor, laptop, printer, scanner, and associated electrical wiring.

SEC. 326. PROMOTING STEM EDUCATION TO MEET THE FUTURE WORKFORCE NEEDS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the Secretary of Education and the congressional intelligence committees a report describing the anticipated hiring needs of the intelligence community in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including cybersecurity and computer literacy. The report shall—

(1) describe the extent to which competitions, challenges, or internships at elements of the intelligence community that do not involve access to classified information may be utilized to promote education in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including cybersecurity and computer literacy, within high schools or institutions of higher education in the United States;

(2) include cost estimates for carrying out such competitions, challenges, or internships; and

(3) include strategies for conducting expedited security clearance investigations and adjudications for students at institutions of higher education for purposes of offering internships at elements of the intelligence community.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF EXISTING PROGRAMS.—In developing the report under subsection (a), the Director shall take into consideration existing programs of the intelligence community, including the education programs of the National Security Agency and the Information Assurance Scholarship Program of the Department of Defense, as appropriate.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HIGH SCHOOL.—The term “high school” mean a school that awards a secondary school diploma.

(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the

Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(3) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “secondary school” has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

SEC. 327. ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY OF DOMESTIC OIL REFINERIES AND RELATED RAIL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis shall conduct an intelligence assessment of the security of domestic oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure.

(b) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees—

(1) the results of the assessment required under subsection (a); and

(2) any recommendations with respect to intelligence sharing or intelligence collection to improve the security of domestic oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure to protect the communities surrounding such refineries or such infrastructure from potential harm that the Under Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 328. REPEAL OR MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPEAL OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) THREAT OF ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES USING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.—Section 114 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3050) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(2) TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE.—Section 2(5)(E) of the Senate resolution advising and consenting to ratification of the Document Agreed Among the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) of November 19, 1990, adopted at Vienna May 31, 1996 (Treaty Doc. 105-5) (commonly referred to as the “CFE Flank Document”), 105th Congress, agreed to May 14, 1997, is repealed.

(b) MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Section 410(b) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (50 U.S.C. 3309) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) NOTIFICATION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Director of National Intelligence and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall each notify the congressional intelligence committees each time each such Director creates an advisory committee. Each notification shall include—

“(1) a description of such advisory committee, including the subject matter of such committee;

“(2) a list of members of such advisory committee; and

“(3) in the case of an advisory committee created by the Director of National Intelligence, the reasons for a determination by the Director under section 4(b)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) that an advisory committee cannot comply with the requirements of such Act.”.

(2) INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION SHARING.—Section 102A(g)(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(g)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) The Director of National Intelligence shall, in a timely manner, report to Congress any statute, regulation, policy, or practice that the Director believes impedes the ability of the Director to fully and effectively ensure maximum availability of access to intelligence information within the intelligence community consistent with the protection of the national security of the United States.”.

(3) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY BUSINESS SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION.—Section 506D(j) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3100(j)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2015” and inserting “2014”.

(4) ACTIVITIES OF PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OFFICERS.—Section 1062(f)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee-1(f)(1)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “quarterly” and inserting “semiannually”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the table of contents in the first section, by striking the item relating to section 114 and inserting the following new item:

“Sec. 114. Annual report on hiring and retention of minority employees.”;

(2) in section 114 (50 U.S.C. 3050)—

(A) by amending the heading to read as follows: “ANNUAL REPORT ON HIRING AND RETENTION OF MINORITY EMPLOYEES”;

(B) by striking “(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON HIRING AND RETENTION OF MINORITY EMPLOYEES.—”;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subsections (a) through (e), respectively;

(D) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively; and

(ii) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated)—

(I) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(II) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “clauses (i) and (ii)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) and (B)”;

(E) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph), by striking “subsection” and inserting “section”; and

(F) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively; and

(ii) by striking “subsection,” and inserting “section”; and

(3) in section 507 (50 U.S.C. 3106)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “(1) The date” and inserting “The date”;

(ii) by striking “subsection (c)(1)(A)” and inserting “subsection (c)(1)”;

(iii) by striking paragraph (2); and

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (F) as paragraphs (1) through (6), respectively;

(B) in subsection (c)(1)—

(i) by striking “(A) Except” and inserting “Except”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(C) in subsection (d)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “subsection (a)(1)” and inserting “subsection (a)”;

(II) by inserting “and” after “March 1.”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B).

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

SEC. 401. GIFTS, DEVICES, AND BEQUESTS TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

Section 12 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3512) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting “GIFTS, DEVICES, AND BEQUESTS”;

(2) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by inserting “by the Director as a gift to the Agency” after “accepted”; and

(B) by striking “this section” and inserting “this subsection”;

(3) in subsection (b), by striking “this section,” and inserting “subsection (a),”;

(4) in subsection (c), by striking “this section,” and inserting “subsection (a),”;

(5) in subsection (d), by striking “this section” and inserting “subsection (a)”;

(6) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(7) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f)(1) The Director may engage in fundraising in an official capacity for the benefit of nonprofit organizations that provide support to surviving family members of deceased Agency employees or that otherwise provide support for the welfare, education, or recreation of Agency employees, former Agency employees, or their family members.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘fundraising’ means the raising of funds through the active participation in the promotion, production, or presentation of an event designed to raise funds and does not include the direct solicitation of money by any other means.”.

SEC. 402. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

(a) **ELEVATION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL STATUS.**—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in section 8G(a)(2), by striking “the National Security Agency,”; and

(2) in section 12—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “the National Security Agency,” after “the Federal Emergency Management Agency,”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “the National Security Agency,” after “the National Aeronautics and Space Administration,”.

(b) **DATE OF APPOINTMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall nominate a person for appointment, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as Inspector General of the National Security Agency under section 3(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) consistent with the amendments made by subsection (a).

(c) **TRANSITION RULE.**—An individual serving as Inspector General of the National Security Agency on the date of the enactment of this Act pursuant to an appointment made under section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)—

(1) may continue so serving until the President makes an appointment under section 3(a) of such Act with respect to the National Security Agency consistent with the amendments made by subsection (a); and

(2) shall, while serving under paragraph (1), remain subject to the provisions of section 8G of such Act that, immediately before the date of the enactment of this Act, applied with respect to the Inspector General of the National Security Agency and suffer no reduction in pay.

(d) **SPECIAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.**—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by inserting after section 8J the following new section:

“SEC. 8K. SPECIAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

“(a) **GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is a General Counsel to the Inspector General of the National Security Agency, who shall be appointed by the Inspector General of the National Security Agency.

“(2) **DUTIES.**—The General Counsel to the Inspector General of the National Security Agency shall—

“(A) serve as the chief legal officer of the Office of the Inspector General of the National Security Agency;

“(B) provide legal services only to the Inspector General of the National Security Agency;

“(C) prescribe professional rules of ethics and responsibilities for employees and officers of, and contractors to, the National Security Agency;

“(D) perform such functions as the Inspector General may prescribe; and

“(E) serve at the discretion of the Inspector General.

“(3) **OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL.**—There is an Office of the General Counsel to the Inspector General of the National Security Agency. The Inspector General may appoint to the Office to serve as staff of the General Counsel such legal counsel as the Inspector General considers appropriate.

“(b) **TESTIMONY.**—

“(1) **AUTHORITY TO COMPEL.**—The Inspector General of the National Security Agency is authorized to require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of former employees of the National Security Agency or contractors, former contractors, or former detailees to the National Security Agency as necessary in the performance of functions assigned to the Inspector General by this Act.

“(2) **REFUSAL TO OBEY.**—A subpoena issued under this subsection, in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey, shall be enforceable by order of any appropriate United States district court.

“(3) **NOTIFICATION.**—The Inspector General shall notify the Attorney General 7 days before issuing any subpoena under this section.

“(c) **PROHIBITIONS ON INVESTIGATIONS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY REASONS.**—

“(1) **EVALUATIONS OF PROHIBITIONS.**—Not later than 7 days after the date on which the Inspector General of the National Security Agency receives notice or a statement under section 8G(d)(2)(C) of the reasons the Secretary of Defense is prohibiting the Inspector General from initiating, carrying out, or completing any audit or investigation, the Inspector General shall submit to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate an evaluation of such notice or such statement.

“(2) **INCLUSION IN SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Inspector General shall include in the semi-annual report prepared by the Inspector General in accordance with section 5(a) a description of the instances in which the Secretary of Defense prohibited the Inspector General from initiating, carrying out, or completing any audit or investigation during the period covered by such report.”.

TITLE V—SECURITY CLEARANCE REFORM

SEC. 501. CONTINUOUS EVALUATION AND SHARING OF DEROGATORY INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONNEL WITH ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

Section 102A(j) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(j)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION” and inserting “CLASSIFIED INFORMATION”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(5) ensure that the background of each employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, and each individual employee of such a contractor who has been determined to be eligible for access to classified information is monitored on a continual basis under standards developed by the Director, including with respect to the fre-

quency of evaluation, during the period of eligibility of such employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, such contractor, or such individual employee to such a contractor to determine whether such employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, such contractor, and such individual employee of such a contractor continues to meet the requirements for eligibility for access to classified information; and

“(6) develop procedures to require information sharing between elements of the intelligence community concerning potentially derogatory security information regarding an employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, a contractor to an element of the intelligence community, or an individual employee of such a contractor that may impact the eligibility of such employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, such contractor, or such individual employee of such a contractor for a security clearance.”.

SEC. 502. REQUIREMENTS FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONTRACTORS.

(a) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(x) **REQUIREMENTS FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONTRACTORS.**—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the head of each department of the Federal Government that contains an element of the intelligence community and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, shall—

“(1) ensure that—

“(A) any contractor to an element of the intelligence community with access to a classified network or classified information develops and operates a security plan that is consistent with standards established by the Director of National Intelligence for intelligence community networks; and

“(B) each contract awarded by an element of the intelligence community includes provisions requiring the contractor comply with such plan and such standards;

“(2) conduct periodic assessments of each security plan required under paragraph (1)(A) to ensure such security plan complies with the requirements of such paragraph; and

“(3) ensure that the insider threat detection capabilities and insider threat policies of the intelligence community apply to facilities of contractors with access to a classified network.”.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to contracts entered into or renewed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 503. TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS TO SECURITY CLEARANCE PROCESSING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall conduct an analysis of the relative costs and benefits of potential improvements to the process for investigating persons who are proposed for access to classified information and adjudicating whether such persons satisfy the criteria for obtaining and retaining access to such information.

(b) **CONTENTS OF ANALYSIS.**—In conducting the analysis required by subsection (a), the Director of National Intelligence shall evaluate the costs and benefits associated with—

(1) the elimination of manual processes in security clearance investigations and adjudications, if possible, and automating and integrating the elements of the investigation process, including—

(A) the clearance application process;

(B) case management;

(C) adjudication management;

(D) investigation methods for the collection, analysis, storage, retrieval, and transfer of data and records; and

(E) records management for access and eligibility determinations;

(2) the elimination or reduction, if possible, of the use of databases and information sources that cannot be accessed and processed automatically electronically, or modification of such databases and information sources, to enable electronic access and processing;

(3) the use of government-developed and commercial technology for continuous monitoring and evaluation of government and commercial data sources that can identify and flag information pertinent to adjudication guidelines and eligibility determinations;

(4) the standardization of forms used for routine reporting required of cleared personnel (such as travel, foreign contacts, and financial disclosures) and use of continuous monitoring technology to access databases containing such reportable information to independently obtain and analyze reportable data and events;

(5) the establishment of an authoritative central repository of personnel security information that is accessible electronically at multiple levels of classification and eliminates technical barriers to rapid access to information necessary for eligibility determinations and reciprocal recognition thereof;

(6) using digitally processed fingerprints, as a substitute for ink or paper prints, to reduce error rates and improve portability of data;

(7) expanding the use of technology to improve an applicant's ability to discover the status of a pending security clearance application or reinvestigation; and

(8) using government and publicly available commercial data sources, including social media, that provide independent information pertinent to adjudication guidelines to improve quality and timeliness, and reduce costs, of investigations and reinvestigations.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the analysis required by subsection (a).

SEC. 504. REPORT ON RECIPROCITY OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.

The head of the entity selected pursuant to section 3001(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(b)) shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report each year through 2017 that describes for the preceding year—

(1) the periods of time required by authorized adjudicative agencies for accepting background investigations and determinations completed by an authorized investigative entity or authorized adjudicative agency;

(2) the total number of cases in which a background investigation or determination completed by an authorized investigative entity or authorized adjudicative agency is accepted by another agency;

(3) the total number of cases in which a background investigation or determination completed by an authorized investigative entity or authorized adjudicative agency is not accepted by another agency; and

(4) such other information or recommendations as the head of the entity selected pursuant to such section 3001(b) considers appropriate.

SEC. 505. IMPROVING THE PERIODIC REINVESTIGATION PROCESS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until December 31, 2017, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a strategic plan for updating the process for periodic reinvestigations consistent with a continuous evaluation program.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an analysis of the costs and benefits associated with conducting periodic reinvestigations;

(2) an analysis of the costs and benefits associated with replacing some or all periodic reinvestigations with a program of continuous evaluation;

(3) a determination of how many risk-based and ad hoc periodic reinvestigations are necessary on an annual basis for each component of the Federal Government with employees with security clearances;

(4) an analysis of the potential benefits of expanding the Government's use of continuous evaluation tools as a means of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of procedures for confirming the eligibility of personnel for continued access to classified information; and

(5) an analysis of how many personnel with out-of-scope background investigations are employed by, or contracted or detailed to, each element of the intelligence community.

(c) **PERIODIC REINVESTIGATIONS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “periodic reinvestigations” has the meaning given that term in section 3001(a) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(a)).

SEC. 506. APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.

In this title, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

TITLE VI—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

SEC. 601. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ACT OF 1949.

Section 21 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3521) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(D), by striking “section (a)” and inserting “subsection (a)”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(E), by striking “provider.” and inserting “provider”.

SEC. 602. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947 RELATING TO THE PAST ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN POSITIONS.

Section 101(a) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking the semicolon and inserting “; and”;

(2) by striking paragraphs (6) and (7);

(3) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (6); and

(4) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by striking “the Chairman of the Munitions Board, and the Chairman of the Research and Development Board.”

SEC. 603. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013.

(a) **AMENDMENTS.**—Section 506 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–277; 126 Stat. 2478) is amended—

(1) by striking “Section 606(5)” and inserting “Paragraph (5) of section 605”; and

(2) by inserting “, as redesignated by section 310(a)(4)(B) of this Act,” before “is amended”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–277).

The CHAIR. No amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text

shall be in order except those printed in House Report 113–465 and amendments en bloc described in section 2(f) of House Resolution 604.

Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF MICHIGAN

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 604, I offer amendments en bloc.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 11 printed in part A of House Report No. 113–465, offered by Mr. MCKEON of California:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF MICHIGAN

Page 9, line 17, strike “2014” and insert “2015”.

Page 24, strike lines 1 through 9 and insert the following:

“(b) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report required under subsection (a) shall, consistent with the need to preserve ongoing criminal investigations, include a description of, and any action taken in response to, any violation of law or executive order (including Executive Order 12333 (50 U.S.C. 3001 note)) relating to intelligence activities committed by personnel of an element of the intelligence community in the course of the employment of such personnel that, during the previous calendar year, was—

“(1) determined by the director, head, or general counsel of any element of the intelligence community to have occurred;

“(2) referred to the Department of Justice for possible criminal prosecution; or

“(3) substantiated by the inspector general of any element of the intelligence community.”

Page 24, after line 13, insert the following:

(c) **GUIDELINES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the head of each element of the intelligence community, shall—

(1) issue guidelines to carry out section 510 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

(2) submit such guidelines to the congressional intelligence committees.

Page 24, line 14, redesignate subsection (c) as subsection (d).

Page 24, before line 20 insert the following:

(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to alter any requirement existing on the date of the enactment of this Act to submit a report under any provision of law.

Page 43, line 11, strike “the date of the enactment of this Act” and insert “the date of the resignation, reassignment, or removal of the Inspector General of the National Security Agency appointed pursuant to section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) as in effect before the date of

the enactment of this Act and serving on such date”.

Page 45, line 9, insert before “the National Security” the following: “the Office of the Inspector General of”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY
OF VIRGINIA

Page 17, line 7, strike “usage; and” and insert “usage, including—”.

Page 17, after line 7, insert the following:

“(A) increasing the centralization of the management of software licenses;

“(B) increasing the regular tracking and maintaining of comprehensive inventories of software licenses using automated discovery and inventory tools and metrics;

“(C) analyzing software license data to inform investment decisions; and

“(D) providing appropriate personnel with sufficient software licenses management training; and

Page 17, line 23, strike “usage.” and insert “usage, including—”.

Page 17, after line 23, insert the following:

“(A) increasing the centralization of the management of software licenses;

“(B) increasing the regular tracking and maintaining of comprehensive inventories of software licenses using automated discovery and inventory tools and metrics;

“(C) analyzing software license data to inform investment decisions; and

“(D) providing appropriate personnel with sufficient software licenses management training.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. KILMER OF
WASHINGTON

Page 17, line 19, strike “; and” and insert a semicolon.

Page 17, line 23, strike the period and insert “; and”.

Page 17, after line 23, insert the following:

“(3) based on the assessment required under paragraph (2), make such recommendations with respect to software procurement and usage to the Director of National Intelligence as the Chief Information Officer considers appropriate.

Page 18, line 2, strike the quotation mark and the second period.

Page 18, after line 2, insert the following:

“(d) IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Director of National Intelligence receives recommendations from the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community in accordance with subsection (b)(3), the Director of National Intelligence shall, to the extent practicable, issue guidelines for the intelligence community on software procurement and usage based on such recommendations.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF
MICHIGAN

After section 309, insert the following new section:

SEC. 310. RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

(a) RESTRICTION.—Title III of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3071 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 303 the following new section:

“SEC. 304. RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

“(a) NEGOTIATIONS.—A covered employee shall notify the element of the intelligence community employing such employee not later than 3 business days after the commencement of any negotiation for future employment or compensation between such covered employee and a covered entity.

“(b) SEPARATION.—A covered employee may not commence employment with or be contracted by a covered entity—

“(1) for a period of one year following the termination of the service or employment of such covered employee by an element of the intelligence community; and

“(2) for a period of two years following such termination with respect to any matter that was a part of the official responsibility of such covered employee during the final year of the service or employment of such covered employee by an element of the intelligence community.

“(c) ANNUAL REPORTING.—

“(1) REPORTING REQUIRED.—Each former covered employee who was a covered employee at the time of separation from an element of the intelligence community shall annually report in writing to the element of the intelligence community that most recently previously employed such covered employee any payment received in the preceding year from a foreign government or a covered entity.

“(2) APPLICABILITY.—The requirement to submit a report under paragraph (1) for each former covered employee shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which such former covered employee was most recently employed by an element of the intelligence community.

“(d) DETERMINATION OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS POSING A SIGNIFICANT COUNTERINTELLIGENCE THREAT.—The Director of National Intelligence shall annually—

“(1) determine which foreign governments pose a significant counterintelligence threat to the United States; and

“(2) submit to the congressional intelligence committees a list of such foreign governments.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘covered employee’ means—

“(A) an employee of an element of the intelligence community with access to sensitive compartmented information occupying a position—

“(i) classified at GS-15 of the General Schedule (chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code); or

“(ii) as a senior civilian officer of the intelligence community (as defined in Intelligence Community Directive No. 610 or any successor directive); and

“(B) a person who during the preceding 12-month period was an officer or employee of the Congress (as defined in section 109(13) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)) with access to sensitive compartmented information.

“(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered entity’ means—

“(A) any person acting on behalf or under the supervision of a designated foreign government; or

“(B) any entity owned or controlled by a designated foreign government.

“(3) DESIGNATED FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘designated foreign government’ means a government that the Director of National Intelligence determines poses a significant counterintelligence threat to the United States under subsection (d).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE OF NEGOTIATION PERIOD NOTICE.—The requirement under section 304(a) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) APPLICABILITY OF SEPARATION PERIOD.—The requirement under section 304(b) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by

subsection (a) of this section, shall not apply to a covered employee that has entered into an employment agreement on or before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) FIRST REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The first report required to be submitted by each former covered employee under section 304(c) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall be submitted not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) FIRST DESIGNATION REQUIREMENT.—The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees the initial list of foreign governments under section 304(d) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in the first section of such Act is amended—

(1) by striking the second item relating to section 302 (Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries) and the items relating to sections 304, 305, and 306; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 304. Restrictions on certain former intelligence officers and employees.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. KELLY OF
ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle A of title III, add the following new section:

SEC. —. INCLUSION OF PREDOMINANTLY BLACK INSTITUTIONS IN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER TRAINING PROGRAM.

Section 1024 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3224) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “and Predominantly Black Institutions” after “universities”; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(4) PREDOMINANTLY BLACK INSTITUTION.—The term ‘Predominantly Black Institution’ has the meaning given the term in section 318 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059e).”.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. CARNEY OF
DELAWARE

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following new section:

SEC. —. REPORT ON DECLASSIFICATION PROCESS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(1) how to improve the declassification process across the intelligence community; and

(2) what steps the intelligence community can take, or what legislation may be necessary, to enable the National Declassification Center to better accomplish the missions assigned to the Center by Executive Order 13526.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON
LEE OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following new section:

SEC. —. DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE STUDY ON THE USE OF CONTRACTORS IN THE CONDUCT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

The Director of National Intelligence shall conduct an assessment of the reliance of intelligence activities on contractors to support Government activities, including an assessment of—

- (1) contractors performing intelligence activities (including intelligence analysis); and
- (2) the skills performed by contractors and the availability of Federal employees to perform those skills.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following new section:

SEC. —. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFICACY OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING TO FACILITATE INTELLIGENCE-SHARING.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Program Manager of the Information Sharing Environment, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment of the efficacy of the memoranda of understanding signed between Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies to facilitate intelligence-sharing within and separate from the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Such assessment shall include—

- (1) any language within such memoranda of understanding that prohibited or may be construed to prohibit intelligence-sharing between Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies; and
- (2) any recommendations for memoranda of understanding to better facilitate intelligence-sharing between Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 604, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the committee to adopt the amendments en bloc, all of which have been examined by both the majority and the minority. I believe these amendments to be noncontroversial, and intended to enhance the underlying bill.

The manager's amendment is intended to make minor technical modifications to clarify two provisions that were added in markup.

I have an amendment that would require employees at senior level in the intelligence community to endure a "cooling off" period before being employed by a company that is owned or controlled by a foreign government that poses a high counterintelligence threat. It would also make them subject to reporting procedures.

This amendment stems from my concern that some senior level employees

in the intelligence community retire or otherwise separate from the U.S. Government and take employment with foreign companies or foreign-controlled companies after holding positions where they likely learned very sensitive information that would be of value to those particular companies or governments.

It is not intended to be punitive prohibition on post-intelligence community employment but rather to establish a procedure to establish that sufficient time has lapsed to avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of impropriety.

Mr. CARNEY has an amendment that would provide the Congress with a useful report on ways to improve the declassification process across the intelligence community. The intelligence community has declassified a massive amount of documents. Increased transparency through an improved declassification process will help rebuild the confidence of the American people in their intelligence agencies.

Mr. CONNOLLY has an amendment that will add several best practices to the assessment our bill requires for intelligence community software licenses. This amendment is all the more important in light of current efforts to improve intelligence community information technology systems. Wise management of software licenses can help save the taxpayers' dollars while making sure our intelligence officers have the tools they need to do their job.

Ms. JACKSON LEE has an amendment that will help us identify ways to improve the support contractors offer to the intelligence community. It may help us find ways to make the most of scarce resources, all the while ensuring that contractors do not perform inherently governmental functions.

Mr. KEATING has an amendment concerning intelligence sharing between Federal, State, and local entities, which has been a critical tool to prevent terrorist attacks on American soil. Joint terrorism task forces pool talent, skills, and knowledge from across the law enforcement and intelligence communities into a single entity that can respond with the flexibility and speed to stop impending threats.

Even so, we must always look for ways to improve intelligence-sharing relationships. This amendment requires a study of the efficacy of the memoranda of understanding signed between Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies. The study will help identify any obstacles to intelligence sharing between agencies and find improvements to existing intelligence-sharing relationships.

Ms. KELLY has an amendment to expand a grant program by the Director of National Intelligence to include predominantly black institutions. To succeed in their mission, the intelligence agencies need our Nation's top talent,

and that means they must make full use of our Nation's diverse population.

These grants will help provide study programs in foreign languages such as Farsi, Pashto, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African dialects. Foreign language skills are critical for intelligence officers, as we all know.

Mr. KILMER has an amendment that will require the intelligence community Chief Information Officer to make recommendations to the Director of National Intelligence based on the software licensing assessment required by section 307 of the bill. It will also require the DNI to issue guidelines to implement those recommendations. These recommendations and guidelines will help the IC implement the results of the important assessment that this bill will require regarding software licensing.

I will, therefore, support the amendment.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I ask Members to support the en bloc amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support all these amendments.

I agree with Chairman ROGERS that it is very troubling when senior U.S. officials who know our most sensitive secrets leave the Federal Government and immediately go to work for a company that is owned by a foreign country that poses a significant counterintelligence threat to us.

I do have some concerns that this restriction might be seen as singling out our intelligence professionals, since it does not apply to every senior official in the government with a top secret clearance. I would be in favor of a waiver procedure for when the risks are low. For example, for someone who wants to teach English at a State-funded university in his or her retirement. But on the whole, I agree with Mr. ROGERS and support this provision.

I also agree with Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. KILMER that we need to find efficiencies in the intelligence community's use of software. In fact, we just don't need to find them, we need to fix them. Finding and fixing inefficiencies translates into saving taxpayer dollars, which is something we must always strive to do.

I agree with Ms. ROBIN KELLY that we need to increase the diversity of our intelligence workforce by adding predominantly black institutions to ongoing intelligence community programs currently designed for Historically Black Colleges. Diversity is a good thing in its own right, and it will create even greater opportunities for intelligence collection.

I agree with Mr. CARNEY that we must reduce our declassification backlog. As The New York Times reported just this week, even material that should be automatically declassified

isn't. So we need the Director of National Intelligence to look across the intelligence community and figure out how to improve the declassification process so that more national security information can be made available to the American people now.

I also agree with Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE that we need to get a handle on how we are employing our contractors. We need to know whether they are doing the type of work that should be done by U.S. Government employees.

Let me be clear, however, that contractors perform a very valuable service, and our companies are among the very best in the world. But there needs to be a clear line between what we expect from our employees, who owe 100 percent of their loyalty to the government, and what we expect from our contractors, whose patriotism is without question, but whose loyalty is also to the company that employs them.

Finally, I agree with Mr. KEATING, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. HANNA that we need to take a close look at the memorandum of agreement between the Federal Government and the State, local, tribal, and territorial governments to make sure they are written clearly enough and well enough to ensure the free flow of intelligence, while still making sure to protect sources and methods.

Intelligence is critical, particularly in the midst of a domestic crisis. And for it to be useful, it must get to those who need it.

In addition to the manager's amendment, which makes technical and clarifying changes to the bill, I support all these amendments.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, let me again thank the ranking member and the chairman. Let me also acknowledge the very fine men and women that work in our intelligence community in the United States and around the world.

I would like to thank the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for their efforts to include the Jackson Lee amendment in the en bloc amendments and thank them for working with my staff in a very cooperative manner.

The Jackson Lee amendment seeks greater transparency to Congress on the people the Nation relies upon to perform certain types of work for the intelligence community.

The Jackson Lee amendment requires the Director of the Office of National Intelligence to conduct an assessment of the reliance of intelligence activities on contractors to support government objectives, including an assessment of contractors performing

intelligence activities, which would include intelligence analysis.

This complements the underlying bill, because the underlying bill has determined to assess the utilization and reduce the number of private contractors.

In a Time article dated Monday, July 19, 2010, a comment says:

Explosion of contractors in the intelligence community.

And that has been the case.

It is important that we recognize that contractors can be useful. But like the President stated publicly on August 26, 2013:

It is important that we have so many extraordinarily capable folks in our military and our government who can do this—and probably do it cheaper.

Well, I agree with the President and this committee.

I also take note of an article that cites NSA contractors using LinkedIn profiles to cash in on national security.

I believe that with the work that we are doing here in this legislation, along with my amendment, we will get our hands around the idea of outsourcing our intelligence work and develop a pathway of excellence, as we have in the past.

We will utilize our veterans, we will utilize military personnel, we will utilize young persons who are interested in this as a career, and we will have the finest intelligence staffing that we have ever had, as we have had in the past.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment. I again thank the chairman and ranking member for including this in the en bloc amendments. I think we are on a pathway of greater success in securing this Nation.

Mr. Chair, I support H.R. 4681, the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014," a bill Authorizing appropriations for our nation's intelligence agencies for Fiscal Year 2014 through Fiscal Year 2015. The bill provides funds for the conduct of intelligence and intelligence-related activities.

My thanks to the House Rules Committee for making my amendment in order under the rule for H.R. 4681.

I appreciate the work of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence efforts to include the Jackson Lee Amendment in the En Bloc.

My amendment is simple and makes an important contribution to the bill.

The Jackson Lee Amendment seeks greater transparency to Congress on the people the nation relies upon to perform certain types of work for the Intelligence Community.

The Jackson Lee Amendment requires the Director of the Office of National Intelligence to conduct an assessment of the reliance of intelligence activities on contractors to support Government objectives, including an assessment of contractors performing intelligence activities, which would include intelligence analysis.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) 2013 Report on Security Clear-

ance Determinations said that on October 1, 2013, the total number of persons with a Confidential, Secret or Top Secret security clearance totaled 5,150,379 individuals.

According to the ODNI 3,738,026 were government agency personnel, 1,056,309 were contractors and 356,044 were categorized as other.

Between January and October 1, 2013 there were 777,168 security clearances approved—152,490 were government agency employees and 131,209 were contractors with an additional 12,785 designated as other.

The cost of government security classification in 2005 was \$7.66 billion and in 2011 the total was \$11.36 billion.

The amount expended included: 5.65 billion for protection maintenance; 1.53 billion for security management oversight and planning; 502.51 million for professional education, training and awareness; 352.4 million for classification management; 52.76 million for declassification.

The assessment provided for through the Jackson Lee amendment would shed light on the work that our federal agency Intelligence professionals and the role contractors play in protecting our nation.

President Obama stated publicly on August 6, 2013 that it is important that we have so many 'extraordinarily capable folks in our military and our government who can do this, and probably do it cheaper.'

I agree.

That is why I introduced H.R. 4110, the HERO Transition from Battlespace to Workplace Act of 2014.

This legislation addresses the problem of underemployed veterans in obtaining positions that take maximum advantage of their skills and experience.

For some time I have worked to make sure that transparency, accountability and oversight were firmly established to guide the work of intelligence agencies, including introducing legislation such as H.R. 2434.

I thank my colleagues on the Intelligence Committee for their hard work in bringing this bill before the full House for consideration. I ask my Colleagues in the House to vote for this en bloc.

[From Time, Jul. 19, 2010]

TIME TO TAME WASHINGTON'S INTELLIGENCE BEAST

(By Robert Baer)

I asked a former colleague who retired from the CIA not long ago what he thought about the Washington Post article Monday, July 19, on the explosion of contractors in the intelligence community. "It's a horror," he said, "my tax money blowing around Washington like confetti." But he reserved his angriest comments for the contractor-driven bureaucracy that allowed a Nigerian would-be suicide bomber—as alleged by a resulting federal indictment—to board a Northwest flight from Amsterdam to Detroit in December. In spite of the billions and billions of dollars we've showered on contractors, consultants and corporate contracts since 9/11, no one managed to disseminate a warning from the Nigerian's father that his son had reportedly become a terrorist.

The raw numbers in the Post tell the story. Since 9/11, America's intelligence budget has more than doubled, to \$75 billion. The number of people working at the Defense Intelligence Agency has gone from 7,500 to 16,500.

The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces have trebled in number, rising from 35 to 106. Personnel at the National Security Agency has doubled. There are 854,000 people with top-secret security clearances, including contractors—almost 1½ times the population of Washington. It shouldn't come as a surprise, then, that the Nigerian slipped through the cracks: there are so many more cracks now.

But we shouldn't reduce the problem to our having become a country saddled with a bureaucratic Frankenstein of timeservers and people cashing in on 9/11. Recently I've been giving talks at government agencies working on counterterrorism. With almost no exceptions, I've found my audiences, including contractors, better informed, more dedicated and better educated than the generation I served with in the CIA. (As I've said elsewhere, if I were applying to the CIA today, I wonder whether I'd make it in.) The problem is that I came away from these talks with the impression that the post-9/11 workforce is bored and even adrift—at least in the sense that there are too many people chasing too little hard intelligence.

It's a tooth-to-tail problem. CIA Director Leon Panetta has gone on the record as saying there are only a couple hundred al-Qaeda dead-enders in the mountains between Pakistan and Afghanistan, most of whom are dormant, hiding in caves. With a prey so small and elusive and a bureaucracy so Washington-bound, it shouldn't come as a surprise that we're tripping over ourselves. Nor should it come as a surprise that more money and more contractors aren't a problem of diminishing returns but rather one of adding to the risk.

It would be considerably different if we could put this new workforce in the field—for instance, in Afghanistan, a country that demands years and years of on-the-ground experience for a young American intelligence officer to understand it. But our bases there are already overflowing with combat forces, and anyhow, it's too dangerous for Americans to get outside the wire to meet Afghans. Not unlike in Washington, they're stuck behind desks and forced to look at the country from a distance.

No one intended to create a monster bureaucracy after 9/11—Washington has always thrown money and people at a problem rather than good ideas. But now someone has to seriously calculate the damage the outsourcing of intelligence is causing. The story I keep hearing over and over is that the bright young people who came to Washington to fight terrorism—civil servants and contractors alike—have become disillusioned, and they will soon turn away from idealism and begin to transform their jobs into comfortable careers. In the case of the contractors, it means more contracts and more contractors. It's all the worse because there are now contractors writing their own contracts.

For Washington to retake control of intelligence, it needs to remember that intelligence is inherently a governmental function, no different from the courts, the police or legislation. I wish Washington good luck in taking back ground from the contractors, and I hope it can move faster than the next would-be suicide bomber.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WOMACK). The question is on the amendments en-

bloc offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. FRANKS OF ARIZONA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 113-465.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following new section:

SEC. ____ . REPORT ON FOREIGN MAN-MADE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE WEAPONS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees and the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the threat posed by man-made electromagnetic pulse weapons to United States interests through 2025, including threats from foreign countries and foreign non-State actors.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 604, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman ROGERS. I believe he has exhibited the best of the House of Representatives and has rendered this country magnificent service, both to our national security and to the stability of this Nation. I thank him deeply for it, and also for the time to speak on this amendment.

□ 1045

Mr. Chairman, the Intelligence Authorization Act of 2015 is a critical milestone toward protecting Americans at home and those who serve our interests and Nation overseas.

However, it does not currently address one of the critical concerns, and that is the threat of a manmade nuclear or electromagnetic pulse, or EMP, weapon.

My amendment would task the Director of National Intelligence to report to the Congress on the threat posed by manmade electromagnetic pulse weapons to the United States interests through 2025, including those threats from foreign countries and foreign nonstate actors.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that my amendment does not task another Federal agency with the responsibility of determining our vulnerabilities to EMP and GMD and the potential dangers these threats represent to our civilization.

These studies have already been finalized, and their conclusions provide

our Nation's leaders and industry officials with the clarity they need to move forward toward protecting our grid.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, there have now been nearly a dozen Federal Government reports and studies on the dangers, threats, and vulnerabilities the U.S. electric grid faces from EMP and GMD, including reports from the EMP Commission, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the National Academy of Sciences, and the U.S. national laboratories. All of them come to similar conclusions. The U.S. electric grid is dangerously vulnerable to EMP and GMD.

Further, many warn that, given the Nation's current lack of preparedness, a nuclear or natural EMP event is potentially a cataclysmic threat that would be a top national priority for our national security and homeland security.

In 2008, the congressionally authorized EMP Commission stated that Russian scientists had proliferated knowledge of a specifically designed EMP weapon to North Korea. There may also exist a form of mobile EMP devices that can take out our electric substations.

As The Wall Street Journal reported recently, taking out just a few of these substations simultaneously could potentially cause a nationwide blackout.

Our military understands this threat very well, Mr. Chairman, and has protected many of our critical defense assets. We, as a Nation, have spent billions of dollars, in fact, over the years, hardening our nuclear triad, our missile defense capabilities and numerous other critical elements of our national security apparatus against the effects of electromagnetic pulse, particularly the type of electromagnetic pulse that might be generated against us by an enemy.

However, our civilian grid, which the Defense Department relies upon for nearly 99 percent of its electricity needs, is completely vulnerable to the same kind of danger.

This constitutes, in my opinion, Mr. Chairman, an invitation on the part of certain of our enemies to use the asymmetric capability of an EMP weapon against us, and there is now evidence that such strategy is being considered by certain of those enemies.

Mr. Chairman, the time is right for this action, and our efforts today may gain us no note in the annals of history, but my hope is that they will ultimately lead to a time when this country mitigates this threat and disinvites our enemies to try to exploit it against us. I pray it happens just that way.

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

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

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

Mr. FRANKS, a leader in the bipartisan House Electromagnetic Pulse Caucus, has brought attention to the serious threats posed by electromagnetic pulses, whether from a solar storm or a nuclear-armed enemy that could harm our critical infrastructure.

Given what we know about our Nation's critical infrastructure vulnerabilities, I support this amendment's purpose, to gain even more information that can better protect our utilities, financial systems, medical facilities, networks, and other infrastructure.

Therefore, I support this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), one of the key members of our committee and one of the experts in the area of cybersecurity.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 4681, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

I am going to keep my remarks brief, but I first wanted to thank Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER for bringing this bill to the floor in a bipartisan way. The bill before us really is indicative of how the committee is run in a bipartisan way under Chairman ROGERS' leadership.

In particular, I do want to commend Chairman ROGERS for his years of service on the Intelligence Committee and wish him the best in his retirement at the end of this year. He clearly made a difference.

Mr. Chairman, this is a balanced measure and really critical to protecting our Nation's security. I have been pleased to work with the chairman and ranking member on several provisions included in the bill.

This bill makes critical investments in technical and tactical intelligence, as well as in our human capabilities.

In particular, in order to support and develop the long-term health of our most important intelligence resource—human talent—this bill requires the Director of National Intelligence to create a plan to promote cybersecurity and computer literacy among high school and university students.

As cyber threats grow in quantity and sophistication, we must do more to train and recruit into the noble calling of government service young people with the interest and aptitude for cybersecurity.

The bill authorizes provisions to reduce the risk of information leaks, as well, and unauthorized disclosures of classified information by insiders, while maintaining appropriate levels of

trust in our personnel. We cannot afford a repeat of last year's breach of classified information.

Mr. Chairman, continued focus is needed to ensure that we, of course, are supporting the efforts of those patriotic Americans who proudly serve our Nation in the intelligence community, while properly safeguarding the privacy and civil liberties that our citizens hold dear.

To that end, we must fully absorb the lessons learned over the past decade after passage of the landmark Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act and the changes it brought to the IC.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I certainly look forward to working with my committee colleagues to continue this tradition of rigorous, responsible, and bipartisan oversight. The work that we do is critical to our national security.

Again, I thank Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER, as well as my colleagues on the committee; and in particular, I want to thank the staff for the hard work that they have done in bringing this bill to the floor on both sides of the aisle. Their work is critical as well.

I thank my colleagues.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 113-465.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. —. REPORT ON UNITED STATES COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY TO DISRUPT, DISMANTLE, AND DEFEAT AL-QAEDA, ITS AFFILIATED GROUPS, ASSOCIATED GROUPS, AND ADHERENTS.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a comprehensive report on the United States counterterrorism strategy to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaeda, its affiliated groups, associated groups, and adherents.

(2) COORDINATION.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be prepared in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Defense, and the head of any other department or agency of the United States Government that has re-

sponsibility for activities directed at combating al-Qaeda, its affiliated groups, associated groups, and adherents.

(3) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A definition of—

(i) al-Qaeda core, including a list of which known individuals constitute al-Qaeda core;

(ii) an affiliated group of al-Qaeda, including a list of which known groups constitute an affiliate group of al-Qaeda;

(iii) an associated group of al-Qaeda, including a list of which known groups constitute an associated group of al-Qaeda;

(iv) an adherent of al-Qaeda, including a list of which known groups constitute an adherent of al-Qaeda; and

(v) a group aligned with al-Qaeda, including a description of what actions a group takes or statements it makes that qualify it as a group aligned with al-Qaeda.

(B) An assessment of the relationship between all identified al-Qaeda affiliated groups, associated groups, and adherents with al-Qaeda core.

(C) An assessment of the strengthening or weakening of al-Qaeda, its affiliated groups, associated groups, and adherents, from January 1, 2010, to the present, including a description of the metrics that are used to assess strengthening or weakening and an assessment of the relative increase or decrease in violent attacks attributed to such entities.

(D) An assessment of whether or not an individual can be a member of al-Qaeda core if such individual is not located in Afghanistan or Pakistan.

(E) An assessment of whether or not an individual can be a member of al-Qaeda core as well as a member of an al-Qaeda affiliated group, associated group, or adherent.

(F) A definition of defeat of core al-Qaeda.

(G) An assessment of the extent or coordination, command, and control between core al-Qaeda, its affiliated groups, associated groups, and adherents, specifically addressing each such entity.

(H) An assessment of the effectiveness of counterterrorism operations against core al-Qaeda, its affiliated groups, associated groups, and adherents, and whether such operations have had a sustained impact on the capabilities and effectiveness of core al-Qaeda, its affiliated groups, associated groups, and adherents.

(4) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(b) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(1) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 604, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman ROGERS for supporting this amendment but, more importantly, for his work on the Intelligence Committee for so many years and, prior to that, your work with the FBI.

As a former judge, I got to see a lot of FBI agents come and testify in Texas, and they have a wonderful reputation. You also have that reputation, and thank you for your service in law enforcement and in the House.

I also want to thank the ranking member for his support, generally, for this amendment.

This amendment requires the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with relevant agencies, to produce a strategy to defeat al Qaeda and its affiliates.

The amendment requires that the President clearly define groups like core al Qaeda and al Qaeda affiliates and other terms the administration uses to define this enemy of America.

Al Qaeda continues to threaten the security of the United States and our allies, both here at home and abroad. Our intelligence services and our military have scored some real gains against al Qaeda, but al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan is still able to provide technical, tactical, and strategic direction to its affiliates throughout the world.

Al Qaeda has gone from on the verge of strategic defeat to a serious and growing threat, depending on who you ask in our intelligence services or even the administration. Today, al Qaeda controls more territory than it ever has. The fight against al Qaeda is far from over, and it will continue to grow.

As chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, I have held over a dozen bipartisan hearings focusing on this very topic. Once again, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for including this TNT Subcommittee in some of the work we have been doing together on the very issue of intelligence.

During these 12 hearings in our subcommittee, we have yet to find a witness who can articulate or even agree with the administration's counterterrorism strategy or what it is or describe how the administration really views al Qaeda and its threat. This seems to be a problem. This needs to be clarified, so that all of us know exactly what our strategy is nationwide and worldwide.

So this amendment is necessary, so we can all get on the same page in the hymnal with a clear strategy to defeat al Qaeda, so we understand what al Qaeda is really doing today in 2014. This is a constantly changing movement, and al Qaeda today isn't the same as the al Qaeda in 2001.

We need to have a clear understanding of who we are fighting and how we are going to defeat the al Qaeda terrorists. Drone strikes and target raids are not a strategy; they are tactics. Therefore, I support this amendment, and I urge support by the committee and the whole House.

And that's just the way it is.

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

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I support this amendment because the time is right to step back and take stock of where we are and how we are doing in our fight against terrorism. The threat is not going away, but it is rapidly changing.

The Director of the FBI, Jim Comey, recently said that the terrorism threat is very much alive and growing in new and more dangerous places around the world. It even surprised him, when he started, just how virulent and dispersed the terrorist threat had become.

From Pakistan to Yemen, Afghanistan to Syria, north Africa to Iraq, the threat from al Qaeda is waning in some areas, but growing in others. Unless we approach this dangerous problem holistically and precisely, we risk just squeezing the balloon, suppressing terrorism in one area, only to see it grow in another.

So I think it is a good idea to sit down and take a comprehensive look at the problem today, to make sure that we are confronting it in the precisely right way, to make sure that we are measuring our effectiveness correctly, and to make sure that we have the right and most current legal authorities.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. GALLEG0

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 113-465.

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following new section:

SEC. ____ REPORT ON RETRAINING VETERANS IN CYBERSECURITY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit to Congress recommendations for retraining veterans and retired members of elements of the intelligence community in cybersecurity.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 604, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEG0) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by thanking Chairman ROGERS and the ranking member for an opportunity to work on this issue with them, and I certainly wish Chairman ROGERS well in his future endeavors.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment helps us find ways to ensure that our veterans and other former public servants can continue their service to our country on cybersecurity, a critical national security need that will only grow in importance over the next several years.

While Congress is well aware of the challenges that we face in cybersecurity, it is important to understand that cyber attacks are not only aimed at the government, where they challenge our national security and endanger our troops, but these attacks also target our Nation's economic advantages, our core advantages, when they steal proprietary information and intellectual property from American firms that lead the Nation and lead the world in innovation.

□ 1100

In fact, for the private sector, it is important to know that an IP theft in the U.S. costs companies upwards of \$250 billion a year, and global cyber crime costs \$338 billion. And when you factor in downtime, either way, that is a lot of money. And we spent up to—no kidding—\$1 trillion fixing these problems.

These highlight an important point, that if these attacks on American companies are so bad, just use your imagination to figure the threat of foreign-based cyber attacks on the Department of Defense or other critical intelligence agencies. And there is no better group of people than our veterans and our retired members of the intelligence community who could be ready to assist in cybersecurity.

This amendment allows us to do everything we can to support our veterans who are looking for jobs along with those retired members of the intelligence community who have already demonstrated their commitment to public service.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, while I do not oppose the amendment, I ask unanimous consent to control the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to its veterans and to the retired members of the intelligence community. We should look for as many ways as possible to help them succeed in the job market. And I want to thank the gentleman for offering the amendment for promoting this. The amendment does, again, highlight the sheer level of threat we face from cyber crime, cyber terrorists, cyber espionage. We are being overwhelmed.

When you look at China, Russia, Iran, and now organized crime groups who are approaching nation-state capability, it is as bad as I have ever seen it. And, again, 85 percent of the networks across America are not protected by the government because they are private sector networks. The government, itself, is about 15 percent of those networks.

We need to find a pathway, A, to attract the talent that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEG0) is talking about; and, B, we need to allow these private sector folks to protect themselves by gaining information, sharing information the government has that could protect those networks from cyber catastrophe.

It is happening each and every day. The next generation of cyber warriors are there. And I think this amendment will go a long way to recruit the right talent in the right place to help us meet this growing threat of the future prosperity, safety, and the security of the United States.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER).

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

As I said in the opening hearing on worldwide threats, "education is the keystone of security and prosperity in the 21st century."

The cyber threats we face are grave, and we need to train the best, the brightest, and the most dedicated—like our veterans and our retired intelligence professionals—to be our next generation of cyber defenders. We call them cyber warriors.

Every day, we hear about cyber attacks in the news. Early last year, for example, our financial sector suffered a wide-scale network denial of service attack that proved difficult and very costly to mitigate. The retail giant, Target, is another recent example of our vulnerability to cyber attacks. And today, The Washington Post stated that Iranian hackers are targeting U.S.A. officials through social networks.

We need to pass cybersecurity legislation like CISPA, and we need to do far more to expand our bench of cyber professionals and innovators. We need to invest in early education in science,

technology, engineering, and math. And we equally need to leverage the experience and wisdom of our veterans and former intelligence professionals. Our adversaries are making heavy investments in cyber education. We must do the same. For this reason, I support this amendment.

I thank my colleague from Texas (Mr. GALLEG0) for his amendment. He represents the area of Texas that is close to the border. He understands the threat and why we need intelligence to deal with national security.

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Chairman, many of our servicemembers have made the ultimate sacrifice. There are 4,423 that have died in Operation Iraqi Freedom; 66 in Operation New Dawn; and, as of yesterday, 2,320 have died in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, where I just returned from this week. But many of the thousands upon thousands of our troops who did make it home to see their mothers, fathers, spouses, and kids are alive today because actionable intelligence helped them achieve their missions more safely.

While there has been a lot of criticism about intelligence collection—and we have had a very robust debate on these issues—I think it is important that we concentrate on the fact that intelligence is so critical to the lives of our men and women in uniform. And it really does help them come back home today safe with their families because of the work of our numerous intelligence agencies who have provided the information they need to stay alive.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to do a shout-out to the Air Force ISR Agency in San Antonio, in Bexar County. I know that they do critical work to protect and defend our liberty each and every day.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEG0).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) having assumed the chair, Mr. WOMACK, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4681) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 604,

he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. In its current form, I am.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Bishop of New York moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 4681, to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of subtitle A of title III, add the following new section:

SEC. —. PROTECTING UNITED STATES MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS FROM CHINESE AND OTHER STATE-SPONSORED COMPUTER THEFT.

The head of each element of the intelligence community shall—

(1) prioritize efforts to uncover and foil attempts to steal United States military technology, and the intellectual property of United States corporations, by State-sponsored computer hackers from China and other foreign countries;

(2) consistent with existing law, immediately inform corporations and internet providers of any computer breaches and the steps necessary to combat further intrusion;

(3) coordinate with other Federal agencies to protect critical United States infrastructure, including the electrical grid, nuclear power plants, oil and gas pipelines, financial services, and air traffic safety, from repeated computer hacking attacks; and

(4) assist the Department of Justice and other law enforcement agencies, including by supporting the international efforts of United States allies, in efforts to punish and sanction individuals and governments that perpetrate economic espionage and identity theft.

Mr. BISHOP of New York (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, my amendment responds to the increasing threat of Chinese and other state-sponsored computer hacking of our national infrastructure of computer networks. These cyber attacks have severely undermined our national security and continue to threaten our economy.

Not only are the Chinese hacking into our state secrets, but they are stealing our trade secrets, which costs us jobs, and especially jobs of the future. China's conduct is reprehensible and unacceptable for a major trading partner. In response, my amendment requires the heads of the intelligence agencies to prioritize efforts to uncover, stop, and prevent future attempts to steal U.S. military technology and intellectual property.

The intelligence agencies are also required to notify businesses and Internet providers when network breaches occur, collaborate with Federal agencies to protect critical infrastructure, and assist law enforcement, as well as our international partners in apprehending, halting, and punishing those who infiltrate our systems.

The need for this amendment is clear. Growing evidence reveals extensive activity on the part of the People's Liberation Army to conduct cyber, economic, and industrial espionage. Their hacking knows no bounds in the pursuit of state and trade secrets alike.

We have uncovered the traces and telltale signs of hacking into Federal systems and U.S. corporations, like Alcoa, U.S. Steel, energy companies like SolarPowerAG, and even nuclear power providers like Westinghouse Electric Company.

This month, the Justice Department indicted five members of the Chinese military for stealing trade secrets in order to prosper from American ingenuity and innovation to undercut our global competitiveness.

These are not isolated incidents. The frequency of these attacks has increased over time, costing our economy thousands of jobs and up to \$100 billion annually. Not only are the Chinese and their partners in cyber crime refusing to acknowledge evidence we have uncovered, but they refuse to negotiate steps both of our nations could pursue to end this threat.

No one single action will stop the Chinese from trying to infiltrate American computer networks, but collaboration between our intelligence agencies, law enforcement, and the private sec-

tor can strengthen our defenses, deter cyber espionage from being launched on foreign shores, and protect our jobs.

My amendment is not the only step we can take, but it is an important addition to this bill. The United States deserves better for supporting the rights of nations like China to trade in the global marketplace, to be treated with respect, and to participate in the community of nations. We must send the message to China and our rivals that this Congress stands ready to defend our national security and our economy, and we must send a message assuring future generations of Americans that protecting jobs here at home will always be our priority and that our economic might is more important than our military might. Our national security and position as a global leader in innovation and competitiveness depends on it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his interest. This is exciting news.

The bill is not crafted correctly, and it opens us up to exposing classified information to corporations that may be foreign-owned and operated by the very counterintelligence threat we seek to push back on. But thank you for this effort.

We should reject this. We should include resounding support for the CISPA bill that carefully drafted language to make sure that there is a cyber-sharing relationship, both between the government when it comes to malicious code and the private sector who, remember, is all by itself out there getting attacked by nation-states and large organized criminal groups trying to steal their information.

If you think about even the last month or so that General Alexander was the Director of the National Security Agency, just in that last bit of time he was there, the military sites, the government sites were hit 41 million times by people trying to cause destruction or break in and steal something. Again, this is as serious a problem as you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, that we are not prepared to handle.

So that CISPA bill that I think you tried to get here—I mean, part of this bill is the redundancy department of redundancy. The second part is just not drafted correctly, and we would love to help you get to the right place.

This bill, I think, causes a little more harm than I think you realized without carefully considering how you construct a cyber-sharing malicious code relationship between the government and the private sector. It needs to hap-

pen. This way, it just exposes, again, the information to counterintelligence groups that we don't want to have it.

So I would strongly urge the rejection of the motion to recommit. But I want to thank the gentleman. I look forward to working in the next few months with the gentleman to make sure that we put in place a fighting chance, a fighting chance for the 85 percent of those private sector networks that are getting absolutely ravaged every single day by cyber attackers, by people who are trying to disrupt activities.

□ 1115

There are public reports that Iran is probing our financial institutions. Think about the idea if they were able or successful to go in and take down a financial institution that has trillions of dollars every single day in global transactions, destroy data, manipulate data, and you don't know who owes whom what. Imagine the economic catastrophe that happens.

Well, guess what? This is not Orwellian. It is not next year, it is not 6 months from now, and it is not 10 years from now. It is happening today, and every nation on the face of the Earth is trying to get this capability—including al Qaeda. They are advertising to try to find the right people to develop a capability for a cyberattack to disrupt, to destroy, and to cause chaos.

This is as important an issue as I can think of, Mr. Speaker, that I hope we find some resolution on. Again, I have to strongly oppose this motion to recommit for the drafting errors I find in the bill. But I look forward to working with the gentleman on the CISPA bill that is in the Senate and passed by this House in a huge bipartisan way so that we can bring relief and security to the future prosperity of the United States of America.

With that, I yield back the balance my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the bill, if ordered, and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 183, nays 220, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 270]

YEAS—183

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brady (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Gene

Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McColum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Nolan

O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Cleaver
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—220

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bentivolio
Billirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Carter

Cassidy
Chabot
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ehllmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick

Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna

Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon

McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan

Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—28

Gabbard
Green, Al
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Lankford
Lewis
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Neal

Palazzo
Rangel
Ros-Lehtinen
Shuster
Slaughter
Walberg
Waters
Yarmuth

□ 1145

Messrs. GRIFFITH of Virginia and MCHENRY changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 345, noes 59, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 271]

AYES—345

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Beatty

Becerra
Bera (CA)
Billirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ehllmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi

Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon

McColum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
Gibbs
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter

Sherman	Thornberry	Wasserman
Shimkus	Tiberi	Schultz
Simpson	Tipton	Waxman
Sinema	Titus	Webster (FL)
Sires	Tonko	Wenstrup
Smith (MO)	Tsongas	Westmoreland
Smith (NE)	Turner	Whitfield
Smith (NJ)	Upton	Williams
Smith (TX)	Valadao	Wilson (FL)
Smith (WA)	Van Hollen	Wilson (SC)
Southerland	Vargas	Wittman
Stewart	Veasey	Wolf
Stivers	Vela	Womack
Stutzman	Visclosky	Woodall
Terry	Wagner	Yoder
Thompson (CA)	Walden	Young (AK)
Thompson (MS)	Walorski	Young (IN)
Thompson (PA)	Walz	

NOES—59

Amash	Gosar	Mulvaney
Barton	Grijalva	Nadler
Bass	Gutiérrez	O'Rourke
Bentivolio	Holt	Perry
Blumenauer	Honda	Pocan
Broun (GA)	Huelskamp	Polis
Burgess	Huffman	Posey
Capuano	Jones	Salmon
Clark (MA)	Kingston	Sanford
Cohen	Labrador	Schakowsky
Conyers	Lee (CA)	Sensenbrenner
DeFazio	Lofgren	Speier
DelBene	Lummis	Stockman
Doggett	Maloney,	Swalwell (CA)
Doyle	Carolyn	Takano
Duncan (SC)	Massie	Tierney
Duncan (TN)	McClintock	Velázquez
Ellison	McDermott	Weber (TX)
Gibson	McGovern	Welch
Gohmert	Moore	Yoho

NOT VOTING—27

Benishek	Fattah	Neal
Campbell	Green, Al	Palazzo
Capito	Hartzler	Rangel
Chaffetz	Hastings (FL)	Ros-Lehtinen
Clay	Lankford	Shuster
Cleaver	Lewis	Slaughter
Clyburn	McCarthy (NY)	Walberg
Cramer	Miller, Gary	Waters
Dingell	Miller, George	Yarmuth

□ 1153

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York changed her vote from "aye" to "no."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 30, 2014, I was unable to vote due to my duties and responsibilities in my daughter's wedding rehearsal and ceremony on the 30th and 31st. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 271.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I missed the following votes:

Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4681. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

H.R. 4681—Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

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

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

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 4681, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 4681, the Clerk be authorized to make such technical and conforming changes as necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, June 2, 2014.

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

There was no objection.

ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of a dental health crisis in this country. In 2010, 181 million Americans didn't see a dentist. More than 50 percent of Americans over the age of 30 suffer from some form of periodontal disease, and estimates suggest that 25 percent of children under the age of 5 already have cavities.

It is time to take action. This is why the American Dental Association last year launched Action for Dental Health: Dentists Making a Difference, a nationwide, community-based movement focused on delivering care now to people already suffering from dental disease, strengthening and growing the public-private safety net to provide more care for more Americans, and bringing dental health education and disease prevention into underserved communities.

I urge all of my colleagues to read the Action for Dental Health One Year Report to Congress to learn more about this movement and its progress.

HONORING REBECCA MARTIN

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rebecca Mar-

tin, the principal of Screven County Elementary School, who is retiring after more than 30 years as an educator.

Educators are the unsung heroes in the fight for a better life for all of us. Ms. Martin started her teaching career in 1981 and then went on to teach 18 years in the Screven County School System. Since becoming a principal in 1999, she has overseen a school system that has taught thousands of students who have received too many awards to be mentioned here, all as a direct result of her leadership and dedication to our children.

While I know the students and teachers of Screven County Elementary School will miss Ms. Martin's spirit and dedication and she will miss seeing them as much as she is used to, she can be sure that her teaching and leadership have had a profound impact upon her students and her fellow teachers wherever they go.

I congratulate Ms. Martin on her retirement. I wish her; her husband, Dr. Charles Martin; their two children; and their six grandchildren all the good things to come in the next step of their journey together.

□ 1200

THE GIs ON D-DAY—1944

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was 70 years ago. The sky was gray, the rain pelted the teenage Americans as they were part of the greatest amphibious attack in world history.

It was June 6, 1944—D-Day. The rough seas of the English Channel tossed GIs about in the landing craft as they came under intense brutal fire from the enemy on the French shore. In spite of high casualties on the beaches, they moved forward. They climbed the unbelievable cliffs, and the troops were successful in driving the enemy from the French coast.

Their success allowed more Americans to follow in future waves and later days and later weeks.

My dad, Sergeant Virgil Poe, was one of them who came later. The GIs—they came, they liberated, and some went home. The others lie in graves atop the cliffs of Normandy, France. Their crosses and Stars of David glisten in the sun where 9,000 Americans are buried.

We appreciate and remember all of them for giving up their youth so we could have a future.

And that's just the way it is.

ATOMIC VETERANS SERVICE MEDAL ACT

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

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Atomic Veterans Service Medal Act.

Between 1945 and 1962, about 225,000 members of our Armed Forces participated in hundreds of nuclear weapons tests. These GIs became known as the Atomic Veterans. They were placed in extremely dangerous areas and constantly exposed to radiation in performance of their duties. Sworn to secrecy, they could not even speak of their service.

Thankfully, Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush recognized their valiant service and acted to provide specialized care and compensation for their harrowing duty.

One of my constituents, Joe Mondello from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, is an atomic veteran, and very proud of his service to our country. Like me, he believes it is past time for the Defense Department to honor with a medal the unique service carried out by the atomic veterans.

More than 75 percent of atomic veterans have passed away, never having received this recognition. I call on this House to act swiftly on the passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following articles:

[From Leavenworth Times, May 8, 2009]

ATOMIC VETERANS STILL FIGHTING FOR RECOGNITION FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT

(By Belinda Larsen)

Approximately 225,000 American servicemen participated in atmospheric nuclear tests conducted between 1945 and 1962 in the U.S. and over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

About 225,000 American servicemen participated in atmospheric nuclear tests conducted between 1945 and 1962 in the U.S. and over the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

These Americans were placed in very hazardous, extremely dangerous areas and were constantly exposed to the unknown factors of radiation in the performance of their duties. They were assigned to these duties with no formal training, knowledge of the hazards and with very little or no safety gear.

They were America's atomic guinea pigs and kept away from the public.

And still today the U.S. government remains reluctant to acknowledge the health problems created by the atomic testing, which left the servicemen with hidden wounds—not from bullets or shrapnel, but from radiation.

"Thousands of veterans have died while they begged for medical help. The government has never admitted that subjecting them to atomic radiation causes all different kinds of cancer," said Gary Thornton of Leon, Kan., who has been working hard to bring honor and remembrance to our nation's forgotten veterans.

Thornton, a 27-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, was assigned duty aboard the U.S.S. Engage, a minesweeper. Thornton, along with his fellow crew members, were "volunteered" to participate in a top-secret project.

They were also instructed to sign a document stating that whatever they "witnessed,

saw, or heard would not be revealed for 20 years under the penalty of execution and/or life imprisonment." This was called the Atomic Secrets Act and no entries were made in the service jackets, medical records or orders of these soldiers.

Because of the sworn secrecy, it's as if the testing never happened.

Thornton has been telling anyone who will listen that most of the Atomic Veterans have experienced severe health problems, as well as their children and grandchildren.

In order to be compensated, a veteran must be certified by a VA doctor, which means the veteran must have proof of their assignment or participation. Due to the Atomic Secrets Act, it's impossible to attain the needed certification.

The Atomic Secrets Act was finally lifted in 1996—not 20 years, but 51 years after being imposed. The veterans who were left were allowed to discuss their experiences.

"Because so much emphasis was put on the severity of breaking the 20 year imposed threat, there are older survivors that are still afraid to say anything for the fear of being punished," Thornton said. "It's a national disgrace. I just can't stand to see any more of these people die without the recognition they deserve. . . . They're not even mentioned in our history books."

The government has never researched or sought out these veterans. Thousands have died from multiple cancers or related illnesses and were not granted any medical assistance.

SMALL STEPS

In 1988, the government finally conceded to allow treatment for six types of cancer, only provided that the veteran could prove they were part of the atomic testing—nearly impossible to do because of the secrecy act.

The Department of Defense has instituted a program that works to confirm veteran participation in U.S. atmospheric nuclear tests from 1945 to 1962, and the occupation forces of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

If the veteran is a confirmed participant of these events, the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) may provide either an actual or estimated radiation dose received by the veteran. The information then can be used to assist with VA claims. Sadly, it takes a long time for claims to be reviewed and only a few thousand have been approved.

In the meantime, more than 75 percent of the Atomic Veterans have died.

SEEKING RECOGNITION

In 1982, there were over 850 Atomic Veterans in Kansas. Today there are only 100 left.

In 2003, Thornton, along with fellow veteran Larry Halloran, began working toward getting recognition and a special medal for the Atomic Veterans.

"These veterans had no idea how the radiation would affect them. . . . None of us knew. We were 18 and 19 years old, following orders and serving our country. We're dying by the thousands and still no recognition. It's a disgrace. We can't let their deaths be in vain," Thornton said.

The allied countries of Great Britain, New Zealand, and Australia enacted the Atomic Veterans Medal Act of 2007, in which a Queen-authorized special medal to honor their Atomic Veterans who served with the United States, was authorized. Their medals came with full monetary and medical compensation.

Still, the U.S. government remains silent.

Because of the sacrifices made by the Atomic Veterans, the U.S. has the safest nu-

clear generating power plants, nuclear aircraft carriers and Trident submarines. Strides were also made in medical technology—including x-rays, MRIs and sonograms.

Thornton also credits the nuclear test results with helping to end the Korean War, "MacArthur had three atomic bombs in Korea and when Korea found out, they backed off," he added, "President Kennedy also had the upper hand in Cuba because of the bomb."

KANSAS EFFORTS

In 2004, former state Rep. Everett Johnson, of Augusta, and an Atomic Veteran who was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease several years ago, helped get a resolution adopted to recognize and honor Kansas Atomic Veterans, which led to then-Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius presenting a Certificate of Recognition to each known Atomic Veteran in Kansas.

"We couldn't have done it without Everett Johnson and Governor Sebelius. . . . Kansas is the only state to do this," Thornton said.

A day of celebration was held in Topeka, but more than 50 percent of the state's Atomic Veterans were too ill or too old to attend the special event.

In 2007, the Kansas Legislature adopted resolution HCR 5018, introduced by Kansas Rep. Ed Trimmer, of Winfield, and co-sponsored by Rep. David Crum, of Augusta, encouraging the President of the United States Congress to honor our nation's Atomic Veterans with a special Atomic Veterans Service Medal.

There has been no official action or designation number for the bill in Washington, but Kansas Congressman Todd Tiahrt's office and other sponsors are routing the bill for introduction to the House of Representatives.

FUNDRAISING PROJECT

During a legislative session last year, Trimmer and Crum co-sponsored legislation to name a portion of Highway 400 in honor of the Atomic Veterans. The legislation passed unanimously in both the House and Senate and was signed by Sebelius in April 2008.

Trimmer led the fundraising efforts for the purchase of the Kansas Department of Transportation highway signs. More than \$1,400 was raised through private donations.

In a ceremony on May 22, the highway signs will be revealed. Legislators, state and county officials, veterans and their families will gather at 10 a.m. at the Bluestem High School auditorium in Leon to honor our Country's forgotten veterans.

The new highway signs are a step in the right direction, but Thornton continues his appeal for national recognition.

"Please help us by writing, e-mailing or calling our congressmen and spreading the word to friends in other states to do the same," he said. "We need your help to bring these treasured veterans out from the dark where our government has seen fit to put them, into the sunlight with honor and dignity and receive a medal. An \$8 medal would be a small price tag for what these Atomic Veterans—America's Forgotten Veterans—have endured for 60 years."

[From Huffington Post, Mar. 15, 2014]

JUSTICE FOR THE ATOMIC VETERANS

(by Vincent Intondi)

In 1955 the U.S. detonated a nuclear weapon. Men nearby huddled in fear, praying for their lives. Some died instantly. Others lost their sight or had the skin ripped off their bodies. However, these were not enemies of

the U.S. They were Americans. From 1945 to 1963, the United States conducted hundreds of nuclear weapons tests in which they used thousands of GIs as human guinea pigs. The GIs, who became known as the "atomic veterans," were exposed to nuclear fallout, and many suffered fatal diseases. For years the plight of the atomic veterans and the federal government's reluctance to formally acknowledge these acts went largely unnoticed by the mainstream media. However, beginning in the 1970s, atomic veterans, led largely by African Americans Acie Byrd and James Gates, joined together to demand justice.

Acie Byrd is perhaps best known as the skipper of John F. Kennedy's famed PT-109. However, following a hydrogen bomb test in the Pacific, Byrd lost most light sensation in his eyes from the radiation exposure. Yet, over the years, Byrd managed to keep track of hundreds of victims of the nuclear tests. As founder of the Atomic Veterans Association and leader of the Alliance of Atomic Veterans, Byrd has often been at the forefront of ensuring that the federal government adequately compensates atomic veterans.

James Gates was born in Chicago's South Side in 1935. Upon returning from Korea in 1954, Gates was reassigned to Camp Desert Rock, Nev. In an interview with Nancy Hogan for her article "Shielded From Liability," Gates explained that when he arrived in Las Vegas, "they took his identification, told him he would be constructing roads and air fields, and to keep quiet about what he would see." Then the nuclear bomb tests began. Gates, only a half-mile away, was also told he was in no danger. In reality, he was being used as a human guinea pig. Gates saw his fellow soldiers die, carcasses of dead jackrabbits scattered on the ground, and one morning he awoke from unconsciousness only to find the flesh torn from his left arm and leg. "There is no reckoning it. No reckoning why the government would hurt its own people. I mean, I've got no teeth, no energy, no breath...I've got very little left, not even hope...Some of the men were put in what they called the 'monkey cage.' The monkey cage was close to the bomb site and the bomb killed all those men. I mean we were a half-mile from each shot...Each time we'd see a bomb go off they'd have a priest there... Racism has a lot to do with all this, racism and the feeling that the government doesn't care," Gates recalled.

As the nuclear tests continued, chemist and Nobel laureate Linus Pauling became convinced that the government was carrying out human experimentation. Pauling contacted the independent journalist Paul Jacobs and urged him to investigate the Nevada Test Site (NTS). In the winter of 1955, Jacobs picked up a hitchhiker on the way to Las Vegas. It was James Gates. The two quickly became friends, and Gates provided Jacobs with documents, contracts, and private meetings with others at the test site. After several years of research, Jacobs exposed the atrocity in a series of stories and the documentary Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang, which helped bring worldwide attention to the NTS. And while Gates took solace in the fact that the U.S. passed the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963, he was denied military retirement and service-connected disability as a result of his whistleblowing.

Like many atomic veterans, Gates began to suffer numerous illnesses, struggled to sustain a career, and became homeless. Beginning in the 1970s, Gates' teeth began to

fall out. He suffered from heart failure, a collapsed lung, and a burst appendix. Even with his health declining, Gates joined thousands of other atomic veterans and demanded the government provide adequate medical insurance. He participated in civil disobedience at the Nevada Test Site and joined radiation victims in rallies and conferences throughout the country. After years of activism, Gates was finally granted a date for a hearing on his case before the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. He died on March 20, 2004—two and a half months before his scheduled appearance.

In response to the atomic veterans, on January 15, 1994, President Clinton set up the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments (ACHRE), which held 16 meetings from 1994 through 1995, at which Byrd and other atomic veterans testified. Clinton went even further when, in the fall of 1995, he officially apologized for the treatment of atomic veterans. However, the apology went unnoticed in the mainstream media, since it came on the same day that the O.J. Simpson verdict was announced. Perhaps 20 years later we can give them the respect and honor that is so long overdue, and instead of spending billions to modernize our nuclear arsenal, we can eliminate them once and for all.

GENERAL ERIC SHINSEKI

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank General Eric Shinseki for his service to the Nation, as an Army general, as Secretary of the VA, and I am glad that he made the right decision today in accepting responsibility for these terrible systemic problems that we have seen throughout the VA that the inspector general has confirmed extend throughout the entire system of veterans being forced to wait for health care. It is an absolutely unacceptable situation, and General Shinseki has done the right thing by accepting responsibility as the man in charge. I urge him and the mid-level and upper-level leadership of the VA to do the right thing as well and accept responsibility.

We need to see these veterans given access to health care immediately. Every one of them is on a waiting list that has kept them from access to doctors, and they need to immediately be put into a private hospital in the VA system as quickly and as humanly possible. The Congress has given the VA all the money they need, all the authority they need, to do their job to make sure these men and women who have served our Nation and defended our freedom get access to the best medical care in the world.

I want to make sure the VA understands that the Congress is going to continue to do everything that needs to be done to ensure those veterans are taken care of.

KEEP GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF CRIMINALS

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again, Americans are heartbroken by a gun violence tragedy.

Since the mass shooting last Friday in Santa Barbara, more than 160 others have lost their lives at the hands of a gun, including an 18-month-old baby who was shot in front of his mother in my hometown of West Palm Beach. This mother will never see her child go to school, graduate from college, walk down the aisle, or hear him say "I love you, Mom." Too many lives have been taken and too many communities have been torn apart.

I applaud the House vote yesterday to invest funds to help the States improve submissions to the national background electric system. With that said, we must do much more to expand background checks and strengthen mental health intervention and research.

From California to Florida, American families are counting on us—the Congress—to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and keep our children safe.

RESIGNATION OF ERIC SHINSEKI

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, with the resignation of Mr. Shinseki from the VA Administration, he did the honorable thing as a great veteran, but not a great administrator. A general has to know what his lieutenants are up to, and if he is not getting results he has to demand and get action.

Now, as we move forward, we can't let this story today—the resignation or the speculation about who will be the next Director—be the story. It still needs to be focused on what is happening at the regional offices, what is happening with veterans health being delivered to them, what is happening with the Veterans Benefits Administration getting through the backlog of cases and having them seen, having their claims finished for a change.

We have much to do, so do not get, Mr. Speaker, diverted by today's news or upcoming speculation on that. There are still many people at the mid-level management, regional directors, and the regional centers that need to be held accountable and get immediate results now and not way into the future after much more backlogs.

RESIGNATION OF ERIC SHINSEKI

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, for years, I have struggled with the VA bureaucracy in my region. There are attempts to downgrade the Roseburg Hospital. We are still fighting over adequate status and staffing. It took 6 years after I got funding for a critical new VA clinic in Eugene for them to break ground so we can get expanded services in staffing. Day in and day out my staff and I have to push the VA to get our veterans the benefits they have earned and the services they deserve.

Now we find that these problems were systemic and nationwide. It is right that General Shinseki has resigned, but that is just the beginning of the housecleaning and the reform we need in the Veterans Administration to see that they become an organization that is totally oriented toward serving our veterans and getting them the services they have earned and they deserve. Veterans shouldn't have to fight, they shouldn't have to wait in line. We can do better, and we must.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL ROBERT PAPP, JR., AND COMMANDANT PAUL F. ZUKUNFT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate the service of retiring Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and to acknowledge the coming on board, if you will, of Commandant Paul F. Zukunft; to thank them for their collective service and to acknowledge Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., for his commitment to a rising and excelling United States Coast Guard.

In every hearing that the Coast Guard appears before us, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee and a ranking member on Border Security and Maritime Security, I acknowledge that sight of Coast Guard helicopters rescuing thousands during Hurricane Katrina, plucking them out of the raging waters and saving lives. Many people don't remember 1,000 died.

Today, that ceremony is occurring. I pay tribute to them, and I hope that many of us will have the opportunity to congratulate both of them.

Thank you for your service to this Nation. You are remembered.

STOP TRYING TO TAKE CARE OF THE WHOLE WORLD AND PUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FIRST

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, you can never satisfy the government's appetite for money or land. They always want more. But this Na-

tion's national debt has now reached an astounding \$17.6 trillion. The only reason more people are not upset about that figure is that nobody can humanly comprehend a figure like \$17.6 trillion.

Basically, what it means is that this Nation is in the shape of Detroit. The only difference is Detroit can't print money. This Nation keeps printing more money, more money, and more money. That is going to speed up in the years ahead if we don't get much more fiscal conservatism at the Federal level.

Anyone who wants to draw Social Security, our Federal pension, or our military pension that will buy very much in future years should demand much more fiscal responsibility from our Federal Government.

What we mainly need to do, Mr. Speaker, we need to stop trying to take care of the whole world and start taking care of our own country and putting the American people first once again.

HONORING TYLER FAZZARI

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Tyler Fazzari. Tyler is 10 years old. He lives in Port Washington, and he is giving back to our community in a major way.

Last week, I visited Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism, and I literally ran into Tyler in a corridor. I learned that he gave that school \$800 donated by his friends for his own birthday. He has a friend with autism, and he wanted to do something about it.

Tyler told me that he formed an organization called BirthdayBack. It inspires other kids to raise money for their birthdays in lieu of gifts and give to charity.

Tyler is an entrepreneur, but he is also a philanthropist. And at age 10, he gives me great hope for the future of our country and great hope that if enough of us are inspired by Tyler we will find a cure for autism.

Thank you, Tyler.

RESIGNATION OF VA SECRETARY SHINSEKI

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Secretary Shinseki for his service.

When you are born you get a birth certificate and when you die you are going to get a death certificate, and that dash in between is what you have done to make this a better place.

I have served on the Veteran Affairs' Committee for 22 years, and I know

that my colleagues in the House and in the Senate talk a good talk. We talk about what we want to do for veterans. But talking and walking and rolling, I know for a fact that not until we had a Democratic House, a Democratic Senate, and a Democratic President, we got the largest funding in the history of the United States for the veterans.

This Secretary opened up the system so that all the Vietnam veterans could come in without proving one by one. So it is a lot of work that we have got to do—not what we have got to do, not just the VA, but what we have to do to make sure that we have the kind of service the veterans deserve.

As a senior member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am disappointed in the resignation of VA Secretary Shinseki. While he felt he would have been a distraction going forward to resolve the issues brought to light by Phoenix, I feel Secretary Shinseki was the person most capable of fixing these issues. I am grateful for his service both as a soldier and a veteran.

Since being sworn in as the seventh Secretary of Veterans Affairs in 2009, Secretary Shinseki has brought reform and a new way of thinking to the VA. As a former Chief of Staff of the Army, Secretary Shinseki knew what the young men and women protecting our freedoms overseas were going through and wanted to make sure they did not have to fight a bureaucracy to get the services they earned.

The young men and women coming back and the veterans from previous wars shared more than battlefield wounds when they returned home, they shared a difficulty in getting care and benefits for their signature wounds. For the Vietnam veterans, it was exposure to Agent Orange; for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, it was Traumatic Brain Injury.

Secretary Shinseki made the decision in 2009 to establish service connection for Vietnam Veterans with three specific illnesses that, based on the latest scientific evidence, have been associated with exposure to the herbicides referred to as Agent Orange—Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease, and B-cell leukemias.

This was the right thing to do for Vietnam Veterans and, thanks to this decision, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have one of the "presumptive" illnesses do not have to face another hurdle and prove an association between their illness and their military service. Thanks to this quick and decisive action VA has granted more than 160,000 retroactive claims associated with these three presumptive conditions, and awarded more than \$4.5 billion in retroactive benefits, with an average retroactive benefit payment of nearly \$27,000. Under Secretary Shinseki, the VA continues to expand and improve its mental health programs, adding more than 3800 mental health professionals to its clinical staff. As part of VA's 2012 hiring initiative, VA has hired 1,600 mental health clinicians for newly created positions and 800 Peer Specialists and Peer Apprentices.

Since 2009, Congress has increased the mental health care budget by 42 percent and VA has treated 1.4 million Veterans with specialty mental health services in fiscal year

2013 (FY13) alone. Under Secretary Shinseki's leadership, the VA has expanded access to mental health services with longer clinic hours, telehealth capability to deliver services, and standards that mandate rapid access to mental health services.

In July 2010, VA published a historic change to its rules, streamlining the process and paperwork needed by combat Veterans to pursue a claim for disability pay for PTSD.

After Secretary Shinseki made it easier for those claiming Agent Orange and PTSD injuries, the claims backlog had major increases. With his work to have overtime and sharing of records, the claims backlog has been reduced by more than 50% in the past 14 months. The VA has shown an unwavering commitment to improving the delivery of benefits to Veterans. With input from all of its veteran partners, the VA created and is implementing a comprehensive plan to end the Veterans disability benefits claims backlog.

When Secretary Shinseki took office, he set a goal of ending Veterans homelessness by 2015. The VA, along with local, state, and federal partners has decreased the number of homeless Veterans on a given night by 24 percent since 2010 and are continuing to work to keep bringing this number down.

The VA provides quality and timely healthcare and benefits to our veterans. We have a duty to make sure that all those who have defended this country when called upon receive the care they have earned through their service. The VA is better for Secretary Shinseki's service to our veterans.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Ukraine on conducting free and fair elections that the world watched closely. As a beloved friend of mine from Ukraine wrote me:

These elections were amazing. People were standing in long lines with the purpose to vote. And we did it. We do hope that we will start to live in a new way. Ukrainians deserve much better in life and in leaders. Thank you.

With a nearly 60 percent turnout, and despite the fearful invasion by Russia of Ukraine's eastern provinces, the election proceeded on schedule and without major disruption. This is a living testament to the future and the hopes the Ukrainian people invested in their new government.

The people of our region send heartfelt congratulations to the incoming Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. A successful businessman in his own Nation, he now holds a historic opportunity to lead Ukraine to write a new era of stability, prosperity, and democratic reform. It will be a major undertaking. May the hopes of the Ukrainian people for a better life be realized in our time.

Ukraine can rise to be one of the greatest nations on the European continent. Her time is now.

□ 1215

VETERANS TIMELY ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE ACT

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a new bill that has just been introduced, the Veterans Timely Access to Health Care Act. Our veterans have waited too long.

If you have served our country and if you have gone to the VA center, we need to make sure you have got access to timely care. Whether it is primary care or urgent care, if it is beyond 7 days, you can go see a new doctor, and if it is beyond 14 days for specialty care, you can go see a new doctor at the VA's expense.

We owe our veterans nothing less than to make sure that they have got world-class health care and that they have it immediately.

MAYA ANGELOU

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon to say a few words in tribute to the great Maya Angelou, who just this week died at 86 years of age. Mine will be one of, truly, millions of tributes that have begun.

President Obama said of Maya that she helped generations of Americans "find their rainbows amidst the clouds and that she inspired the rest of us to be our best selves." I think many would agree with that.

Attorney General Holder named one of his daughters "Maya" after Maya Angelou. We have a charter school here in the District of Columbia named for her. She visited that school. That is the kind of woman she was.

It is almost impossible to describe this life, all 86 years of it. She drew from it all that you can draw from one life.

Yes, we know her, perhaps, best as a poet and as a writer and as, some would say, an autobiographer because most of her writing comes from her own life in successive memoirs, in successive autobiographies, but much of her fame came when she was middle age and beyond.

Until that time, she embarked on a far-flung career wherever it would take her, dancer—yes, dancer—singer, composer, actress. She was Hollywood's first Black female director, but she was most devoted to the printed word as an essayist, as a playwright, as a poet; and that came out of her own love of books, of words.

Maya Angelou was active until the end of those 86 years. When she died,

she was the Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University in North Carolina.

I will have some words later in these remarks to say about that, since I visited her there, and it was a most memorable time for me.

Carol Neubauer of Southern Women Writers writes, I think, intelligently, of Maya, saying:

Angelou has been recognized not only as a spokesperson for Blacks and women, but also for all people who are committed to raising the moral standards of living in the United States.

That is just how broad was Maya's mission. I am very grateful that she was recognized as I believe she should have been.

Well before she died, President Clinton gave Maya Angelou the National Medal of Arts, and then, President Obama gave her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Some of us in the House are trying to give her, posthumously, the Congressional Gold Medal.

It seems as if there are not enough honors that one can come forward with for a woman with so many talents and with so great a love for humanity, who kept pouring it out, so that we could partake as well, but I think we learn most from her life by understanding how hard was her early life and how she rose.

It is interesting that, at President Clinton's inauguration, those lines "And Still I Rise," which are from the poem she wrote for his inauguration, are best remembered—perhaps most remembered—than President Clinton's words themselves at his own inauguration.

Yes, she rose. She rose from the bottom of society. She worked in places many of us couldn't conceive of. She was a shake dancer in nightclubs. She was a fry cook. She worked in hamburger joints. She worked as a dinner cook in a creole restaurant.

Let me say, as someone who tasted Maya Angelou's cooking, she was a master cook. She once worked in a mechanic's shop, taking the paint off of cars with her hands, not with an instrument.

She was married, and she had a son. Through all of the traditional phases of a woman's life, she managed to do many things.

In San Francisco, she sang at the Purple Onion Cabaret. She toured with "Porgy and Bess." In the 1950s, Maya Angelou was in the Harlem Writers Guild. That is where she first met Jimmy Baldwin, the great African American writer.

That friendship was very important for the inspiration it gave her to write her own first autobiography. Don't think there could have been a civil rights struggle without Maya Angelou.

Indeed, she worked directly with Dr. King, and she was the northern coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

This woman who wrote about Black people, even as she wrote about all people, would, of course, find her way to Africa, to Cairo—with her son—and to Ghana and, indeed, to working in Africa as a freelance writer, but it all began, perhaps, out of the experience at that time in her life that she had a life to write about.

It took her a long time to decide to put all of these first memories into an autobiography, but when she did, it became the most memorable of her books. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" is one of six memoirs. It was very controversial.

Even though it is read to this very day and taught in schools, it was controversial because she told the truth about her early life when she was raped by her mother's boyfriend when she was about 7 years of age, about the trauma that that induced, about the 5 years when she was mute and couldn't speak—wouldn't speak—perhaps could speak, but wouldn't speak.

During that time, she immersed herself in books of every variety—in the great classics and Black authors. She read. She did not speak. She took words in from great authors. She did not give her own words until she was ready to speak. A teacher brought words out of her, and not until then did she speak.

"I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." That is the memoir that is most remembered and most praised. "Gather Together in My Name" is a memoir that begins when she is 17 and, at 17, a new mother.

"Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas" is another of her memoirs, which tells of her tour in Europe and in Africa with "Porgy and Bess."

Then there was "The Heart of a Woman." That was the description of Maya's acting and writing career in New York and of her work in civil rights.

Then there was her book "All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes," which told of her travels to west Africa and of her decision to return, this time, without the son who had gone with her to Africa.

Do you notice the theme in these books? The material, every bit of it, is taken from Maya's own life and personal experiences. It has been said that a writer writes best when she writes what she knows, and Maya Angelou knew she knew best about her own rich life.

This woman, who as a child spent years mute, unable to speak, became prolific and widely read. Her poetry, much of it, was substantive and about social justice. There were poems about love. There were poems about Black people. There were poems about rebellions and about the 1960s—the modern civil rights rebellion.

She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for a book of poems titled "Just

Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Die."

She was the first Black woman to have a screenplay. It was called "Georgia, Georgia." It was produced in 1972, and she was honored with an Emmy because of her, as it was said, "search of clear messages with easily digested meanings."

She even adapted that first biography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," for a television movie that had the same name. She wrote poetry for a film called "Poetic Justice," and she played a role in that film. She played a role in another television film.

What a life.

As you read of this life, much of which we may not have known about, you see that it is not her life as a famous woman, but her life as a woman that Maya is able to write about and get us to want to read.

I had an unusual experience, oh, about 15 years ago. Essence magazine took me to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to Maya's home, for Maya and me to have what they called a fly-on-the-wall conversation. They wanted us to talk about Black women embracing their own power.

Now, how do you talk about that? With a great woman like Maya Angelou, you find a way to talk about that. Let me quote from some of what Maya Angelou said during that fly-on-the-wall conversation.

Remember, this is about finding power from within, and that was the theme throughout this conversation.

Maya Angelou said:

A powerful sense of self involves humility, but never modesty. Modesty is a learned affectation that is very dangerous, but humility comes from within.

Hear the power of those words.

She goes on to say:

Someone went before me, and I am here to try to make a path for someone who is yet to come.

□ 1230

Somehow good attracts good and, in turn, you do get some external power. If you start with the power inside you, you won't abuse external power when you get it. Be prayerful that your use of it will be constructive rather than destructive. Be careful and diligent and watchful that you don't abuse power to the detriment of others who have less.

This is off the top of Maya Angelou's head, you understand, these pearls of wisdom for which she became so well known, because she was a deep woman and deeply wise.

At one point in the conversation, I said that the difference between Maya and me is that, though she may not speak for people in some formal sense, my God, she speaks to them. And they listen. I believe that profoundly. And her life proved it profoundly.

Later on in the conversation, when we were talking about how people relate to one another, Maya said:

In some cases, people say they want change. What they really want is exchange.

Now, that is not necessarily progress. Maya believed in giving without asking in return.

She said:

Real power is like electricity. We can't see it. You can plug it into an electrical outlet, those two little holes in the wall, and light up this room. You can light up a surgery. Or, you can electrocute a person strapped in a chair. Power makes no demands. It says, "If you're intelligent, you will use me intelligently. If you're not, you will use me with deception." It's up to you.

Maya said:

You use power according to how you acknowledge it inside of yourself.

She is telling us that your execution of power is a statement about yourself.

That ought to make all of us stop and think: What I am saying or doing, in the name of what power I have, to be taken as meaning who I am.

She hinted, really, as to how she got the power within herself to rise and to make something of herself. She said she was in San Francisco with her mother, and she wanted to be a conductor on one of those wonderful streetcars in San Francisco.

And here I am quoting Maya:

So I went down to the streetcar offices, and the people just laughed at me. They wouldn't even give me an application. I came back home crying. My mother asked me, "Why do you think they didn't give you an application?" I said, "Because I'm a Negro." She asked, "Do you want the job?" I said, "Yes." She said, "Go get it. I will give you the money every morning. You get down there before the secretaries are there. Take yourself a good book. Now, when lunchtime comes, don't leave until they leave. But when they leave, you go and give yourself a good lunch. But be back before the secretaries, if you really want the job."

Three days later, said Maya Angelou, "I was so sorry I had made that commitment, but I couldn't take it back. Those people did everything but spit on me. I took Tolstoy, I took Gorky—the heavy Russian writers—and I sat there. The secretaries would bump up against my legs as they were leaving. They stood over me. They called me every name you could imagine.

Finally, I got an application. Within a month, I had a job. I was the first Black conductor on the streetcars of San Francisco. It cost me the Earth, but I got the job."

That is Maya Angelou, not reading, just recalling. I tell you, if you could tell that story to every kid in this country who has no mother or father, who was left in poverty and hears the television talk about the income gap and how miserable things are in the Congress and the world, if that story could be told to that kid, I know of no story that could inspire such a child as that story, because it was a real story. It was real life. It was the life of Maya Angelou.

My friend Maya needed every single one of her 86 years to live such a rich life—to come from utter poverty and abuse to become the Nation's renaissance woman, writer, poet, actor, dancer, screenwriter, professor, and civil rights activist. And I am here to attest, on top of all that talent, a master, magnificent cook extraordinaire.

Maya found her voice early in life, and then she kept singing, kept speaking, kept telling. She found it, to be sure, after being molested as a child and immersing herself in books, as if to find words, as if to find her voice, as if, she thought that, if she read, fertilizing her own mind she would find her own voice. And she did.

When she found that voice, it was one of those voices that carried. Was there ever a performance like hearing Maya Angelou read her own poetry? That voice carried across lines that typically divide people, using her poetry, using her writing. And it was poetry and writing and essays that spoke to Presidents and to poor people alike.

This woman had range. Maya's life experience was so full that it kept feeding memoirs. It took six of them to tell it all. Prolific until the very end, Maya Angelou lived to become a seer, the Nation's wise woman and, I would imagine, never to be forgotten.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF RABBI HAIM ASA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my neighbor and friend, Rabbi Haim Asa, who passed away at the age of 83 on May 28, 2014. His presence in the Jewish community of Orange County and beyond will be greatly missed.

Rabbi Asa's contributions as a spiritual leader since the mid 1960s and as Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth Tikvah in Fullerton have had a strong and positive impact on the community. His life story is full of remarkable accomplishments.

As a Holocaust refugee from Bulgaria, he fought in Israel's War of Independence. Rabbi Asa was also known for cofounding the Congregation Emanu-El in Buenos Aires, rescuing a Romanian refugee from Turkish authorities, and saving a Jewish university student from Argentine authorities.

His involvement in every local, regional, and national cause concerning the welfare of the State of Israel and its people is well known. He was instrumental in the development of many of the Jewish organizations, including Jewish Federation & Family Services, that serve the Jewish community today.

Additionally, Rabbi Asa contributed to building the Holocaust memorial called Garden of the Righteous. It stands to educate people on the Holocaust in order to prevent a historic tragedy from repeating itself.

I know that Rabbi Asa has touched thousands of lives over the years. Many

in the community share my appreciation for his work to bring people together, always done with humor and insight. We feel a sense of deep loss. His achievements have left a permanent mark on the community and will inspire the lives of countless others for years to come.

My thoughts go out to the friends and family of this remarkable community leader, Rabbi Haim Asa. I join the Jewish community and everyone who had the pleasure of knowing Rabbi Asa in honoring and remembering him. My condolences go out to his family.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a funeral.

Mr. FATTAH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. LEWIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for May 29 and today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1726. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

H.R. 3080. An act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3658. An act to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, June 2, 2014, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5831. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the amount of purchases from foreign entities in FY 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5832. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a

report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Cargolux Airlines International S.A. (Cargolux) Luxembourg City, Luxembourg; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5833. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-56, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5834. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5835. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5836. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5837. A letter from the President, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Title II of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5838. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting a report to Congress on a gift of land in San Diego County, California, from the Mohave Desert Land Trust, pursuant to Public Law 93-632; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5839. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program, managed by the Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice, pursuant to Public Law 90-351, section 2806(b); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5840. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Arthur Kill, NY and NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0727] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5841. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route Q-20, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1008; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASW-22] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5842. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Class E Airspace; Kwigillingcock, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1008; Airspace Docket No. 13-AAL-8] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5843. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Navigation (RNAV) Route T-265, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0952; Airspace

Docket No. 13-AGL-18] (RIN: 2120-2120-AA66) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5844. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-35 and V-25; Eastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0961; Airspace Docket No. 13-AEA-13] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5845. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Sitka, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0921; Airspace Docket No. 13-AAL-4] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5846. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0425; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-224-AD; Amendment 39-17815; AD 2014-07-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5847. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0690; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-088-AD; Amendment 39-17835; AD 2014-08-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5848. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0837; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-112-AD; Amendment 39-17832; AD 2014-08-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5849. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Qualification, Service, and Use of Crewmembers and Aircraft Dispatchers [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0677; Amdt. No. 11-56] (RIN: 2120-AJ00) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5850. A letter from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Ombudsman's Mid-year Report on Student Loan Complaints; jointly to the Committees on Financial Services and Education and the Workforce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3676. A bill to establish a prohibition on certain cell phone voice communications during passenger flights, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-466). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MESSER (for himself, Mr. KLINE, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. PETRI, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. SALMON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. BYRNE):

H.R. 4775. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain educational institutions from the employer health insurance mandate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 4776. A bill to prohibit an institution of higher education that participates in a boycott of the Israeli government, economy, or academia from receiving funds from the U.S. federal government; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 4777. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify rules relating to health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. JONES, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 4778. A bill to authorize the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who were exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of participation in the testing of nuclear weapons or under other circumstances; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 4779. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans who experience extended waiting times for appointments at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs may receive care at non-Department facilities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H.R. 4780. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. JENKINS (for herself and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 4781. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide payment under part A of the Medicare Program on a reasonable cost basis for anesthesia services furnished by an anesthesiologist in certain rural hospitals in the same manner as payments are provided for anesthesia services furnished by anesthesiologist assistants and certified registered nurse anesthetists in

such hospitals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHRADER (for himself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 4782. A bill to establish a pilot grant program to support career and technical education exploration programs in middle schools and high schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. ESTY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. CAPPAS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SHEAPORTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 4783. A bill to protect individuals by strengthening the Nation's mental health infrastructure, improving the understanding of violence, strengthening firearm prohibitions and protections for at-risk individuals, and improving and expanding the reporting of mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 4784. A bill to incentivize State reporting systems that allow mental health professionals to submit information on certain individuals deemed dangerous for purposes of prohibiting firearm possession by such individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK):

H.R. 4785. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and improve the Indian coal production tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DELANEY (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 4786. A bill to establish the Commission on Long Term Social Security Solvency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 4787. A bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 to reduce compliance burdens on certain banking entities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 4788. A bill to provide regulatory relief for mid-sized financial institutions, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 4789. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the deduction for State and local general sales taxes permanent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself and Mr. DENHAM):

H.R. 4790. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to encourage and facilitate efforts by States and other transportation rights-of-way managers to adopt integrated vegetation management practices, including enhancing plantings of native forbs and grasses that provide habitats and forage for Monarch butterflies and other native pollinators and honey bees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4791. A bill to amend section 1333 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 to ensure that multifamily housing mortgage purchases by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that are credited toward fulfillment of such enterprises multifamily special affordable housing goal increase or preserve the number of dwelling units affordable to low-income families; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HENSARLING, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. CARTER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BARR, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. COBLE, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. SCALISE, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. BOUTSTANY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. JORDAN):

H.R. 4792. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that agencies may not deduct labor organization dues from the pay of Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself and Mr. MESSER):

H.R. 4793. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include the cost of applying to an institution of higher learning as part of the benefits provided under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4794. A bill to prohibit the National Science Foundation from providing financial support for travel to Antarctica by writers and artists; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. MCKINLEY,

Mr. OLSON, Mr. BARTON, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. HALL, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LATTA, Mr. PITTS, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 4795. A bill to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. HAHN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. CHU, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. FARR, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. WATERS, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BASS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. VALADAO):

H. Res. 608. A resolution condemning the senseless rampage and mass shooting that took place in Isla Vista, California, on Friday, May 23, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself and Mr. ADERHOLT):

H. Res. 609. A resolution expressing condolences and support for assistance to the victims of the historic flooding in the Western Balkans; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SABLON, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MOORE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. MENG, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. GRIMALVA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mrs. LOWEY):

H. Res. 610. A resolution recognizing the significance of National Caribbean American Heritage Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 4775.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, which empowers Congress, in part, to "lay and collect

Taxes" and "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." The bill will exempt certain educational institutions from taxes imposed by public Law 111-148, as amended. Congress has the power to repeal such taxes and provide for the general welfare of those who have been and will be harmed by their imposition.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 4776.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Clause 8, of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 4777.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII Clause I—The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States." In addition, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section VIII, Clause 1 which states, "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 4778.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1; Article I, Section 8, Clause 14; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 4779.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 4780.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. JENKINS:

H.R. 4781.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8:
The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 4782.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 4783.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, CLAUSE 6
The Congress shall have Power...to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 4784.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 4785.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. DELANEY:

H.R. 4786.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 4787.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section III, Clause II

“The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.”

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 4788.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section III, Clause II

“The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.”

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 4789.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 4790.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, among other relevant provisions

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4791.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 4792.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the authority enumerated in clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 4793.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4794.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—“No money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Con-

sequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.”

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 4795.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 104: Mr. POE of Texas.
 H.R. 318: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 630: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 855: Mr. LUCAS.
 H.R. 920: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
 H.R. 935: Mr. CRENSHAW.
 H.R. 949: Mrs. BEATTY.
 H.R. 956: Mr. LATHAM, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 1175: Mr. TIERNEY.
 H.R. 1226: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 1250: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 1324: Mr. CARNEY.
 H.R. 1431: Mr. HONDA and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 1462: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 1518: Ms. GRANGER.
 H.R. 1554: Mr. FOSTER.
 H.R. 1563: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 1601: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 1738: Mr. RICHMOND.
 H.R. 1739: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
 H.R. 1801: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. TIERNEY.
 H.R. 1830: Mr. COBLE and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
 H.R. 1837: Mr. ENGEL.
 H.R. 1840: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. KEATING.
 H.R. 1998: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
 H.R. 2038: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 2041: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 2143: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
 H.R. 2178: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
 H.R. 2179: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 2291: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
 H.R. 2415: Mr. TIERNEY.
 H.R. 2453: Mr. MCKEON.
 H.R. 2697: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
 H.R. 2807: Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 2825: Mr. TIERNEY.
 H.R. 2835: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 2852: Ms. TITUS and Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 2969: Mr. LATHAM.
 H.R. 2997: Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 3022: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
 H.R. 3116: Mr. PASCRELL.
 H.R. 3118: Mr. TIERNEY.
 H.R. 3488: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. EDWARDS.
 H.R. 3505: Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 3560: Mr. FARR.
 H.R. 3717: Mrs. BLACK.
 H.R. 3722: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 3723: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. BENISHEK.
 H.R. 3728: Mr. WELCH, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 3852: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 3858: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. JONES.
 H.R. 3877: Mr. MICHAUD.
 H.R. 3902: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 3954: Mr. ENYART.
 H.R. 3970: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 3991: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
 H.R. 4026: Ms. HAHN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. SIRES.
 H.R. 4045: Mr. SARBANES.
 H.R. 4068: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
 H.R. 4158: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. MCKEON.
 H.R. 4162: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 4187: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. NUNES.
 H.R. 4213: Mr. POMPEO.
 H.R. 4262: Mr. ROSS and Mr. PITTINGER.
 H.R. 4306: Mr. O'ROURKE.
 H.R. 4351: Mr. STIVERS, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. FLORES.
 H.R. 4372: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. DEFAZIO.
 H.R. 4383: Mr. KING of New York.
 H.R. 4411: Mr. HUNTER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. STUTZMAN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. TERRY, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BUCHSON, Mr. OLSON, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. FATTAH.
 H.R. 4423: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
 H.R. 4426: Mr. KEATING and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H.R. 4427: Mr. TIBERI.
 H.R. 4447: Mr. NUGENT.
 H.R. 4450: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. LATTA.
 H.R. 4510: Mr. BARR, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. ENGEL.
 H.R. 4526: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 4531: Mr. FORBES.
 H.R. 4567: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 4577: Mr. FORBES.
 H.R. 4582: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 4589: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 4629: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
 H.R. 4631: Mr. MCKEON.
 H.R. 4643: Mr. COHEN and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 4644: Ms. TITUS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. SERRANO.
 H.R. 4645: Mr. WELCH and Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 4653: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
 H.R. 4664: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Ms. SPEIER.
 H.R. 4667: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 4695: Mr. PAULSEN.
 H.R. 4716: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 4717: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 4718: Mr. DENHAM.
 H.R. 4719: Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 4741: Mr. HECK of Nevada.
 H.R. 4749: Mr. COTTON.
 H.R. 4765: Mr. VEASEY.
 H. Con. Res. 97: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
 H. Con. Res. 98: Mr. GARDNER and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H. Res. 30: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 153: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.
H. Res. 169: Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 519: Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 522: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H. Res. 525: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H. Res. 526: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H. Res. 538: Mr. LYNCH.
H. Res. 564: Mr. CLAY, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H. Res. 598: Mr. RANGEL.
H. Res. 601: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. HARPER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. BROWN of Georgia, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. LATTA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MARINO, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H. Res. 606: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. SIRES.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—
ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Member added his name to the following discharge petition:

Petition 9 by Mr. GARCIA on the bill (H.R. 15): Daniel Lipinski.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING SAMUEL HICKENLOOPER, TYLER JOHNSON, AND ALEXANDER MAURITS

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Samuel Hickenlooper, Tyler Johnson, and Alexander Maurits for designing the 8th District of Ohio's winning application for the 2014 Congressional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Competition, "The House App Contest." The three Ross High School students developed a mobile app called, "The Cryptographer," which allows users to teach themselves various types of digital encryption and decryption. Their entry was selected from many submitted throughout the 8th District of Ohio. Entries were reviewed by an independent panel of judges and evaluated based on innovation, appeal, production quality, and presentation.

This year marked the first year of the Congressional STEM Competition. Established by this House in 2013, the competition is a nationwide event that engages students' creativity and encourages their participation in STEM education fields. Our first competition in the 8th District could not have been a success without this year's judges: Dr. James Kiper; Dr. Cathy Bishop-Clark; Mike Stahr; and Kurt Johnson. I would like to thank them for their service throughout this year's competition, and for their continued dedication to STEM education.

Education in the STEM fields is critical to preparing America's students to enter a competitive global economy. STEM fields are the future of job creation in this country, and I appreciate how competitions and opportunities, such as the Congressional STEM Competition, encourage our young people to take on technical challenges that will help them develop proficiency in these areas. As I've said before, we can't have a strong economy without preparing the next generation to fill the jobs and drive the innovations that will keep America competitive.

Again, congratulations to this year's winners and thank you to all who participated in this year's competition. I look forward to seeing what innovations next year's Congressional STEM Competition will bring.

RECOGNIZING MS. ALIA EL-ASSAR

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my constitu-

ents, Ms. Alia El-Assar, for her reception of an English Teaching Assistantship through the Fulbright Program. A student at Rollins College, Ms. El-Assar traveled to Mexico in September 2013 where she will be teaching until May 2015.

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is supported by the United States, participating foreign governments and the private sector. Established by Congress in 1946, the Program's purpose is to "build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world." Fulbright awardees are selected for academic excellence, professional achievements or demonstrated leadership in their fields.

I commend Ms. El-Assar for her commitment to education, and I thank her for representing the United States through the Fulbright Program in Mexico.

H.R. 4031

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 4031, a bill named the "Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014", because I don't throw babies out with the bathwater.

Let me explain. When our fellow Americans put on our country's uniform in service to our nation, we owe it to them to repay that service. When these Americans retire the uniform, as veterans they deserve everything a grateful nation can offer—our love, respect, gratitude and, just as importantly, the care and attention they may now need upon coming home.

Reports that the Department of Veterans Affairs failed to provide many of our veterans the care and service they have earned are more than disturbing, and if true, warrant decisive action. With facts in hand, our government must be prepared to move swiftly to right the wrong and hold people accountable.

H.R. 4031 is a bill which is being portrayed as a fix to the troubling reports of mismanagement and mistreatment at VA facilities. It is hardly that. H.R. 4031 would go well beyond giving the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to fire personnel in this particular case of potential mismanagement. This bill makes permanent and reactionary changes to longstanding rules governing the hiring and firing of people holding positions of public responsibility. It would paint responsible, hard-working public servants with the same brush as those who may have recklessly mismanaged VA services.

If H.R. 4031 became law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs could hire or fire someone based on a whim. It would forever and irrep-

arably damage our ability to hire and retain the best and brightest based on merit and experience. This bill would bring back the dark days when hiring and firing decisions within our federal workforce were driven by political influence and patronage.

The vast majority of veterans will tell you that they have received the quality of care that they have earned and deserve at VA health centers. But anything less than 100 percent satisfaction for our veterans is not good enough. That's why we must swiftly and decisively investigate these alarming reports of mismanagement at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I will do anything and everything I can to live up to that standard. But I will not lump truly dedicated, hard-working public servants together with those who have failed in their fundamental obligation to serve and care for our veterans. I will not throw the baby out with the bathwater—and I do not believe America's veterans want us to do that either.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES WARREN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it brings me sadness and honor to pay final tribute to Lieutenant Colonel James Warren, USAF (Retired). He died Saturday, May 17, 2014, of cancer in Vacaville, California. He was 90.

James served 35 years in the United States Air Force during World War II, Korea and Vietnam as a Tuskegee Airman, the first African American aviators in the United States Armed Forces. During his distinguished career, James flew over 12,000 hours and 173 combat missions. He was the first navigator to bring home a group of American POWs from North Vietnam aboard "Homecoming One," and flew the Apollo 14 crew from splashdown near American Samoa back to the Manned Space Center in Houston, Texas. Throughout this extensive career James was awarded numerous medals for his exceptional service, including the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Air Medal with eleven Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

James Warren was a man of humble beginnings, born on August 16, 1923, into the racially segregated world of Gurley, Alabama. His mother worked hard to save enough money to buy him a bus ticket to Highland Park, Illinois, when he was 15 years old.

After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the aviation cadet program, arriving at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama in November of 1942. Soon after in March of 1943, James was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Force, later graduating

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

from Hondo Navigation School in August of 1944 and assigned to the 477th Bombardment Group, Medium.

Unfortunately despite his extensive military accomplishments, James' biggest battles were to break down the barriers of segregation. In 1945, James and his fellow African American members of the 477th attempted to integrate an all-white Officers' Club at Freeman Army Air Field. The incident led to the arrest of 102 officers, including one of its instrumental leaders, Lt. Col Warren. This incidence is generally regarded by Civil Rights historians as a seminal moment in the drive toward full integration of the Armed Forces and later as a model for civil disobedience of the Civil Rights Movement.

For seven decades, Lt. Col Warren was a living legend as a proud American, a decorated veteran, and as both a member and representative of the valiant Tuskegee Airmen. Even in retirement James continued his selfless service, tirelessly promoting the accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen and all African American participation in armed conflicts across the globe and sharing his infectious passion for flight with the next generation of Vacaville youth.

The challenges he faced, fought for, and overcame are a true inspiration.

I invite my colleagues to join me as I offer my condolences to his loving family, Xanthia, his wife of 61 years, and sons, James, Stewart and Dwayne and daughter, Sharron. He will be greatly missed. His legacy will live on as a source of inspiration for generations to come.

I wish Lieutenant Colonel James Warren "high flight."

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF ANNANDALE-SPRINGFIELD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Shepherd's Center of Annandale-Springfield (SCAS) and to thank its volunteers for their many contributions to the Northern Virginia community. Established in 2004 by a coalition of religious institutions, foundations and non-profits, SCAS is a non-profit interfaith organization that provides services to help older adults continue living independently. SCAS also offers programs that supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization. Services are available free of charge to anyone age 50 or older who resides in the local community.

The services and programs offered by this extraordinary organization help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration, and availability of resources for older residents to use their experience, training, and skills in significant roles in society. SCAS volunteers provide transportation for seniors who need rides to medical appointments and other essential activities, "Handy

Helper" services for seniors who need help with basic household tasks, and "Friendly Calls" to home-bound seniors. Social and enrichment programs include bi-monthly lunches featuring musical programs or guest speakers, day trips to local areas of interest, and educational seminars.

Last year, SCAS volunteers, board members and staff devoted approximately 2800 hours of their time to serve our seniors. Drivers provided 253 rides for local seniors, taking them mostly to medical appointments. More than 225 lunches were served at six Lunch N' Life programs. 63 seniors enjoyed day trips to local attractions, and 86 attended seven-week sessions of Adventures in Learning on subjects such as A History of the Early Christian Church, The Civil War, Going Green, The War of 1812 and Other Lesser Known Wars, Up in Space and Under the Sea, and other topics.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Shepherd Center of Annandale-Springfield for the services which enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers and sponsors who generously dedicate their time, efforts and resources to the welfare of our neighbors. The value of their contributions cannot be overstated and are deserving of our highest praise.

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN ANGELO "ABE" BARONE FOR RECEIPT OF THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Angelo "Abe" Barone, a native of Pottsville, Pennsylvania, for his outstanding military service during World War II. Mr. Barone served as a machine gunner within the U.S. Army's 80th Division in the European theater. He bravely fought in seven battles, including the Battle of Normandy, and helped in liberating France from Nazi occupation. On September 5, 1944, Mr. Barone was injured in combat and captured the following day by German forces. He was held as a prisoner of war for eight months.

In recognition of his heroic service on French soil, Mr. Barone was named a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor by France. Mr. Barone received the medal from Consul General of France Olivier Serot Alm eras at a ceremony at the French Embassy in Washington, DC on May 8, 2014. He was one of 15 veterans to receive the honor. The Legion of Honor, created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, is the highest military distinction offered by France.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Barone for his courageous service during the Second World War. And I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Barone for his having been designated a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor.

IN MEMORY OF DR. MAYA ANGELOU

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of an exceptional individual whom I had the distinct pleasure to meet—a great artist and compassionate intellectual, Dr. Maya Angelou. With extraordinary compassion, Dr. Angelou used her art to portray communities, conditions, and individuals that were often overlooked by mainstream society.

Dr. Angelou's wisdom and eloquence inspired countless people around the world to better understand themselves and their neighbors. Dr. Angelou was also an influence and friend to many leaders throughout her life; an unyielding advocate for tolerance, equality, justice, and integrity in the face of intractable intolerance.

Mr. Speaker, we bid farewell to a singular voice and world renowned poet. However, we can all find solace in the certainty that Dr. Angelou's timeless works and example will inspire generations to come. Her spirit will continue to animate her words and her life will remain a testament to the power of perseverance.

WILLARD HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC EDUCATION AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Willard Public School District on being named one of the Nation's Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM).

Chris Church has served as the band director for 32 years at Willard High School. Out of 1,200 students who attend Willard High School, more than 500 are involved in band, choir or both, with more still involved in other fine arts programs such as visual arts and theater.

Willard was one of three schools from Missouri to be honored. While other school districts' music programs are hit with cutbacks, music education funding has been protected at Willard.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the teachers, students, administrators and the community of Willard for the support they have provided.

I am honored to recognize Willard Public School District on their efforts which led to the community being named one of the Nation's Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM foundation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 254. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR DAILY BREAD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 30th Anniversary of Our Daily Bread. Our Daily Bread (ODB) is a non-profit organization whose primary focus is combatting hunger and poverty in Fairfax County, Virginia.

The organization began in 1984 as a temporary homeless shelter that rotated among several churches in the area. As permanent organizations and programs developed to assist the homeless in Fairfax County, ODB recognized a need that was going unmet—serving those families who, while not homeless, were in financial crisis and in danger of "falling through the cracks." ODB's leadership observed that many people work hard but live paycheck-to-paycheck. Any kind of unexpected expense, such as a car repair, rent hike, or medical cost can throw them into a financial crisis.

Today, the families ODB helps are likely to be members of the working poor, the elderly, disabled, and those who unexpectedly found themselves in crisis due to job loss, debt, or health issues.

More than half of those served are children. ODB's programs offer the temporary assistance families need to recover from a crisis, stay in their homes, and maintain their self-sufficiency. ODB strives to prevent homelessness with a three-tiered approach; providing food assistance, financial assistance, and, ultimately, financial literacy training. ODB also provides back-to-school supplies for low-income school children and holiday assistance. These programs meet the short-term food and financial needs that often accompany job loss and ill health, while also educating clients about ways to prepare for such financial crises in the future and return to self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Our Daily Bread for 30 years of service and in thanking the staff, volunteers, community partners, financial supporters and sponsors for contributing their time, energy, and resources to this worthwhile organization.

HONORING JOE GLIK FOR HIS YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE TO SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joe Glik and in recognizing his many years of community service and leadership in southwestern Illinois.

Joe Glik is Chairman of the Board and "patriarch" of Glik's, a family owned retail business started by Joe's grandfather out of his horsedrawn wagon in 1897 and now employing over 500 people, with 62 stores in 9 states.

The Glik's business model is for the stores to be connected to the communities where they do business and Joe Glik has led by example through his leadership and community involvement in the Tri-City area of Illinois he calls home. The Glik family was a long-time supporter of St. Elizabeth Hospital (now, Gateway Regional Medical Center) in Granite City, Illinois and Joe served as chairman of the hospital building fund and president of its lay board. In 1993, the hospital recognized Joe's support and contributions to the hospital and his community by awarding him the De La Roche Award.

Joe Glik's community service has also involved the Tri-Cities Area United Way, where he served as the Annual Fund Chairman and President of the Board of Directors. He has been recognized for his community and business leadership by being named a Distinguished Business Alumni from the Washington University School of Business.

While Joe Glik still serves as Glik's Board Chairman, the company is actually now in its 4th generation of Glik family leadership and looking forward to passing the torch to the 5th generation, with the headquarters remaining in Granite City.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Joe Glik well and thanking him for a lifetime of community service.

IN RECOGNITION OF JENA IRENE ASCIUTTO, MALAYA WATSON, AND SAM WOOLF FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES ON AMERICAN IDOL'S THIRTEENTH SEASON

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise with pride to recognize three outstanding students, with Michigan roots, whose vocal talent earned them spots in the coveted finals of American Idol for its thirteenth season.

For more than a decade, teens from across America have been using the stage of this great competition to share their musical gifts with people across our country. American Idol has been the proving ground for many young

vocal artists who have gone on to make careers in the extremely competitive music industry. This year, Jena Irene Asciutto of Farmington Hills, Malaya Watson of Southfield and Sam Woolf, originally of West Bloomfield, have demonstrated the incredible talent that exists amongst the youth of Michigan's Fourteenth Congressional District and the Greater Detroit area.

Paying homage to the incredible vocal talent of Detroit's past, Malaya Watson began her journey on American Idol by singing Ain't No Way from Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul. As the daughter of a professional guitar player, an active member of Detroit's Mosaic Youth Theater, and a tuba player in her high school marching band, it is clear that Malaya's passion for music began at a young age and is a significant part of her life. Having made it to the final eight contestants, Malaya is one of the youngest finalists in American Idol history.

Sam Woolf, who spent his early years growing up in West Bloomfield, comes from a family with a long history of musical talent. Sam's great-grandfather, Sammy Woolf, was a well-known bandleader in Detroit, and his uncle, Randall Woolf, is a composer. Sam's great-uncle was a particularly prominent musician in Greater Detroit's Jewish community. With his top-five finish in this year's American Idol competition, Sam has undoubtedly made his family, the community of West Bloomfield and his current neighbors in Bradenton, Florida proud.

For Jena Irene Asciutto, this year's American Idol competition has been a magical ride—one that took her all the way to the finale. It is clear that Jena Irene's love and passion for music began long before her American Idol debut. From age 12 to 16, Jena Irene was an active member of the band Infinity Hour and has been an annual participant in her school's Coffee House talent show. As she prepares to graduate from North Farmington High School, Jena Irene's outstanding performances on American Idol have brought great pride to her family, her friends and to many across the State of Michigan and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, again, it is a pleasure to rise and recognize the outstanding talent of Jena Irene Asciutto, Malaya Watson and Sam Woolf, who have inspired aspiring young vocalists from across the country to hone their vocal talents and pursue their dreams. I join their family, friends, and many in the Greater Detroit community in expressing pride in their accomplishments and wishing them ongoing success as they continue to pursue their dreams.

CONGRATULATING MR. PAUL W. FERGUSON ON HIS SELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Paul W. Ferguson on being selected as the 15th President of Ball State University.

Mr. Ferguson has had a long and distinguished career as an educator and college administrator. He was an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Louisiana, Monroe (ULM), where he was instrumental in establishing the first undergraduate toxicology program in the South.

After working as Senior Toxicologist for Unocal Corporation in Los Angeles, he returned to Louisiana and served as an award winning Professor and Head of the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology at ULM. Paul would go on to hold many leadership positions there, as well as at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the Edwardsville campus of Southern Illinois University (SIUE). During his time at SIUE, the university received national recognition for its academic innovation, culture of assessment and commitment to continuous quality improvement.

In 2011, Mr. Ferguson became the 19th President of the University of Maine. President Ferguson demonstrated an ability to accomplish high quality results with a student-centered approach to leading while at Maine. Their loss will be Ball State's gain.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in welcoming Paul and his wife, Grace, to Indiana, and congratulating him on being selected as Ball State's next President. We wish you the best of luck in this next adventure!

INTRODUCTION OF RESPONSIBLE GSE AFFORDABLE HOUSING INVESTMENT ACT OF 2014

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Responsible GSE Affordable Housing Investment Act of 2014.

This bill would take away an incentive for the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs)—Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—to make investments that would lead to a decrease in affordable multifamily housing units. In particular, the bill would curtail Fannie and Freddie's ability to invest in future deals—like in the case of Stuyvesant Town/Peter Cooper Village in my district—that do not result in an increase in, or preservation of, affordable housing.

Since 1992, the GSEs have been required to meet certain affordable housing goals each year. "Housing goals credit" is awarded numerically based on the types of transactions that they enter into. The GSEs, in turn, make decisions about their investments based on whether these investments would be eligible for such housing goals credit.

In 2007, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac invested in a \$22 billion commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) transaction that contained the debt on the Stuyvesant Town/Peter Cooper Village project. The deal was one of the largest CMBS deals ever; Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's participation as senior debt holders of \$3 billion was critical.

At the time of the deal it was clear that the Stuyvesant Town property was overlever-

aged—the debt on the property was larger than the rental income it was receiving. After the transaction closed, over the course of several years, the new owners of the property engaged in aggressive tactics to convert affordable units to market rate so that they could increase their rental income—yet the GSEs received affordable housing goals credit for this investment. The investment on the part of the GSEs secured completion of the deal and the GSEs were incentivized to make it because of the housing goals credit they received.

The GSEs should be incentivized to invest in projects that actually do increase or preserve affordable housing. That is what my bill will do. It will require the Federal Housing Finance Agency to rewrite its rules for distributing housing goals credit so that Freddie and Fannie cannot receive credit for investments like the one they made in the Stuyvesant Town project. It would also require the GSEs to use the same underwriting standards for investments in the secondary market that they do for their direct investments which are much stricter. That way, the GSEs won't invest in the secondary market in projects where the rental income is insufficient to cover the payments on the debt on the property.

Mr. Speaker, this bill addresses a critical component of GSE decision-making when it comes to their investments: whether or not they will receive housing goals credit. It does not prohibit them from making investments, it merely says that if those investments do not lead to an increase or a preservation of affordable housing, the GSEs cannot receive credit for them.

CONGRATULATING SARCOXIE HIGH SCHOOL ARCHERY TEAM

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sarcoxie High School Archery Team for winning their second state championship in a row. Sarcoxie started their archery program last year, winning a state championship their first year in existence. As a team, this year they shot a score of 3396, breaking the record they set last year by 57 points.

Sarcoxie's archery team competed against 81 other schools. They competed in a field of over 1,300 archers with 51,000 arrows shot during the competition. Sarcoxie is a Class 2 school that competes in the high school division against all high schools in Missouri, regardless of size or enrollment.

I would also like to recognize the individual performances by Hunter Berry, Brice Dobbs and Ariana Goddard. Hunter broke the Missouri all-time high male score with 296 points. Brice finished 5th in the high school male division with a score of 287 and Ariana finished 3rd in the female division with 286 points.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the team's head coach, Kaycia Woolsey, the assistant coach, David Woolsey, and athletic director, Jeff Kabance for their dedication and leadership.

I am honored to recognize the Sarcoxie High School Archery Team for winning their second straight state championship.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FAMILY SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of Northern Virginia Family Service and to commend the 2014 Community Champion and Legends of Northern Virginia honorees. Since its founding by community volunteers in 1924, NVFS has addressed the growing needs of communities throughout our region. NVFS works to improve the lives of its clients through a variety of programs in five mission initiatives: housing, child and family enrichment, health access, emergency assistance, and workforce development. Today, more than 36,000 individuals and families receive assistance each year.

In 2013, NVFS led a coalition of nonprofits that trained volunteers to help the public learn about and sign up for health insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act. In just a few months, these volunteers held more than 2000 enrollment sessions with clients.

The Community Champion Award is a recognition given each year to someone who has made immeasurable contributions to children and families in Northern Virginia. This year, this award will be presented to Lauren E. Peterson. Following her family's philosophy of giving back to the communities in which it lives and works, Ms. Peterson has consistently been involved with major charities in the Washington Metropolitan area. She was a Member of the Northern Virginia Family Service Board of Directors for 12 years. Her current charitable activities include: Vice Chair, Life with Cancer Board; Secretary, Washington International Horse Show; Board Member, Teach for America; Board member, Charity Works; Board Member, Inova Foundation; Committee Member, Inova Cancer Services; and Committee Member, Rainbow Therapeutic Riding.

Sidney O. Dewberry will be honored as a Legend of Northern Virginia for decades of leadership in commercial, civic, charitable, and academic endeavors in the Washington D.C. region. In 1956, Mr. Dewberry founded a planning, engineering, and surveying firm that bears his name and is widely known as an industry leader in the greater Washington metropolitan area. He is a founding member and former chairman of the Engineers & Surveyors Institute, and the George Mason University Urban Systems Engineering Institute, now known as the Civil Engineering Institute. He is Rector Emeritus of the George Mason University Board of Visitors, a past member of the Governor's Commission for the Future of Higher Education in Virginia, a member of the Virginia Business-Higher Education Council and former Trustee of the George Mason University Foundation. His leadership activities also include having served on the board of The Greater Washington Board of Trade, as

chairman of the Governor's Regional Economic Development Advisory Council for Northern Virginia, as a director of the Air & Space Heritage Council, member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, chairman of the Arlington County, Virginia, Planning Commission and chairman of the Fairfax County, Virginia, Engineering Standards Review Committee. For his service, he has received numerous accolades, including the George Mason University Mason Medal and "Northern Virginian of the Year" by New Dominion magazine.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending NVFS for 90 years of service to our region's most vulnerable families and congratulating this year's deserving honorees. I also thank the staff, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners for their dedication and ongoing support of NVFS.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES AND SUPPORT FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE HISTORIC FLOODING IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to express condolences and support for assistance to the victims of the historic flooding in the Western Balkans, which began on May 13, 2014. The record rainfall caused widespread flooding in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Republic of Serbia, leading to thousands of landslides, massive destruction, and loss of life.

To date, the flooding has claimed over 40 lives and impacted over 500,000 people across the region, particularly in western Serbia and eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina. The equivalent of three months of rain fell during the course of three days, making this the worst flooding event seen in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina since recordkeeping began 120 years ago. Tens of thousands across the region remain displaced or homeless and, according to the Red Cross, many lack access to clean water and electricity.

The Bosnian Foreign Ministry has reported that the flooding has rendered 100,000 buildings unusable, and that 500,000 people have evacuated or fled their homes amidst the ongoing state of emergency.

On May 27, 2014, the Government of Serbia declared three days of national mourning, having described the situation in the country as "catastrophic." It estimates that at least 25,000 people have evacuated, particularly in the town and municipality of Obrenovac, and that the flooding has caused over 100,000,000 Euros (\$140,000,000) in damage to the Kolubara coal mine that supplies the Kostolac power plant. Efforts continue to protect the Kostolac power plant and the Nikola Tesla power plant, which provides half of the nation's electricity, from the waters of the overflooded Sava River.

Furthermore, an estimated 100,000 landmines remaining from the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s have been lost or dislodged due to landslides, causing great concern for public safety.

In response, the United States Government has provided assistance through the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to the Serbian Red Cross, as well as from the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. Additionally, U.S. Embassy funds have been used to purchase sandbags and other material assistance, with Embassy volunteers dedicating their time to filling hundreds of sandbags in suburbs threatened by Sava River flooding. The United States Government has further provided OFDA assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as boats, food, and supplies through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Republic of Serbia share an increasing commitment to core democratic values, reconciliation, and European integration. The United States expresses deep sympathy to all those affected by the flooding in the Western Balkans for the terrible loss of life and massive destruction, as well as a continued desire to provide essential assistance along with that of other nations and organizations to help their countries recover from this tragedy.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION: TO MAKE PERMANENT THE STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAX DEDUCTION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my bill to make the state and local sales tax deduction permanent. Simply put this is a matter of fairness. The families of Tennessee shouldn't pay more in federal taxes because our state chooses to have a sales tax instead of an income tax. This is just not equitable. By making this deduction permanent we can bring certainty to families in Tennessee, bring certainty to the tax code, and give families the time they need to plan their budgets.

Mr. Speaker, in 2011, over 556,000 Tennessee filers claimed the deduction for state and local sales tax and reduced their taxable income by \$1.23 billion. These families deserve fair treatment and certainty in the tax code.

My legislation will give these families the fair treatment they deserve, by making the state and local sales tax deductions a permanent part of the federal tax code.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to support me in passing my legislation to make permanent the state and local sales tax deductions in order to ensure American families are treated fairly by the tax code.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT KEININGHAM

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired United States Marine Corps Corporal and United States Air Force (USAF) Master Sergeant Jack Keiningham who passed away on September 30, 2007.

Master Sergeant Keiningham knew from an early age that he wanted to join the military and serve our country. On July 2, 1942, he enlisted and served in F Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, 2nd Division, where he was quickly promoted to the rank of Corporal.

Master Sergeant Keiningham courageously fought and served our nation during World War II, where he was wounded in the Battle of Saipan. During his service, he was highly awarded and decorated with the Navy Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart, Navy Presidential Unit Citation with Two Stars, Marine Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Marine Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with Three Stars, and the Marine WWII Victory Medal for his bravery in the call of duty.

After an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps due to the injuries he received during the Battle of Saipan, he enlisted in the United States Air Force (USAF) where he earned the rank of Technical Sergeant. While in the Air Force, he was awarded the USAF Outstanding Unit Ribbon, two USAF Good Conduct Medals, the Vietnam Service Medal, the USAF Longevity Service Ribbon with 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, and the USAF Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

After retiring from active duty, he continued his service in the Air Force Reserve as a Technical Sergeant and retired with the rank of Master Sergeant. On September 30, 2007, Master Sergeant Jack Keiningham was laid to rest. He will forever be remembered as an American hero who dedicated his life in service to our country.

America thanks him and his family for their service and sacrifice for our country.

As I close, I ask everyone to continue praying for our country during these difficult times and for our military men and women who protect us from external threats and our first responders who protect us from internal threats right here at home.

God bless our military men and women, and God bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would have voted on the following votes had I been in attendance, on H.R. 4660, Commerce Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.

Yes—Amendment 738 by Rep. James Moran (A049) to strike sections 528 and 529

which prohibit the use of funds to be used to transfer or release any detainee who is or was held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba or construct any facility in the U.S. to house any detainee held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Roll No. 254

No—Amendment 742 by Rep. Blackburn (A053) to reduce by 1 percent each amount made available by the bill, except funding for the FBI, fees and expenses for witnesses, public safety officer benefits, and the US Trustee System Fund. Roll No. 255

No—Amendment 744 by Rep. Blackburn (A055) to prohibit the use of fluids for operation, renovation, or construction at Thomson Correctional Facility in Illinois. Roll No. 256

Yes—Amendment 745 by Rep. Bonamico (A056) to prohibit the use of funds to prevent a State from implementing its own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of industrial hemp, as defined in section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. Roll No. 257

Yes—Amendment 748 by Rep. Rohrabacher (A059) to prohibit the use of funds to prevent certain States from implementing their own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana. Roll No. 258

No—Amendment 750 by Rep. George Holding (A061) to prohibit the use of funds to transfer or temporarily assign employees to the Office of the Pardon Attorney for the purpose of screening clemency applications. Roll No. 259

Yes—Amendment 754 by Rep. Massie (A065) to prohibit the use of funds in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 by the Department of Justice of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Roll No. 260

No—Amendment 756 by Rep. Southerland (A067) to prohibit the use of funds to develop, approve, or implement a new limited access privilege program that are not already developed, approved, or implemented for any fishery under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England, or Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Roll No. 261

Yes—Amendment 759 by Ellison (A070) to prohibit use of funds to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition outlined in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term "Fair Labor Standards Act". Roll No. 262

Yes—Amendment 763 by Grayson (A074) to prohibit the use of funds to compel a journalist or a reporter to testify about information or sources that the journalist or reporter states in a motion to quash the subpoena that he has obtained as a journalist or reporter and that he regards as confidential. Roll No. 263

No—Amendment 767 by Rep. Duffy (A078) to prohibit the use of funds to relinquish the responsibility of the NTIA with respect to Internet domain name system functions, including responsibility with respect to the authoritative root zone file and the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions. Roll No. 264

No—Amendment 768 by Rep. Garrett (A079) to prohibit the use of funds by the Department of Justice to enforce the Fair Housing Act in a manner that relies upon an allegation of liability under C.F.R. 100.500. Roll No. 265

No—Amendment 770 by Rep. Steve King (A081) to prohibit use of funds in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373(a)). Roll No. 266

No—Amendment 771 by Rep. Meadows (A082)—At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: SEC.—None of the funds made available by this Act ***. Roll No. 267

Yes—Motion to Recommit with Instructions.
No—Final Passage.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SACRAMENTO HOUSING ALLIANCE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sacramento Housing Alliance as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of their founding. As supporters of this organization gather to celebrate, I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sacramento Housing Alliance for their incredible service to the Sacramento region.

For 25 years, the Sacramento Housing Alliance, along with its community partners, have addressed a variety of issues surrounding affordable housing, homelessness, environmental justice, regional equity, land use, hunger and community empowerment. Founded in 1989, the Sacramento Housing Alliance provides advocacy, education, leadership development and civic engagement to homeless and low-income communities throughout the Sacramento metropolitan region.

The Sacramento Housing Alliance has achieved a number of accomplishments that have benefitted thousands of individuals. In 2001, their efforts led to Sacramento County's adoption of the landmark Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, which required affordable housing in new housing developments be made available to individuals and families with low-incomes. In 2012, the Sacramento Housing Alliance collaborated with other community-based organizations to host the region's first Homeless Employment Summit, where over 100 businesses and community partners participated and led to many homeless individuals getting jobs. Additionally, the Sacramento Housing Alliance recently launched its Affordable Housing Campaign, which addresses current housing issues, such as the dissolution of redevelopment agencies in California, the lack of affordable housing options, and rising family homelessness. Most recently, in 2013, the Sacramento Housing Alliance has taken part in the Sacramento Coalition for Shared Prosperity, which seeks a comprehensive Community Benefits Agreement for the Sacramento Entertainment and Sports Complex, to help ensure that good jobs, affordable housing, and environmentally sound developments are available for everyone in the community.

Mr. Speaker, as they gather for their 25th anniversary and awards celebration, I am pleased to honor the Sacramento Housing Alliance and its members for their longstanding

commitment and service to the entire Sacramento region. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued success in creating positive, lasting change throughout the Sacramento region.

RECOGNIZING WALNUT GROVE HIGH SCHOOL LADY TIGERS BASKETBALL

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Walnut Grove High School Lady Tigers Basketball Team for winning the Missouri Class 1 Girls State Championship.

The Lady Tigers clinched back-to-back state championships after defeating North Andrew with an impressive final score of 84-49. Members of the team include Heather Harman, Lexi Harman, Madisyn Freeze, Karsyn Hejna, Miranda Allison, Megan Shuler, Aduree Crain, Ellen Hayter, Raylie Hejna, Shelby Harman, Carrigan Comstock, Mikayla Louderbaugh, and Katelynn Garoutte.

Through their hard work and discipline on and off the court, the Lady Tigers developed into a truly great championship team. The Lady Tigers ended the season 28-4.

I also want to commend Head Coach Rory Henry for a job well-done on developing such a strong basketball program.

I am proud to recognize the school and the players on their victory, and applaud the hard work that has brought them so much success. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Walnut Grove Lady Tigers as they celebrate their Class 1 Girls State Championship.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALEX AND MARITZA ALVAREZ AND OLGA A. VALDEZ

HON. PETE P. GALLEGO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the second anniversary of the passing of three constituents of the 23rd District of Texas who died in a tragic accident on May 26, 2012—Alex Alvarez, his wife, Maritza Alvarez and her mother, Olga A. Valdez. I rise today to speak in their honor.

I honor their lives. Like all of us, they sought a better life. They worked hard to achieve success. Like many of us, they were parents who longed to see their son and grandson graduate from high school, go off to college, get married, and generally succeed at life.

Unfortunately, they got none of the above. Their deaths were caused by a person who was texting and driving. Poor judgment caused a terrible tragedy. The lone survivor of this horrific car accident was Alex and Maritza's young son, Alex Jr.

Alex and Maritza were hard workers. Alex was a native son of the border, having been

born in Eagle Pass, Texas. He worked in the IT department of the Fort Duncan Regional Medical Center.

Maritza was also a native daughter of the border region. She was born in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico, the sister city to Eagle Pass. She worked in Eagle Pass as a dental assistant.

Olga A. Valdez was born in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. She was a devoted grandmother, mother, and sister.

Three lives tragically cut short. One young boy left to face life alone without his parents. One moment of poor judgment by an inattentive third party—nothing, absolutely nothing in that text could've been worth the cost of three lives not yet fully lived.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the lives of Alex and Maritza Alvarez, to commend the courage of a young boy, Alex Alvarez Jr., who still I'm sure struggles to make sense of the loss he has suffered, and urge the residents of the 23rd District of Texas and our entire Nation not to text and drive.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NOVA-ANNANDALE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra. The Orchestra was originally formed in 1994 as a collaborative arrangement between the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) Annandale Campus and the Reunion Music Society. Led by award-winning Music Director Christopher Johnston since 1996, the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra has performed a wide range of music embracing different cultures and heritages and is the "Orchestra-in-Residence" at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center on the Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale Campus.

Over the years, the orchestra has grown in size, repertoire, and prominence in the greater Northern Virginia community. The Orchestra is composed of members of the community, as well as NOVA students for whom the ensemble is a laboratory for the orchestral repertoire. The Orchestra performs a wide variety of music from around the world, demonstrating its versatility and its goals of presenting compositions of little-known composers and offering programs of seldom-heard music representing a range of cultures.

Throughout its two decade history, the orchestra has performed on and off campus, premiered numerous works, created scholarships, provided opportunities for young soloists, and generated unique multi-cultural events designed to reach diverse audiences. It is most unusual for a community college to maintain a full symphony orchestra, and the orchestra's quality and enduring place in the Northern Virginia community are now widely recognized.

At the orchestra's anniversary concert this year, the symphony orchestra will perform a

concert entitled "Scotland and the Sea." Included in the program is the debut of a symphonic work by students of the Fairfax Academy for Communications and the Arts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary and in thanking the musicians, volunteers and supporters for their efforts to preserve and enrich the music and culture of Northern Virginia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes:

1. Pompeo amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

2. McNerney amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

3. Bridenstine amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

4. King (IA) amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

5. Cohen amendment No. 1 to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

6. Cohen amendment No. 2 to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

HONORING THE CALIFORNIA STATE AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the AAA Northern California, Nevada and Utah, formerly known as the California State Automobile Association, (CSAA) upon its 100th anniversary of supporting the insurance needs of AAA members. The club is one of the largest motor clubs in the American Automobile Association (AAA) National Federation, serving members across Northern California, Nevada, and Utah.

The club has a long history of having done so, tracing its roots to a 1900 meeting of car buffs in San Francisco's Cliff House. Recognizing the need for better roads, given the dearth of paved roads, signage, and consistent traffic laws across the region, those car owners formed the Automobile Club of California (ACC) to deal with barriers that hindered acceptance of the auto throughout the state. The club's efforts began to pay off in 1905, when the legislature passed a set of uniform regulations governing the use of motor vehicles on California highways. This legislation facilitated safe and efficient movement, as drivers were able to follow a consistent legal structure.

In 1907, ACC merged into the newly founded California State Automobile Association, which formally affiliated with the AAA in that same year. The new club's focus was "Good Roads and Just Legislation."

CSAA sent teams of cartographers to survey California's roads for the production of maps, with the first ones produced in 1909. The organization also helped post thousands of porcelain on steel traffic signs throughout the State and continued to do so until the State of California took over the task in the early 1950s.

CSAA began to offer automobile insurance in 1913 and homeowner's insurance in 1974. The club changed its name to AAA Northern California, Nevada & Utah, or AAA in 2008. However, it still legally retains the California State Automobile Association name.

In 2013, the insurance company changed its name to CSAA Insurance Group, a AAA Insurer. In 2014 the California State Automobile Association or the CSAA Insurance Group, a AAA insurer, celebrates 100 years of supporting the insurance needs of AAA members.

The CSAA employs more than 3,500 Americans and sells AAA-branded insurance in 23 States and Washington DC. The CSAA Insurance Group, one of the Nation's most longstanding property and casualty insurance companies, provides auto and home insurance to nearly 2.4 million Americans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating CSAA Insurance Group on its 100th anniversary of providing quality insurance to AAA members. Their history of providing quality service and security for their members has benefited us all. I look forward to a rich future of continued success by CSAA.

TRIBUTE TO BOB KING

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the distinguished career of Bob King as the United Auto Workers (UAW) assemblies for their 36th Constitutional Convention next week. Bob King—as an individual, as a 44-year Member of the UAW and its President since 2010—vividly represents the proud and historic tradition of the UAW. Like his union, he has devoted his life to the rights to workers, to the fundamental belief in collective bargaining, to the strength of diversity, and to the cause of economic justice and civil and human rights for all.

Bob King combines in his leadership a generous spirit—a kindness—and a tenacious determination. At his core, he is an organizer in the finest tradition knowing that workers are stronger when their voices are united. He listens broadly, and acts decisively, always with the best interest of workers at the UAW and throughout the U.S. and around the world at the forefront of his efforts.

Bob King started his career in his twenties at Ford Motor Co.'s Detroit Parts Depot and began his electrical apprenticeship in 1972. He joined Local 600 where he later served as President. He served three terms as Regional

Director and three terms as a Vice President. He took the lead as the National Organizing Director and participated in many successful negotiations. He has also played a leading role on the international stage bringing together the efforts of workers around the globe in common cause.

From serving his country in the U.S. Army, to serving the workers of the UAW, Bob King is a unique individual who is smart, thoughtful and results-oriented. It has been a privilege to work alongside of him on so many policy issues. Mr. Speaker, next week, Bob King will oversee the transition of leadership at the UAW, and while he no longer will serve as the President, I am confident that he will continue to serve—and work on behalf of the rights of workers. I also know that he will continue to speak out on behalf of the economic and social justice issues that are vital to creating opportunity and ensuring fairness in our society. I offer my best wishes to Bob and his wife, Moe and look forward to the next chapter in advancing the causes they devote their lives to.

RECOGNIZING BOB LAPP

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Bob Lapp for his nearly 40 years of service to The Timken Company. Since joining the company in 1975, he has served in a number of unique positions, ranging from supervising general accounting to investor relations and public affairs. As the outgoing Vice President for Government Affairs and Community Relations, he leaves behind a legacy of trustworthiness, honesty, and reliability that made him an asset to not only The Timken Company, but to Northeast Ohio. I consider Bob a friend and I am grateful for his counsel throughout my time in office. I know I can always count on Bob to provide me with accurate, relevant information about an issue, putting aside politics and getting to the heart of good policy.

Born and raised in Coshocton, Ohio, Bob is a graduate of two great Ohio schools, earning his bachelor's degree from Miami University and his master's degree from the University of Akron. An active member of our local community, Bob has served on the board of several organizations including the Ohio Manufacturers Association, Stark County Government Leadership Academy, and the Ohio Steel Council. He also has chaired the Ohio Prosperity Project, an organization that educates and informs Ohioans about public policy issues and elections.

Bob's retirement will allow him to spend more time with his family, especially Kaci and his six-month-old granddaughter, Kyli.

I'd like to thank Bob for his years of hard work and wish him nothing but the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE PENDERBROOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FOR EARNING THE 2013 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN CHAPTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS INSTITUTE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Penderbrook Community Association located in Fairfax County, Virginia, for earning the 2013 Community Association of the Year Award (Very Large category) from the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the Community Associations Institute.

The Penderbrook Community Association (PCA) consists of 1,776 single family homes, townhomes, and condominiums located in the heart of the Fair Oaks area about 20 miles west of Washington, DC, and it is home to over 4,000 residents. The PCA is a Master Association, which unites seven separate land bays with exceptional amenities including a fitness center, swimming pool complex, golf course, tennis courts, basketball courts, clubhouse, boardroom facility, and tot lots. The association amenities serve as a hub for a wide variety of community events that offer something for everyone who calls Penderbrook home.

In addition to the topnotch amenities, PCA emphasizes frequent and robust communications with residents. The PCA employs an interactive website for instant correspondence, a weekly email newsletter to inform residents of local issues, meetings, and events, and an onsite office to manage day-to-day operations and provide immediate assistance to residents. Resident input and involvement is solicited, encouraged, appreciated, and recognized. Open lines of communication also are utilized in an ongoing effort to solicit association volunteers for various committees and projects. Volunteerism leads to true community ownership, fosters friendships, and motivates neighbors to serve the common good.

The PCA prides itself as an association that gives back to the community. The clubhouse hosts the annual Fairfax County Police Foundation Santa's Ride Banquet, biannual blood drives, and serves as a Fairfax County election polling facility. The PCA annually donates use of the facilities to the Special Olympics for event practice, and the Penderbrook Clubhouse is an official collection site for Toys-for-Tots.

Each year the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the Community Associations Institute honors communities that demonstrate excellence in all facets of association operation and governance, and which best represent common-interest community living. There are four categories: Very Large (1,000+ units), Large (500–999 units), Medium (150–499 units) and Small (1–49 units).

The Penderbrook Community Association was selected based upon a review of the community's governance, board procedures, finan-

cial management, committee structure, crime prevention efforts, community communications, and insurance preparedness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Penderbrook Community Association for earning this honor and in thanking the volunteers and Board Members who devote countless hours toward the ultimate goal of creating an ideal home and serving our entire community.

THE SEEING EYE OF MORRISTOWN 85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on almost any day of the year, if you were to find yourself in the middle of Morristown, New Jersey, you would be almost certain to see a remarkable partnership being developed. You might notice a well-behaved, bright-eyed young dog wearing a special vest as it navigates, with a trainer, the crosswalks and sidewalks of the bustling Morristown Green. This dog is being trained to join a long line of dogs that have provided a "seeing eye" to thousands of Americans under the tutelage of The Seeing Eye, a remarkable organization that is marking its 85th Anniversary this year.

In 1927, Morris Frank, a young blind man, read an article about dogs being trained as guides for blinded veterans of World War I. Mr. Frank decided to reach out to the author and dog trainer Dorothy Harrison Eustis for help. Ms. Eustis, who was in Switzerland at the time, agreed to help Mr. Frank if he could come to Switzerland.

He made the trip and a year later Mr. Frank returned to New York City with his dog, "Buddy." Buddy and Mr. Frank captured the attention of many reporters as the two proved the ability of a guide dog and his master. This partnership among Ms. Eustis, Mr. Frank, and Buddy would launch an effort that would change the world for people who could not see.

In 1929, Dorothy Harrison Eustis, who trained the first dog, returned to America, and with the help of Morris Frank, E.S. Humphrey, and Willi Ebeling, founded The Seeing Eye, Inc. on January 29, in Nashville, Tennessee. Two years later, The Seeing Eye moved its headquarters to Whippany, New Jersey, and has remained in the area since then.

A few years after settling into their new headquarters, the organization decided to create a way to reach students, graduates, and other interested people in order to share inspirational stories and updates on new developments and programs. In 1935, the Seeing Eye published the first issue of the Guide magazine, which is published quarterly even today.

On December 8, 1941, the day after the attacks on Pearl Harbor, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution, "to supply Seeing Eye dogs, without charge, to eligible members of the armed forces who lose their sight in the line of duty." Since then, these American heroes have been given priority over all other applicants.

The first women's dormitory opened in 1950, allowing women to become students at the Seeing Eye. Within the first year of the new dormitory opening, one third of the students were female.

In 1952, Warner Brothers brought the inspirational story of The Seeing Eye to moviegoers everywhere with the release of the motion picture called, "The Seeing Eye." The Seeing Eye's story would inspire other moviemakers through the years.

In 1966, Walt Disney filmed the movie, "Atta girl, Kelly!" on the Seeing Eye campus. Jim Kutsch, the current president of the organization, watched this film as a young child. Years later, after losing his vision to a chemical explosion, he remembered that movie and was determined to work toward his first Seeing Eye dog. Jim is the first Seeing Eye graduate to serve as president of the organization.

Twenty years later, Walt Disney Studios returned to the story of The Seeing Eye for another film, "Loves Leads the Way." This 1986 picture depicted the story of Morris Frank and Buddy.

From the beginning, the work of The Seeing Eye has captured the attention of countless Americans, including several who called the White House home. In 1930, President Herbert Hoover met with Morris Frank to learn more about his work. In 1948, Mr. Frank and his third dog (named Buddy III), visited President Harry Truman at the White House. In 1972, First lady Pat Nixon visited The Seeing Eye at its headquarters in Morristown. And in 1990, President George H.W. Bush named The Seeing Eye the 138th "Point of Light" in honor of its corps of volunteers.

One year later, The Seeing Eye marked several significant milestones, including matching its 10,000th dog with a student and hiring its first full-time veterinarian, Dr. Dolores Holle.

The Seeing Eye, Inc. has continuously dedicated itself to the goals of increasing independence and dignity of those who are blind, providing the best guide dogs possible, educating the public, providing ongoing assistants to both graduates and dogs, and to practice fiduciary responsibility.

The Seeing Eye Inc. is ever dedicated to their growing community through their continuous care of each individual, both human and canine. As the graduates continue on with their dog guides, The Seeing Eye, Inc. will ensure that help is always provided, as needed. The Seeing Eye, Inc. promises successor dogs to graduates, as well as sends trainers to homes across the U.S. and Canada to help with any training-related problem. This remarkable organization not only raises and trains the dogs, but also provides the best research and care for canine health and development.

As The Seeing Eye marks its 85th Anniversary, it continues to commit itself to providing the best guide dogs, with excellent health and training, and to sustaining excellence in their field while always seeking improvement. The employees, volunteers, students, graduates, and guide dogs, look forward to the challenges and excitement of the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Seeing Eye as it celebrates its 85th Anniversary.

CONGRATULATING CRANE HIGH SCHOOL LADY PIRATES BASKETBALL

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Crane High School Lady Pirates Basketball Team for winning the Missouri Class 2 Girls State Championship.

The Lady Pirates clinched back to back state championships after defeating the Skyline Lady Tigers with a final score of 67-52. Members of the team include Allie Hagler, Lexie Vaught, Kylee Moore, Kylie Vaught, Justeen Mahan, Shelby Roder, Riley Israel, Emma Lander, Karen Belin, Loni Johnson, Jalee Johnson, Addie Reel, Hailey Powell, Jenna Scroggins, Madison Fulp, and Tabitha Bishop.

Through their hard work and excellence on and off the court, the Lady Pirates developed into a truly great championship team. The Lady Pirates ended the season 30-1, remaining undefeated in their Class 2 division.

I also want to commend Head Coach Jeremy Mullins and Assistant Coach Billy Redus for a job well-done on developing such a strong basketball program.

The Crane community is justifiably proud of this extraordinary group of young and talented student-athletes. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Crane Lady Pirates as they celebrate their Class 2 Girls State Championship.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MAYA ANGELOU, MENTOR, TEACHER, SOCIAL ACTIVIST, MOTHER, SISTER, WOMAN OF LIGHT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and remember one of the most remarkable figures of the 20th Century and an example of a life well lived for those coming of age in the 21st Century.

Dr. Maya Angelou died this morning at her home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She was 86 years old.

I first met Dr. Maya Angelou when I was a student at Yale University.

No matter how busy she was—and she was always in demand—Maya Angelou always had time to share with you; as a mentor, a teacher, a social activist, a mother, a sister, a woman of light.

She had a knack of making you feel better about yourself and life's possibilities.

I thank God for her voice, her survival and her spirit and for teaching little girls—with long hair, short hair, curly hair, afros or straight hair—the beauty of all people.

Dr. Maya Angelou epitomized what it is to be a great American who came from a unique and different background.

Dr. Maya Angelou was an American original, a phenomenal writer, woman of insight,

eloquence, and artistry who gave voice to the rawness and loftiness of our history and our humanity.

From the struggles of her youth, through her work in the civil rights movement, to her success as an author and her time as the Poet Laureate of the United States, Maya Angelou embodied personal, moral, and artistic courage.

Dr. Maya Angelou reminded us of the beauty of diversity and the importance of the black experience. She wrote of the cry for freedom, the experience of womanhood.

Her story is the story of America. In the early 1960s, Dr. Angelou moved to Cairo, Egypt, where she became the associate editor of a magazine, The Arab Observer.

Dr. Maya Angelou went on to help Malcolm X establish the Organization of Afro-American Unity in 1964. Since 1981, she held the Reynolds Professorship of American Studies at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Dr. Maya Angelou once said: "I have created myself. I have taught myself so much."

Dr. Angelou defied simple labels. She was a walking list of careers and passions. In addition to authoring books, she was an actress, director, playwright, composer, singer and dancer.

And if that was not enough she was the first female and first black streetcar conductor in San Francisco.

In November 2013 Dr. Angelou stole the show at the National Book Awards in New York when she was presented an award for Outstanding Service to the American Literary Community.

She was introduced that night by her friend, the famed author Toni Morrison, who said of Dr. Maya Angelou: "Suffering energized and strengthened her, and her creative impulse struck like bolts of lightning."

Mr. Speaker, today we lost one of the "great souls" which Dr. Angelou often wrote about.

I hope it is a comfort to her family that so many around the world mourn with them at this sad time. But through our sadness, we draw strength from the enduring power of her own words: "Just like hopes springing high, still I'll rise."

On a personal note, who can imagine a child who silenced herself for five years because of a brutal experience in her young life?

That silence could have ruined her life or been a rebirth of her life.

It was a rebirth.

Just like a butterfly she was reborn and throughout her life she gave us the gift of her genius.

So instead of saying good-bye, I say, as Dr. Maya Angelou said on January 20, 1993, at the inauguration of President Clinton, in her remarkable poem, "A Rock, A River, A Tree":

Here on the pulse of this new day
You may have the grace to look up and out
And into your sister's eyes, into
Your brother's face, your country

And say simply

Very simply

With hope

Good morning.

So long my friend. We will never forget you or all you did to make our world a better place.

HONORABLE GARY GIARDINA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Gary F. Giardina who, after 36 years of service to the people of Clifton as a member of the Clifton Police Force, is being honored for his retirement on Sunday, June 1, 2014. A life-long resident of the City of Clifton, Gary Giardina devoted 36 years to the community that raised him, most notably serving 4 years as Clifton's 9th Police Chief. I am extremely proud to represent such a noble and committed individual in the 9th Congressional District, and I am extremely grateful for the service Chief Giardina has contributed to our community.

Chief Giardina's passion for public service began in his teenage years, when he began training in 1978 through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. His extraordinary work ethic and enthusiasm for public service earned him a permanent spot in the Clifton Police Department a few short years later. Not long after his appointment to the force, his success was dampened by a traumatic injury when he was run over by a vehicle traveling on Route 3. Doctors concluded that the damage would render his entire right arm permanently useless. However, his prognosis could not stop his passion for public service; he was determined to return to the police force. He was finally able to return to the force after enduring a long brutal battle through physical therapy. While life continued to present obstacles for then-officer Giardina his resilience persisted, even through lay-offs, demotions, and even brushes with death until 1988, when he was finally recognized for his incredible tenacity and was appointed to the Narcotics and Patrol Division and promoted to Sergeant.

Over the next decade his skill as a leader would earn the respect of his fellow officers and propel him to the rank of Lieutenant where he would assume command of the Community Policing Division in 1997. He was then given the rank of Captain and assigned to Field Operations in 2002. As head of the Field Operations Bureau, he was responsible for the Patrol, Traffic, and Communications Divisions which collectively made up the largest component of officers in the department until he would reach the pinnacle of his career when he was appointed as the Chief of Police in 2010.

During Chief Giardina's long career he was also able to continue his education and earn a Masters of Administrative Science degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and a Baccalaureate degree from Jersey City State College of Criminal Justice. Chief Giardina is also a National and State Certified Public Manager. He has always been a strong believer in open communication and cooperation, not only within the department but also with other City, County, State, and Federal Departments. Chief Giardina has always said, "There are no unimportant jobs or people in this agency. Everyone plays an essential role in success of this Police Department". This type

leadership is what has made Clifton, New Jersey a safe and welcoming place to live.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I have been honored to work first-hand with him on a long list of public safety issues in my district. Chief Gary Giardina has always exemplified the virtues that merit all of his accomplishments. He has been a leader, a mentor, and friend to many of us and I am honored to have worked with a man of such integrity.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Chief Gary F. Giardina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Chief Giardina's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the career of Chief Gary F. Giardina.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN L. "JACK" STITZER, RECIPIENT OF THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John L. "Jack" Stitzer, who was honored on May 8 as a Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion of Honor at the French Embassy in Washington, DC by Olivier Serot Almeras, the Consul General of France. Napoleon Bonaparte created the Legion of Honor in 1802 when he was first consul of France. Those who qualify for this award aided in the liberation of France during World War II.

Mr. Stitzer, resident of Gordon, Pennsylvania, entered the U.S. Army on May 24, 1943, and served with the 159th Engineer Combat Battalion. He was stationed in the United States, unaware his unit was preparing to leave for the D-Day invasion in Normandy. Mr. Stitzer served in the Third Army, which was commanded by General George S. Patton. Mr. Stitzer remained in Normandy for a few weeks before his unit of engineers travelled up the coast to clean the mines off the beaches, and ultimately fought as infantry. He and his unit travelled from Brest to Luxembourg and were stationed there until the Battle of the Bulge, where Mr. Stitzer was wounded.

Mr. Stitzer aided in the relief of the 101st Airborne Division, which defended the Belgian town of Bastogne against the Nazis by cinderling the roads for the tanks throughout the day and night. He also witnessed the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany.

Mr. Stitzer was also honored on May 26, 2014 as the grand marshal of the Gordon Memorial Day parade. Mr. Stitzer has received the Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, American Service Ribbon, Eastern Theater Offensive Ribbon with five Battle Stars, the Purple Heart and World War II Victory Medal. He served in Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Holland and Czechoslovakia until he was discharged on December 19, 1945.

Mr. Stitzer and his wife live in Gordon, Pennsylvania, and have three children. After his service in World War II, he ran his father's lumber yard and hardware store, and also was a salesman for Ajax Building Materials for 20 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Stitzer for his outstanding service for our country, and for risking his life during World War II to fight in France. He serves as a role model and inspiration to all, and I offer my sincere congratulations to him on this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Wednesday, May 28, 2014. Weather in Chicago delayed my flight to Washington, DC until late that night. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 599 (Roll No. 241) and in favor of H.R. 503 (Roll No. 242).

COMMENDING LOCAL 2014 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FOURTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 50 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishment and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Army. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized a total of 9 students. This year, we will recognize 129 young men and women who have chosen to serve our country in uniform.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately,

and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Army:

Matthew Ainslie, Daniel Alt, Chardai Adora Anderson, Gustabo Arguera Granados, RaJhan Jubar Atkinson, David Barber, Dustin Barnes, Luke Battle, Anthony Boothby, Nathaniel Macques Bradford, Andrew Brown, Lam Hoai Bui, Jamie Nicole Cabling, Matthew Carrero, Thomas James Cleary, Gloria Cruces-Johansson, Caleb Downing, Oscar Gonzalez, Daniel Hemmingson, Kyle Hodges, Mitchell Henry Johnson, Romulo Grame Jovero, Nershon Kamara, Hunter McConchie, Adam Moore, Christian Josue Morales, Lisdeth Morales, Paul Nosegbe, Julius Osei Nyanin, Andrez Obando, Jacob Olave, Alexander Parada, Lisa Vianey Perez, Richard Reese, Edward Robinson, Adriana Roca, Ivonne Aracely Rojas-Telleria, Elijah Jeremiah Scott, Javil Glendon Zanniek Seaton, Billy Gene Sims, Gregory Sorbara, Peter Jordan Stefanov, Philip Suarez, Samuel Crawford Taylor, Avery Tillman, Mark Tull, Elliot Wood, Stephen Wooldrige, Edwin Xicotencatl, Clement Yeboah.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense our nation's freedom.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOE AND FLO HALL

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate Joe and Flo Hall, of Lake Jackson, Texas, on the celebration of their 60th Anniversary this month.

Mr. Joe Hall married Ms. Flo Broussard on May 1, 1954. Though they both grew up in the Lake Jackson area, they did not go on their first date until after Joe returned from World War II, serving our country in the United States Army. It was true love.

After they were wed, their marriage was blessed with three adopted children that they raised while living throughout the United States. Now that they have settled back in Lake Jackson, Texas, they get to spend well-deserved time with their six grandchildren,

great-grandchild, and the many children that are lovingly entrusted to their care by friends. Mr. Speaker, 60 years is a long time, and this truly is a Diamond Anniversary. To share these many years with the love of your life is a tremendous blessing.

Mr. Speaker, the institution of marriage provides the strength that holds our communities together. Maintaining a marriage requires sacrifice, understanding, patience and sometimes forgiveness by both husband and wife. Marking the 60th anniversary of a marriage is a very special occasion for not only the couple, but also for the family, friends and community they have touched.

Mr. Speaker, Joe and Flo's lives and love have been a model of excellence and are an inspiration to us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating 60 years of happiness and wishing Mr. and Mrs. Hall all the best in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCEAN SPRAY CRANBERRIES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., recipient of the President's "E Star" Award for Exports.

Ocean Spray Cranberries has played a pivotal role in forwarding U.S. exports abroad through its innovative, multi-tiered marketing strategies. The team at Ocean Spray Cranberries has worked extensively with non-profits to expand U.S. agricultural exports. In this way, Ocean Spray Cranberries has been a leader in the global promotion of exports in American agriculture and serves as a model for other domestic exporters. Their achievements have also enabled Ocean Spray Cranberries to employ many Americans, including many Massachusetts cranberry growers, providing valid solutions to the issue of national unemployment. Ocean Spray has long been vital to the Commonwealth's community and region's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ocean Spray Cranberries for receiving the President's "E Star" Award for Exports. I ask that my colleagues join me in offering congratulations.

TEXAN COL. RUDDER'S BOYS OF POINTE-DU-HOC

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was raining as the English Channel churned and tossed the Americans in the landing craft. The sun was coming up over the horizon, but no one could see it through the gray clouds. Thousands of teenage liberators stared into the distance to see the high cliffs of Normandy, France. It was D-Day, June 6, 1944—70 years ago.

Expecting to land on Omaha Beach at 6:30 am ahead of other Allied Forces, Texan Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder led the United States Army Rangers' 2nd Ranger Battalion into what seemed like an impossible feat.

As the treacherous weather conjured crashing waves five to six feet tall, a shifting wind tossed the Rangers off course. The mist, clouds and smoke obscured the navigation, making it hard to locate Pointe-du-Hoc from a mile out at sea. Their landing was delayed by forty minutes. Already, the mission seemed doomed. This navigational error meant two things: They would have to sail parallel to the coast facing intense enemy fire. It gave the enemy time to recover and prepare for the next assault.

For almost half an hour, the Rangers rode along the coast as bullets were flying all around them. Some Rangers were hit by enemy fire. But bleeding or not, still they pushed forward.

They battled the wind as the pelting rain blurred their vision and soaked their climbing equipment. They were exhausted and tense. The landing crafts that brought the GIs to shore were beginning to take on water, presenting yet another obstacle for Rudder's Rangers. Water began to leak in through the front ramp of the landing crafts, so the Rangers ripped up the floorboards and used their helmets to bail out the alarming amount of water rushing in all while the Nazis fired down at them atop the cliffs.

One of the landing crafts sunk from the weather and enemy fire. The brutal conditions of the sea caused others in the landing crafts to become violently seasick. Finally, the Rangers reached the eastern side of the Pointe, their new designated landing spot. It was now 7:10 am. The battle had just begun, and the odds were stacking up against Rudder's success.

The Rangers were miserable, cold, wet and seasick; some bleeding from injury but none wavered. Their mission: to conquer the cliffs at Pointe-du-Hoc and find the big German guns. The guns could reap havoc on later landings.

No longer was the weather their only enemy. As the first shoe print was made in the wet sand of Normandy, the Rangers came under brutal fire from atop the cliffs as the enemy chunked grenades down at them. The men had to resist the urge to take out the machine guns because the primary mission was to climb. Fifteen men were already lost in the crossing of the beach. Divided into three units, Lt. Col. Rudder prepared to lead the Provisional Rangers, task force A of 250 men up the cliffs. They moved quickly with precision and expertise. They shifted through the chaos that ensued around them all while operating soaking wet equipment. (The ropes attached to the grappling hooks were heavy with water and thus could not reach the top of the cliffs when launched from a mortar.)

The Rangers used rope ladders, a few dry grappling hooks and steel ladders to scale the cliffs. Their machine guns were clogged with mud. Amidst enemy fire and malfunctioning equipment, the Rangers were flung back and forth climbing the wet ropes.

While some Rangers provided cover on the beach, amazingly, the first ones to the top, conquered the cliff in 10 minutes. They in turn

provided covering fire for the ones still on the beach.

As soon as the Rangers pulled themselves over the cliff, snipers immediately fired. Fortunately, the heaving bombing the Americans had done to the island in the days beforehand had created large craters in earth. This allowed the Rangers to hide themselves from the enemy fire.

Within half an hour, the remaining task forces had made it up the tall cliffs. Rudder, bleeding from two gunshot wounds, never let his focus waver or his determination grow weary. He discovered quickly that the Germans had left wooden decoys in the gun casements. Exhausted, wounded and bewildered, Rudder kept pushing the Rangers inland. They had to find the big guns. Around 8:00 am small patrols were sent south to locate the missing guns. By 9:00 am, their second goal completed. Now, they had to take them out.

The Rangers had located the missing guns 600 yards south of the Pointe. The Nazis had hidden the guns back from the beach to protect them from Allied air strikes and naval bombardment.

Rudders' Rangers took out the emplacements using thermite grenades and eliminated the enemy protecting them.

The mission though completed in spite of the horrific obstacles was not without cost. Rudder's Rangers had over 50 percent casualties. Some Rangers gave their lives that summer morning conquering the cliffs.

As American blood was shed on the French beaches and cliffs, General Rudder had secured the beachhead for later Allied Forces coming ashore. This paved the way to eventual victory.

In the months leading up to the Normandy Invasion, Rudder's elite group of Army Rangers underwent rigorous training in preparation for the part that they would play for the invasion named Overlord at Normandy.

Colonel Rudder put his 2nd Ranger Battalion through hell in order to prepare them for their mission at Pointe du Hoc. He made them march in full gear for over 20 miles. He had them train in hand to hand combat, climb rope ladders without safety harnesses and endure difficult amphibious training.

The success that the Rangers had on D-Day was a direct result of Rudder's intense personal involvement with their training. The amount of effort and dedication he put forth into the training is why the troops were able to manage the chaos and complete their mission. Rudder made sure that every man was prepared to do the impossible.

James Earl Rudder was born in the small Texas town of Eden, about 45 miles southeast of San Angelo, in 1910. After graduating from high school, he played football for two years at Tarleton State. He then transferred to Texas A&M in 1930. He graduated in 1932 with a degree in education. After graduation he joined the US Army Reserves as a second lieutenant.

In 1937, he married Margaret Williamson (who graduated from the University of Texas), and together they had five children. In 1941, he was doing what he loved, coaching football, when duty called.

These brave men who cracked the Nazi grip on Europe began with the liberation of France

70 years ago. From there, the Rangers went on to fight in the Battle of the Bulge and U.S. forces on to Germany. Nothing like it had ever been done before in history. Over 150,000 Allied soldiers hit the beaches during the assault landings on the 6th of June. By the 4th of July, over 1 million joined in the invasion force through Normandy. It was a miraculous feat for 1944.

Colonel Rudder received many military honors including the second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross. He was a full Colonel by the end of the war and was promoted to Brigadier General of the U.S. Army Reserves in 1954 and Major General in 1957.

After the war, Rudder returned to Texas. He remained a highly successful and distinguished Texan until his death.

He served as Mayor of Brady for 6 years, visited the White House frequently—advising Lyndon Baines Johnson on many military issues and was hired to clean up the corruption going on in the General Land Office.

Col. Rudder became president of Texas A&M University in 1959 and president of the entire A&M system in 1965, holding both positions until his death in 1970.

The boys of D-Day came; they liberated; and some went home. Over 9,000 other GIs are buried at the top of the cliffs of Normandy France. As we reflect on those Rangers on D-Day, 70 years ago, and the Texan who led them into battle, Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder, we once again marvel at the lives of those we call the Greatest Generation of Americans. And that's just the way it is.

FIT FOR LIFE INTRODUCTION

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, May is Health and Fitness Month, a critical time to encourage our communities to live healthier lives. It is also an appropriate time to highlight an issue that, in recent years, has greatly impacted the physical and economic health of our country.

Nearly one third of all children in this country are overweight or obese—a rate that has tripled over the past fifty years. Largely due to obesity and obesity-related diseases, this is the first generation of Americans that are likely to be less healthy and have shorter life expectancies than their parents.

Though this is a nationwide epidemic, childhood obesity disproportionately affects low-income and minority populations. Earlier this year, scientists touted some significant progress in the fight against childhood obesity among the youngest children, however, African American and Hispanic Children experienced a smaller reduction in obesity rates and remain three and five times more likely than Caucasian children to be obese.

To address this troubling epidemic, I introduced the Fit for Life Act of 2014, which increases access to healthy foods, expands prevention and treatment options for low-income children, and increases opportunities for physical activity for our youth. Further, this critical

legislation supports mobile healthy food programs, broadens access to healthy foods for children in child care, increases coverage for obesity prevention and treatment options for low-income children, and expands opportunities to take part in joint use agreements, opening existing facilities in low-income areas to community use.

This country cannot afford for our children to continue to feed into the cycle of obesity. We must begin to aggressively combat this epidemic before it puts more of our children at risk.

I encourage my colleagues to stand with me in this fight and cosponsor the Fit for Life Act.

HONORING IOWA CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR MARY ELLEN MASKE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mary Ellen Maske on being selected as the Iowa Central Office Administrator of the Year. Mary Ellen serves as the deputy superintendent of the Cedar Rapids Community Schools in my district. Mary Ellen was selected because of her leadership in establishing Professional Learning Communities and her efforts to create school-community partnerships for parents and students in the community.

Mary Ellen began her career as an elementary school teacher in Iowa City. She also previously served as an executive administrator in Cedar Rapids. She received her bachelor's degree in elementary education and her master's degree in educational administration, both from the University of Iowa.

Mary Ellen was selected for this award by a committee of Iowa central office administrators. Mary Ellen has proven that she is a leader at her school and throughout the Cedar Rapids community. I'm proud to call her a constituent, and congratulate her on all of her success.

COMMENDING LOCAL 2014 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FOURTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 13 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishment and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Air Force. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this

opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized a total of 9 students. This year, we will recognize 129 young men and women who have chosen to serve our country in uniform.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the Nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Air Force:

Joshua Gragg, Jaren Gregory, Erin Harmon, Skylar Johnson, Calvin Kim, Alan Menacho, Joshua Mims, Patrick Moon, Christopher Pidgeon, Shaun Reardon, Cassidy Smith, Carlos Soto-Flores, and Jackson Sullivan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense of our Nation's freedom.

RECOGNIZING OZARK HIGH
SCHOOL JUNIOR ROTC DRILL
TEAMS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ozark High School Junior ROTC Drill Teams for being named national champions at the 2014 U.S. Army JROTC National Drill Championships.

Ozark High School represents the 3rd Brigade of the Army Cadet Command, which is comprised of teams from 10 states. The 3rd Brigade consists of 119 Army JROTC programs, and Ozark was one of just six honored to compete in the 2014 National Drill Championship.

The Ozark Unarmed Team placed first overall in their division with a total score of 3,833 points. The Ozark Armed Team placed second overall with a score of 3,690 points. The Ozark Rifle Team won their third consecutive National Championship.

Of the 1700 plus schools that have JROTC, there is only one school, one city and one state that can claim two National Championship teams in the same year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the instructors of the JROTC program and the family members of the students who support them.

I am honored to recognize the Ozark High School JROTC for their National Championships this year and wish them continued success in the future.

CAROL URNER

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my colleagues to honor Carol Urner, a community leader in Portland, Oregon who has worked for decades to promote peace, social justice, and global safety through nuclear disarmament.

Carol first voiced concerns about nuclear weapons testing in the 1960s and imagine her surprise when she found hundreds of other women who shared her passion that something must be done.

She co-founded Women for Peace, based in Portland, OR, which served as a model for grassroots groups around the country, each working to promote the first nuclear test ban treaty.

In 1963, Carol traveled to Japan and took one thousand white roses that she exchanged for one thousand peace cranes to honor the nuclear disarmament work of Women Strike for Peace.

Throughout her life, Carol survived many tragedies. Yet she always persevered and overcame difficult circumstances to continue her work.

For 35 years, Carol lived abroad with her husband and raised two children. In the midst of this, she sought to improve human rights for some of the world's poorest citizens.

Today she is still an active leader with the Portland Chapter of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.

It is a great honor to recognize Carol. She remains a dedicated leader and mentor in our community and her vision for a safer world is one we will continue to aspire towards.

RECOGNIZING ABILITYONE
PROGRAM

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an AbilityOne program. Located at Tin-

ker Air Force Base, the program has resulted in the employment of more than 1,300 people with disabilities around the state of Oklahoma.

The AbilityOne Program buys products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. In doing so, the program affords Americans with disabilities opportunities to acquire job skills and training, earn wages and benefits, and gain greater independence. This program provides vital assistance to a segment of the population that has one of the highest levels of unemployment in our country.

Since 1996, the Dale Rogers Training Center, with the assistance of Professional Contract Services, Inc. (PCSI) has improved the quality of life, helped remove barriers to independent living. The benefits to those that participate in the program cannot be overstated. The opportunity to work, be independent, and participate in community life enhances participants' lives and provides an avenue for them to contribute to society.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I would like to thank all the people involved with the AbilityOne program, and PCSI for their important work to Oklahomans of all ages and abilities reach their full potential.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,490,047,622,577.60. We've added \$6,863,170,573,664.60 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN RED
CROSS

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendously positive impact the American Red Cross has on my congressional district.

Earlier this month, my constituents in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions of New York endured disastrous levels of flooding. Upon finding their homes severely damaged, hundreds of people sought refuge at local Red Cross shelters.

I had the opportunity to visit the areas in Yates County hit hardest by the storm and was humbled by the outpouring of care and support provided by the Red Cross. As it has done countless times in the past, the Red Cross responded immediately to provide critical resources and assistance to our friends,

families, and neighbors who were affected by the damaging floods. With the help of the Red Cross, these communities were able to pull together to support each other and overcome the challenges caused by the flooding.

Since its founding in 1881, the Red Cross has consistently provided excellent care and relief to those who need it most. Throughout wars, famines, and natural disasters, the staff and volunteers from the Red Cross put themselves on the front lines to help the victims of these tragedies through their times of need. Each year, the American Red Cross responds to over 70,000 catastrophes all over the world, providing emergency relief to those impacted. In addition to providing temporary housing, warm meals, medical assistance, and emergency blood supplies, the Red Cross deploys mobile response units to help ease suffering during disasters.

I thank the staff and volunteers of the American Red Cross for serving as "real heroes" in our community, our country, and throughout the world. I commend their dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of each person in need, especially in New York's 23rd Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes:

1. Moran Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

2. Blackburn Amendment No. 14 to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

3. Blackburn Amendment No. 15 to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

4. Bonamici Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

5. Rohrabacher Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

6. Holding Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

7. Massie Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

8. Southerland Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

9. Ellison Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

10. Grayson Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

11. Duffy Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

12. Garrett Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

13. King (IA) Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

14. Meadows Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

15. Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this measure.

16. Final Passage of H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was absent for rollcall votes on May 29 and May 30, 2014. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 243—Pompeo Amendment—Eliminates all funding for the Economic Development Administration and transfers the savings to the Spending Reduction Account—"no."

Rollcall Vote 244—McNerney Amendment—Increases funding for the COPS program by \$3 million (intended for the Technology Grant Program), reduces the Census Bureau by the same amount—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 245—Bridenstine Amendment—Increases funding for NOAA—Operations, Research, and Facilities by \$12 million (intended for weather research), reduces the Census Bureau by the same amount—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 246—King Amendment—Directs \$5 million within DOJ—General Administration—Salaries and Expenses towards investigating the actions of DHS regarding the discretionary release of criminal aliens—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 247—Cohen Amendment—Increases funding for DOJ—Administrative Review and Appeals by \$2 million, reduces Bureau of Prisons—Salaries and Expenses by the same amount—"no."

Rollcall Vote 248—Cohen Amendment—Increases funding for the Legal Services Corporation by \$15 million, reduces DEA—Salaries and Expenses by \$18 million—"no."

Rollcall Vote 249—Thompson Amendment—Increases funding for grants to improve records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System by \$19.5 million, reduces funding from various other accounts by the same amount—"no."

Rollcall Vote 250—Polis Amendment—Reduces DEA—Salaries and Expenses by \$35 million, and transfers the savings to the Spending Reduction Account—"no."

Rollcall Vote 251—Cicilline Amendment—Increases funding for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance by \$8.5 million, reduces NASA—Construction by the same amount—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 252—Smith (TX) Amendment—Redirects \$15.35 million within NSF—Research from the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to the Physical Sciences Directorates—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 253—Scott (GA) Amendment—Eliminates all funding for the Legal Services Corporation and transfers the savings to the Spending Reduction Account—"no."

Rollcall Vote 254—Moran Amendment—Strikes Sections 528 and 529 which prohibits funds from being used to transfer detainees to the U.S. or construct, acquire or modify any facility in the U.S. to house detainees—"no."

Rollcall Vote 255—Blackburn Amendment—Reduces spending by 1% across the board—"no."

Rollcall Vote 256—Blackburn Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used for operation, renovation, or construction at Thomson Correctional Facility in Illinois—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 257—Bonamici Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used by DOJ to prevent a state from implementing its own state laws to authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of industrial hemp—"no."

Rollcall Vote 258—Rohrabacher Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used by DOJ to prevent states from implementing their own state laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana—"no."

Rollcall Vote 259—Holding Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used to transfer or temporarily assign employees to the Office of the Pardon Attorney for the purpose of screening clemency applications—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 260—Massie Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used by DOJ or DEA in contravention of sec. 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 regarding industrial hemp research—"no."

Rollcall Vote 261—Southerland Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used to develop, approve, or implement a new limited access privilege program (catch shares) that are not already developed, approved, or implemented for any fishery under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England, or Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council—"no."

Rollcall Vote 262—Ellison Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used to award contracts to contractors who have violated the Fair Labor Standards Act—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 263—Grayson Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used to compel a journalist or reporter to testify about information or sources that they regard to be confidential—"no."

Rollcall Vote 264—Duffy Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used to relinquish the NTIA's responsibility with respect to internet domain name system functions, including responsibility with respect to the authoritative root zone file and the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 265—Garrett Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used by the DOJ to pursue litigation using the "disparate impact" legal theory—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 266—King (IA) Amendment—Prohibits funds from DOJ—Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance from being used in contravention of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 267—Meadows Amendment—Prohibits funds from being used to enter into a trade agreement that establishes a limit on greenhouse gas emissions—"aye."

Rollcall Vote 268—Motion to Recommit H.R. 4660—"no."

Rollcall Vote 269—Passage of H.R. 4660—Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015—“yea.”

Rollcall Vote 270—Motion to Recommit H.R. 4681—“no.”

Rollcall Vote 271—Passage of H.R. 4681—National Intelligence Authorization Act, 2015—“yea.”

COMMENDING THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE INTERIM REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN VIETNAM

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest appreciation to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for officially recognizing the Interim Representative Committee of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam, of which I am a member. I thank the Politburo, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, President Truong Tan Sang, the Fatherland Front, the National Assembly, Foreign Ministry, Public Security, and any and all government agencies, especially the Committee on Religious Affairs, for sparing no effort to bring this day about.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the efforts and leadership of Chairman Pham Dung, Vice Chair Bui Thanh Ha, retired Vice Chair Nguyen Thanh Xuan, as well as Director Hoang Thi Thao, and the entire staff of the Committee on Religious Affairs.

I am grateful to H.E. President Nguyen Sinh Hung, Vice President Madam Tong Thi Phong, Vice President Madam Nguyen Thi Doan of the National Assembly, as well as Vice Chairman Ha Huy Thong of the Foreign Committee and all other Members of the National Assembly.

I thank Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh as well as any and all associated with the Foreign Ministry.

I also express my deepest appreciation to Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong, Dr. Luan Thuy Duong, and Mr. An Nguyen at the Embassy of Vietnam in the United States for their tireless efforts.

I also thank officers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including The First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve, the Asia Area Presidency, as well as local leaders in Vietnam. In particular, I thank members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam and abroad.

I thank all those who have participated in this marvelous work and glory—those named in addition to all those who have added their efforts and prayers to ours, including those who have gone before us.

May 30, 2014, the official day of recognition, is a special occasion, a sacred occasion. Vietnam is a multi-religious society with approximately 25,000 places of worship and about 24 million followers of various faiths. In my official capacity as former Chairman and current

Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have attended religious services in diverse houses of worship in Vietnam, and did so unannounced. Always, I found Vietnam to be a place favorable for religious activities and I thank Vietnam for encouraging and protecting the rights of individuals, families, and congregations to practice their religions and contribute as good parents and good citizens under the law.

I am very proud of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the work it does to protect activities of religious groups, including those of my faith. I consider the followers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam my brothers and sisters. I feel the same about the leaders and officials of Vietnam. With mutual understanding, respect and trust, we have walked together to this day of recognition. We have walked together with faith in every footstep. And, as we journey forward, I am confident we will do so side by side.

When President Brigham Young led the followers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints into the Salt Lake valley in 1847, he declared: “This is the right place. Drive on.” To members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to government and party officials in Vietnam, to friends and family, I echo Brigham Young's words. Drive on knowing that May 30, 2014 will forevermore be one of the best days of my life, and I am sure many others will always cherish this day, too.

COMMENDING LOCAL 2014 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FOURTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 60 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishment and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: “Thank you.”

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized a total of 9 students. This year, we will recognize 129 young men and women who have chosen to serve our country in uniform.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the Nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Marine Corps:

Steven Lawrence Allen, Jovina Argueta, Coty Brown, Daniel Bukari, Khizer Butt, Jose Cajar, Patrick Casey, Michael Conroy, Adam Crews, Jason Crites, Michael Daughtry, Hunter Day, Christopher Dullea, Jordan Dunmore, Zachary Frye, Ernesto Garcia, Nina Garrido, Zachary Gingras, Flor Gudiel, Junior Guzman Melendez, Demetrius Higgins, Garrett Humberson, Michael Irwin, Jake Kinder, Brian Knauf, Matthew Levesque, Ariel Jeffrey Magalong, Phillip Mael, Zachary McCall, Lukas McKennedy, Blake TW Mendenhall, Sergio Miranda Henruquez, Duncan Mungovan, John Munies, Robin Murray, Alex Naupari, Rory Nelson, Omer Nezam, Kevin Nidell, Sanjar Omuraliev, John Peters, Siam Putipong, Jaycee Quispe, Hithem Shaw, Sohrab Ali Shojanezhad, Travis Nathaniel Sievert, Luis Enrique Sosa Lopez, Michael Such, Phillip Suh, Sean Sullivan, Carl Tchatchouang, Destinee Tenakoun, Brandon Thien, Taylor Trahan, Marvin Ventura, George Vera, Damon Villamar, Mark Walker, Andrew Webster, Winfield Wilson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense our Nation's freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ALAN EHRGOTT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Alan Ehr Gott for his twenty-five years of service with the American River Conservancy. As his family, friends and colleagues gather to celebrate his outstanding career and ongoing contributions to the community, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Mr. Ehr Gott's many years of service.

With its beginnings in April of 1989, the American River Conservancy, then known as

the American River Land Trust, was founded by Mr. Ehrgott and several other community leaders and members with the aim of acquiring and conserving land along the American River for future generations. As Executive Director, the American River Conservancy has thrived under Mr. Ehrgott's leadership and his love of nature. Located in the historic Kane House in the Marshall Gold Discovery State Park in Coloma, the American River Conservancy has completed over 78 land conservation projects protecting 13,709 acres of high-quality wildlife habitat, recreational lands and native fisheries in the Upper American River and Upper Cosumnes River watersheds. Mr. Ehrgott's vision led to the existence of the 25-mile network of trails known as the South Fork American River Trail System. These projects were made possible through \$76 million in funds that Mr. Ehrgott was successful in securing.

In 2010, Mr. Ehrgott was instrumental in the acquisition of the 272-acre Gold Hill Ranch which has a rich cultural history starting with the local Nisenan tribe. The site is most well known for being one of the first permanent Japanese settlements in North America from the period of 1869–1871 when it was known as the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony Farm. With Mr. Ehrgott leading the way, the American River Conservancy hopes to preserve and celebrate the legacy of farming that has occurred on the site.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Mr. Alan Ehrgott, who has served the Sacramento community and the surrounding environment for more than two decades. His continued service has greatly contributed to the community and ensured the continued enjoyment of the American River. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this man whose persistence and leadership has helped to preserve one of Northern California's many natural treasures for years to come.

IN SUPPORT OF THE HIGHWAYS
BETTER THE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT
ACT OF 2014

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Highways Bettering the Economy and Environment Act with my Co-Chairman of the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus, Representative JEFF DENHAM. This bi-partisan bill provides much-needed aid for the birds, bats, bees and butterflies that pollinate our food.

The Highways BEE Act seeks no new monies and involves a limited federal role.

This bill provides for existing authorities and finding sources to incorporate integrated vegetation management practices along America's highways, which includes things like reduced mowing and replacing invasive plant species with native forbs and grasses. This kind of roadside vegetation management provides much-needed habitat for pollinators and other small nesting animals.

The Association of American State Highway and Transportation Officials Vegetation Man-

agement Guidelines advances integrated vegetation management principles and recommendations consistent with the objectives of this legislation. A number of states, including Minnesota are already doing this and reporting maintenance cost savings of 20 to 25 percent from reduced mowing alone.

Mr. Speaker, there are around 17 million acres of land where significant reductions in mowing and maintenance can reduce costs for cash-strapped states. The millions of acres of agriculture and wildlife ecosystems adjacent to these roadways will benefit from the increased pollinator habitat resulting from integrated vegetation management practices.

To understand how worried we should be about declining pollinator populations, consider that rising global food prices have been the primary topic of discussion at recent G–20 meetings. This is the first time that agriculture has had the top spot at a meeting and is indicative of how serious the issue is. Food prices have already led to global riots overseas and a declining pollinator population will only make the situation worse. Seventy-five percent of all flowering plant species rely on creatures like birds, bats, bees and butterflies for fertilization. One out of every three bites of food that we eat, as well as \$20 billion of products in the United States alone, derive from pollinators.

If we don't solve these problems soon, we won't have any bees. Without bees, we won't have any food. The benefit to cost balance in the case of this bill is an easy choice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, I was not present for 2 votes. Had I been present for rollcall No. 241, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for rollcall No. 242, I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF PIUS X ON THE OCCASION OF THE SCHOOL'S 11TH ANNUAL AWARDS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Augustine Pullo, Alfred DeRenzis, and Father Edward Quinnan for their contributions to their profession, community, and faith after graduation from Pius X in Bangor, Pennsylvania. They have been recognized by their beloved school.

Augustine Pullo, Class of 1973, had a passion for music that started early. He continued his musical endeavors and earned a degree at East Stroudsburg University. For 17 years, he worked as a top manager at a McDonald's. Later, he established three successful businesses in the Northampton County's Slate

Belt. A posthumous award recognized his dedication to his community and to his school.

Alfred DeRenzis, Class of 1963, was once Student Council President and was active in clubs and sports. He left Pius to earn a dental degree, become faculty at the University of Maryland School for Dental Medicine, and later a stockbroker. Today, he participates in model airplane competitions. He kept a second residence in his hometown of Roseto and maintains ties to Slate Belt community.

Father Edward Quinnan, Class of 1974, was a member of the honor society while in school and was active in many clubs. After Pius, he studied biology and chemistry before graduating from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, CA, and becoming an Assistant Professor in Counseling at Loyola University in Chicago. He currently provides retreat programs and finds it "life-giving."

I add my congratulations to the honors bestowed from Pius X Junior/Senior High School. I applaud the dedication to profession, community, and country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I missed the following votes:

1. Thompson (CA) Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.
2. Polis Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.
3. Cicilline Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.
4. Smith (TX) Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.
5. Austin Scott Amendment to H.R. 4660. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this amendment.

CONGRATULATING REPUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL TIGERS BASKETBALL

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic High School Tigers Basketball Team for winning the Missouri Class 4 State Championship.

The Tigers clinched the title with a thrilling finish, making a three pointer with only seven seconds left for a final score of 45–42. Members of the team include Dylan Bekemeier, Brock Yocum, Chase Hoffmann, Josh Vaughn, Dillen Ramsey, Dakota Fortner, Canyon Smith, Jordan Kerr, Cole Hurst, Cody Geiger, Tim Brazeal, and Cory Lafferty.

Through their hard work and determination on and off the court, the Tigers developed into a truly great championship team, earning back

to back state titles. The Tigers ended the season 27–4, remaining undefeated in their district. The Tigers were also the Central Ozark Conference Champions for the 2013–2014 season.

I also want to commend Head Coach Trevyor Fisher for a job well-done on developing such a strong basketball program.

The team, with the help of its coaches and the support of their families and community, persevered through the turmoil of the season and the trials of the state championships. Together, they grew as individuals and as a team, and their successes show what can be achieved through hard work, dedication, and belief.

The Republic community is justifiably proud of this extraordinary group of young and talented student-athletes. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Republic Tigers as they celebrate their consecutive Class 4 Boys State Championships.

TRIBUTE TO REP. PATRICK
MEEHAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize my colleague, Rep. PATRICK MEEHAN of Pennsylvania, for his work on behalf of victims of domestic violence, sexual trafficking and addiction. The legislation approved by the House today includes significant funding and reflects his advocacy for these issues in Congress.

Congressman MEEHAN has been a leader throughout this process and I have appreciated his input on how to make this bill as strong as well possible to deal with domestic violence, trafficking and addiction. It is my understanding that just last week, Mr. MEEHAN hosted a summit on human trafficking, bringing together local and Federal law enforcement and victims' advocacy organizations to address the crisis. He has also long been a voice for the victims of domestic violence and has been among the strongest advocates for funding for programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act. He has also fought for our veterans, and his leadership helped ensure higher funding for veterans' treatment courts.

I am pleased to say that the FY15 CJS bill contains the highest levels of funding for combating human trafficking, ever. This is a testament to the hard work and experience of Congressman MEEHAN who, among others, knows just how vital these resources are for trafficking victims. I appreciate his continued efforts to raise awareness in Congress and to advocate for these important resources.

COMMENDING LOCAL 2014 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FOURTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 6 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishment and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Navy. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized a total of 9 students. This year, we will recognize 129 young men and women who have chosen to serve our country in uniform.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Navy:

Teresa Bailey, Sullivan Stansfield, Kevin Quintanilla, Yeagwang Kim, Ryan Kokotkiewicz, and Saurav Bhandari.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense our nation's freedom.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF SERGEANT CHRIS HUFFMAN, PENSACOLA POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am humbled to recognize Sergeant Chris Huffman upon the occasion of his retirement from the Pensacola Police Department on May 31, 2014. For more than three decades, Sergeant Huffman dedicated his life to protecting and defending the lives of those around him, and I join citizens throughout Florida's Gulf Coast and across the Nation in extending my deepest appreciation for his faithful service.

The proud son of a father who was Chief of Police of the Piqua Police Department in Piqua, Ohio, Sergeant Huffman followed in his father's footsteps in pursuit of a law enforcement career. Sergeant Huffman served as a police officer in Troy, Ohio, from 1979 until 1984 when he joined the Pensacola Police Department.

Sergeant Huffman performed various roles while at the Pensacola Police Department, including Community Relations; SWAT; K-9 Unit with his partner Isia; TAC, Uniform Patrol; and DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Officer at N.B. Cook and Scenic Heights elementary schools, Episcopal Day School, Montessori, and Sacred Heart schools. In 1999, he was promoted to sergeant, and in 2002, he was honored as the Florida DARE Officer of the Year.

Throughout the course of his career, Sergeant Huffman was an inspiration to our Nation's youth and his fellow officers. There is no question that he made a significant impact in the lives of many, and the Northwest Florida community was blessed by his unwavering commitment to service. While Sergeant Huffman's retirement will signal the end of his career with the Pensacola Police Department, it is merely the beginning of the lasting legacy that he leaves behind.

On June 1, Sergeant Huffman will kick off his retirement and embark on his next journey with a 60 day, 3,785 mile bike ride to help raise awareness and support for multiple sclerosis research.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great honor to recognize Police Sergeant Chris Huffman for his years of service and his passion for bettering the lives of others. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking Sergeant Chris Huffman for his dedication to the Northwest Florida community and wishing him; his wife of 32 years, Darla; and their two daughters, Courtney and Kelsey, all the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF HONORING DAVID FREEMAN AND
PREECLAMPSIA AWARENESS PROCLAIMING WILLIAM B. IDE
MONTH DAY

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Preeclampsia Awareness Month and the importance of addressing maternal and infant health.

Preeclampsia is a serious and far too common complication of pregnancy and is one of the leading causes of maternal deaths, illness, and premature birth. According to the Preeclampsia Foundation, the disease affects approximately 1 in 12 women, and if untreated can lead to seizure, stroke, organ failure or death. The good news is that early diagnosis is possible through simple screenings and good prenatal care can predict or delay many adverse outcomes of preeclampsia.

However, too many people are unaware of this potentially fatal condition. The main indicator of preeclampsia is high blood pressure. Additional symptoms of preeclampsia are common to pregnancy such as headaches, abdominal pain, shortness of breath, vomiting, confusion, heightened state of anxiety or visual disturbances such as oversensitivity to light or blurred vision. That is why I support the Preeclampsia Foundation's efforts to educate women and their families to know the symptoms, respond to warning signs, and seek prenatal care.

So much more needs to be understood about this condition—why it occurs, how to cure it, and its long-term effect on a woman and her child's health. Research has demonstrated a possible direct link to the placenta. I understand that starting this year, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at NIH will embark on a new effort to understand diseases and conditions related to the placenta, and it is my hope that it leads to new discovery for preeclampsia and other conditions of pregnancy.

Together we must do all we can to eliminate preventable maternal and infant death and disability. I am hopeful for the promise of our research efforts, and I am grateful for the work of clinicians around this country and organizations like the Preeclampsia Foundation who work so hard tirelessly to advance maternal and infant health and well-being.

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William Brown Ide, the leader of the 1846 Bear Flag Revolt, and the only President of the California Republic. After California's annexation into the United States, Mr. Ide served as a Probate and County Judge, Presiding Judge of the Court of Sessions, County Recorder, County Auditor, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Deputy County Surveyor and Deputy Sheriff of Colusi County.

Mr. Ide passed away in December of 1852 with only a wooden grave marker that disappeared shortly thereafter. It is thanks to a local man, David Freeman that Mr. Ide's gravestones have been corrected after he collected funding from various organizations and did much of the labor himself.

In just over a week, on June 7th, 2014, the new gravesite for Mr. William Brown Ide will be unveiled. I would like to thank Mr. Freeman for his work to ensure that important historical figures like William Brown Ide are remembered, as is the history of the great state of California.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL DIRON J. CRUZ ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE GUAM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize COL Diron J. Cruz on his retirement from the Guam Army National Guard. COL Cruz is the second son of Antonio Babauta Cruz and Guadalupe Santiago Cruz of Malesso, Guam. He was born in Tamuning, Guam and graduated from Father Duenas Memorial School in 1980. COL Cruz is the father of two daughters, Lenika and Nozomi.

COL Cruz earned his commission in the United States Army as a second lieutenant of Field Artillery from the University of Guam ROTC Program in 1984. In addition to his

Bachelor of Arts in Business Management from the University of Guam, COL Cruz also holds a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA. In 1985, COL Cruz completed the Field Artillery Officers Basic at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma and then advanced courses in 1988.

As a newly commissioned officer, his first assignments included battalion ammunition officer, service battery executive officer, howitzer platoon leader and nuclear weapons officer with 1st Battalion, 36th Field Artillery in Augsburg, Germany from 1985 to 1988. He then served with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) from 1989 to 1993. During his time in the 101st Airborne Division, COL Cruz's duties included targeting officer for 3rd Brigade, battalion fire support officer, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, division Artillery. He then served his last regular Army assignment as Operations Advisor to the 479th Field Artillery Brigade in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 1993 to 1994.

In 1994, COL Cruz left the Army and moved to Cincinnati, Ohio and worked as a territory sales manager for International Paper Co. until March 1996. He then returned to Guam and worked as general manager of Guam Freight Forwarders and then as operations manager for Flowco Sales and Service Co.

In 1999, COL Cruz joined the Guam Army National Guard and began serving as operations officer of 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry and Guam National Guard training officer and domestic operations officer. He then served in different positions in both Hawaii and Virginia from 2001 to 2008. COL Cruz has served as the chief of staff of the Guam Army National Guard since his return in 2008.

COL Cruz was a respected leader in the Guam National Guard. As Chief of Staff, he undertook efforts to ensure the continued professionalization of enlisted and officers in the Guam National Guard. Further, he worked to ensure that staff collaborated as a truly Joint staff to push forward critical initiatives like a flying mission for the Guam Air National Guard; protection of critical force structure to support the rebalance and establishment of a light utility helicopter flying mission on Guam.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend COL Cruz for his service to Guam and the United States. I further congratulate and offer my sincerest appreciation to him on his retirement.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, June 2, 2014

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 2, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

Reverend Loren Lasch, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Gracious and loving God, we thank You for the gift of this new day.

As we set out to do the work You have given us to do, please open our eyes to those who are suffering in the world around us. Following Your example, help us to care for the poor, the sick, the broken, and the disenfranchised.

Give us grace to care for all of Your people as if they were our own brothers and sisters. In all that we do, O Lord, let Your love and peace guide us.

In Your holy name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 604, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

The chair lays before the House a communication from the Speaker.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JAMES B. RENACCI, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Honorable JAMES B. RENACCI, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 30, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, for both documents and testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JIM RENACCI,
Member of Congress.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker pro tempore, Mr. THORNBERRY, announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 611. An act to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on May 30, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 724. To amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles.

H.R. 4032. To exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4488. To make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1036. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office".

H.R. 1228. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building".

H.R. 1451. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building".

H.R. 2391. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the

"Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office".

H.R. 3060. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building".

H.R. 3658. To grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

H.R. 2939. To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(b) of House Resolution 604, the House stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 5, 2014.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Thursday, June 5, 2014, at 3 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5851. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting account balance in the Defense Cooperation Account as of March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5852. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments and Correction to Petitions for Waiver and Interim Waiver for Consumer Products and Commercial and Industrial Equipment [Docket No.: EERE-2012-BT-TP-0003] (RIN: 1904-AC70) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5853. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins; Biennial Review, Technical Amendment (RIN: 0920-AA34) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5854. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the annual financial report as required by the Animal Drug User Fee Act of 2003 for FY 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5855. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 20-341, "Comprehensive Code of Conduct and BEGA Amendment Act of 2014", pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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

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

5856. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 20-340, "Breastmilk Bank and Lactation Support Act of 2014", pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5857. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 20-339, "Underinsured Motorist Carrier Fairness Amendment Act of 2014", pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5858. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's final rule — Technical Updating Amendments to Executive Branch Financial Disclosure and Standards of Ethical Conduct Regulations (RIN: 3209-AA00 and 3209-AA04) received May 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5859. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Relief from Internal Revenue Code Late Filer Penalties for Certain Employee Benefit Plans [Notice 2014-35] received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5860. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2014-34] received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 935. A bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-467, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. LUCAS: Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 935. A bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-467, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4796. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct outreach efforts to provide certain health insurance information to individuals enrolled in qualified health plans offered through an Ex-

change established under title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or State plans under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mrs. BLACK):

H.R. 4797. A bill to update avian protection laws in order to support an all-of-the-above domestic energy strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4798. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for Alzheimer's disease research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. OLSON (for himself, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LONG, and Mr. CONAWAY):

H.R. 4799. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to give States adequate time to revise their State implementation plans to prevent emissions activity within such States from contributing significantly to nonattainment in, or interfering with maintenance by, any other State with respect to any national ambient air quality standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. POCAN, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. POLIS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. SINEMA):

H. Res. 611. A resolution honoring the life of Jeanne Sobelson Manford for her fierce advocacy on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community as they and their allies celebrate Pride month during the month of June, reflect on the progress made towards equality, and remember activists like Jeanne who spent their lives fighting for their rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 4796.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina:

H.R. 4797.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

the rules and regulations for property owned by the United States pursuant to Ar-

title IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution.

Authority to stay misapplied regulations from the executive Branch stems from Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4798.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 4799.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 270: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 543: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 851: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 889: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 942: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 1146: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1179: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1180: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 1274: Mr. OLSON and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1351: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1449: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1507: Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 1527: Mr. LOEBACK.

H.R. 1728: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1821: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2477: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2807: Mr. LAMALFA and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 3383: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 3461: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 3471: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 3698: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 3708: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 3858: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 3978: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 3992: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SABLON, Mr. BYRNE, and Ms. DELAUNO.

H.R. 4012: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

H.R. 4122: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 4143: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 4250: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 4272: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 4306: Mr. HOYER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 4365: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 4515: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 4760: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 4795: Mr. TERRY.

H.J. Res. 68: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 584: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H. Res. 594: Mr. LOEBACK.

H. Res. 606: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Ms. MENG.

SENATE—Monday, June 2, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Most merciful God, You have been better to us than we deserve. Accept the grateful labors of our lawmakers as they seek to meet the challenges of our times. May they not become weary because of the obstacles they encounter but trust You to order their steps. Hear even the silent prayers of their hearts as they give their time and strength to make America an instrument of Your purposes. Lord, help them to remember it is righteousness that exalts a nation but that sin is an equal opportunity destroyer. May they humble themselves in prayer, seeking Your face as they turn from evil, so You will hear our prayers, forgive our sins, and heal our land.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 2, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m. there will be a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Keith Harper to be U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

CARING FOR VETERANS

Our esteemed colleague, the chairman of the Budget Committee, PATTY MURRAY, has said, "Caring for our veterans is the duty of a grateful nation."

She knows of what she speaks because she led that committee in a very vibrant, positive way as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I have no doubt every Member of this body agrees with the sentiment she expressed. There is a big difference between nodding one's head in approval and actually doing something to take care of our veterans.

The chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee today is Senator BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont, and he is doing something to help our veterans. The junior Senator from Vermont has introduced a bill to ensure that American veterans are getting the care they need. This legislation allows veterans facing long delays in health care to seek outside help, and they can go to private doctors, community health centers or military bases. Additionally, this bill authorizes the VA to use emergency funding to hire new doctors and nurses, which are badly needed.

Senator SANDERS' legislation increases accountability through the Department of Veterans Affairs, holding senior officials responsible for poor job performance. This is very good legislation. This bill will improve the manner in which the United States of America cares for its veterans, and I hope all Members will support this. In light of the shocking reports of inappropriate practices at the VA, and especially their hospitals, every Senator should support this legislation.

Last week the Veterans Affairs inspector general's office released its re-

port detailing many troubling systemic failures which are unnecessarily putting our Nation's veterans at risk. They are so wrong, and they are putting our Nation's veterans at risk. Instead of receiving the proper care they deserve, thousands of combat veterans have been languishing on nonexistent waiting lists at a VA hospital in Arizona.

The inspector general's report declared that many of these men and women who have been relegated to health care limbo are "at risk of being lost or forgotten." The brave veterans of our Nation's Armed Services should never be lost or forgotten. These soldiers went to war and pledged not to leave their brothers- and sisters-in-arms behind. Now, in their moment of need, some of our most vulnerable veterans have been left behind. We must never allow any servicemember—past or present—to simply fall through the cracks.

Now that the Senate has returned from its State work period, we should pass Senator SANDERS' bill as soon as possible, ensuring that our veterans get the care they deserve. Yet even as Senate Democrats try to improve the reliability of our veterans health care, certain Republican Members of Congress are content to scapegoat the VA. Even more disappointing is the fact that these same Republicans have, through their obstruction, deprived the VA of essential resources it needs to help veterans.

Last February Senate Republicans blocked legislation introduced by Senator SANDERS which would give the VA the tools needed to meet the demands of a changing veteran population. We tried to break that filibuster. We couldn't do it. We didn't have 60 votes.

That bill would help our Nation's veterans by improving health and dental care, providing educational and employment opportunities and addressing claims backlogs. The legislation that has been introduced this week does the same. That legislation was shot down because as the junior Senator from Florida said, it had a cost issue, but that junior Senator, a Republican Senator from Florida, was correct—taking care of our Nation's wounded veterans does cost money, but it is money well spent.

Senator RUBIO is not alone. The junior Senator from Alabama, along with the rest of his caucus, opposed the same bill because he didn't want to "bust the budget." Republicans didn't worry about busting the budget when they initially sent our troops by the hundreds of thousands to Iraq on a

credit card, the credit card of the taxpayers of America, running up—in that war alone—about \$1.5 trillion in money that was borrowed.

Therein lies the problem. Republicans ignore the true cost of democracy. The lives and well-being of the brave men and women who fight to protect our way of life are part of the cost of our democracy. Instead, Republicans focus on the monetary costs only, the dollar bills, because any money going to our veterans is \$1 less going to billionaires, corporations, and unnecessary tax cuts.

The American people are tired of the doublespeak coming from the Republican Party when it comes to caring for our soldiers and our veterans. If Republicans support our Nation's soldiers, then help us protect our Nation's soldiers and help us support our Nation's soldiers. Instead, there is always an excuse, some exception they find to justify prevention of them standing with America's veterans and our soldiers.

Let's give American veterans the care and attention they deserve. As the Department of Veterans Affairs works to remedy these serious shortcomings, we in Congress must do our part to help. We owe America's veterans far too much to leave them behind in their hour of need.

ERIC SHINSEKI

I wish to say a few words about the retired Secretary, retired general, Eric Shinseki, who resigned in the wake of the Veterans Affairs' troubling performance.

General Shinseki is a very good man, a devoted, disabled combat veteran. Under his leadership the VA drastically improved its care of veterans suffering from mental illness, and they addressed the issue of veterans' homelessness. He oversaw initiatives which decreased dependence on pain killers and other drugs, addressing a problem which was crippling many combat veterans.

General Shinseki's work at the VA has also helped cut waiting times for GI benefits down to just 1 week, helping countless veterans get paid the aid they were promised. As the Secretary has done his best, I am sorry his time as head of the VA ended with his resignation, but I understand why he felt the need to step aside.

Eric Shinseki has served this country for decades: on the battlefield, as Chief of Staff for the U.S. Army, and as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. I personally thank him for his service and wish him well as he undoubtedly continues his work for America.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is preserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HARPER NOMINATION

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will consider the nomination of Keith Harper as the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

I am generally deferential to the President's decisions when it comes to nominations brought before the Senate for confirmation, but in extraordinary circumstances I don't hesitate to oppose them. Given the extraordinary circumstances present in this case, I must strenuously object to this nominee.

Mr. Harper is the latest State Department "bundler-blunder" that is slated for a U.S. ambassadorship. Earlier this year we saw the administration nominate several wholly unqualified top Democratic fundraisers to serve as ambassadors to various posts around the world.

One such fundraiser, Mr. George Tsunis, was nominated to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Norway. During his confirmation hearing, Mr. Tsunis revealed his complete unawareness about the country in which he would serve as our Nation's top envoy. For example, he referred to Norway's head of State as their President, not knowing that the country is led by a constitutional monarch.

Another Presidential pick, Colleen Bell, for Hungary could not answer a single question at her Senate hearing about U.S. strategic interests in that country, but that is OK. I am certain her professional background as a TV soap opera producer will come in handy while the crisis in Ukraine continues to unfold.

Inside the beltway, these nominees are known as "campaign bundlers," partisan political operatives who have each fundraised hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of dollars for the President's campaign. Mr. Harper is another example of a campaign bundler wholly ill-suited to serve in the diplomatic post for which he has been nominated.

According to the Center of Responsive Politics, which tracks campaign

donations, Mr. Harper is on a list called "758 Elites." These are donors who combined "at least \$180 million for Obama's re-election effort." That is a quote from the Center of Responsive Politics. Mr. Harper is classified as a bundler of \$500,000 or more, and his contribution level matched such notables as actor Will Smith, actress Eva Longoria, and Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

I am not naive as to why some of these ambassadorships are doled out. Candidly speaking, Presidents from both parties frequently issue these diplomatic posts as political favors. But I have never before seen an administration this brazen in transmitting individuals who are so terribly and fundamentally unfit for foreign service. Traditionally, according to the retired Foreign Service group, about 30 percent of ambassadorships go to political appointees. Since the election of 2012, that is up to 50 percent. Some go to countries that, frankly, deserve better than someone whose only qualification is whether they raised \$500,000 or more for the campaign of President Obama.

Some of my colleagues will say that what sets Mr. Harper apart from these other campaign donors is his cultural heritage. They say Mr. Harper would be the first Native American in history to hold the rank of U.S. Ambassador. They also say he should be rewarded for his work as one of the lead class action attorneys in the Supreme Court case *Cobell v. Salazar*.

I truly respect that Mr. Harper would be the first Native American to serve as a U.S. Ambassador. What concerns me is his character—particularly his conduct in connection with a matter that could rightly be described as one of the greatest mistreatments of Native Americans by the Federal Government in recent memory. That matter is known as the Cobell case.

In the 1990s hundreds of thousands of Native Americans, led by Elouise Cobell, entered into a class action suit against the Interior Department for mismanaging billions of dollars in land assets that were held in trust for Indian tribes.

During my previous tenure as chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I worked with my colleague, then-vice chairman Byron Dorgan, to end the protracted Cobell lawsuit and enact legislation to settle the case in Congress.

Ultimately, it wasn't until 2010 that Congress finally passed legislation that compensated the Cobell plaintiffs at \$3.4 billion. My colleagues know that Mr. Harper was the co-lead counsel for the Cobell plaintiffs and often touted the number of his clients at about 500,000 Native Americans. When the lawsuit was settled, Mr. Harper and his

legal team stood to earn up to \$99 million in attorney's fees that were written into the Cobell settlement legislation and paid for by the American taxpayer. Let me emphasize: For this good work, Mr. Cobell and his legal team were going to earn \$99 million in attorney's fees. Without a doubt, the legislation was a massive bonus check for Mr. Harper and his team, and he and his team have actually sued the Federal Government to receive another \$123 million—more than the \$99 million he already got. Most of the Native American clients will receive about \$1,000 each, and many are still waiting to receive their first payment to date.

Unfortunately, my Democratic colleagues conveniently ignore that Mr. Harper served on President Obama's 2009 transition team for Native American issues while he actively sued the Interior Department. Does it concern my colleagues that several months after the President installed his leadership team at Interior and Justice, the administration essentially fast-tracked the settlement with the Cobell attorneys or that just 1 year later Congress enacted the \$3.4 billion Cobell settlement legislation as a top White House priority, ending an over decade-long legal battle? Evidently not.

Now the administration claims there was no wrongdoing or conflict of interest on the part of Mr. Harper in his service to the President's transition team, and I have no choice but to take their word for it, albeit skeptical. But we do know of at least one appalling and unforgivable incident that has dogged Mr. Harper throughout the Senate's consideration of his nomination—and rightfully so.

When the Cobell lawsuit was settled and Mr. Harper's legal team stood to earn tens of millions of dollars, a number of Native American plaintiffs—Mr. Harper's own clients—raised grave concerns that their attorneys would receive such a sizable payout. They argued that more of the Cobell settlement should go to the thousands of Native Americans who had been wronged by Interior.

Four affected Native Americans banded together and filed a lawsuit to challenge the Cobell settlement for this and other reasons. One appellate told the court that "huge fees awarded to class counsel often indicate the interests of the absent class members have been sacrificed to those of the lawyers." As a result of this legal challenge, the court temporarily delayed the Cobell payouts to the plaintiffs and, of course, to Mr. Harper.

In what can only be described as bullying, the Cobell legal team fired back at these four Native Americans. They transmitted a letter dated January 20, 2012, to all of their 500,000 clients that listed the home addresses and telephone numbers of the four appellants and urged all of Indian Country to call

and harass them for challenging the Cobell settlement. The letter reads:

Your payments are being held-up by 4 people . . . [each] believes that you are not entitled to the relief (nor the payment of your trust funds) . . . This means you will receive nothing from the settlement: no payment, no scholarship funds, no land consolidation, and no further trust reform . . .

Here is the best part. In the letter that was sent to 500,000 people, it said:

[If] you want to ask them directly about their motives, you should contact them at the following address or phone numbers.

I hope my colleagues understand what was done there. These four Native Americans received harassing calls, death threats, had their jobs threatened. One had to disconnect their phone. Another was essentially run off her reservation.

I will submit two articles for printing in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks. The first is an article from the Missoulian entitled "Objectors to \$3.4B Indian trust settlement get angry phone calls," which further describes how this letter affected their personal lives. The second is an article from the Native American Times entitled "Cobell Class Members question settlement, attorney conduct."

The harassment letter was accessible on the Cobell team's Web site during the Harper committee hearing. It was on his Web site during the hearing in the committee, but it was promptly removed the day after I questioned Mr. Harper about it.

I will also submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks the previously referenced letter provided that the contact information of those four individuals be redacted.

At his committee hearing, Mr. Harper adamantly denied any responsibility for the letter and blamed the strategy entirely on another Cobell attorney. However, Mr. Harper has since muddied his story and later admitted he was aware of the letter on the very day it was transmitted. If he didn't pen the harassment letter or approve it, as he dubiously claims, he certainly did nothing to retract it or denounce it until his Senate hearing.

There is also no disputing that Mr. Harper has held himself out and is overly proud of his status as one of the lead counsels on the Cobell case.

I would argue that those four Native Americans' human rights were abused. People such as Mr. Harper can't be a party to or complicit with a letter attempting to harass Native Americans for exercising their rights and then expect to obtain the Senate's imprimatur to serve as our Nation's ambassador on human rights. That is the irony of all of this. He clearly abused these people's human rights, and now he is going to be an ambassador on human rights?

Mr. Harper has not sufficiently answered my questions about his involve-

ment with the harassment letter or how much in legal fees he has profited from Cobell over the years.

I will also submit for the RECORD his written responses to my hearing questions which conflict with his verbal testimony about the harassment letter and other matters.

I can't in good conscience support Mr. Harper's nomination. The global community faces serious human rights crises, and this is whom the administration sends to speak on behalf of all Americans, including Native Americans? I urge my colleagues to vote against Mr. Harper, and I call upon the administration to transmit a nominee who has an unblemished record of protecting human and civil rights—a record of accomplishment and integrity commensurate with this very important post.

Here is the situation. Mr. Harper will probably be confirmed today on a partisan vote—on a party-line vote. He won't get 60 votes. He will probably get 55 or maybe 1 or 2 less. This is another example of a deprivation that is taking place of my right to advise and consent and that of every single Member of the minority. This nomination would not have come to this floor if we still required 60 votes. But, instead, my colleagues across the aisle have decided to deprive Members on this side of their right of advice and consent because he will be confirmed, probably, today on a party-line basis despite the fact of a clear record of abuse of human rights by a majority here in the Senate.

I tell my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: If we gain the majority in this Senate as a result of this November's election, I will do everything in my power to restore their rights as a minority—their rights of advice and consent. The fact that it was taken away from us for the first time in the history of the Senate is a despicable and black act that will live in history.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Missoulian, Jan. 31, 2012]

OBJECTORS TO \$3.4B INDIAN TRUST SETTLEMENT GET ANGRY PHONE CALLS

(By Matt Volz)

HELENA.—Carol Good Bear started getting the calls about a week ago, after the attorneys who had negotiated a \$3.4 billion settlement over misspent Native American land royalties published the phone numbers and addresses of the four people objecting to the deal.

At first, the resident of New Town, N.D., hung up on the angry voices at the other end. After 15 calls, she unplugged her home phone and started screening her cellphone calls.

She said she worries for her safety now that her address is in the hands of hundreds of thousands of people who might blame her for holding up their money.

"To put my name out there for the public, I think that's scary that these attorneys

would use this tactic and intimidate me into dropping my appeal," Good Bear said. "I don't have protection. If somebody is upset about all this and comes at me with a gun, what am I supposed to do?"

The attorneys who published the Jan. 20 open letter represent up to 500,000 plaintiffs in the class-action lawsuit named after Elouise Cobell, the Blackfeet woman from Montana who spent nearly 16 years trying to hold the U.S. government accountable for more than a century's worth of mismanaged Native American accounts.

The lawsuit claims U.S. officials stole or squandered billions of dollars in royalties owed for land leased for oil, gas, grazing and other uses.

Cobell died in October, just months after a federal judge approved the largest government class-action settlement in U.S. history.

Under the settlement, \$1.4 billion would go to individual Native American account holders. Some \$2 billion would be used by the government to buy up fractionated tribal lands from individual owners willing to sell, and then turn those lands over to tribes. Another \$60 million would be used for a scholarship fund for young Natives.

The settlement took a year to push through Congress, then months for final judicial approval. After the settlement was approved, Good Bear and three other people filed separate objections, each for different reasons.

Those appeals must be heard by a federal appeals court before any money from the settlement can be distributed, with the first scheduled to be heard Feb. 16.

The plaintiffs' attorneys, led by Dennis Gingold of Washington, D.C., wrote in their letter that the "hopes and wishes of 500,000 individual Indians" had been delayed by those four people. If it wasn't for them, the first payments would have been made before Thanksgiving, the letter said.

"There is little doubt that they do not share the desires or care about the needs of the class, over 99.9 percent of whom support a prompt conclusion to this long-running, acrimonious case," the attorneys wrote.

The letter went on to list the names, phone numbers and addresses of Good Bear, Kimberly Craven of Boulder, Co.; Charles Colombe of Mission, S.D.; and Mary Lee Johns of Lincoln, Neb. The attorneys invited people to "ask them directly about their motives" and cautioned them to "please be civil in your communications."

The letter was published in the "Ask Elouise" email that updates class members on the settlement and also was published on at least one website dealing with Native American issues.

Gingold said Monday that he was preparing for oral arguments and could not comment on the letter.

Good Bear and Johns, who agreed to speak to the Associated Press, said they believe the letter was an attempt to intimidate them into dropping their appeals, but it will not work.

"Obviously they don't know me to think I could be brow-beaten into quitting," Johns said.

Both said they have received phone calls of support interspersed with the angry ones.

Craven and Colombe declined to comment, referring questions to their attorneys. Craven's attorney, Ted Frank, said in an email that he took his concerns to the plaintiffs' attorneys and they agreed to stop disseminating the letter.

Frank said he was satisfied with that promise and that attempting to have the

judge address whether the letter was right or wrong would only distract from the appeal.

"Other than a corrective communication and sanctions, there isn't much else we could get in relief from the court, and neither is worth the distraction from preparation for oral argument," Frank said.

Each objector is appealing the settlement for his or her own reasons. Craven and Johns both say the settlement does not include an accounting for how much money was lost, which is what Cobell originally set out to accomplish, and that many class members did not understand that they could have opted out of the deal.

Johns and Good Bear both object to the class of landowners that the settlement creates, saying each is different and their claims should be assessed differently. Johns added that the tribes should have been involved in the process from the start, not just individuals.

[From Native American Times, Feb. 6, 2012]

COBELL CLASS MEMBERS QUESTION SETTLEMENT, ATTORNEY CONDUCT

(By Dana Attocknie)

ATTORNEYS RELEASED NAMES, ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS OF THE FOUR CASE APPELLANTS IN AN EMAIL TO THE PUBLIC AND MEDIA
JAN. 20

WASHINGTON.—Class Counsel for the Cobell v. Salazar class action lawsuit sent out a letter Jan. 20 to Class Members throughout Indian Country explaining the reason for the delay in their monetary payment rests with four Class Members who are appealing the settlement.

"What they did by sending out this letter is very, very unethical," Mary Lee Johns, Cheyenne River Sioux/Lakota, said. "They sent out this email to all the individuals and listed our names, addresses and telephone numbers. One of the individuals that appealed is getting death threats and now they got her address. This is not the way to conduct business in Indian Country."

Johns is appealing the settlement along with Carol Eve Good Bear, Fort Berthold Reservation, and Charles Colombe, Rosebud Sioux. They are represented by David Harrison, an attorney based out of Albuquerque, N.M. They are in the early stages of their brief, which is due to be filed in March with oral argument set for May 15.

Harrison said the suggestion in the letter, dispersed by the plaintiff's counsel, that the appellants don't believe fellow Class Members are entitled to relief or payment from their trust funds is not true. "It's not that they're just trying to make sure that nobody's paid; they're trying to make sure that this deal is legal," Harrison said.

Another appeal is from Class Member Kimberly Craven, Sissten-Wahpeton Oyate, who is represented by Ted Frank, an attorney with the non-profit Center for Class Action Fairness located in Washington, D.C. The Craven brief was complete Jan. 6 and oral argument is scheduled for Feb. 16 in Washington, D.C. before a three judge panel.

Frank said Craven believes the settlement is illegal and it's in the best interest of the Indian community that it be overturned. He said the Historical Accounting Class is not giving Class Members an opportunity to opt out if they feel their right to an injunction is more valuable than the monetary relief. In addition the structure of the settlement payments contradict what the D.C. circuit said would be permissible in earlier Cobell litigation, because it's not rationally related to the damages Class Members have suffered, he said.

"So you have a problem that Class Members who have suffered the most injury are getting the same as or less than Class Members who have suffered no injury at all," Frank said. "(Also) There's the problem of conflict of interest created by the fact that Ms. Cobell negotiated a settlement that would pay \$12.5 million dollars to herself." The beneficiaries of the settlement fall into two groups; the Historical Accounting Class and the Trust Administration Class. Harrison's clients also question the fairness of the Accounting Class and the blanket \$1,000 payment everyone would receive.

"The courts have been saying all this time, and the plaintiffs have said, the case is about an accounting, we want an accounting, and now they're saying 'Oh heck with the accounting, just give everybody \$1,000 and we'll call it even,'" Harrison said, adding that some account holders have a great deal of money go through their account while some people have very little. "One hundred and seven thousand Indians, collectively, only have \$15,000 between the whole bunch of them in their accounts in recent years, but every one of those 107,000 people is going to get \$1,000 . . . to them the settlement probably seems like a very good deal."

Harrison also said the leftover money to be divided between land owners is based on a formula that measures how much money has gone thru a person's account, which would not be fair either. "They're not going to be paid out based on how much (a person) lost or how much you have coming; it's going to be based on how much you got. The people who got paid improperly; if they got paid more than they had coming they get unjustly enriched again and if they got paid less than they had coming they're going to get victimized again, and that's just the way the formula works."

Last year some Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders also questioned why their attorneys may receive more money than them from the \$3.4 billion settlement. The Class Counsel is requesting \$223 million, which is 14.75 percent of the 1.5 million dollars to be dispersed to Class Members. Lead attorneys for the settlement include Keith Harper, of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, and Dennis Gingold.

Harper toured Indian Country last year with other Cobell attorneys explaining the settlement and defended their request for remuneration. During a March 2010 meeting in Anadarko, Okla., Harper said the amount requested by the attorneys is not double the expenses. He then quoted Gingold, who said they are only asking for what their expenses were, and at the end of the day it's up to the courts to decide what they will get paid.

Class Counsel's letter to Class Members stated there is little doubt the appellants do not have the same desires or care about the needs of their fellow Class Members, and the appellants' behavior does not seem to be in the best interest of Class Members.

Johns said she hasn't received many calls because of the letter, but most callers were supportive and one person just wanted to understand the settlement and the appeals. "This has nothing to do with Elouise Cobell, please understand that. People always use her passing away and all that to try and make us feel bad, but this has nothing to do with her. The reason why I did what I did was based upon what I believe was wrong with the suit," Johns said. "Now it has nothing to do with the money, it has nothing to do with any of that. It has to do with the protection. I'm doing it because I believe that they're opening up the gate to a lot of

serious problems for Indian Country in the next 20 years."

Johns said she was upset when she initially found out that IIM account holders were, "jerked into this class action suit without our consent" and also that tribes weren't involved. She said since the class action was brought about by four individual Indians there was not the unique government-to-government relationship. She feels individualizing Indians will help break up the tribes and references the Dawes Act to illustrate her point. "You know the intent of the Dawes Act was to break up these tribes so that's one of the reasons why I was very concerned," she said. "We're standing basically by ourselves without the protection of our tribe." Another concern is the land. Johns said the settlement was originally supposed to be about an accounting and not about the land. She said the lands were severely mismanaged by the federal government and people put too many cattle on their land so it was overgrazed and ended up with prairie dogs and the grasses were just not the same. ". . . the biggest rip off was when the federal government sat down with the Cobell lawyers and made this deal because they were basically getting away free for this amount of mismanagement . . .," Johns said. "The federal government is winning on this one. They got home free without ever having to restore lands, and they didn't ever have to pay individual Indians for mismanagement of their land. They made this deal, and to me, it's an unholy deal that these attorneys have negotiated with the federal government so that they could collect \$99 million dollars. So who loses on this? They keep saying, 'Oh, you know, you're going to get this money.' What kind of money? You know maybe everybody is going to get maybe \$1,200 dollars . . . and yet look at what we're losing."

Johns said the Cobell attorneys should have made sure the lands were restored back to their original state before an agreement was made. She said Class Counsel sat down with the federal government when they originally lost the case and that's when the government said it would throw in \$3.5 billion if an Administration Class was included for the mismanagement of lands, plus some of the money would be used to purchase lands that were fractionated shares. "Now, there's another part of this that people didn't understand, was this whole \$1 billion dollars that they're giving the federal government to buy the land back. That's a bait and switch deal," she said. "Before that land that they purchased for \$100 can be given back to your tribe, your tribe has to pay the federal government \$100. So basically, all it did was give the federal government \$1 billion dollars to buy Indian land . . . to me it's a shell game and the Indians are the ones who are losing out."

Johns other concerns are: the settlement is a complicated process, the Bureau of Indian Affairs could not participate in explaining to the individual Indians what their rights were, and it was not clear how to opt out. She said there are cases, with members of the Three Affiliated Tribes for example, where Indian people are seeking justice in court but because of the class action settlement they cannot seek a claim against the federal government. "If you didn't opt out, you're forever barred from ever going to court on mismanagement," Johns said. "One of the things that the federal government wanted to do was hurry up and get this done so they could wash their hands of us. They opted out."

Frank also mentioned the case of Ramona Two Shields v. United States, where "the government is arguing that the Cobell settlement is preventing these Indians from getting their fair recovery."

Johns also questions who the lead plaintiff is now. In other words who is directing Class Counsel? Lead Plaintiff Elouise Cobell died Oct. 16, 2010. The remaining plaintiffs are James Louise Larose, Thomas Maulson and Penny Cleghorn. Johns said people may say she's being unfair by appealing the case but questions who is looking out for the Indian people—"People like the four of us that really truly want to make sure that this is good for the people," she said. "Everybody's glad that I did it," Johns said. "My tribe passed a resolution that was totally against the Cobell (class action suit/settlement). I feel very confident that what I'm doing is in the best interest of . . . my family and those who got up and objected to Cobell all along."

Cobell spokesperson Bill McAllister told Native Times that Class Counsel is not commenting on the case.

From: askelouise@cobellsettlement.com
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012
To: Mary Zuni
Subject: Ask Elouise Letter

DEAR INDIAN COUNTRY: Following the passing of our leader and friend, Elouise Cobell, Class Counsel is responding to your continuing questions and concerns regarding the settlement of the Cobell lawsuit.

What is the current status of the settlement? Unfortunately, notwithstanding the hopes and wishes of 500,000 individual Indians and despite Class Counsel's best efforts, the settlement has been delayed by 4 class members, each of whom is challenging the landmark settlement in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. We expect that these appeals will be resolved in another 6 months, provided that no appellant seeks further review in the Supreme Court.

But for these appeals, your Historical Accounting Class payments would have been distributed before Thanksgiving 2011, and it is likely that your Trust Administration Class payments would have been made by Easter 2012.

However, because of the appeals, your Historical Accounting Class and Trust Administration Class payments cannot be made until after the appeals have been resolved, provided that we prevail on appeal. No one knows when that will occur. Historical Accounting Class payments should be made within a few weeks after the appeals are decided. Trust Administration Class payments should be made within about 6 months after you receive your Historical Accounting Class payment.

Class Counsel understands your increasing frustration and concerns. We know the difficulties many of you face and we have spoken to hundreds of you who are in extremis this winter season. It is with our utmost sympathy and disappointment that we share this unfortunate news.

Who is appealing? And, why are they appealing? Your payments are being held-up by 4 people: Kimberly Craven (Sissten-Wahpeton Oyate), Charles Colombe (Rosebud Sioux), Carol Eve Good Bear (Fort Berthold Reservation), and Mary Lee Johns (Cheyenne River Sioux). Notably, Colombe, Good Bear and Johns are represented by David (Davey) Harrison, an Albuquerque lawyer and former BIA employee.

Their reasons vary slightly, but are the same on one fundamental point. At bottom, each believes that you are not entitled to the

relief (nor the payment of your trust funds) that has been provided in the settlement agreement notwithstanding a century of abuse, malfeasance and breaches of trust by the United States government. Each of the appealing class members has filed papers that will kill the settlement if any one of them prevails on appeal. This means that you would receive nothing from the settlement: no payment, no scholarship funds, no land consolidation, and no further trust reform.

Craven has railed against the settlement since it was first announced over two years ago, going so far as to claim: "after 14 years of acrimonious litigation, the Cobell plaintiffs are entitled to no monetary recovery whatsoever from the courts." (<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/judicial/112807-bailing-out-the-smartest-guys-in-the-room>). Mary Johns has sought to remove the judge who approved the settlement, Thomas F. Hogan. There is little doubt that they do not share the desires or care about the needs of the class, over 99.9% of whom support a prompt conclusion to this long-running, acrimonious case.

Why would anybody appeal? I'd like to contact these class members, how do I do that? We know of no explanation for their behavior that is consistent with your best interests. However, if you want to ask them directly about their motives, you should contact them at the following address or phone numbers: Kimberly Craven, Mary Lee Johns, Carol Eve Good Bear, Charles Colombe.

Notwithstanding your frustration and difficulties, if you choose to contact any of the 4 appellants, please be civil in your communications.

Isn't there something you can do to speed up this process? No. Class Counsel has reached out to the 2 attorneys who represent the 4 appealing class members to resolve or settle whatever issue they may have with the settlement. However, we have been rebuffed or ignored each time. Unless each of the appealing class members withdraws his or her appeal, there is no way to shorten the judicial review process.

Haven't you been paid? Class Counsel has not been paid. We are in the same position that you are in—we will not be paid until the appeals have been resolved.

Prior Ask Elouise letters can be found on the settlement website: http://cobellsettlement.com/class/ask_elouise.php. There is also a "frequently asked questions" section to answer the most common questions received: <http://cobellsettlement.com/press/faq.php>.

Kind Regards,

CLASS COUNSEL,
Cobell v. Salazar.

QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED BY SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN FOR KEITH HARPER, NOMINATED TO BE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

1. How long did you serve as "co-class counsel" on Cobell?

The Cobell class was certified on February 4, 1997, and so I began to serve as class counsel on that date.

2. On what date did you first learn about the January 20, 2012 "Ask Elouise" letter?

I learned of the January 20, 2012, "Ask Elouise" letter on January 20, 2012, after it was released.

3. Did you receive a draft or have prior knowledge of the January 20, 2012 letter before it was published?

No.

4. As co-class counsel, was it your responsibility to review documents and communications to plaintiffs including the January 20, 2012 "Ask Elouise" letter, prior to transmission or publication?

No. Lead Counsel—who is a solo practitioner not part of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP ("Firm")—was responsible for determining who among the litigation team were responsible for which tasks. Under this arrangement, the principal attorneys each had their own areas of responsibility. The "Ask Elouise" letters were not part of my responsibilities.

Lead Counsel did not circulate the January 20, 2012, "Ask Elouise" letter either to me or, to the best of my knowledge, to any of the lawyers in the Firm prior to its publication.

5. How did you become aware of the January 20, 2012 "Ask Elouise" letter?

I became aware of the "Ask Elouise" letter on January 20, 2012, after the letter's public release, when a lawyer representing one of the appellants sent an e-mail in objection.

6. When the letter became public, why did you reportedly refuse to respond to press inquiries concerning the letter?

At the time of the letter's release, we were in active litigation. Although I personally did not support the letter, I was told by a Firm colleague that the Class Representatives, at the time, did support it. Accordingly, I was duty bound to not comment in a manner contrary to the letter and therefore could not express my reservations publicly about the re-publishing of the contact information of appellants.

7. What is your understanding of how the January 20, 2012, "Ask Elouise" letter was transmitted to plaintiffs? By mail, online, print publishing, email, or other?

At the time of the September 24, 2013, hearing, my understanding was that the letter was posted on January 20, 2012, on the internet site www.indiantrust.com and that it had not been mailed or emailed to the entire class of 500,000 individuals. I have since confirmed that the letter was not emailed or mailed to the entire class of 500,000 individuals. Rather, I have now been informed that it was emailed by the claims administrator at the direction of Lead Counsel's litigation consultant, on January 20, 2012, to a listserv comprised of those who had requested periodic electronic updates on the litigation. It was also posted on the [indiantrust.com](http://www.indiantrust.com) website at approximately that same time.

Because I was not responsible for managing postings to the website, or distributions to the listserv, I did not understand the precise manner in which the letter was posted and distributed until I was informed by colleagues after the September 24, 2013, hearing.

8. Is it correct that you would not receive attorney's fees under the Cobell settlement legislation until the appeal discussed in the January 20, 2012 "Ask Elouise" letter was resolved?

Yes.

9. Is it correct that one of the appellants identified in the January 20, 2012 "Ask Elouise" letter appealed the settlement because she determined that plaintiff attorneys were seeking excessive attorney's fees?

No.

10. What is your connection to the website, "Indian Trust Settlement" (www.IndianTrust.com)?

My connection to the website was, and remains, of limited scope.

The website www.indiantrust.com is owned by a litigation consultant to the Lead Coun-

sel. Lead Counsel and the litigation consultant maintained custody and control of the website content at all times while the case was in active litigation, which ended in December 2012. During that time, the website published material relevant to the case, such as court filings. I and other Class Counsels worked on briefs and other materials, which were filed by paralegals or the litigation consultant. After filing these documents, the litigation consultant to Lead Counsel published them to the website.

I understand that the website is presently administered by the Garden City Group (GCG), the official claims administrator for the Cobell case, though the litigation consultant maintains ownership.

11. On what date was the January 20, 2012 "Ask Elouise" letter (www.indiantrust.com/elo/1_20_12) removed from the Indian Trust Settlement website?

After learning of the letter's release, I expressed my misgivings about publishing the letter, especially the contact information of the appellants, to both other Class Counsel and other professionals at Kilpatrick Townsend. I urged my colleagues to facilitate removing the letter and to avoid posting material that could be construed to suggest harassment of appellants. On or around January 21, I was informed by colleagues that discussions about removing the letter from the website would be held with one of the appellant's attorneys who had objected to the letter. I understand from GCG that on January 22, 2012, the litigation consultant for Lead Counsel requested that GCG remove the letter from the website. On or about January 22, I was told by a Firm colleague that the letter was removed from the website. Additionally, my colleagues and I checked the website at that time and there found no link to the letter. Thus, at the time of my testimony on September 24, 2013, I was under the impression that the letter was indeed not on the [Indiantrust](http://www.Indiantrust.com) website.

After I was informed on September 24, 2013, that the letter was still available through an Internet search, my law partners requested that GCG delete the letter so that it would be unavailable through an Internet search. I have been told that GCG did so on September 24, 2013.

12. Why was the January 20, 2012 "Ask Elouise" letter removed from the website when it was and was it removed under your request or direction?

After I was informed on September 24, 2013, that the letter was still available through an Internet search, my law partners immediately requested that GCG delete the letter so that it would be unavailable through an Internet search. I have been told that GCG did so on September 24, 2013.

13. What is your interpretation of the cap on fees, expenses and costs in the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 for Cobell v. Salazar?

While Congress considered capping fees as an amendment to the Claims Resolution Act, it ultimately decided not to do so. The Class Representatives, our clients, did have an agreement with Defendants that neither side would appeal any fee award between \$50 and \$99.9 million. In addition, under this same agreement, Class Representatives agreed not to affirmatively assert Counsel be paid more than \$99.9 million in attorneys' fees.

14. Were you part of a petition to federal courts for \$223 million in attorney's fees in the class action lawsuit, Cobell v. Salazar?

The Class Representatives, our clients, decided that, consistent with the Agreement with Defendants, there would be an express request for \$99.9 million in fees. The Petition

for Fees specifies that "Plaintiffs hereby assert a fee of \$99.9 million for Class Counsel's work through December 7, 2009." The Petition went on to explain that the Court had the discretion to award more under the controlling law, but that both Plaintiffs and Defendants agreed not to appeal if the award was between \$50 and \$99.9 million. The Petition also stated, consistent with client direction, that in comparable cases, awards ranging around \$223 million would be consistent with controlling law. I was one of the counsel who signed this petition on behalf of our clients. The Court ultimately awarded the \$99 million amount asserted by plaintiffs in the petition for fees.

As I understand it, the Class Representatives, especially Ms. Louise Cobell, believed that it was critically important and consistent with the best interest of the Class to seek a fee award in accord with fee awards for non-Indian class actions of similar size and complexity. She expressed concern that otherwise attorneys would be reluctant to represent Native American plaintiffs without financial means who are deprived of their rights by the federal government or other entities. This was unacceptable to Ms. Cobell and she was particularly sensitive to this point because, as she made clear on the record, she had grave difficulties finding lawyers to bring the Cobell case in the first place.

15. Are you associated with a petition for additional fees related to the Cobell settlement? If so, for how much?

No.

16. Approximately how many hours did you bill your clients for work in relation to Cobell at Kilpatrick and Native American Rights Fund (NARF)?

As a partner with Kilpatrick, I worked a total of 4,837.7 hours on Cobell through June 30, 2013.

I am no longer at NARF and I do not have access to this information, however, NARF's court filings indicate I worked 19,671 hours on the Cobell case.

17. Approximately how much in fees have you collected to date in relation to Cobell?

On July 27, 2011, District Judge Thomas Hogan awarded plaintiffs \$99 million in attorney's fees. Of that amount, Judge Hogan awarded approximately \$85 million to be distributed, after all appeals were final, to Class Counsel. Class Counsel included Dennis Gingold, Thaddeus Holt, and Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP. The remainder of approximately \$14 million was set aside because other counsel who had worked on the case in times prior were seeking their own award, which in aggregate amounted to approximately \$14 million. The Court later ordered that these fee issues be mediated but thus far the mediation has not been fruitful.

18. What fees did you secure from tribal governments for work on the class action lawsuit, Cobell, or any other lawsuit against the federal government for mismanagement of tribal trust assets? Please identify each tribal government, the type of fee, and the rate that was negotiated for each.

We did not receive any payment for fees from tribal governments for work on the Cobell case. As for tribal trust lawsuits, the Firm received the fees as follows for our four tribal clients:

Ak-Chin Indian Community (AZ) agreed to pay the Firm hourly fees on a monthly basis so there was no contingency fee.

Tohono O'odham Nation (AZ) agreed to pay discounted hourly fees on a monthly basis plus a 6% contingency fee at the end of the case. The amount of that fee paid to the

Firm at the end of the case was \$1,425,000 (this was in addition to the fees paid each month since 2006).

Initially, in 2006, the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine agreed to pay fees in an identical manner as the arrangement with Tohono O'dham. However, within a few months of our engagement, the Tribe asked us to change the arrangement so it would not have to pay the discounted hourly rates on a monthly amount. Accordingly, we modified the agreement consistent with the client wishes so that compensation for attorneys' fees was exclusively through a contingency fee. Unlike other clients, the Passamaquoddy Tribe made no payment of fees on a monthly basis throughout the litigation, thus the contingency fee agreed to was 15%. This is well below the standard of 30%–40% for comparable contingency fee arrangements. When the case settled, the amount paid to the firm was 15% of the settlement or \$1.8 million. In an October 1, 2013, letter to Indian Country Today, Passamaquoddy Chief Joseph Socobasin on September 24, 2013 confirmed that the Tribe "was very happy with the settlement representation prepared by Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton firm."

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (AZ) has not given the Firm permission to disclose the specifics of its fee arrangement. However, we can disclose that they paid monthly fees with a contingency at the end similar to Tohono O'dham.

19. In your negotiations with tribal governments over fees referenced above, were tribal governments made aware that the defendant, the federal government, would be responsible for covering or directly paying their fees to you?

Yes. Two tribes—the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Tohono O'dham Nation—agreed to have the funds directly paid to the Firm. This was not unusual and indeed the model used in other cases such as the Osage litigation (represented by another Washington, D.C., based law firm). The Tribes had full ability to opt for non-direct payment to the attorneys. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, for example, decided to keep the terms of counsel fees confidential and therefore did not seek direct payment to counsel. For the tribes that did authorize direct payment, they did so expressly. Both the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Tohono O'dham Nation expressly authorized direct payment to our Firm in tribal council resolutions approving the settlements.

20. Please identify which tribes you negotiated fees referenced in the above questions between 2008 and 2010?

None of the fees negotiated for tribal trust cases were negotiated in this time frame. All were negotiated in 2006 or early 2007.

21. Did you negotiate Cobell fees at different rates for different tribes? Why is there a variance in rates?

No. Cobell fees were not negotiated for or with tribes. The fee in Cobell was determined by the court and paid out of the common fund. Therefore, all plaintiffs in the Cobell case, irrespective of tribal affiliation, were treated the same.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today the Obama administration released a new plan intended to shut down American powerplants. Instead of celebrating his policies in the Rose

Garden, President Obama delegated the bad news to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Make no mistake about it; what they are announcing today is another step in the President's plan to make electricity rates "necessarily skyrocket." Remember, that is what the President promised Americans when he was running for President the first time in 2008.

Of course, when he was elected Congress said no—no to his radical plan. Even when the Democrats controlled the House of Representatives, NANCY PELOSI was the Speaker of the House, and the Democrats had 60 Members of the Senate—even with complete Democratic domination in both Houses of Congress—Congress still said: No, Mr. President, this is a bad idea.

So the President decided he knew better than the American people, the elected representatives. He decided to go around Congress and go around the American people.

I turn to the front page of today's Wyoming Tribune Eagle out of Cheyenne, WY, and the headline is: "Obama Lets EPA Do His Dirty Work." The subheadline says: "The president's charge to limit emissions has caused him so much criticism that he is no longer leading the pack." On the front page of the Wyoming Tribune Eagle they go on to say:

When the Obama administration unveils its much-anticipated proposal to curb power plant emissions, this cornerstone of the president's climate change policy—the most significant environmental regulation of his term—will not be declared in a sun-bathed Rose Garden news conference or from behind the lectern in a major speech.

It will not be announced by the president at all, but instead by his head of the Environmental Protection Agency, while President Barack Obama adds his comments in an off-camera conference call. . . .

Talk about something that is unpopular with the American people, it is this.

About 1 year ago, the President put out rules limiting carbon dioxide emissions from new powerplants—powerplants that were being constructed—but today—today—his Environmental Protection Agency is applying tight new limits on the emissions of existing powerplants—powerplants that are already there producing energy.

The administration says it is going to allow States "flexibility" in how they meet the new limits. I believe any "flexibility" that is being offered is just an illusion. States will have a severely limited number of options for what they can do to meet the standards. Every one of those options is going to raise the cost of energy for American families. That means consumers will not even get the illusion of flexibility; they will get higher energy costs.

Businesses are going to have to find ways to pay for their own higher bills

because it is not just going to be families, when they turn on the light switch, who are going to get a higher electric bill. As the President said, electricity rates will necessarily skyrocket, but businesses are going to have to find ways to pay for their higher energy costs, which will mean hiring fewer people, laying off people, passing on the cost to others.

That is why the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says an aggressive policy targeting coal-fired powerplants will lead to less disposable income for families and thousands of jobs lost. So families will have less disposable income and thousands of jobs will be lost.

We just learned last week that our economy shrank by 1 percent in the last quarter. The U.S. economy shrank. This is the first time in years the economy actually shrank by 1 percent in the last quarter. It is the first time it has happened, actually, since 2011. Our labor force participation rate is at the same level it was when Jimmy Carter was the President of the United States. So now the Obama administration wants to put more Americans out of work.

The action they are taking today is the height of irresponsibility and it is tone-deaf leadership. The Obama administration is going to try to defend their extreme regulations by saying, once again, these changes will help save lives and keep families healthy. The fact is they are totally ignoring the undeniable fact that when Americans lose their jobs, their health and the health of their children suffer.

There is an enormous public health threat from high unemployment, specifically chronic high unemployment. It increases the likelihood of hospital visits, illness, and premature death. It hurts children's health and the well-being of families. It influences mental illness, suicide, alcohol abuse, spouse abuse. It is an important risk factor in stroke and high blood pressure and heart disease—major things that impact a family, raise the cost of care. I saw it in my days of medical training in medical practice, and the White House knows it too.

One might say: How does the White House know? The New York Times actually ran an article on this in November of 2011—November 17, to be exact. The headline of the article was "Policy and Politics Collide as Obama Enters Campaign Mode." "Policy and Politics Collide as Obama Enters Campaign Mode." The article says a meeting occurred in the White House between the American Lung Association and then-White House Chief of Staff William Daley, and the meeting was about the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed ozone regulations.

In that White House meeting, White House Chief of Staff Daley asked a simple question when confronted with the argument that additional Clean Air

Act regulations would improve public health. Daley asked: "What are the health impacts of unemployment?" Well, I have just gone over them with you, Mr. President. Those are the health impacts of unemployment. So the White House knows about it—totally aware about it.

When the Environmental Protection Agency announced these new rules today, the President himself was reportedly talking off camera—a conference call—on the phone with the American Lung Association. Someone in that room should be talking about the disastrous public health effects of the unemployment that these rules are causing. The fact is that more regulation from Washington is not what America needs right now.

States already have flexibility in how they approach environmental stewardship, and many of them have come up with creative solutions. Last month the Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses issued a report called "Washington Gets it Wrong—States Get it Right." The report showed how regulations imposed by Washington are undermining—undermining—the work being done at the State level to manage our lands, to manage our natural resources, and to protect our air and our water. It gave success stories—success stories—where the work being done by States is more reasonable, more effective, and less heavyhanded than the rules ordered by Washington.

America does not need Washington to pay lip service to flexibility while mandating huge price increases in energy. America wants Washington to stop the overreaching regulations and mandates and to actually allow the States to get it right. Thousands of Americans have already lost their jobs because of Washington's expensive and excessive regulations. Now the President is putting more jobs on the chopping block. That is why I have written legislation that would stop President Obama's massive increase to the Nation's electric bill. I offered this as an amendment last fall. Democrats in the Senate blocked it. I plan to offer it again and to keep making the point that the President should not have the power, the authority to impose these burdens on the American economy and on American families.

My amendment blocks the issuance of new carbon standards for new and existing powerplants. It would actually require the approval of Congress—can you imagine that, the approval of Congress, the elected representatives of the people—require the approval of Congress for regulations that increase Americans' energy bills, such as new rules proposed by the Obama administration today.

Congress should act on an affordable energy plan, but these kinds of decisions should be for Congress to make, not for the President to make on his own. That is true whether the President is a Democrat or a Republican.

We all know we need to make America's energy as clean as we can, as fast as we can. It is critically important though that we do this without hurting our economy—a struggling economy, an economy where people continue to sacrifice—and do this in ways that do not cost hundreds of thousands of middle-class families their jobs.

We should look to States that have come up with ways to balance our energy needs, the health of our economy, and our environment.

President Obama is taking the wrong approach. These new regulations are going to hurt our economy. It is an economy that is already shrinking. It is astonishing; our economy is shrinking, and it is because of the President's other failed policies.

The policies introduced today will hurt middle-class families who are struggling to find work or to keep the jobs they have now. They will harm the health of many Americans. The President needs to change course. If he will not do it on his own, Congress must do it for him.

So, once again, today we see the headline: "Obama Lets EPA Do His Dirty Work." "The president's charge to limit emissions has caused him so much criticism that he is no longer leading the pack." Instead, he is hiding. The President today is hiding. If this is something the President was proud of, he should have been at the White House in the Rose Garden in front of the cameras making an announcement, not asking his EPA Administrator to make it so he could be on a conference call because he was ashamed to show his face to the American people because of the impact these regulations are going to have on families all across America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the President's Environmental Protection Agency today—a group that directly reports to him and which reflects his decisions about environmental matters—has issued a new proposed regulation to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing powerplants by 30 percent by the year 2030. Those are existing plants, and they cannot be operated and have that kind of reduction unless they have carbon capture, and there is no technology feasible with any reasonable—there is technology, but it is not feasible economically to capture carbon. So it is a dramatic hammering of a major portion of the baseload elec-

tricity production in America. It just is, and it is going to drive up costs.

What I wish to say first and foremost is I am very worried about our economy. This economy is not doing well, and anybody who has paid close attention to it knows we have had one thing—one very important positive factor—over the last half dozen years that has helped our economy bounce back and even caused some industries to bring home production from foreign countries; and that advantage—that positive event—is a decline in energy prices. It is a direct result, primarily, of fracking—our ability to produce more energy from existing wells in a proven-to-be safe and effective way. It is going on over large portions of America. Although this administration and the Environmental Protection Agency have thrown up a host of roadblocks to try to keep it from occurring, it is such a powerful, positive event it is virtually unstoppable.

So that is good. That is helping our businesses prosper. I remember in Alabama, north of Mobile where I grew up, there is a group of chemical companies on the river. Those chemical companies are international companies, first-rate companies, that were hammered when natural gas, 10 or 15 years ago, surged in price so much. Many of them reduced their capacity, some have closed and were sold, and we lost a lot of good jobs.

It happened in Ohio. Ohio had a devastation among their strong chemical industries. The industry is beginning to come back now because of lower natural gas prices. But other industries too are very energy sensitive such as the steel industry. We are in a life-and-death competition to save America's steel industry. Energy is a huge portion of that.

Electricity is a big portion of that. To eliminate nearly 40 percent of our base load, to drive us on a path to drive up those costs unnecessarily above what we can rationally achieve, is a mistake, in my opinion.

Looking at Barron's this week—that is a business magazine. It comes out weekly. It has articles that sum up the state of the economy in America. Of course we know that first-quarter economic growth was revised downward, downward to negative 1.0 from positive .1. This is the first negative growth in years, since 2011. It was unexpected. Corporate profits, excluding the depths of the recession, are the lowest in 20 years in America. We have fewer people working today than we had in 2007, although there are 15 million more people in America—fewer people working and more of them are working part time than want to work part time. We have a surge in part-time employment. That is not good either.

Wages are down. Adjusted, probably for inflation, wages are down, median income is down in America per family

by \$2,300. Your wages are down. Your job prospects are down. Unemployment remains exceedingly high, and we are now going to add, in effect, another tax, a regulatory tax on the price of energy so a person's electric bill and their gas bill are going to go up. That is the inevitable result of this. It just is.

We have got to be careful about it. Europe is already regretting the mistakes they have made. Spain has had to abandon their overly ambitious plan for renewable energy. German businesspeople are telling their leaders that if you do not change the energy policy in this country, we are not going to be able to compete and be successful as we have been in the world markets.

So this is not a little matter. It is about jobs. It is about middle-income, hard-working Americans. The lower income people in this country pay as much as 25 percent of their income for energy. Oh, the rich people, the people who travel around in big jets and claim to be concerned about the environment, pay much less. For those making over \$50,000 a year, you pay about 11 percent of your income on energy.

So higher energy costs are direct negatives for poorer, hard-working people in America. Retired seniors have no ability to have an increase in wages, trying to live on Social Security and a little savings. Boom, you have got another \$10, \$20, \$30 a month for the electric bill, the gas bill. It erodes their standard of living.

Again, it erodes the ability of American business to be competitive in the world marketplace. We have got to take back more work. In fact, we are beginning to do that if we would do fewer bad things. We had a good result with lower energy prices and this is going to undermine that. It just is. We have got the pipeline. No, we will not do the pipeline either. All that does is provide another source of oil and gas, oil for America, that forces the existing American big oil companies to compete with. It helps to bring down the price.

If you do not have another source from Canada, you have got less competition. Competition helps bring down price. I do not believe this administration wants to bring down the price of energy. In fact, I think the opposite is true. In fact, President Obama said, before he was elected, that we could have—if anybody built a coal plant it was going bankrupt. That is not possible, to phase out the entire coal industry so rapidly. We have done so much to clean it up. They have spent billions and billions of dollars reducing the pollutants that come out of smokestacks. It helped a lot. That is why our air is cleaner than it has been in years. We have made a lot of progress. A lot of money has been spent. But this is an excessive action, in my view, focused primarily on CO₂, carbon dioxide.

We all know about photosynthesis. We know how plants grow. We know they take in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. We breathe in oxygen and we let out carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is odorless, it is tasteless, it is not poisonous, it is not harmful. In fact, plants grow faster if there is more carbon dioxide than if there is less carbon dioxide. This is a scientific fact that is not disputable.

So what do they say? They say, well, the Clean Air Act gives the responsibility of eliminating pollutants from our atmosphere. It was passed in 1970 before anybody even dreamed of global warming. So carbon dioxide—when the law was passed, the Clean Air Act in the 1970s, they had no thought whatsoever in the Congress that we would be banning carbon dioxide. JOHN DINGELL, a long-term Democratic Congressman, one of the longest serving ever, was a Member of Congress who voted on that. He recently said they had no idea we were voting to regulate carbon dioxide.

So how did it happen? Well, the environmentalists filed a lawsuit. They said the Congress passed a law in 1970. That law said you should reduce pollutants. You have a responsibility to reduce pollutants and carbon dioxide is a pollutant. Why? Well, the IPCC, the International Panel on Climate Change, said that CO₂ creates global warming, this perfectly positive small amount of gas in our massive environment, that makes plants grow better, is increasing. It is. It is increasing in the environment because of burning carbon fuels.

They said this increase is going to warm the planet. We are going to have more storms, more tornadoes, and the coasts are going to flood and all of this. Therefore, EPA should regulate it. Must regulate it. By a 5-to-4 ruling, the Supreme Court agreed. Congress has never voted for that. Congress has voted against global warming legislation multiple times. It would never ever pass this Congress if it were brought up for a vote. Never pass.

So unelected folks in the Environmental Protection Agency, unelected, lifetime appointed Federal judges, at least five of the nine, concluded that this is a pollutant. So here we are.

I do not know whether we have got warming. I have assumed it is. Temperatures, I believe over the last hundred years, have increased about 1 degree. But I do think we need to be a lot more modest about this. It is well below what the alarmists have been telling us.

How did it all happen? Why did the Supreme Court decide that this plant food, CO₂, is a pollutant? They said it was because these models are saying the planet is warming and all of the scientists agree, which is not true. But the scientists have said the planet is warming, so therefore CO₂ is a pollutant. They so ruled. But things are not

happening as the experts told us. It is just not happening. I am beginning to wonder what is going on here.

This chart, the red line—this is zero. The red line is an average of all of the computer models that projected what the increase in climate—in temperature would be based on steadily increasing CO₂ in the atmosphere. Back in dinosaur days, we had a lot more CO₂ in the atmosphere than we have today. But it has been reduced. It has been increasing as we go into the ground, get coal and get oil and get natural gas and burn it. That emits more CO₂. It is released back into the atmosphere, actually. It was sucked out of the atmosphere through plants and animals.

This was the chart. Every single climate change model that is the foundation of the argument for dangerous global warming predicted more than has actually occurred in the last 15 years.

This is the chart. You go back to about 2000 here. This green line is the actual result from—I believe that is balloon temperature gauges. It actually has not gone up at all since 2001. That is what, 13 years? This is not the temperatures they were predicting. Besides, the charts looks a little more dramatic than they are. This is zero. This is two-tenths. They were predicting, from 1979 I believe was their key date, that the temperature would increase 1.2 degrees. It has increased about three-tenths of 1 degree. That is in this part.

But if you go here, when the chart is going off here, saying it should be accelerating every year, it has been flat. So I do not know. Some people say the Sun is involved in it. Some people have other theories. I do not know. I have assumed we are going to have some warming out there. But it is certainly not coming in at the rate the alarmists have told us. That is indisputable fact.

We in Congress need to be asking ourselves how much burden we can afford to put on the American people at this time. The President—I have got to tell you, one of the most frustrating things and disappointing things to me is that the President in the last several years—he has not in over a year now because I have been asking his people before the environment committee to be sure and tell him not to say it anymore. But he has two times said that the temperature is increasing faster than the experts predicted over the last 10 or 15 years. Think about that. The President of the United States, in the face of obvious data to the contrary, is repeatedly going out and saying, it is increasing faster than the red line. That worries me. I believe the President of the United States has a responsibility, when he advocates for policies, to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

That is not so. It is not increasing faster. It has hardly increased at all in the last 10 or so years.

Then they say the storms—the President and his team when Sandy hit go out and say this is all a direct result of global warming. See? Every time there is a storm, every time there is a drought, and every time there is a problem, it is always climate change, global warming.

Dr. Roger Pielke laid out the numbers. I don't have the details here, but he testified before the Environment and Public Works Committee and he said: It is not so, hurricanes are not increasing. It is not hard to see how many hurricanes you have.

You simply go back each year. They are quite calculating. He went back and calculated the hurricanes—how many category 5's, 4's, 3's, 2's, and 1's. The result is pretty astonishing that we have had fewer of them. This chart is hard to read. I will quote what it says:

Hurricanes have not increased in the US in frequency, intensity or normalized damage since at least 1900.

He has not been disputed either. They have tried to push back and attack him, but nobody has produced data that dispute what he says because it is easier to calculate that data.

This is important. Dr. Pielke recently produced an analysis that said it has been 3,140 days since this country has had a category 3 hurricane. Camille was a 5, and we have had some others in the past. But we have had almost 10 years since we had a category 3. Sandy, this storm which hit the Northeast, which was very rare, happened to miss the southeast, missed Florida, and hit the Northeast. It was not even a hurricane when it hit land. It was below the speed, I understand, of a hurricane. At best, it was a category 1. It just happened to hit the Northeast where people are not used to it, and it did a lot of damage.

How can it be argued, I ask colleagues, that global warming is causing more storms? Moreover, the 2012–2013 tornado season was one of the lowest in the past 50 years. Only 5 out of 50 years have been that low.

We are not seeing an increase in tornadoes. We read about them more. We have The Weather Channel, and they talk about them more. But, in truth, the numbers aren't there.

Now, if hurricanes are down—and it has been 3,100 days since we have had a category 3 hurricane—it is about the longest in history that we recorded. It is an unusual drought of big hurricanes. It means a lot to me. I live in Mobile, AL, and I remember Hurricane Frederic in 1979 barreling up Mobile Bay. I remember the fear people had who had been there when Camille hit nearby in Mississippi. I know something about hurricanes, and they are very real factors. It surprises me we

have had as few as we have had. We have also not seen an increase in tornadoes.

What we are proposing is that we have to carry out a policy that would go beyond our technology to produce electricity in a cost-effective manner, and it has the impact of massively closing base-load coal plants. Existing plants are going to be hammered, and new ones will not be built.

I am also on the subcommittee of Environment and Public Works that deals with nuclear power. Not a single American since the beginning of nuclear power 50 years ago has been killed as a result of a nuclear power accident. How many die in natural gas pipelines, drilling rigs, coal mines, transportation of coal, and so forth?

We basically shut down nuclear power. I am telling us this is a big problem for our country, the erosion of nuclear power. We had four plants close—existing nuclear plants close. They have been hammered with regulations, and they have never been safer. We have never known more about how to operate a nuclear plant safely than we know today.

But they know only one or two are being constructed, and this assault on nuclear power has the potential to erode the 20 percent of our electricity that comes from nuclear power. So if we lose the coal and we lose nuclear power—and most of these plants are 30-plus, 40 or 45 years old, and they will soon be at the end of their lifetime. If we don't replace them, where will our energy come from, pray tell?

In any finding, anything that we do today to try to impact CO₂ is only a drop in the bucket worldwide. They are building coal-fired plants in China, India, the East, the Middle East, other places, and Africa in large numbers. We are a very small part of the overall picture, and our actions are not going to reverse this trend.

I don't know and I don't pretend to know all of the answers, but I would say that if we have more CO₂ and we have more global warming and global climate change, how do we know it won't result in fewer hurricanes? We have had fewer.

How do we know it won't result in fewer tornadoes? We have had fewer tornadoes.

Life on the planet has tended to be more healthy and prosperous in times of higher temperatures than lower temperatures. I certainly don't want to see a surging temperature in America and rapidly changing conditions. I think we could have real damage. As I said, I don't know what the full answer is.

I am just saying in my judgment, this administration is pushing this beyond what is reasonable. It is going to adversely affect the economy of America. It is going to drive up the cost of every household's electric bill, every household's gasoline bill. Every busi-

ness in America that hires American workers is going to try to export products, and those products are going to be more expensive because they had to pay more for their energy.

The last thing we need to be doing at this point in American history is driving up—artificially—the price of energy. One expert said a number of years ago that the lifespan—the average lifespan of a person in a nation where electricity is readily available—is twice that wherever it is not readily available.

I have been in poor places in the world where there is not electricity. You see the difficulty they have with water, you see the difficulty they have with cleanliness and so forth, and cooling and keeping food refrigerated and the disease that comes from that.

Energy is a positive force. It has made this world—the western world, the developed world—so much more prosperous. It is creating wealth that we can then use for good causes—to clean up the environment, and to produce healthy foods for billions worldwide.

I don't think we should see energy as an evil thing. I think energy is a good thing, and we don't need to drive the price up. It makes life harder for people, especially those of limited income.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity to share these thoughts. It means a lot to me. We will keep working on it. We will analyze in detail, as time goes by, the proposal the President has presented. I remain very concerned, as a matter of constitutional order, that this is being done without a vote of the people. This is being done by a 5-to-4 Supreme Court ruling, an aggressive President, and an aggressive EPA.

It seems as if there is not enough, and there is an inability in Congress to do anything about it. The average American who disagrees has no voice, apparently, in being able to have their voice heard. So we will continue to talk about it and as time goes by, we will look at the trend and hopefully we can reduce some of the excesses that I think clearly exist.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, having just come down from the chair, I wish to briefly respond to the remarks of the junior Senator from Alabama, who engaged in a pretty stunning and broad denial of science for about 15 minutes on the floor of the Senate as part of what I imagine will be a pretty robust

critique this week of the new EPA rules from the administration.

When we were all schoolkids, we probably had the chance to read the play "Inherit the Wind." It is rather de rigueur for students to read. In the end, as Drummond is essentially excoriating Matthew Harrison Brady on the stand, the book ends with almost a sense of sorrow about the unraveling of Brady's argument and the kind of figure he is portrayed at the end of the book to be.

My hope is that the same degree of strange affection may be the legacy of those who come to the floor and engage in the same denial of basic science that is at the root of the Scopes Monkey Trial in the book which made it famous.

Our colleague talked about the fact that the jury is still out as to whether the planet is warming. Here are the 10 hottest years on record since 1880: 2010, 2005, 1998, 2013, 2003, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2007, and 2004.

The Senator said that all the science doesn't really suggest global warming is happening. Well, he is right. Ninety-seven percent of scientists with peer-reviewed literature have come to the conclusion that the planet is warming and humans are contributing to it.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said this in their last report: "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal."

My friend said: Well, even if it is happening, we are really only a small part of the problem. So why is it even necessary for us to act?

Well, we are not a small part of the problem. We are 5 percent of the world's population and 25 percent of the world's pollution. And even if the specific actions this week do represent a very small percentage of the ultimate solution when we talk about trying to get the temperature of the planet under control, that is a terrible argument in and of itself. Is that a reason why none of us should bother to vote—because each one of our own actions in and of itself really doesn't affect the overall outcome? It is the collection of all of the actions we take in a democracy that makes the difference, and it is the collection of actions we will take as a community of nations and a community of individuals that will ultimately make the difference.

I imagine this debate will continue.

GUN CONTROL

Mr. MURPHY. Thirty-one thousand people a year die across this country from gun violence. That is 2,639 a month or 86 a day. I have tried to come down to the floor every week—a couple times a month at the very least—and talk about the voices of those victims because if the statistics aren't actually moving this place to action, then maybe we can talk about who these

people were. Of course, we have a fresh set of stories from Santa Barbara, CA.

I don't need to tell the story of young Mr. Rodger. He was a deeply troubled young man who went on a shooting spree, killing six people and wounding many more.

Katherine Breann Cooper was 22 years old when she was gunned down by Elliot Rodger. She was a painter, and she was known as Katie by her friends. She had a really outgoing side. She was going to get a degree in art history, and she had a smile that "lit up the room," according to her friends.

What her childhood friends from Chino Hills remember is that she was absolutely unbeatable at foot races. She was the fastest kid in the whole neighborhood. You couldn't beat her at foot races, hide and go seek, and you certainly couldn't beat her when the ice cream truck went through the neighborhood.

Her seventh grade teacher said:

She was one of 2,500 students I've taught over the years, but Katie was a standout.

Veronika Weiss was 3 years younger—she was 19 years old—but her father Bob said she was wise beyond her years. He said he would actually go to his 19-year-old daughter for advice when he was having a problem with one of her brothers, Cooper and Jackson, or maybe when he was having an argument with his wife.

She played four sports in high school: cross country, baseball, swimming, and water polo. She earned straight A's. Her strength was math. She really excelled at sports, and she didn't let barriers get in her way. She didn't want to play softball; she wanted to play baseball. There was a baseball league for kids in her hometown of Westlake, and there were 500 players in that league—499 boys and 1 girl, and that 1 girl was Veronika Weiss.

When she got to UC Santa Barbara, she didn't have a lot of friends until she joined the Tri-Delta Sorority. They became a built-in circle of friends for her.

Her former coach said:

We're really shocked. She touched a lot of people. And for someone who's 19 years old to have that many people showing up [at her service], that's a lot to say. There's been kids who say, "Oh, I was a new kid in school and she came up to me and just started talking to me. I didn't even know her." So she was that type of person.

Christopher Michaels-Martinez's father has had some strong things to say about the inaction of Congress, but he also had a lot of wonderful things to say about his son.

His son Christopher was a studious kid. He was an avid reader. He was an athlete from a young age, first beginning with soccer and going on to play football and basketball. He served as residential adviser at his dorm and was the kind of guy who would welcome strangers into his home and into his room.

His father talks a lot about his resilience. He remembers that at 8 years old Christopher decided he wanted to play football. He remembers at a practice watching his son being knocked down by a much larger teammate, and his father said he remembers thinking:

My god, he must be hurt. But he was on the ground no more than two seconds. He hopped back up, stomped one foot on the ground and walked determinedly back into the line.

That's the kind of kid Chris was.

Richard Martinez urged the 20,000 people at the memorial for the victims to follow his son's example from the football field. He said:

Like Christopher on that day, we've been knocked down. And like Christopher on that day, I want you to get back up and walk determinedly forward.

His father Richard has challenged Congress not to let one more person die because of our inaction.

In a lot of ways, the story of Elliot Rodger is a word of caution about the limits of what policy can do, but it is also an invitation for us to look at some of the things we can do.

Elliot was an incredibly troubled kid, but he was not a kid who lived outside of the mental health system, nor was Adam Lanza, the young man who killed 20 6- and 7-year-olds in Newtown. We can go back with 20/20 hindsight and pick apart the decisions—sometimes a very legitimate critique—that Rodgers' parents or Adam Lanza's parents made, but the reality is that Elliot Rodger was in and out of the mental health system and in and out of a number of different schools trying to find the appropriate placement. Adam Lanza had been identified with a severe mental illness, and his mother was trying to find treatment for him.

We need to do something to improve our mental health system. We have closed down 4,000 mental health inpatient beds in the last 6 years alone, while the needs of those with mental illness are skyrocketing. We know the waiting time for especially young adolescents to see a psychiatrist or psychologist just for an introductory visit is far too long. So we need to make massive investments in our mental health system. But the law can help as well when it comes to guns. The fact is Adam Lanza should never have been able to possess the high-powered weapon that he did, and had he walked into Newtown with a different weapon instead of a semiautomatic rifle, there would still be children alive today, in the minds of many of those parents.

It is not clear the law could have changed anything in California, but what we know is that in States that give law enforcement the ability to take guns away from people who pose a danger to the community or deny them to those individuals in the first place, fewer murders happen.

Police showed up at the door of Elliot Rodger's house and, had they walked

in, they would have found a draft copy of his manifesto and a whole bunch of guns and a whole bunch of ammunition. He likely would have been taken into involuntary custody. His guns would have likely been taken away. The police didn't make that decision, but in California they have the ability to do that whereas, in many other States they do not.

In Missouri, for instance, they used to have a law on the books that allowed for local law enforcement to deny gun permits to individuals whom those local law enforcement personnel knew to be a potential danger to society. Well, Missouri repealed that law, and a recent study by Johns-Hopkins University shows that controlling for all other possible factors that could explain the dramatic increase in gun violence since the repeal of Missouri's background check legislation, the repeal itself accounts for 60 to 80 additional gun murders in Missouri every single year.

We know that laws that keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people, allow law enforcement to take guns away from dangerous people, laws that prevent military assault weapons from being in the community in the first place, save lives. It is not a coincidence. During the period of time after which the government instituted an assault weapons ban, we saw a reduction in the number of mass murders in this country. After it was repealed, we started to see an increase in those mass murders. Assault weapons bans don't have a lot to do with average, everyday gun violence, but they can have something to do with mass shootings.

Edmund Burke said: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." I believe every single Senator here has heard that.

I will end with this thought: I think we can pass laws that will reduce these numbers. It won't eliminate these numbers, but we can pass laws, whether it is improving our mental health system or changing our gun laws, that reduce the number of people who die and to perhaps lessen the weekly stories we hear of mass violence across the whole country.

What is the real risk of doing nothing, not even trying? I submit it is like pulling teeth to get any Republican Senators or Congressmen to even cosponsor a bill addressing any of these issues, and the real risk of doing nothing is that we start to look complicit in these mass murders. I know that is a strong thing to say, but it is not enough for the community itself to rally after these mass murders to shame the action when the most important legislative body in the world has nothing to say about this dramatic increase in mass gun violence. When we allow these numbers to fester without a single piece of legislation to address

this trendline passing the Senate and the House, we have become accomplices because we send a message that we don't think the murders in Aurora, in Tucson, in Newtown, in Santa Barbara, are serious enough for us to do anything. That is a real shame.

Hopefully, at some point over the time the Presiding Officer and I have the honor of serving in the Senate, if the numbers don't move this place to action, the voices of the victims will.

I yield the floor, and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, several years ago when the majority party, the Democratic Party, controlled 60 seats in the Senate and had literally the numbers to do whatever it wanted to do, the majority leader tried to push through a new massive energy tax bill known as cap-and-trade. Not only did it fail to pass, the majority leader never even brought it up for a vote, primarily because members of his own party recognized there would be huge costs associated with this new energy tax, and that the benefits, indeed, on balance did not outweigh the costs or, perhaps most charitably stated, were neutral. There were hardly any real benefits to speak of on the plus side, but there were plenty of negatives, including lost jobs, lost wages, higher utility bills, and a less competitive U.S. economy.

Now the Obama administration, we learn, is in the process of enacting a backdoor energy tax, not through the votes of Members of Congress—the only people who could be held accountable for how we vote—but rather through the regulatory process through the Environmental Protection Agency.

Much like the cap-and-trade bill that collapsed in 2010, the EPA regulation that was announced earlier today would impose major new costs on America's economy while doing virtually nothing to improve the environment. I will explain my reason for saying that in a moment.

I will talk about the economic costs in a second, but first I want to emphasize that over the coming decades America's contribution to the growth of worldwide carbon dioxide emissions will be virtually nonexistent.

Consider these numbers from the Energy Information Agency: Between 2005 and 2012, America's energy-related car-

bon dioxide emissions actually declined by more than 10 percent. Between 2005 and 2012, our carbon dioxide emissions did not go up but they declined by more than 10 percent. By contrast, over the same period of time China's energy-related carbon dioxide emissions grew by nearly 64 percent.

So ours went down 10 percent and China's went up by 64 percent. As a result, China is now producing far more carbon dioxide emissions than the United States.

Looking ahead, the Energy Information Agency has projected that developing countries—countries that don't have a developed economy like the United States but do want our standard of living and a better life for their people—will be responsible for 94 percent of the growth in global carbon dioxide emissions between 2010 and 2040, with China alone accounting for 49 percent of that increase. As for the United States, during that same period of time carbon dioxide emissions will barely increase at all.

I mentioned these figures because some of my friends across the aisle have repeatedly declared that President Obama's backdoor energy tax will help us "fight climate change." Given the numbers I just listed, it should be clear to us that any rule such as what the EPA is proposing would do little to affect global emissions unless developing countries such as China and India do exactly the same—assuming that is something we would want to make as a priority, and assuming the benefits outweigh the costs.

The fact is that China has no interest in sacrificing economic growth for speculative long-term climate benefits, nor do India or other developing nations. We have to remember that these countries alone still have hundreds of millions of people living in abject poverty. They want a better and growing economy, so why in the world would they impose these restrictions on themselves? It is not going to happen, and that is what they told us.

In short, President Obama's EPA rule would place America's economy—an economy that shrunk by 1 percent last quarter—at a competitive disadvantage without having any substantial effect on global climate change or on CO₂ emissions overall. In other words, it would be all pain and no gain. As I mentioned, the pain would be very real. It would come in the form of lost jobs due to a slowing economy, lost wages, and higher electricity prices.

In my State, the month of August gets to be pretty hot, and our grid operates at maximum capacity. Due to a variety of EPA regulations, the price of those higher electricity prices is borne by the people who are least able to absorb those costs—particularly people on a fixed income, including the elderly. Also, the job loss would be concentrated on blue-collar workers in the

fossil fuel industries—most notably the coal industry. These workers have already been hurt by EPA regulations, but these new proposed regulations would make that pain even worse. The higher electricity costs and higher utility rates would affect all of us, but the heaviest burden would fall on people who are at a low or fixed income; in other words, the people who are least able to pay more for their utility bills.

If a regulation can't pass the basic cost-benefit test, then in my view it has little business being enacted—and it should certainly not be enacted by nameless, faceless bureaucrats who are unaccountable to the American people or for the consequences of what they are passing. That is especially true when our economy is suffering through the weakest economic recovery and the longest period of high unemployment since the Great Depression. Why—if this makes sense at any time—would we want to do it now?

Median household income has also declined by nearly \$2,300 since the recession formally ended. We have had a period of anemic economic growth in this country, a high unemployment rate, the slowest economic recovery since the Great Depression, and the highest percentage of people who dropped out of the workforce because they are discouraged about the prospect of finding jobs at any time since Jimmy Carter was President.

In the meantime, if you are buying your health insurance in the ObamaCare exchanges and your health insurance premiums have gone up—we know the cost of fuel and gasoline has gone up, and the cost of food has gone up. The middle class will be disproportionately burdened by this EPA regulation in a way that does not, on net, change the global environment, and would kill jobs and hurt families in return for negligible, or even non-existent, benefits.

Once again, we see that the President has decided to place ideology—his wish of how the world ought to look—ahead of the numbers. He is famous for saying, let's do the arithmetic.

Let's do the arithmetic. The arithmetic does not make the case that these regulations should be passed; indeed, it defeats the argument that they should.

Sadly, rather than engage in the normal legislative process that would allow my colleague, the Presiding Officer from Maine, who may have a different view from mine, and others to debate and vote on these issues and make policy so we can be held accountable for what we do, the President has decided to skirt the legislative process and instead rely on unaccountable bureaucrats to enact measures that would never pass through Congress. Yet the idea of this President is: I have a phone and a pen, and I can go it alone. He can do it by himself.

Well, he can't. Our Constitution does not allow that. Sooner or later the American people are going to hold folks accountable for enabling this sort of unilateral activity. In my view this is an unforced error that will damage our economy, hurt our workers, and raise the cost of living for middle-class families and those on a fixed income.

I find it astonishing that this misguided regulation is being considered now when our economy is growing so slowly and so many people are out of work or have left the workforce, and the median household income is down, yet costs for health care, food, gasoline, and other commodities are going up.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHANNIS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF KEITH M. HARPER FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Keith M. Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Harper nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. JOHANNIS. We yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Keith M. Harper, of Maryland, for the

rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Elizabeth Warren, Barbara A. Mikulski, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Christopher Murphy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Thomas R. Carper, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on nomination of Keith M. Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 164 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Boxer	Hirono	Reid
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Kaine	Sanders
Cardin	King	Schatz
Carper	Klobuchar	Schumer
Casey	Landrieu	Shaheen
Collins	Levin	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Tester
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden

NAYS—37

Alexander	Coats	Enzi
Ayotte	Coburn	Fischer
Barrasso	Corker	Flake
Blunt	Cornyn	Graham
Burr	Crapo	Grassley
Chambliss	Cruz	Hatch

Heller	McConnell	Scott
Hoeben	Moran	Sessions
Inhofe	Murkowski	Shelby
Isakson	Paul	Thune
Johanns	Portman	Wicker
Johnson (WI)	Risch	
McCain	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—12

Booker	Leahy	Toomey
Boozman	Lee	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Menendez	Vitter
Kirk	Rubio	Walsh

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 51, the nays are 37. The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, what is the order of business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are postcloture on the nomination.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate on a couple of important topics for up to an hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I come to the floor tonight heartbroken at the loss of 6 young people and the injuries to 13 more after a devastating gun violence tragedy that occurred on May 23 in the Isla Vista community near Santa Barbara.

As a mother, grandmother, and Senator representing the most unbelievable State in the Union, this latest mass shooting shook me to the core. I was struck by this simple fact: No one is safe in America anymore. No one is safe in America anymore—not in their schools, not in a movie theater, not in their workplace, not in their home, and not on a beautiful college campus overlooking the Pacific Ocean where the victims of this latest horrific attack were busy pursuing their dreams.

I am going to show the faces of the students we lost. Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez, 20 years old, from Los Osos/Oceano, CA. He was an English major who served as a resident adviser in a campus dorm while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. He was planning to study abroad in London next year, and he dreamed of going to law school like both of his parents. His cousin Jaime described Chris as “smart, gentle, and kind,” but with a competitive spirit he showed on the basketball court. His high school basketball coach said, “he was a coach’s dream. He was a team player, he had a great attitude and he was a hard worker who would stay after practice and work on his shots.”

His father Richard said:

Chris was a really good kid. Ask anyone who knew him. His death has left our family lost and broken.

Veronika Elizabeth Weiss, 19, from Thousand Oaks. She loved sports and high school. She played on four teams. She started playing softball at the age of 6, and later turned to baseball and was the only girl out of 500 players in the Westlake Baseball League. She was

a good student who earned straight A’s in high school and graduated with a 4.3 GPA. She was majoring in pre-financial mathematics and statistics. Her father said: “She wanted to be a financial wizard, and use her high aptitude with complicated math.” She was a member of the Tri-Delta Sorority, just like her mom and grandmother, and now she is gone.

One of her friends said: “Veronika was one of the people you knew you wanted to be friends with. She is willing to become friends with anyone and everyone. She is the one person you can make you smile instantly.”

Then there is Katherine “Katie” Breann Cooper, 22, of Chino Hills, CA. She was close to her two brothers, and she was weeks away from graduating with a degree in art history. Her friends remember her as fun and outgoing, someone who had “a very bright smile that lit up a whole room.” And we can see the smile.

In the words of one family friend, Katie was the “kind of girl that brought sunshine on an overcast day.” She loved soccer and running track and helped her family deliver Christmas gifts to her neighbors in Chino Hills every year.

She was also a member of Tri Delta, a ballroom dance teaching assistant, and raised money for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital in Memphis. Her friends said she was “involved in everything” and “never slowed down.”

“She was a self-proclaimed princess and I love her for that,” her friend Courtney said. “And I know she has a crown on her head today.”

Cheng Yuan “James” Hong, 20, San Jose, CA. He was a fourth-year computer engineering major who spent his time volunteering as a teacher assistant at Rainbow Chinese School in Cupertino. He friends described him as a hard-working and bright student who was always willing to help others.

His high school drama teacher in San Jose remembered him as a quiet student who was happy to work backstage to ensure that his classmates could shine.

One of his former classmates said that he was “one of the kindest, most genuine people I have ever met . . . He was never afraid that his unrelenting kindness might have led to him being taken advantage of. He helped out everybody he knew, myself included, and never asked for anything in return. He was good for the sake of being good, and it is incredibly rare to find people that genuine.”

Then there is George Chen, 19, from San Jose. He graduated from high school in San Jose and had just finished his second year at UC-Santa Barbara where he studied computer science. His father is a software engineer, and George wanted to follow in his dad’s footsteps. He liked swimming and hiking and was close to his young-

er brother, who is 10 years old, despite their age difference. They would play video games together and laugh. Friends described George as a “gentle soul” who had a fondness for working with children.

When he went home to visit his parents during breaks from school, his mother said he would always go out of his way to pick up his elderly neighbor’s mail and take out their trash. He volunteered for the Buddhist charity group Tzu Chi and as a camp counselor at the YMCA. And he is gone.

Then there is Weihan “David” Wang from Fremont, CA, 20 years old. His mother described her son as “a very, very nice boy,” the kind who aced his SATs but never bragged about it. He was an avid basketball fan. He played on his high school team in Fremont, and was a big fan of the Los Angeles Lakers.

At UC-Santa Barbara, he studied computer engineering and wanted to start a business with his friends. One friend described David as “warm-hearted and helpful.” His parents said that David was “gentle, kind, loving, joyful, peaceful, faithful, and self-controlled.” He was supposed to return home for the summer break soon to go on a trip with his family to Yellowstone National Park.

I say to all families who can hear me: Imagine what that does to a mother and father—to a family. David was their only child. His mother said, “He was always the joy of the family,” and now he is gone.

These were all bright and talented people who were full of promise and passion. Their dreams and futures were extinguished in an instant of chaos.

Today I join their families, friends, and classmates in mourning their unfathomable loss. Not only that, I stand with them in staunch determination to do everything in my power to stop this senseless violence.

Richard Martinez, the dad of Christopher, said it best. He said he does not want or care about sympathy from politicians. He said to us: “Get to work and do something.”

The parents of James Hong said the same thing in a letter: “I know there has been a great injustice, and policy can be improved.” They added that their son “can’t be here to help anymore, but you can.”

The mother of George Chen said: “This is not the first time it happens, a killing spree, but I hope it’s the last one. No parent should have to go through this.”

And the parents of David Wang wrote: “It’s time to stop gun violence, and be free from fear.” They are absolutely right. We must act. We cannot sit back and simply accept that nearly 90 Americans are killed every day—and 30,000 are killed every year—from gun violence.

I well remember the Vietnam War because I got involved in politics to try

and stop it. It was horrible. We lost more than 50,000 people over 10 years, and we ended that war.

Mr. President, 30,000 are killed every year from gun violence. When are we going to end the war here at home? We cannot accept that every day an average of 8 children and teens under the age of 20 are killed by guns. We cannot accept the fact that children in the United States die by guns 11 times as often as children in other high-income nations. It is an outrage, and it has to end.

We often see the same reaction after mass shootings like this. Some will insist it was just “the act of a mad man” and there is nothing you can do to stop a deranged person from going on a rampage. You know what? History says that defeatist attitude is wrong.

Take Australia. In April 1996, a young man killed 35 people and wounded 23 others with a semiautomatic rifle in the so-called Port Arthur massacre, the worst mass shooting in Australian history.

Less than 2 weeks later, the conservative-led national government pushed through fundamental changes to the country’s gun laws. Australia’s conservative government passed laws that all but prohibited automatic and semiautomatic assault rifles, stiffened licensing and ownership rules, and instituted a temporary gun buyback program that took some 650,000 assault weapons out of public circulation. The law then required licensees to demonstrate a “genuine need” for a particular type of gun and take a firearm safety course. Those actions by Australia’s leaders made a difference. In the decade before Port Arthur, Australia saw 11 mass shootings. Since then, there has not been a single mass shooting, and the gun murder rate has continued to steadily decline.

In 2011, Australia had 0.86 gun deaths for each 100,000 people—or 25 people. That year the United States had 10.3 gun deaths per 100,000 people, or 11,101 Americans. Accounting for the population differences, this is insanity.

Australia said enough is enough. When are we going to do that?

Canadians said enough is enough. In December 1989, a disgruntled student walked into a Montreal engineering school with a semiautomatic and killed 14 students and injured over a dozen others. That tragedy prompted the leaders in Canada to ban more than half of all registered guns, require all gun owners to be at least 18, and obtain a license. You need a license for a car. Why don’t you need a license, public safety course, and a background check for a gun? That is what they did.

Canadians said enough is enough, and it paid off. Canada’s gun murder rate has declined since passage of these laws, with occasional spikes in gun violence.

In 2009, Canada had 0.5 deaths per 100,000 from gun murders—173 people.

The United States had 3 gun murders for every 100,000 that year—that is 11,493 Americans. Come on—173 out of 100,000 compared to 11,493 people out of 100,000? What is wrong with the people here in this country and in this body?

The United Kingdom experienced tragedies that led their leaders to act. In August of 1987, a lone gunman armed with two legally-owned semi-automatic rifles and a handgun went on a 6-hour shooting spree roughly 70 miles west of London, killing 16 people and then himself. Britain expanded the list of banned weapons, including certain semi-automatic rifles. They increased registration requirements for other weapons. Since then, they have banned all handguns, with a few exceptions. The government instituted a buyback program which many credit for taking tens of thousands of illegal or unwanted guns out of supply. Their actions paid off. The UK’s gun murder rate since passage of these laws is now less than half of what it used to be.

In 2011 the UK had 0.23 gun deaths per 100,000 people, a fraction of the 10.3 gun deaths per 100,000 in the United States that year. They had 38 gun murders; we had 11,101. What is going on? We have to do some of this here. What are we so scared of?

I said when I started this speech that no one is safe in America because we don’t take commonsense steps. I am not saying we ban guns or we ban people from having guns—no—but that we have a system where they have to show they need it. We can do the same things here in America. We can start. How about this: Pass measures that have nearly unanimous support among the American people, wherever they live in our great Nation. Take background checks. Ninety percent of Americans say they support background checks. Because one gun lobby doesn’t like it, we turn our backs on 90 percent of the people. What is wrong with us?

We have legislation to expand background checks. It has bipartisan support. We should take it up and pass it and do the work of the people, 90 percent of whom want us to pass background checks.

Assault weapons. Most Americans support banning military-style assault weapons: 81 percent of voters, 71 percent of gun owners, and 60 percent of NRA members. We should pass Senator FEINSTEIN’s legislation now and do the work the American people want us to do.

How about high-capacity magazine clips? Seventy-two percent of voters say we should ban the sale of high-capacity ammunition magazines.

Mental health. Lawmakers on both sides support taking action. Let’s do it now.

School safety. I authored a bill with Senator COLLINS to provide the resources needed to make schools safer.

Take it up and pass it, and don’t load it up with controversy. Pass the things we need to pass. Do it for these families and for God knows all the others who are suffering and crying themselves to sleep every single night, bearing a loss that will never go away.

Here is the situation. In this particular case, we had the family of the gunman who committed the massacre call the police and say: We are very worried about our son. It is haunting to me that they had a feeling about it and they called the police. The police went to interview this troubled young man, and they couldn’t see through his problems. They didn’t check the gun database we have in California. If they had, they would have seen that he had purchased guns. If they knew that, we would have been in a different circumstance.

So we are introducing legislation called the Pause for Safety Act. This is what it does. No. 1, families and others who are very close to the suspected unstable individual can go to court and seek a gun violence prevention order to temporarily stop someone who poses a danger to themselves or others from purchasing a firearm. They can go to court and seek a gun violence prevention order. Let’s say it is a group of co-workers who see that this person is threatening or he has written something. They can actually make the case before a judge and get an order, so the person cannot buy guns.

No. 2, it would help ensure that families and others close to the individual can also seek a gun violence prevention warrant which would allow law enforcement to take temporary possession of firearms that already have been purchased. If those police officers had known this individual had bought those weapons—because we do have that database—they could have gone and gotten the warrant. But under our bill, a family member could do this. They could go to court and seek that gun violence prevention warrant.

No. 3, if law enforcement gets a tip or a warning or a request from a family member, they can then make full use of a gun registry if it exists in their state. It is very important for law enforcement to make use of the gun registry if it exists.

I am very pleased that similar legislation has been introduced in California by Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner, Assemblyman Das Williams, as well as State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson.

We all remember the shock and outrage we felt after the Sandy Hook shooting in Newtown, CT, where a gunman shot 20—babies, I call them—children—schoolchildren and 6 adult staff members. All of those lives lost, and we said we would take action. We wore ribbons and we came to the floor and we cried. Well, since that shooting, more than 28,000 Americans have died

from gun violence—90 people every day. Imagine, if it was anything else that caused the death of 28,000 Americans, we would be on the Senate floor.

The shooting at Sandy Hook and the shooting at UC Santa Barbara are a reminder that we have failed our children. Call it what you want. We are failing our children. We have a basic task to keep our children safe. They look to us, and they believe we will protect them. We have a function here, which is to not allow someone who is unstable and violent to get a weapon. So we need to pull together, and we need to show our children we love them, not by making fancy speeches but by doing the right thing, such as this father said we have to do, Chris's dad. Don't tell me how you love children; don't talk to me about how bad you feel. Do something.

Children need to know they are safe in school. People need to know they are safe at work. People need to feel safe in a restaurant—anyplace. Let us honor these victims of gun violence by working to end this epidemic. We look at these faces, we look at their eyes, and we know they were just at the start of their adventures, at the height of their productivity, in their twenties.

We have to do something so this doesn't happen again and again and again.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, in this work we do so many issues need to be discussed. One of them I have tried to discuss, along with several colleagues, is this incredible threat to our planet caused by climate change. I have participated with my colleagues, Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator MARKEY, Senator CARDIN, and many others, in all-night speeches and in hearings.

I am so proud to be the chairman of the environment committee. It was many years ago when I took the gavel to become the chairman that I started to really get involved in the details and in the science and in the predictions of scientists as to what could happen. We came very close to doing something important here in the Senate, but we faced a filibuster, and although the House passed a very important bill years ago, we couldn't get it done. We fell six votes short.

At the time, the press said to me: What are you going to do? Are you going to do nothing about this? No, I said. Actually, the most popular law that has ever been passed—I believe it; I haven't taken a poll on it, but I can tell my colleagues from looking at studies that the Clean Air Act covers all kinds of pollution, including carbon pollution. I said that even though we weren't able to have a cap-and-trade system which would put a price on carbon and let people get permits and trade them, I felt that was a good way to work in a capitalistic society, and we didn't go there. I said we have the

Clean Air Act. Once an endangerment finding is made—it was started during the Bush administration and completed during the Obama administration—we know the President has full authority to act, with or without the deniers here in the Senate and in the House.

Now, 40 percent of all the carbon is emitted by powerplants, so powerplants are a very important part of the problem we have to address. We already know the President and the Congress worked together to reduce the pollution coming out of our cars by passing very important fuel economy measures. But this is really the largest problem—those powerplants and the dangerous carbon.

The President understands and looks at his kids and he knows if they are going to have a world in which they can thrive, we have to do something about this problem, and we can't just put our heads in the sand and say the scientists are wrong. Let's not be like the deniers who said smoking didn't cause cancer. Ninety-seven percent of scientists said it did; 3 percent said it didn't. The tobacco lobby went on the side of the bad guys and, for years, we had to fight and prod and push. Guess what happened? People got sick and a lot of them died because there was basically a coverup by the tobacco industry.

We are facing a similar situation. The big special interests are trying to tell the American people: Don't worry about this climate change. It is no big deal. Well, here is the great news: The President has stepped forward. He has taken on carbon pollution from powerplants.

Under current law there is no limit to the amount of carbon pollution that can be released into the air from powerplants. The President's carbon pollution reduction plan is going to change all that. It will protect public health. It will save thousands of lives. It will avoid up to 6,600 premature deaths, 150,000 asthma attacks, 3,300 heart attacks, 2,800 hospital admissions, and 490,000 missed days at school and work will be prevented. Those benefits will kick in.

Here is what is important about that. When we clean up the carbon, we protect the air quality. That is why the President went to a hospital when he announced this. That is why 70 percent of the people—including, as I recall, a huge majority of Americans—support regulating carbon from powerplants and they are even willing to pay for it. A lopsided and bipartisan majority of Americans support Federal limits on greenhouse gas emissions according to this new poll. Fully 70 percent say the Federal Government should require limits to greenhouse gases from existing plants. What is so interesting: 57 percent of Republicans support it, 76 percent of Independents, and 79 percent of Democrats. So this is a plan whose time has come.

This plan will also create tens of thousands of jobs as we move to a clean energy economy. By reducing carbon pollution, we can avert the most calamitous impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, dangerous heat waves, and economic disruption. If we do not act, we could see a 10-degree Fahrenheit rise in temperature, and that is disastrous, really, for all of our States.

I have been so privileged to work on the Senate Climate Action Task Force. What is interesting is that I have listened to people from all over the country talk about what this climate change means in their States. Coastal States have a certain set of problems, inland States, agricultural States, and there are the forest fires that are burning out of control. I hope people will watch the documentary "Years of Living Dangerously." It is really a wake-up call if you have not already awakened to this problem. It is happening all over the world—fires that do not stop, droughts that the Defense Department is telling us are a real problem.

Do you know how the House of Representatives deals with climate change? They pass a bill that says the Defense Department cannot act on what they have already said, which is that climate change is a real, serious threat multiplier. They actually said now it could be a cause of conflict. Before they said it was a threat multiplier. Now they say it is actually a—they use the word "catalyst" for conflict. But the House does not like that, so they just said: It shall be so. We will not talk about this anymore. Stamp my foot—no. Disregard 97 percent of the scientists.

Here is the thing I like about the President's proposal: It is respectful of States' roles. It allows major flexibility. Every State is going to have its own plan. Some States may say: Coal-fired plants, you can clean up a little bit. We will get a little savings there. But we will also do some energy efficiency so you do not have to burn as much coal. This is what is envisioned.

Eventually, we are going to see lower prices for our folks. They say in about 15 years we are going to see an 8-percent decrease. Let me say that again. It is going to shrink electricity bills roughly 8 percent, and that is going to happen because we are going to have increased energy efficiency and reduced demand.

So this poll is very clear. People want action. And the Clean Air Act is very clear.

I think it is important to note that under George Bush we wasted 8 years because they kept saying carbon pollution was not covered in the Clean Air Act. But we had some very smart attorneys who went up there—and one of them is sitting here—who said: No, no, no. Just read it. If you read it, you will see.

Thank goodness the Supreme Court ruled and said that absolutely greenhouse gas emissions can be regulated if there is an endangerment finding. And there certainly was that. So the Clean Air Act has a proven track record.

I will close with this. To those people who are in denial, I say: Wake up because it is not about you; it is about your kids and your grandkids and their kids. So get out of that phase because you are hurting people—innocent people. This is your time to do something—not to walk away.

For those people who say: Oh, the environment, that is not an important issue to the people—no. It is a big deal. Every time my friends here try to repeal parts of the Clean Air Act, I come to the floor with colleagues. We have stopped them. The House voted 90 times with these terrible riders. We have stopped them every time. Eighty percent of the people support the Clean Air Act. We have to protect our families.

We have seen a country that has thrown the environment under the bus. Now they say they are changing, but let's see what a country looks like—instead of listening to my words, let's look at a photo. As shown in this picture, this is what life is like in some Chinese provinces. They do not care about the environment. They do what some of my friends say: Oh, repeal this—they do not even have these laws to repeal. They do not care. Just develop, just develop, just develop. Do not pay attention. Do not worry about best technologies. Just throw the environment under the bus.

Well, guess what. These people are being thrown under the bus. They cannot breathe. And if you cannot breathe, you cannot work. So even China—they are learning they have to do something to clean up their environment.

But we cannot look like this in the future. I am just telling you. People think, oh, an exaggeration. I had one of my Republican colleagues walk out on me in a hearing because I showed this picture. They said: We do not want this.

I am not saying they want it. I am saying that if you repeal all the provisions of the Clean Air Act that they are trying to repeal—and they want, by the way, to stop us from this rule—that is what is going to happen, not that they want it to happen. Of course they do not want it to happen. They do not think it is going to happen. But this has happened because in China, like us, they have a very big economy, and they are expanding. We want to expand, but we have to do it in a clean way.

So the people of my home State of California get this. They get this. The oil companies came in and they put millions of dollars to try to get us to repeal our cap-and-trade system and our rules and our laws. People said: No,

no, no, we are not going there with you, Big Oil. Clean up your act.

My mother used to say: Clean up your room. The room they are polluting belongs to everybody. It is the atmosphere. We all have to clean it up. This is not something we take a pass on. This is the planet Earth itself. Somebody said the other day—some scientist—that the Earth will survive. It will look a lot different. The water will be different. This will be different. There will not be the same things growing and forests will be elsewhere. But what about the people? Well, that was not a good story.

It is up to us. We have a lot on our shoulders. We really do. I am not saying it is easy. Nothing is easy. My dad used to say: Nothing good comes easy. It is true. We have to try to figure it out.

But I want to say to this President tonight how proud I am that he has stepped up to the plate. All the screaming and the denials and the yelling and the rest and the special interests, which my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE says has a barricade of lies around the Capitol—and he is just looking at his daughters and he is looking at all the young people he meets, and he is saying: You know what, I have to do something. And he is looking at the military. He is looking at them and he is thinking: I am being told—he is saying—by the Department of Defense that climate change is making this an unstable world.

Actually, there is a very strong case to be made that was made in a documentary that a lot of the cause of the Syrian war started out with the farmers rebelling and revolting because they cannot deal with what is happening to their lives—the farmers.

So whether it is climate change or taking care of our veterans or all the other things facing us—the violence—we have a lot on our plate. I just hope we can step up to the plate, with the best of intentions, work across party lines, do our best, stop playing politics. President Obama says one thing. It does not matter what he says, the other side is all over it. How could that be? How could every single thing a person says be controversial? Sometimes I think if the President said “Good morning,” one of the Republicans would say “It is not; how dare you say it is a good morning?” That is what it is getting to. We have to put that aside. We are only here for a short amount of time, and we have to do our best to solve the problems the American people face.

So I took a long time tonight because I feel there are so many things out there that I am so privileged to be able to talk about and, more important, I can do something about. So I hope our colleagues will come together on these topics and we can make some progress for the good of the American people.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY POLICY

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to offer my strong support of the Environmental Protection Agency's clean power plan to cut carbon pollution from existing powerplants. The EPA's proposal is a powerful step in the fight to protect our health and our environment.

We face a crisis. We know that high carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere are driving climate change. We know these carbon dioxide levels are increasing the acidity of our oceans, disrupting already fragile marine ecosystems. We know that powerplants are responsible for about 40 percent of America's carbon pollution.

Add all that up and we have enough to know that reducing carbon pollution from powerplant emissions will make a real difference in the fight against climate change. Pollution from powerplants is also associated with other dangerous chemicals.

A study led by the University of Syracuse and Harvard University found that reducing carbon dioxide emissions from powerplants can also reduce emissions of other pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and mercury.

These dangerous chemicals contribute to acid rain, the destruction of ecosystems, ozone damage to trees and crops, and mercury in fish. These dangerous chemicals are also a direct threat to our health, increasing the risk of heart attacks, asthma, and even death. Add all that up and we have enough to know that reducing powerplant emissions will make a real difference in the health of our children, our parents, and ourselves.

Scientists all around the world have collected mountains of evidence about the dangers of carbon pollution. Their basic conclusions are no longer speculative or debatable. Even so, some politicians respond to this evidence by denying it is true, by rejecting scientific evidence or by claiming they just cannot understand the science.

This country was not built by people who ignored facts. Sure, the deniers can defend their friends in the pollution business, they can rail against science or pretend it does not exist, but the facts are catching up with us. This pollution is killing people across this country. According to the American Lung Association, up to 100,000 asthma attacks and 4,000 premature deaths will be avoided in the first year the clean power plan goes into effect.

Let the deniers deny the facts, but do not let them deny our children clean air to breathe or deny our parents long and healthy lives. The EPA's draft proposal based on its authority under the Clean Air Act is a commonsense approach that builds on work already underway in States and cities across the country. Under the proposal, States will work with the EPA to reduce carbon pollution, and they can use a variety of tools to do it. The clean power plan encourages States to be creative and efficient, to partner with private industry to give our children a safer, healthier world.

In Massachusetts, we have seen how effective those solutions can be, after passing laws to increase energy efficiency and encourage renewable energy production. The Commonwealth joined neighboring States as part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. We called it RGGI, and since 2005 RGGI has helped member States cut carbon emissions by 40 percent.

RGGI has shown results and it has done so with bipartisan support and the backing of many members of the business community, members who understand that taking action against pollution is not only good for our public health and our environment, it is also good for business.

The fight against carbon pollution is about protecting our health, protecting our communities, and protecting our future. But make no mistake, this fight is also about whether this country works only for big energy companies or whether it works for everyone else too.

The terrible consequences of failing to act are real. We cannot afford to wait. But every time rules are proposed to clean up our air and water or to protect our environment, powerful deep-pocketed corporations line up to fight these changes. These opponents and their Republican friends are already attacking the EPA's proposed changes. Their latest move is to argue that the EPA's efforts somehow are not legal. That argument is laughable. Seven years ago, my State of Massachusetts led a multistate fight that went all the way to the Supreme Court to force the EPA to do its job to address carbon pollution in this country. We won that case and we started the process that resulted in the Supreme Court ruling that the EPA has the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act.

Instead of embracing change, instead of working to develop rules to reduce pollution and protect the air we breathe, some companies and their Republican friends have fought change at every step. They loudly defend a world where polluters cut their costs by spewing dangerous chemicals and greenhouse gases into our air and water, leaving everyone else to deal with the consequences of their pollution.

They loudly defend a world where giant oil companies suck down billions of dollars in subsidies every year, while the green energy industries of the future fight for every scrap of support. They quietly work to tilt the playing field against the technologies of the future so that clean energy entrepreneurs and innovators have a harder time succeeding, while dirty energy companies keep raking in the profits.

Climate change is real. More than 120 million Americans live in counties that border the shoreline and a rising sea that threatens their homes and their communities. Millions more live in the path of wildfires or will be caught in the drought that will devastate our land. But unlike big energy companies, they do not have armies of lobbyists and lawyers to protect their interests. They see Washington ignore those problems and they see a system that is rigged against them. These millions of Americans have only their voices, and they call on us to fight for them, to fight for meaningful action to address climate change.

The EPA's new clean power plan is one part of the solution. We must build on this proposal and continue our efforts to cut carbon pollution, to improve energy efficiency, and to invest in building a clean energy economy.

I applaud President Obama and EPA Administrator McCarthy for their leadership in stepping up and pushing for meaningful standards, and I expect that a strong final rule will be implemented next year because no matter the opposition, no matter how powerful those industries that would let our forests burn, let our crops dry up, let our children get sick, and let our cities drown just to protect their own profits, we have no choice but to take real action to fight climate change. The simple truth is that our future depends on it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MATTHEW B. RYTTING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and thank Lt. Col. Matthew

Ryting for over two decades of service in the U.S. Air Force. Colonel Ryting will be retiring on June 13, 2014, and I am grateful for his service and dedication to our Nation.

Colonel Ryting's career with the U.S. Air Force has been diverse and impressive, and it has included service as a combat control team officer, an F-15C fighter pilot, an F-4 instructor pilot, a chief of flight safety, a Civil Air Patrol commander, an Air Force One advance agent responsible for logistical and security support for Presidential travel, and most recently as a UV-18B instructor pilot, director of operations and cofounder of the Wings of Blue Association at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Within just a few years of his graduation from the Air Force Academy, while serving as a combat control team officer and squadron commander during Haiti's "Uphold Democracy," he led a special operations team in providing communications and air traffic control in non-permissive environments, specializing in parachute insertion techniques. Shortly thereafter, he won accolades as the top Air Force graduate in undergraduate pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi. His many accomplishments since then include Distinguished Graduate of the Air Force's Squadron Officer School, Top-Wingman Awards in Singapore and Alaska as an F-15C Pilot, a Chief of Staff of the Air Force Safety Award in May 2007, Outstanding Graduate in the top 1 percent of his class from the U.S. Air Force Air War College, a Civil Air Pilot Meritorious Service Award, and a Big Brothers Big Sisters Big Brother of the Year Award in Fairbanks, AK.

Colonel Ryting's many accomplishments serve as a representation of his strong sense of duty and commitment to our great Nation. I am particularly impressed by Colonel Ryting's commitment to enhancing the capabilities of our Nation's airmen, both through investigating catastrophic aircraft mishaps in order to prevent future losses and through devoting years of service to the instruction of students and airmen in employing their aircraft and supporting joint, coalition and multinational forces. As recently as 2013, as a safety officer and a BD-700 instructor pilot in Afghanistan, Colonel Ryting trained pilots on how to provide the needed airborne communication bridges to ground forces entrenched in enemy areas, ultimately saving American lives. He also instructed German Luftwaffe students in F-4 basic flight and air-to-air combat at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, led successful safety programs for 250 aircrew at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska, established a facility to train combat aircrews in advanced techniques at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska, and directed 19,000 skydives

and 2,400 accident-free flight hours annually for the U.S. Air Force's parachute team Wings of Blue. Throughout his time in the Air Force, Colonel Rytting set a wonderful example for his family and for the men and women who served with him in the Air Force. His commitment to the United States and his leadership within the Air Force is truly commendable.

Colonel Rytting was proud to serve our country, and today I am proud to thank Colonel Rytting for his service to this Nation. I congratulate him on his well-earned retirement.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent request at the present time relating to the nomination of Nani Coloretto to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

I have been conducting an inquiry regarding allegations of questionable hiring practices at the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, FinCEN. As part of that inquiry, I have requested documents from the Treasury Department that could resolve my concerns and questions. I encourage the administration to provide those documents to me as soon as possible.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MAHASKA COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Mahaska County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has

worked with me to secure funding in Mahaska County worth over \$1.2 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$64 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be working with people like Deb Philpot, executive director of the South Central Iowa Center for Independent Living, who helps to promote independent living for people with disabilities. There is no substitute for being able to live at home, close to your friends and family, and not in an institutional setting. I look forward to hearing about the kind of progress that has been made in Oskaloosa.

Among the highlights:

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Mahaska County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Southeast Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Mahaska County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Mahaska County, I have fought for \$476,000 for nursing and sciences teaching laboratories at William Penn University, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all

across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics; it is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Oskaloosa to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Mahaska County has earned \$160,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Mahaska County has received \$598,650 in Harkin grants. Thank you to the leadership of Superintendent Russell Reiter for his ongoing support in the Oskaloosa Community School District. Similarly, schools in Mahaska County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$89,500.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Mahaska County has received more than \$42 million in loans and grants from a variety of programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance,

the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Mahaska County's fire departments have received over \$251,099 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Mahaska County has recognized this important issue by securing \$61,901 for community wellness activities.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Mahaska County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Mahaska County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

DECATUR COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful

Farm Bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Decatur County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Decatur County worth over \$2.7 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$3.9 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be our shared commitment to school construction, renovation, and fire safety through the Harkin grant program. Working together with State and local communities, this funding has ensured Iowa students are learning in schools that are safe and modern. I look forward to learning about the renovations made possible in Decatur County.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Decatur County has received \$1,604,352 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Decatur County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$34,578.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural

communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Decatur County has received more than \$1.4 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Decatur County's fire departments have received over \$738,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Decatur County has recognized this important issue by securing over \$49,000 in wellness grants and more than \$1 million for the Community Health Center in Leon.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Decatur County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Decatur County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Decatur County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

SCORE ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. RISCHE. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the 50th anniversary of the SCORE Association. SCORE is a nonprofit organization supported by the U.S. Small Business Administration—SBA—dedicated to assisting small businesses through education and mentorship. Over the past 50 years, SCORE has been educating entrepreneurs and helping small businesses start, grow, and succeed nationwide.

As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I understand the spirit of entrepreneurs to explore beyond their limits in order to achieve the dream of owning a successful small business. Since SCORE opened its doors in 1964, it has provided outstanding mentoring to entrepreneurs across the United States, with 364 local chapters and the help of approximately 11,000+ volunteers nationwide.

In addition, SCORE's Treasure Valley chapter in Idaho celebrates its 43rd Anniversary this year. Since 1971, Treasure Valley SCORE has been helping entrepreneurs and small business owners in Boise, Nampa, Eagle, Caldwell, and the surrounding areas. With the help of approximately 45 valuable volunteers, Treasure Valley SCORE assists local Idaho small businesses through free mentoring and monthly workshops which have produced a great deal of small business success stories from my home State.

Today, I applaud SCORE on their outstanding service to help local startups sustain struggling businesses, and expand growth for existing businesses. It is always great to see an organization so dedicated to helping entrepreneurs, particularly those located in rural areas, thrive in increasingly competitive global marketplaces.

Congratulations to SCORE for celebrating its 50th anniversary and to the Treasure Valley SCORE chapter for celebrating its 43rd anniversary. SCORE's work in supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs, the backbone of our great Nation's economy, is deeply valued by Congress and the entire nation. I wish SCORE, and especially the volunteers in the Treas-

ure Valley chapter, years of success in the future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 23, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 862. An act to authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bill was signed on May 23, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REED).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 27, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF) had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 724. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles.

H.R. 1036. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office".

H.R. 1228. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building".

H.R. 1451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building".

H.R. 2391. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the "Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office".

H.R. 2939. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

H.R. 3060. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building".

H.R. 4032. An act to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfer by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4488. An act to make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bills were signed on May 30, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REED).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 29, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House had passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 611. An act to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 30, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1726. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

H.R. 3080. An act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3658. An act to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bills were signed on May 30, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REED).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 611. An act to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 503. An act to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2527. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans with counseling and treatment for sexual trauma that occurred during inactive duty training.

H.R. 2942. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 3361. An act to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3366. An act to provide for the release of the property interests retained by the United States in certain land conveyed in 1954 by the United States, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to the State of Oregon for the establishment of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center of Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon.

H.R. 4028. An act to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom.

H.R. 4261. An act to improve the research of Gulf War Illness, the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4587. An act to impose targeted sanctions on individuals responsible for carrying out or ordering human rights abuses against the citizens of Venezuela, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4660. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4681. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2527. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans with counseling and treatment for sexual trauma that occurred during inactive duty training; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2942. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3361. An act to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen regis-

ters and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3366. An act to provide for the release of the property interests retained by the United States in certain land conveyed in 1954 by the United States, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to the State of Oregon for the establishment of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center of Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4028. An act to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4261. An act to improve the research of Gulf War Illness, the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4681. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 503. An act to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5846. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cyflumetofen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9905-80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5847. A joint communication from the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the annual report on the plan for the nuclear weapons stockpile, complex, delivery systems, and command and control systems; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5848. A communication from the President of the United States of America, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2013 Annual Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Assessments from the Secretaries of Defense and Energy, the three national security laboratory directors, and the Commander, United States Strategic Command (DCN OSS No. 2014-0706); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5849. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contractor Personnel Supporting U.S. Armed Forces Deployed Outside the United States" ((RIN0750-AI01) (DFARS Case 2013-D015)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5850. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to changes to previously-closed positions in the Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5851. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the percentage of funds that was expended during the preceding fiscal year and is projected to be expended during the current and ensuing fiscal year for the Department's depot maintenance and repair workloads by the public and private sectors; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5852. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Raymond V. Mason, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5853. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997, with respect to Burma; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5854. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5855. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5856. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Enhanced Supplementary Leverage Ratio Standards for Certain Bank Holding Companies and Their Subsidiary Insured Depository Institutions" (RIN1557-AD69) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 19, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5857. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Integration of National Bank and Savings Association Regulations: Interagency Rules" (RIN1557-AD75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5858. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch,

Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Jemez Mountains Salamander" (RIN1018-AZ28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5859. A communication from the Biologist of Ecological Services of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of a Non-essential Experimental Population of Wood Bison in Alaska" (RIN1018-AW57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5860. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for *Leavenworthia exiqua* var. *laciniata* (Kentucky Glade Cross)" (RIN1018-AZ47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5861. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Management Authority, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Regulations Implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Updates Following the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES" (RIN1018-AW82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5862. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; Regulations Limiting Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds and Nitrogen Oxides" (FRL No. 9901-93-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5863. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Revision of the Venting Prohibition for Specific Refrigerant Substitutes" (FRL No. 9911-42-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5864. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee; Removal of Obsolete Regulations" (FRL No. 9911-44-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5865. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Review of New Sources and Modifications in Indian Country—Amendments to the Federal Indian Country Minor New Source Review Rule" (FRL No. 9909-78-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5866. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of States' Requests to Relax the Federal Reid Vapor Pressure Volatility Standard in Florida, and the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill and Greensboro/Winston-Salem/High Point Areas in North Carolina" (FRL No. 9911-13-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5867. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of States' Requests to Relax the Federal Reid Vapor Pressure Volatility Standard in Florida, and the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill and Greensboro/Winston-Salem/High Point Areas in North Carolina" (FRL No. 9911-12-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5868. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Oregon; Approval of Substitution for Transportation Control Measures" (FRL No. 9911-23-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5869. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Finding of Failure to Submit a Prevention of Significant Deterioration State Implementation Plan Revision for Particulate Matter Less Than 2.5 Micrometers (PM 2.5)" (FRL No. 9911-25-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5870. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Kentucky; Stage II Requirements for Hertz Corporation facility at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in Boone County" (FRL No. 9911-24-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5871. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho: Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9911-09-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5872. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Revision to the Chicago 8-Hour Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 9910-92-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5873. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; San Joaquin Valley; Contingency Measures for the 1997 PM 2.5 Standards" (FRL No. 9911-07-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5874. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System—Final Regulations to Establish Requirements for Cooling Water Intake Structures at Existing Facilities and Amend Requirements at Phase I Facilities" (FRL No. 9817-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5875. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treatment of Property Used To Acquire Parent Stock or Securities in Certain Triangular Reorganizations Involving Foreign Corporations" (Notice 2014-32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5876. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pilot Penalty Relief Program—Late Annual Reporting for Non-Title I Retirement Plans ("One-Participant Plans" and Certain Foreign Plans)" (Rev. Proc. 2014-32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5877. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Relief from Internal Revenue Code Late Filer Penalties for Certain Employee Benefit Plans" (Notice 2014-35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5878. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Contract Year 2015 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs" ((RIN-0938-AR37) (CMS-4159-F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5879. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of a group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State (OSS 2014-0712); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5880. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-016); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5881. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Agency Drug-Free Workplace Programs"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5882. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Chairman's Semiannual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports, Inspection Reports, and Evaluation Reports for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5883. A communication from the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5884. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Veterans Affairs' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5885. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-324, "Closing of a Portion of the Public Alley and Acceptance of Dedication of Land for Alley Purposes in Square 75, S.O. 12-03806, Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5886. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-325, "Child Development Home License Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5887. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Hart-Scott-Rodino Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2013"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5888. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Annual Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5889. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Status for *Leavenworthia exigua* var. *laciniata* (Kentucky Glade Cross)" (RIN1018-AZ28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 2410. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-176).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 364. A bill to establish the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area, to designate certain Federal land as wilderness, and to improve the management of noxious weeds in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-177).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 974. A bill to provide for certain land conveyances in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-178).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 1300. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide for the conduct of stewardship end result contracting projects (Rept. No. 113-179).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1301. A bill to provide for the restoration of forest landscapes, protection of old growth forests, and management of national forests in the eastside forests of the State of Oregon (Rept. No. 113-180).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 2410. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2411. A bill to provide for the establishment of the United States Employee Ownership Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2412. A bill to establish an Employee Ownership and Participation Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. REED, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WALSH, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2413. A bill to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 326

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 326, a bill to reauthorize 21st century community learning centers, and for other purposes.

S. 398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. 501

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 501, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and increase the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 506

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide recruitment and retention incentives for volunteer emergency service workers.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 709

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 709, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, leading to better care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

S. 917

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 917, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

S. 932

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 932, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for advance appropriations for certain discretionary accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 1014

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added

as a cosponsor of S. 1014, a bill to reduce sports-related concussions in youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1069

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1069, a bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

S. 1239

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to expand the research and awareness activities of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to scleroderma, and for other purposes.

S. 1407

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1407, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen elementary and secondary computer science education, and for other purposes.

S. 1733

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 1970

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1970, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify safe harbor requirements applicable to automatic contribution arrangements, and for other purposes.

S. 1973

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1973, a bill to improve management of the National Laboratories, enhance technology commercialization, facilitate public-private partnerships, and for other purposes.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, supra.

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, supra.

At the request of Mr. PAUL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, supra.

At the request of Mr. WARNER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, supra.

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, supra.

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, supra.

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, supra.

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, supra.

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, supra.

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, supra.

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, supra.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, supra.

S. 2025

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2025, a bill to require data brokers to establish procedures to ensure the accuracy of collected personal information, and for other purposes.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of non-prescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2143

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2143, a bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs.

S. 2169

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2169, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax regarding the taxation of distilled spirits.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget

estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2255

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2255, a bill to remove the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan from treatment as terrorist organizations and for other purposes.

S. 2270

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2270, a bill to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2270, supra.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2321, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to ensure fairness in the establishment of certain rates and fees under sections 114 and 115 of such title, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2363

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from

South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2373

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2373, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 2388

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2388, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the depreciation recovery period for energy-efficient cool roof systems, and for other purposes.

S. 2401

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2401, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Office of the Medical Inspector within the Office of the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 353

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 353, a resolution designating September 2014 as "National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month".

S. RES. 451

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 451, a resolution recalling the Government of China's forcible dispersion of those peaceably assembled in Tiananmen Square 25 years ago, in light of China's continued abysmal human rights record.

S. RES. 453

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S.

Res. 453, a resolution condemning the death sentence against Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, a Sudanese Christian woman accused of apostasy.

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 453, supra.

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 453, supra.

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 453, supra.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Nani A. Coloretti, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, dated May 29, 2014.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing will be to hear testimony on S. 2379, the Klamath Basin Water Recovery and Economic Restoration Act of 2014.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to John_Assini@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sara Tucker at (202) 224-6224 or John Assini at (202) 224-9313.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2014

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be

approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that all time during morning business count postcloture on the Harper nomination; that at 11 a.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the Harper nomination postcloture with the time until noon equally divided and controlled in the usual form; and that at noon all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Harper nomination; further, that at the conclusion of the cloture vote on the Bowen nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Ms. WARREN. There will be two rollcall votes at noon tomorrow. Additional rollcall votes on nominations are expected.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:24 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 3, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

JULIAN CASTRO, OF TEXAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE SHAUN L. S. DONOVAN.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SHAUN L. S. DONOVAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF LINDA JOYCE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Joyce for her many years of public service to our community. As the Executive Director for the YWCA of Kitsap County for 20 years, Ms. Joyce has expanded the organization to better serve the needs of the community and has been an unyielding advocate for social justice.

Ms. Joyce's career path is a testament of her lifelong passion and commitment to serving the public. After receiving a degree in sociology, Ms. Joyce served as a social worker assisting families, children, and seniors. Later, her career path led her to work one-on-one with domestic violence survivors at a local shelter—a role that defined her mission in life and initiated her career at the YWCA.

One does not have to search long to find the positive results of Ms. Joyce's tireless work. Her leadership was instrumental in a three-phase renovation of the YWCA ALIVE Shelter and expanding and relocating the YWCA Community Center. Furthermore, Ms. Joyce has advanced community dialogue and awareness through the creation of public events such as Week without Violence, ArtsAlive, and the Women of Achievement Recognition Luncheon, where she herself was recently recognized.

The impact that these programs have had, and continue to have, is immeasurable and profoundly significant. Today, the YWCA of Kitsap County has broadened the local safety net and is accessed annually by over 6,000 community members seeking to overcome domestic violence or housing challenges, or to pursue opportunities to strengthen their careers and families.

Mr. Speaker, I have been encouraged by Ms. Joyce's community leadership and I applaud her for her celebrated tenure. Ms. Joyce's mission to ensure the welfare and dignity of domestic violence survivors as well as the empowerment of women has shaped our community for the better. I am pleased to recognize Linda Joyce in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING JOE AND CELIA SALAZAR

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and

commemorate the 70th wedding anniversary of Joe and Celia Salazar.

On June 1, 1944, Joe and Celia began their wonderful journey together. At 7 a.m. at the Air Force Base Chapel in Pratt, Kansas, Joe and Celia married one another, cementing a lifetime of love and happiness that continues to live on seventy years later.

The newlyweds did not have much time together once they said their vows; in early July, Joe was deployed in the Pacific, where he honorably served his country in World War II. During this separation, Joe and Celia committed themselves to one another, enduring one of many tests of their married life. After two long years, Joe and Celia reunited in Lamy, New Mexico, where Joe was introduced for the first time to his nine-month-old son, Johnny Carlos.

Tragically, Carlos passed away on June 19, 1952, and while it was a devastating moment for this young family, they continued to build a lasting legacy. They bought their first home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at 229 West DeVargas, and were blessed with two girls and a boy: Betty, Patricia, and Joe Jr. They traveled and visited every State in the contiguous United States, traversed across all of Canada, and embarked on trips to Europe. They explored the world and everything it has to offer, and yet, if you ask Joe and Celia, they will tell you that their favorite times and most meaningful conversations are the ones spent right at home, with family, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

I want to take a moment to recognize the Salazar's significant commitment to one another. After 70 years together, Joe and Celia continue to live a life full of joy and happiness. They serve as an inspiration, an exemplar of the power of marriage and the fulfillment that comes with 70 loving years of sacrifice and devotion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I regrettably missed votes on May 29, 2014 and May 30, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 269 and "aye" on rollcall 271.

IN HONOR OF DAVE KOZLOWSKI

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dave Kozlowski for his service to the

students of Ellington, Connecticut. For the past 35 years, Dave has played an influential role in the lives of thousands of young people. As he winds down his career, he is now leading the children of former students and has become an example of stability in his community.

Dave has demonstrated his leadership skills in his math classroom as well as outside of it. He has successfully coached the Ellington Middle School cross country team, as well as the girls' and boys' basketball teams for countless years. He continues to build athletic teams where all students feel welcome and valued for their participation. The students always developed a strong sense of camaraderie and pulled together against larger schools to give all opponents a run for their money.

Dave's most memorable contribution to the students is his annual trip to Washington, DC. After Dave's countless hours of preparation, the students are rewarded with an unforgettable experience. He manages to give the students an accurate sample of the history of our country, while letting them enjoy their learning every step of the way. As for the rare instance where something went awry, Dave handled it with his typical good humor. No roadblock stopped him from providing the students of Ellington with the memory of a lifetime. The thousands of eighth graders who have accompanied Dave on this trip over the last 35 years truly appreciate all of the sacrifices he has made for them. These young people are completely engaged throughout the experience. That engagement and appreciation of learning is the truest mark of a great educator.

PRESCOTT, ARIZONA SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the city of Prescott, Arizona. The city of Prescott was founded in 1864 as the territorial capital of Arizona. Shortly after President Abraham Lincoln appointed the territory's first governor, John A. Gurley, Prescott was selected as the site of its first capital because of its mild climate and access to valuable natural resources such as water and gold.

In its 150 year history, the city of Prescott has been host and home to pioneers integral to both the story of Arizona and the United States. The city is recognized as home to the world's oldest rodeo where in 1888 local merchants organized the first professional "Cowboy Tournament." It is also home to Arizona's first elected female official, Sharlot Hall, whose celebrated poem "Arizona" helped influence

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

the U.S. Congress to admit Arizona and New Mexico into the Union as two separate states. Barry Goldwater launched his magnetic 1964 presidential campaign on the steps of the Yavapai County Courthouse; a campaign of principle that continues to influence political debate today.

The city of Prescott embodies the spirit of Arizona, the spirit of a free and fiercely independent people, of pioneers who forged homes out of the desert and who continue to lead the community and state into the future. Congratulations on a momentous 150 years.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR.
NOBLE W. ADAMS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual, Mr. Noble W. Adams of Owingsville, Kentucky, for his distinguished military service during World War II. Mr. Adams served our Nation in uniform from December 14, 1943 to November 21, 1945.

As a young man, Mr. Adams began his service in the United States Army as a private first class, rifleman, within the 945th Infantry. During the United States' campaign to achieve victory over the Axis Powers, Mr. Adams entered the war by storming the deadly beaches of Normandy, fought his way across Europe, and did not stop until the Allies achieved victory in Germany.

Mr. Adams recalls bidding farewell to the Statue of Liberty as he departed from New York in 1943 as a passenger aboard the *Susan Elizabeth*. He thought he would never see the Statue or his family ever again.

During combat on November 9, 1944, Mr. Adams received injuries to both of his eyes, leaving him temporarily blinded as a result of shrapnel from exploding ordnance. After only two weeks of recovering in a medical field camp, and understanding the dangers ahead, Mr. Adams courageously returned to the battlefield and kept fighting. To this day, fragments of shrapnel still remain lodged in his face.

Mr. Adams is grateful that the Lord was with him throughout the war and protected him so that he could once again greet Lady Liberty and reunite with his family. He returned home safely on November 21, 1945. Mr. Adams is comforted in the knowledge that the Lord remains with him to this day.

Mr. Adams fought to preserve the very freedoms the Statue of Liberty represents. He is truly an outstanding American, a protector of freedom, and an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
WALT WASHINGTON

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Walt Washington for his many years of public service to our community.

Walt Washington is a decorated veteran with a long history of commitment to public service and community involvement. While he started his career in banking, he continued on to serve as a public official.

Serving as Kitsap County Auditor since 2008, Walt Washington has been a valued member of our state government. Walt has dedicated himself to ensuring accountability and accessibility to all Kitsap residents.

Walt Washington oversaw the implementation of more than 340 changes in federal and state laws to safeguard voters' rights and protect against election fraud. As Auditor, Walt has maintained Kitsap County's reputation for integrity in elections, and has encouraged civic involvement in election oversight and voter registration.

Mr. Washington's focus on fiscal accountability led him to receive a national award for excellence in financial reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association. He is also the recipient of the Pioneer in Preserving Military Voting Award for his department's innovative efforts to make voting more accessible for U.S. citizens living and serving overseas.

Walt Washington has dedicated himself to serving his country. Despite his retirement, Walt Washington's work against voter suppression, voter disenfranchisement, and commitment to fair elections will surely continue in the Kitsap County Auditor's office and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by again applauding Walt Washington for his dedication to serving the people of Washington state. I am pleased to recognize Walt Washington today in the United States Congress.

HONORING RICHARD "DICK"
WELTEROTH

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Richard "Dick" Welteroth from my hometown of Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Richard Welteroth lived a very accomplished life. He served as a pilot in the Civil Air Patrol for 30 years where he earned the rank of major. He was highly regarded in the community due to his public service which included being an Eagle Boy Scout Troop Leader of Troop 35 at St. Boniface, coaching Sunday school basketball, and helping to hone the talents of prospective baseball pitchers.

Mr. Welteroth is best known for his career as pitcher for the Washington Senators in the late 1940's and early 1950's, where he played against baseball greats like Ted Williams, Yogi Berra, and Joe Dimaggio. He made his debut to the game at the age of 20. In his first season for the Senators, he played in 33 games. Overall, Welteroth played in 90 games for the Senators, with four starts, allowed only 185 hits, 145 walks and 55 strikeouts.

Mr. Welteroth was admired by everyone in my hometown. When he finished his career in baseball, he returned to Williamsport, PA, and worked as a roofer, while continuing to coach baseball to the area kids. He always taught

one the value of hard work and good sportsmanship, while never raising his voice in the process. He possessed a knack that developed young players into high caliber athletes who went on to compete at higher levels. He knew what made a great baseball player.

I will never forget all of the lessons that Coach Welteroth taught me as he was helping me to perfect my fastball. He worked countless hours with me to develop my delivery and turned me into, not only the best baseball player I could be, but the best person I could be.

Dick Welteroth will be dearly missed.

IN HONOR OF STATE SENATOR
DON WILLIAMS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this year residents of Connecticut's 29th District will bid a fond farewell to a man who has served them for 22 years. While serving in Hartford, State Senator Donald E. Williams never stopped personally helping those living in his district.

Prior to being elected to the Senate, Don served as First Selectman for the town of Thompson, Connecticut, overseeing the first mandatory town recycling program in Connecticut. During his time as First Selectman, he also served as Chairman of the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments and as Chairman of the Northeast Economic Alliance. He previously worked as an attorney focusing on municipal law at the law firm of Boland, St. Onge & Brouillard in Putnam.

When Don arrived in Hartford as a State Senator in 1993, he quickly earned the respect of his peers. He became an influential member of the Senate and was elected as the Senate President Pro Tempore in 2004. He is now Connecticut's longest serving President Pro Tem.

Among his numerous duties as President, he has managed the schedule and policy agenda for his fellow senators. Among his legislative triumphs, Don helped spearhead the campaign finance law of 2005 and he pushed for cleaning up the "Sooty Six" power plants in 2002. In chairing the Judiciary Committee, Senator Williams authored and spearheaded legislation to create the Office of the Child Advocate and the Office of the Victim Advocate. He led the fight to improve nutrition in Connecticut schools and helped position our State as a national leader in combating childhood obesity.

In the wake of the terrible violence in Newtown, Connecticut, Senator Williams partnered with Governor Malloy to steer important, sensible gun laws to passage. Among his final accomplishments, Don led passage of Connecticut's Smart Start, a competitive grant program that moves Connecticut closer to universal pre-K education.

He served on the Board of Directors for the New England Board of Higher Education. He has championed the UCONN 2000 and UCONN 2020 initiatives to revitalize the University of Connecticut. In addition to his legislative work, Don is also publishing a biography

on the life of Prudence Crandall, which includes a significant amount of abolitionist history. His writing has received rave reviews from book critics and accolades from local historians, who appreciate the telling of this important story in Connecticut's history.

I am proud of working with Don on a number of different projects in eastern Connecticut, including the continuation of support for the Storrs Center, a mixed-use residential and commercial center, as well as ensuring Federal support for rail line revitalization.

As Senator Williams finishes up his final term, I wish him the best of luck. Although he is retiring from public office, I have no doubt that he will remain an active member of his community. I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Senator Donald E. Williams on his retirement and recognizing his remarkable career.

HONORING COMMUNITY ACTION OF
NAPA VALLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Community Action of Napa Valley as it celebrates fifty years of dedicated service to those in need in the Napa community. Community Action of Napa Valley has worked tirelessly to secure funding for local non-profit organizations in addition to developing programs that strive to address the needs of low-income and at-risk populations in the Napa region.

Community Action of Napa Valley has been able to help secure funding for numerous non-profit organizations that serve the Napa community in a multitude of ways. Such organizations and programs include Clinic Ole, Legal Aide, NEWS, Head Start/ChildStart, the Therapeutic Child Care Center and Lugo Park. In addition, Community Action of Napa Valley has worked with local elected officials and leaders in the faith community to reduce homelessness and hunger in the Napa Valley. Finally, Community Action of Napa Valley has developed programs that seek to serve those deemed low-income and at-risk in our community. Such programs include The Food Bank, Shelter and Housing Services, Senior Nutrition and Meals on Wheels, Community Action of Napa Valley Kids Child Development and Family Program and the Culinary Training Program.

For fifty years, Community Action of Napa Valley has worked to make the Napa Valley a better place to work, live and raise a family for all members of our community. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Community Action of Napa Valley and wish them continued success.

HONORING COL. J. SHELTON
SCALES

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative ROBERT HURT, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of Col. J. Shelton Scales, who passed away on May 27, 2014 at the age of 97.

Col. Scales was a native of Sandy Ridge, North Carolina, and graduated in 1940 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He enlisted in the Marine Corps of October 1940, and was a member of the first Officer Candidates Class and 4th Reserve Class in the Marine Corps Schools in Quantico. Col. Scales remained there as a staff member until 1943, that year becoming commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines.

Reports indicate that Col. Scales did not see combat until February 1944. He went on to make four beach landings during World War II, and later in life spoke most frequently about the February 19, 1945 landing at Iwo Jima.

As a commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, Col. Scales led approximately 900 men into Iwo Jima, which may very well be the Marine Corps' most brutal battle of World War II. "The Marines were on Iwo Jima," he later said. "The Japanese were in it." For his exceptionally meritorious conduct, Col. Scales was awarded the Legion of Merit.

In November 1945, Col. Scales was ordered to inactive duty as a major in the Marine Corps Reserve. In May 1951, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel, and in April 1958 Col. Scales was placed on the retired reserve list and was promoted to colonel.

In addition to being remembered as a Marine commander at Iwo Jima, Col. Scales is also remembered by many in Southside Virginia as a successful businessman, a good friend, and an involved member of his community. He joined the Burch Hodges Stone, Inc. insurance company in May 1946, retiring more than 35 years later. He served the Virginia Association of Insurance Agents as its director for nine years, and was also president of the Virginia Financial Services Corp.

Col. Scales was also a charter member and an elder of Martinsville's Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. He was involved with the Martinsville Jaycees, serving as president in 1949 and receiving the Distinguished Service award as Outstanding Young Man in 1951. Col. Scales participated in the Kiwanis Club of Martinsville, serving in 1957 as president, and in 1988–1989 served as lieutenant governor of the Capital District's Second Division of Kiwanis. He was a charter member and former secretary of the local SCORE chapter, was a charter member of the Martinsville Volunteer Fire Co., and was also a trustee of the Blue Ridge Regional Library from 1988–1993. And for several years, Col. Scales was a member of the Patrick Henry Community College Foundation Board, also teaching adjunct history courses, speaking with students and about his experience at Iwo Jima, and attending board

meetings or other events. Col. Scales and his late wife, Mary Stacy Crockett Scales, had four children.

Mr. Speaker, to echo the words of Col. Greg Eanes, U.S. Air Force (retired) of Penhook, Virginia, Col. Scales "was a great patriot and a good man." Col. Scales and other Americans have fought with great valor on behalf of our Nation, seeking to preserve our freedom and make the world a safer place. Our Nation will be forever indebted to him and others for their service.

We are honored to pay tribute to Col. Scales' many contributions to our Nation, our region, and our community. Col. Scales was a brave and courageous marine, an active member of his community, and a good friend. We grieve his loss. Southside Virginia has truly lost one of its finest.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD-
WIDE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
OF IGLESIA NI CRISTO
(CHURCH OF CHRIST)

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 100th anniversary of Iglesia Ni Cristo—the Church of Christ. This is a historic anniversary which is being celebrated around the world. This year also marks the 46th anniversary of Iglesia Ni Cristo in the U.S.

On July 27, 1914, Iglesia Ni Cristo was officially registered with the Philippines government by Felix Y. Manalo. On July 27, 1968, this church held their first ever worship service in the U.S. at Ewa Beach, Honolulu, Hawaii—which was officiated by Erano G. Manalo. A month later, the church members established a congregation in San Francisco.

In June 1987, Iglesia Ni Cristo established its U.S. main office in Daly City, California, to better coordinate with the central office in Manila, Philippines. Recently, the U.S. main office moved to the City of Burlingame, California. I am honored that my district plays host to three of these local congregations—San Jose, Milpitas, and Fremont.

I commend the good work of the many members of Iglesia Ni Cristo to provide assistance to the needy, especially those impacted by disasters. Their civic and community outreach includes relief operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and Typhoon Haiyan.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the members of the Iglesia Ni Cristo, including their Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, on this noteworthy occasion of the church's centennial anniversary. I wish them continued success in their service and faith.

TRIBUTE TO PETER LANGE,
PROVOST OF DUKE UNIVERSITY

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Peter Lange, of Durham, North Carolina, for his commitment and service to Duke University. Dr. Lange, the tenth and longest-serving Provost in the University's history, has ably guided the University's teaching and research mission during a time of marked change and challenge for communities of higher education.

Peter Lange and I have been good friends since our days together on Duke's political science faculty. He arrived at Duke in the fall of 1981 and immediately made his presence felt as a gifted teacher and a lively and engaging colleague. Peter was a well-regarded specialist in European politics and political economy, but he also showed a talent for administration from the beginning. I was particularly happy to see him become Director of Graduate Studies soon after his arrival, thereby relieving me of that position! In the 1990s he ably served as department chair in political science and thereafter took on key university-wide assignments in the Provost's office.

In 1996, Peter was appointed Provost, the University's chief academic officer. The hallmarks of his tenure have been a multiplication of interdisciplinary programs and the internationalization of the University as a whole. He has overseen establishment of programs and initiatives—such as DukeEngage, the institution's Africa Initiative, and the Institute of Global Health—that connect faculty from different disciplines to collaborate on real-world problems, and then use that knowledge to serve society and enhance both the undergraduate and graduate educational experiences. As University President Richard Brodhead said, his impact has been deep and has extended throughout university life.

As Provost, Dr. Lange has twice overseen the development of University strategic plans, shaped resource development and allocation to best serve the University's intellectual priorities, and remained engaged on admissions, financial aid, information technology, and other facets of university life. Dr. Lange has appointed all of Duke University's current deans, as well as two-thirds of current faculty members. His vision, persistence, and administrative skill have contributed greatly to Duke's status as a world class institution.

Mr. Speaker, Peter Lange has dedicated his life to expanding intellectual horizons and the University's realms of service. The students, faculty, and staff of Duke University have benefited immeasurably from his leadership, vision, and boundless energy. As his time as Provost comes to a close, I want to thank him for his exemplary service and congratulate him for a long and impactful career.

IN HONOR OF ANDREA STILLMAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this year the people of Connecticut's 20th Senate district fondly say goodbye to longtime State Senator Andrea Stillman, who is retiring from office after almost 22 years of service to her community. Known both as a champion of education and a mentor to her peers, her role in influencing both young minds and fellow legislators has left a legacy to Connecticut for years to come.

Andrea's career has been marked by determination and an ability to defy expectations. First elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives from the 38th district in 1992, she faced the daunting task of replacing another long-time public servant in Janet Polinsky, yet never backed down from the challenge. This past winter, despite health concerns that many of her colleagues expected to sideline her, Andrea persevered and continued serving her constituents in the State Senate.

In 2012, Andrea designed numerous public education reforms which will help close the achievement gap in our state, and vastly improve education from the pre-k through elementary years. Senator Stillman was also appointed by the commissioner of the State Department of Education to represent Connecticut on the New England Secondary School Consortium. Just recently, Andrea helped secure a grant for New London's Garde Arts Center that will help grow the theatre to include the New London Magnet School of Visual and Performing Arts—a critical component of New London's school system. For these efforts and countless others over the course of her career, Andrea was honored by the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents with their 2014 Legislator Award.

Beyond education, Andrea championed local initiatives large and small to improve her community. In 2004, Andrea stood by residents of East Lyme to help preserve the Oswegatchie Hills from development, and in 2007 she co-chaired a panel of legislators that helped block a proposal to build a floating liquid natural gas platform in Long Island Sound. For years, she has been vocal in seeking to improve the transportation infrastructure of Southeastern Connecticut, pursuing the continued construction of Route 11, and holding Amtrak and Shoreline East officials accountable for the quality of services provided on local rails.

Andrea's colleagues in the state legislature will remember her leadership, her collegiality, and her deep dedication to her constituents. Sporting nicknames like the "Iron Lady of Southeastern Connecticut," the "Matriarch" and the "Den Mother" of the State Senate, it is obvious how highly regarded she is by all those whom she works with. In an era of negative politics, her colleagues have lauded her as a role model for respectful dialogue on the Senate floor.

I want to wish Andrea the most sincere of congratulations on a singular career of public

service, and the best of luck in everything the future holds for her. I know she will find many more ways to contribute to the lives of residents throughout Connecticut. I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing Andrea's efforts.

HONORING DONALD L. SCHWARZ

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donald L. Schwarz for his work with the Military and Veterans Appreciation Trust Foundation (MVAT). Mr. Schwarz has worked tirelessly to raise funds to assist veterans, wounded warriors and their families as well as increase awareness of veterans' issues. Mr. Schwarz's leadership and commitment to MVAT is admirable and it is therefore fitting that we honor and recognize him today.

Mr. Schwarz was born and grew up in Los Angeles, California. He attended California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. After serving our country in the U.S. Armed Forces, Mr. Schwarz began a career in the securities and investment industry where he continues to work today.

In addition to his professional career, Mr. Schwarz has been a constant advocate for the veteran community. During his time as Chairman of MVAT, Mr. Schwarz has directed efforts to support Pathway Home in Yountville, California, which serves members of the active duty military and veterans who suffer from post-combat mental health challenges. Mr. Schwarz also volunteers his time to fifteen other charities that all strive to help our military and veterans and is an active participant in non-profit organizations that provide guidance to policymakers in the area of national security. He sits on the President's Executive Council of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation and the Board of Governors of the City of Hope Cancer and Medical Center. Mr. Schwarz is also a board member of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science and is a member of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs' Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Schwarz for his invaluable service to Napa County's veterans, their dependents, and survivors. Donald Schwarz's unyielding dedication to raising funds and awareness for our veterans and guiding our policymakers is greatly appreciated by the entire Napa community and we wish him further success in an already distinguished career.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.

This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 4

- 10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for National and Military Intelligence Programs. SVC-217
- Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection
To hold hearings to examine student loan servicing, focusing on the borrower's experience. SD-538
- Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine the impact of student loan debt on borrowers and the economy. SD-608
- Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) implementation of the Fukushima Near-Term Task Force recommendations and other actions to enhance and maintain nuclear safety. SD-406
- 10:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine evaluating port security, focusing on progress made and challenges ahead. SD-342
- Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Geoffrey W. Crawford, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont, and Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, and Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, all to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims. SD-226

- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law
To hold hearings to examine the "Location Privacy Protection Act of 2014". SD-226

- 3 p.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine military service to small business owner, focusing on supporting America's veteran entrepreneurs. SR-428A

JUNE 5

- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet
To hold hearings to examine preserving public safety and network reliability in the Internet Protocol (IP) transition. SR-253

- 10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies. SD-106

- Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine developments in Ukraine. SD-419
- Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine pending legislation. SH-216

- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia
To hold hearings to examine wildfires, focusing on assessing first responder training and capabilities. SD-342
- Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SD-G50

JUNE 9

- 3:30 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine border security, focusing on the implications of S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents. SD-342

JUNE 10

- 10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing on the Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl prisoner exchange. SVC-217

JUNE 11

- 10 a.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine the security, economic and human rights dimensions of United States-Azerbaijan relations. SR-432

- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on higher education for American Indian students. SD-628

JUNE 18

- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1948, to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program, S. 1998, to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to reserve funds for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Tribal College or University adult education and literacy, and S. 2299, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages. SD-628

JUNE 19

- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Laura Junor, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Gordon O. Tanner, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Miranda A. A. Ballentine, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy, all of the Department of Defense, and Monica C. Regalbutto, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management. SH-216

SENATE—Tuesday, June 3, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We praise You, O God almighty. Let Heaven and Earth adore You, for we are sustained by Your majesty and might. Bless our Senators, guiding them around the many distractions our busy world offers. Lord, deliver them from the inclination to pray pedestrian and comfortable prayers. May they instead pray courageously about even the things they fear and, in Your presence, hear You say, "Don't be afraid; it is I." Remove the barriers of fears, suspicions, and doubt that keep them from You. Be with them every hour of this day, teaching and guiding them with Your wisdom.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's legislation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

At 11 a.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Keith Harper to be a U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council, postcloture. The time until noon will be equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

At noon there will be two rollcall votes: first on confirmation of the Harper nomination, and then there will be a cloture vote on the nomination of Sharon Bowen to be commissioner at the CFTC.

Following the votes, the Senate will be in recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 4 years ago Washington Democrats sold this country a bill of goods. Like a Ginsu knife pitchman, they promised that ObamaCare would create jobs, improve the economy, lower premiums, and reduce health spending—all for the low, low price of not causing Americans to lose their insurance, their doctors or the hospitals they liked.

Today, Americans know the truth. It was a sham, the lie of the year, convenient deceptions told to advance the far left's agenda.

The people we represent just want the pain of ObamaCare to go away, but the Democrats who run Washington have other ideas. Just yesterday they rolled out the red carpet for a sequel. That is just what we saw when the Obama administration announced its latest front in the war on Kentucky coal jobs.

The newest attack is the most extreme yet. The President wants Americans to believe that his national energy tax can somehow heal the planet and regulate the oceans, and he wants you to believe that it can be done without harming middle-class families; that, in fact, his massive regulatory scheme will actually create jobs and bring billions in economic benefits and shrink—you heard that right, shrink—America's energy bills.

Well, if you believe that, I have some ObamaCare to sell you. This is the same President, remember, who boasted as a candidate that his energy tax policies would make electricity prices skyrocket. The truth is the President's energy tax won't even have an appreciable effect on global carbon emissions anyway.

President Obama's last Environmental Protection Agency head told us as much, saying: "U.S. action alone will not impact world CO₂ levels." That is a quote from her. She said: "U.S. action alone will not impact world CO₂ levels." That was spoken by the previous EPA Administrator.

You need emissions-heavy countries such as India and China on board first.

That is just a scientific fact, although I suspect our friends on the left will conveniently ignore it because the point of this whole exercise is sadly obvious. It is not about science or global warming at all. It is all about making privileged elitists—elitists who may not feel the pinch of a higher utility bill or the pain of a lost job—feel as if they did something.

There is another reason why the echoes of ObamaCare here are so unmistakable. The President's national energy tax represents a direct attack on the American middle class.

Experts say it would devastate entire swaths of our economy and could lead to a loss of nearly half a million jobs, according to one AFL-CIO labor union estimate. In fact, the head of that union, the United Mine Workers of America, said this energy tax would lead to long-term and irreversible job losses.

The national energy tax would also shift middle class jobs overseas, shatter our manufacturing base, and drive up energy costs for families. It is a dagger aimed right at the heart of the American middle class, at a time when our constituents are already struggling under the weight of so many of this administration's other failed policies.

Let's not forget: Opportunity has already decreased for too many families under this President's watch. Millions of our friends and neighbors are still out of work, and the economy is at a standstill.

This is President Obama's plan, to squeeze the middle class even harder, ship American jobs overseas and to do it by going around Congress? It is clear that the President is trying to impose this national energy tax via Executive order because he knows the representatives of the people would never vote for it.

He knows that Congress already rejected a similar national energy tax when he tried to pass it back in his first term. Maybe he is avoiding legislative accountability because he knows this energy tax is too cruel, because he knows it would have an especially devastating impact on the most vulnerable members of our society—the poor, the unemployed, and seniors on a fixed income.

It is a curious thing. The same elites who like to lecture us from their privileged perches about helping others are often the same people who seem to care the least about who their extreme policies hurt. To them the American people are just hoi polloi, the commoners who these elites think need their enlightened guidance.

That is especially true when it comes to coal-mining families in my State, good people who this administration hasn't even bothered to hear from. Kentucky miners know that coal keeps the lights on. All they want to do is provide for their families and put food on the table.

They have committed no crime, they have done nothing wrong, but the Obama administration has declared a war on them all the same. A White House advisor was quoted as saying that a war on coal is "exactly what's needed."

These are callous positions, to be sure, but they are easy things to say when you live hundreds of miles away, when you don't have to live with the real-world consequences of your ivory tower ideological fantasies, when you don't have to see the raw human costs of your schemes. That certainly was the approach the administration took when it scheduled listening sessions to discuss its anti-coal regulations. It only wanted to hear applause from fellow leftwing elites, so it didn't schedule a single listening session in coal country—not one.

This is what one miner said at a coal listening session that I hosted in Eastern Kentucky after the administration refused to attend: "Our biggest worries now are just trying to keep a roof over our heads [and] food on the table."

He is not alone, and he needs to know this: We are on the side of the aisle that hears him. We are not going to let this administration's anti-middle class policies go unchallenged.

That is why today I am introducing legislation, the Coal Country Protection Act, that would push back against the President's extreme anti-coal scheme. It would require that simple but important benchmarks be met before his rules could take effect.

The Secretary of Labor would have to certify that it would not generate loss of employment. The Director of the Congressional Budget Office would have to certify that it would not result in any loss in the American gross domestic product.

The Administrator of the Energy Information Administration would have to certify it would not increase electricity rates, and the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the president of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation would have to certify that electricity delivery would remain reliable.

It is just common sense. That is why I call upon the majority leader to schedule a vote on this legislation immediately and to help us pass it, because Kentucky mining families are counting on him and so are countless middle-class families in my State and across the country who stand to get hurt by this administration's cold ideological attacks.

If the majority leader and Senate Democrats stand in the way of passing

this bill, Kentuckians and the American people will remember who stood with them and who worked against them. I imagine they will want to send a majority to Washington that would actually work for the middle class for a change, instead of hurting seniors and shipping jobs overseas.

At the end of the day it comes down to this: The President's national energy tax is ObamaCare 2.0. It is a massive big-government boondoggle that is being marketed as something it isn't. It is an idea that will not even solve the larger problem it purports to address, and it will hurt the middle class.

So the President can pretend his national energy tax is about helping the environment, but we know better. It is not going to do a thing to meaningfully control global carbon emissions. This is really about growing government. It is really about making leftwing elitists feel better about themselves, and it is really about helping political supporters in places such as California and New York while inflicting serious pain on people and places like Kentucky.

I am going to continue to fight. Kentuckians deserve no less. I am going to keep vigorously fighting against the Obama administration's continued war on coal jobs and this extreme, extreme anti-middle class national energy tax in particular.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees and with the majority controlling the first half of the time.

The Senator from Illinois.

GLOBAL WARMING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise in morning business to respond to the Republican Senate leader who just spoke.

I preface my remarks by making the claim that I have made on the floor now three different times, and I am still waiting for the first Member of the other party to come to this Senate Chamber and to dispute what I am about to say.

The Republican Party of the United States of America is the only major political party in the world today that denies global warming.

I have said it. I am waiting for them to come forward and say: No, there is another one somewhere. One said: Well, we think there is one in Australia.

Really? So the entire world understands that global warming is a challenge except for one political party, the Republican Party of the United States of America.

And what have we seen with global warming? We have seen a change in the world we live in. Weather is more extreme; things are changing.

We have from time to time young people who come and visit the Senate Chamber and sit in the galleries. They are always welcomed, but of course our debate today is about them. It is about the world they will live in and a question of whether it will be habitable, a world they can live in and prosper. Don't we have an obligation, our generation, to leave that world to them and, if nothing else, a world as good as what we inherited from our parents and grandparents?

That is what this debate about. And if we are going to do that, we have to make some changes. Can America make a change? We sure can. We have led the world when it comes to change. This President sat down with the automobile manufacturers, after decades of resistance to the notion of more fuel-efficient vehicles, and hammered out an agreement that now we are driving cars and trucks that take us the same distance and burn fewer gallons of gasoline.

My wife and I drive a Ford Fusion Hybrid, 36 miles a gallon, and we can beat that with other cars, but we are pretty happy with our little Ford. Nobody put a gun to my head and said buy it. My wife and I thought it was the responsible thing to do. Ford made a great product and we bought it.

There was a time on the floor of the Senate when Ford and other companies were in denial. It will never happen, they said. It is happening. America can change for the better with leadership.

I listened to the arguments from the Senate Republican leader today about the impact of change and the impact of doing something about carbon pollution on poor people and working families. I had to come to the floor. I listened to the plaintive pleas of the Republican leader to think about poor people working and the impact it has on them, and I kept remembering it is his political party that has opposed the increase in the minimum wage, an increase in the wage these poor people are earning. They oppose it, with one exception, maybe two. Their party opposes increasing the minimum wage and comes to the floor and says we can't do anything that could hurt poor working families.

First, let them join us in a bipartisan effort to raise the minimum wage. Secondly, I can report one thing that global warming and carbon pollution is producing today. It is producing the No. 1 complaint of children brought to the emergency rooms across America. What is the most common health problem bringing children to emergency

rooms? Trauma? No. What is it? Asthma. I go to classrooms across my State, and I say to the children who are there: Hold up your hand if you know anyone who has asthma. Rural schools, urban schools, it is all the same. Hands go up across the classroom. These problems are created by the air we are forced to breathe. Are we going to do something about it? We should.

Our colleague Max Baucus from Montana recently took on the position as Ambassador to China. He and his wife were headed over and we said half jokingly: I hope the air is clean enough to breathe over there, because if you have been to China, you know it is a challenge every single day. Are we going to take a different approach in America? Are we going to set a different example in America when it comes to public health? This is our opportunity.

If we truly care about working families and their children, how can we ignore what is happening? As the air gets worse and carbon pollution increases and asthma increases, health care costs go up. Lives are compromised. I don't want to see that happen. So if we truly care about working families, care about their children and the health of their children. I might also add, care about providing these families with health insurance. Time and again the same party that came to the floor this morning, telling us about working people, has opposed our efforts to extend the protection of health insurance to working families.

Which State is one of the most successful States in the Union in signing up people when it comes to our new health insurance plan, the so-called ObamaCare? One of the most successful per capita States in the Nation happens to be the Commonwealth of Kentucky, represented by the Senator who just spoke on the other side of the aisle. Hundreds of thousands of people in Kentucky now have health insurance through the President's plan, including thousands under Medicaid.

So when we are talking about who is sensitive to the needs of working families, whether it is minimum wage or basic health insurance, I think our approach is one that has proven to be right. Over 6 million Americans have now signed up for health insurance. In my State of Illinois, over 100,000 in Cook County alone now have health insurance, and I have met some of them.

Roy Romanowski—a great Chicago name—Roy, a big barrel-chested Polish musician, was sitting next to me at a health care clinic and he said, Senator, never had health insurance in my life but have it now and patted his wallet. Now he is signed up for Medicaid. A low-income guy, takes jobs as they come along, he has health insurance—he is about 60 years old—and is happy to have it. So when we talk about standing up for working people, this is part of it.

Yes, it is a challenge when we face change. We are a coal-producing State in Illinois. We are going to have to sit down as a State and make a plan that is going to deal with reducing the pollution which is changing our planet. We can do it. I am sure we can, and America should lead the world.

How many times have our colleagues on the other side talked about exceptionalism; that America is such a different and great country. I don't quarrel with that. I don't want to be braggadocios about it, but I don't quarrel with it.

But when it comes to a challenge such as this, of cleaning up the environment, shouldn't America be a leader? Of course. That is what President Obama is asking us to do: State by State, figure out a plan that reduces carbon pollution, reduces the public health hazards children and families are facing because of the pollution, reduces the damage taking place to this environment that is changing the world we live in. That is what a leader does.

It is time for us to try to come together and work together to find a solution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

CFTC NOMINATIONS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I thank our leader Senator DURBIN for speaking on a number of subjects that actually all add up to the fact that we believe every American ought to have a fair shot to make it, whether it is jobs in a new clean energy economy. When I think about the fact that we will not have a middle class, we will not have an economy unless we make things and grow things—and that is what we do in Michigan. I think about our new clean energy opportunities. There are 8,000 parts in a big wind turbine, and somebody has to make those parts. We can make those in Michigan. So when we talk about doing the right things so we can breathe the air and drink the water, it is also about creating new opportunities for good-paying jobs for people, and it is about making sure our economy works for everybody and that everybody has a fair shot. That is the best of America.

We have before us in the Senate three nominations for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and we will be voting on one of them in a few hours. They came out of the Agriculture Committee, which I am honored to chair, so I wish to speak about them for a moment.

This independent agency, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, is entrusted with the important mission of protecting investors in the derivatives market from fraud, manipulation, and other abuses. That means

farmers and ranchers. It means consumers. It means businesses, large and small. It means a way to create capital so it can be invested in new jobs.

The oversight of this agency is incredibly important. Given this responsibility, it is imperative that we select Commissioners who have demonstrated not only expertise in global financial markets but the integrity and the judgment necessary to lead the implementation reforms contained in the Dodd-Frank financial reform law. This is a five-member Commission. Due to some changes and folks moving on in their careers, we have two members right now, one Democratic and one Republican. So we have a responsibility of now filling all five. We will have in front of us this week, at some point throughout the week, all three of the folks who came out of our committee.

We have three nominees before us who I think fit the requirement of having expertise, integrity, and judgment. The first is Republican nominee J. Christopher Giancarlo, and then we have two Democratic nominees, Tim Massad, who has been nominated to Chair the CFTC, and Sharon Bowen. All three are highly qualified nominees who were approved by the agriculture committee on a voice vote. Right now I will focus on Ms. Bowen, whom we will be voting on in just a little bit.

Within the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reforms, individual agencies were directed to establish an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion. This action was taken to address the lack of diversity of qualified men and women in Federal agencies involved in financial regulation but also subcontractors and contractors who receive billions of dollars from the government.

The CFTC itself should lead by example when it comes to diversity as well as expertise. So I am especially pleased President Obama selected Sharon Bowen as a nominee for the Commission. She will be the first African-American woman to serve on the CFTC and will be the only woman serving at this point in time on the five-member Commission. She has the expertise and experience to be an excellent Commissioner.

During her testimony before the Agriculture Committee, Ms. Bowen told of her upbringing as the youngest of five children in the small town of St. Julien's Creek in Virginia. During Ms. Bowen's youth, St. Julien's Creek was a segregated town, and her family had modest means, but these challenges forged her character. Ms. Bowen developed a knack for understanding the perspective of people who have a stake in public policy decisions but no voice in how those decisions are made.

This background has served her well throughout her years as an attorney. As a partner in the New York firm of Latham & Watkins, Ms. Bowen represented clients in a range of complex

financial transactions. So her knowledge of derivatives and global markets is based on real-world experience.

She has been selected by one publication as one of America's top Black lawyers and chosen as the Lawyer of the Year by the Metropolitan Black Bar Association.

Recognizing Ms. Bowen's talents, President Obama nominated her to be vice chair, then acting chair of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, a very important nonprofit which helps protect investors whose brokers have failed them. Ms. Bowen was confirmed by the Senate, at that time, unanimously, and I certainly hope that will happen again.

Sharon Bowen has worked tirelessly to fulfill what are called SIPC's mandates—the Securities Investor Protection Corporation—helping thousands of small investors faced with the failure of their brokerage firms. During Ms. Bowen's tenure on the board, SIPC has returned \$24.5 billion to over 9,000 investors.

Despite all her accomplishments through the years, it was evident from Ms. Bowen's testimony in the agriculture committee that she remains grounded by a sensibility for how markets have effects far beyond investors. They affect each of us. They affect consumers, farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and others who create jobs.

She recognizes the urgency of protecting these individuals from excessive speculation and manipulation. She told our committee:

I understand the importance of being the voice of the under-represented and small business owners who have not had a seat at the table, as I do today.

The CFTC needs a Commissioner of Ms. Bowen's background and skill set. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting Ms. Bowen's nomination and to quickly move forward with the nominations of Mr. Giancarlo and Mr. Massad, whom I will be speaking about more as their nominations come before us, so they can get to work protecting investors and every American who is vulnerable to abuses in the futures and swaps markets.

We need those markets to work, to create capital, and also to manage risk for those who are using the markets in order to be able to manage their own risk, and we need a full five-member CFTC of competent, qualified people in order to get that done. That is what we are doing today with the vote, and then, as we move forward this week, hopefully by the end of the week we will have the full complement of the CFTC in place.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BOWEN NOMINATION

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today in strong opposition to Sharon Bowen's nomination to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Frankly, it amazes me that we are here today discussing basically a possible promotion for Ms. Bowen. Given my experience with her in her current job as Acting Chair of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation—SIPC—and before that as Vice Chair, I can say quite frankly that she does not deserve any promotion because she has not successfully safeguarded consumers, which is her job, her mission. Instead, she has fought to safeguard Wall Street money from just compensation to the legitimate victims of the Allen Stanford \$7.2 billion Ponzi scheme.

I have been involved in this Stanford issue for quite a while because it affects a lot of folks in Louisiana, but it affects a lot of folks in every State of the country as well. These folks first and foremost were victims of Allen Stanford and his completely fraudulent activity, his Ponzi scheme that literally defrauded hard-working Americans of \$7.2 billion. But they were victimized again, quite frankly, by Federal agencies that didn't do their job—first by the SEC, which knew about this activity for 4 years before saying anything publicly, before warning anyone out there, before taking any action, and then by SIPC—including Sharon Bowen at SIPC—by refusing to take appropriate action for the victims and instead acting as if their job, their duty was to safeguard Wall Street money, not to properly compensate victims under the law.

If you read the letters and talk to the Stanford victims, as I have many times, it will just break your heart.

Charles Cook of Baton Rouge said:

My family, along with thousands of others who placed their savings in licensed brokers' hands, now faces absolute financial ruin simply because our government and government-appointed regulators did not perform their jobs of protecting us. These savings include retirement accounts, trusts for chronically ill family members, college funds, and pension plans.

Byron Ratliff, also of Baton Rouge:

Congress needs to be aware that the agency created by Congress to protect investors is using their fund to defy the federal government for the sake of denying protection to investors they helped defraud . . . We need your help now more than ever to block this ridiculous effort by SIPC. This is criminal.

Gilbert Gossen, also of Louisiana:

Has it changed our lifestyle? Yes, tremendously. Not only my wife and I have been deprived of our lifetime savings, my five children who have worked alongside with us have been unfairly deprived of their inheritance.

Carolyn Smith in Baton Rouge goes to the core of the matter:

I cannot believe this. This is killing me and my family.

Fraudulent schemes unfortunately go on all the time, but, again, what makes this so heartbreaking is the victimization upon victimization. First came the original fraud; then came the SEC, which saw this going on and did not act and did not give victims and potential victims any notice for 4 years; and then after the SEC acted, after the SEC ordered SIPC to compensate victims, SIPC—Sharon Bowen included—in an unprecedented move, refused to follow that mandate by the SEC, requiring the SEC to sue SIPC, which is now tied up in court and continues to this day.

That gets us back to the issue at hand—Ms. Bowen. The name of her current employer is supposed to be about investor protection—the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, SIPC—but she and her colleagues have acted in the direction of Wall Street protection.

The fund is funded by companies that pay into it. They pay their dues to give potential investors peace of mind, and that confidence helps build a vibrant and positive marketplace. Make no mistake that those Wall Street member companies do not want SIPC to compensate these victims because they are worried that their dues will increase. Well, it is fine for them to have their concern; it is not fine for Sharon Bowen to make those concerns win out over the law and over the facts, to ignore a mandate from the SEC, and to not properly compensate the victims of the Stanford scandal.

If, after all of this, Congress gives Ms. Bowen a promotion, condones her actions here today, and votes to support her, that will be yet another slap in the face to these victims and an action that will certainly undermine investor confidence and encourage more to follow Ms. Bowen's career path and the way she ran the Security Investor Protection Commission by advancing themselves and member companies rather than the real mission of following the law and properly compensating victims.

This is not a partisan grudge match. This is not partisan at all. I am opposing Ms. Bowen's confirmation for one simple reason: I think she has proved that she is not qualified for the job based on her track record at SIPC as well as her performance at her confirmation hearing.

Let me underscore the way in which this is not partisan at all because there are many folks who have been following this Stanford case who are directly involved who have written to

Senators on both sides of the aisle urging—urging in the strongest terms possible—opposition to this nomination.

Let's take a letter written by a self-proclaimed and lifelong Democrat from Ann Arbor, MI, a constituent of Senator STABENOW. Senator STABENOW is the chairman of the Senate agriculture committee. That certainly has a significant role in this nomination.

The letter says:

I've been writing to you over the past days regarding the growing opposition to the nomination of Sharon Bowen to the CFTC. I am writing once more to stress that this is not merely an effort to block an Obama nominee. As a lifelong Democrat I would not get behind such an initiative if I thought that's what it was. Opposing Ms. Bowen's confirmation is not a partisan issue. Simply put, it makes no sense to appoint a regulator who is being sued by another regulator (SEC vs. SIPC)! In this climate of growing cynicism toward our financial regulators, can we really afford to put one more fox outside the hen house?

In a similar way, a constituent of Senator NELSON of Florida wrote Senator NELSON and said:

We hope you will vote AGAINST confirming Ms. Bowen as a CFTC Commissioner as she does not support protecting investors. Sharon Bowen's loyalty to Wall Street instead of hard-working people like us has devastated our lives because her actions resulted in us not being able to recover our savings.

A constituent of Senator PRYOR's wrote him in a similar vein:

Based on the facts set forth below, I certainly hope you will vote against confirming Ms. Bowen as a CFTC Commissioner in order to protect the investors who rely on the CFTC's regulatory supervision.

In a similar way, Madoff victims have also weighed strongly into this matter. They have written their Senators urging them to oppose the Bowen nomination.

One Madoff victim wrote:

SIPC Chairwoman Sharon Bowen is neither a qualified nor appropriate nominee for the all-important Commodity Futures Trading Commission. As a SIPC board member, SIPC Chairwoman and an attorney representing members of the financial industry, Ms. Bowen has demonstrated repeatedly that her interest is in protecting Wall Street's interests.

Again, frauds happen all the time. It is always tragic, but it does happen. What makes this case so "triple" tragic is that the victims of the original Allen Stanford fraud were victimized again by failed bureaucracies and regulators who failed to do their jobs and continued to fail to carry out their true mandate of protecting investors.

First, the SEC dragged its feet and took way too long to take any action in this matter or to give anyone in the real world notice of what was clearly happening in the Stanford case—4-plus years—and then the SEC finally acted and agreed that these victims required compensation under the law. They told SIPC to set about giving them this

compensation, and in a completely unprecedented way, never before and never since, Sharon Bowen of SIPC said: No. We are not doing what the SEC has told us to do. We are refusing to do that.

They had to be sued by the SEC, and that legal matter is still tangled up in court with the victims of the Stanford mess, and they still have not gotten any compensation.

We can't prevent every bad thing from happening in the world, but surely we can ensure that agencies in Washington and regulatory bodies do their jobs, follow their mandates and their missions and work for investors and citizens and not be captured by narrow interests—in this case, Wall Street interests. Surely we can do that, and that, ultimately, is what this vote is all about. Are we going to do that or are we going to promote someone who has failed at her current job? Are we going to promote someone who has proved in her current job that she does not have the right mindset, the right understanding of a pro-investor, pro-consumer mission to handle that job or any other?

I urge all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats—and there is nothing partisan about this—to oppose this Sharon Bowen nomination. The victims of the Stanford scandal need some justice. They need to see that someone cares and that someone is fighting on their behalf. The victims of the Madoff scandal need exactly the same and feel exactly the same way.

Please oppose this nomination. Please vote for those consumers, those Americans, and those investors. Please vote to begin to right the ship and fix the regulatory system.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, is the Senate in a quorum call?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Yes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded and that I be allowed to speak for up to 12 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY TAX

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, everywhere middle-class Americans look, they are facing higher prices. Over the past 5½ years of the Obama Presidency, the price of everything—from milk to the refrigerator to put it in—has risen. Tuition costs have soared, gas prices have almost doubled, food prices have shot up, and then, of course, there is health care. The Presi-

dent claimed that health care premiums would fall by \$2,500 under his health care law. Instead, they have risen by almost \$3,700 during the President's administration, and they are still going up. The President's health care law has driven up the price of almost every aspect of health care, from premiums to pacemakers.

Americans are ill-equipped to meet these higher costs. Household income has declined by more than \$3,500 on the President's watch. Nearly 10 million Americans are unemployed, more than one-third of them for 6 months or longer, and 19.4 million Americans have been forced to join the food stamp program since the President took office.

Our economy is simply not posting the kind of growth we need to open opportunities for middle-class families. Economic growth actually declined last quarter, and job creation is sluggish at best. Furthermore, the jobs we are creating are not the kinds of jobs Americans need to get ahead. Seventy-eight percent of the jobs that were lost during the recession were high- or mid-wage jobs, but just 56 percent of the jobs recovered have been the same. That means almost half of the jobs we are creating are low-wage jobs—not the kind that will get Americans to a more secure financial future.

Americans have had a tough time over the past 5½ years, and if the President has his way, it is about to get much worse. This week the President's Environmental Protection Agency announced a national energy tax that will drive up Americans' energy bills and destroy jobs while essentially doing nothing for the environment.

Coal is responsible for approximately 40 percent of our country's energy production and is a significant part of the economies of several States. Currently, there are nearly 560 coal-fired powerplants in the United States, but if the administration's new greenhouse gas regulations go into effect, a majority of them will close and no new plants will be built. That means energy companies are going to have to scramble for new sources of energy. With utilities faced with fewer and more expensive sources of energy, electricity rates will soar to unprecedented levels, and that will leave millions of Americans struggling to afford their energy bills.

What the administration has proposed this week is nothing short—make no mistake about it—of a national energy tax, and it will hit low-income families and seniors who live on fixed incomes and already devote a large share of their income to the electricity bills the hardest. In my home State of South Dakota, low-income families already spend almost a quarter of their income on energy bills. There is no way they can afford to spend hundreds more to pay for President Obama's national energy tax—

that is, of course, if they can even get electricity.

The polar vortex that covered large portions of the United States with extreme cold and snow this past winter pushed the electricity grid to its limits. The Chairman of the Federal Regulatory Commission described the grid as "close to the edge," with coal-fired powerplants running at 90 percent capacity to keep houses warm during a historically cold winter. These are the very plants that are being targeted by this administration. Closing these powerplants, which provide affordable power throughout the year, will severely jeopardize our ability to produce reliable electricity and heat during times of peak power demand. This will be particularly dangerous in winter months when an overstressed grid could leave thousands of Americans without a source of heat for their homes.

Driving up energy bills and compromising the energy grid would be sufficient reason to reject the President's new carbon dioxide regulations, but that is not all these regulations will do. The President's new regulations will also destroy tens of thousands and possibly hundreds of thousands of jobs.

First, of course, there are the thousands of Americans who will lose their jobs when the coal-fired plants that they work for close their doors. Then there are the manufacturing jobs that will be lost if these regulations go into effect. U.S. manufacturing is currently enjoying a renaissance thanks to the abundant, affordable energy the United States offers. Manufacturers are actually moving production from overseas to the United States and investing billions of dollars in our economy in the process. But if we drive up the cost of energy here at home, manufacturers will no longer have the same incentive to locate jobs here in America. Instead, manufacturers will send jobs overseas.

Given the terrible costs of these regulations, one would assume that the payoff would be huge—a drastic reduction in global carbon dioxide concentration levels.

The truth is the President is proposing to devastate American families and destroy our economy for nothing, because the President's proposals would have essentially no impact—no impact—on the concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Even the President's own former EPA Administrator admitted: "U.S. action alone will not impact world CO₂ levels."

The truth is, as long as the United States is acting unilaterally, global emissions will not be reduced in any meaningful way. In fact, the President's proposals could actually drive up emissions in other countries as manufacturers send jobs from the United States to some of the world's top polluters such as India and China.

Manufacturers in the United States are already reducing emissions. U.S. manufacturing and other industrial carbon dioxide emissions are down 13 percent since 2005. In the meantime, however, China's CO₂ emissions have grown by 69 percent, while India's have grown by 53 percent.

After 5½ years of the Obama economy, Americans are struggling—struggling to pay for health care, for college tuition, for food, and for gas—and they are wondering where the promised recovery is and how long they are going to have to live paycheck to paycheck, praying they can afford unexpected bills. Too many of them are wondering if they will be able to find a job to replace the one they lost. Others are wondering if they ever will find the better paying job they have been waiting for.

Now the President is prepared to hike electricity prices for every one of these Americans. Worse, he is prepared to eliminate thousands of their jobs. For what? For a significant reduction in global carbon dioxide concentration levels? No. He is prepared to damage their budgets and destroy their jobs just so they can appear to be doing something about global warming. He is willing to overlook the economic havoc these regulations will create as long as his extreme environmental base is content.

News reports have suggested the President has backed these new carbon regulations because he believes they will be an impressive addition to his legacy. I wish to suggest that the record of lost jobs and struggling families is not the kind of legacy the President would want to leave.

I hope in the coming days we will hear from the President's party on this issue. I challenge my Democratic colleagues in the Senate to stand and tell the American people where they stand. Do they stand with American jobs and American families or do they stand with their party's environmental fringe?

The American people deserve to know. Their jobs, their standard of living, and their future hang in the balance.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF KEITH M. HARPER FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Keith M. Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12 noon will be equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

Who yields time?

If no one yields time, the time will be charged equally to both sides.

The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for approximately 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MARKETS TRANSPARENCY

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I believe in markets and I believe in transparency, and that is what I wish to speak about today. I think markets generally are the best allocators of goods and services, but in order for markets to work, people who purchase—consumers—need information. I wish to address one small piece of a very important market today.

I serve on the Budget Committee of this body and as such I have had an opportunity to look at not only the current budget but projections of future budgets. I think it is important to emphasize that virtually all the growth—all the growth—in future Federal budgets is attributable to health care—all the growth. It is not Pell grants, it is not national parks, it is not national defense, it is not the National Security Agency; it is all in health care.

There are several ways we can control those costs. One way which has been suggested is to simply shift those costs off to other people—to the States, to the elderly, to other citizens—and say it is not the Federal Government's problem; it is someone else's problem. I would suggest that is not the answer. We need to be focused on the issue of health care costs generally, for everyone—for the Federal Government as a consumer, as it is in Medicare and Medicaid, but also for all of us as health care consumers across the country.

The standard response around here to growing health care costs is to cut programs, cut recipients, reduce payments to States, or reduce payments to providers. That does nothing about the fundamental issue. I can tell my colleagues that none of these steps has anything to do with reducing the demand for services or the costs of those services. We have to spend the money we have more responsibly.

There have been discussions recently about repealing the medical device tax which was passed as part of the Affordable Care Act. The theory, by the way,

was that the Affordable Care Act would produce, as it has, millions of new customers for the private insurance industry as well as for all of those who participate in the health care system, including those who manufacture medical devices. The Affordable Care Act has produced new customers. And the theory, as I understand it, because I wasn't here when the bill was originally passed, was the industry—the businesses that will profit by the production of new customers through new people gaining insurance who never had it before—was that part of that would be paid back to support the overall system. That was the idea of the tax on medical devices. I realize the medical device tax is a controversial tax and that strong arguments can be made that it should be modified or reduced. But the repeal of the medical device tax would cost the government \$29 billion over the next 10 years. That is money, as we all know, that has to be replaced somewhere else. So I think that is a consideration that has to be taken into account as we discuss this matter which is under consideration as part of the tax extenders package.

As I looked into this issue and thought about the medical device industry, I was surprised to find it is very difficult to find out the price of an implantable medical device. One of the reasons is that the hospitals, which are the purchasers of these devices, are often prevented by agreements with the medical device company from revealing the price they pay. In other words, there is no transparency about the prices of these devices which find their way into the cost of everybody's health care.

Imagine for a moment going to buy a new car and there is no advertising about the prices of the cars. We couldn't go on the Internet and determine the prices of the cars. We couldn't compare the prices of the cars from one dealer to the other. But we go in and somebody behind a closed door says, OK, the price is \$20,200, and we are not allowed to tell anybody the price we are paying for this car, and we have to sign an agreement that we are keeping that price secret. Imagine that system, and imagine for a moment what would happen to the price of cars. I don't think it is gross speculation to assume that the price would go up, because there is no transparency.

I have filed amendment No. 3802 to H.R. 3474, which is the tax extenders bill that is pending. It simply says that when a medical device is being sold, the manufacturer cannot impose a secrecy provision on the hospitals that purchase these devices, and they also have to report median prices to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on a regular basis.

In 2012, the GAO did a report on Medicare and one of the pieces of the report was titled "Lack of Price Trans-

parency May Hamper Hospitals' Ability to Be Prudent Purchasers of Implantable Medical Devices"—a long title, but the conclusion is contained in the title: "may hamper hospitals' ability to be prudent purchasers." Well, if hospitals can't be prudent purchasers, we who are paying the bills, quite often through Medicare and Medicaid, are not able to get the best prices. Who pays? All of us pay.

This amendment would prohibit medical device manufacturers from requiring hospitals and buyers to sign purchasing agreements that contain confidentiality clauses that would restrict them from revealing the prices paid for medical devices to third parties. In addition, as I mentioned, the amendment would require these manufacturers to submit the average and median sales prices of covered devices to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on a quarterly basis.

In 2007, my good friend Senator GRASSLEY from Iowa sponsored a bipartisan bill to create a process of reporting this kind of price data to HHS, and I believe it is time to do just that.

To the extent that prices of implantable medical devices, which are very expensive generally, are not disclosed, the ability of hospitals to bring price information to bear in negotiations and decisions is clearly limited. I believe if we are going to talk about repealing a medical device tax, we should also talk about calling upon the industry to provide to consumers and policymakers greater transparency in order to better control costs.

In a world of limited resources, we have to spend the money we have most wisely. It is very difficult to spend money wisely if prices and comparative prices and prices of the various components of the health care system are essentially kept secret.

This is a simple amendment. It is simply based upon the fundamental idea that markets work, but they only work when consumers—in this case, hospitals—have the information necessary to make good purchasing decisions. I think markets, as I said at the beginning, are the best way to allocate goods and services, but that information is necessary for markets to work, and that is the purpose of this amendment.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time between now and 12 noon during quorum calls be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KING. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPEAK UP ACT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise this morning just before the noon hour to talk about our children, a topic which does not get nearly enough attention in Washington. I will try to focus on just one issue. Both parties in this body and in the other body indicate, on a pretty frequent basis, that they are in favor of supporting strategies to protect and to help our children, but not enough attention is paid to what that strategy should be and what the elements of it should be.

I believe it should at least have four major components. One is to make sure children have every opportunity for more early learning. In addition, we need to make sure more children are covered by health insurance and get quality health care. We made a lot of strides in that in the last couple of decades, but we still have a ways to go.

We need to make sure children are protected, an issue I will speak about today in particular. Obviously, we want to put in place better strategies to make sure children have enough to eat and are eating food that is nutritious. So today I will focus on the question of protection.

We know that as we head into the last couple of days of the school year, children are starting to look forward to summer activities such as camp and summer sports and other activities. That is the good news. The bad news is that can create opportunities for people who would do them harm. It is important to reiterate the responsibility adults have generally but in particular at this time of the year.

Adults have an abiding responsibility to protect children from harm and to speak up, literally to speak up when they suspect a child is a victim of abuse or neglect. We know many cases of abuse and neglect go unreported, sometimes for years, sometimes even until a child has died or suffered other terrible consequences as a result of years of neglect or abuse.

For example, in 2012, in Pennsylvania there were 3,565 substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect. Across the Nation, 678,047 children were victims of abuse and neglect in the country as a whole, although I think it is important to point out the number I read from Pennsylvania: 3,565 substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

That means two things: It was reported, and we know the overwhelming number do not get reported. So even among the category of those that were reported, they had to be substantiated reports of abuse and neglect. I believe if we had just a broad category of children in our State—and it is true of a lot of other States as well—who are the victims of abuse and neglect, it would far exceed 3,565 cases, but that number alone is horrific and should cause us to

do a lot more than we are doing, not just in Pennsylvania but around the country. We saw in Pennsylvania a horrific example. Many people read the news about Penn State over the last couple of years. In that case, children were being abused by an individual they were supposed to be able to trust, an authority figure and other authority figures who did little about reporting it.

We know there is a significant variation across the country in the types or categories of adults who are required by law to report suspected or known child abuse and neglect. Not all States require, for example, camp counselors to be so-called mandated reporters under the law, meaning an adult who has a legal duty by statute to report on child abuse or suspected child abuse. Some States have a long list of categories, some States have shorter lists. We know not all States require camp counselors or even coaches to report instances. So we need to do something about that. That is why I have introduced legislation to directly address it.

The Speak Up to Protect Every Abused Kid Act, which is more simply known as the Speak Up Act, would require all States to pass and enforce a law requiring adults with a professional responsibility to children to report instances of known or suspected child abuse in order for States to receive funding through the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the so-called CAPTA legislation, the Federal statute that focuses on child abuse and neglect prevention and response.

So if they are going to have the benefit of those Federal dollars, they have to do more to protect children. That is what we are saying to States. The legislation will close a loophole that allows abusers to get away with heinous crimes and emphasize the responsibility of all adults to protect children from abuse and neglect.

States have a wide variety of standards, as I mentioned, for whom they designate as so-called mandated reporters. Some States require all medical professionals to be mandated reporters. Others only specify certain types of health care providers. Under the Speak Up Act, States would have to require all of these adults to be mandated reporters or forfeit their Federal funding under the so-called CAPTA Act, the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act.

The Speak Up Act also requires that these mandated reporters give their reports directly to State authorities responsible for investigating child abuse and neglect. In some States, and in Pennsylvania I am pleased to report, there is a unified system of reporting, which is called the ChildLine, that accepts all reports. In this case, in Pennsylvania, one could call an 800 number and report child abuse and neglect.

I have asked myself—and I am not sure we will ever get the answer to this—what if—not only in a random set of cases but in the case of Penn State—one adult or more than one adult had called an 800 number early in the case history, even with a suspicion, reason, or grounded in fact, but a suspicion or direct evidence of child abuse? What if they had called that number. Could children have been protected; could child abuse have been prevented?

I don't know the answer, but I think if more people use that kind of method, they might be able to prevent a lot more cases of abuse.

Other States may require reporting to law enforcement or so-called child protective agencies.

Finally, the act itself, the Speak Up Act, closes a loophole in an existing law that can leave children in danger because their abuser is from another State or because a child was visiting another State when he or she was abused.

In the summer this becomes especially relevant when children may be attending camps where they are not just going back and forth to camp—a camp where they stay overnight, night after night, or other programs where they might have access to or be enrolled in, I should say, another State. Under the Speak Up Act, we make it clear that the State where the incident occurred has the obligation to investigate the incident, and other States must help if necessary. So that gives a further protection to children that is not in the law today.

The legislation in the Speak Up Act will provide as well standard reporting requirements across all States while still allowing States to go beyond what is required if they seek to do that.

I don't know why we don't have this in law already. Why should we have a variety of measures in place to protect children? We should standardize that. Every State should meet a certain minimum standard when it comes to protecting children. If States want to add people to their mandated reporter list, require more adults or more categories of adults to be listed, then they could do that, but there should be a standard reporting requirement across the country.

So as we begin the summer, I urge adults who work with children to remember their responsibility to speak up and to act to protect children, to make sure they know how to report abuse and neglect, if necessary.

If you are in that category of mandated reporters already, you obviously not only have a legal duty to report, but I think you have a responsibility to find out today how you report, what method will you employ, what resource will you access to report instances of child abuse or suspected child abuse. But even if you are not sure you are in that category of mandated reporter, if

you are an adult and you have an obligation to or your job entails working with children, I believe you have an obligation to find out not only when you are a mandated reporter but how you can report suspected cases of abuse and neglect.

Of course, if you are an adult, it may not be legally required. It doesn't, of course, foreclose the possibility that you could and should report instances of abuse and neglect, even if you don't have a legal duty.

I believe every adult has some kind of duty—maybe not in law but certainly a duty as a citizen and as an adult—to be vigilant, to keep your eyes open, and to focus your attention on protecting children. We all have an abiding obligation.

This is a time of the year when children have a lot of time away from school, and they have a lot of enjoyment in the summer. We should make sure we are being very vigilant, though, at this time of the year to speak up and to protect our children.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BOWEN NOMINATION

Ms. STABENOW. I will take just a moment. Our colleague from Louisiana was on the floor a while ago referring to one of the nominees we will have coming up for a cloture vote in a moment to the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, which is so significant.

I want to correct a few things in the record for my colleagues and first remind everyone that Ms. Bowen, who will be the nominee in front of us, was unanimously confirmed by the Senate to be a director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, where she has honorably served, after 25 years of representing clients in complex financial transactions as a partner of a major international firm.

The issue that has been raised on the floor relates to a decision that was made unanimously by the board she chairs that relates to a particular case where there is no question that there were citizens who were ripped off in a Ponzi scheme, the Stanford Ponzi scheme, in fact.

The question that came before this board that covers certain kinds of losses is whether what happened is something that could be covered under this particular entity, the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

Based on legal advice, outside counsel, and review, the board unanimously looked at this and said, unfortunately, due to law—which was written by Congress—this particular board could not cover the fraud victims in this particular case.

This subsequently went to the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, which concluded the current law does not authorize SIPC to cover these particular fraud victims. This has now gone on to the Court of Appeals.

SIPC and Ms. Bowen have indicated that if the Court of Appeals rules in favor of the victims, they are more than happy to include them and to reimburse them for the terrible situation they all found themselves in. This is a legal question of whether this particular fund is allowed to reimburse these particular victims of fraud. There have been over 9,000 victims who have been reimbursed through this fund in a lot of different situations, but it is a legal question.

The way this has been interpreted by our colleague from Louisiana—that somehow this is something personal that Ms. Bowen is involved in to try to stop these people, these victims, from being able to be reimbursed and made whole—is absolutely false. Again, this is an issue in the court. If the court rules in favor of those who were victims of this Ponzi scheme, then the group, the agency, the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, has indicated they will move forward and include them under the scope of their responsibility for reimbursement.

Certainly what happened to people in this situation is terrible. I understand their concerns and wanting to find a way to be able to be made whole. But this is a legal question that was unanimously decided by a board of directors, of which Ms. Bowen is now the chair, it was recommended by outside counsel, and it was also something that was upheld by the Federal district court. It is now in the Court of Appeals. If the Court of Appeals changes and reverses the lower court, then they will act accordingly.

We should not have the situation where a very qualified member and nominee for this very important oversight agency, the futures industry, would be held responsible or somehow be caught up in the politics. I appreciate the legitimate concerns, but to lay those at the feet of this woman, at this point, simply is not fair.

Again, she was, on her qualifications, unanimously confirmed by the Senate once already, and I would urge colleagues to join together to support moving forward on this nomination with the cloture vote and ultimately to support her.

She has strong support throughout the country, is known for standing up for victims, and will play a very important role and be a very important voice going forward with the Commodities Futures Trading Commission.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, what is the regular order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time until noon is equally divided on the Harper nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Has that time expired?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour of 12 noon having arrived, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Keith M. Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted “nay.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 165 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Begich	Heitkamp	Pryor
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	
Harkin	Murray	

NAYS—42

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Murkowski
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Chambliss	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoeven	Rubio
Coburn	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johanns	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Crapo	Kirk	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Cochran	Rockefeller
Boozman	Lee	Udall (CO)

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Harry Reid, Debbie Stabenow, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Michael F. Bennet, Benjamin L. Cardin, Ron Wyden, Joe Donnelly, Christopher A. Coons, Mark Begich, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Amy Klobuchar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the nomination of Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2018, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted “nay.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 166 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—44

Alexander	Barrasso	Burr
Ayotte	Blunt	Chambliss

Coats	Heller	Portman
Coburn	Hoeven	Risch
Collins	Inhofe	Roberts
Corker	Isakson	Rubio
Cornyn	Johanns	Sanders
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Cruz	Kirk	Sessions
Enzi	Landrieu	Shelby
Fischer	McCain	Thune
Flake	McConnell	Toomey
Graham	Moran	Vitter
Grassley	Murkowski	Wicker
Hatch	Paul	

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Cochran	Rockefeller
Boozman	Lee	Udall (CO)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 50, the nays are 44. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF SHARON Y. BOWEN TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 15 of the 113th Congress, there will be up to 8 hours of postcloture consideration of the nomination, equally divided in the usual form.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Harper nomination the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the time following the scheduled recess until 4 p.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, and at 4 p.m. all postcloture time be expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of Calendar No. 755, Bowen; that following disposition of Calendar No. 755, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Calendar Nos. 691, Mastroianni; 692, Hendricks; 733, Chutkan in the order listed; further, that if cloture is invoked on any nomination, then, on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at 11 a.m., all postcloture time on the nominations be expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; further, that following these votes, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Calendar No. 798, Burwell; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each of these votes, equally divided in the usual form; that any rollcall votes, following the first in each series, be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon

the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, with this agreement we will have four rollcall votes today at 4 p.m. and as many as four rollcall votes on Wednesday at 11 a.m.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:52 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

NOMINATION OF SHARON Y. BOWEN TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 4 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Who yields time? If neither side yields time, all time will be equally charged.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we are not in a quorum call, are we?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The Senator is correct.

EPA RULE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, 17 years ago the Senate voted on something called a sense-of-the-Senate resolution designed to protect American workers and their families from misguided policy with regard to CO₂ regulations. Of course, CO₂, or carbon dioxide, is a necessary element of life, and plant life depends on CO₂ for photosynthesis, which helps make them green. To hear some of the pseudoscientists talk about CO₂ here in Washington, you would think it was poison. Suffice it to say, 17 years later the Obama administration is trying to enact similar legislation that was rejected 17 years ago by the Senate in that sense-of-the-Senate resolution.

Back in 1997 Members of the Senate were concerned that the Clinton administration might sign a global climate change treaty that imposed higher costs on the United States while exempting developing countries such as China or India. These concerns turned out to be well-founded. The Clinton administration did indeed sign such a treaty known as the Kyoto Protocol in December of that year, but it never got around to having it ratified here in the Senate largely because of a unanimous resolution this Chamber passed several months earlier.

The sense-of-the-Senate resolution I alluded to a moment ago was voted on in July 1997, and it received 95 votes in favor and 0 votes opposed. Ninety-five Senators expressed their opposition to any climate change agreement that would result in serious harm to the economy of the United States. They also rejected any agreement that failed to include other countries, and that is for good reasons I will explain in a moment.

The message sent by these 95 Senators—a unanimous vote in the Senate—is pretty clear. It makes absolutely no sense for America to adopt job-killing carbon regulations while CO₂ emissions from developing countries continue to skyrocket and are not subjected to the same restrictions.

Don't just take my word for it. Listen to what one of the most prominent supporters of the 1997 resolution, Secretary of State John Kerry—at the time he was the junior Senator of Massachusetts—had to say:

It's just common sense that if you are really going to do something to effect global climate change, and you are going to do it in a fair-minded way . . . we need to have an agreement that does not leave enormous components of the world's contributors and future contributors of this problem out of the solution.

In effect, what he was saying was: Why would America do this to itself and throw a wet blanket on job creation and economic growth when other countries were going to continue to produce CO₂ unabated?

One of the cosponsors of this resolution was the late Democratic Senator Robert Byrd. The Presiding Officer knows Senator Byrd and his legacy very well. While explaining his opposition to the Kyoto-style climate deals, Senator Byrd said:

I don't think the Senate should support a treaty that requires only half of the world . . . to endure the economic costs of reducing emissions while developing countries are free to pollute the atmosphere, and in so doing, siphon off American industries.

Another cosponsor was Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, who was then the junior Senator from Nebraska. He described the likely consequences of Kyoto-style agreements in these terms:

As industries flee the United States and other industrialized countries, they would re-establish themselves in developing countries that have much weaker environmental standards than our own.

I have just one more point about the Kyoto Protocol, which was unanimously voted down, in essence, 17 years ago.

A year after that, in 1998, there was a then-unknown Illinois State senator who voted on legislation that denounced Kyoto and prohibited State regulation of greenhouse gases in Illinois. If you guessed it was Barack Obama, you would be right.

One of the State senators voting in favor of the bill, condemning Kyoto,

and banning State regulations of greenhouse gases in Illinois was Barack Obama. President Obama voted for legislation that explicitly rejected the type of CO₂ regulations that he is now trying to impose on the entire U.S. economy.

Yesterday I discussed some of the costs of those regulations, how enormous they would be, and how they would disproportionately fall on the poor and middle class in our country. The truth is most of the burden of higher energy costs would fall on retired people, seniors, and people on a fixed income.

In my State our electricity capacity is regularly strained due to the hot August summers. People in my State depend on their air conditioners for safety. The threat of limited access to electricity, or higher costs that people can't afford, literally threatens their health and safety, and certainly their welfare. Lost jobs, lost wages, higher utility rates, and tighter family budgets are the inevitable consequences of this proposed EPA rule that was announced late last week.

For that matter, the EPA has also proposed another rule on new powerplants that would impede technological innovation. Several of my Democratic colleagues expressed their deep concern about the additional EPA rule in a recent letter to the President. These seven Democrats noted that "American technology providers would be incentivized to stop research and innovation in coal combustion, further delaying domestic development of pioneering new technologies that could be exported to improve plants around the world."

Earlier today one of these Democrats who signed the letter, and happens to be the Presiding Officer at this time, said the Obama administration was "working against us" on CO₂ regulations, and he described the EPA proposals as "unreasonable and unacceptable." This is obviously not a partisan issue by any means.

Any regulation that is this costly is almost impossible to justify unless it was to have clear benefits that outweighed those costs. President Obama's EPA rule can't lay claim to having enormous benefits in spite of these huge costs.

Even if you agree with my friends about the long-term risks posed by rising CO₂ emissions, and that this sort of regulation is justified, the projected growth of global emissions over the coming decades has almost nothing to do with America and almost everything to do with developing countries such as China and India.

Indeed, our emissions have gone down over recent history. Some of that has been due to the renaissance of natural gas, which burns cleaner. But the fact is that anything we would do would be confined to the United States

and our economy and would have no impact whatsoever on developing countries such as China and India. Indeed, China—by a very wide margin—is already the planet's largest CO₂ emitter. The U.S. Government estimates that China alone will account for nearly half of all growth in worldwide emissions between 2010 and 2040.

In short, nothing America does by itself or to itself will stop global emissions from rising. In fact, even if we could magically reduce our own emissions to zero over the next quarter century, worldwide emissions would still increase significantly without major reductions in China, India, and other developing countries.

Yet, despite all these costs to American workers and American families—literally a threat due to the lack of grid capacity in places such as Texas because of high-priced energy—President Obama is moving ahead with this massive new energy tax that is effectively, in the words of our colleague from Louisiana, all pain and no gain, and he is right.

To put this in context, I think it is important that anyone who happens to be listening understands a few points.

No. 1, regardless of what the President calls it, the proposed EPA rule is indeed a massive new national energy tax, one that will affect all workers, all consumers, and all families in America.

No. 2, the reason it is being enacted via the regulatory process is because Members of the Senate rejected it 4 years ago at a time when even our Democratic colleagues had a supermajority. In other words, they could have done it when they wanted to when the Senate controlled the White House and both Chambers of Congress, but they chose not to do it then.

No. 3, it fits with a broader and deeply disturbing matter. Time and time again, the President has used unelected bureaucrats to skirt the normal legislative progress and override the will of Congress and avoid any kind of electoral accountability.

The point is this: When the President, who is not going to stand for election again, gets the Environmental Protection Agency to issue regulations, those bureaucrats don't run for election. The American people—my constituents in Texas and the Presiding Officer's constituents in West Virginia—can't vote the rascals out of office, so there is no accountability in the system. That is what the President was bragging about when he said: I have a phone, and I have a pen. He was effectively saying he was going to do it alone, and that is what he is trying to do here.

The result has been a misguided explosion of burdensome and onerous regulations, and those have a cost to our economy. The last quarter—the last 3 months of the year—we learned that

instead of the economy growing in a way that will create more jobs and reduce unemployment, the economy actually contracted. It shrank by a full percentage point. One of the reasons why the economy shrank is because of overly burdensome regulations where there is no cost-benefit analysis, much less any cost-benefit calculus whatsoever.

According to one estimate, between 2009 and 2013, Federal regulatory costs increased by nearly \$500 billion—a truly astonishing figure. Not only have these regulations proven to be onerous and unwieldy, they have been implemented by agencies that are hopelessly incompetent at handling even basic responsibilities.

As my friend the junior Senator from Oklahoma said a few years ago:

It is absurd to allow an agency as incompetent as the EPA to exercise vast new powers when they can't manage less complex tasks. If the EPA can't train 250,000 contractors to manage lead paint rules . . . why should we expect them to regulate the energy-consuming processes used in every sector of the economy?

If this competence question of a huge bureaucracy sounds familiar, I think we are now learning that when the hubris overcomes the good judgment of leaders here in Washington and decides to take over one-sixth of the economy, which is our health care sector, you get ObamaCare and the disaster that has proven to be in terms of its implementation.

None of the essential promises that were made about how it would actually work have been kept. In other words, if you like what you have, you can keep it, the price would go down \$2,500 for a family of four, and, yes, you can keep your doctor. None of those promises have proven to be true. Yet those were the promises upon which ObamaCare was passed. Now we see the administration make additional extravagant promises that can only be borne out of hubris based on what we have seen as the implementation of ObamaCare.

Not only have these regulations proved to be onerous, they are not going to work the way the administration predicts, except we are pretty sure it will kill jobs and reduce economic growth and further extend this lengthy recession which has been the slowest economic recovery in America since the Great Depression.

At a time of mass unemployment and historically low levels of labor force participation, America needs an energy policy that is projobs and proworker and profamily. This new EPA rule is the opposite of that. It would destroy jobs, it would hurt workers, and it would hurt consumers because it would raise the cost of living for middle-class families, including people on fixed incomes such as seniors. The fact that such a regulation is even being considered not in Congress but in the executive branch agencies such as the EPA,

amid the weakest economic recovery since the Great Depression, illustrates once again how misguided this administration's priorities truly are.

I wish to clarify once again that the debate over President Obama's EPA rule is not about the science of climate change; it is a debate about whether massive regulations should be forced to pass a simple cost-benefit analysis. The EPA rule clearly fails that test.

For all of those reasons and plenty more, we will be continuing to urge President Obama, from this side of the aisle but in a bipartisan way, to put jobs and families ahead of politics and ideology.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for 9 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BURWELL NOMINATION

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I appreciate the Presiding Officer allowing me to speak this afternoon. I am speaking in the context of a nomination we are likely to consider on the floor this week. I am told on Thursday we are going to be asked to confirm the President's nomination of Sylvia Burwell to be the next Secretary of Health and Human Services.

This is a very important job for a number of reasons. One reason is it is the job in charge of implementing the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as ObamaCare. Therefore, I think it is an appropriate time to talk about the urgent need for us to address some of the continuing problems we have had with implementation.

This whole subject of ObamaCare of course has divided this Chamber pretty sharply over the last few years. Part of the reason is it was forced through the Congress without a single bipartisan vote; in other words, all Democratic votes and not a single Republican vote. Also, it was pushed through quickly, so it resulted in a lot of problems. We have seen that in terms of the implementation of ObamaCare generally, including some of the computer problems and some of the concerns people have about having their health care canceled and so on.

I wish to speak about a specific issue with regard to implementation, one on which I hope we could be together, that this issue would unite us as Republicans and Democrats—that we would take forceful action to deal with it. It is an issue I think all of us agree on because it has to do with the taxpayers.

It has to do with money that might be going out under ObamaCare that is not appropriate. It is ensuring that the subsidy payments in ObamaCare are going to the people who actually qualify for them.

As this Chamber knows, the subsidies started to flow on January 1. ObamaCare provides subsidies to health care premiums for low- and middle-income Americans who don't qualify for Medicaid. They are not under the poverty line but are above the poverty line; actually, above 133 percent of the poverty line. In fact, people who earn up to 400 percent of the poverty line are eligible for these subsidies. Recently, the Kaiser Foundation estimated the number of people who can legally qualify for these funds and receive them is about 6.6 million Americans. These subsidies can be fairly large. They can exceed \$10,000 a year, for instance, for a family of four. So we are talking about billions of dollars of taxpayer money. The question is, Are they going to the right people? I think, because there is so much money involved, the American people should be able to rightly expect that the government has in place a system to ensure that the people who are supposed to get it are getting it and to ensure that those who are claiming the subsidies and receiving the taxpayer dollars are eligible for them.

In January of this year, in response to a requirement actually attached to legislation that passed the Senate called the Ryan-Murray budget—in response to that legislation where there was a requirement that there be some sort of process put in place—the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, ensured Congress in a letter that HHS had “implemented numerous systems and processes to carry out” income verification procedures.

So she sent a letter to the Congress saying: Don't worry about it. We have it covered. We have implemented numerous systems and processes to carry out income verification procedures.

Unfortunately, what we are finding out now—and here we are, gosh, 6 months later—is that a lot of those assurances might not be accurate, that it appears as though they have not put in place these processes.

The Washington Post wrote a recent article that got my attention. It got my attention because it reported that, in fact, no permanent system has been built that is capable of verifying those eligible to receive the subsidies. In fact, according to internal reports that were obtained by the Washington Post, since no computer capability for verifying eligibility yet exists, Health and Human Services will begin sorting through all these applications by hand at some indefinite date in the future.

So this is concerning. These internal reports are not reports we have here in

Congress. They are not reports my constituents have. The American people have not been able to see these reports. But the Washington Post got hold of some that showed, in fact, they have not put in this permanent system or an automated system of any kind that you would normally expect with this kind of money going out the door.

So here we are in 2014 and the U.S. Government is going to comb through, I guess by hand, literally millions of documents of people who are claiming subsidies—by hand—and try to figure out how to deal with it. It is like something out of a bad movie, but it is not a laughing matter because the consequences are significant.

The Washington Post reports that the government may already be paying incorrect subsidies to more than 1 million people, although that is just a best guess. These fraudulent payments—if that is accurate—of course, would then be costing the American taxpayers millions, maybe billions of dollars.

When news broke about this problem last month through this story in the Washington Post, I wrote a letter to Secretary Sebelius at the Health and Human Services agency. I also wrote it to the IRS Commissioner because the obvious thing to do would be to check the information that is given with the IRS records to see whether the 1040 matches up with what you are saying your income is.

In the letter, I said: Can you give us the answers about these very serious questions that have been raised, and can you tell us what the Department of Health and Human Services is doing about this?

I asked for a response by June 1. It is now past June 1 and I have received nothing but silence in response. That is why I have come to the floor today to say, look, I do not think anybody on either side of the aisle in the Senate thinks this is acceptable. Some on the other side might say: Well, we are more concerned about people who are not getting the subsidies they are eligible for because the verification is not in place to help them. That is fine. The point is that the subsidies ought to go to the people who are eligible. Whether they are overstating or understating their income and therefore made eligible or not eligible, there ought to be a system in place. That is a minimum requirement, I would think, that we would all want to have in place to be able to, again, save these payments from going out in a fraudulent way, to the tune of what could be billions of dollars. I cannot imagine anyone thinks the current situation is acceptable.

So we are going to see if HHS gets its act together and gets serious about enforcing these rules. I think it is going to require new leadership. That is why I am hoping that with the nomination and debate this week of Sylvia Burwell

to be the next Secretary of HHS, we can have a discussion about this issue and that she can provide some of that new leadership from the top to ensure that indeed we do have accountability through the system and we can figure out whether this situation will be resolved.

Unfortunately, I think it is also going to require leadership from the top-top, meaning from the White House as well. This is not an isolated incident, unfortunately, of incompetence, I would say, on behalf of our Federal Government in implementing in this case a very complicated law. We have seen this recently with the scandal that has involved the VA—the VA health system—another big complicated system that is obviously not working to take care of the needs of our veterans, who should be at the front of the line receiving the best care and too often we find out are at the back of the line or maybe are not on the list at all, as we saw with regard to the Phoenix VA center, where 1,700 people were just taken off the list altogether. We have seen it with regard to the IRS scandal, where you have the Internal Revenue Service actually going after Americans because of their political beliefs. Nothing could be more wrong in terms of building faith and trust in our Federal system than to think that the tax collector is going after folks because of their political beliefs.

So all these recent issues that have come up of incompetence and of the government not keeping the trust are bad. It is bad even in good times. Today is not good times because already that faith in the Federal Government is at record lows. The faith in this institution is at a record low, they say.

It should be our responsibility to begin to rebuild that faith by doing what makes sense. What is going on at HHS does not make sense. Everyone knows there needs to be a system in place and a permanent automated system to deal with this; the same with the VA, the same with the IRS. I hope we see that kind of leadership. I hope we can do that because it is the right thing to do for taxpayers, but it also rebuilds trust in the American Government system. To do that is going to require some serious and immediate action.

In the case of HHS, I call on the administration today to make good on the promise they made in January where they said: No problem. We have it covered. We have a system in place to ensure that there are not mispayments going out, that only folks who are eligible are going to get these payments.

In the process of Sylvia Burwell's nomination, let's raise this issue. Let's encourage her to show leadership at HHS to be able to deal with this issue.

Let's ensure that subsidies are going to the right people and that taxpayers are being protected.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the time.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, during this last break I went back to Illinois and visited a lot of college campuses. I went to Augustana College, which is in the Quad Cities, and then went to Illinois State University in Normal, IL, and then down to the University of Illinois.

At each one of those campuses I had a press conference about student debt. Student debt today has reached a point where we have to pay close attention to it—and we should. The vast majority of Americans ask a very basic question: Senator, is there anything you are doing today that really is going to help my family? For 44 million Americans currently paying on student loans in America, legislation that is going to be introduced tomorrow can make a big difference.

I am cosponsoring a bill with ELIZABETH WARREN, the Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a very bright lady who was on the faculty of the Harvard Law School and who understands these issues better than almost anyone I have ever met. She is leading the way on a college student loan refinancing bill.

Here is what we are trying to do. We are trying to get those students who are trapped in big debts with high interest rates a chance to refinance their loans. How significant could it be? Well, when I met these students at different schools, they told me their stories. As a former college borrower myself, as a father raising three kids who went through college, it was sad. It was really sad to hear their stories because the amount of debt that students are running into now is dramatically higher than anything those of us who were in the early stages of college loans ever experienced.

I will not even tell you how much I borrowed because it makes me sound ancient. But it scared me to death when I borrowed that money to go through college and law school for fear I would never pay it back. It turns out I did as I was supposed to. But students today many times find themselves so deeply in debt they just cannot get out from under it.

Now, I am going to set over here on this side a whole category of speeches

on institutions known as for-profit colleges and universities. They are in a special place in my thinking. For-profit colleges and universities, who are they? The biggest one is the University of Phoenix. Apollo Group owns a series of universities. You have seen their advertising, I will bet.

They, at one point, had over 450,000 students in this University of Phoenix network of schools across the country. The second biggest is DeVry, another for-profit university out of my State of Illinois. Kaplan is the third largest. I am going to set them over here because they are in a special category. They are in a category of colleges and universities that we ought to be doing something about.

Three numbers tell the story about the for-profit colleges and universities. Ten percent of high school graduates go to for-profit colleges and universities. Ten percent of America's high school graduates go to these schools. These schools receive 20 percent of all Federal aid to education—10 percent of the students, 20 percent of the Federal aid.

These for-profit colleges and universities receive over \$32 billion a year in Federal aid. Why is it so much if they only have 10 percent of the students? Because they charge so much when it comes to tuition. But here is the number: 46. Forty-six percent of all student loan defaults are students out of for-profit colleges and universities.

Why? Worthless diplomas, too much debt, and the students cannot find work to pay off their debts. Now, what if you have a college loan? There is something you ought to know about it. You probably heard it. It bears repeating. There are only a handful of debts in America that you can incur as an American citizen that cannot be discharged in bankruptcy: taxes—you have to pay those—child support, alimony, and college student loans.

No matter what happens to you financially, there is virtually no way out. The loan you take out to go to college is with you for a lifetime. Even in bankruptcy you cannot discharge it. At the end of bankruptcy, it is still sitting there. Unfortunately, the interest is growing.

That is why we have to take a look at it. Let's move aside from the for-profit college world, which I think is a separate issue, but a very important one, and look at the big picture. For too many Americans the promise of a fair shot at an affordable college education has become a long shot. Average tuition and fees at 4-year public colleges has more than tripled in the last 30 years. I can guarantee you that income for American families has not tripled in that same period.

Tuition has outpaced inflation for 32 straight years. The cost of education at all colleges and universities has been going up dramatically. No other major

consumer expenditure, including health care, can make that claim. It is not just low-income students who feel the impact of these rising costs. It is middle-income students and their families as well. Since 2003 the amount of student loan debt in America has quadrupled. Nationally there are now almost 40 million borrowers with more than \$1 trillion in debt. There is more student loan debt in America today than the combined sum total of all credit card debt. That is more than there is in auto loans. Only mortgages would be a higher category of debt in terms of its total cost.

The average student loan debt increased by 49 percent between 2005 and 2012 to \$27,850. On average, Illinois graduates in the class of 2012 left with a little over \$28,000 in debt, but their individual debts, as you might guess, are much higher; and 1.7 million Illinoisans have outstanding student loan debt out of a population of about 12.5 million.

What effect does \$1 trillion in student loan debt have on the American economy. The Federal Reserve warns us that it is threatening current and future economic growth. The student loan debt crisis has been compared to the mortgage crisis we went through 8 or 9 years ago. It is ingrained in American culture that each successive generation wants to do better than the previous one. But student loan debt is crippling middle-class growth for younger generations.

Currently the median household wealth of people my age, in the 55-to-65 bracket, is 44 times the net worth of the median household of people younger than 35. People under the age of 35 are struggling. This is historically unprecedented and has a lot to do with the student loan debt.

I have heard from so many people in my State about this issue. They say student loan debt is preventing them from buying a car, borrowing any more money to finish their education, having their own place to live, getting married and, once married, having children. I have met couples who have said: We made a family decision; no kids until we pay off the student loans; I am not sure we will be able to pay them off in time to make that decision.

Think about that for a second. They cannot even start a family because of the student debts and the fear that they are going to default on them. I heard it firsthand back in Illinois last week. One student I met, Mabinty Tarawallie, is struggling with student loan debt even though she has done everything right. She immigrated to the United States from Africa when she was 11 years old. Her family was very poor but they told her: You have to have an education.

She graduated from high school, went to a local community college—a good place to start—and completed her

undergraduate degree in sociology at the University of Illinois.

She told me she wanted to help others pick themselves up out of poverty as she did, so she went to graduate school for a master's degree in social work. She recently graduated from a program at the University of Illinois. Although she was able to get through her undergraduate years without much debt, she spread out her graduate studies over 3 years as she was raising her family of three kids.

She had one graduate assistantship, but she had to pay for the rest with loans. To compound this problem, her husband, another University of Illinois graduate student in education, also has student loans. Together, Mabinty and her husband, now that they have completed their degrees, have a debt of \$150,000. One wants to be a social worker and the other wants to be a teacher.

Now she worries about how her family is going to be able to cope, with debt three times the annual salary she might receive as a social worker. The irony is even as a college degree becomes harder to afford for the middle class, it is more important than ever that people get educated, trained, and skilled for better jobs. Only college-educated workers have had wage gains in the past 30 years. If you don't go the college route, your chances of success are diminished dramatically. That is why we want to address these serious issues.

This bill I am talking about, the one we are going to introduce tomorrow, will give students with college student loan debt who are current on their loans an opportunity to refinance.

I talked to Mabinty and other students. It meant for her that her interest rate would come down from 6.8 percent to 3.8 percent. If you have ever gone out to get a mortgage or you know somebody who did, they will explain to you that 3 percent of your interest rate is a big deal. If you can get your interest rate reduced by 3 percent, your chances of paying off the principal are going to be a lot better.

This bill I have cosponsored with ELIZABETH WARREN, JACK REED, and others is called the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. It will help millions of current borrowers refinance their Federal or private student loans into these lower Federal interest rates. Those with Federal loans can refinance into lower rates, the same rates available to students who took out new loans this year.

Under the Warren bill, those with private loans—many of whom have sky-high interest rates and are facing collection agencies beating up on them—can refinance with Federal loans with lower rates and strong consumer protection. Refinancing, incidentally, is fully paid for. This is a point I want to make, because this is where we lose the other side of the

aisle. This is where we can't find bipartisan cosponsorship for refinancing college loans.

Here is how we pay for it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for 2 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Most of us have heard the name Warren Buffett, one of the wealthiest men in America. He raised the question a few years ago: Why, in America, is my income tax rate as a multimillionaire lower than my secretary's income tax rate? There is an explanation in the Tax Code, but it isn't a very good one. Warren Buffett said I should be paying more than she is paying. So we have come up with something called the Buffet rule, which says if you are in the multimillionaire category, you are going to pay a higher income tax rate than your secretary.

What a radical idea that is. I am just kidding. I think it is reasonable, and that is how we pay for refinancing college loans.

The problem is that we go to the other side of the aisle and say: We want to refinance college loans. It is going to take some money to do it. We will put in the Buffett rule so millionaires pay more in their income taxes. They say: We don't want any part of it. We will not increase taxes on anybody.

Well, by taking that position, they are sticking 44 million Americans with college loan debt at higher interest rates and all the problems they generate.

Which is better, that millionaires pay a little more so working families across America have a fair shot of paying off their college loans or saying we are not going to touch the Tax Code for any reason whatsoever—and isn't it a darn shame for these students and their families.

Well, it is pretty obvious to me what we should be doing.

I met Shiann Poshard last week at Illinois State University. She graduated with a teaching degree and about \$30,000 in student debt. She has a job, and she is going to be teaching in public schools in Eureka, IL. Even so, on a first-year teaching salary—with an upcoming wedding, incidentally—her student loan debt will undoubtedly be a burden. If she is allowed to refinance her loan, which she took out at 6.8 percent, she could cut her interest rate almost in half. That will make a big difference.

Tomorrow, when this legislation is introduced, I hope anyone who has a family, where they have borrowed money for college, who has a son or daughter deep in debt and wondering how they are going to get out from under it, contact your Senator or your Congressman and ask them: Are you going to be part of this college student loan refinancing effort?

I hope they will say yes. We need bipartisan support to help these students out of the debt they are facing today.

I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the confirmation of the nomination.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time on the pending nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2018?

Mr. JOHANNIS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. On this vote I have a pair with the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. BOOKER]. If he were present and voting, he would vote “yea.” If I were permitted to vote, I would vote “nay;” therefore, I withhold my vote.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey, (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted “nay” and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) would have voted “nay”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 167 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Hagan	Murphy
Begich	Harkin	Murray
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Boxer	Hirono	Reid
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Kaine	Schatz
Cardin	King	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—46

Alexander	Chambliss	Cornyn
Ayotte	Coats	Crapo
Barrasso	Coburn	Cruz
Blunt	Collins	Enzi
Burr	Corker	Fischer

Flake	Landrieu	Sanders
Graham	McCain	Scott
Grassley	McConnell	Sessions
Hatch	Moran	Shaheen
Heller	Murkowski	Shelby
Hoehn	Nelson	Thune
Inhofe	Paul	Toomey
Isakson	Portman	Vitter
Johanns	Risch	Wicker
Johnson (WI)	Roberts	
Kirk	Rubio	

PRESENT AND GIVING A LIVE PAIR—1

Levin

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Cochran	Udall (CO)
Boozman	Lee	

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mark G. Mastroianni, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Sherrod Brown, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, all time is yielded back.

By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Mark G. Mastroianni, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 168 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Ayotte	Harkin	Murray
Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Begich	Heitkamp	Pryor
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Landrieu	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Levin	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—39

Alexander	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Chambliss	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoehn	Rubio
Coburn	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Isakson	Sessions
Cornyn	Johanns	Shelby
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cruz	Kirk	Toomey
Enzi	McCain	Vitter
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Cochran	Udall (CO)
Boozman	Lee	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 56, the nays are 39. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF MARK G. MASTROIANNI TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark G. Mastroianni, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Bruce Howe Hendricks, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Sherrod Brown, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate on the motion to invoke cloture.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, we yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Bruce Howe Hendricks, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 59, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 169 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Ayotte	Harkin	Nelson
Baldwin	Heinrich	Paul
Begich	Heitkamp	Pryor
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Leahy	Schumer
Carper	Levin	Scott
Casey	Manchin	Shaheen
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	McCain	Tester
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Menendez	Walsh
Feinstein	Merkley	Warner
Franken	Mikulski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Graham	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—35

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Flake	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Chambliss	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeben	Sessions
Coburn	Inhofe	Shelby
Corker	Isakson	Thune
Cornyn	Johanns	Toomey
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Vitter
Cruz	Kirk	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Cochran	Lee
Boozman	Landrieu	Udall (CO)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 59, the nays are 35.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF BRUCE HOWE HENDRICKS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Bruce Howe Hendricks, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Tanya S. Chutkan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Sherrod Brown, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following the cloture vote on Calendar No. 733, Chutkan, the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar Nos. 752, 753, and 754, and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we hope and expect these three nominations to be confirmed by voice. So we expect the next rollcall vote to be the final rollcall vote of the day, and that should start in just a few seconds. The next series of rollcall votes will occur tomorrow morning at about 11 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination

of Tanya S. Chutkan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 170 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Brown	Kaine	Rockefeller
Cantwell	King	Sanders
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schatz
Carper	Leahy	Schumer
Casey	Levin	Shaheen
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Menendez	Walsh
Feinstein	Merkley	Warner
Franken	Mikulski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murphy	Wyden

NAYS—40

Alexander	Flake	Paul
Ayotte	Graham	Portman
Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Chambliss	Hoeben	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Cochran	Lee
Boozman	Landrieu	Udall (CO)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 54, the nays are 40. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF TANYA S. CHUTKAN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Tanya S. Chutkan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY G. MASSAD TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2017

NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY G. MASSAD TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

NOMINATION OF J. CHRISTOPHER GIANCARLO TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nominations en bloc.

The clerk will report the nominations.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Timothy G. Massad, of Connecticut, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2017; Timothy G. Massad, of Connecticut, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; and J. Christopher Giancarlo, of New Jersey, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the remainder of the term expiring April 13, 2014.

VOTE ON MASSAD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Timothy G. Massad, of Connecticut, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2017?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MASSAD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Timothy G. Massad, of Connecticut, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON GIANCARLO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of J. Christopher Giancarlo, of New Jersey, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, with respect to those nominations confirmed, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank the Chair. (The remarks of Mr. SANDERS and Mr. BLUMENTHAL pertaining to the introduction of S. 2422 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

CFTC CONFIRMATIONS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, the Senate has now approved three nominations to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The CFTC is an important independent agency with a mission to provide oversight of the futures, swaps, and options markets, protecting market participants from fraud and manipulation. The agency ensures safety and soundness of the market and makes sure that hedgers, such as farmers and ranchers or manufacturing companies, can manage risks appropriately, and there needs to be confidence in those markets and in the oversight of those markets. The Commissioners confirmed today will not only help protect those markets but finish the implementation of reforms contained in the Wall Street Reform Act.

Earlier today I spoke about Sharon Bowen's qualifications, and I was very pleased to see the Senate approve her nomination. Now I wish to talk about the other two CFTC Commissioners appointed by the President who were also confirmed by the Senate just a few minutes ago.

For the role of CFTC Chairman, President Obama has selected Timothy Massad. Mr. Massad has a sterling record of public service. Three years ago he was confirmed unanimously by the Senate to serve as the Department of Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Financial Stability. In that position Mr. Massad oversaw the winddown of the Troubled Asset Relief Program. He devoted himself to helping homeowners who were struggling to stay in their homes while helping communities where vacant houses were a blight to neighborhoods. It is a tribute to Mr. Massad's leadership that the banks that benefited from TARP have repaid nearly every dollar.

At the Treasury Department Mr. Massad not only made good on his responsibility to ensure a positive return to American taxpayers, he did so with complete transparency.

During Mr. Massad's testimony before the Agriculture Committee, he emphasized that need for strong enforcement to ensure public confidence in our markets, which is so very important. He demonstrated an understanding of how markets must provide hedging and price discovery for end users.

Mr. Massad demonstrated that he will be an advocate for strong international regulatory standards in a global derivatives market. Throughout the course of his career in the private sector and then in the public sector, Mr. Massad has earned a reputation as a consensus builder, a tireless worker, and a protector of the public interest. I have no doubt Mr. Massad will continue his excellence in his role as CFTC Chair.

The second nominee chosen by President Obama is Christopher Giancarlo. Since 2000, Mr. Giancarlo has worked in companies that focused on swaps markets regulated by the CFTC. For most of that time Mr. Giancarlo has been a senior executive at the interdealer broker, GFI Group.

At his confirmation hearing, Mr. Giancarlo talked about how the futures and swaps markets must serve the needs of farmers and other end users. He recognizes the central role that commodities play in our Nation's economy.

Like Mr. Massad Mr. Giancarlo understands the important lessons of the financial crisis. For example, in his remarks Mr. Giancarlo emphasized the value of transparency in the swaps markets. He agrees with the provisions in the Wall Street Reform Act that allow robust oversight of U.S. swaps intermediaries, while at the same time Mr. Giancarlo talked about the importance of balanced regulatory oversight in open and competitive markets. In short, Mr. Giancarlo is a pragmatist. This is a quality that will serve him well as a CFTC Commissioner.

I congratulate not only Mr. Giancarlo but Mr. Massad and Ms. Bowen on their confirmations today. I have every expectation that they will work well with all of the stakeholders involved in the vitally important work of the CFTC. This will ensure that CFTC is fulfilling its mission of protecting the public, which is the bottom line.

In Congress we must also do our part to protect these markets and make sure the CFTC has the resources it needs to do its job, and that means having both the staff and technology in place so the CFTC can perform its work. We have given them so much more work with the new legislation, so we need to make sure they have the resources to do what we have asked them to do.

The agency must be able to keep up with the markets they are overseeing. They can't do that if they don't have the funding they need, and this will be a priority for me as we seek to update the CFTC and its abilities to protect consumers and market participants. We have 21st century markets and we need a 21st century CFTC to oversee them.

The Senate Agriculture Committee is beginning its work on a CFTC reauthorization bill. The approval of today's nominees and our upcoming work on this legislation will help make sure the Commodity Futures Trading Commission is fully empowered to do everything that we and the public are relying on them to do.

Again, I congratulate all of those confirmed today. I thank my colleagues for their support, and I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROACH TO OPIOID ADDICTION

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, it is no secret that communities across the country are struggling to break the cycle of addiction to powerful opioids, including heroin. We are now seeing addiction creep into neighborhoods and communities of all sizes, both rural and urban. My home State of Vermont has not been spared, and it in fact has attracted much attention for its struggles with addiction. However in many ways, Vermont is ahead of much of the Nation when it comes to responding to the opioid epidemic. We long ago recognized the problem, and communities in Vermont have spent the better part of a decade coming together to address opioid addiction.

In March I had the privilege of chairing a field hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee in Rutland, VT. It was the fourth time in the past 6 years that I brought the committee to Vermont to explore issues related to drug abuse. I heard powerful testimony discussing how communities are responding to addiction, rethinking decades-old approaches to prevention, treatment, and law enforcement efforts. Dr. Harry Chen, the Vermont Department of Health commissioner and a career emergency room physician, described what it means to recognize addiction as a public health issue, expanding evidence-based prevention and treatment services to all corners of the State.

Vermont hospitals are also rethinking best practices in light of this epi-

demic. Recently, the Office of National Drug Control Policy published an article entitled "How a Vermont Hospital Fights the American Opioid Epidemic." The article was authored by Dr. Stephen Leffler, the chief medical officer at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT. In the article, Dr. Leffler describes how Fletcher Allen is on the leading edge of modernizing health care practices to minimize abuse and addiction, while still providing necessary pain management. The hospital provides clear, standardized protocols for treating pain, defines a maximum daily dosage as guided by the latest research, and measures patients' risk for addiction. This approach ensures consistency in treatment and may help to stem the flow of prescription opioid users from sliding into addiction.

The approach described in Dr. Leffler's article could potentially serve as a model for the rest of country, and I would encourage other States grappling with addiction to look at what Fletcher Allen is doing in Burlington. If we are to find legislative solutions that may finally break the cycle of opioid addiction, then surely we must carefully consider promising, novel approaches such as this. I ask unanimous consent that Dr. Leffler's article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Office of National Drug Control Policy, May 9, 2014]

HOW A VERMONT HOSPITAL FIGHTS THE AMERICAN OPIOID EPIDEMIC

(By Dr. Stephen M. Leffler)

Over the course of my more than 20 years as an emergency physician, I have seen thousands of patients with painful conditions. During that same time, I have witnessed the remarkable evolution of modern pain medication—its potential and its pitfalls. We can now help patients manage both short-term and long-term pain. Yet, while medications—particularly opioids—have helped us heal patients, we have also seen their detrimental effects, chief among them addiction.

Opioids can be very helpful for patients with conditions such as broken bones and kidney stones, and they are also useful after many types of surgery. They may also be used to treat those with chronic pain—people who experience pain carrying out normal, daily functions of life that others take for granted. Used for short periods of time at the proper dosage, opioids are safe medications and excellent choices for a wide variety of acute painful conditions.

While opioids work well for pain control, they have a number of potentially serious side effects: They can hinder or stop breathing, cause constipation, result in drowsiness, and act as central nervous system depressants. That's why your doctor tells you it is not safe to drive after taking opioids.

Another devastating side effect is addiction. The body develops a tolerance to opioids and, after only a couple of weeks, may require higher doses to control pain. Over time, increasing doses of opioids may be needed to manage the same level of pain.

Patients may develop dependence—their bodies will crave it. They will exhibit a strong desire or compulsion to take the drug for reasons beyond simple pain control. At this stage, if they stop taking opioids, they will experience withdrawal. This is how opioid use can lead to addiction and all its inherent problems for the individual and society.

As providers, our responsibility is to carefully manage the side effects of opioid therapy. Dependence, tolerance, and addiction must be discussed with patients, and a careful well-planned strategy is crucial for their extended use of opioids.

That is exactly what we are doing at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Vermont. Recently, providers and pain management experts from multiple specialties (Anesthesia, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Surgery) converged to standardize how we care for patients with painful conditions and to develop best practices for our patients.

What did we do? Here is an overview:

Systems Approach. We built standardized protocols so that patients will get similar treatment in various settings. We believe this standardization will help our patients and providers. There will be clear, defined expectations and goals for treating our patients' pain.

New Rules & Tools. We use processes and tools such as pain agreements with patients and surveys to assess how patients are functioning with their pain and to measure their risk for addiction.

Defining Maximum Daily Dosage. We are one of the first hospitals in the country to define the maximum daily dose of opioids. Research shows that beyond certain doses, patients experience no additional benefit. We know that very high doses of opioids increase the risk of dangerous side effects but offer no additional pain control.

This approach helps ensure that we are more reliable and consistent in our approach to pain in our patients and that our patients will know what to expect from their providers.

Gil Kerlikowske, then-Director of ONDCP, recently visited Fletcher Allen Health Care to discuss our new approach and tools. He lauded our systems-level strategy and our standardized protocols. I believe that the current dialogue in Vermont and elsewhere on how to better manage opioid abuse will be productive and lead to changes across the country in how these drugs are prescribed and how acute and chronic pain is managed. Fletcher Allen Health Care is on the leading edge of this transition and could be a model for other health systems managing this complex issue. I hope that sharing our practices here is the first step toward being that model.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS R. HATFIELD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last month, Lois R. Hatfield received the 2014 Business Woman of the Year award from the Somerset Business and Professional Women's Club. I wish to honor this exemplary citizen and to recognize her tremendous career as an educator.

Lois took her first job in 1951, teaching grades one through eight at a one-room school house called Union Ridge School in the Jabez portion of Wayne County. She continued to devote herself to education in Kentucky for the

remainder of her career, which lasted over 60 years.

Her accomplishments over the years are many. In 1978, she became the principal of her alma mater, Nancy Elementary, making her the first female principal in the history of the Pulaski County School System. She has also served as president of the Alpha Delta Kappa Educational Sorority, precinct chair for the Pulaski County Republican Party, and president of the Pulaski County Republican Women's Club.

Officially in retirement since 1997, Lois has a hard time staying away from the classroom and still serves when needed as a substitute principal or teacher. The fire that burns within her, propelling her to educate the children of our Commonwealth, has not waned in the slightest degree since she began her career in education.

Lois's dedicated commitment to her community and its children deserves the praise of this body. Therefore, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in recognizing Lois R. Hatfield and her many accomplishments in the field of education.

The Commonwealth Journal recently published an article detailing Lois Hatfield's career and her receipt of the 2014 Business Woman of the Year award. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Commonwealth Journal, May 11, 2014]

2014 BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR: LOIS R. HATFIELD IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE AWARD

A Pulaski County woman with a passion for education is the recipient of the 2014 Business Woman of the Year award from the Somerset Business and Professional Women's Club.

Lois R. Hatfield was presented the award Tuesday at the May membership meeting of the Somerset-Pulaski Chamber of Commerce.

Hatfield was born in Faubush and graduated from Nancy High School in 1947.

Her teaching career spans more than 60 years and with all her educational achievements she has never grasped the meaning of retirement.

Working her way through college, Hatfield received her Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Eastern Kentucky University in 1961 and later received her master's degree in elementary education with an emphasis in early childhood education from EKU in 1972.

She began her distinguished professional career in education in 1951 when she taught grades one-eight at Union Ridge School, a one-room school house in the Jabez portion of Wayne County.

In 1958 she began working with the Pulaski County School System teaching first-eighth grades at Anderson School, which was eventually consolidated into Nancy Elementary.

In 1978, she was promoted to principal of Nancy Elementary, making her the first female principal in the history of the Pulaski County School System.

Hatfield officially "retired" in 1997 while serving as K-6 supervisor in the Pulaski

County School District, a position she had held since 1988.

She didn't stop. Since retiring, Hatfield has served as a reading consultant and home-bound instructor for the Pulaski County school system; a long-term substitute principal at numerous elementary schools in Pulaski County; substitute teacher in Pulaski County and Science Hill school systems; and for the past 14 years she has served and continues to serve as a teacher-educator for Pulaski County, Somerset, Science Hill and Somerset Christian school.

Very active in community affairs, Hatfield is a board member of Somerset-Pulaski Convention and Visitors Bureau, member of Somerset Business and Professional Women's Club, member and past president of Alpha Delta Kappa Educational Sorority, director of Lake Cumberland Foundation, precinct chair for the Pulaski County Republican Party, member of Fidelis Chapter of Eastern Star, member and past president of Pulaski County Republican Women's Club, member of Pulaski County Lincoln Club and Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church.

The third of 10 children in a family of limited means, Hatfield had to work while she attended Nancy High School.

For a time she worked and lived in Somerset, riding a bus to attend high school at Nancy. She got a college education by working and taking classes at Eastern Kentucky University. She attended Butler University while she and husband Avery worked in Indianapolis. She also was a student at Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia.

The former Lois Roberts was married to Avery Hatfield more than 60 years. The late Mr. Hatfield was a well-known coach at the former Nancy High School, winning several county championships. As an assistant to David Fraley at Pulaski County High School, they guided the Maroons to the state championship in 1986.

Avery Hatfield died on the first Sunday in November 2010, two days before their son, Martin, was elected as Pulaski County attorney.

Lois Hatfield is most sympathetic to today's lack of sufficient funding for education.

Anderson School, her first teaching position with the Pulaski County School System, had no electricity and no lights. She held a pie supper and made money to install electricity, paint the building and buy curtains for the windows.

RECOGNIZING RABBI AARON PANKEN

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I wish to recognize Rabbi Aaron Panken, on the occasion of his inauguration as president of the widely-respected Hebrew Union College, HUC, -Jewish Institute of Religion, the Reform movement's rabbinical school, on June 8, 2014. HUC was founded in Cincinnati in 1875 by Rabbi Isaac Wise.

As president, Panken will serve as the chief executive officer of Hebrew Union College's four campuses—in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles and New York. The 12th president in HUC's 138-year history, Panken succeeds Rabbi David Ellenson, who served from 2001 to 2013, and has been named chancellor upon his retirement.

Rabbi Panken, 49, of Mamaroneck, N.Y., brings an impressive record to

HUC. He has taught rabbinic and Second Temple literature at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York since 1995. He has also served as vice president for strategic initiatives, dean of the New York campus and dean of students.

Rabbi Panken grew up on Manhattan's Upper West Side, went straight from college to a job as regional director of the North American Federation of Temple Youth, was ordained by Hebrew Union College, worked as an associate rabbi at Manhattan's Congregation Rodeph Shalom and earned a doctorate in Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University.

I congratulate Aaron Panken as he begins this new chapter in his distinguished career.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DUBUQUE COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Dubuque County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Dubuque County worth over \$40 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$97 million to the local economy.

My close partnership with the community and economic development leaders in Dubuque has resulted in community transformation. From cleaning up the riverfront and building

the National Mississippi River Museum to improving road and air access to the community to investments in Dubuque schools and downtown storefronts and housing, massive Federal investments combined with local vision and hard work has resulted in the revitalization of Dubuque. I am pleased that my staff will be touring the community health center. I have been a long-time supporter of community health centers, having worked for over two decades to expand centers in Iowa.

Among the highlights:

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Dubuque County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$550,000 for construction, renovations, and to hire additional workers at the Crescent Community Health Center.

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northeast Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Dubuque County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Dubuque County, I have fought for \$37 million to make highway 61 a four-lane highway to expand transportation into Dubuque, \$23 million to improve the Mississippi River Bridge, \$30 million for the southwest arterial, \$4 million for the river museum, and a \$5.6 million TIGER Grant, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just

about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Dubuque to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that the community has earned \$438,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Dubuque County has received more than \$2.7 million in Harkin grants.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Dubuque County has received over \$4.3 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Dubuque County's fire departments have received over \$3 million for firefighter safety and operations equip-

ment and over \$570,000 in Byrne Justice Assistance Grants.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Dubuque County, both those with and without disabilities.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Dubuque County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Dubuque County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

KEOKUK COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Keokuk County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$4 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together include their tremendous success in obtaining funding for public safety programs, as well as farm bill funding for local economic development.

Among the highlights:

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Sigourney to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Keokuk County has earned \$40,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Keokuk County has received \$335,827 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Keokuk County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$136,722.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chair-

man of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Keokuk County has received more than \$2 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as the methamphetamine epidemic. For instance, Keokuk County has received \$69,475 in Community Oriented Policing Services grants. Also, since 2001, the county's fire departments have received over \$1.9 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf, but I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Keokuk County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Keokuk County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW McCORMICK

● Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to a devoted public servant as he retires from a career at the U.S. Department of Energy and

U.S. Navy. Matthew S. McCormick has dedicated 32 years in service to our Nation, including 11 years—the last 4 as manager—at the Richland Operations Office at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in my home State of Washington.

A graduate of Montana State University, Mr. McCormick began his civil career as a nuclear engineer for the U.S. Navy. After he worked on the Naval Reactor's Program, Mr. McCormick moved to the Department of Energy serving in multiple different capacities in the Office of Environmental Management and with the Savannah River Site and Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site. His time there taught him the value of environmental cleanup, and was critical to his next job as assistant manager for the Central Plateau in the Richland Operations Office. He proved himself in this role, and was named manager of the Richland Operations Office in 2010.

It is clear to me that Washington State has benefitted from Mr. McCormick's leadership. As a part of the Manhattan Project, the Hanford Nuclear Reservation produced plutonium from 1944 until 1987. The people of the Tri-Cities sacrificed for the strength and safety of our Nation, and cleanup of the Hanford site is an ongoing challenge. Mr. McCormick has shown tremendous dedication to this task, and has helped ensure that the cleanup efforts at Hanford continue to move forward in a meaningful and timely fashion.

Mr. McCormick was part of the team that set forward a path to protect the Columbia River and reduce the active footprint of the Hanford site by focusing on cleanup projects along the shoreline under the 2015 Vision. During his tenure, the remaining plutonium left in the Plutonium Finishing Plant after the Cold War was stabilized, packaged, and shipped offsite and out of the State of Washington. Cleanup was completed at the first reactor area—F Reactor, and a total of seven of nine nuclear reactors were placed in interim safe storage. Significant progress has been made in protecting the Columbia River from contaminated groundwater through the construction of the 200 West Pump and Treat Facility in the Central Plateau and three new pump and treat facilities along the Columbia River. Most importantly, Mr. McCormick has strived to ensure that local communities, tribal nations, and stakeholders know their voices are being heard.

Mr. McCormick's success in carrying out the cleanup mission at Hanford was aided by his ability to build relationships, including with me and members of my staff. When he was made manager almost 4 years ago, I knew that the Tri-Cities community and Washington State as a whole could count on his leadership. Today I join with others throughout the Pacific Northwest in

thanking him for his years of service. I congratulate Mr. McCormick on his retirement, and wish him the best of luck in moving forward.●

REMEMBERING RAYMOND J.W. SCHUMACHER

● Mr. TESTER. Madam President, today I wish to honor Raymond J.W. Schumacher, a veteran of the Second World War.

It is my honor to share the story of Raymond's service, because no veteran's story should ever go unrecognized.

Raymond was born in Leechburg, PA in 1913. In May of 1943, he enlisted with the Army Air Corps. He was assigned to the 8th Air Force, 351st Bombardment Group.

Raymond served as a wing gunner on a B-17 bomber crew. The unit was stationed in England and carried out daytime bombing operations across Western Europe.

The 351st was responsible for crippling attacks to German infrastructure and even supported the Allied landing at Normandy in June of 1944. After the Allies won the war, Raymond left the Army Air Corps as a staff sergeant in September of 1945.

He returned home to Pennsylvania where he and his wife Treva raised their son Raymond II and their daughter Karen. Raymond spent the next several years serving as a guard for First Sterling steel mill. Raymond passed away on July 14, 1964.

Last week, it was my honor to present Raymond and Karen with their father's Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Four Bronze Service Stars.

It was my honor to also present a World War II Victory Medal, an Army Good Conduct Medal, and an Honorable Service Lapel Button World War II.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

TRIBUTE TO JERRY COONEY

● Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I wish to honor Jerry Eugene Cooney, a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

It is my honor to share the story of Jerry's service, because no veteran's story should ever go unrecognized.

Jerry was born in Billings, MT in 1946. After graduating from Joliet High School in 1965, Jerry joined the U.S. Navy. He underwent basic training in San Diego before being assigned to the Seabees' 21st Naval Construction Regiment in Davisville, RI. In October of 1966, the Twenty-first went to Da Nang, Vietnam where it constructed a Marine base.

During his tour in Vietnam, Jerry's unit was under constant enemy fire for which he earned a Combat Action Ribbon. Jerry returned to the United States in July of 1967. After a short leave, Jerry joined an advance team to Antarctica in September of 1967 where he spent the summer expanding McMurdo Station.

Following his stop in Antarctica, Jerry spent the remainder of his service as part of a five-man exhibition team tasked with representing the Seabees across the country. Jerry mustered out of Active Duty in September of 1968 and joined the Retired Reserves.

In 1969, Jerry married Lori and together they had two children and six grandchildren. Jerry worked for Montana-Dakota utilities for 35 years before he retired in 2006.

Last month, in the presence of his wife Lori, it was my honor to present Jerry with the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Two Bronze Stars, and Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon.

It was my honor to also present a Combat Action Ribbon, Antarctica Service Medal, and a Discharge Button.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY) reported that he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore of the House (Mr. THORNBERRY):

S. 611. An act to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2422. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 3, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 611. An act to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5890. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical Increment 3 program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5891. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a, for a period not to exceed 14 days before assuming the duties of the position for which the higher grade is authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5892. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of two (2) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5893. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral William L. Copeman III, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5894. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Charles W. Martoglio, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5895. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exchange of Mutilated Paper Currency" (31 CFR Part 100) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5896. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Corrections and Clarifications to the Export Administration Regulations; Conforming Changes to the EAR based on Amendments to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations" (RIN0694-AG11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5897. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5898. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Financial Stability Oversight Council 2014 annual report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5899. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-339, "Underinsured Motorist Carrier Fairness Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5900. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 20-340, "Breastmilk Bank and Lactation Support Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5901. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-341, "Comprehensive Code of Conduct and BEGA Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5902. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Wage Garnishment" (RIN3206-AM89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5903. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5904. A communication from the Director, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Corporation for National and Community Service's Report on Final Action for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5905. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2012-016, Defense Base Act" (RIN9000-AM50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5906. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2012-028, Contractor Comment Period, Past Performance Evaluations" (RIN9000-AM40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5907. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2012-017, Expansion of Applicability of the Senior Executive Compensation Benchmark" (RIN9000-AM38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5908. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2014-016, Repeal of the Recovery Act Reporting Requirements" (RIN9000-AM77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5909. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition

Regulation; FAR Case 2012-024, Commercial and Government Entity Code" (RIN9000-AM49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5910. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-74, Introduction" (FAC 2005-74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5911. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-74, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5912. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013, through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5913. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5914. A communication from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5915. A communication from the Chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5916. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5917. A communication from the Acting Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-241. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, urging the United States Congress to pass H.R. 4065 and S. 2032—The Smartphone Theft Protection Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-242. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, expressing support for the energetic advocacy of federal representatives for increasing the strictness of the regulations that govern rail transport of hazardous liquids; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-243. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Santa Ana, California, expressing support for comprehensive federal immigration reform and urging the 113th Congress to enact reforms that secure our borders, ensure economic strength, and promote stronger communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-244. A resolution approved by the Town Board, Town of Jefferson, Wisconsin, supporting the passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution regarding constitutional rights and political spending; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. VITTER, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2414. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the regulation of emissions of carbon dioxide from new or existing power plants under certain circumstances; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2415. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to eliminate limitations on direct contributions to candidates, to require disclosure of certain contributions within 24 hours of receipt, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2416. A bill to apply laws that restrict the political speech of American citizens to media corporations; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2417. A bill to provide greater controls and restriction on revolving door lobbying; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2418. A bill to amend title 11 and title 29, United States Code, to increase the amount of unsecured claims for salaries and wages given priority in bankruptcy, to provide for payments to retirees to compensate for lost health insurance benefits resulting from the bankruptcy of their former employer, to protect the health benefits of employees and retirees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2419. A bill to protect America's veterans from dishonesty and malfeasance in the delivery of medical services and to hold the Department of Veterans Affairs accountable to those they serve; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2420. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985

to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2421. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) to reform the Food for Peace Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HEITKAMP, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2422. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2423. A bill to improve wait times for appointments for hospital care, medical services, and other health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve accountability of employees responsible for long wait times for such appointments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BURR, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. COATS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2424. A bill to provide veterans with the choice of medical providers and to increase transparency and accountability of operations of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

S. Res. 464. A resolution designating June 2014 as "National Aphasia Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to increase awareness of aphasia; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. Res. 465. A resolution commemorating the centennial of Webster University; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 466. A resolution designating the week of October 27 through November 2, 2014, as "National Drug Take-Back Week", and designating October 2014 as "National Prescription Opioid and Heroin Abuse Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 162

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004.

S. 429

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 709

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 709, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, leading to better care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

S. 895

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 895, a bill to improve the ability of the Food and Drug Administration to study the use of antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1066

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1066, a bill to allow certain student loan borrowers to refinance Federal student loans.

S. 1324

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1324, a bill to prohibit any regulations promulgated pursuant to a presidential memorandum relating to power sector carbon pollution standards from taking effect.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1341

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1341, a bill to modify the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as the program applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, and for other purposes.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1656

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1656, a bill to clarify that volunteers at a children's consignment event are not employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

S. 1688

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1688, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), collectively, in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1708

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1708, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to the establishment of performance measures for the highway safety improvement program, and for other purposes.

S. 1965

At the request of Mr. WALSH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1965, a bill to amend the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior to extend the contract for certain water services.

S. 1979

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1979, a bill to provide for USA Retirement Funds, to reform the pension system, and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2004, a bill to ensure the safety of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, as they travel on and across federally funded streets and highways.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

S. 2031

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2031, a bill to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, and for other purposes.

S. 2070

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2070, a bill to reduce the number of nuclear-armed submarines operated by the Navy, to prohibit the development of a new long-range penetrating bomber aircraft, to prohibit the procurement of new intercontinental ballistic missiles, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2270

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Georgia

(Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2270, a bill to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2270, supra.

S. 2292

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2292, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S. 2359

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 2359, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2371

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2371, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of major revenue legislation.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2395, a bill to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.

S. 2399

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2399, a bill to safeguard the voting rights of Native American and Alaska Native voters and to provide the resources and oversight necessary to ensure equal access to the electoral process.

S. 2413

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2413, a bill to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 451

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 451, a resolution recalling the Government of China's forcible dispersion of those peaceably assembled in Tiananmen Square 25 years ago, in light of China's continued abysmal human rights record.

S. RES. 453

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 453, a resolution condemning the death sentence against Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, a Sudanese Christian woman accused of apostasy.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. VITTER, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2414. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the regulation of emissions of carbon dioxide from new or existing power plants under certain circumstances; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2414

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Coal Country Protection Act" or the "Protecting Jobs, Families, and the Economy From EPA Overreach Act".

SEC. 2. REGULATION OF EMISSIONS OF CARBON DIOXIDE FROM NEW OR EXISTING POWER PLANTS.

(a) LIMITATION ON REGULATION.—The Clean Air Act is amended by inserting after section 312 (42 U.S.C. 7612) the following:

"SEC. 313. LIMITATION ON REGULATION OF EMISSIONS OF CARBON DIOXIDE FROM NEW OR EXISTING POWER PLANTS.

"(a) DEFINITION OF NEW OR EXISTING POWER PLANT.—In this section, the term 'new or existing power plant' means a fossil fuel-fired power plant that commences operation at any time.

"(b) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), the Administrator may not promulgate any regulation or guidance that limits or prohibits any new carbon dioxide emissions from a new or existing power plant, and no such regulation or guidance shall have any force or effect, until the date on which—

"(1) the Secretary of Labor certifies to the Administrator that the regulation or guidance will not generate any loss of employment;

"(2) the Director of the Congressional Budget Office certifies to the Administrator

that the regulation or guidance will not result in any loss in the gross domestic product of the United States;

“(3) the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration certifies to the Administrator that the regulation or guidance will not generate any increase in electricity rates in the United States; and

“(4) the Chairperson of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the President of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation certify to the Administrator the reliability of electricity delivery under the regulation or guidance.”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—The Clean Air Act is amended by redesignating the second section 317 (42 U.S.C. 7617) (relating to economic impact assessment) as section 318.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2422. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; read the first time.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise today to introduce the Ensuring Veterans Access to Care Act of 2014.

I thank the 16 cosponsors of this legislation, and they are Senators ROCKEFELLER, BEGICH, SHAHEEN, KAINE, REED, MERKLEY, CASEY, WHITEHOUSE, BLUMENTHAL, HEINRICH, UDALL of New Mexico, SCHATZ, BALDWIN, WYDEN, HIRONO, and LEAHY.

It is safe to say there is broad bipartisan agreement among all of us that every veteran in this country who enters the VA health care system deserves high-quality care and deserves that care in a timely manner.

Overall, talking to veterans in Vermont and, in fact, throughout this country, talking to the veterans service organizations who represent their interests and reading independent studies, they all confirm that by and large, once veterans get into the VA health care system, the system is, in fact, quite good.

However, it has become clear—and I think all of us are aware of what has happened in the last month—that while quality is generally good, there are too many veterans throughout this country waiting too long to access this care.

In recent years, the VA has seen a huge increase in its patient load.

In fact, in the last 4 years, 2 million new veterans have come into the system, many of them with very complicated health care cases, including TBI, post-traumatic stress disorder,

and many of the needs that older veterans and older people generally have.

Despite this fact, it is still absolutely unacceptable that some veterans are forced onto long waiting lists for care, and it is totally intolerable—it is reprehensible—that any VA employee could be manipulating data in Phoenix or anyplace else to hide how long veterans have been on waiting lists to see doctors. This is an issue that must be dealt with and must be dealt with rapidly and strongly.

These problems are real, and they have to be addressed. But they should not be an excuse to walk away from a system that serves 6.5 million veterans every single year and 230,000 veterans every single day. This is a system we must fix, not a system that we should ditch.

We must focus on the underlying problems and work to transform the VA.

In general, what our legislation does is it works in three basic areas. No. 1, we give greater authority to the Secretary to fire incompetent senior officials. No. 2, we take very significant steps to shorten the wait times that many veterans are now experiencing. And No. 3, we address the long-term health care needs of the VA in terms of a shortage of staff, doctors, and nurses that currently exists in various locations around the country.

Let me go through some of those issues right now.

Several weeks ago my Republican colleague from Florida requested a vote on legislation that would allow VA Secretaries to immediately remove senior executives due to poor performance.

So let us be clear. I strongly support the effort to make sure that we get rid of incompetent or worse senior executives at the VA. There is no debate about that. But here is what the debate is about. I do not think it is a good idea to give the Secretary of an institution, of an agency that has some 300,000 employees, the ability to simply fire without any due process.

What I worry about is that you can move toward a situation where the VA health care system is politicized in a way that it should not be.

Let me give an example. A new President comes in with a new Secretary. The new Secretary says—whether it is a Democratic President or a Republican President—I want to get rid of 300 senior-level appointees and bring in 300 new people. Four years later, another President comes in—different party—and says: We are going to get rid of those 300 people and bring in 300 more people.

I do not think that provides the kind of stability that the largest integrated health care system in America needs or deserves. I worry about the politicization.

Second, I worry about an instance where a whistleblower stands up who is

critical of this or that aspect of the VA. That person could be fired without due process.

I worry there may be a situation where somebody is fired—not because of bad performance; maybe they are a woman and somebody doesn't like a woman in that position; maybe they are gay, maybe they are black, maybe they are whatever—and that person does not have any ability to appeal that decision.

I think that is wrong. I think that is bad policy. On the other hand, what I do believe is that person should be taken out of his or her job immediately, but that person must have the right to have an expedited appeal.

What our legislation does is give the person a week to bring forth the appeal and gives the appropriate appeal body 3 weeks to make a decision.

Now, we are dealing with people who are M.D.s, Ph.D.s, high-level people whose professionalism is on the line. I don't think you can fire people willy-nilly without giving them a chance in an expedited manner to express their point of view.

That is one difference I have with my colleague from Florida on his proposal.

Let me talk a little bit about the major concern I have; that is, how do we shorten wait times? How do we make certain in those areas of the country where there are long waiting periods or where veterans may be geographically a long distance away from a facility that they get timely care?

The legislation that I have authored takes immediate action to provide timely access for care for our veterans. First, this legislation would standardize VA's process for providing non-VA care when the Department is unable to provide care to the veterans within its stated goal. As the DVA—Disabled American Veterans—pointed out in a release today, VA must continue to be responsible for coordinating their care amongst various VA and non-VA providers. This legislation accomplishes that goal by providing a framework for consistent decision-making regarding non-VA care. Under this legislation VA would coordinate non-VA care by taking into account wait times for care, the health of the veteran, the distance the veteran would be required to travel, as well as the veteran's choice.

This bill also addresses VA system-wide health care provider shortages. But in terms of the wait lists, what we say in English is: If there is an unacceptable wait time or if a veteran is a long distance away from a provider, we are going to allow—and we must allow—that veteran to get health care through a private provider, through a federally qualified community health center, through a Department of Defense military base, if that is available, through an Indian health service, if that is available—and that exists now

in Alaska—and that might be expanded. So the bottom line is if there are waiting lists beyond what is reasonable, the veterans in this country should be able to get into non-VA health care in a timely manner, and this bill does that.

But importantly, this bill also addresses a very significant issue that I think we cannot ignore, and that is it appears to me that in many parts of this country we simply don't have the doctors and nurses we need when an influx of veterans is coming into the system.

I was talking to some very knowledgeable people today who were telling me about burnout. Primary care physicians and psychiatrists are seeing many more patients and turnover rates are much too high. The last thing we want to do is to see rapid turnover because people are burnt out and don't have the time to do the quality work they want to do.

Let me quote an article that appears in the New York Times on May 29 which addresses this issue. This is what it says:

Dr. Phyllis Hollenbeck, a primary care physician, took a job at the Veterans Affairs medical center in Jackson, Miss., in 2008 expecting fulfilling work and a lighter patient load than she had in private practice. What she found was quite different: 13-hour workdays fueled by large patient loads that kept growing as colleagues quit and were not replaced.

Appalled by what she saw, Dr. Hollenbeck filed a whistle-blower complaint and changed jobs. A subsequent investigation by the Department of Veterans Affairs concluded last fall that indeed the Jackson hospital did not have enough primary care doctors, resulting in nurse practitioners' handling far too many complex cases and in numerous complaints from veterans about the delayed care. "It was unethical to put us in that position," Dr. Hollenbeck said of the overstressed primary care unit in Jackson. "Your heart gets broken."

In this case we had a physician who wanted to do the right thing, wanted to spend the appropriate amounts of time that were needed with the patients, and she was unable to do that. What we are hearing is in many parts of this country primary care physicians are saying: We cannot do it; too many people are coming in. This is an issue that has to be addressed, and our legislation does that.

Our legislation gives the VA the ability to rapidly hire new doctors, nurses, and other health care providers in areas with identified shortages. It also enables VA's ability to recruit qualified health providers by enhancing scholarship and loan repayment opportunities.

As the Presiding Officer well knows as a member of the committee that deals with this issue, we have a crisis in this country in terms of the lack of primary care practitioners. This is a very serious problem. There are experts who tell us, in fact, that we need 50,000

new primary care physicians in the next 10 to 15 years. This is a national problem, it is a problem within the VA, and what this legislation proposes is that the VA work with the National Health Service Corps in order to provide debt forgiveness, scholarships to medical school students, so when they graduate they can get into the VA and practice the quality medicine we need there.

This bill addresses another issue that has been discussed a lot—and there is widespread bipartisan support for this and support in the House as well—and that is the authorization of 27 major medical facility leases. In many instances these leases would improve access to care closer to home and would increase the availability of specialty care services in those locations that would allow the VA to decompress overutilized VA facilities. This is an important issue in this legislation and I believe there is bipartisan support for it.

Furthermore, this bill would require the President to create a commission to look at VA health care access issues and recommend action to bolster capacity. In the last couple of days I have heard a lot of good ideas about how we can deal with the issue, but we need a high-level commission of some of the most knowledgeable people in this country appointed by the President to report within 90 days some ideas of how the VA can proceed.

I want to thank the 16 or so cosponsors we have. I look forward to working with my Republican colleagues. We have got a problem we have to address, and I hope we can do it in a bipartisan way.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2422

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Ensuring Veterans Access to Care Act of 2014".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENT OF SCHEDULING SYSTEM FOR HEALTH CARE APPOINTMENTS

Sec. 101. Implementation of upgraded Department of Veterans Affairs electronic scheduling system for appointments for receipt of health care from the Department.

Sec. 102. Independent assessment of the scheduling process for medical appointments for care from Department of Veterans Affairs.

TITLE II—TRAINING AND HIRING OF HEALTH CARE STAFF

Sec. 201. Modification of liability for breach of period of obligated service under Health Professionals Educational Assistance Program for primary care physicians.

Sec. 202. Program of education at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences with specialization in primary care.

Sec. 203. Treatment of staffing shortage and biannual report on staffing of medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 204. Clinic management training program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 205. Inclusion of Department of Veterans Affairs facilities in National Health Service Corps Scholarship and loan repayment programs.

Sec. 206. Authorization of emergency appropriations.

TITLE III—IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO CARE FROM NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS

Sec. 301. Improvement of access by veterans to health care from non-Department of Veterans Affairs providers.

Sec. 302. Extension of and report on joint incentives program of Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense.

Sec. 303. Transfer of authority for payments for hospital care, medical services, and other health care from non-Department providers to the Chief Business Office of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department.

Sec. 304. Enhancement of collaboration between Department of Veterans Affairs and Indian Health Service.

Sec. 305. Enhancement of collaboration between Department of Veterans Affairs and Native Hawaiian health care systems.

Sec. 306. Authorization of emergency appropriations.

TITLE IV—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Sec. 401. Improvement of access of veterans to mobile vet centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 402. Commission on Access to Care.

Sec. 403. Commission on Capital Planning for Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facilities.

Sec. 404. Removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance.

TITLE V—MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES

Sec. 501. Authorization of major medical facility leases.

Sec. 502. Budgetary treatment of Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facilities leases.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENT OF SCHEDULING SYSTEM FOR HEALTH CARE APPOINTMENTS

SEC. 101. IMPLEMENTATION OF UPGRADED DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ELECTRONIC SCHEDULING SYSTEM FOR APPOINTMENTS FOR RECEIPT OF HEALTH CARE FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

(a) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 31, 2016, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall fully implement an upgraded and centralized electronic scheduling system described in subsection (b) for appointments by eligible individuals for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) AGILE SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT METHODOLOGIES.—In implementing the upgraded electronic scheduling system required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use agile software development methodologies to fully implement portions of such system every 180 days beginning on the date on which the Secretary begins the implementation of such system, or enters into a contract for the implementation of such system, and ending on the date on which such system is fully implemented.

(b) ELECTRONIC SCHEDULING SYSTEM.—The upgraded electronic scheduling system described in this subsection shall include mechanisms to achieve the following:

(1) An efficient and effective graphical user interface with a calendar view for use by employees of the Department in scheduling appointments that enables error-free scheduling of the health care resources of the Department.

(2) A capability to assist employees of the Department to easily and consistently implement policies of the Department with respect to scheduling of appointments, including with respect to priority for appointments for certain eligible individuals.

(3) A capability for employees of the Department to sort and view through a unified interface the availability for each health care provider of the Department or other health care resource of the Department.

(4) A capability for employees of the Department to sort and view appointments for and appointment requests made by a particular eligible individual.

(5) A capability for seamless coordination of appointments for primary care, specialty care, consultations, or any other health care matter among facilities of the Department.

(6) A capability for eligible individuals to access the system remotely and schedule appointments directly through the system.

(7) An electronic timestamp of each activity made by an eligible individual or on behalf of such individual with respect to an appointment or the scheduling of an appointment that shall be kept in the medical record of such individual.

(8) A seamless connection to the Computerized Patient Record System of the Department so that employees of the Department, when scheduling an appointment for an eligible individual, have access to recommendations from the health care provider of such individual with respect to when such individual should receive an appointment.

(9) A capability to provide automated reminders to eligible individuals on upcoming appointments through various electronic and voice media.

(10) A capability to provide automated reminders to employees of the Department when an eligible individual who is on the wait-list for an appointment becomes eligible to schedule an appointment.

(11) A dashboard capability to support efforts to track the following metrics in aggregate and by medical facility with respect to health care provided to eligible individuals under the laws administered by the Secretary:

(A) The number of days into the future that the schedules of health care providers are available to schedule an appointment.

(B) The number of providers available to see patients each day.

(C) The number of support personnel working each day.

(D) The types of appointments available.

(E) The rate at which patients fail to appear for appointments.

(F) The number of appointments canceled by a patient on a daily basis.

(G) The number of appointments canceled by a health care provider on a daily basis.

(H) The number of patients on the wait list at any given time.

(I) The number of appointments scheduled on a daily basis;

(J) The number of appointments available to be scheduled on a daily basis.

(K) The number of patients seen on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.

(L) Wait-times for an appointment with a health care provider of the Department.

(M) Wait-times for an appointment with a non-Department health care provider.

(N) Wait-times for a referral to a specialist or consult.

(12) A capability to provide data on the capacity of medical facilities of the Department for purposes of determining the resources needed by the Department to provide health care to eligible individuals.

(13) Any other capabilities as specified by the Secretary for purposes of this section.

(c) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a plan for implementing the upgraded electronic scheduling system required by subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the priorities of the Secretary for implementing the requirements of the system under subsection (b).

(B) A detailed description of the manner in which the Secretary will fully implement such system, including deadlines for completing each such requirement.

(3) UPDATE.—Not later than 90 days after the submittal of the plan required by paragraph (1), and not less frequently than every 90 days thereafter until such system is fully implemented, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives an update on the status of the implementation of such plan.

(d) USE OF AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may use amounts available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the appropriations account under the heading "MEDICAL SERVICES" in implementing and carrying out the upgraded electronic scheduling system required by subsection (a).

(e) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term "eligible individual" means an individual eligible for hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, medical care, or other health care under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 102. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SCHEDULING PROCESS FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS FOR CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—

(1) CONTRACT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veteran Affairs shall enter into a contract with an independent third party to assess the process at each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs for scheduling appointments for veterans to re-

ceive hospital care, medical services, or other health care from the Department.

(2) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the assessment required by paragraph (1), the independent third party shall do the following:

(A) Review all training materials pertaining to scheduling of appointments at each medical facility of the Department.

(B) Assess whether all employees of the Department conducting tasks related to scheduling are properly trained for conducting such tasks.

(C) Assess whether changes in the technology or system used in scheduling appointments are necessary to limit access to the system to only those employees that have been properly trained in conducting such tasks.

(D) Assess whether health care providers of the Department are making changes to their schedules that hinder the ability of employees conducting such tasks to perform such tasks.

(E) Assess whether the establishment of a centralized call center throughout the Department for scheduling appointments at medical facilities of the Department would improve the process of scheduling such appointments.

(F) Assess whether booking templates for each medical facility or clinic of the Department would improve the process of scheduling such appointments.

(G) Recommend any actions to be taken by the Department to improve the process for scheduling such appointments, including the following:

(i) Changes in training materials provided to employees of the Department with respect to conducting tasks related to scheduling such appointments.

(ii) Changes in monitoring and assessment conducted by the Department of wait-times of veterans for such appointments.

(iii) Changes in the system used to schedule such appointments, including changes to improve how the Department—

(I) measures wait-times of veterans for such appointments;

(II) monitors the availability of health care providers of the Department; and

(III) provides veterans the ability to schedule such appointments.

(iv) Such other actions as the independent third party considers appropriate.

(3) TIMING.—The independent third party carrying out the assessment required by paragraph (1) shall complete such assessment not later than 180 days after entering into the contract described in such paragraph.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the independent third party completes the assessment under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the results of such assessment.

TITLE II—TRAINING AND HIRING OF HEALTH CARE STAFF

SEC. 201. MODIFICATION OF LIABILITY FOR BREACH OF PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE UNDER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS.

Section 7617 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) In subsection (c)(1), by striking "If a participant" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (d), if a participant"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) Liability shall not arise under subsection (c) in the case of a participant otherwise covered by that subsection who has pursued a course of education or training in primary care if—

“(1) the participant—

“(A) does not obtain, or fails to maintain, employment as a Department employee due to staffing changes approved by the Under Secretary for Health; or

“(B) does not obtain, or fails to maintain, employment in a position of primary care physician in the Veterans Health Administration due, as determined by the Secretary, to a number of primary care physicians in the Administration that is excess to the needs of the Administration; and

“(2) the participant agrees to accept and maintain employment as a primary care physician with another department or agency of the Federal Government (with such employment to be under such terms and conditions as are jointly agreed upon by the participant, the Secretary, and the head of such department or agency, including terms and conditions relating to a period of obligated service as a primary care physician with such department or agency) if such employment is offered to the participant by the Secretary and the head of such department or agency.”.

SEC. 202. PROGRAM OF EDUCATION AT UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES WITH SPECIALIZATION IN PRIMARY CARE.

(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED UNDER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 76 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding after subchapter VII the following new subchapter:

“SUBCHAPTER VIII—PROGRAM OF EDUCATION AT UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES WITH SPECIALIZATION IN PRIMARY CARE

“§ 7691. Authority for program

“As part of the Educational Assistance Program, the Secretary shall, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, carry out a program to permit individuals to enroll in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences under chapter 104 of title 10 to pursue a medical education with a specialization in primary care. The program shall be known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Primary Care Educational Assistance Program (in this chapter referred to as the ‘Primary Care Educational Assistance Program’).

“§ 7692. Selection; agreement; ineligibility for certain other educational assistance

“(a) SELECTION.—(1) Medical students at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences pursuant to the Primary Care Educational Assistance Program shall be selected by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretaries for purposes of the Program.

“(2) The procedures referred to in paragraph (1) shall emphasize the basic requirement that students demonstrate a motivation and dedication to a medical career in primary care.

“(3) The number of medical students selected each year for first-year enrollment in the University pursuant to this subsection shall be jointly determined by the Secretary and the Secretary of Defense.

“(b) AGREEMENT.—An agreement between the Secretary and a participant in the Pri-

mary Care Educational Assistance Program shall (in addition to the requirements set forth in section 7604 of this title) include the following:

“(1) The Secretary’s agreement to cover the costs of the participant’s education and training at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences under chapter 104 of title 10 as if the participant were a medical student enrolled in the University pursuant to section 2114 of title 10.

“(2) The participant’s agreement to serve as a full-time employee in the Veterans Health Administration in a position as a primary care physician for a period of time (in this subchapter referred to as the ‘period of obligated service’) of one calendar year for each school year or part thereof for which the participant was a medical student at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences pursuant to the Primary Care Educational Assistance Program, but for not less than one year.

“(c) INELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—An individual who receives education and training under the Primary Care Educational Assistance Program shall not be eligible for other assistance under this chapter in connection with such education and training.

“§ 7693. Obligated service

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each participant in the Primary Care Educational Assistance Program shall provide service as a full-time employee of the Department in the Veterans Health Administration in a primary care position for the period of obligated service provided in the agreement of the participant entered into for purposes of this subchapter. Such service shall be provided in a full-time primary care clinical practice in an assignment or location determined by the Secretary.

“(b) SERVICE COMMENCEMENT DATE.—(1) Not later than 60 days before a participant’s service commencement date, the Secretary shall notify the participant of that service commencement date. That date is the date for the beginning of the participant’s period of obligated service.

“(2) As soon as possible after a participant’s service commencement date, the Secretary shall—

“(A) in the case of a participant who is not a full-time employee in the Veterans Health Administration, appoint the participant as such an employee; and

“(B) in the case of a participant who is an employee in the Veterans Health Administration but is not serving in a position for which the participant’s course of education or training prepared the participant, assign the participant to such a position.

“(3) A participant’s service commencement date for purposes of this subsection date is the date upon which the participant becomes licensed to practice medicine in a State.

“(c) COMMENCEMENT OF OBLIGATED SERVICE.—A participant in the Primary Care Educational Assistance Program shall be considered to have begun serving the participant’s period of obligated service—

“(1) on the date on which the participant is appointed as a full-time employee in the Veterans Health Administration pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(A); or

“(2) if the participant is a full-time employee in the Veterans Health Administration and assigned to a position pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(B), on the date on which the participant is so assigned to such position.

“§ 7694. Breach of agreement: liability

“(a) LIABILITY DURING COURSE OF EDUCATION OR TRAINING.—(1) A participant in the

Primary Care Educational Assistance Program shall be liable to the United States for the amount which has been paid on behalf of the participant under the agreement entered into for purposes of this subchapter if any of the following occurs:

“(A) The participant fails to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

“(B) The participant is dismissed from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for disciplinary reasons.

“(C) The participant voluntarily terminates the course of medical education and training in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences before the completion of such course of education and training.

“(D) The participant fails to become licensed to practice medicine in a State during a period of time determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

“(2) Liability under this subsection is in lieu of any service obligation arising under a participant’s agreement for purposes of this subchapter.

“(b) LIABILITY DURING PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE.—(1) Except as provided in subsection (c) and subject to paragraph (2), if a participant in the Primary Care Educational Assistance Program breaches the agreement entered into for purposes of this subchapter by failing for any reason to complete the participant’s period of obligated service, the United States shall be entitled to recover from the participant an amount equal to—

“(A) the total amount paid under this subchapter on behalf of the participant; multiplied by

“(B) a fraction—

“(i) the numerator of which is—

“(I) the total number of months in the participant’s period of obligated service; minus

“(II) the number of months served by the participant pursuant to the agreement; and

“(ii) the denominator of which is the total number of months in the participant’s period of obligated service.

“(2) Any period of internship or residency training of a participant shall not be treated as satisfying the participant’s period of obligated service for purposes of this subsection.

“(c) EXCEPTIONS.—Liability shall not arise under subsection (b) in the case of a participant otherwise covered by that subsection if—

“(1) the participant—

“(A) does not obtain, or fails to maintain, employment as a Department employee due to staffing changes approved by the Under Secretary for Health; or

“(B) does not obtain, or fails to maintain, employment in a position of primary care physician in the Veterans Health Administration due, as determined by the Secretary, to a number of primary care physicians in the Administration that is excess to the needs of the Administration; and

“(2) the participant agrees to accept and maintain employment as a primary care physician with another department or agency of the Federal Government (with such employment to be under such terms and conditions as are jointly agreed upon by the participant, the Secretary, and the head of such department or agency, including terms and conditions relating to a period of obligated service as a primary care physician with such department or agency) if such employment is offered to the participant by the Secretary and the head of such department or agency.

§ 7695. Funding

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Amounts for the Primary Care Educational Assistance Program shall be derived from amounts available to the Secretary for the Veterans Health Administration.

“(b) TRANSFER.—(1) The Secretary shall transfer to the Secretary of Defense amounts required by the Secretary of Defense to carry out the Primary Care Educational Assistance Program.

“(2) Amounts transferred to the Secretary of Defense pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be credited to the appropriation or account providing funding for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in the appropriation or account to which credited and shall be available, subject to the terms and conditions applicable to such appropriation or account, for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 76 of such title is amended by adding after the item relating to section 7684 the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VIII—PROGRAM OF EDUCATION AT UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES WITH SPECIALIZATION IN PRIMARY CARE

“7691. Authority for program.

“7692. Selection; agreement; ineligibility for certain other educational assistance.

“7693. Obligated service.

“7694. Breach of agreement: liability.

“7695. Funding.”.

(b) INCLUSION OF PROGRAM IN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 7601(a) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) the enrollment of individuals in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for specialization in primary care provided for in subchapter VIII of this chapter.”.

(c) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(1) of section 7603 of such title is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “, or VI” and inserting “, VI, or VIII”.

(2) NO PRIORITY FOR APPLICATIONS.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

(A) by striking “In selecting” and inserting “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), in selecting”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to applicants for participation in the Program of Education at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences With Specialization in Primary Care pursuant to subchapter VIII of this chapter.”.

(d) AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 7604 of such title is amended by striking “, or VI” each place it appears and inserting “, VI, or VIII”.

SEC. 203. TREATMENT OF STAFFING SHORTAGE AND BIENNIAL REPORT ON STAFFING OF MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) STAFFING SHORTAGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than September 30 each year thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

shall determine, and publish in the Federal Register, the five occupations of health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs for which there is the largest staffing shortage throughout the Department.

(2) RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT.—Notwithstanding sections 3304 and 3309 through 3318 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary may, upon a determination by the Secretary under paragraph (1) or a modification to such determination under paragraph (2), that there is a staffing shortage throughout the Department with respect to a particular occupation of health care provider, recruit and directly appoint highly qualified health care providers to a position to serve as a health care provider in that particular occupation for the Department.

(3) PRIORITY IN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO CERTAIN PROVIDERS.—Section 7612(b)(5) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

“(B) shall give priority to applicants pursuing a course of education or training towards a career in an occupation for which the Secretary has, in the most current determination published in the Federal Register pursuant to section 203(a)(1) of the Ensuring Veterans Access to Care Act of 2014, determined that there is one of the largest staffing shortages throughout the Department with respect to such occupation; and”.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than December 31 of each even numbered year thereafter until 2024, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report assessing the staffing of each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The results of a system-wide assessment of all medical facilities of the Department to ensure the following:

(i) Appropriate staffing levels for health care providers to meet the goals of the Secretary for timely access to care for veterans.

(ii) Appropriate staffing levels for support personnel, including clerks.

(iii) Appropriate sizes for clinical panels.

(iv) Appropriate numbers of full-time staff, or full-time equivalent, dedicated to direct care of patients.

(v) Appropriate physical plant space to meet the capacity needs of the Department in that area.

(vi) Such other factors as the Secretary considers necessary.

(B) A plan for addressing any issues identified in the assessment described in subparagraph (A), including a timeline for addressing such issues.

(C) A list of the current wait times and workload levels for the following clinics in each medical facility:

(i) Mental health.

(ii) Primary care.

(iii) Gastroenterology.

(iv) Women’s health.

(v) Such other clinics as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(D) A description of the results of the determination of the Secretary under para-

graph (1) of subsection (a) and a plan to use direct appointment authority under paragraph (2) of such subsection to fill staffing shortages, including recommendations for improving the speed at which the credentialing and privileging process can be conducted.

(E) The current staffing models of the Department for the following clinics, including recommendations for changes to such models:

(i) Mental health.

(ii) Primary care.

(iii) Gastroenterology.

(iv) Women’s health.

(v) Such other clinics as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(F) A detailed analysis of succession planning at medical facilities of the Department, including the following:

(i) The number of positions in medical facilities throughout the Department that are not filled by a permanent employee.

(ii) The length of time each such position described in clause (i) remained vacant or filled by a temporary or acting employee.

(iii) A description of any barriers to filling the positions described in clause (i).

(iv) A plan for filling any positions that are vacant or filled by a temporary or acting employee for more than 180 days.

(v) A plan for handling emergency circumstances, such administrative leave or sudden medical leave for senior officials.

(G) The number of health care providers who have been removed from their position or have retired, by provider type, during the two-year period preceding the submittal of the report.

(H) Of the health care providers specified in subparagraph (G) that have been removed from their position, the following:

(i) The number of such health care providers who were reassigned to another position in the Department.

(ii) The number of such health care providers who left the Department.

SEC. 204. CLINIC MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement a clinic management training program to provide in-person, standardized education on health care management to all managers of, and health care providers at, medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The clinic management training program required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Training on how to manage the schedules of health care providers of the Department, including the following:

(A) Maintaining such schedules in a manner that allows appointments to be booked at least eight weeks in advance.

(B) Proper planning procedures for vacation, leave, and graduate medical education training schedules.

(2) Training on the appropriate number of appointments that a health care provider should conduct on a daily basis, based on specialty.

(3) Training on how to determine whether there are enough available appointment slots to manage demand for different appointment types and mechanisms for alerting management of insufficient slots.

(4) Training on how to properly use the data produced by the scheduling dashboard required by section 101(b)(11) of this Act to meet demand for health care, including the following:

(A) Training on determining the next available appointment for each health care provider at the medical facility.

(B) Training on determining the number of health care providers needed to meet demand for health care at the medical facility.

(C) Training on determining the number of exam rooms needed to meet demand for such health care in an efficient manner.

(5) Training on how to properly use the appointment scheduling system of the Department, including any new scheduling system implemented by the Department.

(6) Training on how to optimize the use of technology, including the following:

(A) Telemedicine.

(B) Electronic mail.

(C) Text messaging.

(D) Such other technologies as specified by the Secretary.

(7) Training on how to properly use physical plant space at medical facilities of the Department to ensure efficient flow and privacy for patients and staff.

SEC. 205. INCLUSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES IN NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall use the funds transferred under subsection (e) to award scholarship and loan repayment contracts under sections 338A and 338B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l, 254l-1) to eligible individuals who agree to a period of obligated service under section 338A(f)(1) or 338B(f)(1) of such Act, as applicable, at a health facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS.—For purposes of selecting individuals eligible for the scholarships and loan repayment contracts under subsection (a), all health facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be deemed health professional shortage areas, as defined in section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e).

(c) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that a minimum of 5 scholarships or loan repayment contracts are awarded to individuals who agree to a period of obligated service at Veterans Affairs facilities in each State.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF NHSC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the terms of the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program shall apply to participants awarded a grant or loan repayment contract under subsection (a) in the same manner that such terms apply to participants awarded a grant or loan repayment contract under section 338A or 338B of the Public Health Service Act.

(e) INCLUSION OF GERIATRICIANS.—For purposes of awarding scholarships and loan repayments contracts to eligible individuals who agree to a period of obligated service at a health facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to this section, in sections 338A and 338B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l, 254l-1), the term “primary health services” shall include geriatrics.

(f) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall transfer \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, and such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year thereafter, from accounts of the Veterans Health Administration to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award scholarships and loan repayment contracts, as described in sub-

section (a). All funds so transferred shall be used exclusively for the purposes described in such subsection.

SEC. 206. AUTHORIZATION OF EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Veterans Affairs such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title.

TITLE III—IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO CARE FROM NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS

SEC. 301. IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS BY VETERANS TO HEALTH CARE FROM NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS.

(a) IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure timely access of all veterans to the hospital care, medical services, and other health care for which such veterans are eligible under the laws administered by the Secretary through the enhanced use of authorities specified in paragraph (2) on the provision of such care and services through non-Department of Veterans Affairs providers (commonly referred to as “non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical care”).

(2) AUTHORITIES ON PROVISION OF CARE THROUGH NON-DEPARTMENT PROVIDERS.—The authorities specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, relating to contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services through non-Department facilities.

(B) Section 1725 of such title, relating to reimbursement of certain veterans for the reasonable value of emergency treatment at non-Department facilities.

(C) Section 1728 of such title, relating to reimbursement of certain veterans for customary and usual charges of emergency treatment from sources other than the Department.

(D) Section 1786 of such title, relating to health care services furnished to newborn children of women veterans who are receiving maternity care furnished by the Department at a non-Department facility.

(E) Any other authority under the laws administered by the Secretary to provide hospital care, medical services, or other health care from a non-Department provider, including the following:

(i) A Federally-qualified health center (as defined in section 1905(1)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(1)(2)(B))).

(ii) The Department of Defense.

(iii) The Indian Health Service.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In ensuring timely access of all veterans to the care and services described in paragraph (1) through the enhanced use of authorities specified in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall require the following:

(A) That each veteran who has not received hospital care, medical services, or other health care from the Department and is seeking an appointment for primary care under the laws administered by the Secretary receive an appointment for primary care at a time consistent with timeliness measures established by the Secretary for purposes of providing primary care to all veterans.

(B) That the determination whether to refer a veteran for specialty care through a non-Department provider shall take into account the urgency and acuity of such veteran's need for such care, including—

(i) the severity of the condition of such veteran requiring specialty care; and

(ii) the wait-time for an appointment with a specialist with respect to such condition at

the nearest medical facility of the Department with the capacity to provide such care.

(C) That the determination whether a veteran shall receive hospital care, medical services, or other health care from the Department through facilities of the Department or through non-Department providers pursuant to the authorities specified in paragraph (2) shall take into account, in the manner specified by the Secretary, the following:

(i) The distance the veteran would be required to travel to receive care or services through a non-Department provider compared to the distance the veteran would be required to travel to receive care or services from a medical facility of the Department.

(ii) Any factors that might limit the ability of the veteran to travel, including age, access to transportation, and infirmity.

(iii) The wait-time for the provision of care or services through a non-Department provider compared to the wait-time for the provision of care or services from a medical facility of the Department.

(iv) Where the veteran would prefer to receive the care and services described in paragraph (1), unless the preference of the veteran conflicts with any of the other requirements of this paragraph.

(D) That the Department maximize the use of hospital care, medical services, and other health care available to the Department through non-Department providers, including providers available to provide such care and services as follows:

(i) Pursuant to contracts under the Patient-Centered Community Care Program of the Department.

(ii) Pursuant to contracts between a facility or facilities of the Department and a local facility or provider.

(iii) Pursuant to contracts with Federally-qualified health centers (as defined in section 1905(1)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(1)(2)(B))), the Department of Defense, or the Indian Health Service.

(iv) On a fee-for-service basis.

(b) MEDICAL RECORDS.—In providing hospital care, medical services, and other health care to veterans through non-Department providers pursuant to the authorities specified in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure that any such provider submits to the Department any medical record related to the care and services provided to a veteran by that provider for inclusion in the electronic medical record of such veteran maintained by the Department upon the completion of the provision of such care and services to such veteran.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of the requirements under subsection (a) and (b), including a plan to enforce the proper implementation of such requirements systematically throughout the Department.

(2) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the submittal of the report required by paragraph (1), and every 90 days thereafter for one year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that includes the following:

(A) The progress of the Secretary in carrying out the plan under paragraph (1) to enforce the proper implementation of the requirements under subsection (a) and (b) systematically throughout the Department.

(B) The impact of the implementation of such requirements on wait-times for veterans to receive hospital care, medical services, and other health care, disaggregated by—

- (i) new patients;
- (ii) existing patients;
- (iii) primary care; and
- (iv) specialty care.

(C) Any recommendations for changes or improvements to such requirements.

(D) Any requests for additional funding necessary to carry out such requirements.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AND REPORT ON JOINT INCENTIVES PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Section 8111(d)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

(b) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the implementation by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense of the findings and recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States in the September 2012 report entitled “VA and DoD Health Care: Department-Level Actions Needed to Assess Collaboration Performance, Address Barriers, and Identify Opportunities” (GAO-12-992).

(2) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report assessing and providing recommendations for improvement to the program to identify, provide incentives to, implement, fund, and evaluate creative coordination and sharing initiatives between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense required under section 8111(d) of such title.

(B) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) An assessment of the extent to which the program described in subparagraph (A) has accomplished the goal of such program to improve the access to, and quality and cost effectiveness of, the health care provided by the Veterans Health Administration and the Military Health System to the beneficiaries of both the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

(ii) An assessment of whether administration of such program through the Health Executive Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee established under section 320 of such title provides sufficient leadership attention and oversight to ensure maximum benefits to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense through collaborative efforts.

(iii) An assessment of whether additional authorities to jointly construct, lease, or acquire facilities would facilitate additional collaborative efforts under such program.

(iv) An assessment of whether the funding for such program is sufficient to ensure consistent identification of potential opportunities for collaboration and oversight of existing collaborations to ensure a meaningful partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense and remove any barriers to integration or collaboration.

(v) An assessment of whether existing processes for identifying opportunities for

collaboration are sufficient to ensure maximum collaboration between the Veterans Health Administration and the Military Health System.

(vi) Such legislative or administrative recommendations for improvement to such program as the Comptroller General considers appropriate to enhance the use of such program to increase access to health care.

SEC. 303. TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY FOR PAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND OTHER HEALTH CARE FROM NON-DEPARTMENT PROVIDERS TO THE CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICE OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

(a) **TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective on October 1, 2014, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall transfer the authority to pay for hospital care, medical services, and other health care through non-Department providers to the Chief Business Office of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs from the Veterans Integrated Service Networks and medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) **MANNER OF CARE.**—The Chief Business Office shall work in consultation with the Office of Clinical Operations and Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that care and services described in paragraph (1) is provided in a manner that is clinically appropriate and effective.

(3) **NO DELAY IN PAYMENT.**—The transfer of authority under paragraph (1) shall be carried out in a manner that does not delay or impede any payment by the Department for hospital care, medical services, or other health care provided through a non-Department provider under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(b) **BUDGETARY EFFECT.**—The Secretary shall, for each fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) include in the budget for the Chief Business Office of the Veterans Health Administration amounts to pay for hospital care, medical services, and other health care provided through non-Department providers, including any amounts necessary to carry out the transfer of authority to pay for such care and services under subsection (a), including any increase in staff; and

(2) not include in the budget of each Veterans Integrated Service Network and medical center of the Department amounts to pay for such care and services.

(c) **REMOVAL FROM PERFORMANCE GOALS.**—For each fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall not include in the performance goals of any employee of a Veterans Integrated Service Network or medical center of the Department any performance goal that might disincentivize the payment of Department amounts to provide hospital care, medical services, or other health care through a non-Department provider.

SEC. 304. ENHANCEMENT OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.

(a) **OUTREACH TO TRIBAL-RUN MEDICAL FACILITIES.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with the Director of the Indian Health Service, conduct outreach to each medical facility operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization through a contract or compact with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) to raise awareness of the ability of such facilities, Indian tribes, and tribal orga-

nizations to enter into agreements with the Department of Veterans Affairs under which the Secretary reimburses such facilities, Indian tribes, or tribal organizations, as the case may be, for health care provided to veterans eligible for health care at such facilities.

(b) **METRICS FOR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING PERFORMANCE.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement performance metrics for assessing the performance by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Indian Health Service under the memorandum of understanding entitled “Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS)” in increasing access to health care, improving quality and coordination of health care, promoting effective patient-centered collaboration and partnerships between the Department and the Service, and ensuring health-promotion and disease-prevention services are appropriately funded and available for beneficiaries under both health care systems.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Director of the Indian Health Service shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the feasibility and advisability of the following:

(1) Entering into agreements for the reimbursement by the Secretary of the costs of direct care services provided through organizations receiving amounts pursuant to grants made or contracts entered into under section 503 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1653) to veterans who are otherwise eligible to receive health care from such organizations.

(2) Including the reimbursement of the costs of direct care services provided to veterans who are not Indians in agreements between the Department and the following:

(A) The Indian Health Service.

(B) An Indian tribe or tribal organization operating a medical facility through a contract or compact with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

(C) A medical facility of the Indian Health Service.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **INDIAN.**—The terms “Indian” and “Indian tribe” have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

(2) **MEDICAL FACILITY OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.**—The term “medical facility of the Indian Health Service” includes a facility operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization through a contract or compact with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

(3) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

SEC. 305. ENHANCEMENT OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with Papa Ola Lokahi and such other organizations involved in the delivery of health care to Native Hawaiians as the Secretary considers appropriate, enter into contracts or agreements with Native Hawaiian health care systems that are in receipt of funds from the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to grants awarded or contracts entered into under section 6(a) of the

Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (42 U.S.C. 11705(a)) for the reimbursement of direct care services provided to eligible veterans as specified in such contracts or agreements.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the terms “Native Hawaiian”, “Native Hawaiian health care system”, and “Papa Ola Lokahi” have the meanings given those terms in section 12 of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (42 U.S.C. 11711).

SEC. 306. AUTHORIZATION OF EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Veterans Affairs such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title.

TITLE IV—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

SEC. 401. IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS OF VETERANS TO MOBILE VET CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall improve the access of veterans to telemedicine and other health care through the use of mobile vet centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing standardized requirements for the operation of such centers.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The standardized requirements required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The number of days each mobile vet center of the Department is expected to travel per year.

(B) The number of locations each center is expected to visit per year.

(C) The number of appointments each center is expected to conduct per year.

(D) The method and timing of notifications given by each center to individuals in the area to which such center is traveling, including notifications informing veterans of the availability to schedule appointments at the center.

(3) **USE OF TELEMEDICINE.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each mobile vet center of the Department has the capability to provide telemedicine services.

(b) **REPORTS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than September 30 each year thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the following:

(1) The use of mobile vet centers to provide telemedicine services to veterans during the year preceding the submittal of the report, including the following:

(A) The number of days each mobile vet center was open to provide such services.

(B) The number of days each mobile vet center traveled to a location other than the headquarters of the mobile vet center to provide such services.

(C) The number of appointments each center conducted to provide such services on average per month and in total during such year.

(2) An analysis of the effectiveness of using mobile vet centers to provide health care services to veterans through the use of telemedicine.

(3) Any recommendations for an increase in the number of mobile vet centers of the Department.

(4) Any recommendations for an increase in the telemedicine capabilities of each mobile vet center.

(5) The feasibility and advisability of using temporary health care providers, including

locum tenens, to provide direct health care services to veterans at mobile vet centers.

(6) Such other recommendations on improvement of the use of mobile vet centers by the Department as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 402. COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO CARE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established the Commission on Access to Care (in this section referred to as the “Commission”) to examine the access of veterans to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and strategically examine how best to organize the Veterans Health Administration, locate health care resources, and deliver health care to veterans during the next 10 to 20 years.

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(A) **VOTING MEMBERS.**—The Commission shall be composed of 10 voting members who are appointed by the President as follows:

(i) At least two members who represent an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

(ii) At least one member from among persons who are experts concerning a public or private hospital system.

(iii) At least one member from among persons who are familiar with government health care systems, including those systems of the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service, and Federally-qualified health centers (as defined in section 1905(1)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(1)(2)(B))).

(iv) At least two members from among persons who are familiar with the Veterans Health Administration.

(B) **NONVOTING MEMBERS.**—In addition to members appointed under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall be composed of 10 nonvoting members who are appointed by the President as follows:

(i) At least two members who represent an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

(ii) At least one member from among persons who are experts in a public or private hospital system.

(iii) At least one member from among persons who are familiar with government health care systems, including those systems of the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service, and Federally-qualified health centers (as defined in section 1905(1)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(1)(2)(B))).

(iv) At least two members from among persons who are familiar with the Veterans Health Administration.

(C) **DATE.**—The appointments of members of the Commission shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.**—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(4) **INITIAL MEETING.**—Not later than 15 days after the date on which seven voting members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.

(5) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(6) **QUORUM.**—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum,

but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(7) **CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among its members.

(b) **DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**—

(1) **EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT.**—The Commission shall undertake a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of access to health care at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) **MATTERS EVALUATED AND ASSESSED.**—The matters evaluated and assessed by the Commission shall include the following:

(A) The appropriateness of current standards of the Department of Veterans Affairs concerning access to health care.

(B) The measurement of such standards.

(C) The appropriateness of performance standards and incentives in relation to standards described in subparagraph (A).

(D) Staffing levels throughout the Veterans Health Administration and whether they are sufficient to meet current demand for health care from the Administration.

(3) **REPORTS.**—The Commission shall submit to the President, through the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, reports as follows:

(A) Not later than 90 days after the date of the initial meeting of the Commission, an interim report on—

(i) the findings of the Commission with respect to the evaluation and assessment required by this subsection; and

(ii) such recommendations as the Commission may have for legislative or administrative action to improve access to health care through the Veterans Health Administration.

(B) Not later than 180 days after the date of the initial meeting of the Commission, a final report on—

(i) the findings of the Commission with respect to the evaluation and assessment required by this subsection; and

(ii) such recommendations as the Commission may have for legislative or administrative action to improve access to health care through the Veterans Health Administration.

(c) **POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**—

(1) **HEARINGS.**—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this section.

(2) **INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this section. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(d) **COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**—

(1) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—Each member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission. All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(2) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at

rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(3) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(B) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(5) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(e) TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.—The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under subsection (b)(3)(B).

(f) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make available to the Commission from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Secretary such amounts as the Secretary and the Chairperson of the Commission jointly consider appropriate for the Commission to perform its duties under this section.

(g) EXECUTIVE ACTION.—

(1) ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS.—The President shall require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and such other heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement each recommendation set forth in a report submitted under subsection (b)(3) that the President—

(A) considers feasible and advisable; and

(B) determines can be implemented without further legislative action.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the President receives a report under subsection (b)(3), the President shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and such other committees of Congress as the President considers appropriate a report setting forth the following:

(A) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of each recommendation contained in the report received by the President.

(B) For each recommendation assessed as feasible and advisable under subparagraph (A) the following:

(i) Whether such recommendation requires legislative action.

(ii) If such recommendation requires legislative action, a recommendation concerning such legislative action.

(iii) A description of any administrative action already taken to carry out such recommendation.

(iv) A description of any administrative action the President intends to be taken to carry out such recommendation and by whom.

SEC. 403. COMMISSION ON CAPITAL PLANNING FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Commission on Capital Planning for Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facilities (in this section referred to as the "Commission").

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Commission shall, subject to subparagraph (B), be composed of 10 voting members as follows:

(i) 1 shall be appointed by the President.

(ii) 1 shall be appointed by the Administrator of General Services.

(iii) 3 shall be appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, of whom—

(I) 1 shall be an employee of the Veterans Health Administration;

(II) 1 shall be an employee of the Office of Asset Enterprise Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(III) 1 shall be an employee of the Office of Construction and Facilities Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(iv) 1 shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense from among employees of the Army Corps of Engineers.

(v) 1 shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate.

(vi) 1 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(vii) 1 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(viii) 1 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(B) REQUIREMENT RELATING TO CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS OF VOTING MEMBERS.—Of the members appointed pursuant to clause (i), (ii), and (iv) through (viii) of subparagraph (A), all shall have expertise in capital leasing, construction, or health facility management planning.

(C) NON-VOTING MEMBERS.—The Commission shall be assisted by 10 non-voting members, appointed by the vote of a majority of members of the Commission under subparagraph (A), of whom—

(i) 6 shall be representatives of veterans service organizations recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

(ii) 4 shall be individuals from outside the Department of Veterans Affairs with experience and expertise in matters relating to management, construction, and leasing of capital assets.

(D) DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF VOTING MEMBERS.—The appointments of the members of the Commission under subparagraph (A) shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which 7 members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.

(5) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair.

(6) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(7) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—The Commission shall select a Chair and Vice Chair from among its members.

(b) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall undertake a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of various options for capital planning for Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, including an evaluation and assessment of the mechanisms by which the Department currently selects means for the delivery of health care, whether by major construction, major medical facility leases, sharing agreements with the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service, and Federally Qualified Health Clinics under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b), contract care, multisite care, telemedicine, extended hours for care, or other means.

(2) CONTEXT OF EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT.—In undertaking the evaluation and assessment, the Commission shall consider—

(A) the importance of access to health care through the Department, including associated guidelines of the Department on access to, and drive time for, health care;

(B) limitations and requirements applicable to the construction and leasing of medical facilities for the Department, including applicable laws, regulations, and costs as determined by both the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget;

(C) the nature of capital planning for Department medical facilities in an era of fiscal uncertainty;

(D) projected future fluctuations in the population of veterans; and

(E) the extent to which the Department was able to meet the mandates of the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services Commission.

(3) PARTICULAR CONSIDERATIONS.—In undertaking the evaluation and assessment, the Commission shall address, in particular, the following:

(A) The Major Medical Facility Lease Program of the Department, including an identification of potential improvements to the lease authorization processes under that Program.

(B) The management processes of the Department for its Major Medical Facility Construction Program, including processes relating to contract award and management, project management, and processing of change orders.

(C) The overall capital planning program of the Department for medical facilities, including an evaluation and assessment of—

(i) the manner in which the Department determines whether to use capital or non-capital means to expand access to health care;

(ii) the manner in which the Department determines the disposition of under-utilized and un-utilized buildings on campuses of Department medical centers, and any barriers to disposition;

(iii) the effectiveness of the facility master planning initiative of the Department; and

(iv) the extent to which sustainable attributes are planned for to decrease operating costs for Department medical facilities.

(D) The current backlog of construction projects for Department medical facilities, including an identification of the most effective means to quickly secure the most critical repairs required, including repairs relating to facility condition deficiencies, structural safety, and compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990.

(4) REPORTS.—Subject to paragraph (5), the Commission shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and to the Committee Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives, reports as follows:

(A) Not later than six months after its initial meeting under subsection (a)(4), a report on the Major Medical Facility Lease Program and the Congressional lease authorization process.

(B) Not later than one year after its initial meeting, a report—

(i) on the management processes of the Department for the construction of Department medical facilities; and

(ii) setting forth an update of any matters covered in the report under subparagraph (A).

(C) Not later than 18 months after its initial meeting, a report—

(i) on the overall capital planning program of the Department for medical facilities; and

(ii) setting forth an update of any matters covered in earlier reports under this paragraph.

(D) Not later than two years after its initial meeting, a report—

(i) on the current backlog of construction projects for Department medical facilities;

(ii) setting forth an update of any matters covered in earlier reports under this paragraph; and

(iii) including such other matters relating to the duties of the Commission that the Commission considers appropriate.

(E) Not later than 27 months after its initial meeting, a report on the implementation by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs pursuant to subsection (g) of the recommendations included pursuant to paragraph (5) in the reports under this paragraph.

(5) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each report under paragraph (4) shall include, for the aspect of the capital asset planning process of the Department covered by such report, such recommendations as the Commission considers appropriate for the improvement and enhancement of such aspect of the capital asset planning process.

(c) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this section.

(2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this section. Upon request of the Chair of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(d) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission. All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies

under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(3) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chair of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(B) COMPENSATION.—The Chair of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(5) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chair of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(e) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—The Commission shall terminate 60 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under subsection (b)(4)(E).

(f) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make available to the Commission such amounts as the Secretary and the Chair of the Commission jointly consider appropriate for the Commission to perform its duties under this section.

(g) ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement each recommendation included in a report under subsection (b)(4) that the Secretary considers feasible and advisable and can be implemented without further legislative action.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 120 days after receipt of a report under subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (b)(4), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth the following:

(A) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of each recommendation contained in such report.

(B) For each recommendation assessed as feasible and advisable—

(i) if such recommendation does not require further legislative action for implementation, a description of the actions taken, and to be taken, by the Secretary to implement such recommendation; and

(ii) if such recommendation requires further legislative action for implementation, recommendations for such legislative action.

SEC. 404. REMOVAL OF SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR PERFORMANCE.

(a) REMOVAL OR TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 713. Senior Executive Service: removal based on performance

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may remove any individual from the Senior Executive Service if the Secretary determines the performance of the individual warrants such removal. If the Secretary so removes such an individual, the Secretary may—

“(1) remove the individual from the civil service (as defined in section 2101 of title 5); or

“(2) transfer the individual to a General Schedule position at any grade of the General Schedule for which the individual is qualified and that the Secretary determines is appropriate.

“(b) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after removing or transferring an individual from the Senior Executive Service under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives notice in writing of such removal or transfer and the reason for such removal or transfer.

“(c) APPEAL OF REMOVAL OR TRANSFER.—Any removal or transfer under subsection (a) may be appealed to the Merit Systems Protection Board under section 7701 of title 5 not later than 7 days after such removal or transfer.

“(d) EXPEDITED REVIEW BY MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD.—(1) The Merit Systems Protection Board shall expedite any appeal under section 7701 of title 5 of a removal or transfer under subsection (a) and, in any such case, shall issue a decision not later than 21 days after the date of the appeal.

“(2) In any case in which the Merit Systems Protection Board determines that it cannot issue a decision in accordance with the 21-day requirement under paragraph (1), the Merit Systems Protection Board shall submit to Congress a report that explains the reason why the Merit Systems Protection Board is unable to issue a decision in accordance with such requirement in such case.

“(3) There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the Merit Systems Protection Board to expedite appeals under paragraph (1).

“(4) The Merit Systems Protection Board may not stay any personnel action taken under this section.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“713. Senior Executive Service: removal based on performance.”

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPEDITED REVIEW PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Merit Systems Protection Board shall establish and put into effect a process to conduct expedited reviews in accordance with section 713(d) of title 38, United States Code.

(2) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN REGULATIONS.—Section 1201.22 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall not apply to expedited reviews carried out under section 713(d) of title 38, United States Code.

(3) REPORT BY MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Merit Systems Protection Board shall submit to Congress a report on the actions the Board plans to take to conduct expedited reviews under

section 713(d) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a). Such report shall include a description of the resources the Board determines will be necessary to conduct such reviews and a description of whether any resources will be necessary to conduct such reviews that were not available to the Board on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN LIMITATION ON INITIATION OF REMOVAL FROM SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE.—During the 120-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, an action to remove an individual from the Senior Executive Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 713 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), or section 7543 of title 5, United States Code, may be initiated, notwithstanding section 3592(b) of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law.

(d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or section 713 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be construed to apply to an appeal of a removal, transfer, or other personnel action that was pending before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES

SEC. 501. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility leases at the locations specified, and in an amount for each lease not to exceed the amount shown for such location (not including any estimated cancellation costs):

(1) For a clinical research and pharmacy coordinating center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, an amount not to exceed \$9,560,000.

(2) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Brick, New Jersey, an amount not to exceed \$7,280,000.

(3) For a new primary care and dental clinic annex, Charleston, South Carolina, an amount not to exceed \$7,070,250.

(4) For the Cobb County community-based Outpatient Clinic, Cobb County, Georgia, an amount not to exceed \$6,409,000.

(5) For the Leeward Outpatient Healthcare Access Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, including a co-located clinic with the Department of Defense and the co-location of the Honolulu Regional Office of the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Kapolei Vet Center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, an amount not to exceed \$15,887,370.

(6) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Johnson County, Kansas, an amount not to exceed \$2,263,000.

(7) For a replacement community-based outpatient clinic, Lafayette, Louisiana, an amount not to exceed \$2,996,000.

(8) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Lake Charles, Louisiana, an amount not to exceed \$2,626,000.

(9) For outpatient clinic consolidation, New Port Richey, Florida, an amount not to exceed \$11,927,000.

(10) For an outpatient clinic, Ponce, Puerto Rico, an amount not to exceed \$11,535,000.

(11) For lease consolidation, San Antonio, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$19,426,000.

(12) For a community-based outpatient clinic, San Diego, California, an amount not to exceed \$11,946,100.

(13) For an outpatient clinic, Tyler, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$4,327,000.

(14) For the Errera Community Care Center, West Haven, Connecticut, an amount not to exceed \$4,883,000.

(15) For the Worcester community-based Outpatient Clinic, Worcester, Massachusetts, an amount not to exceed \$4,855,000.

(16) For the expansion of a community-based outpatient clinic, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, an amount not to exceed \$4,232,060.

(17) For a multispecialty clinic, Chattanooga, Tennessee, an amount not to exceed \$7,069,000.

(18) For the expansion of a community-based outpatient clinic, Chico, California, an amount not to exceed \$4,534,000.

(19) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Chula Vista, California, an amount not to exceed \$3,714,000.

(20) For a new research lease, Hines, Illinois, an amount not to exceed \$22,032,000.

(21) For a replacement research lease, Houston, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$6,142,000.

(22) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Lincoln, Nebraska, an amount not to exceed \$7,178,400.

(23) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Lubbock, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$3,554,000.

(24) For a community-based outpatient clinic consolidation, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, an amount not to exceed \$8,022,000.

(25) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Phoenix, Arizona, an amount not to exceed \$20,757,000.

(26) For the expansion of a community-based outpatient clinic, Redding, California, an amount not to exceed \$8,154,000.

(27) For the expansion of a community-based outpatient clinic, Tulsa, Oklahoma, an amount not to exceed \$13,269,200.

SEC. 502. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITIES LEASES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Title 31, United States Code, requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to record the full cost of its contractual obligation against funds available at the time a contract is executed.

(2) Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11 provides guidance to agencies in meeting the statutory requirements under title 31, United States Code, with respect to leases.

(3) For operating leases, Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11 requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to record up-front budget authority in an “amount equal to total payments under the full term of the lease or [an] amount sufficient to cover first year lease payments plus cancellation costs”.

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR OBLIGATION OF FULL COST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations provided in advance, in exercising the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into leases provided in this Act, the Secretary shall record, pursuant to section 1501 of title 31, United States Code, as the full cost of the contractual obligation at the time a contract is executed either—

(A) an amount equal to total payments under the full term of the lease; or

(B) if the lease specifies payments to be made in the event the lease is terminated before its full term, an amount sufficient to cover the first year lease payments plus the specified cancellation costs.

(2) SELF-INSURING AUTHORITY.—The requirements of paragraph (1) may be satisfied through the use of a self-insuring authority consistent with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11.

(c) TRANSPARENCY.—

(1) COMPLIANCE.—Subsection (b) of section 8104 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-

ed by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) In the case of a prospectus proposing funding for a major medical facility lease, a detailed analysis of how the lease is expected to comply with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11 and section 1341 of title 31 (commonly referred to as the ‘Anti-Deficiency Act’). Any such analysis shall include—

“(A) an analysis of the classification of the lease as a ‘lease-purchase’, ‘capital lease’, or ‘operating lease’ as those terms are defined in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11;

“(B) an analysis of the obligation of budgetary resources associated with the lease; and

“(C) an analysis of the methodology used in determining the asset cost, fair market value, and cancellation costs of the lease.”.

(2) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Such section 8104 is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h)(1) Not less than 30 days before entering into a major medical facility lease, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives—

“(A) notice of the Secretary’s intention to enter into the lease;

“(B) a detailed summary of the proposed lease;

“(C) a description and analysis of any differences between the prospectus submitted pursuant to subsection (b) and the proposed lease; and

“(D) a scoring analysis demonstrating that the proposed lease fully complies with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11.

“(2) Each committee described in paragraph (1) shall ensure that any information submitted to the committee under such paragraph is treated by the committee with the same level of confidentiality as is required by law of the Secretary and subject to the same statutory penalties for unauthorized disclosure or use as the Secretary.

“(3) Not more than 30 days after entering into a major medical facility lease, the Secretary shall submit to each committee described in paragraph (1) a report on any material differences between the lease that was entered into and the proposed lease described under such paragraph, including how the lease that was entered into changes the previously submitted scoring analysis described in subparagraph (D) of such paragraph.”.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed to in any way relieve the Department of Veterans Affairs from any statutory or regulatory obligations or requirements existing prior to the enactment of this section and such amendments.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow my friend and colleague from Vermont, Senator SANDERS, and I want to begin by thanking him for his leadership, his persistence, and his perseverance in the face of resistance that should not exist. This cause ought to be one that galvanizes the Nation, and perhaps it will, since the Nation has been appalled and astonished by reports of not only cooking the books but covering up that potential criminality—destruction of documents, falsification of records, secret waiting lists, delays that are unacceptable and intolerable for basic, necessary health care our veterans need.

But these issues are longstanding, decades old in this system, and they need to be addressed with system-wide reform.

I am strongly in support, and proudly so, in advocating the Ensuring Veterans Access to Health Care Act that Senator SANDERS has just introduced. It is a version of the omnibus bill and other measures that have been introduced. It has essential features that will provide better health care sooner and more accessibly to our veterans. It is necessary to pass, but these provisions should have passed literally years ago. In fact, the very first piece of legislation I introduced in the Senate, S. 1060, called the Honoring All Veterans Act, included a provision to deal with this shortage of doctors in this system. It included other health care-related measures to expand the availability and accessibility of health care. These problems, far from new, have been existent for some time. And the coverup, the lying, and falsification of records is potentially now criminal and beyond a failure of public policy; it is a failure in integrity.

I am pleased to join Senator SANDERS to make sure the 9.3 million of the Nation's 22 million who are enrolled in the VA health care system—which is up from about 2.5 million at the end of the first gulf war—have the kind of service they need. This bill will address some basic needs. It provides authority to remove senior executives based on poor job performance and preventing wholesale political firings. The legislation would provide veterans who cannot get timely appointments access to private clinics and the option of going to community health care centers, military hospitals, or private doctors. It would authorize the Veterans' Administration to lease 27 new health facilities in 18 States, including funds for the enhanced lease of the Errera Community Care Center in West Haven, CT, which does profoundly important and excellent work.

The legislation authorizes emergency funding to hire new doctors and nurses and other providers in order to address systemwide health care provider shortages and to take other necessary steps to ensure timely access to care. It addresses the health care primary care shortage for the long term as well by authorizing the National Health Service Corps to award scholarships to medical school students and to forgive college loans for doctors and nurses who work at the VA. These kinds of measures and others in the bill will act to fulfill our basic obligation to our veterans, just as I attempted to do in the Honoring All Veterans Act some years ago, and others have joined since in seeking to do.

My hope is we can reach across the aisle. In fact, I am working with Senator MCCAIN on a bipartisan letter to the Attorney General urging all pos-

sible involvement and leadership in a criminal investigation. I hope a similar spirit of bipartisanship will enable us to work with Senators MCCAIN, BURR, and COBURN on their Veterans Choice Act and combine these measures, enlist them in supporting a bipartisan solution and join Senator SANDERS in hoping for that bipartisan effort in this measure because there is no question that the VA budget has grown, but simply has failed to keep pace with surging demand, especially in mental health services and primary care. Too many of our veterans are coming home with serious mental health issues, including post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and need the care we owe them. We need accountability. Part of it will be firing the officials who should be held responsible, but part of it may also be prosecuting them, and that is the reason I have asked the Attorney General to take the lead to assume much more immediate, significant involvement in any criminal investigation that may be necessary.

In fact, there is credible and significant evidence of criminal wrongdoing here. The Department of Justice must be involved and in my view must take a leadership role, and that is the reason Senator MCCAIN and I have joined in a letter that we are seeking support for our colleagues to send that would request the Attorney General to take such steps. Only the Attorney General has the resources, expertise, and authority, along with the FBI, to do a prompt and effective criminal investigation. Only the Department of Justice can convene a grand jury and take other necessary steps. Only the FBI can bring to bear the expertise as well as the resources.

The inspector general of the Veterans' Administration has only 165 investigators for the entire Nation. This investigation now spans more than 40 centers where criminality has been alleged. Of the 216 sites visited by the auditors recently, many were found to have issues of scheduling practice defects and potential integrity problems. So there is a reason for the VA inspector general to not only consult with the Department of Justice but also involve the Department of Justice in an active leadership role here, and for the Acting Secretary of the VA to request that involvement, which I hope he will do. I commend what he has done so far, but now is the time for the Department of Justice to be involved in leading.

The audit of the facilities around the country is to be made public—not just the overall results which have been delivered to the President in a report last Friday, but all of the results—site-specific results for locations, for example, the two hospitals in Connecticut in West Haven and in Newington as well as the six medical centers in Connecticut. All of those site-specific audits should be made public.

I have written to the Acting Secretary Sloan Gibson, urging that he make those face-to-face audits of the VA medical facilities public, not only for Connecticut but for the whole country. Restoring trust and credibility will be achieved only if there is more transparency. Nondisclosure would be a bad way to begin a new era of leadership at the VA. Full transparency is absolutely vital to help restore trust and confidence, which has been so gravely threatened and, indeed, undermined.

Finally, I have a few words to say about Secretary Shinseki. The immediate challenge is not about replacing one person, it is about fixing a system that is desperately wrong. I deeply respect Secretary Shinseki's decision to resign last week after concluding that his continued service would be a distraction from the urgent and necessary overhaul of the Veterans' Administration. I respect even more his dedicated service to our Nation. He is a decorated combat veteran who led into battle many of the men and women who now use the Veterans' Administration. His mentors and models, as he so eloquently told our committee, now use the Veterans' Administration. In his heart, I believe he is passionately committed to the cause of serving our veterans, and he deserves gratitude and respect from the American people for his service in the U.S. military and his telling truth to power as the President so powerfully observed.

The Nation must recognize it owes our veterans world-class, first-class medical care that is second to none. Putting them at risk in medical facilities after they have put their lives on the line on the battlefield is a disservice to them and our Nation.

It is abhorrent and atrocious that there have been these potentially criminal acts—destruction of documents and falsification of records—at many of the VA facilities around the country. There is no excuse for it. Whether it is arbitrary deadlines or timelines, there is simply no excuse for that kind of lying. The lying that happened within the VA was not only to General Shinseki, but to the American people. The ones who committed that kind of wrongdoing should be held accountable administratively and criminally.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the ongoing global military operations since 9/11, have cast a long shadow on this Nation's history. It involved less than 1 percent of the population, including the families of the brave warriors who have been sent to battle. All of us will live with the consequences, and all of us have an obligation to keep faith with them, leave no veteran behind, and give them prompt and world-class, first-class medical care when they need it right away.

The "greatest generation" set a model for them, and they are, indeed,

the next greatest generation. We have to do right by them as they have done right by us. No matter what the era, conflict, or war, let us keep faith with all of the veterans and leave no veteran behind.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BURR, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. COATS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2424. A bill to provide veterans with the choice of medical providers and to increase transparency and accountability of operations of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, it has been almost 2 months since allegations that some 40 veterans died while waiting for care at the Phoenix VA were first made public. Since that report, we have learned of similar allegations of gross mismanagement and data manipulation at 42 VA medical facilities across the U.S. More troubling, according to the Office of the Inspector General's preliminary report, 1,700 veterans in the Phoenix VA Health Care System who thought they were about to receive care were never even placed on the VA's Electronic Waiting List and are "at risk of being forgotten or lost in Phoenix HCS's convoluted scheduling process". Today, it is clear that delaying medical care and manipulating records to hide those delays in care is systemic through the Department of Veterans' Affairs health system. This has created in our veterans' community a crisis of confidence toward the VA—the very agency that was established to care for them.

Today, I joined Senators COBURN, BURR, and FLAKE to introduce the Veterans Choice Act of 2014. This bill would, principally, empower veterans with greater flexibility when choosing their medical care and increase transparency and accountability within the VA to ensure that it delivers quality care to our veterans in a timely manner. Specifically, it would give veterans the option to go to a different doctor if the VA can't schedule an appointment within a reasonable time or if the veteran lives too far away from a VA medical facility. Additionally, this bill would prohibit scheduling or wait-time metrics/goals from being used as factors to determining performance awards or bonuses. It would also require the Secretary of the VA to punish employees who falsify data, including civil penalties, suspension or ter-

mination. And, empower the Secretary of the VA to remove any top executive at the VA if the Secretary determines that his performance warrants removal.

Put simply, unlike some other proposals that have been made to reform how the VA delivers care, this bill would squarely address the root causes of the tragic circumstances that have brought us to this point.

For almost all this century, Americans have been fighting in faraway places to make this dangerous world safer for the rest of us. They have been brave. They have sacrificed and suffered. They bear wounds and mourn losses they will never completely recover from—and we can never fully compensate them for. But, we can care for the injuries they incurred on our behalf and provide for their physical and emotional recovery from the battles they fought to protect us. Quality care for our veterans is among the most solemn obligations a nation must pay, and we will be judged by God and history by how well we discharge ours.

Indeed, we must be worthy of the sacrifices made on our behalf. How we care for those who risked everything for us is the most important test of a Nation's character. Today, we are failing that test. We must do better tomorrow. Much better.

For the 9 million American veterans who depend on the VA for their health care, and for the families whose tragic stories we have heard over the last two months, who I know are still grieving their losses, it is time to provide our veterans with the care, choice, and accountability that they so rightly deserve. I am pleased to be associated with the bill Senator BURR, Senator COBURN and Senator FLAKE introduced today, which would help the nation achieve those laudable, necessary goals. I urge my colleagues—on both sides of the aisle—to support it.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 464—DESIGNATING JUNE 2014 AS "NATIONAL APHASIA AWARENESS MONTH" AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF APHASIA

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 464

Whereas aphasia is a communication impairment caused by brain damage that typically results from a stroke;

Whereas aphasia can also occur with other neurological disorders, such as a brain tumor;

Whereas many people with aphasia also have weakness or paralysis in the right leg and right arm, usually due to damage to the left hemisphere of the brain, which controls

language and movement on the right side of the body;

Whereas the effects of aphasia may include a loss of, or reduction in, the ability to speak, comprehend, read, and write, but the intelligence of a person with aphasia remains intact;

Whereas, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (referred to in this preamble as the "NINDS"), strokes are the fourth-leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas strokes are a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States;

Whereas the NINDS estimates that there are approximately 5,000,000 stroke survivors in the United States;

Whereas the NINDS estimates that people in the United States suffer approximately 795,000 strokes per year, with about 1/3 of the strokes resulting in aphasia;

Whereas, according to the NINDS, aphasia affects at least 1,000,000 people in the United States;

Whereas the NINDS estimates that more than 200,000 people in the United States are afflicted with aphasia each year;

Whereas the people of the United States should strive to learn more about aphasia and to promote research, rehabilitation, and support services for people with aphasia and aphasia caregivers throughout the United States; and

Whereas people with aphasia and their caregivers envision a world that recognizes the "silent" disability of aphasia and provides opportunity and fulfillment for people affected by aphasia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2014 as "National Aphasia Awareness Month";

(2) supports efforts to increase awareness of aphasia;

(3) recognizes that strokes, a primary cause of aphasia, are the fourth-largest cause of death and disability in the United States;

(4) acknowledges that aphasia deserves more attention and study to find new solutions for people experiencing aphasia and their caregivers;

(5) supports efforts to make the voices of people with aphasia heard, because people with aphasia are often unable to communicate with others; and

(6) encourages all people in the United States to observe National Aphasia Awareness Month with appropriate events and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 465—COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF WEBSTER UNIVERSITY

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 465

Whereas in 1915, the Sisters of Loretto established Webster University in Saint Louis, Missouri, as one of the first Catholic colleges for women that is located west of the Mississippi River;

Whereas Webster University has campuses in 8 different countries, introducing people in Europe, Asia, and Africa to United States educational programs, helping to spread United States culture and ideas around the globe, and serving the educational needs of people abroad;

Whereas in 1974, Webster University became one of the first universities in the United States to operate on a military base;

Whereas in 2014, Webster University is located on military bases across the country, serving all branches of the military and directly helping more than 7,700 students who are active members of the Armed Forces, veterans, or direct relatives of individuals with military connections;

Whereas Webster University has been a leader in online education since 1999, and more than 9,000 students are taking courses in the Webster University Online Learning Center, a program that provides quality higher education to students who have access to the Internet and are residing anywhere in the world;

Whereas since 1915, Webster University has conferred more than 184,000 degrees at campuses around the world, including nearly 80,000 degrees in the greater Saint Louis area, demonstrating a local commitment and offering a global education;

Whereas Webster University has a diverse student body and is routinely lauded by organizations working on diversity issues;

Whereas Webster University is the alma mater of more than 160,000 proud alumni; and

Whereas the quality of Webster University as an institution of higher learning is a reflection of the extraordinary caliber of its educational professionals and students: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and extends congratulations to the educational professionals, students, and alumni of Webster University for 100 years of excellence in higher education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 466—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 27 THROUGH NOVEMBER 2, 2014, AS “NATIONAL DRUG TAKE-BACK WEEK”, AND DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2014 AS “NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OPIOID AND HEROIN ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 466

Whereas prescription opioids can play an integral role in proper pain management and treatment of health conditions;

Whereas when no longer needed or wanted for legitimate pain management or health treatment, prescription opioids are susceptible to diversion;

Whereas prescription opioids may be abused by individuals who were not prescribed such drugs or misused by individuals not taking such drugs as directed;

Whereas prescription opioid pain relievers are powerful, regulated drugs that, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, attach to the same cell receptors as heroin;

Whereas prescription opioids, when used improperly or not taken as prescribed, can be addictive;

Whereas scientific studies indicate a link between prescription opioid abuse and potential future heroin use and addiction;

Whereas compared to prescription opioids, heroin is a cheaper drug and becoming more readily available;

Whereas deaths from heroin overdoses have significantly increased in communities across the United States;

Whereas addiction and overdoses take lives, ruin families, and fuel rising crime

rates in communities across the United States;

Whereas drug take-back programs allow for the collection and safe disposal of unwanted or unused drugs; and

Whereas drug take-back days are held infrequently: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages a continuous national dialogue on efforts to combat prescription opioid abuse and heroin addiction;

(2) supports a holistic approach to addressing prescription opioid and heroin abuse, including through law enforcement and first responder initiatives, international drug interdiction, and treatment, recovery, prevention, and education efforts;

(3) recognizes the commitment of Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel, first responders, firefighters, treatment providers, researchers, prescribers, pharmacists, dispensers, medical boards, manufacturers, and community organizations to addressing prescription opioid abuse and heroin addiction;

(4) supports the goals of drug take-back efforts by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the State, local, and tribal law enforcement partners of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and encourages the expansion of such efforts;

(5) designates the week of October 27 through November 2, 2014, as “National Drug Take-Back Week”;

(6) encourages media organizations to bring awareness to prescription opioid and heroin use, particularly among the youth in the United States; and

(7) designates October 2014 as “National Prescription Opioid and Heroin Abuse Awareness Month”.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3229. Ms. STABENOW (for Ms. COLLINS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2270, to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

SA 3230. Ms. STABENOW (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 453, condemning the death sentence against Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, a Sudanese Christian woman accused of apostasy.

SA 3231. Ms. STABENOW (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 453, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3229. Ms. STABENOW (for Ms. COLLINS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2270, to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF LEVERAGE AND RISK-BASED CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS.

Section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5371) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) BUSINESS OF INSURANCE.—The term ‘business of insurance’ has the same meaning as in section 1002(3).

“(5) PERSON REGULATED BY A STATE INSURANCE REGULATOR.—The term ‘person regulated by a State insurance regulator’ has the same meaning as in section 1002(22).

“(6) REGULATED FOREIGN SUBSIDIARY AND REGULATED FOREIGN AFFILIATE.—The terms ‘regulated foreign subsidiary’ and ‘regulated foreign affiliate’ mean a person engaged in the business of insurance in a foreign country that is regulated by a foreign insurance regulatory authority that is a member of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors or other comparable foreign insurance regulatory authority as determined by the Board of Governors following consultation with the State insurance regulators, including the lead State insurance commissioner (or similar State official) of the insurance holding company system as determined by the procedures within the Financial Analysis Handbook adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, where the person, or its principal United States insurance affiliate, has its principal place of business or is domiciled, but only to the extent that—

“(A) such person acts in its capacity as a regulated insurance entity; and

“(B) the Board of Governors does not determine that the capital requirements in a specific foreign jurisdiction are inadequate.

“(7) CAPACITY AS A REGULATED INSURANCE ENTITY.—The term ‘capacity as a regulated insurance entity’—

“(A) includes any action or activity undertaken by a person regulated by a State insurance regulator or a regulated foreign subsidiary or regulated foreign affiliate of such person, as those actions relate to the provision of insurance, or other activities necessary to engage in the business of insurance; and

“(B) does not include any action or activity, including any financial activity, that is not regulated by a State insurance regulator or a foreign agency or authority and subject to State insurance capital requirements or, in the case of a regulated foreign subsidiary or regulated foreign affiliate, capital requirements imposed by a foreign insurance regulatory authority.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) CLARIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In establishing the minimum leverage capital requirements and minimum risk-based capital requirements on a consolidated basis for a depository institution holding company or a nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors as required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), the appropriate Federal banking agencies shall not be required to include, for any purpose of this section (including in any determination of consolidation), a person regulated by a State insurance regulator or a regulated foreign subsidiary or a regulated foreign affiliate of such person engaged in the business of insurance, to the extent that such person acts in its capacity as a regulated insurance entity.

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON BOARD’S AUTHORITY.—This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit, modify, limit, or otherwise supersede any other provision of Federal law that provides the Board of Governors authority to issue regulations and orders relating to capital requirements for depository institution holding companies or nonbank financial companies supervised by the Board of Governors.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A depository institution holding company or nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve that is also a person regulated by a State insurance regulator that is engaged in the business of insurance that files financial statements with a State insurance regulator or the National Association of Insurance Commissioners utilizing only Statutory Accounting Principles in accordance with State law, shall not be required by the Board under the authority of this section or the authority of the Home Owners’ Loan Act to prepare such financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

“(B) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall limit the authority of the Board under any other applicable provision of law to conduct any regulatory or supervisory activity of a depository institution holding company or non-bank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors, including the collection or reporting of any information on an entity or group-wide basis. Nothing in this paragraph shall excuse the Board from its obligations to comply with section 161(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5361(a)) and section 10(b)(2) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(b)(2)), as appropriate.”.

SA 3230. Ms. STABENOW (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 453, condemning the death sentence against Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, a Sudanese Christian woman accused of apostasy; as follows:

On page 3, line 5, strike “son” and insert “children”.

SA 3231. Ms. STABENOW (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 453, condemning the death sentence against Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, a Sudanese Christian woman accused of apostasy; as follows:

In the second whereas clause of the preamble, strike “is eight months pregnant and being held in Omdurman Federal Women’s Prison with her 20-month-old son” and insert “is being held in the Omdurman Federal Women’s Prison with her newborn daughter and 20-month-old son”.

In the ninth whereas clause of the preamble, strike “conscience.” and insert “conscience.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, URBAN AFFAIRS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 3, 2014, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet

during the session of the Senate on June 3, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, “Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Examining the Safety and Effectiveness of our Transportation Systems.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 3, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Examining a Constitutional Amendment to Restore Democracy to the American People.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 3, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GREEN JOBS AND THE NEW ECONOMY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Green Jobs and the New Economy of the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 3, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, “Farming, Fishing, Forestry and Hunting in an Era of Changing Climate.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 3, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION DISCHARGED

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and that the agriculture committee be discharged from further consideration of PN 1642; that the Senate proceed to consideration of the nomination and that the nomination be confirmed; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions

be in order to the nomination; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

J. Christopher Giancarlo, of New Jersey, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2019.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

INSURANCE CAPITAL STANDARDS CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the committee on banking be discharged from further consideration of S. 2270 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2270) to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Collins substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3229), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF LEVERAGE AND RISK-BASED CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS.

Section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5371) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) BUSINESS OF INSURANCE.—The term ‘business of insurance’ has the same meaning as in section 1002(3).

“(5) PERSON REGULATED BY A STATE INSURANCE REGULATOR.—The term ‘person regulated by a State insurance regulator’ has the same meaning as in section 1002(22).

“(6) REGULATED FOREIGN SUBSIDIARY AND REGULATED FOREIGN AFFILIATE.—The terms ‘regulated foreign subsidiary’ and ‘regulated foreign affiliate’ mean a person engaged in the business of insurance in a foreign country that is regulated by a foreign insurance

regulatory authority that is a member of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors or other comparable foreign insurance regulatory authority as determined by the Board of Governors following consultation with the State insurance regulators, including the lead State insurance commissioner (or similar State official) of the insurance holding company system as determined by the procedures within the Financial Analysis Handbook adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, where the person, or its principal United States insurance affiliate, has its principal place of business or is domiciled, but only to the extent that—

“(A) such person acts in its capacity as a regulated insurance entity; and

“(B) the Board of Governors does not determine that the capital requirements in a specific foreign jurisdiction are inadequate.

“(7) CAPACITY AS A REGULATED INSURANCE ENTITY.—The term ‘capacity as a regulated insurance entity’—

“(A) includes any action or activity undertaken by a person regulated by a State insurance regulator or a regulated foreign subsidiary or regulated foreign affiliate of such person, as those actions relate to the provision of insurance, or other activities necessary to engage in the business of insurance; and

“(B) does not include any action or activity, including any financial activity, that is not regulated by a State insurance regulator or a foreign agency or authority and subject to State insurance capital requirements or, in the case of a regulated foreign subsidiary or regulated foreign affiliate, capital requirements imposed by a foreign insurance regulatory authority.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) CLARIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In establishing the minimum leverage capital requirements and minimum risk-based capital requirements on a consolidated basis for a depository institution holding company or a nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors as required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), the appropriate Federal banking agencies shall not be required to include, for any purpose of this section (including in any determination of consolidation), a person regulated by a State insurance regulator or a regulated foreign subsidiary or a regulated foreign affiliate of such person engaged in the business of insurance, to the extent that such person acts in its capacity as a regulated insurance entity.

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON BOARD’S AUTHORITY.—This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit, modify, limit, or otherwise supersede any other provision of Federal law that provides the Board of Governors authority to issue regulations and orders relating to capital requirements for depository institution holding companies or nonbank financial companies supervised by the Board of Governors.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A depository institution holding company or nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve that is also a person regulated by a State insurance regulator that is engaged in the business of insurance that files financial statements with a State insurance regulator or the National Association of Insurance Commissioners utilizing only Statutory Accounting Principles in accordance with State law, shall not be required by

the Board under the authority of this section or the authority of the Home Owners’ Loan Act to prepare such financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

“(B) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall limit the authority of the Board under any other applicable provision of law to conduct any regulatory or supervisory activity of a depository institution holding company or non-bank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors, including the collection or reporting of any information on an entity or group-wide basis. Nothing in this paragraph shall excuse the Board from its obligations to comply with section 161(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5361(a)) and section 10(b)(2) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(b)(2)), as appropriate.”.

The bill (S. 2270), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONDEMNING THE DEATH SENTENCE AGAINST MERIAM YAHIA IBRAHIM ISHAG

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 453.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 453) condemning the death sentence against Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, a Sudanese Christian woman accused of apostasy.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the Rubio amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the Rubio amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3230) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)

On page 3, line 5, strike “son” and insert “children”.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3231) was agreed to, as follows:

In the second whereas clause of the preamble, strike “is eight months pregnant and being held in Omdurman Federal Women’s Prison with her 20-month-old son” and insert “is being held in the Omdurman Federal Women’s Prison with her newborn daughter and 20-month-old son”.

In the ninth whereas clause of the preamble, strike “conscience.” and insert “conscience.”.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 453

Whereas, on May 15, 2014, a Sudanese court affirmed a sentence of death by hanging for 27-year-old Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, a Christian woman accused of apostasy for refusing to recant her Christian faith, and ordered her to receive 100 lashes for adultery because under Sudan’s Shari’ah law such inter-religious marriages are illegal;

Whereas Ibrahim is being held in the Omdurman Federal Women’s Prison with her newborn daughter and 20-month-old son;

Whereas the Department of State has designated Sudan as a “Country of Particular Concern” under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292) based on the government’s systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom since 1999;

Whereas the Sudanese 1991 Criminal Code allows for death sentences for apostasy, stoning for adultery, cross-amputations for theft, prison sentences for blasphemy, and floggings for undefined acts of “indecentry”;

Whereas, according to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), the Government of Sudan, led by President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, continues to engage in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom or belief, imposes a restrictive interpretation of Shari’ah law on Muslims and non-Muslims alike and, along with other National Congress Party leaders, President al-Bashir has stated that Sudan’s new constitution, when drafted, will be based on its interpretation of Shari’ah;

Whereas, according to USCIRF, since South Sudan’s independence from Sudan in 2011, the number and severity of harsh Shari’ah-based judicial decisions in Sudan has increased, including sentences of amputation for theft and sentences of stoning for adultery;

Whereas the United States Government has designated Sudan as a State Sponsor of Terrorism since August 12, 1993, for repeatedly providing support for acts of international terrorism;

Whereas the Sudanese 2005 Interim Constitution states that “[t]he State shall respect the religious rights to (a) worship or assemble in connection with any religion or belief”;

Whereas the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which the Government of Sudan has acceded, provides that “everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others, and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice, and teaching.”;

Whereas the Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life found that, as of 2011, 10 percent of the 198 countries surveyed had apostasy laws which can, and have been, used to punish both Muslims and non-Muslims in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Morocco, and Sudan; and

Whereas people have the right to practice their faith without fear of death or persecution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the charge of apostasy and death sentence of Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag and calls for immediate and unconditional release of her and her children;

(2) encourages efforts by the United States Government to support religious freedom

within Sudan, including by requiring, before normalizing relations or lifting sanctions under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292) and the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), that the Government of Sudan abide by international standards of freedom of religion or belief;

(3) urges the Government of Sudan to ensure that, when drafting the country's new constitution, the process is transparent and inclusive of civil society leaders and representatives of all major political parties, to ensure that the new constitution includes protections for freedom of religion or belief, respect for international human rights commitments, and recognition of Sudan as a multireligious, multiethnic, and multicultural nation;

(4) recognizes that every individual regardless of religion should have the opportunity to practice his or her religion without fear of discrimination;

(5) reaffirms the commitment of the United States Government to end religious discrimination and to pursue policies that guarantee the basic human rights of all individuals worldwide; and

(6) encourages the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to continue their support for initiatives worldwide that support religious freedom.

NATIONAL APHASIA AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 464, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 464) designating June 2014 as "National Aphasia Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to increase awareness of aphasia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 464) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF WEBSTER UNIVERSITY

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 465, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 465) commemorating the centennial of Webster University.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 465) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2422

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I understand that S. 2422, introduced earlier today by Senator SANDERS, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2422) to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2014

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 4, 2014; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate

be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the next 30 minutes; that at 11 a.m. the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Ms. STABENOW. There will be four rollcall votes at 11 a.m. tomorrow on confirmation of three district judges and cloture on the Burwell nomination.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:29 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

J. CHRISTOPHER GIANCARLO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2019.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 3, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KEITH M. HARPER, OF MARYLAND, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

TIMOTHY G. MASSAD, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2017.

TIMOTHY G. MASSAD, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION.

J. CHRISTOPHER GIANCARLO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2014.

SHARON Y. BOWEN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2018.

J. CHRISTOPHER GIANCARLO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2019.

SENATE—Wednesday, June 4, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, who is and who was and who is to come, through Your wisdom all things are governed, and through Your grace all things are sustained. Give our Senators the power to serve You. As they labor to do Your will, provide them with the wisdom to discern Your precepts and obey Your commands. Lord, help them to see that to know You is life, to serve You is freedom, and to praise You is joy. Let them experience You in the center of their being, finding delight in Your presence.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 4, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the final 30 minutes.

At 11 a.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session and begin a series of up to four rollcall votes. The first three will be votes on confirmation of U.S. district court judges and the last vote will be a cloture vote on the nomination of Sylvia Burwell to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

There will be a Senators-only briefing at 5:30 p.m. today.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2414

Mr. McCONNELL. I had indicated to the majority leader I was going to have a unanimous consent request. I am going to propound that now.

I ask unanimous consent that the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2414, the Coal Country Protection Act and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, the rule will not become effective for a long time. The normal period of

time to make comments when rules are being promulgated is 60 days. This one is 120 days. The reason for that is Members of my caucus want to weigh in on this to try to improve the suggested rule that has come from the EPA.

I am waiting to read the proposed regulation myself, which I have not done. I have been briefed on it by my staff, and I will read this closely, as I am sure every Senator will.

I know the importance of this issue, and I will be as cooperative as I feel is appropriate with the Republican leader. But at this time I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2422

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a bill, S. 2422, that is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2422) to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I would object, Mr. President, to any further proceedings with regard to this bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed upon the calendar.

U.S. MILITARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the late military historian John Keegan once said:

Soldiers, when committed to a task, can't compromise. It's unrelenting devotion to the standards of duty and courage, absolute loyalty to others, not letting the task go until it's been done.

The integrity of the American soldiers safeguards our American democracy. Their devotion to duty, even in the face of difficult, trying circumstances, is what protects this Nation.

We have seen that up close the last 10 years or so with the war in Iraq and the conflict in Afghanistan. So I am very thankful for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and that they do not compromise their honor.

This past weekend our military refused to abandon its duty, instead fulfilling its obligation to never, ever, leave a soldier behind.

The release of American prisoner of war SGT Bowe Bergdahl was the culmination of heroic efforts by our military, our government, and our President.

President Obama, as Commander in Chief, acted honorably in helping an

American soldier return home to his family. Sergeant Bergdahl's release is the answer to many Americans' prayers. I can't imagine how relieved his parents and family must feel.

It is my understanding that the wait for the parents has been really unrelenting and difficult. We have seen his dad with his long, flowing beard. He decided to grow that beard as long as his son was gone. His son is home now—or almost home.

Unfortunately, though, opponents of President Obama have seized upon the release of an American prisoner of war, using what should be a moment of unity and celebration for our Nation as a chance to play political games.

The safe return of an American soldier should not be used to score political points. When a man or woman puts on a uniform as a U.S. serviceman, they have America's uncompromising support.

Only a couple of weeks ago, the junior Senator from New Hampshire released a statement touting her diligence in calling upon the Department of Defense to "do all it can to find Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl and bring him home."

In April, the Republican leader and the junior Senator from Pennsylvania sponsored a resolution "to express the sense of the Senate that no member of the Armed Forces who is missing in action should be left behind."

Senator INHOFE, the senior Senator from Oklahoma, even said that the United States "must make every effort to bring this captured soldier home to his family."

President Obama and his team did just that. They made every effort and brought this young man home. The request was made by the Senator from New Hampshire, the Republican leader, the junior Senator from Pennsylvania, and the senior Senator from Oklahoma.

Yet some of these Senators are now denouncing the very same efforts that secured Sergeant Bergdahl's release. It is clear they are worried his release could be seen as a victory for President Obama. As the President said, this is not a victory for him; it is a victory for the United States military and our country.

Let me put that notion to rest then. It is not a victory for President Obama. It is a victory for our soldiers, their families, and our great country. No member of the Armed Forces should be left behind, and President Obama saw to that.

There are questions regarding Sergeant Bergdahl's disappearance and whether or not military code was violated. These are issues that will be resolved by the U.S. Army, not Monday morning quarterbacks on Capitol Hill.

But let me just say this. For the sake of argument, let's assume that Bergdahl did violate his sworn oath. What do we do? Do we mete out justice

to an American soldier—us, our country? As the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has said yesterday, or the day before, if he has done something wrong, military justice will step in and take care of that violation—if, in fact, there was one.

I don't know, but certainly that is a better approach than having the Taliban do it. I will choose the justice system, the U.S. Army, American justice, every time.

We have seen the brutality of the Taliban. Whatever the results of the military's inquiries, it doesn't change the fact that one more American soldier is home safely.

What was the alternative?

Would any American honestly prefer that a U.S. soldier remain in captivity until all the questions have been answered? Of course not. In the United States we rescue our soldiers first and ask questions later.

This is what RADM John Kirby said in a quote that is so powerful:

When you are in the Navy, and you go overboard, it doesn't matter if you were pushed, fell or jumped. We're going to turn the ship around and pick you up.

That is what Rear Admiral Kirby said—again:

When you are in the Navy, and you go overboard, it doesn't matter if you were pushed, fell or jumped. We're going to turn the ship around and pick you up.

I am grateful for the many people who refused to forget about Sergeant Bergdahl and worked tirelessly to secure his release.

America is glad he is home.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

COAL COUNTRY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL, President Obama's new energy regulations would shift middle class jobs overseas, splinter our manufacturing base, and boost energy costs for struggling families.

The regulations could also lead to a reduction of nearly half a million jobs, according to an AFL-CIO union estimate. The union's leader characterized the job loss as "long term and irreversible." He noted that the President's regulations would not achieve "any significant reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions"—this is an AFL-CIO union leader—in other words, lots of pain for minimal gain.

The President's energy regulations would hurt the poor, the unemployed, seniors, and especially families in Kentucky. Kentucky coal sector employment has collapsed by about 7,000 jobs since President Obama took office.

Eastern Kentucky just saw a 3-percent reduction in coal jobs in the first quarter of 2014. At least three additional Kentuckians lose their paychecks indirectly for every mining job that is lost.

As one coal leader noted, the administration's proposed regulations would only add to the economic challenges

facing Kentucky—especially in Eastern Kentucky, which is ground zero for what is happening in coal country.

The Coal Country Protection Act is cosponsored by several Senators, including Senator RAND PAUL, and is supported by the Kentucky Coal Association.

It would require that simple but important benchmarks be met before the President's new rules could take effect. No. 1, the Secretary of Labor would have to certify that the regulations would not generate a loss of employment.

No. 2, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office would have to certify that the regulations would not result in any loss in American gross domestic product.

No. 3, the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration would have to certify that the regulations would not increase electricity rates.

No. 4, the Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the president of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation would have to certify that electricity delivery would remain reliable. So the Coal Country Protection Act is just common sense.

Moments ago the majority leader blocked consideration of this measure. Unless we take this up, debate it, and pass it, the President's rules will cause job loss, utility rate hikes, and potentially brownouts. The President's regulations will actually increase energy prices and create job loss.

Opponents of this bill will be supporting job loss in Kentucky, our economy being hurt, and seniors' energy bills spiking for almost zero meaningful global carbon reduction.

So the majority leader and the Democrats in this body need to listen. And even if they won't, Kentuckians should know I will keep fighting for them.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the next 30 minutes.

The Senator from Nebraska.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss EPA's joint proposed

rule redefining waters of the United States.

Claims to the contrary notwithstanding, EPA has once again thrown down the gauntlet with this massive expansion of Federal jurisdiction. This new rule in its essence declares almost every body of water to be within Federal regulatory jurisdiction. By conjuring up even the most remote connection to a navigable body of water, EPA is now claiming they can regulate ponds, ditches, and even low-lying areas that are actually dry during most of the year. EPA seems to think it has jurisdiction if there is just a chance that a speck of dirt can travel through a stream, a pond, or even a field to traditional navigable water, and that is clearly not what Congress intended. But the EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and even the USDA are touting that they listened to agriculture and that farmers' and ranchers' concerns were, in fact, reflected in this proposal. But if this 370-page rule actually provides certainty and maintains exemptions for farmers, as EPA claims, then why are most farm groups so opposed to it?

We have seen EPA become better and better at messaging to farmers, but unfortunately the actual language of the regulations—their very aggressive approach—really hasn't changed one bit. While EPA has shown a willingness to meet and to listen, the reality is that the words on paper really are what matter.

When Administrator McCarthy came before an appropriations subcommittee a few weeks ago, I pushed her on this issue. Not surprisingly, she told me they are really trying to get this right and listen to agriculture's concerns across the country. But as it stands right now, folks in farm country are justifiably alarmed.

EPA will point to a few exclusions in the rule, but if you look closely, these exemptions are so very narrowly crafted that very few waters actually would escape EPA's regulatory grasp and overreach. For example, under the proposed rule, waters that are perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral can be subject to EPA regulation. That is right—EPA is trying to regulate bodies of water that only have water in them when it is raining. That is just one of the many examples in this rule where it is clear that EPA is trying to push the envelope—and push it as far as they can.

In its so-called fact sheet on the benefits of the rule for agriculture, EPA touts that exemptions are, in fact, preserved for agriculture. Not only that, but according to the fact sheet, EPA will now exempt 56 conservation practices from permitting requirements. It says this will provide certainty and predictability. That all sounds good as messaging until you actually examine the claims. These exemptions only

apply to dredge and fill permitting. All other Clean Water Act permitting requirements do not have exemptions for agriculture. So whether a permit is required for other provisions of the act is simply a function of whether the related waters are Federal waters. Thus, because EPA vastly expanded the definition of Federal waters, farmers are going to get a rude awakening when they are told they need a 402 permit before applying pesticides or when they realize this rule may require them to have a spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plan in place or when they realize their farm pond is not exempt simply because they allow livestock to drink from it. Imagine the dismay of farmers when they realize that the much-touted exemptions are essentially meaningless and that they are subject to fines of tens of thousands of dollars per day.

Nonetheless, the Obama administration continues to tout this list of 56 conservation practices that they are proposing to exempt as if farmers should fall silent in gratitude. It is the classic smoke and mirror approach that has led to the tremendous mistrust of this administration. They say one thing while putting policies in place that dictate something entirely different.

Consider this: Even these narrow conservation exemptions are wrapped in fine print and redtape. EPA also says that in order to be exempt, a conservation practice must specifically comply with USDA standards. Again, it sounds reasonable, except that these standards, which were developed for voluntary conservation programs, were never intended to be the only means of avoiding a regulatory hammer. These are gold-plated standards. They are also very prescriptive. That may be fine for voluntary programs that come with compensation for compliance. It is not fine if farmers must follow them or face huge fines. There is nothing voluntary about that.

Can these farmers be sued because they didn't follow supposedly voluntary USDA standards? Can EPA take action against these farm families? Who will enforce compliance with those conservation practices? Will it be the USDA or will it be the EPA? Farmers generally trust USDA's voluntary approach to conservation efforts, but what happens to that trust if USDA is suddenly thrust into the business of enforcing EPA regulations on the farm? Conversely, is EPA going to hold any sway over USDA's voluntary conservation standards? Since they are planning to use those standards to regulate farms, this is a great concern.

Let me mention one additional cause for concern. These supposedly exempt practices are not even in the proposed rule; they are in a separate document from the rule, and that document can change on the whim of the EPA with-

out warning and with no opportunity whatsoever for public comment. So ranchers doing a practice consistent with the list may get the rug pulled out from under them.

EPA claims this rule will provide certainty and predictability, and in one respect they are right. As a constituent of mine from Ogallala rightly put it, "The only clarity the proposed rule provides is to put me on notice that everything is a water of the U.S. and that I need a permit to do anything."

So it appears that in an effort to provide clarity, EPA has very much done the opposite. And I have just scratched the surface here today. But EPA still has an opportunity to fix this mess. While the tendency of this administration has been to overregulate from day one, there is still an opportunity to pull back the rule and admit they went too far.

I had high hopes when Administrator McCarthy took the reins and expressed a desire to build trust with the ag community. In fact, she called it a priority. This rule, though, delivers the opposite message. If Administrator McCarthy is serious about having a relationship with the people I represent—ag producers—it would send such a powerful signal to say: Hold on. Let's withdraw the rule. Let's not follow this misguided direction. Call a timeout, and people would see that and say: I am going to listen. People would receive that so positively. This would certainly get the attention of the ag community and really begin to build bridges instead of outlining rhetorical wishes.

The window of opportunity is still open, and I hope the Administrator seizes it by withdrawing the rule.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to talk a little bit about health care this morning.

The majority leader has suggested in past weeks that all of these contacts and concerns I get from Missourians are just made up—although he didn't target Missourians and say only Missourians were making up these stories; he just said everybody was making up these stories. But that is clearly not true.

The law regarding health care—the law that is applied every day with great consistency—continues to be the law of unintended consequences, the law that so often is impacted by what we think we are doing in the Congress, only to find that the consequences of those actions go well beyond the discussion the Congress was having. Certainly if we had that debate again today, the debate we had in 2009 and early 2010, the Congress would be better prepared for that debate, the country would be better prepared for that

debate, and people would understand what is at stake. What I see every day are things that people didn't anticipate would happen.

Here is a letter we got from Jack in Kansas City, MO. He said:

I'm a retired hospital CEO and glad to be retired because of Obamacare.

He points out in an absolutely correct way that in most communities in Missouri, particularly our small and midsized communities, the hospital is a real source of pride and place of healing, a major employer.

Of course, the potential end result of what is happening now with the changes we made and how hospitals are treated, particularly hospitals in rural areas, hospitals in underserved inner-city areas, is that the programs that were in place are basically going away. And why did they go away? Because the President assumed and the Members of Congress, I am sure, who voted for this piece of legislation assumed, that everybody would be covered, that everybody would have insurance, so we didn't need to have special programs that dealt with people who didn't have insurance and hospitals that dealt with people who didn't have insurance, and we didn't need special programs for underserved areas. Clearly, that is not the case.

If we look back at the debate, many people were saying: This will not work out the way the well-intended proponents of this law think it will work out, and we are going to continue to have people without insurance.

In fact, the Congressional Budget Office reiterated again just recently that at the end of 10 years, how many people won't have insurance? Thirty million. Thirty million people didn't have insurance when we started, and to disrupt the entire health care tableau of the country to add possibly 10 million, I think we are going to have people who lose insurance at work who previously had insurance through their work. I think that will be one of the major unintended consequences as we approach the end of this year and go into next year.

I am talking to too many employers in Missouri who are saying there is a place for people to go now. They can go to the exchange. We struggled with this for a long time. Even though we are not covered by the law, even though we don't have 50 employees, we are no longer going to provide the insurance at work—that many of these employers have provided for decades and others have provided over all the time they have been in business, even if it is less than decades.

Norman from Warrensburg, MO, is concerned about what would happen with Medicare and Medicare Advantage. He says: I was struck with Guillain-Barre in 2005 which has left me disabled as well as other resulting health issues. We expend more than

\$3,000 out of pocket annually just for my prescriptions alone and that was under a Medicare Advantage plan. This plus the Medicare premiums and the physician care takes almost all of our Social Security benefits. We live in a small community.

He describes Warrensburg as a small community of around 18,000, and it would probably be one of those communities to lose the Medicare Advantage type of insurance, which is the gap that he thinks allows his family to have the health care they have and would like to continue to have.

Paula from O'Fallon, MO, says she believes a lot of people's spouses are going to leave their jobs because they are going to look at who has the better insurance and try to benefit from that better insurance. According to her, her husband's company is paying a large fine because their insurance is better than ObamaCare. I imagine more realistically what that letter might have said is that their insurance isn't exactly what the Department of Health and Human Services believes is the right kind of insurance, when the government makes these decisions instead of the people or the people closest to them, their employers.

One of the benefits of the employer-provided system was that people didn't have to worry about this. In fact, almost everybody looked at their insurance and they talked with their employer and they decided they would get more information when they needed it, and when they needed it usually the information they got was pretty good information for them to have.

Now we have people trying to figure out, if they have choices, a complexity of choices and alternatives that they never had to deal with before. Frankly, they are not going to like that, and I think one of the other unintended consequences of this law is that people are going to begin to say: I know a government-run program wouldn't be as good as the health care I used to have, but I just don't want to be responsible for it anymore. What we probably are doing is building a groundswell of people who no longer want to be forced into the decisions they never had to make, because 85 percent of everybody who had insurance had insurance at work, and 90 percent of them thought the insurance they had at work met their needs. I think we would be lucky if very far into the Affordable Care Act, 90 percent of the people who have insurance think the insurance they have moving forward meets their needs.

Angelyn from Dexter, MO, said her aunt and uncle are searching for a new doctor after their doctor moved out of State. They are having trouble finding a physician in the Dexter area that will take new Medicare patients—another unintended consequence.

The people who voted for this bill cut Medicare itself. I wasn't for it, but it is

the law. One of the reasons I said I wasn't for it is we are cutting a program we already knew is challenged—Medicare—by \$500 billion to form a new program. There is no city council, there is no county government, there is nowhere else in America where people would go to a meeting and say, OK, we have a program that is in real trouble, so what we are going to do is cut that program to start a new program—and particularly a program such as Medicare that people have been led to believe they can rely on. When we cut Medicare by \$500 billion over 10 years something happens.

What Angelyn's aunt and uncle are seeing is one of the things that happens is people try to find a doctor who will take Medicare only and find doctor after doctor who says: We are going to continue to serve the Medicare patients we have as long as they are around to serve, but we are not serving new Medicare patients.

Joanna in Kansas City said her son goes to college where he is required to have health insurance. His health insurance he gets through the school has increased 40 percent this year.

Wayne in Moberly said his premiums and prescription drug costs have increased and he is concerned it is because of all the new requirements that have to be met. He said: "The future does not look good from where I stand as a small business owner and a farmer."

Donna in Napoleon, MO, said her insurance had gone from \$93 twice a month to \$156 twice a month. The interesting point in her letter is she said her insurance would go up even more if she gets a chance to work more. There is a lot to be said for assisting people to get health insurance who cannot otherwise afford to get health insurance, but one of the things I never heard debated in any extensive way is what happens when people are at the edge of moving to a new level of work which then gives them a lower level of benefit.

Donna is saying that if she gets to work more hours, she will have less assistance buying her health insurance and her health insurance goes up. The government should not be in the business of looking for ways to encourage people not to work, as in the part-time work we see all over the country now.

One of the great workplace impacts of the health care law was that the government for the first time ever said to most employers—employers of more than 50 people—you have to provide health insurance to anybody who works 30 hours a week. So what did employers for the first time hear the government saying? If someone works less than 30 hours a week, they don't have to have to provide health insurance. So employer after employer made the decision that for new employees we are going to hire three people at 27 or 28

hours a week rather than two people at 40 hours. We are going to meet our workforce needs in a new way. Consequently, those individuals don't have coverage. Many individuals at that level of hourly work who used to have coverage no longer have coverage. An awful lot of companies used to provide coverage at half time—at 20 hours—but if the government says they don't have to provide it until 30 hours, it turns out a lot of people don't work more than 30 hours because they don't have an opportunity or maybe they work almost 60 hours, but they have to work 60 hours at two different jobs, as did a lady I mentioned just last week who contacted our office.

David in Kansas City said he is retired from the railroad industry, and on April 1 his former company canceled plans for retirees 65 and older. David had access to a retiree plan from the railroad industry. He doesn't have that anymore.

A lot of companies have done that, not just the railroad industry. IBM announced they would no longer provide health care coverage for their retirees. As soon as the retirees are 65 and older they are placed on Medicare, but what kind of supplement do they have? They used to have a supplement that was part of a big IBM plan and now they don't have that anymore. UPS announced the dependents and spouses who are in part of the UPS family wouldn't have insurance anymore. The unintended consequences keep on coming, and we need to continually look at what we need to do to see that people have access to great health care.

We are talking now—as we should be—about veterans health care and how veterans could have access to great health care. This is the moment right now where we can look at this issue in a new way. The veterans service organizations are looking at this issue. Alternatives are good. Veterans should have the best health care, in the best location for them, in the best way the taxpayers can provide it.

The Veterans' Administration should be the best at some things. They should be better than anybody else at dealing with IED accidents, eye injuries, the loss of limbs, and other issues that are unique to veterans in unfortunate numbers because of the kind of conflicts in which we have been involved. Nobody should be better at that than the VA.

The VA may be the absolute best place to go for a particular injury, such as post-traumatic stress. Our veterans have problems because of the conflicts they have been in, but they also have problems because the National Institutes of Health says one out of four adult Americans has a diagnosable mental health problem. In a hearing a couple months ago, I asked the Secretary—the Surgeon General of the Army and the other forces about this:

Do you think that is reflected in the military, and the answer was yes. She said: We recruit from the general population. We don't have any reason to believe our population serving in the military doesn't reflect similarly with regard to mental health issues. Some of those mental health issues, such as post-traumatic stress, the VA should be better than anybody else at, but a lot of mental health issues in the VA, there is no reason they should be any better than any of the other facilities. Veterans may have to drive to another State to get to a veterans facility or have to drive 120 miles or 150 miles in the VA's van transportation. If that is what someone wants to do as a veteran, I think we ought to be sure veterans can do that, but if veterans want to get better care closer to home, more choices, we should do that.

Let the Veterans' Administration compete to be the best at what they can provide. There is no particular reason to believe the Veterans' Administration is going to be better than everybody in the country at normal internal medicine. There is no reason to believe the Veterans' Administration is going to be the best at dealing with cancer or heart issues or other issues. If there is a veterans hospital that somehow has figured out how to do that, fine, but don't make veterans drive 120 miles by a dozen facilities that can do just as well or better because we have decided to put people in a system that is totally defined by the government.

One of the things we are learning is people can make better choices in so many areas than when the government makes those choices for them. So as we think about our veterans, as we think about what we can do to be sure they get the best care, that they are honored, their service is honored in a way they were led to believe it would be honored, this is a great time to have this discussion.

So whether it is health care for everybody else or health care for veterans, the Congress of the United States—and the country—has probably never been in a better position to talk about these issues. We see the unintended consequences of taking steps in the wrong direction. Now is a great time for our veterans and health care generally to see what we could do to take steps in the right direction.

I note the absence of a quorum. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise to point out it has now been 342 days since the Senate passed bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform that would secure our border, turbocharge America's economic growth and provide a chance to heal America's broken families who are being separated by our dysfunctional immigration system.

Here is what we know: The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office told us that had we passed the bill this last year, we could have already seen up to \$80 billion of economic growth, \$20 billion of deficit reduction, 50,000 new jobs, \$50 billion more in the Social Security trust fund, \$2 billion of revenue for State and local governments, and 40,000 more brilliant STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—graduates stay in the United States instead of being told to go home.

Instead, we have not been able to achieve any of these important gains. Why is that? It is because the House has refused to do anything—underline anything—to try and fix our broken immigration system. To be clear, the real problem is not that there is a difference of opinion between a House bill and a Senate bill on immigration that cannot be reconciled. The problem is there is no House bill.

We are happy to meet our colleagues in the House part of the way. We would love to sit down and negotiate, but there is no House bill. So the problem is not that the two sides are irreconcilable, it is that one side has refused to do anything. The problem is that House Republicans have completely abdicated their responsibility to address important issues such as fixing our broken immigration system.

For the last few weeks I have explained the reason the House has done nothing on immigration is because the House Republican leadership has handed the gavel of leadership on immigration to far-right extremists such as Congressman STEVE KING. He is truly extreme on this issue. STEVEN KING says to do nothing—absolutely nothing—and the House does nothing, absolutely nothing.

Well, not only has this point not been refuted by anyone in the Republican Party, it has actually been even further confirmed in the last few days.

Let's start with STEVE KING himself. Last week KING filed an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill that would require the Department of Justice to "investigate" the Department of Homeland Security's use of prosecutorial discretion toward certain immigrants, including beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or the DACA Program, that the Obama administration announced in June of 2012.

When discussing his amendment, STEVE KING—listen to this—pejoratively referred to the DACA Program as “Deferred Action for Criminal Aliens.” That is what he thinks. He thinks that every immigrant is a criminal. When describing this program, STEVE KING said:

For everyone who’s a vaedictorian, there’s another 100 out there who weigh 130 pounds—and they’ve got calves the size of cantaloupes because they have been hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the border.

Was KING criticized for these comments? Was he chastised and told he has no place in a modern Republican Party? Was KING’s amendment at least ignored in the same way every other immigration bill has been ignored?

Unfortunately, the answer to all of these questions is no. For the second time in a year, the House Republican leadership actually rewarded KING and handed him the gavel yet again by giving him another vote on another politically motivated appropriations amendment. The amendment to investigate the DACA Program is what received a vote last week. Just as before, the House passed yet another inflammatory King appropriations amendment along partisan lines. His previous amendment was to defund the DACA Program.

This is a man who just last week compared immigrants to Santa Ana’s army. He compared immigrants to a foreign invading army. It is a comparison that implies that an immigrant’s goal is to harm the interest of the United States when they desperately want to be here and participate in the freedom—both economic and political—we love and enjoy. Yet again, after he said something like this, the Republican leadership hands him the gavel on immigration. That is why we continue to see nothing out of the House other than inflammatory, rhetorical amendment show votes. The score is clear: STEVE KING is still undefeated, and he is increasing his margin of victory every day.

Well, it doesn’t have to be that way. STEVE KING doesn’t represent the vast number of voters in either the Republican Party or even the tea party. STEVE KING does not represent Republicans in this House. When we joined together on a moderate bipartisan bill that would do so much good for America, it was supported by traditional Republican groups—the business community, the high-tech community, the agricultural growers, the Catholic Church, the evangelical Protestant church, supported this bipartisan bill. Some on the left thought it was too conservative.

It doesn’t have to be this way. STEVE KING doesn’t have to write into law whatever the House does. Poll after poll is clear that even Republican voters—conservative Republican voters—want to fix our broken immigration

system in a manner that secures our borders, fixes our legal immigration system, and allows those in the undocumented status to get right with the law after a long path, including paying fines, paying back taxes, learning English, having to work, and going to the back of the line and waiting.

STEVE KING is much like the Wizard of Oz when it comes to immigration. He is pulling the levers behind the screen to make it seem he has the power, but the Republican Party will learn sooner or later—as Dorothy did in the “Wizard of Oz”—that KING actually works by fear, and he doesn’t have the power and the wizard’s power is overstated. He can’t really do very much. The only way to get back home and do something real is in ourselves, not in that man behind the screen—the Wizard of Oz, STEVE KING. Where are the leaders in the Republican Party with the courage to stand up to STEVE KING and the far right and say: Enough is enough, we will not let our authority be hijacked by extremists whose xenophobia causes them to prefer maintaining a broken immigration system, where hundreds of thousands still cross the border illegally, instead of achieving a fair, tough, and practical long-term solution?

Make no mistake, immigration reform will either pass this year with bipartisan support and a bipartisan imprint or it will pass in a future year with only Democratic support and a Democratic imprint because Democrats control Congress and the White House. Some Democrats argue it is better for us politically if the latter occurs, and many Republicans, in their hearts, know that is true. But we don’t want that. We want to fix our country’s problems. We want our GDP to grow 3.5 percent as the GPO said it would if we pass this bill. We want to secure our borders once and for all. We want a fair path to citizenship so that people who work and pay taxes can get right with the law.

Time is running out. We have less than 8 weeks to go to get something passed. There is still no serious proposal from Republicans. If the House fails to act during this window, the President would be more than justified in acting anytime after the summer is over to make whatever changes he feels are necessary to make our immigration system work better for those who are unfairly burdened by our broken laws, but that is not the preferable way to go. The preferable way to go is to go the way the Senate did where Democrats and Republicans banded together to create a moderate, thoughtful, comprehensive bill that fixes our broken immigration system once and for all.

In conclusion, I hope the immigration reform bill passes this year because our economy, our broken families, and our country so badly need it. Let’s hope the House finally stops talk-

ing and finally stops paying obeisance to their Wizard of Oz on immigration, STEVE KING, and starts acting.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Wyoming.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor as the Senate begins the debate on the nomination of Sylvia Burwell to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. If she is confirmed for that job, she would be responsible for implementing thousands of pages of regulations related to the President’s health care law. I think it is appropriate, as we consider this nomination, to take a little bit of time and talk about the state of the President’s health care law.

Just this morning I visited with a number of people from Uinta County, WY. I will tell you what they know and what we all know, and that is there are many dangerous side effects of the law, such as people losing access to their doctor and getting smaller paychecks.

Today I want to talk specifically about the expensive side effect so many Americans are facing, and that is how much health insurance premiums are rising because of the law. States are starting to release the proposed premiums insurance companies expect to charge next year under the Obama health care law. The numbers are not good for the American people—for people who wanted affordable care, quality care, and access to care, the kinds of things the President of the United States looked into the camera and promised them.

Virginia was one of the first States to put out the numbers. What is happening in the State of Virginia? Every health plan sold in the State exchange expects to raise its rates next year. The State expects some people to pay as much as 17 percent more next year.

In Vermont, it is a similar story. There are two companies offering plans in the State exchange. Yesterday we learned that one intends to raise rates 10 percent, the other expects to raise its rates 15 percent next year.

Last Friday, Ohio released its proposed rates for people buying insurance through the exchange. The average premium in the State’s individual market is expected to be 13 percent higher next year than it was last year. According to State insurance regulators, it is bad news, but it is what they expected.

The State Lieutenant Governor said:

Continued and unnecessary headwinds out of Washington are making it more difficult for job creators, hard-working Ohioans and their families to purchase health insurance.

President Obama said the Democrats should forcefully defend and be proud of the health care law. Is there a Democrat in this body—even one—who is

willing to come to the floor and forcefully defend premium increases of 13 percent, 15 percent, or 17 percent in 1 year alone?

More States are going to be releasing their new premiums all summer. More people around the country are going to see these kinds of rate increases. This is an alarming side effect of the President's health care law. That is on top of the rate increases people have already had to pay for insurance for this year.

It is astonishing when you look at the numbers. It is not just families buying health insurance through the exchanges who are getting slammed. USA Today ran a headline last week which said:

More employees are getting hit with higher health insurance premiums and co-payments, and many don't have the money to cover unexpected medical expenses, a new report finds.

The report found that 56 percent of companies increased their employees' share of health premiums for copayments for doctors' visits last year after the health care law came into effect, and 59 percent of companies intend to do the same thing this year. So people buying insurance in the exchange are being hurt, people who get insurance through work are being hurt, and small businesses are being hurt as well.

There was an article in the Alaska Dispatch about this last Thursday. It said: "Alaska's small businesses feel the pinch of rising health care costs." The article tells the story of a restaurant owner with 24 employees. He wants to offer health insurance coverage, but he is paying \$5,000 a month more than he paid last year for his share of the insurance. He is somebody who wants to provide insurance, but it is now \$5,000 more a month for his 24 employees. He says the costs are crippling and that it is like meeting another payroll every month. This small business owner said the health care law is "killing me." He says, "I just don't know how long we can keep absorbing these costs." These are costs put on this business owner in Alaska by every Member of the Senate who voted for this health care law—every one of them.

I invite any one of them to come down here to forcefully defend this law as the President requests that they do and be proud of what they have done to this small business owner. Are Democrats in the Senate who voted for this health care law proud of what the law is doing to this small business owner in Alaska? Are they willing to forcefully defend his having to pay an extra \$5,000 a month? That is what people are dealing with.

There is a story which just came out today about North Carolina—another State where a Senator has said: If you like what you have, you can keep it. The headline to this story is

"ObamaCare cripples North Carolina small business."

It says:

A North Carolina woman currently living her dream—to own a salon—could soon shatter and crumble, leaving her employees to pay astronomical costs for health insurance, all because of ObamaCare.

Julia Vittorio, owner of Fresh Salon for the past five years, is worried that she will not be able to provide her employees with health insurance.

She said: "I think you just want the best for your employees."

I think that is what many people around the country want: the best for their employees.

She said: "We are a small business and it's very much like a family, so I care about our staff."

That is what she told a television station, WCNC in Charlotte.

She previously offered her employees health insurance and paid part of it, but has been forced to reconsider her decision because of the rising costs of premiums.

"We've been very proud to even carry it for this long, but it's certainly a concern moving into the future if we're going to be able to keep doing it," she explained.

Veronica Cook, a hairdresser who has worked at Fresh Salon since it opened, said: "It's frustrating and scary and you don't know what to expect."

I think that applies to many people around the country as a result of the President's health care law—this quote: "It's frustrating and scary and you don't know what to expect." She is not sure what she will do if she has to pay for her own insurance. That is what this devastating side effect of the President's health care law is doing to people all around the country.

The President says he wants everyone to have a fair shot. Democrats say it over and over. Is this small business owner getting a fair shot? Are the families of Ohio getting a fair shot when their premiums go up as much as 13 percent next year?

Some Democrats who voted for the health care law have come out and said that the rates may be going up, but not as fast as maybe they would have without the law. But let's take a step back. When they were trying to pass this health care law, Democrats said it would only raise premiums—no. Democrats never said it would only raise premiums by 10 to 13 percent. No. They said it would drop premiums by \$2,500 a year. That is what the President said—\$2,500 per family per year, and he said by the end of his first term.

Well, we met with the President in February of 2010 at the White House at the roundtable discussion. Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, my colleague from Tennessee, asked specifically about the predictions that the premiums, as we have seen, would go up. The President was making these promises, claims that they would go down. The President denied again to each of us in a face-to-face meeting that they would

go up. The President said: "That's just not the case."

Well, now what we do know is it is the case, and it was the case all along. People believed the President when he promised he would save them money. They thought that Democrats were giving them this fair shot the President talks about. Now they are finding out what they got: higher premiums, higher costs, higher deductibles, higher copays, loss of coverage, you can't keep your doctor. It is hard to believe the President of the United States.

This is not what people wanted. People wanted a fair shot. But it is not what the President and Democrats in Congress actually gave them in the health care law. Many of them who voted for it never read it. NANCY PELOSI said first you have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it. But it did not stop the Democrats who voted for it from making those same promises—promises: If you like what you have, you can keep it. If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. Premiums will go down. All of those promises—each one of them turned out to be not true.

A fair shot is exactly what Republicans have offered, and that is—and I can tell you this as a doctor—what patients want is patient-centered care, not government-controlled and mandated care—a patient-centered approach that would solve the biggest problems that families face: access to care, cost of care, quality care. That means measures such as allowing small businesses to pool together in order to buy insurance more cheaply for their employees. It means letting people shop for health insurance that actually works for them and works for their families, not what the President says is best for them.

So in closing let me just say, these are just a couple of the solutions Republicans have offered to give Americans the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs, without the outrageous, expensive side effects of the President's health care law.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

BURWELL NOMINATION

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, after months and months of polarizing and divisive debate in the Senate about the Affordable Care Act, I rise today to strongly support the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell because I firmly believe she will help the Senate come together to jointly work to improve American health care.

The reality is both political parties have had valid points on this critical issue. My party believes passionately, as I do, that everyone must be covered. Republicans feel equally passionate

about having a real role for the private sector to help hold down costs and promote innovation. The Affordable Care Act does both. Working together, working together under the leadership of a talented official like Sylvia Mathews Burwell, we can build on that.

Ms. Burwell has earned much respect here in the Congress on both sides of the aisle. She had our distinguished colleague from Oklahoma TOM COBURN and our friend from West Virginia JAY ROCKEFELLER at the witness table together talking about how she had worked with both of them. She is a leader with a head and a heart, and she is qualified and experienced for this critical job at this critical time.

She is a graduate of Harvard and Oxford, where she was a Rhodes Scholar. Early in her career, she showed a commitment to service by becoming part of the Clinton administration. She was the Staff Director of the National Economic Council beginning in 1993. Soon she transitioned to be Chief of Staff to the Treasury Secretary. In 1997, she became Deputy Chief of Staff to the President and moved the following year to become the Deputy Director of OMB.

She has extensive experience in the nonprofit sector. She led efforts to address some of the most pressing global health challenges of our time. In 2011 she became the head of the Walmart Foundation.

I noted Sylvia Mathews Burwell's support, but here are a couple comments from the other side of the aisle. Senator BURR had this to say about Sylvia Mathews Burwell: "She comes with a portfolio of experience that would make her a tremendous asset at addressing some of the challenges that that agency specifically and uniquely has."

Here is what Senator COBURN had to say: "The fact is, when you have somebody that's competent and also has strong character, you find a way to get past your differences to try to solve problems."

So she has strong, vigorous support from both sides of the aisle.

Now, we all understand that the Affordable Care Act is going to be a central focus of her work every day as Secretary. Once she is confirmed, I am convinced—and Senator HATCH and I have talked about this again on a bipartisan basis—that we can come together to make the law work better.

For example, my colleague from Utah has done very good work in fixing the dysfunctional reimbursement system for Medicare known as the SGR. With Sylvia Mathews Burwell at the helm, we will get that done, and we will improve Medicare transparency because the public and taxpayers and seniors should not be in the dark about critical services.

I know Senator BEGICH is going to be making some important remarks about

veterans, and I just appreciate my colleague giving me this quick minute or two because I wanted to bring a bipartisan case for Sylvia Mathews Burwell to be confirmed. We will have the beginning of the process go forward today and more discussion about her and, I am sure, the Affordable Care Act as well.

I strongly, strongly urge my colleagues to advance her nomination and to support her when we go to a final vote.

With that, I thank my colleague and wish the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

PROTECTING VETERANS

Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I thank the Presiding Officer and thank my friend from Oregon.

I appreciate the opportunity to be on the floor today to talk about veterans care. It is an important issue that is not only critical to my State but across the country. As we know, it has been in the papers, on the TV, on the Internet, and everywhere else you can imagine.

There are few more important issues that we work on that have such a critical potential for impact on so many people, when you think about it. These folks have sacrificed so much for us—our veterans—and now it is important for us to make sure they have the proper care for all of their service.

Of course, the VA system is all over the national news, as I mentioned. Whatever you read, everywhere you turn, there is something about the system and what is going on. But I want to talk about Alaska's veterans programs that we are doing up there, especially around health care. For me, veterans are a big deal. It is a big deal because Alaska has so many.

Just to give you the lay of the land, we have over 77,000 veterans in Alaska. Almost 10 percent of the population of my State is veterans who have served this country in many different aspects throughout their careers and coming to Alaska to make it their home.

Along with the 77,000 veterans in Alaska, across the Nation the VA has more than 11 million veterans registered or enrolled.

I have in the Chamber this picture of some rural veterans in Bethel, AK. I enjoyed being out there, and I have a story I will tell in a bit about the impact of some of the things we are doing in rural Alaska.

I think of these veterans like my uncle, U.S. Army Infantryman Joe Begich from up in the Iron Range of Minnesota, who will be there this weekend on an Honor Flight from Minnesota. My family is very proud of his service and the service of my late father-in-law Lou Bonito, who was an Army colonel in Vietnam.

We need to listen to their stories—not just on Memorial Day, not just on the D-day anniversary, which is this Friday. We need to listen to our veterans every single day. They deserve to be heard, just as they deserve to receive the benefits for which they fought.

Make no mistake about it. When I hear from veterans, the vast majority love the VA health care system and what is being provided to them.

I was in Alaska last week and met with veterans from all over the State. We do not have to wait for some headline or for CNN to run some story about what is wrong with the VA system.

My staff and I know what is going on with our care. We have regular meetings with the VA. As a matter of fact, when I first came to the Senate, some of the first issues we dealt with had to do with the VA and trying to make sure the Veterans Administration is dealing with Alaska's unique situation of how diverse it is and how far apart many of these services are in getting to our veterans.

When this issue started coming up on a national level this last week and over the last few weeks regarding the problems, especially in Phoenix—don't get me wrong. I am outraged, as is every American and every Alaskan, about what was going on there and what probably is happening in other VA facilities around the country as we hear about more internal audits being done. But we saw this problem. I saw this problem growing in Alaska. It was clear to me there was inadequate staffing in Alaska, along with some other programmatic problems, and systematic delivery system problems. What it meant was in Alaska, when I saw this problem, we had over almost 1,000 people waiting 2, 3 months for just their initial appointment to get VA health care services. This was unacceptable. So I convened a field hearing in Alaska to look at these issues and figure out what we could do to improve the system.

Today, the average wait time for our VA veterans, our veterans in Alaska, to get their initial appointment is now down to 9 days. As a matter of fact, the list, which we monitor on a regular basis from our office, is down to less than two dozen. That fluctuates from day to day, but from 900-plus down to a few dozen is an incredible system change.

We didn't sit around and wait, as I said earlier, for some story to bust loose or someone to get some bumper sticker out there or make some political hits. We saw the problem and we took action. I was aggressive about it. I didn't sit around and wait for the Veterans' Administration to come up with an answer; I participated, as did my staff, because these results are real. As a matter of fact, Alaska is a model

around the country on how to do this, because we figured out how to partner with folks around the State to make sure the highest priority—delivering health care to our veterans—was done, and especially in our very rural areas.

I know the State of the Presiding Officer is like my State: very rural, small population, people spread all over the place. Trying to get to their clinic or their hospital for VA care is not as easy. The Presiding Officer is more fortunate because she has road access to a lot of the places. In my State, 80 percent of the State cannot be accessed by roads, but we have veterans throughout Alaska who desperately need to get care. We solved the problem. We didn't sit around and talk about it and do nothing. We actually talked about it and came up with a solution.

When I ran for office, we had the heroes health card, and then we modified it to make sure we could access all we wanted to do. For example, here is a beautiful hospital in Nome, AK. It is way up north. It is a beautiful hospital. Indian Health Service, our tribes, runs an incredible delivery system. It is one of the best in the country when we talk about health care delivery systems. Our Indian health care systems in Alaska are rated in the country as one of the best. But I have 800 veterans, Native and nonnative, who could not access that care in that building. They lived near it. They might live right here, but they couldn't go there. They had to fly hundreds of miles to Anchorage to go to a clinic and if the service wasn't there, they would have to fly to Seattle. Outrageous—800 veterans.

So what did we do? We sat down—and I dragged General Shinseki to Alaska to some very rural areas to give him a little experience about what was going on. Nome, AK, is up north and Anchorage is down here, as we see on this map. Seattle is not even on the map, because it is kind of small, anyway; it is not like Alaska in size. There are hundreds of miles people have to travel. It was not right.

So what did we do? We partnered with our Indian health care services delivered by our tribes—incredible care. Instead of just here and here, it is now everywhere that they can access health care. So that means the veterans have a choice—a choice they did not have before we put this program into place. It is unique to Alaska, and only in Alaska right now. But those 800 veterans now have a choice. They can go to Nome or they can go to Anchorage or to Fairbanks or down to Seattle if they want, but they get a choice now. They don't have to fly hundreds of miles.

What does this do? It saves money for the VA system not paying for airfare, and guess where that money goes: health care for veterans.

I will give an example. The earlier photo I had up here with all of those

veterans in Bethel—that was a couple of years ago. I remember telling them about this idea we were trying to implement. They were a little skeptical; they didn't think it would work. This weekend I am in Bethel, AK, in the same VFW hall. This one guy pulls his hand out and shows me all of these scars where he had to get work done, and he says, I had to go to Anchorage to get this done. I thought he was going to get mad at me because that is where he had to go. He says now—these are the Bethel folks up there in the post—now he can go right down the street to get his therapy on his hand.

Do you know what he said to me? He said, MARK, I am able to save my airfare and give more care to my brothers and sisters who served with me in the military. Because he doesn't have to fly to Anchorage. He has a choice. He gets to get his care right there. We went after this issue aggressively, because we knew these veterans fought for our country and deserved the best—the best—and we knew we could offer it through this system.

The other thing: We have been aggressive, as members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, about bringing more resources to veterans and the VA organization. Just in Alaska, in 2010, we had about a \$160 million budget. Today, it is over \$260 million in 4 years. Why? Because we are implementing programs that have success, that work, that deliver care. Is it perfect? No. Is it better than what they had 5 years ago? Absolutely. We didn't, again, sit around.

It is always amazing to me to go around this place. So many new ideas pop out because they read about it in the paper. Well, do your work. I did. We are getting results. Care is better today than it was 5 years ago. That one veteran—for him, it was incredible. The Presiding Officer knows what it is like when we are out traveling and meeting constituents and they are going to say things and we are not sure they are going to be very nice and friendly. He was a little intense about it. But when he showed me his results, I said, I want to take a picture of your hand, because that hand is the result of the work we are doing, to take 1,000 people off the primary list of waiting, down to a couple of thousands. Instead of waiting 120 days, now it is 8 days. As a matter of fact, when a veteran is enrolled in our delivery system in Anchorage through our tribal delivery system or our community clinic there, a veteran could potentially get—the likelihood is same-day service. They walk in, they get service, no delay, because we have a system that is maximizing our Federal resources. All of those are paid by Federal tax dollars. Why not use them? Use them for the betterment of making sure our veterans have the care they need.

There are a couple of other things we could do right now, and I have written

to the VA about this. For example, we have Public Health Service doctors who work in the community health service programs, but they are not in the VA. They have the ability to do it under title 38, I think it is; they just have to make it happen. This is important because we have over 5,000 of these folks in many different professions serving our country. Let's put them to work even more. They are working hard now, but maybe we could deploy them in ways to help our VA.

I also support the proposal in Senator SANDERS' bill to increase loan forgiveness for these folks who want to participate in our Public Health Service. Senator PRYOR introduced a bill that would increase support for psychiatric services for vets through a pilot program offering loan forgiveness for a gap in our service. We don't have enough.

One thing we also did, to speak about another program for our veterans in rural parts of our country—what did we do? Because sometimes the copay for accessing telehealth medicine is enough to tell people, I don't want to do it. I had a bill on the floor, or a bill that I introduced, but again General Shinseki decided to do it. So now there is no copay if veterans want to access mental health through telemedicine. Why? Because it has proven to be very successful. In remote communities such as in my State and the Presiding Officer's State, we want them to have access to mental health services. We have a limited amount of mental health dollars. So why not create an opportunity to use technology and limit the cost to the VA or to veterans, and give them the services they need? It is critical.

As I said earlier, what happened in Arizona is unacceptable. If it continues, if we see other places where these lists were falsely put together, then people need to be held accountable and prosecuted. But just dealing with that does not solve the problem. Solving the problem means being innovative and thinking out of the box. I have to say, if we can do it in Alaska, in the most remote area of this country, we can do it anywhere. We have a model that is working. We have veterans who like their care, they love their care, they have access they never had before. It is important that we figure out a solution.

I know Senator SANDERS' bill is an important bill. I hope we will have it on the floor and we can debate it and ultimately we will get to a bipartisan decision. Because if the Presiding Officer will remember, this bill failed before by two votes. They complained it cost too much. These are veterans who served our country, who went to war for us to be in this Chamber, to be able to have free education, public education, to be able to have an incredible country. People are for veterans or

people are against veterans. It is not a complicated issue. The bill that failed told me where some people were. Some were for veterans and some were against veterans. We had two wars unpaid for, trillions of dollars. Now it comes time to pay the bill for the people who have served our country, and we debate that we can't do that.

We are going to have a bill in short order on providing all kinds of tax extenders for horses in Kentucky to get special tax breaks, but we are not going to pay for that. We are not going to pay for that. But when it comes to veterans: Oh, we have to pay for that. Too bad. No. When that bill comes forward, it is time to see who is for veterans and who is against veterans. It is not complicated. In the tax bill there are special deductions for horse racing. We are not going to pay for it. Somehow, horses are important.

Veterans are important. This is an issue we take care of. Complaining about what it will cost—veterans have paid the ultimate price. They have served our country. And the people who are not coming back have served and paid the ultimate price.

My poor staff sometimes wonders where I am going with my presentation. I get pretty outraged about this, because in Alaska veterans are an important issue. This country is important. And for us to debate the few couple billion or a few hundred million that we are complaining about—some people have—we have spent \$2 trillion-plus on wars. It is time for us to pay the debt to these veterans.

I know we are going to have a hearing this week in the committee. We will be working on the bill that Senator SANDERS has put together and I have participated in, as has every other member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. It is time to do the right thing for our veterans.

I appreciate the opportunity to be on the floor. As an Alaskan I recognize the importance of our veterans. I believe everyone in this Chamber recognizes the importance of our veterans. But they will have a chance. They will have an opportunity to decide if they are for veterans or if they are against veterans. If they come down with convoluted Washington, DC, doublespeak about how they can't do the bill because of this or that—people are fed up in this country. I know when I go back home, they just ask me a very simple question: Can we get better health care for our veterans? Can we access the GI bill to make sure veterans get an opportunity to get a better education? Is there an opportunity for them to take the skill they learned in the military and put it to work to get a job? These are the things we should be fighting for.

I have a feeling we will be down here with some Members quibbling over some small detail because they really

don't want to pass the bill. Again, they are for veterans or they are against veterans. It is not complicated.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 796, the Selig nomination, and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of that nomination; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we expect this nomination to be confirmed by voice vote, so we expect four rollcall votes at 11 a.m.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARK G. MASTROIANNI TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

NOMINATION OF BRUCE HOWE HENDRICKS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

NOMINATION OF TANYA S. CHUTKAN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider

the following nominations which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Mark G. Mastroianni, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts; Bruce Howe Hendricks, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina; and Tanya S. Chutkan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be now 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on confirmation of the Mastroianni nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of three nominees to serve on the U.S. district courts in Massachusetts, South Carolina, and the District of Columbia. The Senate Judiciary Committee reported two of these nominees unanimously to the full Senate, and the third nominee with strong bipartisan support.

These nominees are not controversial and in past years would have been confirmed weeks, or even months, ago. Instead, Republicans continue to refuse to give consent for votes on any judicial nominee, irrespective of their qualifications or the support of home State Senators. As a result, yesterday the Senate was forced again to waste valuable time voting to end the unnecessary filibusters of three highly qualified nominees. The Senate has now voted to end the filibusters of 44 judicial nominees so far during 2014. It is every Senator's right to demand continued debate on any measure or nomination before this chamber. But I would say to any Senator who requires a cloture vote on a qualified, consensus nominee to at least speak about the nominee and not to obstruct for obstruction's sake.

I hope that this partisan fever will break in the near future, and that Republicans will stop reducing the Senate's constitutional role of advice and consent into a tool of obstruction. These delays should stop.

Mark Mastroianni has been nominated to fill a judicial vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. He has served since 2011 as district attorney in the Hampden district attorney's office and previously worked in private practice. Following law school, he served as an assistant district attorney in the Hampden District Attorney's Office from 1990 to 1995. Mr. Mastroianni has the support of his home State senators, Senator WARREN and Senator MARKEY. The Judiciary Committee reported him favorably to the full Senate by voice vote on March 6, 2014.

Judge Bruce Hendricks has been nominated to fill a judicial vacancy on

the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina. She has served since 2002 as a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of South Carolina. During her judicial service, she presided over thousands of criminal and civil cases. She served as an adjunct professor at the College of Charleston from 2000 to 2001, teaching classes on the structure of the Federal and State court system and civil processes and procedures. She previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of South Carolina from 1991 to 2002. Judge Hendricks' nomination received the American Bar Association's highest rating of "unanimously well qualified." She has the support of her home State Republican senators, Senator GRAHAM and Senator SCOTT. The Judiciary Committee reported her favorably with bipartisan support to the full Senate by roll call vote of 16–2 on March 6, 2014.

Tanya Chutkan has been nominated to fill a judicial vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Tanya Chutkan has worked in private practice as a partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, where she has served as a partner since 2007 and as a counsel from 2002 to 2006. She previously served as an attorney at The Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia from 1991 to 2002. She worked in private practice as an associate at Donovan, Leisure, Rogovin, Huger & Schiller from 1990 to 1991 and at Hogan & Hartson LLP from 1987 to 1990. The Judiciary Committee reported her favorably to the full Senate by voice vote on March 27, 2014.

In addition to the nominees we will vote on today, there are 10 additional judicial nominees reported by the Judiciary Committee pending on the Senate Executive Calendar, including seven nominees who were reported unanimously. Six of the 10 judicial nominees that will be left pending after today's confirmation votes will fill judicial emergency vacancies in the District of Nevada, the Southern District of Illinois, and in the Middle and Southern Districts of Florida. I hope that the Senate moves quickly to confirm these nominees, and others.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mark G. Mastroianni, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts?

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 171 Ex.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Grassley	Murphy
Ayotte	Hagan	Murray
Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Barrasso	Hatch	Portman
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Heller	Reid
Blunt	Hirono	Risch
Boxer	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Brown	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cantwell	Johanns	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Chambliss	Kaine	Sessions
Coats	King	Shaheen
Coburn	Kirk	Shelby
Collins	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Landrieu	Tester
Corker	Leahy	Thune
Cornyn	Levin	Toomey
Crapo	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McCaskill	Walsh
Feinstein	McConnell	Warner
Fischer	Menendez	Warren
Flake	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wicker
Gillibrand	Moran	Wyden
Graham	Murkowski	

NAYS—2

Cruz Paul

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Casey	Lee
Boozman	Cochran	Roberts

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motions to reconsider will be considered made and laid on the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on the confirmation of the Hendricks nomination.

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Senator SCOTT and I would ask the membership to vote aye for Bruce Howe Hendricks. She is a former U.S. magistrate. She is a former U.S. attorney from the State of South Carolina. She has received numerous awards for scholarship. She is well respected by both Republicans and Democrats. She has a rich judicial background and will be a great choice to assume the Federal bench in South Carolina, and she was rated unanimously "well qualified" by the ABA. I strongly support her nomination.

I yield back the remainder of our time.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Bruce Howe Hendricks, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 172 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Grassley	Murray
Ayotte	Hagan	Nelson
Baldwin	Harkin	Paul
Barrasso	Hatch	Portman
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Heller	Reid
Blunt	Hirono	Risch
Boxer	Hoeven	Roberts
Brown	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Burr	Isakson	Rubio
Cantwell	Johanns	Sanders
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Chambliss	Kaine	Scott
Coats	King	Sessions
Coburn	Kirk	Shaheen
Collins	Klobuchar	Shelby
Coons	Landrieu	Stabenow
Corker	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	Markey	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	McCain	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCaskill	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Walsh
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Fischer	Merkley	Warren
Flake	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Moran	Wicker
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Graham	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Casey	Lee
Boozman	Cochran	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider will be considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to the vote on confirmation of the Chutkan nomination.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Tanya S. Chutkan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia?

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I request the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 173 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Grassley	Murray
Ayotte	Hagan	Nelson
Baldwin	Harkin	Paul
Barrasso	Hatch	Portman
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Heller	Reid
Blunt	Hirono	Risch
Boxer	Hoeben	Roberts
Brown	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Burr	Isakson	Rubio
Cantwell	Johanns	Sanders
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Chambliss	Kaine	Scott
Coats	King	Sessions
Coburn	Kirk	Shaheen
Collins	Klobuchar	Shelby
Coons	Landrieu	Stabenow
Corker	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	Markey	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	McCain	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCaskill	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Walsh
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Fischer	Merkley	Warren
Flake	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Moran	Wicker
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Graham	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Casey	Lee
Boozman	Cochran	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider will be considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Burwell nomination.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, Sylvia Mathews Burwell was introduced at the Finance Committee by the Senator from Oklahoma TOM COBURN and the senior Senator from West Virginia JAY ROCKEFELLER. She has extraordinary bipartisan support because she can bring people together. After years of divisive and polarizing discussion about the Affordable Care Act, Sylvia Mathews Burwell is somebody who will bring Democrats and Republicans together to improve the quality and affordability of our health care.

I strongly urge all Senators to vote for Sylvia Mathews Burwell.

I yield back time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Harry Reid, Ron Wyden, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Michael F. Bennet, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mary Landrieu, Mark Begich, Joe Donnelly, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrrod Brown, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 174 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Alexander	Begich	Blumenthal
Baldwin	Bennet	Boxer

Brown	Heitkamp	Portman
Burr	Hirono	Pryor
Cantwell	Isakson	Reed
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Carper	Kaine	Rockefeller
Chambliss	King	Sanders
Coats	Klobuchar	Schatz
Collins	Landrieu	Schumer
Coons	Leahy	Shaheen
Corker	Levin	Stabenow
Crapo	Manchin	Tester
Donnelly	Markey	Toomey
Durbin	McCain	Udall (CO)
Feinstein	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Flake	Menendez	Walsh
Franken	Merkley	Warner
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Warren
Hagan	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Harkin	Murphy	Wyden
Hatch	Murray	
Heinrich	Nelson	

NAYS—28

Ayotte	Heller	Roberts
Barrasso	Hoeben	Rubio
Blunt	Inhofe	Scott
Coburn	Johanns	Sessions
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cruz	Kirk	Thune
Enzi	McConnell	Vitter
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Graham	Paul	
Grassley	Risch	

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Casey	Lee
Boozman	Cochran	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 67, the nays are 28. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The bill clerk read the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

NOMINATION OF STEFAN M. SELIG TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the following nomination which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Stefan M. Selig, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Stefan M. Selig, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade?

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR NO. 8

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, 2 weeks ago I came to the Senate floor to

ask unanimous consent to ratify the protocol amending our tax treaty with Switzerland. I argued that the new protocol would no longer permit Swiss banks to withhold information on U.S. individuals who have hidden behind Swiss bank secrecy laws to avoid paying U.S. taxes.

Today I come to the Senate floor to ask unanimous consent to ratify the bilateral income tax treaty with Chile.

If the protocol with Switzerland is the perfect example of how tax treaties enhance our efforts to prevent tax evasion, the treaty with Chile—the first between our two countries—is the perfect example of why the United States pursues tax treaties. We pursue them to promote greater trading investment. We pursue them to protect American companies from double taxation. We pursue them to expand new markets and develop new business opportunities for companies and investors.

On April 1 the Foreign Relations Committee, with strong bipartisan support, reported favorably on a proposed new income tax treaty with Chile. If ratified, the treaty would be only the third U.S. tax treaty in all of Latin America, but it would be a significant step forward in a region critical to U.S. international economic interests and would be with one of our strongest allies in the hemisphere.

What does this treaty do? Simply put, it promotes trade and investment between the United States and Chile. It provides for reduced withholding rates on cross-border payments of dividends, interest, and royalties. It would prevent avoidance or evasion of the taxes, includes rigorous protections against treaty shopping, and ensures exchange of information between our nations' tax authorities.

Let me also add, the American private sector's support for this treaty is unequivocal. To quote from a 2013 letter to Senate leaders from the National Foreign Trade Council, the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and other major U.S. business associations, ". . . ratification would represent an important milestone in lowering tax barriers to U.S. companies operating in Latin America . . . and would protect the interests of U.S. taxpayers" in Chile.

This protects and grows U.S. investment in Chile. It expands U.S. economic engagement in the region, and that is a win-win-win.

I know there are those in the Chamber who do not see it that way, but these are the facts of economic engagement and economic statecraft in the hemisphere.

In the last decade, Chile has taken a regional leadership role on trade issues. It is one of our most important bilateral economic partners in the region. Total bilateral trade has nearly tripled since 2003, and U.S. investment in Chile has more than tripled from \$10

billion in 2004 to roughly \$35 billion today. Ratifying this treaty will take the bilateral commercial relationship to the next level.

I understand newly inaugurated Chilean President Michelle Bachelet plans to travel to Washington later this month to continue the close partnership between our two countries. Ratifying this treaty would send President Bachelet a strong message that we value our partnership with Chile and we are serious about further expanding economic opportunities between our two countries.

Madam President, 1,421 days have passed since the last time this Senate ratified an income tax treaty. We can end that ignoble streak right now.

So I ask unanimous consent, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 8, treaty document No. 112-8; that the treaty be considered as having advanced through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification; that any committee declarations be agreed to as applicable; that any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read; that if the resolution of ratification is agreed to, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I think it is important to remember that the vast majority of Americans are law-abiding Americans who reside either here or overseas and that they do have an expectation of privacy and they do have a right to privacy. Those who break the law should be punished, but we can't forget about the innocent Americans who are not breaking the law who do have a right to privacy.

We have had treaties such as this for decades, and I am not opposed to the treaties. There are beneficial aspects to the treaties. Past treaties have had a standard which said that one had to be committing tax fraud or that one had to be engaged in fraudulent activity, the same way every American here expects that the government is not going to look at a person's bank account unless they have gone to a judge with evidence that a person is cheating on their taxes. The government can't just look at everybody's information in the bank without probable cause. The previous standard was that there had to be some evidence presented that a person was cheating on their taxes. I think there should be some evidence presented.

The new standard is they can look at any of a person's records that may be

relevant. This is a much lower standard, and I think it will be injurious to the vast majority, if not the overwhelming majority, of Americans who are actually innocent but just happen to be living abroad.

I would be willing to work with whoever is willing to work with me on this to get the treaties passed if we can keep the same standard we have had previously, which is a standard of fraud, not a standard that these may be relevant.

So for this reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I would have more extensive remarks, but I know my colleague from Maryland has a different unanimous consent request. Let me make just three quick points.

Chile's and other tax treaties the Foreign Relations Committee has reported favorably do not represent the first time the Senate has considered treaties providing for information exchange based on a "foreseeably relevant" or "may be relevant" standard.

In fact, since 1999—so that is about 15 years now—the Senate has adopted resolutions of advice and consent for at least eight other tax treaties using the relevant standard. This standard has been part of the model of U.S. tax treaties since 2006. So it is not correct that the "may be relevant" or "foreseeably relevant" standard is vague or ambiguous. In fact, it has been extensively defined in agreed guidance to which no country has expressed a dissenting opinion to date.

I must say that not only are these objections ultimately not providing all the benefits that all of the private-sector interests have expressed—as I referred to before, the entire business community—but by the same token, I simply have a tough time accepting that those who cheat get away with cheating and that somehow we are going to make it easier for them to cheat when the average American does not have the opportunity nor the desire nor do they cheat in terms of their payment of whatever are the taxes they owe to the Federal Government in a way that helps sustain all of the things we seek as Americans: the best armed forces in the world, security here at home, educational opportunity for our kids.

So there is a fundamental difference here. I will push these tax treaties, and I will urge the majority leader to give us votes then in a process because it has overwhelming support and we cannot have one Member of the Senate object to a process that can provide such benefits and such equity across the board.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE
CALENDAR NO. 9

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, let me underscore the point Senator MENENDEZ, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has made in regard to these tax treaties.

I want to make two principal points, and then a few other comments, and then I am going to propound a unanimous consent request in regard to the Swiss protocols.

The two points I want to raise—first on the standard of fraud, the relevancy standard that has been included in tax treaties ratified by the Senate since the 1990s. There are at least eight treaties that have used this standard. This is the international standard on fraud. It is not the U.S. Standard. It is not the Swiss standard. It is not the Chilean standard. It is the international standard.

There may have been one time when the United States could dictate what tax treaties would include. But we are part of an international community. It is part of international negotiations. This is the international standard for cooperation among taxing authorities in order to establish a level playing field.

Secondly, our Constitution provides for the ratification of treaties by the Senate and provides for a two-thirds vote. It is an extraordinary vote. It is a heavy vote. It is a heavy burden for ratification of the treaties. It is not 100 percent; it does not require every Senator to agree to it, but it takes two-thirds of the Senators.

I would urge my colleagues that we need to return to regular order. Everyone talks about returning to regular order in the Senate. Well, if we need to go through lengthy debates and votes on a treaty that is totally non-controversial, I am not sure we are serving the best interests in the Senate. Let's have an open debate, but let's vote. If some Senators disagree, well, at least allow the vote to go forward so we can get the two-thirds of the Senate to agree.

I want to thank the chairman of the committee. He gave me the opportunity to chair the hearings. So I was at the hearings during consideration of these treaties. We had a full panel of witnesses. Not one testified in opposition and not one was concerned about the issue that my colleague from Kentucky has raised on the fraud standard. In fact, they all said this is the level playing field. This will allow our country to support our companies and provide a level playing field for international investment in the United States.

The absence of this treaty affects America's ability to attract investment. Make no mistake about it. It hurts our companies. It hurts American companies that want to do business in other countries. They need a

level playing field, to be protected against multiple layers of taxation and compliance issues. So this allows for that level playing field, so we can have fair agreements.

Let me mention one company that has come to us and said this is very important: McCormick. McCormick is a company that has been headquartered in Maryland for 125 years. They have 2,000 employees in my State of Maryland and 10,000 employees globally. They are hurt by the failure to have these treaties ratified.

It presents a level playing field. It allows for investment. It protects the privacy. Our laws protect privacy. Swiss laws protect privacy. What this does is establish a level playing field so all are protected.

I appreciate the fact that we may want to negotiate this in a different way. Well, let's work with our negotiators and work with the international community. It is not going to be the United States dictating what that standard should be. Quite frankly, the relevancy standard has worked well. There have been no complaints whatsoever on privacy issues on the eight treaties we have ratified. To the contrary, what it does is it removes the veil from those who are tax cheats, to allow us to get that information. It provides for the transparency necessary between taxing jurisdictions so you cannot hide and commit fraud against one country where you have the treaty.

So I would urge my colleagues to allow us to proceed on these treaties. It is very important to economic growth in our own State.

With that, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 9, treaty document 112-1; that the treaty be considered as having advanced through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification; that any committee declarations be agreed to as applicable; that any statements be printed in the Record; that if the resolution of ratification is agreed to, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, let me make one point very clear. One Senator cannot prevent a vote in this body. The vote can occur at any point in time. One Senator can prevent sort of expedited passage without extensive debate.

One of the things our Founding Fathers did with this body, by allowing

filibuster and by allowing procedural ways to slow things down, was to allow Senators who are in the minority to try to influence legislation.

I am open to a discussion on the language of this treaty, and I am open to a discussion on how we would have the standard promulgated. But I am very aware that when people talk about the criminal aspect of people they want to punish—I am in favor of that as well—you have to be aware that the vast majority of Americans who reside overseas are not criminals, are not tax cheats, and are law-abiding citizens.

So I do not think we should agree to a standard that is less than our normal standard here in the country. I also do not think we should agree to a standard that might allow bulk collection of data on everyone who lives overseas. Realize that this can be putting us beholden to other countries as well, accessing records of their citizens who are here as well.

So I think we have to be very careful about lessening the standard, and it is very much worth a debate. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, let me point out that it has now been 4 years since we have ratified treaties—4 years—because of time restraints of doing business in the Senate. It is one Senator holding up an expedited way under the Senate rules so we could get a vote. He can cast his vote any way he wishes on this issue.

I will just say, we have so many of these tax treaties that are backed up now, not just the two we have spoken about today. There are other tax protocols and treaties that are waiting for Senate ratification. I would hope we could find a way that would satisfy colleagues to allow an up-or-down vote on these treaties. They are noncontroversial, but they are extremely important to the businesses of our country and moving our economy along.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. With regard to the Selig nomination, under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority control the time from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. today and the Republicans control the time from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I come today and I am honored to support my friend Sylvia Mathews Burwell. Sylvia is a native of West Virginia, and I have always said that we are all a part of our environment. If you know where Sylvia came from, the type of area where she was raised and the neighborhood, it will tell you everything about who she is today and why she has been so successful and why public service runs through her veins, truly giving something back.

The little town of Hinton, WV, is where Sylvia is from. It is in beautiful Summers County in the southern part of the State. It is right on the New River. It is a train town. Trains will come there and dispatch, and they will get them turned around to go in the right direction.

I will never forget when they introduced Sylvia. I think it was Senator ALEXANDER who was speaking. He was talking about his father, who worked in the rail yard and was always responsible for turning the trains and getting them moving. I said: Well, one thing about that, Sylvia comes from a train town. She knows how to get the train on the track and how to get it moving in the right direction, and she has proven that.

She is an unbelievable, blessed person. She is gifted, as smart as they come—a Rhodes scholar. In West Virginia we are so proud to have a person with those types of skills and the ambition to serve.

Now we will get into a little bit about her mom and dad because it is really who she is. Her father is an eye doctor there and is well respected in the town, and he is an immigrant who came from Britain. Her mother Cleo Mathews was the mayor. When I was Governor of West Virginia and I would come to town, Cleo would always call and tell me everything I did wrong. She was usually right, and we would get things worked out. We always had a great relationship. But she had skills and she had to give something back. You had to be involved. You just couldn't sit around. You couldn't be satisfied with your life just thinking, well, I work and I have a paycheck. There was always something.

I think that comes from—I am second generation also—coming to this country and hearing your grandparents talk about all the wonderful opportunities they have been provided and how privileged they believe they are and how honored and why we always have to give something back. You had to volunteer, be involved. You had to go out and contribute. You had to do something. That is the type of background Sylvia comes from.

When you look at every job she was asked to do, she was in the Clinton administration. If fame and fortune were her desire, she could have gotten it a long time ago. She did public service, and she did it in an exemplary fashion. Then after the Clinton administration she went to the Gates Foundation. She went to the Walmart Foundation. She is always with a foundation. She is somebody who is willing to help others and give back, trying to invest in the best of America. Then she came back and she became our Director of OMB. She got totally unanimous support.

Now the President has tasked her to come and take the reins of the DHHS. I say to my friends, whether or not you support the Affordable Care Act, Sylvia is not coming here to change your minds. She is not going to tell you: I am going to tell you why you should be for it, and you are wrong if you are not for it. She is not going to do that. She is going to make the system work. She is going to be following the law and listening to everybody—those who support it and those who do not support it—and making adjustments and recommendations. I trust that she will take good, solid recommendations to the President: If change is needed, this is where we need it. If this is not working, this is why it is not working. If the numbers don't add up and we cannot afford it, we will make adjustments to make sure it does work so all Americans can benefit.

I come to the floor because I know Sylvia Mathews Burwell. I know where she comes from. I know her family. I know her friends. I know her town. That speaks volumes. As I said in the opening, we are all products of our environment. Sylvia Mathews Burwell is a product of her environment, which is as nurturing and loving and caring as any one of us could ever hope for. To have that quality of a person who is going to be serving at the highest level is something I am very proud of—not just because she is a West Virginian but because she is such an accomplished person and she wants to give something back. She has lived the American dream. Her parents made that come true for her, and that is who she is.

I would ask all of my colleagues, when they are voting, who do you think would have better values, who would have the ability, and who has the knowledge and the experience to make sure there is fairness and bipartisanship? Every person is going to be listened to, and she will give a direct answer as to exactly how she has come to a decision. That is all you can ask for. When you have an opportunity to get somebody at that level in the private sector, you would jump all over it. You would do whatever it would take to get somebody with her qualities.

In public service, we have such a hard time today recruiting the young, re-

cruiting this new crop of leaders. Some of them will be Senators, some of them will be Congresspeople. They are going to be leaders in their communities. They care at a young age. We have a hard time recruiting this younger crop of people, and when we have it, we better hold on to it.

We have a chance to hold on to Sylvia, to take us to a new level where health care could be affordable for the masses. We could have a healthier population. We don't have to rank 43rd in the world as far as wellness and longevity. It shouldn't be that we are spending more money than anybody else and not getting results. We need somebody like Sylvia Mathews Burwell, who could put all of this together and make sense out of it because she comes from a family and a community that is all-West Virginian and all-American.

I say to my colleagues, I hope you will vote in favor of Sylvia Mathews Burwell and show that we can come together, we can work in a bipartisan fashion and pick the best person for the job—not because they are Democratic or Republican or Independent or have any political affiliation but because they are the best qualified person for the job.

I would say thank you to all of my colleagues for allowing me to give a little bit of insight into a most amazing young lady, a mother, a daughter, and a loving friend to all who really gives all she can.

Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I come to the floor to speak in support of Sylvia Burwell's nomination to lead our efforts at HHS and to follow up on the comments of her great friend Senator MANCHIN.

I would like to add two points to what I think was a great presentation by the Senator from West Virginia. We rarely get someone who has this kind of background in both the public and private sector and of course who is perfectly suited for a tour of duty at the helm of the Nation's largest public-private partnership.

HHS is obviously the payer for our Medicare Program and for much of our Medicaid Program, but they are doing business with literally hundreds of thousands of private entities and private companies all throughout the country—primarily health care practitioners from the east coast to the west coast—and the Affordable Care Act is an enormous private-public partnership. We expanded coverage through

both the traditional Medicaid Program and also through millions of people—8 million and counting—who have signed up for private insurance with a little bit of help from their government through tax credits. It is this background that she has on both sides of the public-private divide that I think will put her in a perfect position to lead this agency.

When she came before the HELP Committee, I was particularly pleased that she was very willing to be flexible and aggressive in her work with Governors throughout the country who have not yet expanded Medicaid. I think there is growing willingness on behalf of many Republican Governors to look at some innovative ways to expand Medicaid, and Sylvia Burwell is the perfect Secretary to work with Governors to find a way—perhaps with subsidies—that will help people in the lower income brackets afford private insurance that could capture those 5 million individuals across the country who do not have access to Medicaid because their States have not expanded it.

I wish to spend a few minutes in the context of this debate answering what I imagine will be a growing chorus of concerns and criticism from our Republican friends regarding some of the new rate announcements from exchanges all across the country. It has been hard to follow a lot of the criticism of the Affordable Care Act because it seems as though it mutates on a pretty regular basis. It started out with claims that the Web site could never work given its initial rollout problems. Of course it is working very well today.

Another criticism was that nobody would sign up for this new benefit because it was not affordable. We hit 8 million in terms of those who signed up for private insurance.

They said young people would not sign up. Private insurers are telling us their mixes of enrollees are exactly as they hoped, especially with respect to the young people signing up.

Then they said people would not pay their premiums. In a House hearing about 1 month ago, the private insurers said that in fact 80 to 90 percent of people were paying their premiums, which is comparable with the non-ACA plans.

Of course, there was the general claim that it will bankrupt the Treasury, even though it is saving us trillions in terms of deficit savings as well as savings to the overall health care spending line items of the Federal Government.

Now the critique is that these rate increases are unjustifiable as insurers are getting ready to offer rates on the new exchanges coming out for open enrollment at the end of this year.

First of all, it is important to note that there are a lot more insurance companies offering health care on these new exchanges. Connecticut will

get at least one new entrant. New Hampshire, for instance, went from one insurer to five insurers. There is very good news coming with the new exchanges. There will be a lot more options because the insurers have figured out it is a pretty good deal for them as well as their consumers.

It is important to have a little bit of context. I have a couple of examples of the kind of premium increases that have been asked for by private insurers all across the country in the last several years. In 2010, Anthem in California proposed a 25- to 39-percent increase in premiums. Again in 2010, Anthem asked for a 23-percent increase in Maine. The year before in Michigan, Blue Cross Blue Shield asked for increases up to 56 percent for some populations.

The reality is that on average we have seen a premium increase for the individual market of 15 percent or above over the last 10 years. That is not good news, but it does provide some context for the requests for premium increases we are going to see in the exchanges this year. Actually, the reality is that since the law passed, there has been a fairly precipitous decline in the number of premium increases above 10 percent that have been requested by private insurers. There are less requests for premium increases above 10 percent today than there were in the corresponding period before the Affordable Care Act was passed.

Just because the rate increases that are being requested—or may be requested—as we roll out the next year of open enrollment for the State-based exchanges may be below the historical averages of the last few years, that certainly is not any reason for people to jump for joy. Fifteen percent is unaffordable, fifty-six percent is unaffordable, and 10 percent is still unaffordable.

It is also important to note some of the protections that are in the bill. For instance, one of the most important provisions of the Affordable Care Act that very few people have noticed is the provision that says that an insurer has to spend 80 percent of all the money it takes in on care. If at the end of the year they have not spent 80 percent of the money they have taken in from ratepayers and premium payers on direct care, then they have to rebate money to consumers.

Thus, if these premium increases are above what is justified based on the actual experience, there is going to be a rebate paid to ratepayers. Those rebates thus far have saved patients and consumers all across the country \$5 billion, and it is a significant, historic protection against unjustifiable premium increases that are not backed by actual experience in terms of claims paid.

The protections are even broader. While rate increases are not new, what

is new is that consumers are back in charge of their health care again. Ten years ago insurers were charging 15 percent, 20 percent increases and they were also denying health care to millions of Americans who were sick. In some parts of the country they were charging women 50 percent more than what they were charging men. They were putting annual limits on health care coverage that ended medical insurance for many of the sickest individuals and families all across the country. All of those abuses, under the Affordable Care Act, are history.

While I will admit we still have work to do to bring down the cost of health insurance in this country, at the very least today consumers are back in charge of their health care, the worst excesses and abuses of the insurance industry are no longer permitted.

While I want to see a day when health insurance premium increases are 2, 3, and 4 percent, what we are seeing thus far in the wake of the passage of the Affordable Care Act is premium increases that are less than the historical average before the law was passed.

Those are the facts. I know that is not solace for individuals who are receiving these premium increases, but what we have seen are premium increases coming down and not going up since the Affordable Care Act was passed.

There is still an enormous amount of work to do. The news is generally very good. More people are being enrolled in the Affordable Care Act than what was expected. Over the last 6 months alone, the rate of uninsured individuals in this country has come down by 20 percent. Medical inflation is at a near-term historic low. Whether it be infection or readmission rates, outcomes are getting better.

Our next Secretary of Health and Human Services will have a lot of work to do to continue to perfect this law, but she is going to have a lot of good work and a lot of good outcomes upon which to build, based on her experience in both managing private sector entities and large public sector entities. Even with these challenges, Sylvia Burwell is the right choice for HHS, and I hope we will confirm her in a big vote tomorrow.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor to discuss the nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services because as a physician I am very concerned and want to make sure Americans can get health care. I think getting care is actually much more important than getting the insurance component of that, but that is nothing new, and I said that to the President. In so many ways, the President has actually offered empty coverage but is not actually providing an opportunity

for care for people. We have seen situations where people are paying higher premiums, higher copays, and higher deductibles, all of which are the many side effects of the President's health care law.

When I hear my colleague from Connecticut make reference to rates going up, let's face it. What the President of the United States said is that premiums would drop \$2,500 per family by the end of his first term. The President didn't say, well, it will not go up as fast or that it will go up some, but don't worry about it. The facts are that people are continuing to be hurt by the health care law, and much of it is as a result of the expense of the law.

Last week USA Today had a report that said: "Many employees hit with higher health care premiums." They go on to say:

More than half of companies increased employees' share of health care premiums or copayments for doctors' visits in 2013. . . .

Why? Because of the health care law. What other things have businesses that are trying to provide health insurance for their employees had to do? Thirty-two percent of the time the businesses delayed raises for the individuals because the cost of insurance under the President's health care law has gone up so much. People who are concerned about take-home pay are getting hurt by the health care law.

According to this USA Today report, 22 percent eliminated or cut back on benefits, and 21 percent of these folks were cut back from full-time work to part-time work. That is obviously a hit to somebody's take-home pay.

The report says health care premiums have increased 80 percent since 2003, nearly three times faster than wages and nearly three times faster than inflation. The health care law has actually failed to do what the President promised when it comes to actually providing care and affordable care.

As I look around the country, it is interesting to see what is happening. There was a report out very recently about hundreds of thousands of Iowans who don't have coverage. The report goes on to talk about a woman who said she drove a half hour from Mitchellville recently to seek care for flu-like symptoms at a free clinic in Des Moines. She is an assistant manager of a convenience store. She has been offered insurance by her employer but would have to pay \$111 every 2 weeks for her part of the premium, and she said: "I can't afford that . . . There's no way on Earth."

Our colleague from Connecticut said it is working. It is not working, and it is because of the mandates of the law, such as the mandate that people have to get insurance that the government says they need as opposed to what may be good for them or their family.

The woman, Reina, said she heard most Americans are required to have

health insurance this year or pay a penalty. Democrats who voted for this said if someone doesn't buy the insurance, they have to pay a penalty. She heard that and learned it was equal to 1 percent of her income.

According to this article from the Des Moines Register where they had their primary elections yesterday, in Iowa, the Des Moines Register: The lady laughed ruefully at the prospect. "I don't care. They can fight me for it."

So this is a woman in Iowa, knows about the penalty, knows about the mandates, and she would say to my colleague from Connecticut who was just on the floor that it is not working for her.

She bristled at the new requirement to obtain insurance. She said, if we could afford it, do you think we would be standing out here? Of course, where she was standing was in a line for a free clinic, nodding at a half dozen others in line on the sidewalk waiting for the free clinic to hold one of its twice-a-week sessions.

I come to the floor today, as I have repeatedly, to talk about the issues of the health care law as a doctor trying to make sure patients get the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs, and seeing that the President's health care law has failed miserably because so many people have been hurt by this health care law. They have had their insurance canceled, even though the President said, Oh, no, it won't happen. He said, If you like what you have, you can keep it. National folks who assessed this called that the lie of the year.

We also see that many people cannot keep their doctors, and they are finding out that their copays are higher, their premiums are higher.

It is interesting, because it is affecting people in so many different ways. Minnesota is another State where there has been a lot of debate and discussion about the health care law. The headline in the Mankato Times: "Minnesota Schools to lose more than \$200 Million because of ObamaCare." My colleague from Connecticut just said it is working. Well, if it is working, why are the Minnesota schools losing \$200 million because of the health care law? The article says: State Representative Paul Torkelson said the wasteful spending on ObamaCare that has left many taxpayers outraged will soon be making a significant impact on Minnesota's schools—a significant impact on Minnesota schools. According to documents released by Minnesota's management and budget office, over the next 3 years, the total unfunded costs associated with Affordable Care Act compliance will cost school districts statewide at least \$207 million.

It is troubling news for our schools, the State representative said. This is \$200 million that school districts won't

be able to use to hire more teachers or improve their educational programs. This is an unneeded expense that does absolutely nothing for our students.

The senator concludes by saying: It is pretty sad when schools are forced to prioritize ObamaCare compliance over the education of our children.

So I come to the floor when I hear my colleague from Connecticut saying it is working to say it is not working all across the country. It is not working in so many ways that the President said it is. The President said Democrats should forcefully defend and be proud of the health care law. I don't know how a Senator can stand up who voted for this and be proud of what we are seeing happening to school districts all across the State of Minnesota.

The President continues to tout some number of people who signed up across the country, and I always ask, How many of them actually have insurance?

In Oregon, a story just out in the last week or two, in The Oregonian: Thousands have not paid premiums for Cover Oregon health policies, placing coverage at risk. So in spite of what my colleague from Connecticut may have said, this article says a large number of people who have signed up for private health insurers through the Cover Oregon health insurance exchange have not paid their first month's premiums, meaning they are at risk of going without coverage through November.

More than 81,000 people went through Cover Oregon—either through paper or electronic applications—to select a private plan. We know about the failures of that exchange. We know that the FBI, I believe, is investigating it. Of those, 5,000 have already canceled policies or been terminated for lack of payment. Thousands more have not yet paid their first month's premiums, meaning they have not completed their enrollment, according to the carriers.

The President talks about the numbers of enrollees. I don't know how many people actually paid to continue—to consistently say they have insurance, and consistent insurance, all the way through. Insurers say anywhere between 66 to 80 percent of consumers have paid, meaning anywhere from 20 to 34 percent have not. So it is hard for me to say that things are working.

It is interesting. Unions, which have supported the law, have come out with concerns. UNITE HERE, a union in Las Vegas, representing many of the casino workers, 2,000 housekeepers, waiters, others at 9 of 10 downtown Las Vegas casinos, are concerned about the cost. One of the union leaders has said, when we first supported the calls for health care reform, we thought it was going to bring costs down.

That did not happen, and that is why I am here on the floor.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, would the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. BARRASSO. Certainly. Absolutely. Yes, Mr. President.

Mr. MERKLEY. I thank the Senator. I couldn't help but hear outside the Chamber the Senator from Wyoming talking about Oregon. So I just wanted to ask, in Oregon, 400,000-plus people have signed up for health care through the Affordable Care Act. Some of those may have had insurance before. We are not sure if it is 25,000, maybe it is 50,000; there are conflicting numbers on that. But is it a good thing or a bad thing that 350,000 or more individuals have gained access to health care through this plan?

Mr. BARRASSO. I would say that many people in Oregon have been helped and many have been hurt. That is the problem with this health care law. There are people who have been helped, absolutely. I just believe that the costly side effects, the harmful side effects, the dangerous side effects of this health care law have actually hurt people. So for people who may have been helped, there are as many, if not more, who have been hurt through higher premiums, higher copays, loss of their doctor, can't go to their hospital—all of those things—plus, at the expense of significant amounts of taxpayer money wasted. I think we are seeing that situation in Oregon right now with potential lawsuits being filed, FBI investigating, whether there was oversight, and hundreds of millions of dollars, as reported in today's Wall Street Journal, of wasted taxpayer dollars. Oregon, I believe Massachusetts as well; Maryland, Minnesota, States that I have been talking about here.

Mr. MERKLEY. Could the Senator explain how it is for those 350,000 or more—maybe 400,000—who have newly gained access to health care, how they have been hurt by gaining access to health care?

Mr. BARRASSO. I am referring to people who have been hurt by the health care law all across the country. I worry about the more than 5 million people who have lost their coverage as a result of the health care law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The time of the Senator from Wyoming has expired.

Mr. BARRASSO. Thank you. I am merely trying to respond to my colleague.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. MERKLEY. I thank very much the Senator for responding to my questions.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am very proud to begin a conversation on the floor with a number of my colleagues about one of the most urgent and pressing challenges that face us as a body here in Washington, making

laws, but even more preeminently to families and students around the country who literally, right now, are sitting at their kitchen tables, in their living rooms, in family gatherings, trying to find a path forward in financing their education, their children's education, their grandchildren's education.

We must do better as a nation. We have to do better in giving a fair shot to them—to the innovators and entrepreneurs and investors of the future—the people who will power our economy with ideas and energy as a result of college education, which is part of the American dream—part of giving everybody in America a fair shot at that dream.

I have been doing a lot of listening over these past weeks, over these past 3½ years, and over three decades in public service. I think listening is one of the most important things we do as public officials. There is an old saying that God gave us two ears and one mouth so that maybe we do a little more listening than talking. When I talk to students—and I have been doing a lot of that at commencement addresses and classrooms and roundtables around the State of Connecticut—I tell them I want to listen. What I have been hearing at Ansonia High School and Windham High School and The Stanwich School—high schools around the State of Connecticut—is they are seeing dreams crushed by the cost of college education. The pages who are here today, our children, when we go home at night can tell us about how devastating these costs are, how their hopes and aspirations for the future are constrained and sometimes crippled financially by the cost of college education. We must bring it down. The costs of tuition and expenses must be reduced.

At the same time, we need to find better financing options for our students. That is the reason we are reintroducing today the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, with some minor changes, because we have listened to people who have told us improvements that could be made in that measure. But, most importantly, we have listened to students, both the high school students and college students, who are telling us about dreams deferred and dreams devastated by the costs of college education. So we must make sure that the \$1.2 trillion that overhangs them and our economy is addressed.

This measure would help the students of today and tomorrow. It would help the students of today because it offers promise for the future, and the students who already have debt would be able to reduce that debt. Those students who are paying 7 or 8 or 10 or 11 percent would be able to reduce it, refinance, not just—we all do refinancing of our home loans and our car loans right now. There is no possibility of

doing it with student debt loan, and that is what this measure would enable them to do. For folks who have graduated and who cannot start families, begin businesses, buy homes, contribute to our economy, it would enable them to accomplish those dreams rather than deferring or abandoning them.

I am often heartbroken, as I talk to people who have these debts. They did the right thing; they played by the rules, went to college, and now find themselves crushed by that debt. Those who are laboring under these crushing debt loans often have pursued careers in medicine and other professions such as nursing that would enable them to do an enormous good for this country if they were helped, if that crushing burden were somehow reduced. Giving them a fair shot is good for our economy because it will increase consumer demand. It is also good for our social fabric—literally economically, socially, and physically good for our health by enabling some of those doctors and nurses to work in communities that are underserved right now. We ought to give them public service options, enable some of that debt to be paid down or paid off through community and public service. But the measure I think we can agree is urgent and pressing, where there ought to be consensus, is enabling the commonsense refinancing of current debt.

There are other measures that are vitally important, such as clarifying and requiring more accuracy and truth in the forms that are given to students at the time they take these loans so they know what their debt will be; enabling more of them to have grants rather than loans, bringing down the cost of tuition; enabling more public service options as a means to pay down or pay off debt. But let's focus right now on what is clearly an imperative—a moral imperative and a social imperative for our Nation—to enable more refinancing right now. For federal student loans that were originated in the years between 2007 and 2012, the government will make \$66 billion. Mr. President, \$66 billion. That money goes into the U.S. Treasury fund when, in fact, instead it should be invested in our students and our communities.

I urge my colleagues to join in this effort and to focus on those additional measures we can achieve.

I see my colleague from Illinois is here. He has championed and I have been pleased to join him in efforts to enable student debt to be discharged in bankruptcy. One of the great, gaping gaps in our present bankruptcy system is that students cannot find any relief from this student debt. Almost every other form of debt can be discharged from bankruptcy but not student debt.

So there are other measures we can and should achieve, but a fair shot for everyone ought to begin right now with

this measure on the floor, enabling students and former students to refinance so they have the best shot at paying off those loans and a fair shot at the American dream.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Connecticut for referencing a measure in which we both share an interest. He is right; a student loan is not like another loan. It is not like the mortgage on your home. It is not like the money you borrowed to buy a car or a boat or a line of credit you might have needed at some point in your life. A student loan is a debt that cannot be discharged in bankruptcy. No matter how bad things get, you are going to carry that debt with you to the grave, and believe me, they will pursue you all the way.

We just had a report in the Wall Street Journal. There was a grandmother receiving Social Security benefits. They levied her benefits because grandma decided to befriend her granddaughter by cosigning her student loan, on which her granddaughter defaulted. So now grandma finds her Social Security check being levied to pay off her granddaughter's student loan. It never ever ends.

So I support my colleague from Connecticut. He and I both believe this ought to change. This is awful. For goodness' sake, we have to have some recognition of what is happening with student debt today. It is not the way it used to be. Those of us fortunate enough to get the early government loans—the National Defense Education Act, that is how I went to college and law school. Scared to death when the Soviets launched sputnik, this Senate and the House created a loan program for kids like me from East St. Louis, IL, to borrow money to go to college. I had to pay it back over 10 years with 3 percent interest. I did not think I ever would, but I did. Now look at what students are faced with.

Hannah Moore, of the suburbs of Chicago—I have gotten to know Hannah. I want to tell you Hannah Moore's story. This young lady went to community college first. A good idea, right—affordable, a local college. Then she decided to sign up at the Harrington College of Design. They were going to give her a special education. Well, they sure as heck did. The Harrington College of Design is a for-profit college. Hannah Moore signed up for the course. It is owned by Career Education Corporation. It is a for-profit school. You ought to know something. Career Education Corporation is under investigation in 17 different States for their activities in luring students into worthless college courses. Hannah Moore was one of those victims.

What happened to Hannah? Well, at the end of the day, when she finished

her so-called course at the Harrington College of Design, she ended up \$124,000 in debt, and it is growing. She cannot keep up with it. She cannot earn enough money to keep up with it. Do you know what has happened? She has moved into her parents' basement. That is where she has to live now. Her dad has come out of retirement to help her pay off the loan. That is what she faces.

So we are going to do something about it with the help of a few Republicans. I hope a few of them will stand and join us. We are going to give students across America who are not in default an opportunity to refinance their college loans with lower interest rates. Those of us who have had a few mortgages in our life know what that means—a lower interest rate, a lower payment or more money reduced from the principal. It is the only way some of these people ever get out from this burden of student debt. Senator ELIZABETH WARREN put the bill together. I have cosponsored it with a number of others. We think this is the only way that students deep in debt have a fair shot at a future; otherwise, they are going to be swamped with debt and never get out of it.

The prospect of going back to school for Hannah? Impossible. She cannot borrow money for that. Buying a car? Out of the question. Her own apartment? No, sorry, you cannot do that either. I have met young couples who have said: We are putting off raising a family because of the debt.

Now we have a bill that is going to be introduced by Senator WARREN, brought to the floor, and we need Republican support. We cannot pass it without Republican support. So far not one Republican has joined us—not one—for refinancing college debt. But that can change. It will change if our Republican colleagues will simply go home to their States and have a town meeting and ask the people in attendance: What do you think; should we give college students a lower interest rate? Should the Federal Government make less money off these college students so they can get out from under this debt once and for all?

They will find what I found in Illinois—overwhelming support for this approach.

So if we are going to do something in the Senate Chamber that really affects the lives of working families—where young people and their parents can say, well, thank goodness somebody in Washington is finally listening to problems families face—this is it: refinancing college student loans. This is our opportunity to give a fair shot to kids from working families all across America, the kind of opportunity I had, the kind of opportunity millions of others have had.

There is a lot more we need to do to clean up this mess when it comes to

college loans and when it comes to the schools that are ripping off students, but let's start at the right place. Let's help students in debt get out from under that debt.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Illinois.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that Senators be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each during the majority's controlled time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I would like to yield now to Senator MERKLEY and then to Senator SCHUMER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I am honored to be here joining Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator DURBIN—Senator BALDWIN is going to be here—Senator SCHUMER, and many others to come and address this important topic, and this topic is the college loan debt trap.

I have a letter here from Stephanie from Oregon, and she writes to me about the trap she and her husband feel they are in. She says:

I am writing to you as a potential investor into Oregon's economy and the economy of the United States. Unfortunately, however, I will not be able to be this investor until mine and my husband's Private Student Loans . . . are paid off. We owe a little less than \$100,000 in . . . student loans and pay \$1,100 per month. We will pay this amount for the next 12 years. Because of our student loans and the 7-7.2% interest [rate] they are set at, we cannot afford to purchase a house in the neighborhood we love . . . cannot buy a car, and cannot even fathom starting a family. We can't even afford to go on vacation, whether that is around Oregon, or outside of that to the many other wonderful states and countries. We pay rent, utilities, and try and buy good, healthy food, but in order to even afford these basics I have to work 2 jobs at 7 days a week.

She goes on later to say:

It has been nothing but spinning in place.

... This is a growing reality for millions of Americans who have graduated with student loan debt the size of a home mortgage and higher interest that make these huge student loans the equivalent of a millstone around their necks. When our aspiring young adults in America—who have graduated, who have gone on to start their careers—when they cannot afford to buy a house, that enhances inequality in the United States of America because home ownership is the major vehicle by which middle-class families in America establish a nest egg, establish wealth, establish a slice of the American dream. What is more joyous in life

than having children, being able to raise children? That is the most tremendous, tremendous experience. But she is saying she and her husband cannot even think about starting a family.

The picture was quite different when I was graduating from high school in 1974. My father—when I was in grade school, we lived in a working-class neighborhood—had taken me to the school doors and said: Son, if you go through those doors and you work hard, you can do just about anything here in America.

Well, that was a message about the fact that there is a pathway to thrive, a pathway to fulfill your potential, a pathway to pursue your dreams, and in the process of doing that you are strengthening our entire Nation because when you aspire to your potential, when you aspire to your dreams, then you also find yourself giving back in all kinds of other ways, including having enough income to pay a Federal income tax and contribute property taxes and revenue, as well as the talents or fruits of your profession.

Well, I still live in that blue-collar community. My kids still go to the same high school I went to. But the message to our students today is very different. They are familiar with many families such as Stephanie and her husband. They are familiar with the fact that student tuition has gone up faster than virtually anything else in our society. It is a much bigger share. I think a rough estimate is about 2½ times the amount in terms of a working income than it was when I was going to school, starting college. Let's make this comparison: In Germany, the cost of a year in college is around 4 percent of the median income. In the United States of America, the cost of a year in college is about 50 percent of the median income. Well, what a difference between less than \$1 out of \$20 and \$1 out of every \$2. What an incredible difference. So, at a minimum, shouldn't we be acting today to enable those who have these high-interest student loans to refinance them to a reasonable low rate? Shouldn't we be able to do that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time is expired.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

I will wrap up simply by saying that this is common sense. Let's lower this burden, and then let's go on and do much more: control the cost of tuition, raise the impact of Pell grants, and pursue low-interest student loans as a tool for our students from here going forward.

Mr. President, I am delighted to have had this chance to speak to a fundamental challenge to young Americans in every State of the United States of America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first let me salute my colleague from Connecticut for bringing us all together to talk about this important issue, the good words of my colleague from Oregon—always on the money, always understanding what average folks need and have to go through—and, as well, our sponsors of this legislation. I salute Senators WARREN and FRANKEN, who are our two lead sponsors.

The bottom line is very simple. It is amazing to think that there are 40 million Americans and their families—at a time when interest rates are at about a record low—who are paying 7 to 14 percent on their student loans. It is amazing to think that the average student graduates with over \$30,000 of loans on his or her back. It is amazing to think that so many of our young people are living at home because they cannot afford not to because of student loans. Thirty-six percent of all individuals between 18 and 31 live with their parents—the highest percentage in 4 decades.

Why should people be paying more? And even more outrageous, guess who is making the profit much of the time? Sometimes it is the private banks. That is bad enough, but sometimes it is the Federal Government. For the Federal Government to charge people nearly double the going rate for their student loans is so unfair.

So we Democrats are hoping to give people a fair shot, a fair shot at being able to repay the cost of college at a reasonable interest rate. That is all we want. We are dedicated to helping the middle class, to helping working people, to helping people who do not have so much money get a fair shot at living decently well, the way they always have in America but in a way that is beginning to decline.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, we would beg of them not to stand in the way but to join us. How do they defend charging those who have graduated from college 7, 10, even 14 percent for their student loans?

Now, we just got a CBO score. Our bill, which is paid for by simply the Buffett rule, which says that someone making over \$1 million should pay the same rate as their secretary, as an average person.

Well, that is how we pay for it. Again, I cannot believe my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would disagree with that. Anyway, we have a \$21 billion net positive on our bill. So for anyone who is worried that we do not pay for the bill, we actually pay for the bill and return some money to the Treasury. So a fair shot is what is needed here, a fair shot for everyone to afford college.

Last year we lowered the interest rate for people already in college. But what about the 40 million who are out

of college and are saddled with high interest rates, people who got out of college before 2010? Let's not forget the effect this has on the rest of the economy and new homes. Young people are not buying homes at the rate they used to—first time home buyers. Why? Well, one of the reasons—we cannot quantify how much yet, but we will be doing that—is that they are saddled with so much student debt at high interest rates.

So it affects our entire economy because construction jobs are not up to what they should be. A large part of that is because people are not buying homes the way they used to. So the bottom line is, it is very hard to resist the logic of the proposal that Senators WARREN and FRANKEN have put together.

Here are some numbers from my State. Fifty-four percent of Long Islanders between the ages of 25 and 29 live at home with their parents or relatives—more than one in two. Amazing. That is the American dream, to be able to get out of college and go live on your own, find a job, maybe find the person you want to spend the rest of your life with. That is the American dream. It is a lot harder to do that when you are living at home, as much as we all love our parents. But because of student debt, because of high interest rates on student debt, people are forced to do that.

So, again, I thank all of my colleagues who have joined in our fair shot effort—our fair shot effort on minimum wage, our fair shot effort on pay equity, and our fair shot effort on college affordability. We will continue to fight as hard as we can to see that the average middle-class family is finally given a fair shot. We hope and we pray our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will not stand in the way.

I know my colleagues from Connecticut and from Minnesota, who has been a great leader on this—and very few in America, let alone in this Senate, have such an understanding of the needs of average families and the middle class than the Senator from Minnesota. So I am happy to yield the floor so she may say a few—what I am sure will be very prescient—words.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I appreciate the words of the Senator from New York, and also his keen focus on these issues for the middle class, giving everyone a fair shot.

I rise today to talk about the problems of student debt in this country and the effects that it has on millions of Americans. I think we all know that it is not just students, as much as that is the first group we think about—students—it is also their parents. Those are the ones I hear from a lot, and how hard it is, and how they have that next kid coming.

While maybe they were able to patch together loans and some income to help one kid go through college, the second one comes along and it is incredibly difficult. They literally have this Sophie's choice about which kid they are going to send to college or what are they going to do with the third kid. It just should not be happening in America today.

I thank Senators FRANKEN, BLUMENTHAL, and BALDWIN for bringing us together on the floor, as well as Senators HARKIN, WARREN, and DURBIN for their leadership on this issue. In the United States we appreciate the value of education. We know it leads to higher-paying jobs, better health, and even longer lives. I know the value of education. My grandpa worked 1,500 feet underground in a mine in Ely, MN. He was not able to graduate from high school because when his parents died, the two oldest boys had to go to work in the mines. They were only 15 years old. That is what they did. They went to work in the mines. They were able to keep the entire family together.

The youngest girl had to go to an orphanage in Duluth for a while, and then they were able to bring her back. Those two oldest boys never got to graduate from high school, never went to college, and worked in the mines their entire life, worked underground at a very dangerous time in our country. When the sirens would go off, they would not know whose family member had been killed.

That is what my grandpa did. He wanted a better life for my dad. He literally saved money in a coffee can in the basement of their house so that he could send my dad to college. Then my dad went to college and became a newspaper reporter. My mom, during the same time period, growing up in Milwaukee during the Depression, ended up going to Milwaukee Teachers College and then came to Minnesota and was a teacher.

Here I am standing today on the Senate floor, the daughter of a teacher and a newspaper man and the granddaughter of an iron ore miner. It would not have happened without education. It would not have happened without my mom's parents struggling to make sure she went to college, and without my grandpa saving that money in a coffee can after working underground in the mines and never being able to go to school himself.

That is what I know about education. That is a story we hear again and again from people in this country. Higher education provides students with the skills they need to be competitive in today's global economy. At a time when more and more jobs require some form of postsecondary school, we cannot allow cost to be a barrier to that opportunity. We cannot allow only the wealthy to be able to send their kids to college. It is really that simple.

This country was built on the middle class. This country was built on this idea that no matter where you come from, if you are in a little iron ore mining town in northern Minnesota, that there is a chance that your kid can go to college. My dad did not start at some fancy college. My dad went to a community college which is now Vermilion Community College, which was then Ely Junior College, and got his 2-year degree. Then he went to the University of Minnesota. Back then it was so incredibly affordable. He would still send his laundry back to my grandma in Ely, and she would do his laundry and she would send it back. He got by on barely nothing.

But he went on from that degree at the University of Minnesota to become a journalist and interview everyone from Ginger Rogers to Mike Ditka to Ronald Reagan. It all started in that hardscrabble mining town. That is what education is about in this country. Outstanding student loans now, they are not like something you can fit in a coffee can. Outstanding student loans now total more than \$1.2 trillion, surpassing total credit card debt and affecting 40 million Americans.

One in seven borrowers defaults on Federal student loans within 3 years of beginning repayment. Other borrowers are struggling too. Thirty percent of Federal Direct student loan dollars are in default, forbearance or deferment. It costs a lot of money. When there are not high-paying jobs right out of school or when kids have really high costs from school, and when they are in a job that maybe eventually they will get enough money, they have trouble paying off their loans.

But make no mistake, student loan debt impacts everyone, not just students. Student loan debt hangs like an anchor around not just individual students but around our entire economy. It is dragging us down. Graduates with high debt may delay making key investments like saving for retirement or getting married or buying a home. Student debt may even impact a person's career choices, by deterring some graduates from taking jobs in crucial fields like education.

According to a report I released as chair of the Joint Economy Committee on the Senate side, Minnesota actually has one of the highest rates of student debt in the country. Seventy percent of the recent graduates in Minnesota have loan debt, compared to 68 percent nationally. So it means a lot in our State.

The good news is that there are actions we can take—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I ask unanimous consent for another 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Last summer we acted to prevent the interest rate from

doubling. We have also introduced the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. I urge the Senate to consider this very important bill so more students can manage their debt and build a better future for themselves and their family. I am proud to support this bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, we need to rethink financial aid in this country. We need urgent action if we are to reform our system, to return to the roots, the ideals that made college affordable for generations past, and hopefully for this generation and generations to come. Back in the 1970s and 1980s when several Members of today's Senate were college students, the Pell grant, which is the cornerstone of our Federal student aid programs, covered as much as 72 percent of the cost of attendance at a 4-year public college.

For the 2014-2015 academic year, the maximum grant is expected to cover less than one-third of the cost. Investing in things like Pell grants is critical to ensuring the doors to higher education remain open to all students with the talent and desire to pursue a college degree.

Young people today deserve the same fair shake that Members of this body got when we were undergraduate students, when grants and not loans covered most of the cost of college.

Now, I was fortunate enough at 17 to join the Army and attend West Point. So I did not have to face the rigors of financing college education. But everyone I know in my generation will tell you it was easier then because there was a strong Federal commitment to supporting men and women of talent and desire to go on to college. Ever-rising costs today are just pricing out a whole generation from college education.

We see more and more hard-working young people and their families falling behind as they try to pay for their degrees that were supposed to help them get ahead. In fact, an analysis of student loan debt by Demos predicts that today over \$1 trillion in outstanding student loan debt will lead to a total lifetime wealth loss of \$4 trillion for indebted households. Not only do people start off after college with great debt, but their ability to build assets in the future is also reduced. So it is a much deeper hole than even the initial debt.

Student loan debt is jeopardizing this generation's ability to buy a home, to start a business, to start a family, to do things that my generation took for granted after getting out of college. For the last 30 years, tuition increases

have outpaced inflation. Outstanding student loan debt has quadrupled since 2003. It is time for action.

First, we must provide relief for borrowers who are currently repaying their loans. We must ensure that student loan servicers are held accountable for providing borrowers with accurate and clear information and the full range of borrower benefits they are due. That is why I was pleased to join Senator DURBIN in introducing the Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights Act.

Even more important to families' bottom line is reducing their payments and overall debt burden. We should allow borrowers with high fixed-rate loans to refinance at the lower rates approved on a bipartisan basis under the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act that became law last year. That is the premise of Senator WARREN's Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act which I am also very proud to cosponsor.

I hope my colleagues will let us vote on this proposal so we can provide relief to millions of Americans who are struggling under the weight of student loan debt.

We also have to demand more responsibility from colleges and universities. While student loan debt skyrockets, we are also seeing college executive salaries climb ever higher. Clearly institutions need to have more skin in the game when it comes to student loans. That is why I introduced, along with many colleagues, the Protect Student Borrowers Act, specifically with Senators DURBIN and WARREN. The Protect Student Borrowers Act will hold colleges and universities accountable for student loan default by requiring them to repay a percentage of defaulted loans. As the percentage of students who default rises, the institution's risk-share payment will rise. Essentially, they will now have an interest, and a real interest, in ensuring that their students take out appropriate loans and they have coursework that leads to remunerative employment after they graduate. Colleges can play a key role in all of these things. Today it is a spotty record. Some are very good, some are indifferent, and some are very bad.

The Protect Student Borrowers Act also provides incentives for institutions to take proactive steps to ease student loan debt and reduce default rates. Institutions can reduce or eliminate their payments if they implement a comprehensive student loan management plan—again, if they talk to their students, if they advise them what to do, if they help them manage this debt.

The risk-sharing payments will be invested to help struggling borrowers, preventing future default and delinquency, and reducing shortfalls in the Pell Grant Program. This money will stay in the system to help other students.

With the stakes so high for students and taxpayers, it is only fair that institutions bear some of the risk in the student loan program. I would argue a basic premise, that they will do a lot better as custodians and managers and advisers for the students when they have money at risk.

Right now, it is the students and their families who bear it all—and the government, if there is default. As a result, you don't have the active participation at the institutional level that could make a real difference.

In many respects, this is a lesson we learned, at a very expensive cost, during the financial crisis in the mortgage markets, where mortgage makers had no interest in who was borrowing money. They didn't care if they could pay it back, because the minute the paper was signed, they sold it off to the secondary market and they walked away to the next closing. We can't have that attitude pervasive in higher education.

We know there are many forces that are driving increases in costs in higher education, and one of the cost drivers is, frankly, the falloff on State contributions to public higher education. According to the State Higher Education Finance report, state spending per full-time equivalent student reached its lowest point in 25 years in 2011.

I have introduced the Partnerships for Affordability and Student Success Act to reinvigorate the Federal-State partnership for higher education with an emphasis on need-based grant aid. Remember back in the sixties and seventies, nearly 80 percent of the financing was grant aid. You didn't have to pay it back. You had a chance to get an education and start off without a lot of debt.

Simply put, I believe the States have to begin to renew their investment in education at the college level.

I urge the Senate to come together with a sense of real urgency on finding solutions to all of these issues, to move forward, and to give this generation and the next generation the same opportunity that many of us here took for granted in the sixties, seventies, and eighties.

I yield back the remainder of my time and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I thank my colleague from Rhode Island, who has been such a champion and a leader in these efforts over so many years. Well before I came to the Senate, he was there working and fighting for more affordable loans for our students.

The comments that have been heard on the Senate floor over the past hour reflect a growing awareness and worry in the country, a worry about what happens to America in the future, whether we will leave a lesser America,

and whether the American dream will be not only deferred but denied to so many students who are wondering and worrying right now about their personal futures as well as the future of the country.

These comments and this conversation will be extended over this day and the days to come as we prepare for a crucial vote next week on this bill. One of the chief authors of this bill, Senator WARREN, is to be thanked and commended. She will be on floor later today or tomorrow to speak for herself, but she has shown, through her career, how often people who most need this kind of help, whose finances most cry out for this assistance, are impacted, and in fact constrained in their futures by the big banks and lending institutions that take advantage of them—and, in this case, even the U.S. Government itself that is profiting off their backs—billions of dollars in profit at the expense of our students when we should be investing in them.

We have an obligation and a historic opportunity to make things right for young people and older people, whose present lives are impacted and whose futures are constrained by the daunting and financially crippling overhanging debt. It is an overhanging debt that impacts our economy because it prevents the entrepreneurs from taking risks. It prevents young people from buying homes and starting families. It financially cripples our economy as well as those individual lives.

So in the light of self-interest, we ought to argue for all of us to support this legislation. For myself, I am going to be listening to those students who discussed their futures with me at Ansonia High School, Stanwich, at roundtables across Connecticut, at the commencements where I spoke, and the college students who spoke to me at Quinnipiac, or the law school students there who talked to me about how their present lives and their spirit, their hope for public service, as well as for gaining for themselves the promise of their futures, will be impacted and maybe put out of reach by the debt they have, not just hundreds of dollars or thousands of dollars, but tens of thousands of dollars and, for some, hundreds of thousands of dollars.

We can do better for them and for ourselves if we enable them to refinance. Right now, student debt is not only one of the few debts that is non-dischargeable in bankruptcy, but it is one of the few debts that is nonrefinanceable.

Let's treat these students as we would other debtors. In fact, let's give them a fair shot. Let's give our country a fair shot.

I am proud to support this legislation. I thank all of my colleagues who are here today, and all who will support—I hope on both sides of the aisle—this vote we will have next week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise for a moment to talk about the Sylvia Burwell nomination, pending confirmation to be Secretary of Labor at HHS, and also to talk about the Affordable Care Act, because you can't separate the two.

I have the good fortune of being on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the Finance Committee. The good fortune of that is it allowed me to twice be able to interrogate—and I use the word interrogate understanding its many definitions—Ms. Burwell over issues that were important to me both in the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, as well as in the Finance Committee.

I found her to be articulate, forthright, straightforward, and candid—something we haven't had in the Secretary of Labor-HHS for the last year or so. I am looking forward to having somebody in there who will be able to answer the hard questions. I might not like the answer, I might not agree with the solutions, but I like having somebody who has the intellect, the capability, and the willingness to communicate with Members of Congress, regardless of their party. So I will vote for Sylvia Burwell to be confirmed as Secretary of Labor and HHS, and I wish her the best.

No one should confuse that vote, however, for being a vote in support of the Affordable Care Act and what it is doing to health care in the United States today. I want to talk about that for a second. Some of these things I want to talk about are questions I asked Ms. Burwell in the confirmation hearing.

When I was on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and we did the markup in terms of the health care bill, we met for 69½ hours. I heard every debate on every amendment; I heard every debate on every philosophy; I heard every proposal that was made, and it became quite clear to me that the premise of that legislation, based on the President's recommendation, was diametrically opposed to my personal philosophy in terms of where government's role should be.

I think the President—and it has been said by the leader HARRY REID recently—thought a single-payer health care system was the right way to go. I think the Affordable Care Act is designed to drive America toward a single-payer health care system.

I would rather have a competitive private sector system that is on a playing field that the government makes sure is fair and level but that the winners and losers in health care become those who compete the best in terms of quality and service.

In fact, the intent of the ObamaCare act and Affordable Care Act has di-

rected a lot of things to happen. Three of them were not good.

Premiums have gone up. The costs to the consumer have gone up, principally because taxes have been levied on the insurance industry. That is No. 1.

Access has been more limited and more restricted based on the Bronze Plan, the Silver Plan, the Gold Plan, and differences between the exchanges.

Third and foremost, there is a great uncertainty in America about what happens next and where health care is going, because the President has selectively given waivers and put off the impact of certain provisions of the law, while lifting up and actually repealing with his own signature and his own pen provisions that were in the law. So there is a lot of uncertainty.

Two things I want to focus on from the cost standpoint. One of them is what is called the HIT, the health insurance tax, which went into effect this year. This year \$8 billion in taxes were levied against small- and medium-size group insurance providers in the exchanges for health care. It is an arbitrary number that was used to help determine and pay for the Affordable Care Act, and it is assessed based on the market share of the companies.

Think about this for a second. The U.S. Government is taxing health insurance providers based on their market share of health insurance, and adding that cost to where? To the premium that is paid by the consumer.

It has been estimated that the premium cost is going to go up about \$512 a year for the average consumer, just in order for the moderately small- and medium-sized group provider to pay the fine or pay their share of the tax of \$8 billion. That \$8 billion in 2014, in 2019 goes to \$14.3 billion and will go up ad infinitum as it will continue to climb—which means costs will continue to climb.

Access has been restricted because a lot of people aren't playing in the system. A lot of specialty hospitals have chosen not to join the plans. That has meant that specialty care to a lot of children and adults is not available.

Another problem we have had is with navigators, and I want to focus on the navigator point for a second, because it fundamentally underscores my belief in the private sector.

For years I ran a business. It was a business where we had some employees but mostly had independent contractors. We provided group medical benefits for our employees, but only access to salesmen who would sell group plan health plans for independent contractors.

They got a commission when they sold a plan, when they provided the services, and the employee or the independent contractor in my company decided to buy. What we did in the Affordable Care Act—or what the Affordable Care Act and those who voted for

it did—it basically did away with all the salesmen in the country who were selling group medical plans to individuals and small businesses. Why? Because it had a medical-loss ratio maximum of 80 percent or 85 percent, meaning your medical costs had to be 80 percent to 85 percent of the premiums. Administrative costs could only be 15 to 20, and it counted the commission for selling the product as an administrative cost, which meant commissions weren't available to be paid.

So what happened? All the people in sales in terms of group medical insurance got out of the business and went to selling something else. What happened because of that? Navigators came about.

So we ended up hiring a bunch of unqualified, unknowledgeable, limited-talent people as navigators to offer to try and sell insurance under the new exchanges created by the ObamaCare act. What happened is sales of those policies were not very robust. In fact, it was very difficult for the President to get his minimum goal of 7 million people being covered. Why? Because the navigators weren't salesmen, No. 1; No. 2, they weren't as well educated as they should have been; and, No. 3, the States did not embrace it.

So that is the private sector solution that had been used for years and years in our country; that is, independent agents making sales of independent insurance products through independent contractors. That has now gone away. They have to now go find an employee who is a navigator, who has no incentive, because they are on a salary and not a commission, to provide a plan or to sell a plan. They merely are there to collect their paycheck and offer information, if in fact somebody can find them.

My point is this: Ms. Burwell is taking on a serious challenge in terms of Labor HHS. The Affordable Care Act presents a lot of problems in terms of access, cost, and quality of health care for the American people that will only get greater as the years go by. We are going to take somebody of her competence and her candid nature to help us join together to see to it that what has become a major problem that looms for our country, the Affordable Care Act, is revisited to look at a new way to go back to the private sector, go back to competition, go back to a level playing field and out of the business of selective taxation, less access, more cost, and more bureaucracy. That is what we have with the Affordable Care Act right now. That is what is untenable.

I wish Ms. Burwell the best. I intend to be very aggressive and active in my work on the Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions Committee and the Finance Committee in trying to get to the bottom of some of the questions that have

gone unanswered from the Department. I wish her the best, and I hope I get the answers to those questions when she is confirmed as the new Secretary of HHS.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

(The remarks of Mr. ROBERTS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2430 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. ROBERTS. I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY REGULATION

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, this last fall Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy embarked upon a national listening tour to gather feedback on possible new energy regulations that could be ordered by the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory power. Notably absent from her tour across the Nation were the major coal-producing or user States.

Now, my State of Indiana was notably absent from that despite our request that she listen to what Hoosiers had to say about their source of energy, what it does for the state's economy, how it helps attract jobs to our State, and how it helps our residents to keep utility bills in line. So we were very disappointed that we were not included in that listening tour. Other States, surprisingly—or maybe not surprisingly—which are also coal-producing energy States were also bypassed. Apparently, they didn't want to hear from us.

I think on Monday we found out exactly why it was done that way, because in the latest installment of the administration's ongoing "war on coal" as it is described, Administrator McCarthy announced that the EPA is putting forward new rules on existing fossil fuel powerplants. These new proposed regulations are essentially an energy tax that will damage our national economy as well as the economy of Indiana and hike electric bills for every Hoosier.

As the seventh highest coal-producing State in the Nation, Indiana relies on coal-fired electricity to meet well over 80 percent of its energy needs. Our industry provides thousands of jobs and contributes three-quarters of a billion dollars to the Indiana economy. Because of this, the EPA pro-

posed rule will place a choke hold on Indiana's primary and most affordable energy source, driving up utility costs, and putting our State at a disadvantage in competing with other States to lure companies and to attract residents.

It is worth noting that the EPA's announcement ignores the progress the utility industry has made in recent years, and, in fact, in recent decades. Energy providers in Indiana and across the country have spent billions of dollars to control air pollution that has resulted in significant declines in emissions. In fact, we have significantly cleaned our air and water through environmental regulation and through capital investment to produce an environment that is the envy of many nations. This has been done at a competitive disadvantage to our companies, because we are competing in a global economy and we know that nations such as China and India and others have not made the same commitment that Americans have in controlling their emissions.

We have also been a leader in Indiana in reclamation and restoration on the mining front. So those who say it is a desecration of the land to extract coal need to come and see what we have done in terms of reclamation. Instead of barren hillsides barren of grass and trees, you will find lush pastures and scenic views where you would never have known mining had taken place.

Penalizing Hoosier energy producers with unattainable environmental restrictions, I believe, is the wrong approach. In effect it is a backdoor way for unelected bureaucrats to impose regulations similar to the cap-and-trade scheme previously pushed by the White House. Not only did a totally Democratic-controlled Congress fail to pass this similar proposal in 2010, I think it is clear that there will not even be 50 votes for the EPA's proposed regulations in the Senate today, much less the 60 votes required for passage. I think the President realizes this.

So what does he do? He bypasses Congress, which I think is an unconstitutional means of enforcing what ought to be done through legislation—debated and passed by those who are elected and are responsible to the people who elected them—and bypasses that by essentially moving it to an agency and saying: You do it by rule-making. Then unelected bureaucrats make the decisions that we ought to be making in this Congress.

This is not the first time that one country has had to limit one type of energy to the detriment of economic growth and the pocketbooks of hard-working families. These new sweeping rules on coal-fired powerplants brought to mind my friends in Western Europe. As U.S. Ambassador to Germany from 2001 to 2005, I had a front row seat for the similar transition away from fossil fuels that most Germans now regret.

When the German legislature passed a renewable energy law in 2000, Germany gave solar and wind producers 20 years of fixed high prices and preferable access to the country's electricity grid. Following a fashionable green wave of the moment, the main political parties in Germany reached a hasty decision to phase out all 17 of that country's nuclear power plants. German leaders vowed to eliminate clean nuclear power while simultaneously aiming to reduce carbon emissions from 80 to 95 percent by 2050. These overly ambitious and seemingly contradictory targets they said would be achieved by an extravagant government plan to encourage the development of renewable energy production methods.

Under the plan the so-called "energiewende" or "energy transition" renewables, mostly solar and wind, would supply—they said—80 percent of Germany's electricity and 60 percent of the country's total energy requirements. If those goals look impossible, it is because it has been impossible for them to reach and they realize that. Germany's ongoing subsidization of alternative energy means Germans pay significantly higher prices for energy than the global average, putting their industries at a competitive disadvantage. Their consumers pay some of the highest electric rates in the world.

Earlier this year the German government revealed that nearly 7 million families—and they only have 80 million in the country—are in "energy poverty," meaning they have to receive major subsidies from the government in order to pay their electric bills. Today German citizens and their businesses and manufacturing entities complain loudly about these extra costs that Americans and most other European nations do not face. It has triggered a potential crisis from an economic standpoint. Companies are threatening to move offshore, elsewhere in Europe or to the United States or to other places. Users and residents are complaining loudly about the fact that they are subsidizing an unworkable plan.

While the government subsidies finance inefficient technologies and the government obsesses about emissions goals, Germany has ramped up its coal use, ironically, to 45 percent of total electricity generation.

Think about this for a minute.

A government plan to mandate and subsidize alternative energy sources, to close their nuclear plants, to cease using coal-fired plants to provide power has now put Germany in a situation where 45 percent of its energy is provided by the import of coal—high sulfur coal with high emissions, because that is what burns the hottest.

Now the question here is: Can we learn some lessons from this? What we are embarking on here essentially is a

plan very similar to what has already been tried and failed. This is a cost too high for our economy in the United States. Without a course correction, I think President Obama's war on coal will receive the same results as Germany's or perhaps even worse, higher prices and real potential for electricity supply disruptions.

I talked to a number of the electric companies that derive from coal a source of energy that provides a very reliable base load. Base load is what you absolutely have to have to keep the lights on and to run the factories and to keep energy flowing. Their concern is that the current plan will disrupt that base load to the point where we cannot guarantee energy will reach homes at a time when a polar vortex has put people at subzero freezing temperatures or when the temperatures climb to triple digits during the summer. These baseloads cannot be reached by turning windmills, and many days—particularly in my State and others—the Sun is not shining. That is not a dependable source for providing the baseload that is necessary, particularly at times of stress on the system.

President Obama has often seen elements of European socialism as something he would like to impose on Americans. Well, this is one time when I think the President should learn from European socialism and European mistakes and avoid duplicating the situation in Germany by simply letting proven energy providers do their jobs and produce the energy that is needed.

Once again, I have to say the United States has a pretty commendable record of addressing the issues of emissions. We all want clean air, we all want clean water, and we all want to have a safe environment for ourselves, our children, and the future.

Hundreds of billions, if not trillions, of dollars have been spent over the years trying to control those emissions, and we have a pretty good record. Can we go farther? Absolutely. Can we do more? Absolutely. Can we put ourselves on a much more sustainable path to a cleaner environment with less emissions? Absolutely. But setting a mandatory number in terms of percentage and a mandatory deadline in terms of reaching something that has proven to be unreachable and threatens our ability to provide sustained energy to our businesses and residents is something we need to take careful assessment of before we rush into arbitrarily setting a rule that bypasses the debate that would take place in Congress, bypasses the positions of our elected Members of this Congress, and done through a process the Constitution has established in terms of how we make decisions.

I urge my colleagues and the President to take a second look at what the possible consequences could be. It is

nothing but pie in the sky, ideologically driven rules and regulations that are driving this. We have a model of a major industrial nation that has taken similar steps and has seen those steps fail.

Again, I urge my colleagues to look very carefully at what is happening through this proposed rule, and I trust we will be able to effectively address this situation in a responsible and reasonable way.

I see my colleague from Tennessee is prepared to remark on perhaps this or something else, but there is probably no one better suited to talk about alternative energy and its consequences than my colleague Senator ALEXANDER.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am delighted to be on the floor to hear the distinguished Senator from Indiana, and former Ambassador to Germany, tell the story of Germany, which has gotten itself into what can only be described as an energy mess.

He summed it up pretty well. They basically adopted the policies the President seems to be suggesting. Where did they end up? They closed their nuclear plants and they are buying their nuclear power from France. They subsidized wind and solar, and now they are buying natural gas from Russia—of all unreliable people. As a result of all this, they ended up having to build coal plants.

I think I was with the Ambassador in Germany, and I said to the Economic Minister: This has produced a situation where you have nearly the highest electricity prices in the European Union. What do you tell a manufacturer when they say they want to come to Germany? The minister said: I tell them to go somewhere else.

Well, somewhere else is the United States today, and we want those jobs.

I thank the Senator for his experience.

I come to the floor on another subject. Tomorrow we will vote on the nomination of Sylvia Matthews Burwell to be the Secretary of Health and Human Services. I intend to vote yes on the nomination. Ms. Burwell has a reputation for competence, and she is going to need it. She is being asked to oversee a big mess this administration has created in health care and so far has lacked the leadership to clean up. Republicans know how to clean it up. We want to take our health care system in a different direction, and we need to be able to work with Ms. Burwell to do it.

In a few minutes, I am going to spell out two things: first, what Ms. Burwell can do to avoid the mistakes of her predecessor in working with Congress and serving the American people, and second, what Republicans would like to do with our health care system. I have

five items to suggest for her to work on with us.

No. 1, end the secrecy. Last year I said the NSA could have learned something from Secretary Sebelius because getting information about the ObamaCare exchanges was next to impossible for Members of Congress.

The administration owes the American taxpayers and their elected representatives under the Constitution information about how the administration is spending our money. We should not have to rely on anonymous news sources.

No. 2, work with Congress. This administration has made at least 22 unilateral changes in the new health care law, many of which should have been made by Congress. At this rate, the President may be invited to speak at the next Republican convention for having done the most to change his own health care law.

Our Founders did not want a king. Some Presidents have stepped over the line the Founders intended, but I don't think any President has gone as far as this one. He has appointed more czars than the Romanovs. He made recess appointments when the Senate was in session. He turned his Education Secretary into the chairman of the national school board. This President has swung the furthest from the kind of elected leaders our Founders envisioned, George Washington modeled, and our Constitution prescribed.

Will Ms. Burwell follow the President's steps or will she seek to work within the framework of the Constitution? I hope she chooses the latter.

No. 3, please don't solicit from companies you regulate. This is pretty simple, but the former Secretary solicited from companies she regulated, and she should not have. This kind of behavior should leave with her.

No. 4, be a good steward of taxpayer dollars. Apparently the government is set to spend more than 1 billion Federal tax dollars in technology costs on the ObamaCare Web site. We know that nearly \$½ billion was wasted on four failed State exchanges. This kind of waste makes American taxpayers furious. They earned those dollars, paid those taxes, and don't deserve to see that money flushed down the drain by Washington bureaucrats who didn't care enough to see that things were done right.

No. 5, show Americans some respect. That means don't announce major policy changes in blog posts. When Congress asks if you are in trouble, don't pretend everything is fine. If Secretary Sebelius had been upfront about the Web site problems before the rollout, we might have saved Americans precious time and money.

Most importantly, recognize that the majority of Americans disapprove of the new health care law and start taking a look at Republican health care

proposals as a way to repair the damage done by ObamaCare.

At Ms. Burwell's hearing before the Senate HELP Committee, where I am the ranking Republican, I laid out again what Republicans would do if we could—what we would like to do with our health care system. We have been saying this since 2009 when the legislation was first introduced.

When I was a boy, my grandfather was a railroad engineer in Newton, KS. He drove a big steam locomotive. He would drive a switch engine into a roundhouse and onto a turntable. It might have been headed to Santa Fe, and then he would turn it around and head it off to another direction, maybe to Denver or Houston. It is hard to turn a big train, so that is what they had the turntables for.

Ms. Burwell understands this. She is from a railroad town in West Virginia, as it turns out, and that is what Republicans would like to do with our health care system, we would like to turn it around and head it off in a different direction—not back but in a different direction. We want to repair the damage ObamaCare has done, and we want to prevent future damage as responsibly and rapidly as we can. We would like to move in a different direction to put in place health care proposals that would increase freedom, increase choices, and lower costs. We trust Americans to make those decisions themselves, and we believe that is the American way.

Four years ago Congress and the President made what we believe was an historic mistake. Congress passed a 2,700-page bill. Republicans said we don't believe in trying to rewrite the whole health care system. Let's instead go step by step to create more freedom, more choices, and lower costs.

Let me take you back for a moment to the health care summit at the Blair House 4 years ago. The President invited three dozen Members of Congress. He spent 6 hours with us, all on national television. I was asked to speak first for the Republicans. I said what I thought was wrong with the President's plan. I said it would increase health care costs, and it has.

USA Today reported that health care spending in the first quarter of this year rose at the fastest pace in 35 years. The Hill newspaper reported that insurance executives say premiums in the new exchanges will double or triple in parts of the country the next year. Even with subsidies, many Americans are finding that deductibles, copayments, and out-of-pocket expenses are so high they can't afford health insurance.

We said people would lose their choice of doctors, and many have. We said ObamaCare would cancel policies, and it has. At least 2.6 million Americans have had their individual plans outlawed by ObamaCare. I remember that Emilie from Lawrenceburg, TN,

had a \$52-a-month policy. She has lupus, and her policy fit her needs and her budget. It was canceled. Now she is in the exchange, and it costs about \$400 a month. She says it is more coverage than she needs and she can't afford it.

Millions more Americans who get their health care through small businesses will find the same thing will happen to them later this year.

We said jobs would be lost, and they have. The President of Costa Rica is hosting jobs fairs and welcoming medical device companies that have been driven out of the United States by the onerous 2.3-percent tax on revenues.

We said Medicare beneficiaries would be hurt, and they have. The average cut for a Medicare Advantage beneficiary will be \$317 between this year and next.

We said the only bipartisan thing about the bill would be opposition to it, and it is. A recent Gallup poll says that 54 percent of Americans are opposed to the law.

During the debate, I said every Senator who voted for the new health care law ought to be sentenced to go home and serve as Governor in their home State and try to implement it. There are 16 Governors struggling with that today who won't implement the Medicaid expansion because they are worried about costs down the road, and they should.

When I was Governor of Tennessee, Medicaid costs were 8 percent of the State budget, and that was in the 1980s. Today it is about 30 percent. These Governors are wondering what costs will be in 10 years.

The most important thing we said was what we would do if we could. We said: Let's go step by step in a different direction. Our Democratic friends said: Wait a minute, that is not a comprehensive plan. We said: You are right; we don't believe in comprehensive. If you are expecting MITCH MCCONNELL to wheel in a wheelbarrow with a 2,700-page Republican health care bill on it, you will wait until the Moon turns blue because we are policy skeptics. We don't believe we are wise enough to write a 2,700-page bill that will change the whole system, but we believe we can go step by step in the right direction, and we outlined our steps.

Senator JOHNSON has a proposal that would allow more Americans to keep their insurance plans, as the President promised.

Senator MCCAIN has a proposal that allows you to buy insurance in another State if it fits your budget and your needs.

Senator ENZI has a proposal for a small business employer so that he or she can combine purchasing power with other employers and offer employees lower cost insurance.

Senators BURR, COBURN, and HATCH have a proposal to allow to you buy a

major medical plan to ensure you against a catastrophe and a health savings account to pay for everyday expenses.

I have a proposal to make it easier, not harder, for employers to reward employees who live a healthy lifestyle. That is what we mean by doing what my grandfather did with that train and turning it around and heading it off in a different and correct direction.

As rapidly and responsibly as we can, we would like to repair the damage ObamaCare has done. We would like to prevent future damage. We want to move in a different direction that provides more freedom, more choices, and lower costs. We trust Americans to make decisions for themselves. That is the American way.

Since President Obama will still be in office for the next 2 years, if Ms. Burwell is confirmed, as I fully expect she will be by a good vote, we will need her help to accomplish that.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

VA CHALLENGES

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise to discuss important veteran and VA issues—issues we are all properly focused on like a laser beam right now—and I will be joined over the next several minutes by Senators RUBIO, INHOFE, and HELLER, who share all of my concerns.

I have been coming to the floor pretty relentlessly—because apparently that is what is necessary—to talk about one specific priority with regard to veterans in Louisiana; that is, moving—there is no good reason we can't move—on expanding outpatient clinics that are overdue in 27 locations and in 18 States, including 2 new expanded outpatient clinics in Louisiana, specifically in Lafayette and Lake Charles. These clinics have been planned for, on the books, and paid for for several years now. They are not being built, they are not being moved into purely because of an administrative glitch at the VA that delayed the whole process by a year. Then, in that intervening year, a so-called new scoring issue came up on Capitol Hill at the CBO. We have blown through all of that. We have solved those problems, finally, after a lot of delay. We have solved those problems, and now there is absolutely no reason to not take up a bill that has been passed by the House, put a simple amendment on the bill and pass it through the Senate, and get on with building these new and necessary expanded VA clinics at 27 locations around the country, in 18 States, obviously including the State of Louisiana. There are two locations there, as I mentioned—in Lafayette and Lake Charles.

I again take the floor in the context of this much broader VA scandal to

urge us to come together and act in this simple but important way. I have been coming to the floor to urge this action for months now—well before this current VA scandal erupted. But I think that new context of this national VA scandal makes bipartisan action on this and anything else we can agree on more necessary than ever. So I again urge all of my colleagues to come together to get this simple but important work done and to continue to work on all of the other very necessary changes we need at the VA.

In terms of these 27 outpatient clinics, there is no disagreement about this. A bill has been passed through the House—with one dissenting vote—to get this done. It sits in the well of the Senate. There is no objection to the merits of the bill as long as we add one perfecting amendment that has been worked out with every Member of the Senate. There is no substantive objection to that. However, it has been held up and objected to by Senator SANDERS, the head of the veterans committee, purely because he wants to use it as leverage to pass his much broader veterans bill on a host of other topics.

As I have said many times before, those other topics are very important. Those broader topics have only been underscored in the last few weeks with this developing VA scandal. We need to address many areas, but we shouldn't hold veterans hostage and we shouldn't hold up progress in any area we can agree on simply to create a hostage to try to forge movement in these other areas.

In fact, in terms of that general proposition, I think Senator SANDERS agreed with me. Back on November 19 of 2013, Senator SANDERS adopted and endorsed this approach with regard to other matters. There was another set of work on other veterans issues, and issues were worked out so that a specific proposal could move forward by unanimous consent. Senator SANDERS came to the floor and basically said: Yes, let's agree on what we can agree on. Let's move forward with what we can move forward on.

I am happy to tell you that I think that was a concern of his.

He was speaking about another Senator on this other veterans issue.

We got that UC'd last night. So we moved that pretty quickly, and I want to try to do those things. Where we have agreement, let's move it.

Senator SANDERS was urging us, particularly in the context of the overall VA scandal and VA mess: Let's start acting. And where we have agreement, let's move it.

We are not going to solve every veterans problem in one bill overnight, but we can start. A bite at a time, a step at a time, we can start to do positive work, and these 27 clinics in 18 States are very positive, very concrete.

So where we have agreement—and we have complete agreement in this area—

“let's move it”—a direct quote from Senator SANDERS from late last year. I am sorry to say that Senator SANDERS is not allowing us to move it. We have absolute agreement on the substance of these clinics. We can call that bill off the calendar right now. We can put the perfecting amendment on it. There is absolutely universal agreement on the substance of that bill with that amendment. But we are not moving it, apparently because he wants to use that as some sort of leverage for other VA proposals. I want to work on those proposals, but where we have agreement, let's move it.

Veterans want us to come together in a bipartisan way. They want us to act not in a month or a year, not after more and more studies, they want us to start to act now where we can, where we have agreement.

I think it is very important that we act. It is very important that we do so in a bipartisan way. This is one focused area where that is possible immediately, today, so I urge us all to do that.

There are other areas where we need to act. Senator SANDERS is in discussions with many of us, being led on the Republican side by Senators BURR and MCCAIN. I hope that broader agreement comes together. I hope it comes together very soon. I have been assured by both sides—by Senator SANDERS on the Democratic side and Senators BURR and MCCAIN on the Republican side—that certainly this clinic issue will be included in any such agreement. But let's come together here and now where we have agreement—and we do on these clinics. Let's act for veterans as soon as we can, and we can right now with regard to these clinics.

I urge us to adopt that positive, commonsense approach: Act where we have agreement, immediately. Build consensus and continue to work on those areas where there is continuing discussion, and act and build agreement and build consensus as quickly as we can in those other areas. I urge us to do that as soon as we can, wherever we can, whenever we can, and that can start today—if Senator SANDERS will let us—with regard to these 27 expanded outpatient clinics in 18 States.

I see Senator HELLER has joined us on the floor, and I will defer to him. I look forward to the comments of Senators RUBIO and INHOFE as well about the broader veteran and VA challenges as well as this specific clinics issue.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I first wish to thank my good friend from Louisiana for putting together a proposal that would ultimately increase veterans access to care. As does he, I believe our veterans are entitled to a VA system that provides them with the services they were promised—not only

promised but to receive them in a timely manner. As my colleague from Louisiana mentioned, I support his efforts to authorize 27 VA clinics, and I cannot understand why the Senate is not acting on this commonsense proposal.

I would also like to thank my other friends; for example, Senator RUBIO from Florida, who is fighting to bring some sort of accountability to the VA. His bipartisan, bicameral proposal is a much needed step in the right direction to give the VA the tools to fire VA executives who are not doing their jobs.

Unfortunately, after talking extensively with veterans in Nevada, I believe these problems of management, of accountability, and of efficiency extend well beyond the Veterans Health Administration. The Veterans Benefits Administration continues to struggle to eliminate the veterans disability claims backlog as it operates in what I consider to be a 1940s system here in the 21st century. There are more than 3,600 veterans in Nevada and nearly 300,000 nationwide who are stuck in a VA disability claims backlog. My home State of Nevada has the longest wait in the Nation at 348 days for a claim to be processed.

What veterans need is for Congress to take action to reform a broken, outdated claims-processing system. That is why Senator CASEY and I came together a year ago to address this issue with a targeted approach to fix the claims process. So here is what we introduced. It is the “VA Backlog Working Group March 2014 Report.” These solutions we are speaking about are included in our 21st-century Veterans Benefit Delivery Act, which Senator CASEY and I introduced in March.

Our legislation addresses three main areas of the claims process: submission, VA regional office practices, and the agency's response to VA requests. I recognize that the claims process is complex, and there is no silver bullet that will solve this problem, but the VA's current efforts will not eliminate this backlog.

I think my colleagues here today would agree this is a bipartisan issue. There isn't a Member of the Senate whose State is not impacted by the VA claims backlog. Yet this bipartisan legislation remains in the backlog of bills yet to be considered by the Senate.

It is past time for Congress to give this issue the attention it deserves. Congress needs to reform the VA and when doing so cannot ignore the problems that plague its benefits administration.

Thank you, Mr. President.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to applaud the work of the Senator from Nevada and echo his sentiments. I am a member of this bipartisan working

group on the claims backlog. I am a co-author of the bipartisan legislation he helped spearhead, along with Senator CASEY. It is another very good example of a bipartisan consensus where we can act. We can move it. So let's come together and let's act in a responsible, bipartisan way, and let's move it. That is what veterans want. That is what veterans tell me all across Louisiana. That is what the veterans service organizations are saying.

This crisis demands action. It demands bipartisan action. This is an area where we can act now and act effectively. We should. The clinics I spoke about are an area where we can act now and act effectively in a bipartisan way. We should.

I also applaud Senator INHOFE, who may be coming to the floor, for his leadership on this clinics issue. We need to authorize those and move on with them and get that done.

I also thank Senator RUBIO, who will be speaking later about the legislation he has that has already passed the House to give the leadership—the new leadership, thank goodness—of the VA the authority they need to take dramatic action when necessary, to clean house when necessary, and get people in place who are going to make a difference in that broken bureaucracy.

So let's act now, in a bipartisan way, where we can. Again, that is absolutely possible in these areas, including these 27 outpatient clinics in 18 States, the 2 in Louisiana that I discussed.

We have complete agreement in the Senate on the substance of these clinics. We have legislation that has already passed the House. So please, Senator SANDERS, release your obstacle, release your blockade. Let's move forward. Let's agree where we can agree. Let's act where we can act, here and now, and continue to work on those other vital areas where we also need agreement.

There is a common saying: Time is money. Well, in terms of what we are talking about, time can be lost lives. We have seen cases of that, documented cases of that with regard to veterans who were waiting for so long they died. Time in health care can be lost lives.

This past week, as I traveled in Louisiana, I had a townhall meeting in New Orleans, among other places, and a New Orleans police officer—a female police officer—came and told me about the case of her father who, because of a lack of attention and time lapsed in the VA system, died, literally died directly related to that. Her name is Gwen Moity Nolan, and although she has lost her father, she wants to make sure that does not happen to any other veteran's family, that what happened to Richard Moity does not happen to others. Her case was looked at by the VA, and they admitted fault, they admitted negligence, and they actually

reached a substantial settlement with her over their lack of attention to her father. But she really wants to make sure that does not happen to any other veteran's family. She came to me pleading: Can you make sure they have taken the necessary steps to fix those problems in the New Orleans VA?

So I have written to the VA and said: I want to see the results of that investigation with regard to Richard Moity. You say you have taken corrective action? I want to understand exactly what that corrective action is.

Time is money? No. In this case, time can be lost lives—the life of Richard Moity, the lives of veterans in Arizona, the lives of veterans around the country for whom inattention, delay, and lack of responsiveness in the VA system meant lost lives.

So let's not delay here in the Senate. Where we have agreement, let's move, let's act. We have agreement on these clinics. We have agreement on action to address the VA backlog Senator HELLER talked about. Let's act. Let's move because delay can lead to serious consequences in health care, even the loss of life.

I thank Senators INHOFE and RUBIO, who may be coming to the floor later to talk about these issues, for their determined work. I look forward to moving on this issue. I look forward to Senator SANDERS hopefully reaching agreement on a broader set of proposals, including this clinics issue, in the very near future, and if not, I will be back to the floor demanding action on these clinics within a few days.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. LEAHY relating to the introduction of S. 2428 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I do not see anybody seeking recognition, so I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here for the 69th straight consecutive week that the Senate has been in session to try to wake us up to the harm that carbon pollution causes to our oceans, to our communities, to our ecosystem, and to our health.

The effects of climate change are all around us, from melting glaciers in our national parks, to drought-stricken land across the American Southwest, to rising seas along my eastern sea-

board. In Washington, DC, the iconic cherry blossoms are blooming earlier. Snook, native to South Florida, are being caught off the coast of Charleston; tarpon and grouper off the coast of Rhode Island.

This is all happening now—not tomorrow, not sometime in the distant future but now—right now. Projections show that it will get much worse in the coming years unless we wake up and take real action. Happily, this week, the Environmental Protection Agency used its Clean Air Act authority as established by Congress and affirmed by the Supreme Court to propose carbon pollution standards for the country's existing powerplants.

Before this, there were no carbon pollution limits—believe it or not—none. As you can see on this chart, the 50 dirtiest U.S. powerplants—this is the whole U.S. powerplant fleet. These are the 50 dirtiest powerplants. They put out more carbon than Korea, which is a pretty industrialized country. They put out more carbon than Canada, our neighbor to the north.

I congratulate the administration on developing these smart, sensible limits that will put our Nation on a better path economically and on a better path environmentally. Thank you to the scientists, the engineers, the staffers, the attorneys, and the experts who invested so much time and energy in developing this historic standard. Through an unprecedented public engagement, EPA held more than 300 public meetings, working with stakeholders of all kinds and all across the political spectrum.

The result: EPA has put the States in the driver's seat to come up with their own plans to meet State-specific targets. States and power companies will have a wide variety of options to achieve carbon reductions, like boosting renewable energy, establishing energy savings targets, investing in efficiency or joining one of the existing cap-and-trade programs. States can develop plans that create jobs, plans that cut electricity cost by boosting efficiency, plans that achieve major pollution reduction.

What is not to like? Already, a diverse array of groups support the new EPA pollution standard. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in a letter to Administrator McCarthy wrote: "These standards should protect the health and welfare of all people, especially children, the elderly, as well as poor and vulnerable communities, from harmful pollution emitted from power plants and from the impacts of climate change."

The Catholic bishops went on to point out that "the best evidence indicates that power plants are the largest stationary source of carbon emissions in the United States, and a major contributor to climate change."

We are also hearing from 600 State and local elected officials who recently

sent a letter to the President in support of the EPA plan. These are the mayors, council members, and State legislators for whom climate change is a day-to-day reality at home right there in their communities.

The letter is signed by officials from both red States and blue, including Texas, Iowa, Arizona, and the ground zero of climate change in this country, the State of Florida. The business community has weighed in. Over 125 companies including American giants like Nike, Levi's, and Starbucks sent a letter of support for the new rule.

Our support is firmly grounded in economic reality. The new standards will reinforce what leading companies already know: climate change poses real financial risks and substantial economic opportunities and we must act now.

VF Corporation is an American apparel manufacturer in North Carolina whose brands include North Face, Timberland, Wrangler, and many others. "As a company that makes innovative apparel and footwear for people who love the outdoors, we know how important addressing climate change is to our consumers, and therefore, our business," said Letitia Webster, VF's director of global sustainability. "Today's rules provide the long-term certainty that VF needs to continue to invest in clean energy solutions so that we can do our part to reduce the impacts of climate change."

Major utilities are behind the new rule. Tom King, the President of National Grid, which serves my home State of Rhode Island, said:

The Obama administration, through the good work of EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and her staff has worked in a transparent manner to craft regulation that promotes environmental and human health through a host of clean energy options. Rather than picking winners, this proposed rule supports market-based solutions.

Major public health groups agree. Here is what Harold Wimmer, national president and CEO of the American Lung Association had to say: "For the 147 million—nearly half of all Americans—already living in areas with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution, curbing carbon pollution emissions is a critical step forward for protecting public health from the impacts of climate change happening today."

As widespread and broad as the support is for this rule, not everyone is applauding. Big polluters have enjoyed a long and happy holiday from responsibility for the carbon pollution they have dumped into our atmosphere and oceans. This free pollution they have enjoyed emitting is a market failure, a market failure recognized even by groups as conservative as the American Enterprise Institute—a market failure which allowed these polluters to dump billions of dollars in costs and harm on their fellow Americans.

They did this to their fellow Americans without apparent shame or regret,

and they are fighting desperately to preserve this loophole. They do not want you to know that we can achieve these reductions responsibly. They do not want you to know that we can do this and help our economy. Indeed, before the proposed rule was even available to examine, the climate deniers at the so-called U.S. Chamber of Commerce said it would cost electricity customers hundreds of billions of dollars and zap the U.S. economy of tens of billions in GDP and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Do not believe it. These claims are exaggerated at best and flat out false at worst. Do not just take my word for it. Republicans, citing the chamber's report—of course some of our colleagues jumped to cite that report. When they did, they earned a PolitiFact "false" and four Pinocchios from the Washington Post fact checker.

The problem with the big polluters is that they only look at one side of the ledger. They ignore the costs of carbon pollution on the rest of us. These costs are real. People see them in their lives, in real lives at home in our communities—damage to coastal homes, roads, and businesses from rising seas and erosion; asthma attacks in children triggered by smog, sending them to the emergency room; forests dying from beetle infestations and swept by unprecedented wildfire seasons; farms ravaged by worsened drought and flooding. Our side of the ledger counts too.

If the big polluters were accountants and they filed financial statements that only looked at one side of the ledger, they would go to prison. But this is politics, so without consequence or shame or regret, they ignore the harm they cause the rest of us.

If the Chamber of Commerce and the big polluters want to talk about jobs, let's not forget about the jobs they hurt by their carbon pollution. Fishermen in Rhode Island have seen their winter flounder catch nearly disappear in recent decades as the water temperature in our Narragansett Bay has risen 3 to 4 degrees. That is an ecosystem shift for these species.

Actually, there are now more jobs in clean, green energy than in oil and gas, more jobs in solar than in coal mining.

This rule is a job creator in innovation and clean energy. The polluters just won't count that side of the ledger.

It is an old story: tobacco, seatbelts in cars, acid rain, lead paint, ozone depletion, and more. Same old strategy: Muddle the science, manufacture doubt, manufacture cost, exaggerate the costs, and ignore the economic benefits.

The Clean Air Act, according to a 2011 EPA assessment, will benefit Americans more than it costs by a ratio of 30 to 1, \$30 of value in pre-

venting hospital visits and premature deaths, avoiding missed work and school days, improving environmental quality, helping people live healthier, more productive lives—\$30 of value to Americans for every \$1 they had to pay in cleanup costs.

Opponents of clean air standards have been proven wrong time and again. Here is the bottom line: Excessive carbon pollution is bad for our health, bad for our environment, and bad for our economy, even bad for our national security, if you read the Department of Defense's own Quadrennial Defense Reviews.

The largest source of carbon pollution in the United States is powerplants. Until now there were no limits on the carbon pollution these plants could spew into our atmosphere and oceans. This week changes that. If the big polluters don't like the change, many of us will work with them on a legislative alternative. Perhaps as many Republicans support an economywide price on carbon pollution, which could generate a financial benefit for taxpayers and even provide transition assistance to affected industries. But they can't just keep dumping their pollution on the rest of us. Doing so might be free for them, but the costs are too high for us. Their long holiday from responsibility has to come to an end. It is time for them to wake up.

A number of my Republican colleagues have come to the Senate floor to respond to the administration's proposal. Those of us seeking to stave off the worst effects of climate change welcome this opportunity to engage in a bipartisan discussion on the challenges of climate change.

In the past, Republican colleagues have coauthored and voted for bipartisan climate change legislation. They have spoken out in favor of a carbon fee and, of course, our Republican colleagues represent States such as Florida that are every bit at risk from the effects of climate change as States represented by Democrats. So we think our Republican colleagues could have a lot to offer if they wish to join us in exploring solutions.

A number of us have requested that time after votes on Monday, June 9, next Monday, be reserved for us to engage in a robust, bipartisan exchange of views about carbon pollution. We invite all our colleagues, Republican and Democrats, to join us then on the floor. We hope to find the Republican Party in the Senate is not a uniform monolith of climate denial.

We earnestly believe the costs of failing to exercise American leadership and solve this carbon pollution problem are very high, terribly high, with ramifications for our health, safety, economic well-being, our food and water supplies, and our national security and standing.

I look forward to a vigorous discussion on Monday. I hope my colleagues show up.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Today I would like to discuss the nomination of Sylvia Burwell to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. I am going to make some criticisms of her performance and the background she lacks in taking on this huge agency.

I have met with her, worked with her some as OMB Director. I like her, and she is courteous and capable, so I am not talking personally in any bad way about her, but this is an important agency, one of the most important agencies in our Nation. The Secretary of Health and Human Services oversees several of the largest programs in the entire Federal Government. Crucially, the Secretary is also the person tasked with implementing the President's health care law. It is essential that anyone who fills this position possess great skill, relevant experience, proven managerial experience, and who will act with independence and in the best interests of the American public—one who, at this critical time, puts country over politics. They cannot be a political loyalist, but they must be someone of stature, integrity, and sound judgment who is willing to tell the President no if asked to circumvent the law, provide false information, or otherwise act against the public interest.

From the President's own perspective, he needs desperately someone who is able to evaluate these major programs such as ObamaCare with wisdom and tell him and help him—and particularly tell the American people the truth.

Ms. Burwell does not have the background one associates with a position of this magnitude. She just does not. Nor does she possess the specific skills critically needed today. The OMB office she now holds has 500 employees. HHS has 72,000.

Aside from her short tenure at the Office of Management and Budget, which has just been 13 months, she is just now beginning to find her way around, presumably, that office. She has never run any major department, any major health care department, a department or an agency, a major business, a significant city, or a State. There are many very capable people in this country who would be much more ready to assume the august responsibilities of this job.

It appears her most significant health care role prior to this was serv-

ing as a board member—part-time board member—of a local university medical center.

In fact, 2 months ago in a Budget Committee hearing, Ms. Burwell declined to answer a basic health care question until she said she would seek Secretary Sebelius's expertise on the matter, but she never provided that answer anyway.

Her time as Director of the Office of Management and Budget was controversial. The budget plan she submitted to Congress plainly violated the spending caps Congress and the President agreed to and passed into law. She produced a budget plan that would increase spending by nearly \$791 billion over 10 years. That is above the Ryan-Murray agreement that passed in Congress that set these spending limits just a few weeks before, including, in that budget, a proposal to increase spending by \$56 billion over the budget next year.

As the ranking Republican on the Budget Committee, I have been involved in this and observing it. To my dismay, she went to enormous lengths during her testimony before the committee to try to conceal this increase in spending. It was very amazing to me.

On the day the President's budget was submitted, the Associated Press reported that the plan Ms. Burwell authored "lays waste to the spending caps that the White House and Congress agreed to late last year."

Also at the same time The Hill reported the budget this way—Obama's "\$3.9T budget busts spending limits."

Remember, Ms. Burwell was the Director of Office of Management and Budget. Her staff produces the budget and defended the budget.

It goes on to say in the first paragraph the truth of the situation in The Hill. The article is by Erik Wasson.

President Obama on Tuesday released a \$3.9 trillion election-year budget blueprint that would bust the bipartisan budget ceiling agreed to in December with \$56 billion in new stimulus spending.

This was 10 weeks after they had agreed to one level of spending. She walks in and produces a budget that is \$700-, \$800 billion almost more in spending over the budget of 10 years, and \$56 billion more the next year.

When I asked her about that, apparently it was politically sensitive. Apparently they had decided they didn't want to admit they were spending more money. The Associated Press says they did. Politico said they did. The budget they submitted that was in law—laid before the Budget Committee—plainly demonstrated it spent more than they agreed to spend.

I asked her about it. It went something like this. It was a very long exchange. It was frustrating for me. I will quote from some of them, because I think we need to understand these

issues. I asked her about the spending excess:

Mr. SESSIONS. So you're proposing that we alter Ryan-Murray [that is the law that set new spending limits, allowed more spending than we previously agreed to, but it continued to set some limits] so you can spend \$56 billion more next year alone. Yes or no; is that correct?

Ms. BURWELL. We propose a paid-for [initiative] . . .

Mr. SESSIONS. Can't you answer that question simply? Yes or no? Do you propose to spend \$56 billion more than Ryan-Murray allows?

Ms. BURWELL. Senator, we do propose a change in the law that would be fully paid for that would invest in things that we believe are necessary for the economic health of the nation.

Mr. SESSIONS. Do you want to spend more than the President agreed to when he signed the Ryan-Murray 10 weeks ago?

Ms. BURWELL. Senator, we signed Ryan-Murray . . .

Mr. SESSIONS. Now, I'm just asking, yes or no; are you [spending] more or less?

Ms. BURWELL. Senator, I think there are some questions that are not simply yes or no questions. . . .

Mr. SESSIONS. This one is a yes or no question. You're refusing to answer it . . .

I simply asked a public servant who is paid by the taxpayers: Are you spending more money than the Ryan-Murray budget had agreed to and the President signed? And she refused to answer. It was really frustrating. But I think it is indicative of the fact that they were allowing politics to interject itself here—because the White House didn't want to admit, and she stood up for the White House and wouldn't admit it. But, as Politico says, it plainly was true that they were spending more.

So rather than acting as an independent steward of taxpayer dollars and simply telling the plain truth to a simple question, she acted as an extension of the President's campaign arm—advancing their spin without honestly acknowledging the clear and plain facts to the American public asked by a representative of the people of the United States. There was no doubt that they spent more money than Ryan-Murray would allow, but they never acknowledged it because she politically did not want to admit it.

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is more than a political position. The Director serves the President, yes, but it is at bottom an important public servant, and the person who holds that job must act as a disciplined manager of taxpayers' dollars and do so with clarity and openness. The Director is managing the world's largest budget.

However, Ms. Burwell submitted a financial plan—a budget—that would have increased spending more than \$700 billion above the current, agreed-upon, in-law budget levels while, amazingly, suggesting her plan reduced spending. It was a tax-and-spend budget that would have added \$8 trillion to our debt

while doing virtually nothing to reform the entitlement programs heading for impending insolvency. It completely busted the budget law the President signed. It was a grossly irresponsible plan.

According to Ms. Burwell's own budget submission, the plan would have caused interest payments on the debt to nearly quadruple, from \$221 billion in interest paid last year alone to more than \$800 billion 10 years from now. So this is really a serious matter. There is no attempt to balance the budget in her plan even over 10 years. Indeed, it flatly rejected the very idea of a balanced budget.

Additionally, despite her public commitment during her confirmation that she would deliver the budget in accordance with the legal deadlines, the President's budget was again delivered more than a month late.

Importantly, Ms. Burwell failed to comply with Federal law requiring her to submit Medicare improvement legislation after the Medicare trustees issued their funding warning. Medicare is heading to financial ruin. The law says that if Medicare reaches a point where its future is financially in doubt, it must notify the President, and the President, through his Office of Management and Budget Director, is supposed to submit to Congress a plan to get Medicare off the path to disaster. It was submitted to President Bush. He submitted a plan to Congress to fix Medicare. But this President has steadfastly refused to do so, and so did Mrs. Burwell as his Office of Management and Budget Director.

It states that within 2 weeks of the budget submission, legislation must be sent to Congress to comply with this so-called Medicare trigger. It requires a plan to fix the program. During her confirmation as OMB Director, she was asked about this duty she was going to have, and she made a commitment to respond and produce the Medicare trigger. Specifically, she said she would "do everything in her power" to comply with the Federal law, bringing an end, in effect, to the administration's several-years-long defiance of plain law.

As the President's Budget Director, under 31 USC, 1105, Sylvia Burwell was the person responsible for complying with the Federal law. Having willfully violated this requirement, it is ironic now that, if confirmed as Health and Human Services Secretary, she will serve on the board of trustees of the Medicare trust fund, she will be responsible for overseeing their finances, and she will be issuing to her former office—OMB—the same funding warnings that the administration received and ignored while she served as budget director.

Ms. Burwell has also violated law and denied Congress needed transparency with respect to the President's trou-

bled health care law. Specifically, the Omnibus appropriations bill signed into law in January required HHS to include in its fiscal year 2015 budget a detailed accounting of spending to implement the health law. Fair enough. But neither the budget Ms. Burwell delivered nor the agency justification that later joined it satisfied the requirements set in law. They should do that. They are public servants. They should tell us how to handle the problems of financing in health care law.

As OMB Director—the budget submitted to the Congress by Ms. Burwell reclassified the budgetary treatment of the ObamaCare risk corridor program without statutory authority to do so. Under this approach, it appears HHS attempts to escape congressional accountability for its use of certain funds. So this is a clear violation of the congressional power to appropriate money, and it is pretty clear that to fund this program they are going to have to ask Congress to fund it. But by moving this around, they are attempting to spend money without asking Congress to appropriate it—against the Constitution.

Regrettably, it seems Ms. Burwell followed a consistent pattern. Rather than using OMB as the central agency to reform this massive, out-of-control spending government, to stop wasteful spending and tame the debt—as former OMB Directors such as Mitch Daniels and ROB PORTMAN did; now-Senator PORTMAN submitted a balanced budget when he was OMB Director under President Bush—she has not submitted any reforms to bring our government under control in OMB.

One of the concerns I had about her appointment was that it is such a critical part of our government, we have to have a strong OMB Director to control this massive government and control wasteful spending. That is the President's right arm. That is the person who brings the Cabinet Secretaries in to say: You are spending money. I hear complaints about waste. I hear about duplication. The President wants you to fix this.

We saw none of that under her leadership. Her tenure at OMB evidenced no drive to even tackle the magnitude of our financial challenges. She proposed to bust the spending caps that Congress and the President agreed while trying to suggest otherwise. She ignored the Medicare trigger. She tried to put a positive spin on a dangerous financial plan instead of trying to actually solve the serious financial challenges facing our country today.

With ObamaCare in chaos and disarray, threatening the very economy and the health care of Americans by the millions, what we desperately need in this key position is someone who will be independent, forthright, and honest, someone who will resist political pressure from the White House,

and someone who knows what they are doing. This position demands that we find one of the best and most respected health care experts in the world. That is what we should be looking for. Ms. Burwell, as nice as she is, sadly, is just not that person. She does not have those skills.

ObamaCare was passed into law on a series of egregious falsehoods. The American people intuitively recognized that this was an overreach and would not work, and the American people are now paying the steepest of prices for this complex, failed piece of legislation. One of the falsehoods was that it would not add to the debt—not a dime, the President said. Well, we now know it would add more than \$6 trillion to the long-term debt of the United States. That is a huge amount of money.

A Secretary of Health and Human Services must tell the American people the truth about the law's finances. If they fail to do so, if the Secretary will not acknowledge the truth and the challenges that our finances face, then the entire future, financially, of America will be at risk.

So I believe Ms. Burwell is a good and well-meaning person. Senators MANCHIN and ROCKEFELLER from West Virginia like her, and Senator WYDEN of the Finance Committee and I like her. But I cannot support her bid to control the health care future of millions of hard-working Americans by placing her in charge of this massive agency that so desperately needs mature, aggressive, strong leadership—somebody who understands these issues before they take the job. I will vote no on her nomination as Secretary of Health and Human Services.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

(The remarks of Ms. WARREN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2432 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. WARREN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Ohio.

CONCERN FOR VETERANS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, during Memorial Day and last week, I spent much of the time traveling Ohio with Michael Fairman, a retired Navy corpsman and a Columbus resident, who served with the Marines in Afghanistan from 2007 to 2011. His son Zack is a third-generation Navy corpsman serving with the Marine Corps First Tank Battalion deployed in the Middle East.

Based on his own combat experiences and his concern for other veterans and the suicide of a friend, a fellow veteran, Mr. Fairman came to my office with an idea of how we can help both servicemembers and veterans—veterans like Alexander Powell, a student

at the University of Toledo who joined us in Northwest Ohio. Mr. Powell was deployed in Iraq in 2006 when his gun truck was struck by an IED. He had no physical or visible injuries. He went back to duty the next day, but he began experiencing blackouts and dizzy spells. It wasn't until 2009 that he was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury and hospitalized to begin treatment.

Mr. Powell is not alone. The VA reports that some 300,000 veterans struggle with post-traumatic stress. The Defense Department reports that out of 300,000 TBI injuries, there are 25,000 cases of what they call mild traumatic brain injuries because mild TBI is an invisible injury. Think of an NFL player getting a concussion or a series of concussions over a period of a career. Think of a soldier getting what a number of soldiers said to me—marines and air men and women and soldiers and sailors talk about getting their “bell rung” when they get a head injury. It is an injury that is not serious enough for an NFL player to sit down, not serious enough for a soldier to be sent home, perhaps not serious enough for a soldier to get any medical treatment at all, but one of a series of concussive events of invisible or minor head injuries can lead to problems a number of years later.

So when veterans or servicemembers seek service-connected disabilities for related injuries, they often don't have the necessary documents needed to establish the connection between their military service and their claim with the VA. That was the case for Mr. Powell. He told me last week:

It was my job [after returning home] to gather up any proof that I had to show that my truck was hit by an IED and gather statements from people who were there to corroborate my story. That is a task, if not done immediately after the incident, that is almost impossible to accomplish.

So 5 years, 6 years, 7 years later, Mr. Powell is back in Ohio trying to piece together the series of head injuries he sustained, what exactly happened, finding witnesses, his unit commander, and comrades to be able to prove to the VA that his disability is earned and warranted and trying to explain to his doctor what his head injuries might have entailed. The burden is on the veteran to provide the VA with information establishing the connection between their claim and their service. This can lead to denied claims. It can lead to improper medical care. It increases the disability claims backlog.

We are all concerned—even though the VA has shrunk that backlog by 50 percent in the last year or so, we also know that one of the reasons for the backlog at the VA is it takes so much more time for the VA employee and the soldier to try to piece together the record of injuries that might have taken place 5 years ago, a decade ago,

a decade and a half ago. That is why I introduced the Significant Event Tracker Act, which Mr. Fairman helped to create. This bill will improve the claims process for veterans and servicemembers. Mr. Fairman visited a number of House and Senate offices. The only one who responded was actually Senator CORNYN's office, from Texas. He and I have talked about this bill, and we both understand how important this can be to veterans. Let me explain the bill.

First, it would allow unit commanders to document events, such as a roadside bombing, that each servicemember in their command is exposed to and which might later be connected to these “invisible injuries.”

Second, recording this information on an individual basis will help military medical officers better diagnose and treat military members who have mental health concerns.

Finally, for veterans and military retirees, this act will help them file better initial claims—claims with supporting documentation from DOD. In other words, veterans should be able to focus on their recovery, not on having to prove the cause of their injury.

Let me say that again. A soldier going to the VA in Dayton, OH, or Cincinnati or to a veterans clinic in Mansfield should be able to focus on her recovery and not having to prove the cause of her injury. This bill puts the responsibility on the Army, on the Marines, on the Defense Department, not on the veteran, to track and connect significant events to individual servicemembers that would later potentially lead to post-traumatic stress or to traumatic brain injury. Commanders already report major injuries. We want commanders to report about individual servicemembers who were involved in any kind of a minor or “invisible” head injury.

This was a big idea that came to me from Michael Fairman. He visited a number of Senate offices and House offices. Senator CORNYN showed interest in it. My office has written the legislation with Michael Fairman. This Nation is rightfully proud of our veterans. This idea came from a veteran. This idea deserves to be seriously entertained by this Senate and, frankly, by the Defense Department, if we can work with them, on finding ways to implement some of these ideas.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TIANANMEN SQUARE

Mr. President, I rise to commemorate an event that happened 25 years ago today not just in Beijing, China, but in other places in China when millions of people across that country, in Tiananmen Square and other places, rallied in support of democracy, human rights, and an end to official corruption.

Like many Americans, I was inspired. At the time, I wasn't a Member of Congress. Living in Ohio, I was in-

spired by the courage and pursuit of individual fundamental freedoms—freedoms that we hold dear in this country and sometimes take for granted, that are not always granted in other countries around the world. I recall the optimism of that moment and how it was crushed when the tanks rolled in.

Today we assess what the last 25 years meant to the Chinese but also, more importantly, to U.S.-China relations and what our policy should be. China has made tremendous leaps forward in the past 40 years since normalization, but following Tiananmen Square we have missed opportunity after opportunity to integrate China into the global rule-based community of nations to protect our economic interests and to move China in the right direction on political reform.

It is not an easy task, but 25 years later China is still fundamentally undemocratic. It too often refuses to play by the rules—rules that would benefit China short term and long term. The question now is whether China will address the challenge facing it or will it continue to take a more doctrinaire and hardline stance, one that undermines the progress China has made and, because of China's influence, could undermine the global system and regional stability.

In many respects China has reaped the benefits of open trade with the rest of the world while avoiding many of its obligations. Our trade deficit with China at the time of Tiananmen Square 25 years ago stood at \$6 billion; that is, we bought from China \$6 billion in goods more than we sold to China. Last year it grew to 50 times that amount—\$318 billion—the highest ever. That means almost every single day of the year on the average, every single day of the year, we buy from China \$900 million more in goods than we sell to China. That trade deficit and China's currency manipulation has cost Americans millions of jobs and significantly reduced our Federal budget.

I know what unbalanced, unfair, and not playing on a level playing field trade with China has done to places such as Springfield, OH, Marion, OH, and Chillicothe and Lima, and my hometown of Mansfield, and Ravenna, OH, all over my State, all over the Midwest, all over the country. In the end, we compromised as a nation too much. We bought into the myth that China's economic integration after Tiananmen Square would bring about human rights and respect for the United States and international rules. That is not what has happened.

Through the commission I chair, the Congressional Executive Commission on China, we have tried to honor the memory of Tiananmen Square by making sure that China's obligations toward human rights and the rule of law are not forgotten.

The commission highlighted many concerns: cyber theft threats to democracy in Hong Kong, illegal, unfair trade practices, denial of visas, or threats of denial of visas to foreign journalists, food safety, environmental, and public health concerns, a crackdown on human rights activists, including Ilham Tohti, a peaceful activist for the Uyghur minority group in Tibet.

It is my hope we have an open and transparent debate about our China policy. Whether it be on trade agreements, where we continue to be on the short end every single year, or whether it is about growing Chinese foreign investment in this country, this debate must be given proper weight rather than ignoring our concerns over human rights, the rule of law, labor, public health, and the environment.

Above all, the debate about U.S. policy toward China must include all segments of our society and not the way we typically do trade agreements in this country, supported by newspaper publishers, economists at Harvard, but not fundamentally supported by the American people and the public.

Our workers and small businesses need to be included, NGOs and human rights groups, instead of being led by powerful interest groups such as large corporations. Debate needs to be inclusive and it needs to draw on the interests and aspirations of all parts of American society.

More must be done as we honor 25 years in the memory of Tiananmen Square. The world must continue to seek improvements on China's record of human rights and the rule of law. More must be done. Only by recognizing the legitimate aspirations of its people and the obligations of the international system can China assume the role to fit its history and its size.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in the wake of some recent Supreme Court decisions touching on our system of campaign finance, there has arisen in the Senate, frankly, this bizarre notion that we are going to amend the Constitution to undo the Bill of Rights, and particularly the First Amendment and its protection of the freedom of speech.

Of course, the proponents don't describe it that way. To hear the majority leader, who testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday, he said: They are merely trying to keep what he called dark money out of American politics.

By giving Congress the ability to regulate political speech and the means by which that is paid for and disseminated, this amendment would invite all manner of partisan mischief and abuses and effectively dismantle one of the most fundamental liberties secured by

our Constitution which makes America the envy of the world, and in many ways unique in that we protect freedom of speech without regard to the content of the speech and without regard to the identity of the speaker, whether they be rich, poor, or a member of the middle class. Whether that opinion is informed or not necessarily well-informed, we believe in the marketplace of ideas where the American people are the only judge as to what they believe the truth is. We don't try to stifle or squelch speakers, particularly in the political process.

As our good friend the Republican leader said yesterday:

If incumbent politicians were in charge of political speech, a majority could design the rules to benefit itself and diminish its opponents. And when roles reversed, you could expect a new majority to try to disadvantage the other half of the country. And on it would go.

So this power the majority leader has proposed in amending the Constitution so Congress could regulate political speech could be an instrument of incumbent protection where the party in power could use that as a weapon against the minority trying to persuade the country that they should be restored to the majority rather than linger as a minority.

Is this really the kind of system our colleagues who are proposing this constitutional amendment want? Well, you have to ask whether they have any realistic belief that this will actually become law. And of course it would have to pass both Houses of the Congress by a two-thirds vote, and it would have to be ratified by three-quarters of the States. I don't think it is an overstatement to say they have no chance of this becoming law.

Why in the world is such an outlandish proposal being made by somebody such as the distinguished majority leader of the Senate and other folks in his party? Well, it is no exaggeration to say this proposed amendment would undermine American democracy as we know it, so there has to be some other reason other than the substance of the amendment they are trying to get at.

Lest we forget the whole purpose of the First Amendment is to ensure that all political speech—as a matter of fact all speech, period—is protected from government interference, and that is why it is in the Bill of Rights, at the time our country was founded there was a serious debate about whether we needed an explicit Bill of Rights or whether the very structure of our government with its checks and balances and our shared power between the judicial, executive, and legislative branches would itself provide that protection. But the Federalists said, no, we are not going to settle for that. We want an explicit protection of those rights that are not derived from government but which precede govern-

ment—which don't come from government but come from our Creator.

Under the logic used by the proponents, the government should change this provision in the Bill of Rights that has been the law of the land for more than 200 years and now start regulating how much money newspapers, magazines, and Web sites are allowed to spend on articles concerning politics and public policy. After all, when media outlets publish this information, they are using their financial advantage over ordinary citizens to be able to get their views out to the public. And, of course, they are trying to persuade citizens and voters and trying to affect political outcomes, both in terms of public policy choices and elections.

The majority leader, if he were on the floor, might say: Well, we have a provision in here that we will not grant Congress the power to abridge freedom of the press. If you could turn off and on the money by which the press disseminates its point of view, if you can regulate perhaps even to the point of zero on the part of political actors and their ability to disseminate their views in the public or influence voters before the election, this carveout is effectively meaningless.

It would most certainly grant Congress the power to abridge the free speech of individuals and groups as disparate as the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Rifle Association, and the Sierra Club, which obviously have different views but enjoy and are entitled to the same freedom to speak their views and persuade people to their point of view as much as anybody else. It would also grant Congress the power to abridge other freedoms in the First Amendment, such as freedom of assembly and freedom to petition government for the redress of grievances, and it would allow State governments to ride roughshod even over freedom of the press.

You have to wonder why in the world would intelligent, highly educated, experienced Senators—people who are knowledgeable about all of the matters I have talked about—propose such a wrongheaded idea and one they know will never become the law of the land?

Well, unfortunately, this is part of an effort to intimidate and stigmatize people from participating in the political process. We know the majority leader comes out to the floor and talks daily about the Koch brothers, whom he happens to disagree with, and he disagrees with their right and ability to participate in the political process and to affect elections. He doesn't talk about other political actors, such as organized labor, which has essentially been carved out of the limitations on political contributions and political spending. He doesn't talk about people such as Tom Steyer, a former hedge fund manager who says he will spend

\$100 million against anyone who supports the Keystone Pipeline or anyone who opposes his views on climate change.

This cherry-picking in terms of trying to intimidate people and to squelch political speech is pretty apparent. It becomes apparent because obviously the majority leader is very worried about the upcoming midterm election and what might happen when we see the pushback from voters in the Senate races all across the country over the last 5 years, and this great, huge growth in government and its intrusiveness in their lives.

Here is the bottom line: Free speech is free speech, period. To quote a recent Supreme Court decision:

There is no right more basic in our democracy than the right to participate in electing our political leaders.

As they said, there is nothing more basic.

As I mentioned a moment ago, thankfully the Founders were wise enough not only to give us the Bill of Rights and our Constitution but to make it very difficult to amend it in the first place, so we know the majority leader's amendment has no chance of actually passing. Yet its mere introduction, the fact that a major political party and a majority in the Senate apparently believes in shrinking the First Amendment in order to weaken their political opponents, should be a cause of broadspread concern in the country. People ought to ask the question: Why in the world would you propose to do something as draconian and as damaging as that?

Well, it is the kind of amendment we would expect to see not in the greatest deliberative body in the world, and certainly not in the Senate, but maybe some banana republic or some country that does not have our experience or our foundation in constitutional self-government. Therefore, it is not merely enough to reject this amendment and then quickly move on to something else. We need to send a clear, unambiguous message that the Bill of Rights is not up for debate. We need to send a clear, unambiguous message that our First Amendment freedoms represent the bedrock of American democracy, and we will not agree to undermine that, damage it, or otherwise impair it on our watch.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if my friend from Wyoming wishes to speak, we will go through the process for 3 or 4 minutes, and we will put the Senator on what we call automatic pilot if he cares to speak.

Mr. BARRASSO. I will be less than 2 minutes.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE
CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding

rule XXII, on Thursday at 1:45 p.m., all postcloture time be expired and the Senate proceed to vote on the confirmation of Calendar No. 798; further, that following the vote on that nomination, which is Burwell, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 519, and the Senate proceed to vote on the confirmation of the nomination; further, that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. With this agreement, there will be two rollcall votes beginning at 1:45.

Mr. President, we are moving this up because we have 10 or so Senators who are going to the 70th anniversary of Normandy.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to morning business with Senators being allowed to speak up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT LOAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in the fall of last year, Adrian College in Adrian, MI, made an announcement that received national attention. Adrian, one of the finest private liberal arts colleges in America, made a promise to prospective students: Beginning this fall, incoming students who graduate from Adrian carrying student loan debt and are unable to find a job that pays above a set income will be eligible for support from the college to pay part or all of that student's loan payments. The program, known as AdrianPlus, will ensure that students who are not able to find good-paying jobs after graduation will still be able to begin their work careers without facing crushing debt payments all alone.

This announcement was notable for two reasons. The first is that it represents a visionary choice on the part of President Jeffrey Docking and the rest of Adrian's leadership. I am grateful to them for showing the kind of leadership that makes Adrian a proud example of my State's outstanding higher education institutions. Adrian has long been recognized not just for the quality of its instruction, but for its efforts to make that education accessible and affordable, and this is just the latest example of the school's forward thinking.

The second reason this announcement was so notable is that it was so necessary.

As President Docking said in announcing the program, "Student debt load continues to be a national concern." That is surely the case. According to the Project on Student Debt, nearly two-thirds of graduates from Michigan colleges and universities leave school with student debt. They owe an average of more than \$28,000. The rising tide of student loan debt threatens to overwhelm the financial futures of these graduates before they can even get their working lives started. And the looming prospect of heavy loan debt threatens to keep many young people from even reaching a college campus.

Adrian College's program will not completely erase this problem, but it is a good start. Likewise, no single piece of legislation will make college more affordable, increase access to education for middle-class families, or eliminate the mountain of debt many students carry. But it is time for us to start taking some steps in the right direction. A number of Senators have introduced or are working on student loan legislation, including legislation allowing students to refinance their debt at lower interest rates. I believe the Senate should take up, debate and pass legislation to lighten the all-too-formidable load. We should explore other ways to ensure that college education is indeed affordable to all.

Study after study shows that a college education makes an enormous difference in allowing Americans to pursue rewarding careers. But if we can not ensure that all Americans have access to higher education, we shut off access to the American dream. We cannot let the disturbing trends in student debt and college costs continue unabated, and I hope that, inspired by the Adrian College example, we will act to halt and reverse those trends.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, due to unavoidable family commitments, I was unable to cast votes relative to rollcall vote Nos. 164 through 170 on Monday, June 2, and Tuesday, June 3, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted yea in each instance.

MASTROIANNI CONFIRMATION

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, earlier today, the Senate confirmed Mark Mastroianni to fill a judicial vacancy in Western Massachusetts on the District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Mr. Mastroianni came highly recommended by the Advisory Committee on Massachusetts Judicial Nominations. The advisory committee is comprised of distinguished members of the

Massachusetts legal community, including prominent academics and litigators, and is chaired by former Massachusetts district court judge Nancy Gertner. Their recommendation reflects the strong sense of the Massachusetts legal community—and in particular the legal community of Western Massachusetts—that he will make an excellent district court judge.

Mr. Mastroianni is a true son of Western Massachusetts—born in Springfield and a lifelong resident of Hampden County. Prior to his confirmation, he served as the elected district attorney for Hampden County—a position he has held since 2011. He graduated with honors from the American International College in Springfield, MA and went on to earn his law degree from Western New England College School of Law—also in Springfield, MA.

Mr. Mastroianni began his career in the Hampden County district attorney's office. He served there as an assistant district attorney for over 5 years, gaining prosecutorial experience in a wide variety of district and superior court matters. He then moved into private practice, where he built a significant career as a defense attorney representing clients in criminal and civil matters. Over the course of 16 years, he represented clients in matters before the Massachusetts State trial courts and appeals courts, as well as the district court to which he has been nominated.

In November 2010, Mastroianni ran as an independent and was successfully elected to serve as the district attorney for Hampden County in the western part of Massachusetts—a position that returned him to lead the office where he began his career. As district attorney, he was responsible for managing the prosecution of all cases in the 23 cities and towns that make up Hampden County.

Aside from the impressive qualifications of this candidate, the fact of Mark's nomination is particularly important because the seat he has been nominated to fill has been vacant for far too long—since U.S. District Court Judge Ponsor took senior status in 2011. The vacancy has strained the Federal judicial system in Western Massachusetts, causing cases to be postponed, forcing judges from Boston to travel to Springfield to hold hearings, and impeding the ability of citizens to get their day in court. Filling this vacancy as quickly as possible has been a top priority for me since I arrived in the Senate last year, and his confirmation will significantly improve the administration of justice in Western Massachusetts.

I am proud to have recommended Mark Mastroianni to President Obama. He is an independent-minded district attorney whose diverse litigation experiences, both as a top prosecutor and as

a top defense attorney, will enrich the Federal bench in Massachusetts. I have no doubt that he will have a long and distinguished career as a member of the judiciary.

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, on April 11 of this year President Obama nominated Sylvia Burwell to be the new Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services—HHS—a position that was vacated that same day by former Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

Article II, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution grants the President, as the chief executive, plenary power to nominate members of his cabinet. But that same clause reserves the power of appointment—that is, the power to accept or reject the nominee—exclusively to the Senate.

The Constitution explains this unique division of power as follows: the President “shall nominate, and”—this is important—“by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States.”

Far from a perfunctory practice, the responsibility to review the fitness of presidential nominees is one of the essential mechanisms in our Constitution's system of checks and balances.

And for the Members of this body who took an oath to “support and defend” the Constitution, this is one of the most solemn duties incumbent upon those occupying the office of United States Senator.

I urge my fellow Senators to demand that prior to confirmation Ms. Burwell provide concrete, specific, and forthright answers—in writing—to the questions that have been asked of her by Members of this body.

I refuse to sit idly by and witness the same Washington charade in which stated commitments to transparency are more important than actual demonstrations of candor.

If we do not insist that Ms. Burwell's appointment be contingent upon the transparency of her confirmation process, we will have established a dangerous precedent for the future of this body.

Let's not forget: much of the authority that resides in HHS ultimately derives from the delegation of authority from Congress. And whenever Congress delegates power to the executive branch, we do so based on the premise that we retain the power of oversight.

Therefore, we cannot, in good faith, hand over the reins of one of the most important executive departments at a time when questions remain unanswered and information is still undisclosed. Doing so would undermine the institutional prerogatives of the Senate.

When we only partially carry out our constitutional duties to check and balance the other branches, we alone are

to blame for the continued accumulation of power in the executive, where unelected bureaucrats are not always as wise or as impartial as their proponents claim them to be.

The unprecedented accumulation of power in the executive today is a demonstrable fact. But it remains an open question whether we in Congress care enough to do anything about it.

At this point, there is good reason for pessimism—if the kind of acquiescence demonstrated in this confirmation process is any indication.

But I remain optimistic, because I know that the American people still get it. Outside the beltway, Americans still instinctively understand the universal truth articulated by James Madison, the father of the Constitution, over 200 years ago—that “The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.”

This is precisely the type of accumulated power possessed by executive departments such as HHS.

This power cannot be curtailed or dispersed overnight. But it will continue to expand inexorably toward tyranny unless Members of Congress—exercising our powers as officers of a separate and coequal branch of government—don't push back.

We can begin by subjecting this nomination to the close scrutiny it deserves.

The first thing we must recognize is that this is not the average presidential nomination. We are not talking about the next secretary of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Quite the opposite: Ms. Burwell has been nominated to preside over one of the largest and most important departments in the Federal Government. No matter who the nominee, this is a job that should be filled with caution and circumspection.

By way of illustration, the HHS Secretary oversees an annual operating budget of about \$1 trillion—that is nearly 25 percent of all Federal spending—as well as 11 separate operating divisions, including the very important Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—CMS—and the Food and Drug Administration—FDA.

Moreover, the next HHS Secretary is going to assume the helm of an executive leviathan in the midst of implementing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Obamacare is not only the most complex—and controversial—law in recent memory, but it delegates an unprecedented amount of authority to the HHS Secretary.

Often this delegation comes in the form of sweeping, open-ended grants of power that give the Secretary discretion to shape and reshape the law. Like an unending series of blank checks to

the bureaucracy, Obamacare contains 700 instances of the ultimate *carte blanche*—"The Secretary shall . . ."—to give the Secretary wide latitude to "develop standards," "award grants," "establish committees," "make adjustments," etc.

This kind of massive delegation of authority is justified—especially by those who see it as a convenient way to avoid the difficulties of lawmaking—on the theory that Congress will retain and exercise some degree of oversight.

And it is true that both chambers of Congress have the ability to hold hearings in which we subpoena executive officials to testify and answer questions about laws, rules, and regulations under their jurisdiction. But as we have seen over the past few years with the implementation of Obamacare, this power is significantly impeded if those executive officials refuse to answer our questions.

These facts raise the central question that ought to guide the Senate's consideration of Ms. Burwell's nomination—namely, how will Ms. Burwell exercise the expansive authority delegated to HHS vis-à-vis the powers and responsibilities of Congress?

Much of the job of the next HHS Secretary will be to facilitate Congressional oversight of the Department, especially in its implementation of Obamacare. Therefore, the Senate's decision should be contingent upon Ms. Burwell's record of engaging with Congress.

Sadly, Ms. Burwell's tenure as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, as well as her performance in the Senate committee confirmation hearings, gives me concern that she will continue in the pattern of obfuscation and evasion established by outgoing Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

I therefore respectfully submit that we should proceed cautiously in consideration of this nominee. More cautiously, indeed, than we have up to this point.

For over the past 6 weeks, since the President nominated Ms. Burwell, many in this body have neglected our end of the constitutional division of power—preferring to act as if Ms. Burwell's appointment was a *fait accompli*.

This state of affairs is troubling—and not simply because questions remain unanswered, and information undisclosed, about Obamacare. The problem is more fundamental than any one law.

The Senate's reluctance to protest against the equivocation and distortion seen in this confirmation process undermines the separation of powers and the system of checks and balances upon which our constitutional order depends.

Respecting and upholding these principles of our Constitution is not a matter of adhering to some arcane formality or following some outdated tradition of the 18th century.

At issue here is whether or not this institution still believes in the reason our Constitution divides power in the first place. Do we still believe, as Madison said, that "power is of an encroaching nature, and that it ought to be effectually restrained from passing the limits assigned to it"?

If we do, then we must employ the tools at our disposal to assert our institutional prerogatives. Doing so will demonstrate to the other branches that the power of government is not simply up for grabs.

Here again Madison's insights are instructive: in the famous Federalist 51, he says, "the great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department, consists in giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means and personal motives to resist encroachments of the others. [. . .] Ambition must be made to counteract ambition. The interest of the man must be connected with the constitutional rights of the place."

But if we disagree with Madison about the encroaching nature of power . . . if we are undisturbed by the great accumulation of power in the executive branch, which predates and will outlive Obama's presidency . . . if we prefer to elevate policy preference and party allegiance over love of liberty and the constitutional rights of Congress . . . then we must not be surprised when—not if—our government takes on the character and the spirit of tyranny.

Let me be clear: the kind of tyranny that threatens us is not of the Saddam Hussein or Bashar al-Assad variety. The tyrannies of Saddam's Iraq and, today, Assad's Syria are barbarous, murderous dictatorships that extinguish every semblance of freedom and maintain their power through violence and brutality.

What I am talking about is the kind of soft despotism that arises when power is consolidated under the auspices of a paternal, benevolent government.

At the end of his study of democracy in 19th-century America, Alexis de Tocqueville explained how this kind of tyranny could emerge within a democratic republic such as ours. Standing as a kind of warning for us today, Tocqueville envisioned "an immense and tutelary power" that "extends its arms over society as a whole," covering it "with a network of small, complicated, painstaking, uniform rules through which the most original minds and the most vigorous souls cannot clear a way to surpass the crowd." It does not "break wills," he said, "but it softens them, bends them, and directs them; it rarely forces one to act"—even Tocqueville didn't foresee the individual mandate—"but it constantly opposes itself to one's acting; it does not destroy, it prevents things from being born."

This is certainly a dark image. But we cannot forget that Tocqueville was bullish about America. He believed that American democracy had the right attributes needed to avoid descending to these depths.

Chief among these attributes were our constitutional structures that divided power and, more importantly, the spiritedness, courage, and love of freedom that animated the American people and transformed the mere "parchment barriers" of the Constitution into true limits on governmental power.

It is precisely this spirit of freedom that the Senate must recover if we are going to fulfill our constitutional obligations in this confirmation process. Once we recognize the need to assert and defend our interests as a separate and coequal branch of the government, we will begin to focus on what is really at stake in our consideration of this nominee.

The main issue here is not Ms. Burwell's character or credentials—both of which are first-rate—but whether or not her appointment will improve or further deteriorate the legislature's oversight over the executive departments to which Congress has delegated vast amounts of authority.

The question is not whether Ms. Burwell deserves to be HHS Secretary, but whether the HHS, under Ms. Burwell's management, will continue in the pattern of obstinate autonomy and limited cooperation established under her predecessor.

If the answer is no, we cannot possibly vote to confirm this nominee.●

IN REMEMBRANCE OF D-DAY

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to remember and honor the brave Nevadans and all Americans who risked their lives defending our liberty on the beaches of Normandy, France 70 years ago. The sacrifices our brave soldiers made on this day set America and the world on a path to peace, freedom, and liberty that all Americans enjoy today.

At dawn on June 6, 1944, the Allied powers stormed the beaches of Normandy and started their march across Europe to defeat Hitler. It was one of the most important days in American history and one the biggest tests our Nation has ever faced. What is known as D-day marked the beginning of the demise of one of the worst enemies that the United States has ever had to face. The brave men that stormed Omaha Beach that day sacrificed their lives, their ambitions, and their relationships with loved ones to liberate those who were enslaved by the Nazis. Their courage demonstrated that America would not sit idly by as countries across the Atlantic suffered, reaffirming America's belief that violations of basic human rights will not be tolerated. Their unwavering service is

what has made this country so great and a beacon of democracy. These men believed that freedom was worth fighting for and that reflects what is most inspiring about the United States of America.

It is an honor to be able to commemorate this day on behalf of my fellow Nevadans as we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice and died to defend freedom. Our soldiers' commitment to this country, as well as their dedication to their families and communities, exemplified why the legacy of all World War II veterans must be preserved for generations to come. These heroes truly are the "greatest generation"—selflessly serving not for recognition, but because it was the right thing to do. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals, but to ensure they are cared for after their return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

I ask that we remember the Americans who stood against tyranny and persevered. The brave men and women who risked everything to come to the aid of others deserve our respect and appreciation, and I am both humbled and honored to recognize them here today. May we never forget the brave actions by these heroes that allowed the Allied troops to defeat tyranny.

THANKING SENATE PAGES

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I want to express my gratitude to the Senate pages that have served the Senate these past few months. The job of a Senate page is very important to the operations of the Senate and it comes with many responsibilities. These young high school students dedicate their time and talents to serve the Senate and help us carry out our duties while at the same time attending classes. I am grateful for the hard work they do each day to help make the Senate run smoothly and efficiently. Their willingness to serve their country and this body is deeply appreciated.

I want to express my personal thanks to each one of these pages: Olivia Alvarado, Alaska; Alexis Berry, Michigan; Peyton Cuzzart, Kentucky; Cally Decherd, Texas; Jim Devers, Oklahoma; Sonja France, Montana; Seth Glidewell, Alabama; Cole George, Alaska; Ammishaddai Grand-Jean, Georgia; Brandon Greene, Rhode Island; Susie Hawthorne, Montana; Jack Hostager, Iowa; Ashton Hunter, Nevada; Kathryn Jason, Alabama; Isaac Karlan-Mason, Vermont; Bowie Lam, Maine; Jason Lin, Hawaii; Layton Little, Mississippi; Dorothea Mosman, Oregon; Jody Ostrander, Nevada; Lucas Reed, Kentucky; Michael Regard, Kentucky; Riley Sanborn, Virginia; Grace Schaub,

Pennsylvania; Adele Schenk, Illinois; Jordan Shub, Pennsylvania; Madeline Toy, Tennessee; Colton Williams, Utah; and Miriam Young, Connecticut.

I am so very proud of each and every one of them and commend them for their dedication and commitment. I, along with the entire Senate, wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER ROBERT ADAMS HATCH

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor CDR Robert Adams Hatch, who retired from the U.S. Navy on June 1, 2014, after more than 28 years of honorable service.

Commander Hatch is a supply corps/logistics officer 3105 and retired following his final assignment in Voluntary Training Unit 6767 Atlanta at the Navy Operational Support Center at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, GA. Prior to his service at Dobbins ARB, he most recently completed a 3-year assignment in Joint Operations with Navy Reserve Joint Staff South in Suffolk, VA, supporting the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Additionally, he was commanding officer of the 50-member Operational Support Unit 0867 in Atlanta, GA, from May 2007 through April 2009.

From 1994 to 2003, Commander Hatch spent much of his career overseas with the Joint Contact Team Program military-to-military contacts program in Eastern Europe as part of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff initiative established in 1992 to illustrate the standard of U.S.-style military under civilian control, and to promote peace, stability, military professionalism and closer ties to NATO for former Communist countries in Eastern Europe. He served on the Military Liaison Team, living and working in Albania under arduous conditions from 1994 to 1998, and was twice evacuated from Albania in March 1997 and August 1998. After the second evacuation in 1998, then-Lieutenant Commander Hatch worked at Headquarters, United States European Command/ECJ5-J, as joint contact team program desk officer for Poland, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan. He returned to the United States in 2003.

Commander Hatch is also a key team leader on the Atlanta Funeral Honors Team, having conducted more than 450 Navy, Coast Guard, and joint military funerals for Reserve and Active Duty veterans since 2008.

Born in Abington, PA, Commander Hatch moved in 1972 to Atlanta, GA, and grew up in that great city. His father, CAPT James C. Hatch, served in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps, and was a classmate of President Jimmy Carter

at the Naval Academy. His father retired after dedicating 26 years of active service, including World War II, and in the Korea and Vietnam wars. Following his retirement, I had the pleasure of working with Jim Hatch at Northside Realty. And the family's Georgia credentials don't stop there. Captain Jim Hatch's brother, Edwin I. Hatch, was president of Georgia Power Company, and the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, located near Baxley, GA, was duly named in tribute to his leadership.

In addition to his distinguished military career, CDR Robert Hatch has had a meaningful civilian life, including 4 years with Coca-Cola USA. He is currently managing director and independent marketing associate of Ignite/Stream Energy, a funeral attendant with Service Corps International in Atlanta, and an actor participating in movies and television shows filming in Georgia.

Commander Hatch's military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Joint Service Commendation Medals, Navy Commendation Medal, six Joint Meritorious Unit Awards, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, two National Defense Service Medals, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, nine Navy & Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbons, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and a Navy Pistol Marksmanship Medal.

I send my great thanks to Commander Hatch for his extensive meritorious service to our proud nation, and I thank and congratulate his family and friends for supporting his service to the United States of America.●

ROSLYN, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of Roslyn, SD. Since its founding in 1914 the city has flourished from its humble pioneer origins to a vibrant South Dakota community. The people of Roslyn will be celebrating their centennial anniversary the weekend of June 20–22.

Named by the area's first postmaster after his native city in Scotland, the township was moved from Old Roslyn to its current location alongside the Soo Railroad. In 1914 on the same day that Roslyn's lots were first sold at public auction, a troupe of entertainers performed for the community, setting a lively foundation for the city.

Residents of Roslyn will start off the centennial celebration with an antique tractor run. The weekend will continue with musical concerts, a 5k walk/run, and many other activities. On Sunday, the festival will wrap up with a non-denominational service and a string band performance by Threshing Bee.

Small towns like Roslyn embody what it means to be a South Dakotan

community. I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Roslyn and to offer my congratulations to the residents of the town on this historic milestone.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2422. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2432. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5918. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administrator's Semiannual Management Report to Congress for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5919. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Further Guidance on the Implementation of FATCA and Related Withholding Provisions" (Notice 2014-33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5920. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "HHS Secretary's Efforts to Improve Children's Health Care Quality in Medicaid and CHIP"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5921. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, trans-

mitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Interim Report to Congress on the Community First Choice (CFC) Option"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5922. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5923. A joint communication from the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5924. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial and Industrial Electric Motors" (RIN1904-AC28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5925. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report relative to the status of the Commission's licensing activities and regulatory duties; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5926. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Preheat and Interpass Temperature Control for the Welding of Low-Alloy Steel for Use in Fuel Reprocessing Plans and in Plutonium Processing and Fuel Fabrication Plants" (Regulatory Guide 3.29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5927. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NRC Acquisition of Supplies and Services" (Management Directive 11.1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5928. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Intermediary Relending Program" (RIN0570-AA86) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 28, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5929. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2014-2015 Marketing Year" (Docket No. AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1 FR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 27, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5930. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Cotton and To-

bacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "User Fees for 2014 Crop Cotton Classification Services to Growers" ((RIN0581-AD35) (Docket No. AMS-CN-13-0085)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 27, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5931. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Advantame" (Docket No. FDA-2009-F-0303) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 27, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5932. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Copayment for Medications in 2014" (RIN2900-A091) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 27, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5933. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Accelerated Cost Recovery System" (Rev. Rul. 2014-17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 27, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5934. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property" (Rev. Rul. 2014-16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 27, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5935. A communication from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the "2014 Report to Congress on Vulnerability Assessments for Fiscal Year 2013" (OSS-2014-0741); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5936. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan, Conformity Budgets, Emissions Inventories; State of New York" (FRL No. 9911-56-Region 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5937. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions for Permitting of Particulate Matter with Diameters Less Than or Equal to 2.5 Micrometers (PM2.5)" (FRL No. 9909-35-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5938. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Determination and Certification under Section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act relative to countries not cooperating fully with United States antiterrorism efforts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5939. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-039); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5940. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-048); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5941. A joint communication from the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials' travel to Afghanistan for the period of June 1, 2014 through September 20, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5942. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense assigning women to previously closed positions in the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5943. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Reserve Component Equipment Procurement and Military Construction for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 2425. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to reduce the shortage of psychiatrists in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs by repaying loans for certain psychiatrists, to carry out a pilot program to provide housing allowances to health care providers of the Veterans Health Administration who accept assignment at rural and highly rural clinics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2426. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require that the Director of the Bureau of Prisons ensure that each chief executive officer of a Federal penal or correctional institution provides a secure storage area located outside of the secure perimeter of the Federal penal or correctional institution for firearms carried by certain employees of the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2427. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate Federal and State permitting processes related to the construction of new surface water storage projects on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and to designate the Bureau of Reclamation as the lead agency for permit processing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 2428. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs provides temporary care in the most cost effective manner when patients are relocated during medical facility construction and renovation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2429. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance to employer payment of interest on certain refinanced student loans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 2430. A bill to establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for Monitoring the Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 2431. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the West Hunter Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. REID, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2432. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S.J. Res. 37. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to parental rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S.J. Res. 38. A joint resolution conferring honorary citizenship of the United States on Bernardo de Galvez y Madrid, Viscount of Galveston and Count of Galvez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 467. A resolution recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Fishermen's Terminal

in the Port of Seattle and celebrating Seattle's rich maritime heritage and its importance to the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 506

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide recruitment and retention incentives for volunteer emergency service workers.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish.

S. 958

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 958, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level, and for other purposes.

S. 1188

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1188, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of the individual mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. 1324

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1324, a bill to prohibit any regulations promulgated pursuant to a presidential memorandum relating to power sector carbon pollution standards from taking effect.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1495

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1495, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an order with respect to secondary cockpit barriers, and for other purposes.

S. 1647

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1647, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal distributions for medicine qualified only if for prescribed drug or insulin.

S. 1708

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1708, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to the establishment of performance measures for the highway safety improvement program, and for other purposes.

S. 1761

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1761, a bill to permanently extend the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009 and establish a private right of action to enforce compliance with such Act.

S. 1875

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1875, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 1883

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1883, a bill to extend duty-free treatment for certain trousers, breeches, or shorts imported from Nicaragua, and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2004, a bill to ensure the safety of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, as they travel on and across federally funded streets and highways.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. WALSH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2125, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 2162

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2162, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a deduction for married couples who are both employed and have young children and to increase the earned income tax credit for childless workers, and to provide for budget offsets.

S. 2208

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2208, a bill to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2358

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2358, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize additional leave for members of the Armed Forces in connection with the birth of a child.

S. 2363

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2370

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2370, a bill to rescind unused earmarks provided for the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 2405

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2405, a bill to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain trauma care programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2408

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2408, a bill to authorize the exploration, leasing, development, and production of oil and gas in and from the western portion of the Coastal Plain of the State of Alaska without surface occupancy, and for other purposes.

S. 2409

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr.

BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2409, a bill to authorize the exploration, leasing, development, production, and economically feasible and prudent transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain in Alaska.

S. 2413

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2413, a bill to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2414

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2414, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the regulation of emissions of carbon dioxide from new or existing power plants under certain circumstances.

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2414, supra.

S. 2422

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2422, a bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 36

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 36, a joint resolution relating to the approval and implementation of the proposed agreement for nuclear cooperation between the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 2428. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs provides temporary care in the most cost effective manner when patients are relocated during medical facility construction and renovation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, following the resignation of Secretary Shinseki last week, it is time for some deep soul-searching about the future of the Department of Veterans Affairs. As details slowly emerge from the inspector general's investigation, I am struck by a disturbing aspect of organizational culture within the VA that prioritizes

meeting goals and checking boxes instead of providing true quality care for veterans. Secretary Shinseki himself was a decorated veteran, and I am sure he must have been as frustrated as all of us to find some of the things that were happening.

There is an overwhelming current rushing toward the path of least resistance for "reporting" care for the men and women who served this Nation admirably and with dedication. But we should not lose sight of the hard work and commitment of the many men and women working in the VA system every day striving to provide effective and timely care to veterans. We have to tell ourselves that there is really no shortcut to quality care for veterans. The VA has rightly been under intense pressure and scrutiny to live up to the promise we made to veterans when they agreed to serve.

We have many people in this body and the other body who voted for a war that I think historians will call a disaster—the war in Iraq. For the first time in America's history, they voted for a war and did not do anything to pay for it—no tax to pay for it or anything else. Ten years later, though, they say: We have to watch the cost of VA health care and all that; we have to find the money. Well, that did not bother them when they sent these men and women to war. Let's take care of them now.

It has become apparent that at facilities across the United States some VA employees have decided to choose to simply tell those above them and those of us with oversight responsibility what they want to hear, over providing quality care in a timely fashion. And that is appalling and unacceptable.

But most VA employees are tireless servants. Many are veterans themselves. For those men and women who give their all for our veterans, it is becoming evident that the system of incentives and disincentives may have worked against them. For example, it appears that the criteria for bonuses are too weighted towards reported metrics, rather than toward taking the time to understand the outcomes behind the statistics. What sort of message is sent to good employees when their "success" depends only on a small part of the picture of veterans' care?

There should be no shortcut to quality care for veterans in Washington policymaking circles either. The mere replacement of a cabinet secretary results in neither accountability nor reform. Even widespread firing of SES-level government employees will not automatically result in providing quality care for veterans. Other meaningful and more comprehensive reforms are needed, and without delay. Earlier this year my distinguished colleague from Vermont Senator SANDERS introduced an expansive collection of many needed

reforms. Unfortunately, like so many bills we have tried to consider this year, partisan objections stalled progress based on procedural rather than substantive matters. Some of the same people who have been so critical of this administration and the VA were the same ones who voted to block going forward with needed reforms.

Well, the Senate is going to get another opportunity to consider a comprehensive collection of reforms. It must prompt some meaningful bipartisan action here in the Senate. Let's not play "gotcha." Let's play "help you" to the veterans. That is what we need to do. Congress has an obligation to consider, debate, and vote on the reforms needed to make our system of care for veterans both efficient and effective.

My wife began her nursing career as a brand new registered nurse in a VA hospital. I know how hard she and those around her worked. They were veterans of a different generation, but they needed help and care just as much as everybody else.

So I look forward to the Senate's consideration of the legislation introduced yesterday by Senator SANDERS. I am proud to cosponsor it. Many reforms are needed within the VA, and the Ensuring Veterans Access to Care Act takes important steps toward achieving these changes.

Of course, additional reforms are needed. So today I am introducing legislation to address one shortfall at the VA that has existed far too long. Current law provides a disincentive to cost-effective, onsite medical care solutions when operating rooms are refurbished or rebuilt within a VA hospital or care facility. Because the VA must report any major medical facility costs exceeding \$10 million to Congress, the VA is encouraged to pay for veterans care at outside facilities, including travel to and from those facilities, out of the medical services account. It is robbing Peter to pay Paul. It is a different pot of money. So that way they do not have to have an extensive report. But the best solution for veterans and the bottom line may very well be a temporary onsite facility.

The bill is simple but attempts to take the allure of a shortcut away by ensuring that the expenses of temporary offsite care are also calculated and reported.

Senator SANDERS, the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, has said: "If you think it's too expensive to take care of our veterans, then don't send them to war." He is right. We paid for two unfunded wars on a credit card. Now it is time we invest in those who put themselves in harm's way to protect our security. It is time for us to worry about some of the things we need to do here at home. It is time.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 2430. A bill to establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for Monitoring the Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I first congratulate my colleague Senator ISAKSON for doing a good job of summarizing exactly where we are and the problems we are experiencing with the complexity of the Affordable Care Act and the hope that the new Secretary will be responsive, as the Senator so eloquently pointed out when he questioned her when she came before the committee. I thank the Senator for making an excellent speech and making excellent points, and I will endeavor to do the same, as we are talking about the same subject.

My remarks are once again on the Affordable Care Act. I know we have other issues, many important issues—the Veterans' Administration, the release of terrorists in an exchange—but it is equally important we continue to shed light on the many failings of this law.

During the very first debate on the Affordable Care Act, I distinctly remember comparing this rush to government health care as akin to riding hell-for-leather into a box canyon to find the only alternative would be to turn around, ride back out, and get on a more realistic, market-oriented health reform trail.

Then I put it another way. I said: There are a lot of cactuses out there. We didn't have to sit on every one of them.

We never even saw the bill before we voted on it. I think everybody understands that. I voted no and so did every Republican Senator and Member of Congress. This was not a bipartisan effort.

I regret to say to my colleagues that I told you so, and here we are in a box canyon. Until the administration provides us more details to the contrary, we have to assume that more Americans are losing the care they liked, through cancellation notices, than they have enrolled in the exchanges. They are in a box canyon.

It is now estimated that ObamaCare will cost the Nation nearly \$2 trillion and has created higher premiums, higher taxes, less choice, confusion, delays, and problem after problem. Unfortunately, the President and his allies in the Congress continue to protect this law, despite its toll on our economy, our patients, and our providers.

The President promised, as we all remember: We'll lower premiums for a typical family by \$2,500 per year.

Valerie from Wichita, KS, wrote me a letter to share her story on this broken promise. She writes:

I wanted to let you know that I had to drop my company health insurance due to the Affordable Care Act. My premium before the

Act was \$250 a month and my employer paid \$100 a month toward the premium.

My insurance year expired April 1st and the new year is under the ACA health insurance. The new plan is now much higher at \$565 a month and my employer can only afford to pitch in \$150 a month. I had to drop my plan due to unaffordability. I could not pay the \$415 a month.

The President also promised, highly publicized: "If you like your health care plan, you'll be able to keep your health care plan, period," and, "If you like your doctor, you'll be able to keep your doctor."

This law has significantly disrupted the individual health insurance market by imposing mandates and causing at least 5 million Americans to lose the insurance they had or have.

Doug, also from Wichita, wrote to share his personal story on this one. He said:

I am a small business owner who just got my family's health insurance cancelled. I have talked it through with [the insurance company] and at a minimum I will be paying 63% more per month for coverage that has a deductible 3 times greater than what I had and my doctor may or may not be in the network.

Doug continues on to say:

The only topic that matters in Washington is stopping the insanity of [ObamaCare].

Most important, the President promised, "I will protect Medicare." This law cuts over \$700 billion from Medicare to pay for ObamaCare. Part of those cuts come from the establishment, the establishment of an Independent Payment Advisory Board—what a wonderful acronym for this board—IPAB. This Board is supposed to be made up of 15 unelected bureaucrats who will decide which treatments in Medicare coverage should be taken away with regard to reimbursement. As I have stated on the Senate floor before, the IPAB has no accountability and their decisions are practically impossible to overturn.

The administration continues to give us piecemeal data on exchange enrollments, delays provisions of the law that they can't implement on time or simply wants to delay—a large serving of politics involved—and is providing exclusive waivers and special deals to unions and others from the yoke of ObamaCare.

In fact, the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service confirmed that the administration has missed half of the mandated deadlines of this law. Most recently, press reports have indicated the government may be paying incorrect subsidies to more than 1 million Americans for their health care plans in the new Federal insurance exchanges, and they have so far been unable to fix the errors. Obviously, this poses a lot of problems for a lot of people.

Unfortunately, the President and his allies in Congress continue to protect this law despite its toll on our economy, patients, and providers.

A new Health and Human Services Secretary has been nominated, Sylvia Mathews Burwell, as Senator ISAKSON referred to, but with ObamaCare, nothing will alter. We are headed for socialized medicine. ObamaCare is the President's legacy. The President will unilaterally change what suits him best.

The hard-working taxpayers who are paying for this law, in large part from the 21 tax increases contained in it, have a right to some answers. That is right, I said 21 tax increases. Just some of these taxes include the following: the individual mandate tax, where people have to pay the government for not having insurance, even if they can't afford it; the employer mandate tax, where an employer pays a tax because they may have chosen to forgo providing insurance to their employees instead of having to lay off workers; the health insurance tax, which will be passed along to individuals in the form of higher premiums; the medical device tax.

I could go on and on. Many of these taxes have bipartisan support to be repealed, but we can't even get a vote on those.

With a \$1.8 trillion pricetag, this bill is so far-reaching it is difficult to find a Federal agency that doesn't have a hand in this pot; from your doctor's office to your wallet, to your privacy. That is why I am introducing today a bill to require a special inspector general for monitoring the Affordable Care Act. We call it the SIGMA Act. It is the Special Inspector General for Monitoring the Affordable Health Care Act.

While all of the Federal agencies charged with implementing the Affordable Care Act have Offices of the Inspector General—and they do, they are all investigating this law in their own silo—where have we heard that before with a lot of problems within the Federal Government—the Health and Human Services inspector general isn't talking to the Treasury IG or the Department of Labor IG or the Homeland Security IG or any one of those with each other.

This bill would give appropriate authority to investigate and to audit any programs or activities related to this law across the many Federal departments, State exchanges, and private contractors.

The legislation will require a report to be submitted to Congress and the American people 6 months after enactment and quarterly reports for the duration of time the Affordable Care Act is on the books. They have broad authority to review all aspects of the law. Things such as the following:

Changes in the health insurance marketplace, the amount of folks who have seen their premiums and out-of-pocket costs increased, shrinking physician and other provider networks. We have a right to know that.

The employer mandate, its effect on worker hours, employers' hiring, and

the number of businesses subjected to the penalty. We have a right to know that.

The healthcare.gov Web site, its security, functionality, and verification systems. We have read a lot about that, but we have a right to know.

Duties of the Internal Revenue Service, plans for calculating subsidy overpayments and underpayments, how they will notify these individuals and what their plans are for recapturing these overpayments.

Medicare cuts via the IPAB, they will provide an analysis of the impact on medical outcomes for our seniors as a result of these cuts. We should know that.

All of these questions could and should be answered by a special inspector general. The bill would equip the special IG with the same investigative and law enforcement authority as standing inspectors general, including subpoena and audit powers to compel responses from the administration.

President Obama has claimed that his—his—is “the most transparent administration in history” and that his administration is committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in government. Given these statements, I think the President should embrace the idea of a special inspector general for his health care law. After all, we need to know the outcomes of the 41 changes he has already made to the law.

It would provide increased transparency so the general public has a better understanding about this law. It would protect taxpayer dollars, and by providing an independent analysis of this law, it will allow the administration and Congress to make more informed decisions and work together on how we move forward with reforms to our health care system. I believe we need to do everything possible to repeal and replace this law with real health care reform—reforms that lower costs and restore the all-important relationship between a patient and a doctor.

However, as long as this law is on the books, we need a watchdog or a special inspector general to investigate the implementation of this law and ensure that our scarce taxpayer dollars are being spent in an appropriate manner. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in support of this bill in calling for increased oversight of the affordable—or unaffordable—health care law.

Let's ride out of the box canyon. Let's get on a better health care reform trail, and on the way we certainly don't have to sit on every cactus that comes along.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. REID, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs.

BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2432. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; read the first time.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, outstanding student loans now total more than \$1.2 trillion and millions of young people are struggling to keep up with their payments. But we have a chance to give those borrowers immediate relief by cutting the interest rates on existing student loans. Make no mistake—this is an emergency. Federal watchdog agencies such as the Federal Reserve, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the Treasury Department are already sounding the alarm.

Forty million Americans are saddled with student loan debt. It is holding them back, and it is holding our economy back too. Crushing student loan debt is keeping many young people from moving out of their parents' homes, from saving for a downpayment, from buying homes, buying cars, starting small businesses, saving for retirement, or making the purchases that grow our economy.

It doesn't have to be this way. Congress set artificially high interest rates on old student loans that generate extra money for the government. The GAO recently projected that just the slice of Federal student loans issued between 2007 and 2012 will generate \$66 billion for the U.S. Government. Those are the kinds of profits that would make a Fortune 500 CEO proud.

These young people didn't go to the mall and run up charges on a credit card. They worked hard and learned new skills that will benefit this country and help us build a stronger America. They deserve a fair shot at an affordable education. We can give them a fair shot by cutting those interest rates and cutting those government profits.

Along with more than 30 of my colleagues, I introduced the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act to do just that. The idea is simple. With interest rates near historic lows, homeowners, businesses, and even local governments have refinanced their debts. But a graduate who took out an unsubsidized loan before July 1 of last year is locked into an interest rate of

nearly 7 percent. Older loans run 8 percent, 9 percent, 10 percent, and even higher. We need to bring those rates down, and we need to do it now. The Bank on Students bill would give student loan borrowers the opportunity to lower their interest rates on old loans to match the rates the government offers to new borrowers today. That is 3.8 percent for undergraduate loans, 5.41 percent for graduate loans, and 6.41 percent for PLUS loans.

I want to be clear. These rates are still higher than what it costs the government to run the student loan program. The government won't be subsidizing student loans. In fact, the government will be making a profit on these loans—just a much smaller profit. And let's also be clear that our work is not done until we eliminate all of the profits from the student loan program.

But this is a step that both Republicans and Democrats can easily support right now. Last year nearly every Republican in Congress in both the House and the Senate voted for the exact same loan rates that are in this legislation. If Republicans believe that 3.86 percent is good enough for new undergraduate borrowers, then it should be good enough for all the existing undergraduate borrowers. There is no reason on Earth to say that some kids could get a better deal than others when they all worked hard to do exactly what we wanted them to do—get an education.

Passing this bill would have a real impact for people who are struggling to make it—college students, young graduates who are only starting to build their lives, parents who are juggling their own student loans and trying to figure out how they are going to pay for their kids' educations, and parents who guaranteed their kids' student loans. Student loan refinancing can save real money for millions of Americans, and they are voicing their support. Letters, emails, and phone calls are already pouring in, and petitions for the bill's passage have already garnered hundreds of thousands of signatures. Think tanks such as Demos and the Center for American Progress, student groups such as Generation Progress and Young Invincibles, and teachers groups such as the AFT and NEA have all come forward and endorsed this proposal.

Today the Congressional Budget Office announced that the bill actually saves billions of dollars and reduces the Federal deficit. That is because the refinancing proposal is fully paid for by implementing the Buffett rule, which limits the ability of millionaires and billionaires to exploit tax loopholes and pay a lower tax rate than middle-class families.

Later today we will introduce an updated version of this legislation in the hopes that we will be able to consider it on the floor of the Senate very soon.

I am encouraged by the fact that some Republicans have also come forward to say they are open to considering a refinancing proposal. I want to be clear. This should not be a partisan issue. I am eager to work with any of my colleagues regardless of party who believe that we need to do something about this growing debt crisis. If they have issues with the proposal, if they want to suggest different offsets or policy changes, they should bring their ideas forward. We are ready to hear them.

What we cannot do is continue to ignore this problem and hope that it will go away on its own. Congress made this mess by setting artificially high interest rates that are crushing our kids. It is Congress's responsibility to clean it up. Refinancing won't fix everything that is broken with our higher education system, but the need for comprehensive reform must not blind us to the urgency of addressing massive debt that is already crushing young people.

This is personal for me. I grew up in an America that made it a priority to invest in young people, and it opened a million doors for me. I will keep fighting to make sure that every kid who works hard and plays by the rules gets a fair shot. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill. Student loan borrowers don't have armies of lobbyists to fight for them, but they have their voices and they are asking for our support. Let's give it to them.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 467—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FISHERMEN'S TERMINAL IN THE PORT OF SEATTLE AND CELEBRATING SEATTLE'S RICH MARITIME HERITAGE AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 467

Whereas Fishermen's Terminal in the Port of Seattle was officially dedicated on January 10, 1914, becoming the first operational facility in the Port of Seattle;

Whereas Fishermen's Terminal was the first commercial property purchased by the Port of Seattle and is located just east of the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks on the Lake Washington Ship Canal;

Whereas Fishermen's Terminal is home to the North Pacific Fishing Fleet and provides moorage for 400 commercial fishing vessels and work boats;

Whereas Fishermen's Terminal is critical to the operations of the Port of Seattle, the port of entry for 50 percent of the total seafood caught in the United States;

Whereas there is a strong connection between the fishing and shipping industries of the Port of Seattle, and seafood exported out of the Port of Seattle was valued at more than \$997,000,000 in 2012;

Whereas the fishing fleets of Fishermen's Terminal harvest a wide variety of fish including salmon, halibut, Pacific cod, Alaska Pollock, sablefish, rock fish, whiting, yellowfin, sole, albacore, crab, shrimp, and other shellfish;

Whereas the fishing vessels that moor at Fishermen's Terminal include crabbers, longliners, purse seiners, trawlers, and trollers, and often fish in Alaskan waters such as Southeast Alaska, Bristol Bay, and the Bering Sea;

Whereas for the last century, Fishermen's Terminal has played a critical role in the fishing and maritime industry in both Washington and Alaska;

Whereas Fishermen's Terminal directly contributes and supports maritime jobs, and is a major driver of the maritime economy of the Pacific Northwest, which generates \$30,000,000,000 annually for the State of Washington;

Whereas annually, the fishing industry at the Port of Seattle creates 15,600 jobs, has a total payroll of \$1,900,000,000 per year, and generates \$814,000,000 in annual revenue for private businesses;

Whereas 34,500 Washington residents are employed by the Alaskan seafood industry;

Whereas Fishermen's Terminal contributes to the economic diversity and resilience of the Pacific Northwest due to the many industries it supports, including vessel construction, maintenance, and repair activity that brings vendors and suppliers together with a network of bankers, insurers, and other businesses that support fishing and shipping;

Whereas much of the infrastructure and businesses surrounding Fishermen's Terminal have been in place as long as the Terminal, and make up the most important economic maritime cluster of fish processing, cold storage, vessel fabrication, and barge and tug operations businesses in the United States;

Whereas the shore side support businesses surrounding Fishermen's Terminal employ a wide range of machinists, trade workers, and artisans who are skilled in traditional maritime crafts such as wood-working, fiberglass repair, painting, sail making, brass brightworking, marine engineering, and naval architecture;

Whereas Fishermen's Terminal is more than just a place to moor, repair, and maintain boats, and gives the Seattle community a sense of identity as a place where people work with their hands in industries that help define the region; and

Whereas Fishermen's Terminal is a cultural resource that is always open to the public, is home to the Fishermen's Memorial, a towering bronze sculpture that lists the names of 675 men and women who have lost their lives in their pursuit of the bounty of the sea, hosts thousands of people every September for the Fishermen's Fall Festival to celebrate the homecoming of Washington fishermen after a summer at sea, and is surrounded by lively restaurants, shops, and businesses that support the community and those in the fishing industry: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that May 28, 2014 is the official centennial of Fishermen's Terminal; and

(2) praises the ongoing contributions of Fishermen's Terminal to the welfare of countless individuals, the fishing industry, the Port of Seattle, the State of Washington, and the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 4, 2014, at 9:30 am, in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "NRC's Implementation of the Fukushima Near-Term Task Force Recommendations and other Actions to Enhance and Maintain Nuclear Safety."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 4, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Evaluating Port Security: Progress Made and Challenges Ahead."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 4, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Judicial Nominations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 4, 2014, at 3 pm in Room 432 of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "From Military Service to Small Business Owners: Supporting America's Veteran Entrepreneurs."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 4, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "Student Loan Servicing: The Borrower's Experience."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIVACY, TECHNOLOGY, AND
THE LAW

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 4, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "The Location Privacy Protection Act of 2014."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF A.
PHILIP RANDOLPH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 218 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 218) honoring the legacy of A. Philip Randolph and saluting his efforts on behalf of the people of the United States to form "a more perfect union."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 218) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 218

Whereas A. Philip Randolph was born on April 15, 1889, and grew up in Jacksonville, Florida;

Whereas Mr. Randolph attended the Cookman Institute, one of the first high schools for African-Americans in the United States, located in Jacksonville, Florida, and graduated valedictorian of his class in 1907;

Whereas Mr. Randolph was an inspirational person who demonstrated an unyielding struggle for human rights on behalf of marginalized groups in society;

Whereas Mr. Randolph was active in both the civil rights movement and the labor movement in the United States;

Whereas Mr. Randolph was a tireless and highly effective advocate for African-American rights during the 1930s and 1940s, focusing particularly on employment rights;

Whereas Mr. Randolph led the effort to organize the porters of the Pullman Company, one of the largest railroad car companies in the United States at that time;

Whereas Mr. Randolph founded the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, an organiza-

tion that advanced the rights of African-American workers to dignity, respect, and a decent livelihood;

Whereas Mr. Randolph urged President Franklin Roosevelt to end employment discrimination against African-Americans in the Federal Government;

Whereas, after the urging of Mr. Randolph, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 (6 Fed. Reg. 3109) on June 25, 1941, declaring that "there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries and in government because of race, creed, color, or national origin" and established the Fair Employment Practices Commission to oversee that order;

Whereas Mr. Randolph urged President Harry Truman to end segregation in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas, after the urging of Mr. Randolph, President Truman issued Executive Order 9981 (13 Fed. Reg. 4313) on July 26, 1948, declaring that "[T]here shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale." and closed the segregated Marine Corps boot camp at Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina;

Whereas Mr. Randolph was actively involved in the planning and organization of many civil rights efforts, including the prayer pilgrimage for freedom in 1957, the marches for school integration in 1958 and 1959, and the March on Washington in 1963;

Whereas Mr. Randolph was the first speaker of the day at the March on Washington on August 28, 1963, during which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech;

Whereas the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352; 78 Stat. 241), the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-110; 79 Stat. 437), and the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-284; 82 Stat. 73) are the fruits of the seeds that Mr. Randolph and others like him sowed many years before;

Whereas Mr. Randolph helped to found the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights;

Whereas Amtrak named one of its luxury sleeping cars, the Superliner II Deluxe Sleeper 32503, the "A. Philip Randolph" in honor of Mr. Randolph;

Whereas a bust in the likeness of Mr. Randolph stands in Union Station in Washington, DC, as a tribute to his work on behalf of African-American rail workers;

Whereas, in 1964, Mr. Randolph was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Lyndon Johnson;

Whereas the civil rights revolution was launched, in no small part, based on the efforts of Mr. Randolph and the work of statesmen like him; and

Whereas, upon the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington in 2013, it is fitting to honor the work of Mr. Randolph and his commitment to a better United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the legacy of A. Philip Randolph and salutes his efforts on behalf of the people of the United States to form "a more perfect union".

HONORING THE LIFE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND LEGACY OF
BILLY FRANK, JR.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 463.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 463) honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Billy Frank, Jr., and expressing condolences on his passing.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 463) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of Thursday, May 22, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
FISHERMEN'S TERMINAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 467.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 467) recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Fishermen's Terminal in the Port of Seattle and celebrating Seattle's rich maritime heritage and its importance to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 467) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 2432

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S. 2432, it is my understanding, was introduced earlier today and is due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2432) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I ask for a second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive a second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow, June 5, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 1:45 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the second 30 minutes and that the final 20 minutes be equally divided and controlled between Senators WYDEN and HATCH or their designees, with Senator WYDEN controlling the final 10 minutes; and that at 1:45 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be up to, as I mentioned, two rollcall votes at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order, following the remarks of the distinguished junior Senator from Wyoming, and that he be recognized for up to 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wyoming.

RECALLING TIANANMEN SQUARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today marks the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The violent suppression and forcible dispersion in Tiananmen Square by the

Government of China resulted in the death and injury of peaceful demonstrators.

I have worked with Members of the Senate from both sides of the aisle, through the Foreign Relations Committee, on a resolution expressing sympathy to the families of those killed, those tortured, and those imprisoned due to their participation in the peaceful democracy movement in Tiananmen Square.

Our resolution also calls out the Government of China for subjecting its citizens to physical attacks, harassment, and detention for attempting to discuss or commemorate the events of June 1989.

The Chinese authorities to this day continue to block and censor public discussions and events marking the anniversary of Tiananmen Square.

The resolution also condemns the ongoing human rights abuses by the Government of China.

The United States has a long record of championing liberty and freedom around the world. The Senate must stand up and support those individuals who have in the past and continue to this very day to demand their rights in China.

So Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 383, S. Res. 451. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 451) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 15, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. BARRASSO. Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

(Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:34 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 5, 2014, at 10 a.m.)

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN R. BASS, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY.

LESLIE ANN BASSETT, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY.

ALLAN P. MUSTARD, OF WASHINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO TURKMENISTAN.

TODD D. ROBINSON, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. WARREN H. HURST, JR.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. WALTER E. CARTER, JR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 5043 AND 601:

To be general

JOSEPH F. DUNFORD, JR.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY, UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 9333(B) AND 9336(A):

To be colonel

TROY R. HARTING

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

WILLIAM E. BUNDY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12204:

To be colonel

DAVID V. EASTHAM

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

ROBERT L. BOYLES
ROBERT A. CRISOSTOMO
MICHAEL J. PERRY
JOHN E. ROZSNYAI
CURT R. SIMONSON
MATTHEW D. SMITH
TYLER B. SMITH

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

THOR MARTINSEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTOPHER S. MAYFIELD

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 211(A)(2):

To be lieutenant commander

ANGELA R. HOLBROOK
MARTHA A. RODRIGUEZ

June 4, 2014

CONFIRMATIONS

THE JUDICIARY

TANYA S. CHUTKAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DIS-
TRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Executive nominations confirmed by
the Senate June 4, 2014:

MARK G. MASTROIANNI, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF
MASSACHUSETTS.

BRUCE HOWE HENDRICKS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF
SOUTH CAROLINA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

STEFAN M. SELIG, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNDER SEC-
RETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 9

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine border security, focusing on the implications of S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents.

SD-342

JUNE 10

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing on the Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl prisoner exchange.

SVC-217

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's semi-annual report to Congress.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Oversight

To hold hearings to examine protecting taxpayers and ensuring accountability,

focusing on faster Superfund cleanups for healthier communities.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce

To hold hearings to examine Federal and information technology (IT) initiatives and the IT workforce, focusing on a more efficient and effective government.

SD-342

JUNE 11

10 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the security, economic and human rights dimensions of United States-Azerbaijan relations.

SR-432

2 p.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-608

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SR-253

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 919, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, S. 1447, to make technical corrections to certain Native American water rights settlements in the State of New Mexico, S. 1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S. 2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and S. 2188, to

amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on higher education for American Indian students.

SD-628

JUNE 12

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine securing radiological materials.

SD-342

JUNE 18

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 1948, to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program, S. 1998, to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to reserve funds for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Tribal College or University adult education and literacy, and S. 2299, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.

SD-628

JUNE 19

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Laura Junor, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Gordon O. Tanner, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Miranda A. A. Ballentine, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy, all of the Department of Defense, and Monica C. Regalbutto, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management.

SH-216

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, June 5, 2014

The House met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 5, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

Reverend Oran Warder, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Using the words of those who have led our Nation in times past and who have been led by their faith:

Gracious God, give us clear minds and good intentions, "with malice toward none, with charity for all. With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in."

And help us always to remember the limits we face and the One we serve. "With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history as the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth and lead the land and people we love, asking God's blessings and God's help, but knowing that, here on Earth, God's work must truly be our own."

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 604, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 4, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 4, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2270.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276(d) and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. HIGGINS, New York
Ms. SLAUGHTER, New York
Mr. MEEKS, New York
Mr. LARSEN, Washington
Mr. DEFAZIO, Oregon

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4(b) of the World War I Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 112-272) and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following individual on the part of the House to the World War I Centennial Commission to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Ms. Monique Seefried, Atlanta, Georgia

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2270. An act to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(b) of House Resolution

604, the House stands adjourned until noon on Monday, June 9, 2014, for morning-hour debate.

Thereupon (at 3 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, June 9, 2014, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5861. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's "Major" final rule — Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Enhanced Supplementary Leverage Ratio Standards for Certain Bank Holding Companies and Their Subsidiary Insured Depository Institutions (RIN: 3064-AE01) received May 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5862. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial and Industrial Electric Motors [Docket No.: EERE-2010-BT-STD-0027] (RIN: 1904-AC28) received May 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5863. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Policy Division, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule — Revisions of Parts 2 and 25 of the Commission's Rules to Govern the Use of Earth Stations Aboard Aircraft Communicating with Fixed-Satellite Service Geostationary-Orbit Space Stations Operating in the 10.95-11.2 GHz, 11.45-11.7 GHz, 11.7-12.2 GHz and 14.0-14.5 GHz Frequency Bands [IB Docket No.: 12-376] received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5864. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-336, "Better Prices, Better Quality, Better Choices for Health Coverage Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5865. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-337, "Transportation Infrastructure Improvements GARVEE Bond Financing Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5866. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-338, "Shiloh Way Designation Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5867. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule —

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

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

Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30953; Amdt. No. 3586] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5868. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's "Major" final rule — National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System — Final Regulations to Establish Requirements for Cooling Water Intake Structures at Existing Facilities and Amend Requirements at Phase I Facilities [EPA-HQ-OW-2008-0667, FRL-9817-3] (RIN: 2040-AE95) received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5869. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Pilot Penalty Relief Program — Late Annual Reporting for Non-Title I Retirement Plans ("One-Participant Plans" and Certain Foreign Plans) (Revenue Procedure 2014-32) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5870. A letter from the Deputy Director — ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program: Contract Year 2015 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs [CMS-4159-F] (RIN: 0938-AR37) received May 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 604, the following action occurred on June 4, 2014.]

Mr. ADERHOLT: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4800. A bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-468). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted June 5, 2014]

Mr. LUCAS: Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 4413. A bill to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-469). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 4412. A bill to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-470). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. S. 1254. An act to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and

Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-471, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

[The following action occurred on June 5, 2014]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Natural Resources discharged from further consideration. S. 1254 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois (for himself and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 4801. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to prepare a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use for potable hot water; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 4802. A bill to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. SANFORD (for himself and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 4803. A bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. MULVANEY:

H.R. 4804. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to provide requirements that must be followed by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection when carrying out certain examinations; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. JENKINS):

H.R. 4805. A bill to delay the provision of the Affordable Care Act premium and cost-sharing subsidies until the eligibility verification process for such subsidies is completed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 4806. A bill to provide family members and close associates of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others new tools to prevent gun violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 4807. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4808. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the regulation of emissions

of carbon dioxide from new or existing power plants under certain circumstances; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 4800.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois:

H.R. 4801.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the Constitution states that; a regular statement and account of receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 4802.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, the Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. SANFORD:

H.R. 4803.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, the Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. MULVANEY:

H.R. 4804.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18. "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing

Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 4805.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution which states, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 4806.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce, as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4807.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4808.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 182: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 543: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 713: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 721: Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 949: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1015: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1176: Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 1429: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 1518: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 1566: Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 1666: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 1750: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1775: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1857: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1998: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 2077: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 2594: Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 2673: Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 2764: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 2827: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2957: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 2994: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ENYART, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3333: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 3367: Mr. PAULSEN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 3389: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 3422: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 3560: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 3576: Mr. ROSS, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 3670: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 3698: Mr. KILMER and Mr. MCALLISTER.

H.R. 3717: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 3833: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 3858: Mr. LANCE and Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 3877: Mr. COHEN and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 3978: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 3992: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CULBERTSON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 3997: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. BARROW of Georgia.

H.R. 4060: Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. MENG, and Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 4106: Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 4143: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 4349: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 4365: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 4411: Mr. DELANEY, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. RENACCI, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 4450: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 4510: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 4521: Ms. JENKINS and Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 4584: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 4589: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 4592: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 4605: Mr. HALL and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 4626: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 4630: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HONDA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 4648: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 4714: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4717: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 4719: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 4775: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 4781: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 4790: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 4799: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.J. Res. 68: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H. Res. 72: Mr. TIBERI and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H. Res. 109: Mr. OLSON.

H. Res. 600: Mr. HUNTER.

H. Res. 601: Ms. JENKINS, Mr. FINCHER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. ROSS, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. TERRY, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. BLACK.

H. Res. 606: Mr. GALLEGRO.

H. Res. 608: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. MCKEON.

SENATE—Thursday, June 5, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.
Eternal Spirit, Your ways are right. Make Your face to shine upon us and keep us under the shelter of Your wings. Thank You for the life that stirs within us and for our bright and beautiful world. Lord, the works of Your hands bring us joy, creating in us a desire to bless Your Name.

Today fill the hearts of our Senators with praise and peace as they seek to accomplish Your purposes. Give them wings of faith to rise above the challenges that keep them tethered to sectarian paralysis. Provide them with everything they need to live a life that glorifies You.

Lord, we thank You for our gifted Senate pages who faithfully serve You and country.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 5, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion. The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1:45 p.m., with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the next 30 minutes.

At 1:45 p.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session for at least one rollcall vote. First, there will be a vote on the confirmation of Sylvia Burwell to be Secretary of Health and Human Services and then a vote on the confirmation of Carolyn Hessler Radelet to be Director of the Peace Corps. We hope to confirm the Radelet nomination by voice vote.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2432

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand S. 2432 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2432) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would object to any further proceedings with respect to the legislation at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

INVASION OF NORMANDY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am aware of the remarks I am about to make in recognition of the Presiding Officer who has, prior to coming to this body, led hundreds of troops into Iraq during some of the most difficult combat that any soldiers faced during that conflict.

When I first came to the Senate, we had many combat veterans, but that has changed over the years, quite remarkably.

We all look to Senator McCAIN as someone who certainly understands what it means to be in a conflict in

war, but things have changed since we lost Medal of Honor winners: Dan Inouye on his passing; Bob Kerrey as a result of his retiring; Fritz Hollings, a Silver Star winner, combat veteran of World War II; Ted Stevens flying airplanes into the Far East, a dedicated heroic pilot; and many other people, so there aren't many left anymore.

That is why I focus attention on the Presiding Officer today, because he is representative of the best of people who fight for freedom.

On June 6, 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt began his national radio address in a very unusual way, one not entirely common then or now, because the Commander in Chief, the President of the United States, asked the American people to join him in prayer. Why did he do that? His prayer was not for himself but for the 156,000 allied soldiers who, as he spoke, were fighting their way onto the beaches of Normandy.

As he implored the American people on behalf of those soldiers, he said:

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violence of war. For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate.

That was part of his request, that the American people pray for these valiant soldiers. Of course, while this battle for Europe was going on throughout the South Pacific, people were dying as he spoke. Virtually all of the troops who stormed the beaches of France that day were not professional soldiers. They were schoolteachers, farmers, ranchers, mechanics, and clerks. These fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers were pulled away from their peaceful lives and instead were sent to liberate an entire continent. They fought courageously for liberty. They hurtled themselves into the line of fire to defeat tyranny.

We can probably all look back at people who fought in World War II. They were our relatives, our neighbors, and I mentioned a few whom I served with in the Senate.

From the little town I come from in Nevada, Searchlight, there was a man there named Junior Cree. His name was Junior Cree. That was his given name. I grew up there as a little boy.

He had a service station, a little bar, and did a number of different things. He was an entrepreneur, as was his dad.

Many years after I was no longer a little boy, he came to my home in Searchlight and wanted to see my new home. Junior and I sat and talked with

his daughter Sandy. I had asked him: Junior, what did you do in the invasion of Normandy? He proceeded to tell me. Yet at this time he was an 80-year-old man.

He told me he had fought in the North African conflict first. He was in the infantry. He was not in the first wave to go onto the beaches, but he was in one of the first, in one of the amphibious vehicles. There were about 35 or 40 people on one of those.

His job—he had his rifle of course but his job was to carry signs—he was a big man—into the water onto the beaches, and he had instructions on what to do with the signs, to designate who they were and what they were supposed to do. The water was much deeper than anyone said. Well, this man, who was well over 6 foot, went right to the bottom and nearly drowned because these signs were so heavy. He made it onto the beach and found security under a damaged half-track, I think he called it. He was shot in the rear end, and that ended his military adventures during World War II.

These people were everywhere. Junior Cree was one of 156,000 people on those beaches. They were all heroes. They were all people just like Junior Cree. They fought courageously for liberty. As I have indicated, they hurtled themselves into the line of fire. Can you imagine going onto the beach with the machine gun fire coming down on top of you.

Tomorrow is the 70th anniversary of D-day. On that day 156,000 heroic soldiers turned the tide against Adolf Hitler's savagery and unshackled the nations of Europe. This afternoon there are about 10 or 11 Senators who are going to go to that 70th anniversary which is being held on the beaches of Normandy. President Obama will be there, world leaders will be there, and I appreciate very much those Senators going and representing the Senate, as well as the Presiding Officer.

Proof of these soldiers' bravery can be seen in faraway France today, every day, not just for the celebration that is going to take place recognizing the 70th anniversary of this conflict—every day—because there are massive graves there, all over Europe. These seemingly endless rows of white headstones testify to their valor. Crosses and Stars of David are reminders of the debt we owe to those who refused to balk in the face of the evil, and that was Hitler. Adolf Hitler's Nazis were evil.

May we always honor their sacrifice and never forget the price they paid to protect, not only this Nation but the entire world.

HONORING VETERANS

One of the ways in which we honor soldiers in our democracy is to care for our veterans. As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of D-day, it is fitting that Members of this body are working on a bipartisan basis to ensure that Amer-

ican veterans get the help they need and deserve. In light of the disturbing reports of the practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and other facilities, chairman BERNIE SANDERS, of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, is leading the effort to craft a bill to improve care at VA hospitals.

I applaud his efforts. I applaud the efforts of Senator MCCAIN. As we speak, they are meeting to try to come up with some bipartisan solution to the problems of wait times at VA facilities. I am hopeful an agreement will be reached that guarantees American veterans are receiving the care we as a grateful nation have promised. It is the least we can do for these gallant men and women who have fought to protect our great country.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NORMANDY INVASION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Tomorrow marks the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, a day known across the world as D-day.

On this fateful day, which proved to be such a decisive turning point for the allied victory in Europe, thousands of allied forces were killed or wounded in the invasion. While we are sadly losing more and more members of the "greatest generation" with each passing year—including the last of the original Navajo code talkers whom we lost just yesterday—the heroism of these brave Americans can never be forgotten.

I have one constituent, Bob Williams from Boone County, KY, who jumped on D-day, jumped again 50 years later, and was on the front cover of Time magazine. I saw him earlier this year, and he says he is not going to jump again because his wife will not let him, but Bob Williams is still in good shape 70 years after the day he jumped into the night of D-day.

Tomorrow I will be honored to commemorate the most important anniversary by meeting with a number of Kentucky heroes—veterans from World War II and the Korean war—who will be visiting the national monuments built here in the Nation's Capital to honor their service and sacrifice. They will be making a trip with the help of the Bluegrass Chapter of the Honor Flight Program, which has already brought more than 1,000 veterans—mostly from Kentucky—to Washington for this very purpose. The program provides transportation, lodging, and food for the veterans.

Without Honor Flight, many would not be able to visit the World War II Memorial—a memorial erected to honor the sacrifice of the men and women who served on D-day and throughout that era.

I have met with groups of Honor Flight veterans before, and it is always

a moving experience. It is gratifying to see these heroes receive the recognition they deserve. Many of them never thought they would be able to make the trip, and for every veteran who does, I am sure they hold cherished memories of their fellow soldiers in arms who did not.

I look forward to greeting them tomorrow and thanking them for their extraordinary service to our country. I am proud and honored that Kentucky is home to so many of these brave heroes.

BURWELL NOMINATION

Today the Senate will vote on President Obama's newest choice to head the Department of Health and Human Services—in other words, the person he will be sticking with the impossible task of trying to make ObamaCare work.

By most accounts Sylvia Burwell is a smart and skilled public servant, but her embrace of ObamaCare calls her policy judgment into question. When it comes to the task of implementing this ill-conceived and disastrous law, the President may as well have nominated Sisyphus because, as I indicated, Ms. Burwell is being asked to do the impossible.

ObamaCare has already inflicted tremendous pain on the lives of countless middle-class Americans, including many thousands in my own State. It is increasing costs for families all across the country—despite endless promises to the contrary. It has reduced access to the doctors and hospitals my constituents relied on—despite endless promises to the contrary. It has caused Kentuckians to lose the plans they liked and wanted to keep—despite endless promises to the contrary.

A constituent of mine from Pulaski County wrote to tell me that as a result of ObamaCare he lost his insurance and that he was "floored" when he saw the cost of the ObamaCare-approved plan to replace it. With a spike in his premium and a \$6,300 deductible, he wrote to ask me how "[he] or any working man [could] afford the Affordable . . . Care Act." He makes an important point.

Nearly every major ObamaCare promise from several years ago is a broken ObamaCare promise today. Even more recent promises from the administration can't be relied on either. In January the Secretary certified to Congress that she would verify that people were actually eligible for ObamaCare subsidies before they were sent out. In recent weeks we learned from media accounts and testimony that many of the systems needed to protect taxpayers against inaccurate or fraudulent payments still have not been built, tested, or used. Yesterday we learned that nearly one in four applications may have an inconsistency that could affect the accuracy of these payments from American taxpayers.

Any wasted tax dollar is a problem, but when you consider that many of these are dollars raised from tax increases or raided from Medicare to make payouts by mistake or through fraud, it is enough to make your head spin.

This is just the kind of thing everyone warned about as Washington Democrats tried to ram this law through, and it will only get worse if we give up now and just accept the giant mess they have made of our health care. I mean, if they can't even get a Web site fixed after spending hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars, how can they possibly regulate such a huge sector of our economy in any effective way?

How can any administration official possibly repair all the broken ObamaCare promises? The question answers itself: They can't. The nominee before us can't. No one can. The problem is the law itself. ObamaCare is what prevents the successful implementation of ObamaCare. And Americans don't want it. They want real health reforms—reforms that can actually lower costs, increase choice, and help the middle class. So, in my view, the Senate shouldn't be focusing on a new captain for the Titanic; it should focus on steering away from the iceberg.

As HHS Secretary, the nominee would oversee many important programs aimed at protecting public health, promoting medical research, and providing a safety net for seniors and working families, but she would also be the chief operating officer of ObamaCare implementation—a law that is doing incredible damage to middle-class families in our country. Her embrace of this disastrous law is reason enough to oppose her confirmation.

I will be voting against this nominee because I think we need to focus on repealing and replacing this law, not trying to do the impossible by pretending we can make it work.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER T. STOUT

Mr. President, I rise to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of one brave soldier from Kentucky who died while serving this country. SSG Christopher T. Stout of Worthville, a chaplain's assistant, was killed on July 13, 2010, in Kandahar City, Afghanistan, from wounds suffered when the enemy attacked his unit with rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, and small-arms fire. He was 34 years old.

For his service in uniform, Sergeant Stout received several medals, awards, and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, two Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, three Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Rib-

bon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

Staff Sergeant Stout's commanding officer, chaplain CPT Ludovic O. Foyou, said this of his fallen comrade:

Staff Sergeant Christopher Stout was not just a chaplain assistant; he was my friend, brother and shield of armor. His immensely pure love for his fellow paratroopers epitomizes the spirit of the Army Chaplain Corps. His love for his wife Misty and three princesses, Jacqueline, Audreanna, and Kristen, always kept a radiant smile on his face.

Christopher's hometown pastor, the Reverend Raymond Sharon of Worthville United Pentecostal Church, added:

[Chris] was just a fantastic good boy all the way around. Faithful to church, faithful to his family, his wife.

Chris was born on New Year's Day in 1976 in Louisville and graduated from Carroll County High School.

His mother, Sharon Neuner, remembers Chris's childhood fondly:

We had some hard times because I was a single parent . . . but those things just brought us closer together. Our song name was "You and Me Against the World." I remember you used to want name-brand things that we couldn't afford, so you went to work in an elderly woman's flower garden. You weeded, painted, and mowed lawns to get money for those name-brand things. In doing so, you learned that it isn't the clothes or the shoes that make the man, but who you are as a person that makes you a great man.

Chris was an accomplished singer and often preached the gospel at Worthville United Pentecostal Church. He joined the Army in 1997 and originally served as a parachute rigger with the 782nd Main Support Battalion at Fort Bragg, NC. In September of 2006, at his request, he was reclassified as a chaplain's assistant. From 2007 to 2008, he deployed with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82nd Airborne Division, until in 2009 he was reassigned to 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, based out of Fort Bragg. It was with this unit that Chris deployed to Afghanistan for what would be his final deployment.

In late July 2010, shortly after he was killed, his family, friends, and those who wished to pay their respects gathered at the veterans memorial in General Butler State Park in Carrollton, KY, to remember Christopher Stout.

Daughter Jacqueline Stout sang "Amazing Grace" in his honor to a crowd of nearly 500.

Chaplain LTC David Graetz told the crowd that Chris lived by the chaplain's motto "Pro Deo et Patria"—Latin for the phrase "For God and Country."

The Reverend Raymond Sharon of Chris's hometown church also spoke. "He is a hero," Reverend Sharon said of Chris. "He has set an example for all the young people here today. Nothing

can stop you from accomplishing in life a great place in society, as Chris has done. Chris stood for the truth. He lived it. He talked it."

With that, the crowd stood at respectful attention for the firing of a three-volley salute by the American Legion Post No. 41, followed by a bugler playing "Taps." Then the Carroll County judge-executive unveiled for Chris's family a brick to be placed in the veterans memorial to honor his sacrifice.

His mother said:

Thank you, Chris. You gave your all. I hope my mind stays healthy so that I always have my memories of your smiling blue eyes, your warm smile, those dimples and freckles, and our time of you and me against the world. Those will have to do me until we meet again at Heaven's gates.

We are thinking of Chris's family today as I share his story with my colleagues, including his wife Misty, his daughters Jacqueline, Audreanna, and Kristen, his parents Sharon and Billy Neuner, and many other beloved family members and friends. I wish for them to know that this Senate is privileged to pay tribute to SSG Christopher T. Stout for his life of service in honor of the ideals of "Pro Deo et Patria"—"For God and Country." We recognize his service, and we honor his ultimate sacrifice. He truly was a man of God who died defending our country. Kentucky is proud to call this good and faithful servant one of our own, and we mourn his loss.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1:45 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the next 30 minutes.

The Senator from Delaware.

BURWELL NOMINATION

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, while Senator MCCONNELL is still here in the Senate Chamber, I wish to follow up on his comments about the loss of Christopher Stout.

My wife and I have a son of our own named Christopher. He is roughly 10 years younger than Christopher Stout at his death. So as soon as Senator MCCONNELL began talking about the loss of his life, it resonated with me as a father. It also resonated with me as a former commander chief in the National Guard for 8 years and as a Navy

veteran who served three tours in Southeast Asia in the Vietnam war.

Sometimes we don't focus enough on what is being accomplished by our service men and women such as Christopher Stout and their service to our country in Afghanistan and our purpose there. Our role has been to go into a place in which 9/11 attacks were conceived and guided, killing thousands of Americans. Our purpose is, as we draw down on our troops there at the end of this year, to be down to about 9,800 troops, roughly half a year from now, and even fewer in the years to come. But our goal is threefold; that is, when we leave, we leave behind not only a place that is less likely to foment and launch attacks against this country or any other country, but also we leave behind a country that can feed itself, defend itself, and govern itself.

The Presiding Officer was adjutant general for the State of Montana, and he understands full well, having served in combat and for a long period of time, the importance of the role the Christopher Stouts have played and the reverence we hold for them and for their service in life and beyond.

I also hasten to add in following up on the minority leader's comments, there are some things we had in the military. I served 5 years Active Duty, 18 years Reserve as a P-3 aircraft naval flight officer and later as a mission commander. There are some things we had in the military that frankly a lot of people in this country haven't had for too many years. Until last year about 40 million people in this country did not have health care. They did not have access to health care, and we have changed that. We have changed that dramatically.

Does everybody have access to affordable health care today? No, but we no longer have 40 million people anxious to get access to health care. That has been cut by roughly one-quarter. We will reduce it again this year and again next year, but among the things we had in the military is an annual physical. The idea is that you actually get an annual physical in your birthday month. My birthday month is January. I got my first annual physical, I think, when I was 17 from a Navy doctor, and I got them for years and years after that.

A lot of people in this country, including people on Medicare—they could have lived to be 105—and until about 3 years ago with the option of the Affordable Care Act they got one annual physical paid for by Medicare when they turned 65 and joined Medicare. That was it. It was called the Welcome to Medicare physical. If they could have lived another 40 years, they would have gotten another one paid for by Medicare.

The reason the military provides annual physicals for its members, Active Duty and Reserve, is in order to catch

health care problems when they are small, when they can be treated, and we do this to save money. I served in the military and in and out of military bases all over the country, all over the world, and in almost every one of them there was not just a doctor, a Navy corpsman and so forth, but there was a place to go—if you had a problem and needed medical attention, you could get it—a clinic. Today we have thousands and thousands of clinics all over this country where people, whether they have 5 cents or \$5 or \$50 to their name, have health care coverage. They can go get primary health care. They can get primary health care. We have grown dramatically access to primary health care in places all over America, not just Delaware but all the other 49 States as well.

There has been a lot of attention on the VA, some of the very disappointing circumstances that are going on in Phoenix and other places such as that in terms of waiting lists, and they need to be aggressive and they will be, but one of the great innovations the VA came up with 15 or more years ago was electronic health care records.

When I was in the Navy and on Active Duty, and the Presiding Officer may remember, we used to carry around with us—roughly this size—a brown manila folder, and it included my medical records for years, from the time I got my first physical as a 17-year-old Navy midshipman until my last one. People on Active Duty don't carry these around anymore. We have electronic health records pioneered by the VA and now we have them in the Department of Defense. The reason we have them is because it enables us to better coordinate delivery of health care to people who otherwise may not have it. The Affordable Care Act actually introduces for the first time for millions of people electronic health care records, not for them to carry around or access necessarily—although, in some cases they can—but so the people providing care for them can do it in a better coordinated and smarter way and a more cost-effective way, providing better results for less money.

The other thing we had in the military was the medicine. If someone needed to take medicine, prescription medicines or that sort of thing, they could actually get a medicine that was going to help them, keep them well or help them stay well, be productive. We adopted about 7 or 8 years ago the primary Medicare Part D prescription drug program in Medicare which has turned out to be a great success, although they had a big problem with it when people would fall into the doughnut hole. A lot of folks who got pretty good coverage for maybe the first half of the year would lose their coverage and have to pay. They didn't get any help from Medicare Part D. We started

fixing—filling the doughnut hole—with the passage of the Affordable Care Act, and over the next 6 or 7 years we will complete fixing that doughnut hole and people will not fall off the cliff, the Medicare Part D participants, as they have been, because of what is in the Affordable Care Act. Do you know who pays for that? The pharmaceutical companies pay for that, not the taxpayers. The pharmaceutical companies pay for that expansion, making Medicare Part D a good program, cost-effective, under budget, and 85 percent of the people who use it like it. All of those things coincide with the benefits we enjoyed in the military, and they are made available in part and parcel for more people through the adoption of the Affordable Care Act.

Are there problems with the Affordable Care Act? Sure there are. Are there things we need to fix? Sure we should. Will Sylvia Mathews Burwell help us fix those? She will provide great leadership. She and I, interestingly, have our lives intertwined in a strange way. We found out when I first met her. I called Erskine Bowles. I learned over 1 year ago the President had nominated Sylvia Mathews Burwell to be President Obama's OMB Director. I noticed she had worked in the Clinton White House with Erskine Bowles when he was Chief of Staff to President Clinton the second term.

So I called Erskine, and I said: Tell me about Sylvia Mathews Burwell.

He said: I will tell you about Sylvia Mathews Burwell. I have known people as smart as Sylvia. I have known people who are as good at working with other people as Sylvia is. I have known people as good as Sylvia at getting things done. I have not known one person who does all three of those things as well as she does.

He told me a story when she was working as Bob Rubin's right-hand person, top assistant. Bob Rubin was then the Secretary of the Treasury. President Clinton was meeting with Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles, Bob Rubin, the Secretary of the Treasury. Bob Rubin had one of his top aides with him, Sylvia Burwell. Erskine recounted the story of how the President was grilling Treasury Secretary Rubin on a particular issue and Secretary Rubin was kind of struggling to respond in an appropriate way to the President's inquiries. Sylvia Mathews Burwell, the assistant, wrote a note, and when the President was not looking, handed it discreetly to advise Bob Rubin, who glanced at the note and then reengaged the President on the issue, and the President said: That is a brilliant insight. That is really a brilliant insight, Bob.

Erskine Bowles, not to be deterred, said to the President: Mr. President, Sylvia wrote a note and gave it to him. That is how he was able to give you that answer.

If I had people as smart as Sylvia on my staff, I would look a lot smarter too. But she covered herself with glory in those years at the White House. She finished up. This is a gal who grew up in Hinton, WV, a little coal mining town on the New River where I lived when I was 4 years old. Her husband Stephen proposed to her at the Blue Stone Dam on the New River where my grandfather and father used to take me as a little boy to fish.

She later graduated from Hinton High School, a public high school, a little coal mining town. Where did she go to school? She went to Harvard. After that where did she go to school? She was a Rhodes Scholar. She went to Oxford, and she came out and she went to work for a great consulting company, McKinsey & Company, and started working in the White House doing all kinds of things during the Clinton administration, higher and higher responsibilities, ending up as OMB Deputy Director the last part of the year, when we actually had four balanced budgets in a row, if you will recall.

She knows how to manage. She knows how to manage people, she knows how to manage financial resources, and she is terrific working with people. That is why Senator TOM COBURN, my wingman in terms of leadership on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, actually came along with Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER from West Virginia, actually came, a Republican and a Democrat, to introduce her for her confirmation hearing before the Senate Finance Committee, on which I served, to endorse her candidacy. I thank Dr. COBURN for doing that. One would expect Senator ROCKEFELLER to do that. He has been a longstanding huge fan, but Senator COBURN and I have only gotten to know her for the last year and a half and have loved working with her and think she has done a terrific job at OMB and that she will do a terrific job at the Department of Health and Human Services.

I wish to say a special thank-you to her parents who are still alive and who still live in Hinton, WV, a real thank-you for raising not one but two young women, including Sylvia's younger sister Stephanie, for instilling the kind of values and the kind of education in them that has enabled them both to go on and do extraordinary things with their life.

I say thank you to Stephen, who proposed marriage to then-Sylvia Mathews at that Blue Stone Dam on the New River all those years ago. I thank him for sharing his wife with our country. These are tough jobs, demanding jobs, and in some cases thankless jobs, and he is willing to take on some extra responsibility as a dad in helping to raise their children, both under the age of 10. I think Helene is about 6 and I think the younger daughter is maybe 4

years old. They know their mom is changing jobs. They know she still has a job. If we confirm her today, it is a huge job.

Is there work to do? Sure, there is. Is there work to do in implementing the Affordable Care Act? Sure, there is. Is there work to do in tweaking it and making it better? Sure, there is.

I will close with this for my Republican friends—and I love them all. For my Republican friends who moan and groan about the enormous burden the Affordable Care Act is putting on the American people, let me say this: I have a friend who if you ask him: How are you doing, says: Compared to what?

If things are so bad now with the Affordable Care Act, let's just say: Compared to what?

Here is where we were 3 or 4 years ago. The country of Japan spends 8 percent of their GDP on health care. We spent 18 percent, until recently, with the Affordable Care Act. They get better results, higher rates of longevity, lower rates of infant mortality, arguably better results than we did until at least a couple of years ago, and in Japan they cover everybody. Until this year we had about 40 million people who went to bed at night who did not have health care coverage.

I regret that anybody who is inconvenienced or disadvantaged all because of the adoption of the Affordable Care Act. I regret it for every one of those people, but you know what. I regret that all those folks in this country, tens of millions of them, didn't have access to health care. I regret the fact that all those people on Medicare never got a second physical, and if they had gotten one, they would have a much better life. I regret that all the folks in the Medicare prescription drug program—millions of senior citizens—fell into the doughnut hole and stopped taking their medicines and got sick, had to be hospitalized, and ended up in nursing homes. It cost a lot of money and they died with not a happy life. I feel badly for them.

My dad used to say to us, rather than moan about our problems, fix them—fix them. There are plenty of things we can do to make the Affordable Care Act better. I know what they are. But the idea about going back to where we were? That dog doesn't hunt. It is not a good thing in Delaware and I don't think it is a good thing in Kentucky, where Gov. Steven Beshear has led, provided great leadership in his State to make sure the hundreds of thousands of people who needed health care have it today who didn't have it before.

We want to make sure the opportunity they have realized in Kentucky and those States that don't have that opportunity, that have no exchange to sign up in—they have no expansion of the Medicaid Program—my hope is they will look to Kentucky as an example and to Delaware as an example, to see what we can do for our people.

Last point. Most of the people who serve here are people of faith—some are Protestant, some are Catholic, some are Jewish, different religions. Most people here are people of faith. Most of our sacred Scriptures have a couple things in common. One of the things they have in common is the Golden Rule. Chaplain Barry Black, who gives the opening prayer most days the Senate is in session, likes to say that the Golden Rule is: Treat other people the way you want to be treated, love thy neighbor as thyself. He says those are the CliffsNotes of the New Testament. As it turns out, the Golden Rule is the CliffsNotes of every major religion in the world. I don't care if you are Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, almost all of them have something like the Golden Rule in their sacred Scriptures.

In the New Testament, in the Book of Matthew, Matthew 25, there is something we have all heard. Not everybody knows where it came from or even that it is in the Bible, but it is. The Scripture talks about, when I was hungry, did you feed me? When I was thirsty, did you give me to drink? When I was naked, did you clothe me? When I was sick and in prison, did you come to see me?

Matthew 25 doesn't say anything about when I had no health care, and when I had to depend on the emergency room for health care when I got very sick and ran up a big tab that somebody else had to pay for because I was hospitalized for a while—a long while. It doesn't say that in Matthew 25, but the intent is the same.

Where were you? We were here, and we voted to try to do something about it, to make sure people did have better access to health care, and we can improve on what we have done and we need to do that. We have a moral imperative to the least of these in our society to look out for them, to help them look out for themselves as well. We also have the fiscal imperative given our budget constraints to meet that moral imperative in a fiscally responsible way. Sylvia Mathews Burwell understands that as well as anybody I know. She has demonstrated that in her leadership in OMB. She will demonstrate that if we confirm her today to be the Secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services.

I hope my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, will follow the leadership of Senator TOM COBURN, a Republican from Oklahoma, and his wingman TOM CARPER, a Democrat from Delaware, in supporting this nomination.

With that, I yield back the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this afternoon we are going to vote on the nomination of Ms. Burwell to be the Secretary of HHS. I am going to support that nomination. I am here on the floor to alert people to some of the problems she will face and hopefully she can correct.

For starters, I hope that everybody remembers the government has checks and balances. Congress passes laws, the executive branch enforces them, and it is our responsibility to make sure that those laws are enforced according to the intent of Congress. When they are not enforced, we have a responsibility to point that out, and that is what I will be doing. I hope she will be able to correct the issues that my colleagues and I will be pointing out this morning.

We also have a situation where Congress passed the Affordable Care Act, and in that process the President has done a lot of things that some of us think are illegal and in some cases even unconstitutional. Hopefully, she, as the new director, will make sure that those practices don't continue.

When Ms. Burwell was nominated, I said that anyone put in charge of ObamaCare would be set up to fail. The theme of this law has really been "by any means necessary." In other words, it doesn't really matter what the law says, do whatever it takes to get this program underway: the President can fix it later. He has done that 38 times—and surely sometimes contrary to what the law says and contrary to the oath he took to uphold the laws of this country: The legislative process was certainly, by no means, necessary; if you want to change it, change it.

The implementation of this law has operated similarly. The department we are considering Ms. Burwell to lead has ignored the plain read of the statute whenever it was considered necessary. In other words, don't bother to come to Congress to correct something you think is not working; just correct it yourself. Deadlines were considered to be written in pencil.

If the statute needed to be creatively reinterpreted to make the program work, the Department of HHS did so, and that still continues today. Consequently, that is why I am pleading with Ms. Burwell to change things.

The Department is supposed to implement risk corridors this year, although the legal authority to distribute funds is questionable and the standards used to make those distributions will likely be kept very quiet.

Speaking of things that will be kept quiet, Congress is going to want to know what the premiums will be next year for health insurance. We consider the information very important and relevant.

My State of Iowa is considered to be one of the States most at risk for premium spikes. The Department will want to use any means necessary to hide the premiums until after the November elections unless, of course, the premium numbers are good, and then I am sure the Department will shout them from the rooftops, much as they did with enrollment numbers.

We have heard over and over about enrollment numbers, but the enrollment numbers don't tell the whole story—not even close. I was under the impression that the law was supposed to increase coverage and lower costs. So far that is not the case. The independent research firm McKinsey found that 74 percent of the people getting coverage through ObamaCare plans were previously insured. If those numbers are accurate, that means one in four people getting coverage was previously uninsured. Certainly that is what I hear from my constituents. They have had to change their coverage, and often that coverage has been much more expensive.

Furthermore, the McKinsey research also found that the majority of people who shopped for an ObamaCare plan but did not purchase that plan cited affordability as the No. 1 reason for not buying that insurance.

A poll released by the Kaiser Foundation found that roughly 4 in 10 uninsured Americans named affordability as their primary reason for going without health insurance. It is not working as it was intended.

I hope Ms. Burwell will change the relationship the Department has with Congress. I hope she will be willing to break the "by any means necessary" mindset that we have seen for the last 5 years. I hope she doesn't disappear into the bunker over there in that office building and that we will never hear from her again.

Her challenge is very severe. The law appears to be shifting around the previously insured more than it is covering the previously uninsured. The previously uninsured are citing costs as a primary reason for not purchasing insurance.

I will support the nomination of Ms. Burwell today and hope that down the road—several months from now—I am not sorry I did that. I think she is a person who has the capability of turning things around, and that she will do that. But the law remains far from being worthy of support.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the ObamaCare train wreck just keeps rolling on. Every day it seems there is another story about another ObamaCare failure.

Mr. President, 80,000 Oregonians must reenroll in health plans after the State's ObamaCare exchange site failed. The health care coverage of 2 million Americans enrolled on the exchanges could be in jeopardy.

The Congressional Budget Office says there have been so many delays and changes to ObamaCare that it can no longer estimate the fiscal effects of the law. And that is just the ObamaCare news from yesterday. The Democrats' victory lap is a distant memory replaced by the constant flow of stories about ObamaCare's many failures. Americans are losing their health insurance, Americans are losing their doctors, Americans are unable to obtain medications, employers are facing higher costs, and employees are facing higher costs. The list goes on.

The President promised that his health care law was going to be a solution for American families. If they liked their health care plans and their doctors, they could keep them. If they didn't like their health care or if they didn't have health care, they would be able to get an affordable plan. Those were the promises that were made.

Unfortunately, Americans quickly discovered those promises were not to be kept. Millions of Americans were forced off their health care plans and into the exchanges where they frequently found they were paying more and getting less. Too many Americans discovered their new health care coverage meant losing doctors and hospitals they liked and that their choice of replacement was limited.

When the President was campaigning for his health care law, he claimed families would see their health care premiums drop by \$2,500. In fact, health care premiums have increased by almost \$3,700 under the President, and they are still going up.

Middle-class Americans are hurting. The past 5½ years of the Obama administration have brought higher prices and fewer opportunities. Gas prices have almost doubled. Food prices have risen. Meanwhile, Americans' household income has declined by more than \$3,500 on the President's watch. So Americans who once confidently expected to be able to put their children through college and retire comfortably are now struggling to make ends meet. Too many families are living paycheck to paycheck, desperately praying they won't be faced with any unexpected bills. ObamaCare was supposed to make

things better for these families. It was supposed to make health care more affordable and ease Americans' health concerns. Instead, it is making things much worse.

Today the Senate will vote on Sylvia Burwell's nomination to be Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. As much as Democrats might want it to be true, a change in personnel at the Department of Health and Human Services won't make the mess ObamaCare has created disappear. Changing HHS Secretaries isn't going to lower Americans' health care costs or give them back the doctor or the health plan they lost. It is not going to help the small businesses that are struggling under ObamaCare's burdensome mandates or restore the \$1 trillion Americans will lose in wages, thanks to the health care law. It is not going to bring back the jobs that have been lost as a result of ObamaCare.

Every Senator who voted for this law owes the American people an explanation. Every Senator who voted for this law ought to be telling American families what he or she is going to do to fix this mess. Americans deserve better than ObamaCare, and we could give them better than ObamaCare, if Members of the Senate would decide this was the wrong approach and decide to go in a different direction. I hope eventually they will come to that conclusion.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today with huge concerns about the Obama health care law. I do it as a physician, as a doctor, who has taken care of families all around the State of Wyoming for a couple of decades; as a past president of our State medical society; as someone committed to preventive care, coordinated care; as the medical director of the Wyoming health fairs to give people low-cost screenings for health care around the State Those continue today. There is one in the small community of Afton, WY, this very Saturday—2 days from today. So the effort continues to actually make sure people can get prevention, early recognition of problems, and actual care.

The President's health care law hasn't done that. The President keeps focusing on the word "coverage" instead of what people wanted, which was care. It is interesting today, because in the Wyoming Tribune Eagle, front page, today's newspaper, headline: Health-care law plagued by inconsistencies. At least 2 million people, the headline says, enrolled in insurance have problems with data that could affect their coverage. This is an Associated Press article on the front page of the Wyoming Tribune Eagle. A huge paperwork headache for the government could also be jeopardizing cov-

erage for some of the people who just got health insurance under the President's health care law.

The President went on television 4 days before the kickoff of the exchanges and said this is going to be easier to use than amazon.com. He said that. It is cheaper than your cell phone bill. And, of course, he said people could keep their doctor if they liked their doctor.

When people see how this rolled out and the problems they have had with it, they now have huge concerns about whether they can actually trust the Federal Government with anything. They see all of the problems coming out of Washington and they are saying, Why should we trust the government, the Washington-based government, with anything?

Let's take a look at some of the States that set up their own exchange. Yesterday's Wall Street Journal: State Exchanges Seek Costly Fix. Five States that launched health exchanges under the Affordable Care Act expect to spend as much as \$240 million to fix their sites or switch to the Federal marketplace.

Not one person is going to get care because of that. That is \$240 million to fix the bad sites that have already wasted money. How can people in these States of Oregon, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Maryland, Nevada—how can they say this is good for them? This health care law—for people who wanted the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower cost find more wasted government money—in Oregon alone, \$255 million, money previously spent. The FBI is investigating them now in Oregon because of this. They say they want more money to upgrade the system. Minnesota: \$141 million. What are we hearing from Minnesota? We are hearing school districts say we have to pay a lot more, so we are not going to be able to pay for teachers. We are not going to be able to pay for bus drivers. We are going to have to take it away from students to pay for the mistakes of this administration, this government, this law forced down the throats of the American public and voted for by many in this Chamber who never read it. They never read the bill, because they trusted NANCY PELOSI. She said, First you have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it.

We don't have to turn the clock back very far to go to the June 4 article posted in Roll Call, the local paper. Headline: Fiscal diagnosis—now, as a physician we do a physical diagnosis, but they are talking about a fiscal diagnosis: Fiscal Diagnosis Only Gets Tougher for Health Care Law. The first paragraph says, For Democratic lawmakers who were hesitant to sign onto this sweeping 2010 health care law, one of the most powerful selling points was that the Affordable Care Act would actually reduce the federal budget deficit . . .

Four years later, headline: Fiscal Diagnosis Only Gets Tougher for Health Care Law.

So we can talk about all of those numbers, but I want to talk about people who have actually been hurt by the health care law. There are people who have been helped, but there are many who have been hurt. People in my State—thousands and thousands—have had letters of cancellation. If they have gone onto the Web site and bought insurance, they found they paid a lot more for what they had to buy, because a lot of times it wasn't actually what they needed for themselves or for their family or what was best for them; it included coverage they would never use and don't want but still had to pay for, because the President seems to think he knows better what that family in Wyoming wants or needs than they do. That is not what America was built on—the government telling people what they have to buy, what they have to choose, what they have to have as their health insurance or their care.

It is interesting that even National Public Radio has a story about a couple, a family—because one of my colleagues from Connecticut comes to the floor and says he thinks ObamaCare is working. This couple says it doesn't work—does not work. "Frustrated By The Affordable Care Act, One Family Opts Out." This is a family in Texas, reported on National Public Radio. Rachel's husband wanted to make sure they had insurance. Rachel was skeptical, but Nick, her husband, went on line and started shopping. He had a lot of trouble getting through the glitchy Web site at first, but eventually he found a plan that would work just for his wife. He was concerned about his wife. She was pregnant. So this past January, as soon as the plan began, Nick printed out a list of obstetricians from the plan's Web sites. He said: I handed it to Rachel, fully confident, fully feeling like I had accomplished something for her, I had come through for my wife.

Well, they called obstetricians because she was pregnant. Some would just say, We don't take Obama. One of the best was: "The doctor takes it here in the actual practice, but whatever hospital you use"—none of those hospitals take ObamaCare.

She said: It was mind numbing, because I was sitting there thinking, I am paying close to \$400 a month just for me to have insurance that doesn't even work. What am I paying for?

How could this not be working, her husband said. The United States Government has set this up. It is this whole big deal, he said. They are having commercials everywhere saying we need to use this, and these people are just saying, no, no, no, and it just made me so mad.

So, as the headline says, they opted out.

That is what the President has given the American people; not affordable care, not available care, not quality care, not access to care but a lot of promises not delivered upon. Many people across this country have been hurt by this health care law.

I am going to continue to work on ways to reform health care in America in a way that is good for patients as well as the providers who take care of them, and responsible for the American taxpayers.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, my colleague from Wyoming, Dr. BARRASSO, has been talking about a lot of the issues related to the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as ObamaCare. He has talked about the fact that the mandates in this legislation don't work for many Americans. The one-size-fits-all approach that was taken doesn't work in my State of Ohio and around the country.

He also spoke about the cost. Unfortunately, it is not the Affordable Care Act; it tends to be, for a lot of people, the unaffordable care act. Costs have gone up already too high. We are now finding a lot of small businesses in my home State of Ohio are simply squeezed to the point where they are worried whether they will be able to provide health care at all, given the huge increases in cost.

These are all very serious concerns and reasons that I think we need to repeal and replace with policies that work better to provide people more choices and provide people lower cost of care so they can get health care for themselves and their families.

I want to talk about a very specific aspect of ObamaCare and its implementation that concerns me. I came to the floor a couple of days ago to talk about this because I had just learned, actually from some press reports, about some potential problems with implementation. Unfortunately, since that time it has been confirmed through other sources that many of my concerns are legitimate. The concern is very simple: That despite assurances by the administration to the contrary, they have yet to put in place a mechanism to assure that the people who are getting the subsidies under ObamaCare are eligible for them. This is a major problem because we are talking about billions and billions of dollars. It is a surprise, probably, to a lot of my constituents and other folks who might be listening today that the administration hasn't even put in place the basic processes, the mechanisms we would expect in an automated system, to ensure that when people apply for these subsidies—which are substantial; up to 400 percent of poverty, remember, and up to 10,000 bucks for a family of 4, for

instance—that they may or may not be eligible and yet they may be getting these payments. Some people may be overstating their income and some people may be understating their income, and some folks may get a very unfortunate surprise of a big tax bill because of it.

It is unbelievable that after a few years of implementation, still there is not in place some sort of a system to ensure that the right people are getting these huge amounts of taxpayer dollars. Improper payments of these subsidies may be going, we are told, to over a million people who aren't eligible to receive them. Yesterday the Associated Press reported that the number is actually closer to 2 million people who are receiving subsidies, despite apparent discrepancies between what they are submitting—the data they are giving about their income information—and what the IRS already has. By the way, the Health and Human Services folks and CMS confirmed this report yesterday when they said: “The typical family of four generated 21 separate pieces of information that required verification, and all were attested to under penalty of perjury.” Given that we expect this subsidy program to cost about \$36 billion this year alone, these improper payments would likely result in billions of wasted taxpayer dollars.

So at the very least, I am concerned that folks are going to find they have some very unpleasant and unexpected tax bills coming up, and the most we are seeing is a lot of taxpayer dollars that aren't going to the intended purpose.

It is not as if we did not anticipate this problem. This is obviously something a lot of people thought about and talked about. In fact, we knew it would be difficult to verify all these dozens of pieces of information we just heard about from CMS. That is why last year Congress acted in a bipartisan fashion to require the Department of Health and Human Services to certify that it had these controls in place to verify the eligibility of subsidy recipients. We enshrined that requirement in law as part of what was called the Continuing Appropriations Act—better known as the Ryan-Murray budget agreement—at the end of last year. Part of the Ryan-Murray budget agreement was to say that CMS at HHS had to have in place these controls to ensure people were getting the funds that were appropriate for them.

On January 1, as required by law, Secretary Sebelius certified to Congress “that the American Health Benefit Exchanges [the so-called market-places] verify that applicants for advance payments of the premium tax credit and cost-sharing reductions are eligible for such payments and reductions, consistent with the requirements of [the Affordable Care Act].” So Sec-

retary Sebelius made certain commitments there. She also further told Congress that the exchanges had “implemented numerous systems and processes to carry out” their verification responsibilities, including their income verification responsibilities. So this is an assurance given to us by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. We are now learning through reports in the press—which were spurred by confidential sources within HHS, by the way—that these verification methods are not in place or, if they are, they are very poorly functioning at best. In fact, HHS is planning to begin the verification process—here we are 5 months later—for some of this information by hand at some point in the future.

When I learned of these reports—and they have been in the Washington Post and they have been in Politico—I hoped they were mistaken. So I wrote to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. I also wrote to the IRS Commissioner—this was last month—asking if these allegations were true and, if they were, what HHS was planning on doing about them.

If the Post or Politico got the story wrong, I would have expected a quick response saying: No, these reports are wrong. The internal reports they are referring to are inaccurate.

But instead I did not get an answer. I gave them until June 1 to give me an answer, to give them some time to get back to me. It is now June 5 and I have received nothing—nothing to address my concerns. In fact, I have received no answer at all. I know some of my colleagues have raised similar concerns without receiving answers. Like so many issues that have arisen with the implementation of ObamaCare, the administration's response has been nothing but silence and stonewalling—no transparency.

We do not have time for political games. The American people do not have time for it. We have true budget pressures. Folks are already paying a lot in terms of income taxes. They do not want to pay more. They certainly do not want the income taxes they are paying going to folks who are not eligible for this \$36 billion worth of benefits going out this year.

Since the administration refuses to voluntarily provide the information we need to do our job overseeing the expenditure of these funds, I think serious action is necessary. That is why today I am making a formal written request to HHS Inspector General Daniel R. Levinson to begin an investigation into these reports which call into question the accuracy of the Secretary's certification required, again, by the Continuing Appropriations Act, the Ryan-Murray legislation at the end of the year.

I know the IG is scheduled to provide a report to Congress next month regarding how effective HHS has been in

preventing subsidy payments on the basis of inaccurate or fraudulent information, but in light of the apparent inconsistencies between the Secretary's certification and the recent media reports, I think a more in-depth and targeted investigation is warranted. The IG's office has promised that "ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent for their intended purposes" under ObamaCare is its "top priority." That is what that said. So these allegations certainly should strike at the very heart of that mission.

If it is true that HHS has failed to implement a modern, effective system for verifying the eligibility of folks seeking subsidies, we need know about it. They say sunlight is the best disinfectant. Well, I think that is the case here. The best way to ensure that these tax dollars are not wasted is to simply get the information. Let us know what is going on.

I hope the Obama administration and, after her confirmation—I think she will be confirmed—Secretary Burwell will show their commitment to responsible government by joining me in calling for this investigation and responding quickly and accurately to whatever shortcomings it uncovers. But if the administration does not, then it will fall to those of us in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle to take action. I sincerely hope it will not come to that.

I plan to support Director Burwell's nomination today because I think she is a manager, and I think that is what we need right now at the Department of Health and Human Services. I would say this ought to be one of her top priorities as the new manager at HHS—to ensure that the problems we have seen with the implementation of ObamaCare do not continue and specifically that we are not seeing huge amounts of taxpayer dollars being misspent, being wasted through inaccurate verification of these subsidies.

With that, I yield the floor for my colleague from Nebraska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, at the very start of my comments, let me make it clear that the nominee we are voting on today will have my support. I like her from a personal standpoint. I think she is competent. I think she is able to do the job that is before her. But I do believe the problem she is going to face is that this law is so fatally flawed that she cannot be successful in implementing it.

The simple fact is that it is deeply flawed, and it was from the beginning. The policy simply does not work. We know now that ObamaCare drives up costs, it comes between the doctor and the patient, and it limits health care choices for individuals and for their families. But I urge the new head of HHS—when and assuming she is con-

firmed—to address all those things that are within her control.

It is critical that the new leader work to restore the transparency and accountability that has been lacking at this Department. One of the latest has been mentioned in other comments by Senators, but it is especially disturbing. It comes from the Washington Post. The article from the Post said: "The government may be paying incorrect subsidies to more than 1 million Americans." Mr. President, 1 million Americans are getting incorrect subsidies. The article goes on to say that the computer systems necessary to verify individuals' income were either defective or they were not even built. That calls into question Secretary Sebelius's commitment to Congress in January that, in fact, the systems were ready and they were working.

Senator MORAN and I wrote a letter. We asked for answers from HHS about this news report. Well, nothing but crickets, no response whatsoever.

Just yesterday the Associated Press reported that more than 1 in 4—or at least 2 million—ObamaCare exchange enrollees have data discrepancies, casting even more doubt on HHS's competency to administer the ObamaCare subsidies.

Families could be in for a shock next April when the IRS notifies them that they must repay money to the Treasury because HHS miscalculated their subsidy. This is troubling because Nebraskans are definitely feeling the effect of ObamaCare, just like citizens across the country. Let me talk about a couple of stories quickly.

A college instructor from Nebraska wrote to me saying:

Due to ObamaCare, I will be unable to teach more than two courses per term.

Overall, I am losing at least 20 percent of my adjunct income, and I will definitely be in a rough situation with zero money coming in this summer.

Regarding ObamaCare, she explains:

We have a one-shoe-fits-all situation, and I don't wear that shoe.

A young college student in Nebraska shared identical or similar concerns. She says:

Through my job, I was previously able to work 32 hours a week, but am now only allowed 28 hours.

That is a very significant amount of my already small college student budget.

Americans like these constituents do not want a law that decreases their earnings and mandates Washington-prescribed insurance that costs more with fewer benefits.

My colleagues and I stand ready to work toward a better health care alternative. We are committed to vigilant oversight of ObamaCare because Americans' health care and trillions in taxpayer dollars are at stake.

But it is my hope that Ms. Burwell, if confirmed, will reverse these troubling patterns at HHS and provide Congress

and the American people with the responsiveness, the accountability, and the transparency this post requires.

With that, I yield the floor for my colleague, Senator SESSIONS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank my colleague.

I serve as the ranking member of the Budget Committee and have worked with Ms. Burwell in her now just 13 months, I think, of service in the tremendously important position of Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I do not believe she has the background, the qualities, and experience—proven managerial leadership—required at that huge Department of Health and Human Services. She has 500 people working in the budget office, and that is an important office. At HHS there are over 70,000. She once served on a board of a local hospital. She simply is not the person whom we need today to bring order out of the disarray we have in the health care system of this country and the total collapse of integrity and consistency in the implementation of ObamaCare.

There are a couple things I care about, but I really think it time for this administration to stop moving around insiders, political allies, and put some people in these critical positions capable of operating them at the highest possible level.

Ms. Burwell violated the Medicare trigger, for example. If the trustees of Medicare issue a report that it is heading to insolvency, it is a critical matter. The administration by law is required within 2 weeks to submit a plan to fix Medicare. They have been submitting this report for years.

As the President's director, under 31 U.S.C. 1105, Ms. Burwell was the person responsible for submitting Medicare legislation to Congress. We asked her about that before she was confirmed. During her hearings, she said she would "do everything in her power" to comply with the Federal law. Yet, despite this assurance, she refused to comply with the law and never submitted a plan. Don't we need a plan to fix Medicare? Don't we need the Chief Executive of America, through the budget director, to submit a plan to fix it?

She also violated the law and denied Congress needed transparency with respect to the health care law, the ObamaCare law. The Omnibus appropriations bill signed into law in January required HHS to include in its fiscal year 2015 budget a detailed accounting of spending to implement the health law. But neither the budget director, Ms. Burwell, nor the agency she now will head submitted sufficient information to comply with that.

My time is up, but I will say that I am very much taken with Ms. Burwell. She is a delightful person. Many of my colleagues think highly of her, and

some, like our West Virginia Senators and others, really think she will do a good job. But this is not the right position for her. This government is drifting into disarray in a whole host of ways. We need the strongest possible, capable leader, with proven health care managerial experience for the good of America and for the good of President Obama. This is not the right nominee.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first let me comment on Sylvia Burwell, the nominee who is before us. She has done an excellent job as the Director of OMB. Her credentials are incredible. She is acknowledged by both Democrats and Republicans as being an outstanding manager, a person who is fully capable to manage HHS, an extremely important agency that has over 70,000 workers who work for Health and Human Services, has a budget of over \$1 trillion, and 11 Federal agencies. Sylvia Burwell is the right person to manage that agency and to move it forward in carrying out the very important work of our country.

For Maryland, I take pride because some of the agencies are headquartered in my State. The National Institutes of Health—world class. The best research in the world is done right here as a result of U.S. leadership, and that comes under HHS.

The FDA, which insures us safe products in food and drugs, is headquartered in Maryland. But, again, that is world class—the best in the world. It is important that we get the very best person as our Secretary, and Sylvia Burwell is that person.

CMS is headquartered in Baltimore, with Medicare and Medicaid—over 100 million people. Again, it is the best in the world. So I am very pleased that Sylvia Burwell is willing to step forward at this time to head that agency. I encourage my colleagues to confirm her nomination. We will have that vote a little later today.

I wanted to take a moment to thank Secretary Sebelius for her service to our country. Through very difficult times—and these have not been easy political times—she has steered a very steady ship at HHS and did this country proud. I thank her very much for her service to our country and for helping the hundreds of millions who have benefited from the services at HHS.

But a significant part of the mission at HHS is the implementation of the Affordable Care Act of 2010. I have heard my colleagues talk about it, so let me point out how much progress we have made. What a difference the Affordable Care Act has made. I would urge the people in this country to look at the facts. My colleagues make comments that just are not true. Look at the facts. The growth of health care

costs has gone down. The projected expenses are less today than they were in 2010 when we passed the Affordable Care Act.

We have bent the cost curve of health care. Yes, the Affordable Care Act has helped us do it. One of the reasons is we have more people who have health insurance today and who have third-party payment. They go to doctors rather than emergency rooms. That brings down the growth rate of health care costs. We are keeping people healthier. That was the whole concept of the Affordable Care Act.

Unfortunately, for my friends on the other side of the aisle, their answer is: Repeal, repeal, repeal. They have no plan for health care. We have seen under the Affordable Care Act that we have implemented delivery system reforms that keep people out of hospitals, keep readmission rates down, that provide preventive health care, so that we keep people healthy. That was the concept of the Affordable Care Act. Now that we are implementing it—and it takes time to implement it because it is a complicated law when you are dealing with health care.

It would have been more helpful if we had had support to look at ways that we could make it even better. But we have not had that type of cooperation in the Congress.

So more people are insured. The cost rates have been brought down. We reduced the debt and deficit of this country. But for the passage of the Affordable Care Act, our deficits would be larger today. That is not one Member saying that. Look at what those who are charged with doing the projections for this country have said. They have said that the debt today is smaller as a result of the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

As far as those who pay the costs, the consumers who pay the health insurance premiums and pay the doctor bills and hospital bills, they have seen relief under the Affordable Care Act. There is guaranteed value for their insurance premium. At least 80 to 85 percent of that premium dollar must go to direct benefits. As a result, millions of Americans in 2012—over 8 million Americans—received rebates from their insurance company. They actually got checks back equaling about half a billion dollars.

Consumers are getting better value for their dollars. We know it is not easy at times for actuaries to be able to predict the exact costs of health care. But now we have protection in the code. If the premium they charge you is too much, you will get a rebate for the excess that you paid—real protection.

I must tell you, as I go around the State of Maryland—I know the Presiding Officer finds the same thing in the State of New Jersey—families are happy they can keep their adult chil-

dren on their insurance policies until the age of 26. Millions of Americans have taken advantage of that provision in the Affordable Care Act. They are very happy about that.

I cannot tell you how many people I have talked to in Maryland who have benefited from the elimination of pre-existing conditions or the fear of losing their insurance policy because someone has gotten sick. Insurance companies can no longer do that. So if you have a child with asthma and you are trying to get insurance, before the Affordable Care Act they would not have covered the cost of taking care of that child's asthma. Today you get full coverage.

We have eliminated preexisting conditions because that is what insurance should do. It should cover your needs. Now it does. Before the Affordable Care Act, there were limits, caps—no longer caps. People had insurance and still had to file personal bankruptcy. Those days are over thanks to the Affordable Care Act. It is being implemented in a way that Americans are benefiting from the passage and implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

In regard to our seniors and our disabled population who are covered under Medicare, they are very happy the preventive health care benefits are now without any copayment. They can take care of their health care needs. They can get the care they need.

As the Presiding Officer knows, when we passed the prescription drug plan, we had what is known as the doughnut hole, which is a coverage gap. After you incurred a certain amount of cost, then 100 percent was your expense. Many seniors had to leave prescription drugs on the counter at the drug store because they could not afford to pay for the cost of prescription drugs, even though they thought they had coverage.

Thanks to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, that is being eliminated today. We are providing full coverage. Despite the claims on the other side of the aisle, take a look at the facts. Medicare is more solvent today than it was before the passage of the Affordable Care Act. We helped ensure the future of Medicare by the passage of the Affordable Care Act. That is the fact. That is the record.

We are on this path to improve our health care system. It is working. We have reduced hospital readmissions. The accountable care organization is a provision where we take the creativity of private operators where they can work together to figure out how they can help people be healthier. In my State of Maryland, there are several that are working, that are figuring out ways they can use community facilities and health care to keep people healthier and to reduce the cost of health care and make it more efficient by delivery system reform. It is working. It is working.

We strengthened the primary care network. We all talk about that. We knew we had to provide more primary care doctors and nurses. We have done that under the Affordable Care Act. It takes time. But we are already seeing the benefit of that. We have increased dramatically community health center budgets. I have visited the community health centers in my State. I now see where they have mental health services being provided in the community that was not being provided before the Affordable Care Act.

They now have dental services that are being provided in underserved areas that were not being provided before the Affordable Care Act. We now have prenatal services that are being provided in communities that did not have that service before the passage of the Affordable Care Act. What is the result? For low birth-weight babies we have reduced that number. Infant survival rates are increasing.

I take pride that in supporting the Affordable Care Act I helped bring about those results. We are providing more resources in our communities. That is the record of the Affordable Care Act. That is what we have been able to do. I am particularly proud of the fact that under the essential health benefits, we now provide pediatric dental benefits. That is a little personal to us in Maryland, because in 2007 we lost a youngster, a 12-year-old, Deamonte Driver.

He lived not more than 10 miles from here. His mom tried to get him to a dentist. He had a tooth problem. She could not get him to a dentist. Nobody would treat him. He had no insurance. His tooth decay became an abscessed tooth. That problem went into his brain. He had two emergency surgeries costing a quarter of a million dollars. He should have had \$80 of dental care. That would have taken care of his needs. As a result of that, he lost his life.

This bill is making a huge difference. My point is this. For small businesses, they have greater choice and they have credits available to make it easier. We have expanded Medicaid. We have done a lot. We have the best health care in the world that is provided right here in the United States. We are now on the path of having the best health care system in the world. The Affordable Care Act helps us get there. We can take a giant step in that direction by approving the nomination of Sylvia Burwell as Secretary of Health and Human Services.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, on April 29 of this year, Louisiana's House Republican delegation wrote a letter to Senator LANDRIEU, as well as myself, urging us to represent a majority of Louisianan's opinions and oppose the

nomination of Sylvia Burwell to become HHS Secretary unless significant changes were made to the path we are on regarding the implementation of ObamaCare.

They asked us to oppose Ms. Burwell's nomination until an agreement is reached to provide for the equitable treatment and protection of all Americans under ObamaCare, and until the administration, including Ms. Burwell, committed not to pick and choose what parts of the law they would implement; not to pick and choose what deadlines they would meet, what deadlines they would ignore; not to pick and choose mandates they would enforce, such as the individual mandate, and what mandates they would ignore, such as the employer mandate.

This is that letter dated April 29. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. I agreed with that sentiment. I agreed with those concerns. So I responded shortly thereafter in a letter dated May 19 that I would oppose Ms. Burwell's nomination because of those concerns, because there is no evidence that Ms. Burwell would put an end to any of that, would put an end to the administration's common practice of creating special rules for big business, special rules for Washington insiders, for not simply following the law, not simply implementing the law but picking, choosing, and doing parts of the law, such as delaying parts of the law when it was politically convenient.

The Senate's consideration of Ms. Burwell's nomination to become Secretary of HHS invited a conversation to discuss all of that, to discuss her responsibilities for the full, impartial, fair, legal implementation of ObamaCare. I paid attention very much to that discussion. I was hopeful about it. Unfortunately, it was disappointing, in my view, in terms of her responses.

During the nomination process, Ms. Burwell was asked on a number of occasions how she would continue to implement and enforce various aspects of ObamaCare. Again, these concerns obviously arose because of the administration's decisions to make more than 20 unilateral changes to the law as written, to timing, to applicability of various provisions.

One of these decisions which was particularly highlighted in my House colleagues' letter of April 29 was to give big business relief from the employer mandate while there was no relief for individuals. Millions will face a steep penalty—face it right now under the individual mandates. Not only did Ms. Burwell punt to the Treasury Department, her response failed to even acknowledge that the administration has failed to execute the law as written because the law is broken.

The American people have really had enough of the administration passing

blame through certain Federal agencies or to bureaucrats or to Congress or to political parties. They have had enough of the blame game. They have had enough of finger pointing. What I find even more hypocritical in this regard is that the administration worked with many Members of Congress behind closed doors to give Congress and Washington insiders special treatment under ObamaCare, to give them a way to avoid higher costs and lower quality care, the way Americans are suffering from that.

So I will also oppose Ms. Burwell's nomination until the American people get the same relief from ObamaCare as the Washington elite, as the Washington exemption from ObamaCare, as the Congressional subsidy. To date, at least 4.7 million Americans, including 92,000 Louisianans, have had their health insurance plans canceled as a result of the mandates of the law.

Many of these folks were then dealt with a choice of going without health insurance or taking the gamble of purchasing an expensive plan on the government-run ObamaCare exchange.

Again, the law, as written, was intended to make every Member of Congress and our staff walk in those same shoes, but the administration, again, was fast and loose with the law and created a special rule contrary to statute. Ms. Burwell was part of that administration, creating a special exemption, a special subsidy, a special rule not found in the statute.

So in contrast to that experience of many Louisianans, millions of Americans, Members of Congress, and congressional staff can get out of that mandate of ObamaCare. Many congressional staff have been exempted from having to go to the exchange, which is clearly a requirement under the statute. Members of Congress and staff who do go to the exchange get a huge taxpayer funded subsidy—nowhere in the statute and nowhere available to any other American at the same income levels.

For all of these reasons, because of this disparate treatment, because of ignoring the law, because of amending the law over and over by administrative fiat, I have to oppose Ms. Burwell's nomination.

She gave no indication in any of her testimony or in any discussions leading up to this confirmation vote that she would change any of that, and it is pretty clear she will not.

I will oppose the nomination.

If Ms. Burwell is passed by the Senate as Secretary of the HHS, I urge her to take heed of these calls. We have a law before us. We need to follow the law—not in some cases but in all cases, not implement here but not there, not give some folks special treatment and special exemptions not found under the statute but implement the law as written.

That will be her responsibility as much as anyone in the administration. I urge her to be a true leader in the administration, to start doing that in an appropriate, legal way.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the April 29, 2014, and May 19, 2014, letters I referred to previously.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

Senator MARY LANDRIEU,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Senator DAVID VITTER,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LANDRIEU AND SENATOR VITTER: We write to respectfully request that you place a hold on the nomination of Ms. Sylvia Burwell for Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services until an agreement is reached to provide for the equitable treatment and protection of all Americans under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The President's signature health care law, which contains a laundry list of job-killing mandates and taxes, is wreaking havoc on our economy and creating hardships for hardworking taxpayers who received cancellation letters for their health insurance policies due to unworkable ACA requirements. To date, at least 4.7 million Americans, including at least 92,000 Louisianans, have had their health insurance plans cancelled as a result of this law. In addition to losing their health insurance coverage, Americans across the country are seeing their health insurance premiums and deductibles skyrocket while their provider networks become narrower. In Louisiana, some individuals are seeing premium increases greater than 100%.

Since the passage of the ACA, the Obama Administration, through the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of the Treasury, has unilaterally delayed or changed the law at least 20 times. For instance, the Administration has delayed the enforcement of the employer mandate for large employers until 2015 and for businesses with between 50 and 99 employees until 2016. In December, the Department of Health and Human Services decided to vastly expand the "hardship exemption" to include individuals who "received a notice saying that your current health insurance plan is being cancelled, and you consider the other plans available unaffordable." These actions, among many others, are tacit admissions that the Obama Administration knows this law is both unworkable and unpopular. Unfortunately, the Administration has yet to provide this relief to all Americans.

Families across Louisiana have faced cancelled health insurance plans, rising health insurance premiums, and the loss of access to doctors and hospitals while watching the Administration pick political favorites through selective exemptions from the ACA. It is wholly unfair for families to still be threatened with penalties from the IRS at the same time as insurance companies and businesses are granted unilateral relief. Please join us in calling for fairness for all under the law by placing a hold on Ms. Burwell's nomination until she agrees to provide equitable treatment for all Americans under the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,

STEVE SCALISE,

Member of Congress.
BILL CASSIDY,
Member of Congress.
VANCE MCALLISTER,
Member of Congress.
CHARLES BOUSTANY,
Member of Congress.
JOHN FLEMING,
Member of Congress.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2014.

Congressman STEVE SCALISE,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

Congressman CHARLES BOUSTANY,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Of-
fice Building, Washington, DC.

Congressman VANCE MCALLISTER,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

Congressman BILL CASSIDY,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Of-
fice Building, Washington, DC.

Congressman JOHN FLEMING,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR LOUISIANA CONGRESSIONAL COL-
LEAGUES: I write in response to your letter asking to hold the nomination of Ms. Sylvia Burwell for Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services until an agreement is reached to provide the American people the same treatment under Obamacare as large businesses. I share your opinion that the Administration's decision to give large businesses relief from the employer mandate while millions still face a penalty under the individual mandate is both unfair and drives a deeper wedge between the American people and those with powerful lobbyists and access to power. What I find even more hypocritical is that Congress worked behind closed doors to give themselves special treatment under Obamacare to avoid higher costs and lower quality care. I will oppose Ms. Burwell's nomination until the American people get the same relief from Obamacare as the Washington elite and their corporate allies.

Like you, I have heard from hardworking Louisianans every day on skyrocketing premiums, higher out of pocket costs as a result of lower quality health plans being offered on the federal exchange, and limited access to their doctors. Members of Congress and their staff would be facing these exact consequences had they not bent the rules last summer to keep their generous employer-based, taxpayer funded subsidy to avoid higher costs and only make available high-quality, gold level health plans to ensure they were able to keep their doctors.

To date, at least 4.7 million Americans, including at least 92,000 Louisianans, have had their health insurance plans canceled as a result of this law. Many of these people were then dealt with the choice of going without health insurance or taking the gamble of purchasing an expensive plan on the government run Obamacare exchange. In contrast, high level Congressional staff who often negotiate directly with the Administration were able to alleviate the inconvenience of procuring their health insurance on the broken federal exchange and keep the plan they liked on the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP).

I join your efforts in calling for fairness for all under the law, and will oppose Ms. Burwell's nomination and any other bureaucrat that puts the needs of the political elite before the American people.

Sincerely,

DAVID VITTER,
U.S. Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. I rise today also to speak about health care issues, the Affordable Care Act, and Sylvia Mathews Burwell, the nominee to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The Affordable Care Act has completed its first year of open enrollment. Despite some significant technical challenges, 8 million Americans have used the State or Federal health insurance marketplaces, as created by the ACA, to access insurance.

I want to talk about the status of the ACA today, some challenges—including some comments made by my colleague from Louisiana—and then talk about Sylvia Mathews Burwell.

Of the 8 million Americans who have used the exchanges to access health insurance, over 216,000 of them are Virginians. In addition to the 8 million, 3 million more people have been enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP as of February—in addition to the marketplaces open—and those Medicaid and CHIP expansions were because of the Affordable Care Act provisions.

In addition, an estimated 3.1 million young adults have gained coverage by being able to stay on family policies until age 26. The combined number, just in this expansion of coverage, is now more than 14 million Americans.

Let me put that in context. One year in, 14 million Americans have insurance through the ACA. That is more than the total population of the following States: West Virginia, Idaho, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Montana, Delaware, South Dakota, North Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming. One year in, more people have insurance through the ACA than the combined populations—entire populations—of those 10 States.

The number dwarfs the population of New Jersey, which is about 9 million today—this 14 million number, which is growing every day. So imagine a program, even with all the challenges and the rollout, within 1 year providing insurance to more people than the combined population of these 10 States, significantly more than the Virginia population as well.

Gallup has polled, since 2008, the percentage of Americans who don't have health insurance—American adults who don't have health insurance. The number was down to 13.4 percent when the poll was last taken in April, which is the lowest monthly uninsured rate since Gallup started taking this poll.

Have there been challenges? Sure. Have there been those who have had some difficulty? Sure. We have been dealing with them on the phone—as the Presiding Officer has too. But the uninsured rate is dropping dramatically. Even at 1 year with the problems, people are receiving insurance as a result of the ACA.

Each one of them has a story. Each one of them has a story of what it was

like to live without health insurance and what it is like to live now with the security and comfort of health insurance—not only for when you get ill but also for when you are going to bed at night worried about what will happen to you if you get ill, what will happen to you if your spouse is in an auto accident, what will happen to you if your children get diagnosed with something that might well be a preexisting condition under an earlier day.

The stories aren't just about the 14 million who have health insurance because of the ACA. They are also stories of the nearly 20 million Americans who have received rebates because they overpaid premiums and the insurance companies now have to send them money. It is people who cannot be charged discriminatory rates because they are women. It is seniors who are able to get preventive care under Medicare for free or reduced-price prescription drugs for free. It is all the Americans who had preexisting conditions which would have blocked them from insurance coverage before the ACA passed.

Just briefly, I am one of these stories. When I went onto the open market to buy health insurance a couple of years ago—and like most good families, when you want to do something, you put this really smart person on it—my wife. She started to call around about health insurance. Two insurance companies said to her: We can write you a policy on four of your five family members.

One wouldn't insure me. I think politics is viewed as a dangerous line of work.

One wouldn't insure one of my children. Well, here is an important safety tip. Don't tell my wife or any wife or mother: We will only insure part of your family.

My wife said in each instance: I actually think this is against the law now. I think you have to provide insurance for everybody, and not just for four of the five. The insurance company rep called the boss and then called back and said: We are sorry; you are right. We have to write you insurance on every member of the family.

Everybody has a story and increasingly these stories accumulate. Whether it's coverage or a preexisting condition ban or equal treatment in rates between men and women, these stories are starting to accumulate and are showing us that this ACA can and will be successful.

Of course, there are measures to improve it that we still need to embrace. I am proud to cosponsor today a bill that the lead sponsor, Senator FRANKEN, called the Family Coverage Act. It was introduced today.

The ACA requires large employers to offer affordable health care coverage to the employees. The IRS definition of affordability suggests that means that

an employee's share of the premiums of individual coverage, rather than family coverage, is less than 9.5 percent of family income.

If the employee has an offer of affordable insurance, the employee in the family cannot receive premium tax credits. If it is not affordable, you can receive tax credits.

This measure of affordability, based on what the premium is for the individual, versus what the family premium is, leaves a lot of spouses and families cut out from the possibility of receiving tax credits under the ACA.

An average plan for an individual costs about \$5,600, but according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, that average rises to about \$15,700 for families. GAO estimates that the currently used definition of affordability would prevent nearly 460,000 uninsured kids from accepting tax credits, even though their parents qualify for the tax credit under the ACA. This is known as the family glitch. It was sort of an unforeseen consequence when the bill was written.

The Family Coverage Act, which Senator FRANKEN is championing with many other cosponsors, would change the definition of affordability within the ACA so that family members of the parent who works for a company that offers health insurance can qualify for tax credits as well.

I have cosponsored fixes and improvements to the ACA in the Small Business Tax Credit Accessibility Act, a small business tax credit enhancement, and in the Expanded Consumer Choice Act. Through a plan called the "copper plan," it provides all of the coverage but at a lower premium, because those choosing the plan will pay more on the deductible so they can buy down their premium by more cost sharing.

There is the Commonsense Reporting Act of 2014, introduced by Senator WARNER, to ease the compliance burden on employers, and the Protect Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act. Many of us were cosponsors of that bill. There is an act called the EACH Act, which is a technical correction to the religious exemption in the ACA.

I have also written a lot of letters to the administration asking them to do things within their administrative purview to make the act better.

This is what we should be doing. We shouldn't be talking about repealing the Affordable Care Act and taking 14 million people who have insurance through the ACA and telling them: Back out into street with you.

We shouldn't be talking about stonewalling a wonderful public servant from coming in and being head of the HHS. We should be engaged in the business of reforms and improvements.

This is what legislators do. When I was Governor of Virginia, my legislature would pass about 1,000 bills a year.

They would come to my desk for my review, editing, amending, signing, and potentially vetoing. What I noticed was that of the action of my legislative body, 800 bills were reforms to existing law. Only about 200 were new laws.

What legislative bodies do is they go into existing laws, improve them, fix them, and make them better, and that is what we should be about here.

Certainly we have learned, through the bad rollouts and some other things, that nobody can stand back and say this thing is perfect and no reforms are needed. Reforms are always needed.

But I would also hope my colleagues might have learned something—those who wanted to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Those who were willing to shut down the Government of the United States to advocate a repeal of the Affordable Care Act should also be focused now on reforms not repeals, because repeals mean those 14 million would lose insurance and families like mine would now be subject again to being turned down because of preexisting health conditions.

It strikes me that the reform caucus is growing and the repeal caucus is shrinking—as it should. Every day finds more and more people who have had this experience and understand that the ACA should not be allowed to be repealed. I am thrilled that is occurring.

One more item about the Affordable Care Act. It has been stated by some, including some in this Chamber, that the Affordable Care Act has done a horrible thing by allowing Members of Congress and their staffs to get a subsidy in their health insurance that the American public doesn't get. Then there are those who have stood and made that case on the floor of this body, on television, and in this country. They have talked about that subsidy as this horrible thing that these congressional staffers—such as those who are sitting here at the desk or those who work in my office—shouldn't be getting.

The Presiding Officer knows—and I know—that statement is inaccurate. The subsidy that anyone gets in this building is an employer contribution to their health insurance premium. It has been a long and standard feature of employer-provided health care plans in this country that employers contribute to the health insurance of their employees.

In the private sector, over 55 million Americans have employers who contribute to the health insurance premium of their employees. Hard-working men and women who are working in this Senate or working in the House or who are working on congressional staffs have every bit as much right to have an employer that would contribute part of the premium cost for them as do the people who work at newspapers, automobile manufacturers, retail stores, and restaurants. All

over this country, employer provision of a portion of the premium is a standard feature of how insurance has been provided for decades.

For those who say that Members of Congress are getting some special treatment, some congressional subsidy, when the reality—and they know the reality—is that this subsidy is just the employer-provided share of a premium that is standard among all Americans, I find it very troubling.

What would they propose? Would they propose that uniquely, if you happen to work for the article I branch—the legislative branch—you should be denied an employer contribution to your health insurance, just like other Americans get, because you work for the article I branch that is specified in the Constitution? I think that is essentially their argument.

I had not intended to get into this topic today, but I think it is very clear we should make plain to the American people that public servants who do work in this Chamber and in the House Chamber, and for Members who were elected in the States and districts in this country—they are entitled to the same kind of treatment by their employer, which is a standard feature of life in most American companies, nonprofits, State and local governments, and other institutions.

I have known Sylvia Mathews Burwell for 25 years. I met her when she was working for the Clinton administration as a young hotshot West Virginia student, educated at Harvard, a Rhodes scholar like some other notable Members of this body.

I am proud to support her confirmation to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. She has had a strong background not only in the public sector, most recently as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, but she has also had a superb track record in the private sector. When dealing with health care issues, we know that strong private sector experience is very important in an issue that is so significant.

I have been very impressed with Sylvia Mathews Burwell's work in the Office of Management and Budget. I think she brought a more businesslike and regular order approach to the Federal budgeting issues that are so important, and I think she will take that approach and expertise into the HHS position—not just around matters of the Affordable Care Act but around a whole portfolio of issues which are so critically important.

We have got to be about reforms and improvement. Sylvia Mathews Burwell is a person who walks in to work every day, wanting things to be better today than they were yesterday, and she has the experience to do this job. I am proud to stand and support her nomination.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, in my home State of Delaware today we have a problem. Just this week the critical I-495 bridge over the Christina River in Wilmington—which carries more than 90,000 drivers each and every day, north and south on this critical artery on the east coast of the United States—was closed indefinitely.

While engineers and workers were on an unrelated project in the area, they noticed that four of the key pillars holding up the bridge were alarmingly slanted, causing widespread concerns about the bridge's safety and prompt action to shut it down.

Now as the Delaware Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration do everything they can to get to the bottom of this problem and to work to make this bridge safe again, tens of thousands of commuters are forced onto already crowded streets and highways, creating even worse traffic for everyone in our area, hurting our economy, and taking people away from where they need to be.

It is, sadly, yet another example—one that hits particularly close to home for me—in a string of major infrastructure emergencies, some due to unforeseeable events, and some due to a long-term critical lack of investment that signifies why investment in our infrastructure is so important.

Every day when Americans drive to work or drop off their kids at school, they make a simple bargain, an unconscious bargain with their government: They assume the roads will be safe to drive on. They expect that if they drive safely, they will be able to get to where they need to go in a reasonable amount of time.

Unfortunately, it has been quite clear that while Americans keep doing what they can to move our Nation and our economy forward, we here in Congress aren't holding up our end of the bargain. We aren't meeting our responsibilities to invest in critical areas that we all know need work. We have a lot of infrastructure needs, but we simply aren't keeping up with them today.

This is about the end of the school year for most families with kids in school around the country. Like many other parents, I was going over with my kids what they think their grades are at the end of the year. Well, the

country also gets a grade. We get a grade from the American Society for Civil Engineers. These are the folks whose job it is to manage and supervise and survey the health and capabilities of our infrastructure—our bridges and roads and highways. This group, the American Society for Civil Engineers, gave our roadways a D.

The Federal Highway Administration estimates that we are dramatically behind in investing in keeping our highways and bridges and tunnels up to speed. They say we need \$170 billion more in capital investments every year to improve road conditions and performance.

That group of civil engineers, the ASCE, has also determined a quarter of our bridges are functionally obsolete or structurally deficient. In little old Delaware, that comes to 175 bridges that fail to meet what we would all expect of our government—Federal and State and county and local governments—that we maintain bridges to the highest level of safety that we would expect.

We will always face unforeseen crises and challenges, but this is one we can see coming. There may be hurricanes such as the great Superstorm Sandy that wiped out a lot of infrastructure in my region or there may be other unforeseeable events that impact our transportation infrastructure. But this one we have been seeing coming for years.

This inconvenience in Delaware—the closing of the critical bridge on 495 that has put so many at inconvenience—was nowhere near the biggest transportation disaster we have had in recent years. Just last year in Washington State, the Skagit River Bridge, built in 1955, literally collapsed after a truck drove into its framework. Seventy-one thousand drivers were using that bridge on a daily basis.

I think many of us remember, way back in August of 2007, tragedy struck Minneapolis when its I-35 West Bridge, which extends over the Mississippi River, literally collapsed under the rush hour traffic weight. More than 100 cars were thrown into the water, 13 people lost their lives, and 145 were injured.

If we don't act soon—together—we are going to face many more such tragic incidents like these. We have to address this problem and get over our unwillingness together to invest in infrastructure that we all depend on and value.

The simple fact, as I have said, is current Federal investments are not keeping pace with our needs. We are, sadly, months away from exhausting the Federal highway trust fund—the trust fund that finances much of the highway, bridge, and tunnel work around the country on the Interstate Highway System—because the gas tax that funds it hasn't risen in 20 years,

but the amount of gas being consumed and thus gas tax revenue generated has gone down. Yet we don't seem here to have the political will to implement a solution to this basic problem that folks have been saying is coming at us, hurtling like an oncoming truck for years.

We talk a lot about our children—about the kind of world we want to leave them, about our hopes for the future, and it is just one of the reasons I am so concerned about our Nation's long-term balance sheet. Many of us talk about our Nation's deficits and our potentially crippling Federal debt. It is irresponsible of us to continue to rack up debt on our national balance sheet and leave it to our children and grandchildren. But I highlight today that when we neglect our transportation infrastructure—our highways and tunnels and roads and ports and bridges—these are things we use every single day in transporting our families and ourselves or goods to and from work or to and from home, to school, to soccer, to vacation. These are critical pieces of the American infrastructure. We are also racking up a huge debt there too. These investments have to be made one way or the other. I know we value these systems because we depend on them every day.

So if we can't come together in the short term to fix the highway trust fund, I am left to wonder how we are going to come together on the much larger problem of meeting our broader infrastructure needs, of which that trust fund is one small but crucial part. We face short-term, medium-term, and long-term problems. As I said, we have to fix this highway trust fund before it runs out of funding this summer. It is what often funds 80 percent of State highway work. It is a critical part of construction projects already scheduled to go on this summer. We have kept it funded by transferring money from the general fund for the last few years, but that is not how it is supposed to work. So we have got to come to terms with a solution that is responsible and meets this challenge.

We have a range of options, but none of them are appealing: Increasing the gas tax, putting a surcharge on vehicles, charging for vehicle miles traveled. All of these are unappealing politically, but it is essential that we come up with something to solve this long-term problem.

I thank Chairman WYDEN of the Finance Committee, who is working hard with other members of that committee even today to find a path forward and a solution.

Second, in the medium term, we have to reauthorize—we have to approve—ongoing work for highways, roads, and bridges, and we need to have a reauthorization for surface transportation by this fall. The Chair and ranking

member of the relevant committee—BARBARA BOXER of California and DAVE VITTER of Louisiana—have shown, as has my senior Senator TOM CARPER from Delaware, who also serves on this committee, that Federal infrastructure investment is a bipartisan value. They have been able to come out of that committee with bipartisan reauthorizations a number of times over the last couple of years, and that is encouraging to me.

We also, a few minutes ago, came out of the transportation subcommittee markup on appropriations, the committee that says: Here is how much we will spend. That came out with a very strong bipartisan vote earlier today and will come to the floor in the next few months. This progress is encouraging, but it doesn't mean anything if we don't have a way to pay the bill when the bill comes due. We need to figure out how to finance infrastructure for the long term in this country.

There are several bills with good ideas that have been put forward in this committee and in this Chamber. I have supported two bills. One is called the BRIDGE Act and the other is called the Partnership to Build America Act. These bills will provide the critical steps we need to bring private sector money in off the sidelines and facilitate a real partnership between government money and private sector money. These bills have been led by Senators WARNER, BLUNT, and BENNET, are genuinely bipartisan, and enjoy support from groups who often don't work well together—from industry to labor, from the AFL-CIO to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

There are several strong bipartisan bills that show the way forward, but we don't seem to be able to get them to the floor, get them approved, and get them moving forward.

Right now, the truth is that the debate on this floor comes nowhere close to matching the reality of the scope of the problems in front of us. As I mentioned earlier, we have an enormous infrastructure debt. By 2020—in just the next 6 years—it is estimated that our Nation will need \$3.6 trillion of new infrastructure investment so we can fix and maintain our roads, bridges, rail, transit, drinking water, ports, sewers, wastewater treatment, and beyond. This is an enormous debt which is unpaid and for which we currently have no path forward.

I know many of us who serve on the Budget Committee and pay attention to the balance sheet of our country are concerned about our structural national debt. I wanted to take a minute today—on a day when everyone in my hometown and home State is concerned about how we will tackle the problem of the I-495 bridge—and remind all of my colleagues of the scale of this national infrastructure debt.

At the heart of this problem and at the heart of so many of the problems we have is our unwillingness to pay for what we want, to pay the bill that is long overdue for our long-overdue improvements to the infrastructure of this great country.

Fixing this problem is going to take a great deal of revenue. We can reform taxes, we can involve the private sector, we can reprioritize funding, and we can reform the way government works. We don't lack for innovative ideas, but at the end of the day what we currently lack is our will.

The people of the United States, through us, need to step up to the challenge of paying the bill. In my hometown, just in the last few hours and over the last few days, we have become more engaged in this debate than we have been in a long time because a bridge that is critical, a vital artery for our community, has stopped. It is closed indefinitely. We need to work together to find the resources to fix this bridge and get America moving together again. It is my hope and plea that my colleagues will step up to this challenge, which I know every community in our country faces.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

D-DAY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as all of us know, tomorrow, June 6, marks the 70th anniversary of the Normandy landings, which we have come to know as D-day. D-day, of course, was the greatest military operation in history—one that brought together 150,000 troops, 5,000 ships, and 13,000 aircraft in a sweeping attack on Nazi-occupied France and marked the beginning of the end for Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich. The Allied Powers, of course, united as one and changed the course of history. It was our troops and our allies who freed a continent from the clutches of tyranny and our troops who helped win a war.

As a country, it is important that we recall occasions such as the 70th anniversary of the Normandy invasion and D-day because the greatest danger is that we forget—we forget about the face of evil and what it means to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—but it also means we need to remind ourselves on a regular basis about the heroism and courage and sacrifice of the people who gave all they had, including their lives, in order to preserve for us what we now have and what we too often take for granted.

We often hear that freedom is not free, and, of course, we all agree with that, but it almost has become a cliché, and it should not be. When we think about our freedom, we ought to think about those men who stormed

the beaches at Normandy, many of whom lost their lives. We must always remember those who fought in places such as Iwo Jima and ran into a buzz saw of enemy fire, many of whom never came back. We need to remember those important events on a day such as this, and we need to tell the story not only to remind ourselves, but we also need to tell the story to our children and grandchildren because they will, before long, have a responsibility for preserving this great experiment we have had in America for over 230 years—a self-governing democracy that has been purchased by the blood and the treasure of those who have gone on before. The free world as we know it owes its existence to the courage, grit, and sacrifice of those who fought in places like Normandy, and, of course, they will not be forgotten.

For me personally, I can't help but think about Normandy—which my wife and I had an opportunity to visit a few years ago—without thinking of my father-in-law, who landed on Utah Beach on the second day of the Normandy invasion. He said that after the first day it was much easier to get on the beach, but the effort to clear out the German Army and the hedgerows was murderous work and very dangerous. Thankfully, he came home, like so many, as part of the “greatest generation” that helped to build America into the powerhouse we are today.

My father-in-law passed away recently at the age of 96 and lived a long and rewarding life. But I can't let the occasion pass without remembering him as one of those brave men who stormed the beaches at Normandy 70 years ago.

Of course, there is another chilling number when we think about World War II. Fifty million people lost their lives during World War II. It was the bloodiest conflict in the history of the world—50 million people.

During World War II, of course, we recall that brutal dictators and totalitarian ideologies threatened the very existence of the civilized world, and we are reminded of people like Adolf Hitler and what he did and what other countries did in response either by way of appeasement or by way of challenging his aggression. And then we know about the war, of course, following the Pearl Harbor attack in Hawaii. America had to fight wars on two fronts—one in Asia and the other in Europe.

When the United States crossed the Atlantic and joined its allies on the beach of Normandy, the rescue of Europe had begun. History tells us that the weather and conditions that day were harsh. In fact, one soldier described the battle as everything going wrong from the beginning. Without a doubt, they knew what awaited them there, and they were not deterred.

You might wonder, as I have from time to time, what it took for our men

and women in uniform to charge a beach occupied by the German military in France. What could have inspired the kind of courage we have seen?

Well, I had occasion to read a book a few years ago, as perhaps other colleagues have, written by James McPherson. It is called “For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War.” When you learn about the brutality of the Civil War and how many people lost their lives and, indeed, the likelihood of losing your life—being tragically injured, acquiring an infection, and then losing your life in some of the most painful and horrendous ways you can imagine—it was instructive for me to realize not only did they fight for our country, but they fought for each other as well, which, of course, is the lesson of all wars—fighting for a cause and fighting for each other.

Undeniably, much of the success on D-day was the result of a great strategy and plan by American war planners, including a man born in Denison, TX, by the name of Dwight David Eisenhower, who served as the Supreme Allied Commander.

I see my colleague from Kansas on the floor, and I know Kansas lays claim to Dwight D. Eisenhower, but I want to state here on the floor of the Senate that he was born in Denison, TX, and not in Kansas, although we are proud to share his legacy between both of our States and as a country.

General Eisenhower's address to the troops on the eve of the landing stands as one of the most memorable exhortations to bravery in the face of evil in the annals of world history. I would like to take a moment to read some of those words.

Here is what General Eisenhower wrote:

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force! You are about to embark on a great crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty loving people everywhere march with you.

He continued:

The free men of the world are marching together to victory! I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory!

At a different time, Eisenhower once said: “Morale is the single most important factor in successful wars.” Morale was what united the Allied Powers—not the desire to conquer real estate but the desire to defeat the tyrants of Europe, to liberate the prisoners of war and those in concentration camps, and to forever defeat the evil ideology that motivated Adolf Hitler and his ilk.

We know the world we live in is always filled with great uncertainty and, unfortunately, with evil men and those who would smash democracy and self-government under the boot heel of dictators and tyrants. So while we always

pray fervently for peace, we must also be ready to defeat tyrants, dictators, and those who would crush democracy under their boot heel. D-day reminds us that the United States can and should always stand with our friends against terror and tyranny.

Back home in Texas, we have another reminder of this day. For the first time since the war, the battle flag that was raised above the USS Texas as it entered the waters off Point du Hoc on June 6, 1944, is now on public display at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in honor of D-day's 70th anniversary. Crewman Emil Saul, who was aboard the USS Texas, preserved the flag for 48 years and gave it to the museum in 1992. Now possessing the space and conditions to properly exhibit the flag, the museum has made this flag public for the first time in honor of the 70th anniversary of D-day. This flag, of course, symbolizes the valor our troops demonstrated that day and makes sure future generations will never, ever forget their sacrifices.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you.

I certainly appreciate the remarks of my colleague, the Senator from Texas, in regard to honoring those who served our country so nobly and so courageously 70 years ago, as we recognize this weekend the anniversary of that invasion of Europe, called D-day.

We have many veterans in our country, many military men and women who continue to serve and many who now are veterans and have served in the past, and I am here today to pay tribute not only to those D-day military men and women and those who served our country on such a special occasion in which the course of history was changed, but also to pay tribute to all of those who served our country in all circumstances.

I am not a veteran. I have great regard for those who are. My life is shaped by the fact that the Vietnam war was ongoing during my days as a high school student, and much of my time was spent talking to those a few years older than I who were volunteering or who were drafted, and those who were a little bit older than that who returned home after service in Vietnam. I clearly remember as a 16- or 17-year-old watching the evening news, “CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite,” and every day the news was consumed with reports from Vietnam, the consequences we found ourselves in, and the sacrifice men and women were making on that battlefield every day.

Again, I didn't serve in Vietnam, but I learned a couple of things from my time observing our country and seeing the sacrifice and service of those who were willing to serve in that war. One

of the things I take from that experience is we will always honor, care for, respect those who serve our country in the military in whatever circumstance they have been called to do that.

It was a month ago that I was on the floor on this spot, concerned about the Department of Veterans Affairs and the way our veterans are currently being treated. I asked for a dramatic step of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit his resignation and for President Obama to accept it. As I indicated a month ago, that was the first and only time as a Senator that I ever asked a Cabinet Secretary to depart his or her position—and I didn't do it lightly—but what had transpired, and what has transpired over a period of time, is a Department of Veterans Affairs that many veterans no longer believe is capable of caring for them. In fact, what was so discouraging and disappointing to me was the number of veterans, men and women who served our country, who had lost faith, who had lost hope in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

That Department was created in 1930 for purposes of providing the benefits and health care supporting those who were called to duty, those who responded to their country's call. I certainly know that throughout the course of history the Department of Veterans Affairs has had its challenges, but what seems so compelling to me over the last several years is the sense that no longer was there a plan, no longer was there the effort to make certain that Department lived up to its commitment to those who previously served our country.

A lot has transpired in the last month, and there is now an Acting Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. And of course we have reports from across the country of secret lists, concerns about waiting times, and the potential of service men and women, veterans, who have suffered as a result of those lists, as a result of having to wait. I guess we will know more about that over the course of time.

I am surprised and disappointed to learn that Kansas hospitals, Kansas facilities, the VA hospital in Wichita is on that list where investigations are now ongoing and where the Department of Veterans Affairs has admitted to a list that delayed access to health care. I would not have expected that in our State. I think we are different. We are special. But the reality is this challenge and the problems we face are systemwide and across the country. What we want is a Department of Veterans Affairs that is worthy of the sacrifice and service of the men and women who served in our military. We don't want damage control from the Department of Veterans Affairs. What we want is the end of damage to those who served our country.

The purpose of my conversation on the floor today is to make certain we

don't lose sight. The news cycle comes and goes, and while there are serious issues our country faces in many facets, I don't want this Senate to lose sight of its responsibility to make certain the Department of Veterans Affairs is caring for those who need our care and treatment.

I am worried, and I hope my worries are unfounded. I have only served in the Senate for 4 years. I have been frustrated by being a Member of the Senate. I came here to work on behalf of Americans, on behalf of Kansans. My plea is—my plea is to the Democratic leaders, to Republican leaders, to individual Senators, whatever party they are: Let's not follow the path we have followed so many times in the short period of time I have been here in which there is a Republican plan to fix a problem and there is a Democratic plan to fix a problem. Surely our veterans deserve something more than each of us being able to say we cast a vote for their benefit. Surely they deserve the opportunity to actually have legislation that will address the challenges and problems the Department of Veterans Affairs has. My plea and my request of all in this body is, for these veterans, to make certain we conduct ourselves in a different way than unfortunately I have seen in most instances as a Senator.

We have this phrase around here, "Well, we will get a side-by-side," meaning there is a Democratic plan and a Republican plan; and when you talk about that. What that means is we never expect either one of those plans to pass. So to the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, to Senator REID, the majority leader of the Senate: Please take us down a path that demonstrates once again the Senate can rise to the occasion and do something worthy of the veterans who have served our country.

Every once in a while in this frustration about the way this place doesn't work, I will put on my running shoes and I will walk down to the Lincoln Memorial. It certainly is an inspiring visit to the Lincoln Memorial, but perhaps more importantly on that walk you now go by the World War II Memorial that memorializes those the Senator from Texas was talking about. You then walk by the Vietnam Wall, the war that was ongoing in my teenage years. On your way back you come by the Korean War Memorial, the forgotten war. What I am reminded of and what I would call to the attention of my colleagues is not a person recognized in any of those memorials volunteered or was drafted for purposes of advancing the cause of the Republican Party or the Democratic Party. There was no interest in partisan politics by those who served our country. They served their country because they believed in a higher calling. They be-

lieved they could make a difference. They believed it mattered to their kids and grandkids. It was about freedom and liberty. It wasn't about who scores points in the next election.

Please, leaders of the Senate, all of my colleagues, make certain we rise to the occasion, that we have the same standard, the same motivation, the same reason that we come here every day to be the same as theirs: to make America a better place, to make sure our kids and grandkids live with freedom and liberty, to make sure the American dream is alive and well. If there is an issue that we ought to be able to do that, an issue perhaps different than anything else we deal with, surely we have the ability as a Senate to deal with the issues necessary legislatively to resolve and address the problems of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to make certain that every veteran who has served our country has the ability to access quality health care provided in a timely fashion, and that once again the Senate doesn't do what it has done too many times, and that is we all cast a vote and we can claim we have done something, we supported something, but the end result is that nothing happened. Let's avoid nothing happening.

Finally, let me conclude by saying that World War II Memorial is special to me. I have a 98-year-old father home in Plainville, KS, a World War II veteran. I walked up to the World War II Memorial 10 years ago, just a few days before it was being dedicated, and I wanted to see what it was going to look like. It was an inspiring moment. I happened to have my cell phone with me and I walked over to the Kansas pillar and thought about those who served our country in that war, including my dad back home. I walked away from the memorial and used my cell phone to call my dad at home. The message I delivered to my dad that day was: "Dad, I am at the World War II Memorial. It is a memorial built for you. Dad, I want you to know that I thank you for your service. I respect you and I love you."

That conversation, fortunately, took place on an answering machine and not in person, and was easier to deliver, although a few minutes later my cell phone rang and it was my dad, who said, "Gerald, you left me a message, but I couldn't understand it. Could you tell me again?"

The point I want to make is, we are called upon as American citizens and certainly as members of the Senate to do all that is possible to demonstrate that we thank our veterans for their service, we respect them, and we love them. The Senate needs to rise to the occasion and not let the partisan politics of this place and this country divide us in a way in which we only symbolically respond but the end result is that we fail those who served, and we

fail our veterans who depend upon us just as we have depended upon them for their service to our country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

BURWELL NOMINATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I want to speak on behalf of Sylvia Mathews Burwell. We have had a lot of commentary out here that she has shown her capability in her time as the head of the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, and she is going to have a similar success now in the Department of Health and Human Services. We are going to be voting on her just before 2:00 this afternoon, and I am certainly looking forward to what is going to be a resounding vote. I think it is because most people feel she has done an excellent job at OMB.

In this Senator's experience with her, discussing with her one of the smaller agencies of government, where this Senator felt as though OMB had targeted that little agency, instead of allowing the experts who were driving that agency—and specifically I am talking about NASA—purely from a finance and budgetary standpoint, instead of what we wanted to accomplish in the Nation's space program, Ms. Burwell understood that, and she tried to help out from an agency that is more concerned just with budgetary aspects of government, and she understood you have got to get into what you want the agency to accomplish instead of just looking at the budgetary aspects. I appreciated that very much. I think we are going to have a similar kind of experience at HHS with Ms. Burwell.

Now, goodness gracious, she takes over an agency that certainly has its hands full, as we are, for example, just trying to continue to expand Medicaid and expand it to all of the people in the States that have denied the expansion of Medicaid. So what we asked during the confirmation hearings is that she consider working with the States to find some types of compromises on a way to do that—to expand Medicaid—when the States are balking. Twenty-four States have not taken the Federal Government up on the offer to pay the full cost of expansion for the first 3 years, and then after the year 2020 the Federal Government will pay 90 percent of the cost of expansion.

I offer an example in my own State of Florida. The State of Florida, ostensibly because they did not want to incur the 10-percent cost of Medicaid expansion after the year 2020—that was the reason they gave, but it really wasn't the real reason they didn't want to expand; they just didn't want to have anything to do with the Affordable Care Act. Many of them labeled it "ObamaCare." As a result, what they

have done in Florida is denied a population of over 1 million people—specifically 1.2 million people in Florida—the availability of health care by expanding the eligibility for all Medicaid up to the level of 138 percent of poverty. That level is for a family of four—\$32,500 a year.

A person thinks of a million people—over a million who otherwise could get health care—and they are making \$32,000 or less, we can't expect them to buy health insurance if they are only bringing in \$32,000 for a family of four. That is not reasonable. That is why we expanded Medicaid in the Affordable Care Act. But politics has a way of getting in the way, and there are 24 States that did not expand.

In Florida's case, this means over this period of time there is \$51 billion of Floridians' Federal taxpayer money that would be brought to Florida to pay for those additional 1.2 million people who would get health care. Well, first of all, it is an issue of quality of life. Why don't we want people to have health care who can't afford it? That is the whole idea of increasing the percentage of the poverty level in order to make people eligible for Medicaid.

But aside from that, if the Federal money is available for providing that health care—in this case, \$51 billion—why wouldn't we want to take the Federal money to pay for the health care of the people—and "the people" being a substantial number of people—over 1 million.

In addition, if we care about the creation of jobs, we are talking about 125,000 jobs additionally created because of this expansion of providing health care.

So all the way around, it is a win-win-win. It provides jobs, it certainly provides quality of life by providing health care, and the Federal money is already dedicated.

Again, politics gets in the way, and politics got in the way in the State of Florida and 23 other States.

Now, what to do about it. OK. The stated reason was that we don't want our State to have the obligation of additional spending—10 percent—after the year 2020. What we have shown is a program that is already in place in State law to provide for poor people's health care through the low-income pool and other assistance to hospitals that serve that poor population, a tax base that already pays for that, taxes at the local level.

We suggested this: We don't have to raise any new taxes to pay the State's share of the 10 percent. Those taxes are already being paid. We shift the money that is there because we are going to expand Medicaid and take care of all the poor people—some of whom are being taken care of now—and just use that tax base in place of the State of Florida share of 10 percent.

The Legislature of Florida would not buy it in the closing days and weeks of

the session. It is my hope they will in the future. But that is the kind of example that the new Secretary of HHS will be dealing with, as the previous Secretary of HHS has already dealt with in iterations of how to cover additional Medicaid populations. States such as Arkansas and Michigan have worked with HHS to find ways, some of them using the private marketplace to expand coverage.

So it is my hope that with the new Secretary, with the obvious need of additional health care for people who cannot afford it in the private insurance market, we will see this turned around in the next session of the legislature; otherwise, every day the State of Florida loses \$7 million that would be coming to the State for health care for people of low income.

I want to say I am very proud of our State. During the open enrollment period, nearly 1 million people in Florida signed up for health insurance coverage in the State exchange that is run under the Federal rules. Of the 8 million people nationwide who signed up on the State exchanges, almost 1 million of that 8 million were in our State of Florida. So it shows us the hunger of folks there, knowing that if they can get health insurance or health care through Medicaid, they certainly want that very much. I hope that under the leadership of Ms. Burwell, we are going to be able to make that a reality in the coming year. I know she is going to do a great job as Secretary of HHS.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, today the Senate is expected to vote on the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell to be the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. I expect her to be confirmed, and I expect she will receive a fair number of votes from both sides of the aisle. I, for one, plan to vote in favor of confirming Ms. Burwell. I believe she is well qualified and well suited for this position.

But let's be clear. If Ms. Burwell is confirmed, she will have a difficult job ahead of her, particularly when it comes to implementation of the so-called Affordable Care Act.

While I support Ms. Burwell's nomination, no one should mistake that to mean that I have somehow softened in my resolve against ObamaCare. Indeed, I am as committed as ever to repealing and replacing this horribly misguided law.

I hold this position not due to politics or partisanship but due to the

real—very real—problems this law is causing for our citizens, for our government, and for our Nation's health care system.

I would like to take a few minutes today to talk about some of the specific problems we are seeing with ObamaCare and what some of my colleagues and I are doing to address them.

As we all know, under the Affordable Care Act, States are required to have an online exchange where citizens can go to purchase health insurance. The law gives the States the option of creating their own exchange, using the exchange provided by the Federal Government or using a hybrid of the two.

The Department of Health and Human Services gave every State \$1 million to fund research and analysis to determine what type of an exchange they would use. Additional grants were given in two stages—two stages—for those States that chose to build all or part of their own exchanges.

On top of that, HHS awarded seven early innovator grants to States that decided early on to build their own exchanges in order to help support the development and early implementation of the necessary information technology systems.

All told, States received \$4.7 billion from HHS to assist them in building their exchanges.

The problem we are seeing now is that, apparently, this money was just handed out with little or no accountability.

At least seven States—seven States—have failed to build a successful Web site and exchange, even though they received and accepted Federal taxpayer dollars specifically for that purpose. Now these States are scrambling to either rebuild their entire systems or to transition to the Federal exchange.

These seven States received roughly \$1.3 billion from HHS to build their exchanges. That is \$1.3 billion—with a “B”—to just seven States in the Union. That is more than one-quarter of the total amount HHS provided to States for the purpose of building their own State health care exchanges. And apparently these States have little or nothing to show for it. In fact, at least three of them are looking to drop their own exchanges entirely and use the Federal exchange instead now.

You heard that right, three States—that between them received hundreds of millions of dollars from the Federal Government to build their exchanges—now want to abandon the prospect entirely and join the Federal exchange.

Let's keep in mind that adding them to the Federal exchange will not be simple, nor will it be cheap. More millions will be spent to transition these States—along with any other States that may choose the same course in the future—into the Federal exchange.

This is simply preposterous. Where is the accountability? Where is the out-

rage from HHS over those lost and misspent funds? There does not seem to be any.

For her part, the President's nominee to run HHS, Ms. Burwell has at least acknowledged that there is a problem here.

During her confirmation hearing in the Finance Committee, I asked her whether States that have negligently mismanaged their exchange funds should be required to reimburse the taxpayers for those losses and for their failures? Her answer was somewhat encouraging. She said that if she was confirmed she would want to get to the bottom of this problem and “use the full extent of the law to get those funds back for the taxpayers.”

Unfortunately, in answer to my follow-up question—whether she would commit to withholding additional exchange-related funds from those failing States—she was not quite so definitive. Still, I was glad to hear her at least acknowledge the problem and make a commitment to recouping taxpayer funds lost in these debacles. If she is confirmed, I hope with all my heart she will live up to this commitment, and I expect her to do so.

That said, it is clear that, if we are going to make the taxpayers whole on this matter, we are going to need to do something besides waiting around for HHS to address the problem. Indeed, if our experience has taught us anything, it is that commitments made in the context of a confirmation hearing often fall by the wayside. I do not intend to have this one fall by the wayside.

That has been particularly true, though, with this administration, especially when the commitments deal with ObamaCare. That is why I have joined with the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, in an investigation into this matter. Congress needs to exercise proper oversight on this issue. We need to get answers. We need to get them now. One way or another we are going to get them.

Last month Senator GRASSLEY and I sent a letter to CMS Administrator Tavenner asking for information about CMS's communications with the States with regard to the difficulties they have had setting up exchanges and their use of Federal funds. As I said, all told, these failures amount to over \$1 billion in lost funds. The American people deserve to know where the money went and why it was so horribly misused.

That is not all the American people deserve. They also deserve to be paid back for these losses. That is why I have joined with Senator BARRASSO in introducing the State Exchange Accountability Act, a bill to require the States to pay back these wasted funds. Every Senator here, Democrat or Republican, ought to be willing to back that bill.

Specifically, if enacted, our bill would require those States that operated a State exchange in 2014 and subsequently chose to use the Federal exchange to repay all of their establishment and early innovator exchange grants. The bill would give them a 10-year timeframe to do so. States would have to enter into an agreement with HHS to repay at a minimum 10 percent of the total grant money they received every year. States that fall under these requirements but fail to enter into such an agreement would see their Federal assistance medical percentages, or FMAP, reduced by HHS. The FMAP reduction would be uniform and take place over a 10-year period and would be equal to the amount of exchange grant money the State received.

Under the bill, HHS would be explicitly prohibited from reducing the amount of reimbursement that States owe to the Federal Government. I expect some would deem this approach to be too punitive, but they should not. I do not think anyone can reasonably dispute there is a problem that needs to be dealt with. Our solution is reasonable and achievable. All we ask is the States that have wasted taxpayer funds repay them within a reasonable period of time. We give these States 10 years to pay the money back. This is not punitive; it is necessary. More than anything, the failures we are seeing with the State health care exchanges demonstrate that the Affordable Care Act has been flawed from the beginning. Indeed, it was the law itself that included an open-ended appropriation to help States build their exchanges without any mechanism to make States accountable for wasting those funds. Given these fundamental problems, I expect we will see more States take this route, especially if there are no steps taken to make them accountable.

Congressional oversight into these failings is vital. I hope the administration will cooperate in our effort to resolve these problems. Our legislation is no less important. It is the only way to guarantee the American taxpayers get their money back. But that is not all we need to do. Make no mistake, ObamaCare is doing serious damage to our Nation's health care system and our Nation's fiscal future.

When it comes to his health law, the President's favorite argument is that Republicans have not produced an alternative of their own. However, this is simply untrue. I suspect the President knows that. Earlier this year two of my colleagues and I unveiled a legislative proposal that would undo the damage ObamaCare has inflicted on the American people. Unlike the Affordable Care Act, our proposal would actually reduce costs and shore up our entitlements. It would do so without all of the harmful distortive mandates and regulations we see under ObamaCare.

Once again, in the immediate future, we need to solve this problem with the failed State exchanges. But we also need to keep our eyes focused on the long-term goal of repealing ObamaCare once and for all and replacing it with something that will actually work for the American people.

I hope that as time wears on, more of my colleagues, particularly those on the other side of the aisle, will recognize this is what we really need to do.

As I said, I intend to vote today in favor of Ms. Burwell's nomination to lead HHS. I have helped that process to go smoothly. I want it to go smoothly. I believe she is a good choice for this job. I am hoping with all my heart that she will be that good choice she has indicated she is, and I have deduced she is. But I still have a number of concerns about the direction the agency is headed. During the course of her confirmation hearing, Ms. Burwell made two very important commitments to me. The first commitment she made was to respond promptly, within 30 days, to questions and inquiries submitted to HHS from Members of Congress.

This is an important commitment, one I hope she lives up to. Under this administration HHS has been one of the least transparent of all Federal agencies. Letters and inquiries oftentimes have been ignored entirely. When we do receive letters in return from HHS, they are almost in every case unresponsive. Ms. Burwell is committed to changing that practice. I respect her for it. It is part of the reason I led the charge to have her confirmed. Once again, I surely hope she does help change that practice.

I mentioned the other major commitment she made to me earlier in dealing with the failed State exchanges. Ms. Burwell committed to doing everything in her power to retrieve the wasted taxpayer funds. This commitment is also important, because thus far HHS has refused to acknowledge many of the problems they faced in implementing the Affordable Care Act. The fact that she made this commitment to me demonstrates she is at least willing to admit there are some major problems with the program.

I support Ms. Burwell's nomination in large part because of these commitments she has made. I hope she lives up to them. I think she has the ability to live up to them. I have high hopes of that. No one should misread my vote today as an acknowledgement that all is now right in the world of ObamaCare and at HHS, because nothing can be further from the truth. But Ms. Burwell has, for her part, acknowledged that problems exist and has committed to doing what she can to fix those problems. Under this administration, that is probably the best we can hope for.

This is an important nomination. She is a very qualified woman, in my

opinion. She has had some significant experience in the Federal Government. I have high hopes that she will turn out to be a wonderful Administrator at HHS. It is almost an uncontrollable, unadministrable agency. I am going to give her all the help I possibly can to help get that agency under control and get it right again.

This is important. I feel deeply about it. People in the bureaucracy know if they work with me I will move heaven and Earth to try to help them. It is time our government is more responsive to its citizens, more responsive to what people believed when they were confirmed, and more responsive in solving those problems that are so significant, so costly, and so important to the American people.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to speak in strong support of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, who has been nominated to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS.

HHS is a \$1 trillion agency responsible for, among other things, managing Medicare, Medicaid, and implementation of the Affordable Care Act, ACA. HHS needs a strong leader. I believe Sylvia Burwell is up to the job.

President Obama could not have selected a better person to lead HHS into future. I first got to know Sylvia during the Clinton administration, but I also worked with her when she was at Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Walmart Foundation. I really got to know Sylvia more recently as she ran the Office of Management and Budget, OMB. She played a pivotal role in helping Congress come to agreement on a budget deal last December.

Her work at OMB has prepared her to step up to the challenge of leading HHS. She is a problem solver who knows how to work with Congress. She is also a mom with kids. I am confident that Sylvia will be an outstanding HHS Secretary.

It is my hope that she is confirmed quickly. It is important that HHS has a leader in place. It is important that Congress has a point person in place as we work to pass the fiscal year 2015 Labor-HHS appropriations bill. And it is important for the country to have a Secretary of HHS confirmed so we can move forward with implementation of healthcare reform.

I would like to take a moment to express my deep appreciation to Ms. Kathleen Sebelius—our current HHS Secretary. Whether it was as Secretary of HHS or Governor of Kansas, Ms. Sebelius has always been a bright, hard-working, and devoted public servant. Despite constant and relentless opposition, she fought every day in every way to make health insurance a reality for millions of Americans. She was a phenomenal partner and tireless advocate in efforts to improve women's health, expand mental health benefits

and services, fight childhood obesity, and protect people from dangerous influenza strains. She was a fierce advocate for those most in need and she will be missed. I wish her and her family well in all future endeavors.

As I mentioned earlier, HHS is a \$1 trillion agency. Every single person worldwide benefits from work done at HHS. For instance, HHS oversees the National Institutes of Health, NIH—our Federal agency responsible for finding cures and treatments for the illnesses and diseases that impact our families. HHS also oversees the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC—our Federal agency responsible for protecting the public health by preventing, tracking, and managing the spread of disease. HHS also oversees the Food and Drug Administration, FDA—our Federal agency responsible for protecting our Nation's food and drug supply. HHS oversees the Administration on Children and Families, ACF—our Federal agency responsible for running the Head Start Program and helping lower income families afford childcare. In addition, HHS is responsible for overseeing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS—our Federal agency responsible for managing Medicare for our Nation's seniors and Medicaid for those in need. These are only a few examples of how we rely on HHS agencies.

We also rely on HHS for implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Unfortunately, healthcare reform remains a divisive issue, despite passing the House and Senate, being signed into law by the President, and being upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. It also remains divisive despite all the benefits we have seen so far: More than 8 million Americans have obtained health insurance thanks to healthcare reform. More than 3 million young adults have been able to stay on their parents' health insurance plans. More than 3 million people have been newly enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP. Thanks to healthcare reform, being a woman is no longer a pre-existing condition and people can no longer be denied coverage or charged more for preexisting conditions. And thanks to healthcare reform's provisions to close the dreaded doughnut hole, more than 7 million seniors have saved \$9 billion in prescription drug costs.

Despite the many successes of healthcare reform, there is still much to be done, and we need a Secretary in place to get that job done. We need a Secretary focused on ensuring smooth open enrollment periods that are glitch-free. We need a Secretary who is willing and able to work with States who are not yet where they need to be. We need a Secretary focused on protecting people's private information in an ever-dangerous cyber climate, and

we need a Secretary focused on getting young people enrolled in health insurance plans and focused on keeping premiums low for individuals and small businesses.

Running HHS is a big job. Ms. Burwell is the right woman for the job. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of her confirmation to serve as Secretary of HHS.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, today we consider the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell to be the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Burwell currently serves as Director of the Office of Management and Budget, a position to which she was confirmed by a vote of 96-0 in April 2013. Through a dynamic career in both public service and private sector leadership, she has proven herself as an effective manager with experience and skill in leading a wide range of organizations. During her confirmation hearing in the HELP Committee last month, she garnered strong support from Members on both sides of the aisle. Clearly, I am not alone in concluding that she is a deeply impressive nominee and is eminently qualified to serve as the next Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The United States faces serious public health challenges, many of which require urgent answers. Very often, the entire world looks to HHS for leadership. Just last month, this country confronted the first ever incident of MERS, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, within our borders. HHS responded quickly to educate the public, investigate the situation, and develop a path forward.

We will count on our next Secretary for exactly that kind of informed, decisive action in the face of future challenges and crises, and to provide a steady hand overseeing an incredible range of activities across the Department.

For example, she will be responsible for research efforts at the National Institutes of Health, among other agencies. This federally sponsored research has made the United States the world leader in biomedical innovation, and has resulted in countless discoveries and breakthroughs, from the extraordinary application of genomics to cutting-edge pharmaceuticals to an unprecedented understanding of the human brain.

As Secretary, Ms. Burwell will also be in charge of another long-time priority of mine, disease prevention. She will lead our Nation's efforts to transform our health care system from a "sick care system" into one that focuses on wellness and prevention, not just at the doctor's office but also in our schools, workplaces, and communities.

Ms. Burwell will oversee the Food and Drug Administration—a critically important agency that protects and

promotes public health by helping to keep our Nation's food and medical product supplies safe, among other things. In fact, FDA now oversees items that account for 25 cents out of every dollar spent by Americans.

The Department also ensures that we can meet the health care and education needs of our most vulnerable citizens through programs like the community health centers, Ryan White HIV programs, and the Head Start program.

The Secretary is also charged with oversight of programs that support millions of Americans with disabilities. Medicaid makes it possible for many with chronic disabilities to remain in their homes, to go to work or school, and to be active members of society. In tandem, the Administration for Community Living implements policies that help people with disabilities to stay in their homes, neighborhoods and places of work, with the result that people are healthier, happier, and have better quality of life.

And of course Ms. Burwell will have the critical role of overseeing implementation of the Affordable Care Act. We can be proud that thanks to the Affordable Care Act we have seen over 6 million new Medicaid enrollees, and more than 8 million more Americans have signed up for health insurance in the marketplaces. But there is more work to be done to continue successfully implementing the law and reforming our health care system.

The list goes on and on, but I have made my point that as Secretary, Ms. Burwell will shoulder incredibly important responsibilities that matter deeply to the health and wellness of the American people. I have no doubt that Ms. Burwell is up for the challenge.

Since her nomination Ms. Burwell has met with numerous members of this body to discuss their individual priorities and her personal vision for the Department. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of Ms. Burwell and confirm her as our next HHS Secretary so she can begin the important work of advancing our Nation's health.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. To close for our side, I would like to strongly urge my colleagues in a few minutes to support the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell to be the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

I want to start with a simple fact. Sylvia Mathews Burwell's nomination has a breadth of bipartisan support because she is really that good, she is really that capable, and she is really that qualified.

I am going to say to colleagues, nobody has to take my word for it. We all know that our colleague on the other side of the aisle, Senator COBURN, is a man of strong views. He says what he means, and he means what he says. As a ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator COBURN has had many opportunities to work closely with Ms. Burwell during her service as the OMB Director.

For example, he emphasized the nominee's competence, saying: The fact is when you have somebody who is confident, competent, and also has strong character, you find a way to get past your differences to try to solve problems.

He emphasized she is a good listener and that she is communicative.

He said:

Responsiveness is key for the Congress, and I have to tell you I found her remarkably responsive. The fact is she is going to be committed to do the right thing and to keep Congress involved.

Finally, in a quote that I thought was particularly striking, Senator COBURN said:

Even when she has made up her mind, which sometimes happens, she will listen to another point of view to get information she might not have.

Senator COBURN also said:

That is a characteristic too often that we don't see, as Members of Congress, and in members of the administration, whether they are Republican or a Democrat.

Senator COBURN is not the only one who is part of this we could call it choir of bipartisan support for Sylvia Mathews Burwell.

When she went before the HELP Committee, our Republican colleague from North Carolina, Senator BURR, said:

I support her nomination. I will vote for her in the Finance Committee, and it is for one primary reason, it is because she doesn't come with a single experience that wouldn't make her a good Secretary. She comes with a portfolio of experience that would make her a tremendous asset at addressing some of the challenges the agency specifically and uniquely has.

Senator BURR continued:

I look forward to her confirmation being quick and our ability to then work together to be every bit as quick.

These are statements that reflect a nominee who is going to be, in my view, an active agent of bipartisanship. She is somebody who has already shown she can bring Democrats and Republicans together to solve big challenges, and I think she is going to show it at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Suffice it to say, we know Health and Human Services will need to have strong leadership in the days ahead. We know the debate about the Affordable Care Act is going to continue. It is going to continue in Hawaii, Oregon, and across the country.

My hope, as chair of the Finance Committee, is that Sylvia Mathews Burwell can help bring together Democrats and Republicans to build on the Affordable Care Act, just as many of us did to work with former President George W. Bush, to strengthen the Part D Program, the Medicare prescription drug program. Many of the first stories about Medicare Part D were much like the first stories about the Affordable Care Act. Yet Democrats and Republicans came together, were able to strengthen Part D to the point where now—enormous support among seniors—it has come in at more than 30 percent below the cost projected by the Congressional Budget Office.

So let's all work together with Sylvia Mathews Burwell to do for the Affordable Care Act what we did with George W. Bush's program on prescription drugs, and that has worked in a bipartisan way.

One of the reasons I am so enthused about Sylvia Mathews Burwell is we have big challenges that both sides, Democrats and Republicans, are going to have to team up on to tackle in the days ahead. For example, Medicare in 2014 is dramatically different than Medicare when it began in 1965. In 1965, for example, if a senior broke their ankle, if he or she needed to see a doctor, they went perhaps to an outpatient program, Part B of the Medicare Program. If they needed more attention—perhaps the ankle needed to be reset—they had to go to the hospital, they would get assistance in the hospital under Part A.

Today that is not primarily what Medicare is all about. Today, well over 80 percent of Medicare is tackling chronic disease. We are talking about diabetes, we are talking about cancer, we are talking about strokes and heart disease. Certainly if you add Alzheimer's on top of it, that is 90 percent of the Medicare Program. That broken ankle, when the senior has one, of course, has to be taken care of. But most of Medicare is about chronic disease.

What we are going to need is Democrats and Republicans coming together to tackle an issue that, frankly, has gotten short shrift in Washington, DC. It didn't come up a whole lot in the debate about the Affordable Care Act on any side, and yet it is going to be the issue that dominates the future of the flagship health care program in this country, Medicare; and much of what is done for chronic disease for the Medicare population will also be copied for the under-65 population, since the trend historically, when Medicare takes bold action, is often replicated in the private sector.

Some of this work has begun, but the fact is we need a strong leader with bipartisan support, as I have tried to highlight with Dr. COBURN's comments, Senator BURR's comments, and others.

I think it was all summed up when Dr. COBURN and Senator ROCKEFELLER—the senior Democratic Senator from her home State—teamed up that first day and set the mood about how this would be a nominee with exceptional ability to reach out and tackle the big challenges of our time.

Medicare, of course, in my view, is the biggest. But the issue of family support, the child welfare programs the Department manages, these are programs that are critical lifelines for struggling Americans across the country. So many of our people are now falling between the cracks—falling between the cracks into poverty since the recession. The Department of Health and Human Services plays a powerful role ensuring that we have a strong safety net.

I have talked about her credentials before, but her education includes a stellar background, a graduate of Harvard and Oxford, where she was a Rhodes scholar. She was a staff director of the National Economic Council. This is someone who is very savvy on the big economic challenges, and she has superb experience. In 1977 she became Deputy Chief of Staff to the President and moving the following year to become the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

She also has extensive experience in the nonprofit world. At the Gates Foundation she led efforts to tackle some of the most pressing global health challenges of our time.

At the Walmart Foundation, where she served in 2011, she offered outstanding leadership in the fight against hunger and to improve economic opportunity for women.

As Senators consider this nomination in the last couple of minutes before the vote, I only want to remind—perhaps not subtly—the Senate confirmed Sylvia Mathews Burwell for the position of Director of Office of Management and Budget 96 to 0. I think that is a very rare statement of bipartisanship for an extremely important position that not only has Sylvia Mathews Burwell discharged very well, she has won additional plaudits for her bipartisan work, as I have indicated today.

She is going to respond to the biggest and the big challenges in a way that I believe brings Americans together. That is what Senators have said throughout the process, and they have said it whether you have a D or an R next to your name. What the country needs, in short, is somebody who is a true agent of bipartisanship.

I conclude my remarks by saying I have gotten to know Sylvia Mathews Burwell well in the past few years. She is the right choice for the right time, and I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me this afternoon in supporting her nomination.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services?

Mr. MORAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 175 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Alexander	Crapo	Johnson (SD)
Baldwin	Donnelly	Johnson (WI)
Barrasso	Durbin	Kaine
Begich	Enzi	King
Bennet	Feinstein	Klobuchar
Blumenthal	Fischer	Landrieu
Booker	Flake	Leahy
Boxer	Franken	Levin
Brown	Gillibrand	Manchin
Burr	Graham	Markey
Cantwell	Grassley	McCain
Cardin	Hagan	Menendez
Carper	Harkin	Merkley
Casey	Hatch	Mikulski
Chambliss	Heinrich	Murkowski
Coats	Heitkamp	Murphy
Coburn	Hirono	Murray
Collins	Hoeven	Nelson
Coons	Isakson	Portman
Corker	Johanns	Pryor

Reed	Shaheen	Walsh
Reid	Stabenow	Warner
Rockefeller	Tester	Warren
Sanders	Toomey	Whitehouse
Schatz	Udall (CO)	Wicker
Schumer	Udall (NM)	Wyden

NAYS—17

Ayotte	Kirk	Rubio
Blunt	McConnell	Sessions
Cornyn	Moran	Shelby
Cruz	Paul	Thune
Heller	Risch	Vitter
Inhofe	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—5

Boozman	Lee	Scott
Cochran	McCaskill	

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF CAROLYN HESSLER-RADELET TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Carolyn Hessler-Radelet, of Virginia, to be Director of the Peace Corps.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I will vote to confirm the President's nominee for Director of the Peace Corps. However, I want explain why I objected to any unanimous consent request relating to this nomination in March and why I have withdrawn my objection. I objected because I was informed by the Peace Corps inspector general that she was having difficulty accessing records from the agency. The nominee is the acting director of the agency. The records relate to sexual assaults reported by Peace Corps volunteers.

The inspector general is entitled to access these records under the Inspector General Act and the Kate Puzey Act. Both acts reinforce the principle that agency operations should be monitored by an independent and objective inspector general. The Kate Puzey Act requires the agency to better respond to volunteers who report sexual assault and implement certain protections for victims of sexual assault. To ensure that these protections are actually implemented, it also requires the inspector general to conduct "a case review of a statistically significant number of cases" of sexual assaults reported by volunteers.

However, the agency has gone out of its way to interpret the Kate Puzey Act as conflicting with the Inspector General Act. In fact, the agency repeatedly stated that certain provisions of the Kate Puzey Act override the Inspector General Act. That was never the intent of Congress. But the Peace Corps withheld most of the information that the inspector general requested from the agency.

Fortunately, the Peace Corps and the inspector general recently agreed on a memorandum of understanding, MOU.

This MOU was agreed to only after I placed a hold on the Acting Director's nomination, and only after I sent three letters to the agency about the dispute, along with several other Members. Under the MOU, the Peace Corps has agreed to provide the inspector general with more information than before. For the time being, the inspector general believes that the MOU will allow her to carry out her oversight duties.

However, the inspector general has made it clear to me that the MOU has many shortcomings. Most importantly, the Peace Corps still refuses to acknowledge the inspector general's legal right to access the records in question. In addition, the MOU can be terminated by either party at any time. So the inspector general believes that she would be back at square one if the parties ever disagree in the future on the amount of information she needs to independently evaluate how the agency handled a specific case of sexual assault.

Still, the MOU represents progress. So I am voting in favor of this nomination. The law says that the inspector general is entitled to full and timely access to the records in question. So I will monitor this situation closely. And I will count on the nominee to guide the agency into full compliance with the law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Carolyn Hessler-Radelet, of Virginia, to be Director of the Peace Corps?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. ENZI. I rise to talk about the new regulations President Obama proposed this week that are obviously aimed at the coal industry, but let's be frank, these regulations go far beyond the President's campaign to put coal out of business. These regulations target energy to make it less affordable and less abundant. Once again we are seeing how consumers, students, and low-income families are getting priced out of the economy because of government policy. The more the government dictates and promotes a one-size-fits-all solution, the more it hits folks in their pocketbooks.

I don't think I have ever met a single person who said they were anti-environment. I cannot think of a single person who likes dirty water or polluted skies, but if we listen to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, we would assume Republicans have made it their life's work to kill the planet. It makes for great sound bites

and it can help rally their base; it does not, however, contribute much to the discussion at hand or make much of a difference.

Actions have consequences and these proposed regulations will have a real, tangible, measurable impact on the economy at a time when job creation should be our focus. The truth is coal powers America. Almost 70 percent of all energy produced in this country came from the ground and most of it was coal.

Even electric cars are powered by coal, but sadly you won't see that on a bumper sticker. That is what I call an inconvenient truth. If we were to shut down our coal facilities for even a single day, I think even my colleagues from the other side of the aisle would quickly be calling for these plants to be turned back on.

In my State coal is one of our largest employers. It provides high-paying jobs to our residents, as it does to folks all across the country. The revenue from energy production even provides scholarships for our students to get an education. For our State coal is not just an energy source, it is a livelihood.

The President may want us to run from coal, but I think we should be running toward it. George Washington Carver developed over 100 products from peanuts. Think what we could do with coal if we spent more time and resources developing our most abundant resource instead of trying to destroy it. American ingenuity would lead to our next energy revolution. But that is not happening. Instead, a project that the University of Wyoming and the private sector were working on to produce cleaner energy from coal was canceled because of the President's efforts to kill coal. There is no future in selling the products that would be developed to enhance coal.

We have to trust American ingenuity. No one likes to sit in the dark, and I imagine most folks like being able to run their air-conditioner in the summer. States that rely on coal for their power see an average of 30 percent lower electricity costs than States that use other fuels. An increase of that size would be noticed by almost everyone regardless of political affiliation.

We could learn a thing or two from Germany. They are going back to coal after experimenting with alternative sources. They realized that coal is readily available and will help them bring down energy prices.

Incidentally, coal is the only energy source you can stockpile for emergencies.

The plain fact is that this President is proposing a cap-and-tax proposal that already failed in Congress. My colleagues then realized that it is an extremely expensive idea, and the increased costs would be passed along to consumers, who must pay to use more

expensive energy sources. But the fact that Congress rejected this proposal seems to have encouraged the administration to yet again sidestep Congress and implement another costly backdoor regulation. Even some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle say they are angry about this tax imposed on the people without approval from their representatives in Congress.

I have heard comments about how courageous the President is for finally going after coal. It is not as if the President ever hid his disdain for energy that comes from the ground. He has been targeting it with redtape his entire Presidency. These ideas are purely political and will have a heavy impact on the economy with little or no measurable impact on the environment.

The Wall Street Journal pointed out in a recent editorial that “based on the EPA’s own carbon accounting, shutting down every single coal-fired power plant tomorrow and replacing them with zero-carbon sources would reduce the Earth’s temperature by about one-twentieth of a degree Fahrenheit in a hundred years.”

Let me repeat that. The Wall Street Journal pointed out in a recent editorial that “based on the EPA’s own carbon accounting, shutting down every single coal-fired power plant tomorrow and replacing them with zero-carbon sources would reduce the Earth’s temperature by about one-twentieth of a degree Fahrenheit in a hundred years.”

When government tries to pick winners and losers in any part of the market, everyone loses. Just look at how great our health care system is doing.

If we as a body allow the President to get his way on this regulation, we will be looking at billions in annual economic losses. Hundreds of thousands of people will lose their jobs. We will burden our businesses with billions of dollars in costs, all of which will be passed on to the consumers in the form of double-digit energy price increases. If you are elderly, a low-income or even middle-class family or living on a fixed income, are you willing to pay this energy tax that won’t make a dent in CO₂ emissions? I can’t imagine you would be. These new regulations will only succeed in making the pocketbooks lighter and the country darker.

When we have affordable and abundant energy, America stays competitive with the rest of the world. Low-cost energy could help create more than 1 million jobs over the next decade, and it could lure more investment into American manufacturing. The cost of energy is a big factor in manufacturing. We all say we need to put people back to work. Driving up costs to consumers and businesses doesn’t seem to benefit anyone.

I hope my colleagues from the other side of the aisle will join me today and

say enough is enough. The President is proposing to leave a permanent stain on our economy. We should not be putting people out of work or driving up energy prices.

I hope every American will call on their representatives to oppose this President’s proposal. It is our constituents who keep us accountable.

The Republican leader has already introduced legislation to stop this reckless move by the EPA, and I am proud to join him in that effort. Our bill is simple. It requires that the President prove that this rule will not cause job losses, that it will not increase energy rates, and that it will not hurt our country’s economic output. We know the President’s regulations will put America at an economic disadvantage, but I worry we won’t get a vote on this commonsense bill—or even done as an amendment—and that is a real shame because I think a majority of this body would support the bill and oppose the President’s proposal.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

D-DAY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, a momentous occasion is occurring tomorrow; that is, the 70th anniversary of D-day. Seventy years ago tomorrow, as the American people slept in their beds, the greatest naval invasion in history was underway.

On D-day, June 6, 1944, tens of thousands of American soldiers, sailors, and airmen joined allies from around the free world to begin what General Eisenhower called a great crusade—one that sought to free a continent. They came by amphibious landing craft, and I think my colleague from Louisiana is going to talk more about that in a moment. They also came by gliders laden with men and materiel and by parachutes deployed deep behind enemy lines. At beaches called Omaha and Utah and at the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc, they struck a mortal blow to the Nazi regime. Thousands would give their lives that day for that noble cause.

Like many in this Chamber, I have seen the American cemetery over there with rows of white crosses and Stars of David. They are a stark reminder of the price those brave heroes paid for all of us. These men did not go into battle alone. General Eisenhower said to the Allied Expeditionary Force on the eve of the battle, “The hopes and prayers of liberty loving people everywhere march with you.” Eisenhower was not exaggerating. As word of the invasion spread through the predawn hours of Tuesday morning, people gathered all over this country in churches, synagogues, meeting houses, public places large and small, to seek God’s blessing on men who were even then in harm’s way.

As the battle raged on that day, President Franklin Roosevelt spoke to the Nation. He did not choose to address the American people with a speech; instead, he delivered words of prayer by radio address as the fate of Europe and, indeed, the entire free world hung in the balance. It is a very powerful prayer, transcending all faiths. It is a prayer that tells the story of why America fought and makes evident the sacrifices we were willing to make to see through to victory with God’s help. It is a prayer that speaks to the horrors of war and the beauty of peace. It is a prayer that captures—perhaps better than anything else written since—the magnitude of what happened that day as we hit the beaches of Normandy.

I hope that prayer will never be forgotten, and that is why Senator LANDRIEU and I believe that prayer should be added as part of the World War II monument pursuant to bipartisan legislation we have been working on for a few years. I previously cosponsored it with Senator Lieberman and now with Senator LANDRIEU. It has gone through the Energy Committee twice with unanimous votes. It is called the World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2013. This legislation also passed the House of Representatives by a significant vote, 286 to 26.

I would like to recite that prayer now with my colleague from Louisiana. I would like her to begin this prayer. After nearly 70 years, it still has the power to bring us together as a people and remind us that while we may have differences at times, there are so many things that do unite us.

Mr. President, I defer to my colleague from Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for sharing this moment with me on the Senate floor and allowing me to work closely with him to present this bill to the Senate today. He has worked on this for several years, and I am pleased to join him for any number of reasons.

One thing I wish to mention before I share the reading of this prayer with him is that the official World War II museum happens to be located in New Orleans, LA. It was initiated by the great historian Stephen Ambrose. It has been promoted by an extraordinarily stellar group of civic and political leaders in our Nation. Former Senator Stevens and Senator Inouye joined arms together as brothers in the Senate and helped us to establish this official museum. It is almost complete.

On the eve of D-day, it is particularly striking that the two of us would be here to remember this prayer and to say to the country that this prayer, in our view, should be on the memorial here in DC.

I am also hoping, just as a suggestion, that it will be placed somewhere

significantly in this fabulous, extraordinary, beautifully designed and beautifully executed museum that tells the story of the war—not how it was won but why it was fought. Why it was fought is the most important lesson for our country and the people of the world to know. Some of that is expressed in this prayer. More of that is expressed in the museum itself.

The Senator from Ohio would want to know that hundreds of citizens from New Orleans and Louisiana are actually on their way by boat to Normandy, and, of course, many of our elected officials, including the President, will be celebrating the 70th anniversary.

The reason this museum is in New Orleans is because the Higgins boats were actually built in New Orleans, and it is unusual that such a small city would have contributed so much. Eisenhower himself said that without these landing craft, we never could have gotten to the Normandy beach. They were built by an entrepreneur who had a small factory at the time that then grew, with 43,000 people employed. Men, women, African-Americans, and disabled workers were all being paid the same.

There is a remarkable story about the boats themselves that landed at Normandy, but this effort today is about a memorial prayer that I think we should remember and be reminded of.

I will begin by reciting this prayer which was given by President Roosevelt, and he asked the American people on that day to join him in this prayer.

He said:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest—until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violence of war.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of the battle, for their return to the haven of home. Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, the prayer continues:

And for us at home—fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters, and brothers of brave men overseas, whose thoughts and prayers

are ever with them—help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too—strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and the material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee; faith in our sons; faith in each other; faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment—let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace—a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, almighty God. Amen.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Amen.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, that was the prayer that Franklin Roosevelt gave on that fateful day. Of course, many of the men who fought that day have gone on to their eternal reward, and some of them will mark tomorrow with quiet remembrances with families and friends.

Senator LANDRIEU has noted that there will be people from Louisiana going over to the D-day celebrations—it sounds like some by boat—also from Ohio and from all over the country. Our President will be there. Some will go there to retrace their steps and to see where they were on those beaches. Others will go just to see the cemeteries and remember their fallen comrades. There is a 93-year-old gentleman from Ohio named Jim Martin. He will be there too. He will be jumping from an airplane at 93 years old and parachuting onto the same soil he took back from the Nazis 70 years ago. On behalf of all of us, I wish Jim Godspeed.

There is very little we can add to the legacy they have created for themselves, but we can honor it and we can remember it, and that is what this bipartisan legislation is all about. Again, I crafted it originally with then-Senator Joe Lieberman and now have joined with Senator LANDRIEU to introduce it in this Congress. It directs the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial a plaque with the inscription of the prayer we have just read.

Last Congress, the House of Representatives passed this legislation

with an overwhelming vote of 386 to 26, and after a hearing on May 29, they are moving forward with doing so again. Today, on the eve of this historic anniversary, it is time for the Senate to lead the way toward enshrining this singular moment in the history of our great country.

Senator LANDRIEU and I intend to call up Calendar No. 339 later this afternoon, and we hope in doing so we will achieve unanimous consent to be able to have the Senate proceed to consideration of this legislation, and then ask unanimous consent for it to be passed by this body. This is legislation we have worked on carefully. It has gone through the process of working with the Department of the Interior. We have ensured that it is consistent not just with the Department of Interior but also specifically with the Commemorative Works Act. It is something that, again, has been bipartisan and something that helps to bring this Congress and this country together during a critical time.

I thank my colleague from Louisiana for working with me. I think it is an incredibly important opportunity for us, on the eve of the 70th anniversary, to pass this legislation here in the Senate, thereby doing something positive for the future by telling them the importance of the past. This prayer is certainly part of that.

I yield for my colleague from Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, let me join my colleague in asking for unanimous consent for this particular individual bill to pass by unanimous consent. It would be lovely if we could do this today because of the timing of our D-day celebration tomorrow. For the information of our colleagues who have other bills pending that are called lands bills, we are still working on a smaller package in addition to this. But we felt that this has such significance and importance and it is so timely today that it would really be important for us to do this.

So I hope our staffs can clear this on both sides and we can get this done before close of business today.

I thank the Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Louisiana and I look forward to being back on the floor shortly to propound the unanimous consent request to pass this legislation and to do so prior to this momentous 70th anniversary tomorrow.

I yield back my time, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VETERANS CARE

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I believe every Member of this Senate and every American understands the very deep debt of gratitude we owe to the men and women who put their lives on the line to defend this country. That should not be a political issue. It should not be a partisan issue. I think all of us have been appalled by what we read about in Phoenix and in other locations about people manipulating data, pretending veterans were getting care in a timely manner when that was not the case.

It is my strong belief, as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, that every veteran in this country is entitled to high-quality medical care and that they should get that care in a timely manner. I am going to do everything I can to make that happen.

We live, as everybody knows, in a politically divided country and a divided Congress. Reaching agreements is not easy and, quite frankly, does not take place very often in the Senate. Unfortunately, for whatever reason—without casting blame—it just does not happen. The American people understand that and are not happy about that. So reaching a compromise among people who look at the world very differently is not easy, but in this process, Senator JOHN MCCAIN of Arizona and I have tried our best to come forward with an agreement. It is an agreement which I am sure he is not 100 percent happy about and I can fully assure you I am not 100 percent happy about. I would have written a very different bill. I thank Senator HARRY REID for his strong support for this process, and CHUCK SCHUMER, PATTY MURRAY, and DICK DURBIN for pushing this effort forward. I hope we will be back on the floor to continue the effort to deal with the many unmet needs of veterans, but right now we have a crisis on our hands and it is imperative we deal with that crisis.

To my mind, the essence of the crisis is that we have learned in many parts of this country—not all parts but in many parts of this country—veterans cannot get the timely care they need. They cannot walk into a VA facility and within a reasonable period of time get the treatment they need.

So this bill, in a significant way, begins to address that important issue. Let me very briefly tell you how it does that.

For a start, there are many locations around the country where we need new facilities, we need refurbished facilities, we need expanded facilities. In fact, there are 26 locations in 18 States where that is the case. This legislation would allow the construction of 28 major medical facility leases in 18 States around the country. I believe

that will help us in many parts of the country in providing the quality, timely care our veterans deserve.

In my view, there are areas of the country where we simply do not have the doctors, the nurses, and the other staff we need to provide the care our veterans deserve. Many primary care physicians get burned out by working 12, 14 hours a day. They quit. The turnover rate is too high. It is my view that the VA, by and large—and this is echoed by the views of the veterans community itself in independent studies—that when people get into the VA, the quality of care is good. But I will tell you, if we do not have the primary care physicians, the other physicians, the nurses we need to treat veterans, they are not going to get the care they need.

This legislation will target \$500 million in unobligated balances for the hiring of new VA doctors and nurses. I see that as a significant step forward.

One of the great embarrassments or shocks that all of us feel is that within the military we have seen in recent years horrendous accounts of sexual assault. What this legislation does is say to those women and men who were sexually assaulted in the military that when they get into the VA, there is going to be quality care for their needs.

This legislation also touches on a couple of issues that are not directly related to health care but have overwhelming support in the House and the Senate.

We have heard from many young veterans who are in college as a result of the post-9/11 GI bill who right now cannot afford it because they are not getting in-state tuition. This legislation addresses that issue.

I have talked, as I know Senator MCCAIN has, to Gold Star Wives. These are the women who have lost their husbands in combat who, I think for not a sensible reason, are unable to take advantage of the post-9/11 GI bill. They want to get their lives together. They want to be able to go to college or whatever. This bill addresses that issue.

There is another provision which was strongly supported by Senator MCCAIN and other Republican leaders—and Senator MCCAIN, I am sure, will go into it at great length, but essentially what this provision does is say if someone is 40 miles or farther away from a VA health care facility—a medical center, a CBOC or whatever it may be—they will be able to go to the doctor of their choice, under the strict supervision of the VA.

What this will do is prevent people from, in some cases in very rural areas—I think this is mostly a bill for people in very rural areas who now have to travel long distances to get their health care—this will make their lives easier. This is a 2-year trial project. We will see how it turns out, but that is in the bill as well.

The last point I wish to make is I do not think there is any disagreement in the Senate nor among the American people that when we have incompetent people in the VA or worse—dishonest people in the VA—they should be removed from their jobs immediately and that the Secretary of the VA should have the power to get rid of them. I do not think there is any debate about that.

Where there has been some debate is that in my view those employees deserve due process. I say that because I do not want to see a situation where a new President comes in and for political reasons fires 400 top executives because they are Democrats or because they are Republicans or whatever. I do not want to see a situation where somebody is fired because she is a woman or Black or Hispanic or maybe gay, and maybe that is the underlying motive and that person has no course of appeal.

So what we have done is developed a very expedited process in terms of dismissal. We say if someone is dismissed, they are off the payroll tomorrow, they are gone, but they are going to have a week to file an appeal, and the appropriate body will have 3 weeks to rule on their appeal. I think that makes sense. I think when you think about it, it does make sense.

There are a few other important provisions. It is important, in my view, for the Nation to take advantage of the expertise that is out there in the private sector. How do we develop information technology for people accessing the VA? We want to do that. We have a commission that would help us do that. We have another Presidential commission that will help us with construction, which has been an ongoing problem in the VA.

That is a brief overview of what is in the legislation. Does it solve all of the problems facing our veterans? Absolutely not. Should we come back and continue to deal with this issue? Absolutely. But I think, given the crises we have right now, this is an important step forward.

I thank Senator MCCAIN. Senator MCCAIN's views on many issues are not my views. We look at the world differently, but that is what democracy is about. Our job was to sit down and work out the best agreement. We did. I think from day one Senator MCCAIN showed absolute good faith in this, a desire to reach a compromise. I hope he feels I did the same. We are where we are today.

So with that I yield the floor for Senator MCCAIN and thank him very much for his efforts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

I would like to say to the Senator from Vermont that I respect a great

deal the work he has done on this legislation. I respect his commitment and his leadership of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I respect the fact that BERNIE SANDERS is known as a fighter, and it has been a pleasure to do combat with him.

But I also would like to say that at the end of the day with strongly held views on different aspects of this issue, we were able to come together in a way that will help to relieve this terrible tragedy that seems to have befallen our Nation's veterans. It started in Phoenix, AZ, as my colleagues know, but it has spread all over the country. It begins with the terrible story of perhaps 40 veterans having literally died for lack of care.

I do not need to go through all of the different problems that have surfaced in the ensuing days since that began, but there should be no doubt in anyone's mind that we should accept the word of the inspector general who said these are systemic problems. This is not a scheduling problem. These are systemic problems that need to be addressed.

Our hope—as we concluded this legislation—was that perhaps we could put some of our other differences aside that have beset this body and move forward and address this legislation as quickly as possible and begin to repair the damage because we have, for all intents and purposes, in some ways betrayed the brave men and women who were willing to go out and sacrifice for the well-being and freedom of the rest of us.

So, again, I say to Senator SANDERS, I appreciate his leadership and I appreciate the fact that we both had to make some very tough compromises, but I have found in my experience that when tough compromises are made, usually that is a sign of bipartisanship and a sign that it is a good piece of legislation. I know that is not the popular thing to say nowadays in today's political environment, but I do not believe, if compromises had not been made, that we would be bringing to the floor of the Senate—and working with the House's chairman JEFF MILLER over there—that we would be doing what we are introducing today.

I would also like to say a word about two other individuals; that is, Senator BURR, the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, whom I admire enormously—he has worked tirelessly on behalf of the veterans and he is a most respected member of our conference—and of course our most unique treasure, Dr. TOM COBURN, who had been my nominee to take over the Veterans' Administration, which almost destroyed a long and beautiful friendship, but Dr. COBURN is the conscience of our conference. He is the person whom we look up to and admire the most for his integrity, for his honesty, his intelligence. I thank both Senator

BURR and Dr. COBURN for their enormous work. In some ways, I am sort of the spokesperson, when they did a great majority of the work.

As Senator SANDERS pointed out, I would like to just cover several aspects of this legislation and try to explain a little bit why some of these provisions are there.

Of course, a top priority for me for many years has been to give the veteran a choice. We ought to give the veteran a choice—the same choice as people who are Medicare recipients, those who have TRICARE; that is, the military health care program—where if they are outside of 40 miles from the nearest VA facility, if there is a wait time which is unacceptable, then they should be able to go to the health care provider right near their home, not have to get in a van and ride for 2 or 3 hours for routine medical care.

I also want to emphasize what I hope my colleagues understand, that this is in no way a comment on the Veterans' Administration—I will leave that to others and other judgments—because there are things done in the veterans health care system that only the veterans health care system can handle: PTSD, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, prosthesis, war wounds, that only the VA can do. None of this that we are saying in any way denigrates or does anything that is uncomplimentary to the outstanding men and women who work in this system. We are proud of their work. It is the system that needs to be fixed. So I do not want anybody who is associated with the Veterans' Administration to believe we are criticizing them.

We are talking about a system that must be fixed. It is urgent that it be fixed. Every single day that goes by a veteran is deprived of the care he or she has earned serving this country is wrong. That is why I urge my colleagues: If you have amendments, if you think you can make this bill better, we welcome it. We would be glad to discuss with you amendments to this legislation. We would be glad, if you know how to make it better.

But in the meantime, can we sort of pledge that we are committed to seeing this thing all the way through? I would urge my colleagues to do that. Again, I know I speak for Senator SANDERS when I say: If you have a way to make this bill, this legislation, better, come on in. But let's not get hung up on certain other aspects of our differences that have characterized what most people would view as gridlock in this body.

I urge my colleagues to look at this compromise. It is a compromise. If you think you can make it better, we welcome your input. But also, we would like to have your commitment to seeing this through to the President's desk. I know that over on the other side of the Capitol they are working hard on this issue too.

So we bring up, as I mentioned, veterans should have that card. That veteran should be able to go to a facility of his or her choice. Accountability. Senator RUBIO and others, Congressman MILLER and others, have introduced legislation. Senator SANDERS has improved on it. This calls for the immediate firing—an immediate firing if there is evidence of work that is not in keeping with the standards we expect of our employees.

During that period, under appeal, that person will not receive a salary. That person will have some due process: 7 days to appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board and there are 21 days for that Merit Systems Protection Board to render a final decision. Yes, we should have, as many of our colleagues want, accountability. But that accountability also in this proposal allows for due process for someone to at least have their case heard.

There is expedited hiring authority for VA doctors and nurses, and additional authority to hire new providers. There are unobligated funds out there. We are going to use unobligated funds to hire more doctors and nurses where they are needed. But I would also point out, in some cases doctors and nurses have to work harder where they are. Also, there are now pending, over the years, administration requests for 26 major facility leases to be entered into.

This has been the President's request. This has been a bipartisan agreement on the need for these facilities. I believe we should proceed with it. I would also point out to my colleagues, this legislation has some expenses. But the major expense is to move forward with the construction of these major medical facilities all over America. In the view of all, it is necessary.

This improves the access to health care for individuals who are the victims of military sexual assault. Sexual assault is probably one of the most vexing issues we face in the military today outside of combat. We do not know exactly what causes some of this. We do know many times it is because of a lack of discipline. But there is no doubt this is a problem in the military that needs to be addressed; otherwise, mothers and fathers will be not agreeable—in fact reluctant—to have their sons and daughters serve in the military unless we address this issue of sexual assault.

There are many efforts going on, in the Defense authorization bill, in the military, many other areas where we are working on this issue. But I think this provision in the bill will be very helpful in attempting to address that issue.

A commission needs to be appointed on scheduling and care. We know one of the problems is scheduling, and this whole issue of phantom lists and waiting lists that disappeared. We have to get to the bottom of it. I think the

smartest people in America could help us on that. There is another commission on capital planning. What are the needs of our veterans?

One of the things we do know is we have an aging veteran population from World War II, those who are, God bless them, still with us, Korea and Vietnam. That is an aging veterans population and requires a different kind of care than those of Iraq and Afghanistan. To be frank, a lot of that is geriatric care. To be frank, geriatric care is very expensive. But we have to understand who this population is and what their needs are, just as we have to understand the Iraqi and Afghanistan war veterans and what their needs are.

Very frankly, our planning so far has not been very impressive to me. We need to have—this is a pure Senator SANDERS initiative—a GI bill tuition, eligibility for surviving spouses of those who died in the line of duty. It seems to me that is only fair. And a provision also that in-State tuition will be provided for all veterans at public colleges and universities.

Again, finally I want to say thank you to Senator SANDERS. I also want to say to my colleagues again: This is not a perfect document. We are ready to see any changes that we would consider, and perhaps germane amendments. But I would also hope we could focus our attention on the bill and the efforts to help our veterans, as opposed to other issues which seem to be with us on a daily basis.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I thank Senator MCCAIN again. I think his remarks were right on in terms of describing what is in this legislation. I support his appeal.

Look, everybody has an issue. Every time a bill comes up, I have my pet concerns that I could bring forth amendments on, Senator MCCAIN has his. But what we are appealing to right now is if you have a way to improve this bill for our veterans, bring forth that amendment. But please, please, do not bring forward extraneous amendments. Let's focus on the needs of veterans. Let's not make them political footballs. I hope very much we can proceed in that direction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAIN. Madam President, I rise to offer a few words about the colloquy that just was completed. I often find, when I am on the floor or presiding, that I feel sorry for the spectators in the Chamber. Either they are seeing the body not work as well as it should or sometimes they are watching a lot of silence, depending on when they are here. But I have been in the chair for the last hour. I think the spectators have been treated to what the Senate does when we do our best. First Sen-

ators PORTMAN and LANDRIEU put a bill on the floor dealing with a commemoration in connection with the 70th anniversary of D-day, which is tomorrow. It was a bill they are seeking unanimous consent for. It was a very worthy one.

But, second, I know many of us, all of us in the Chamber, have been very discouraged about the recent revelations and challenges within the VA. Many of us feared earlier this week that what we would get in this discussion were competing proposals or bills that would be partisan, where each side would fall short of doing what they wanted, and the veterans would not receive the kind of relief they should get.

What we have seen, with Senator SANDERS and Senator MCCAIN putting this bill on the floor just now, is exactly how this should work for the veterans, but in the legislative process more generally. So I am pleased to congratulate my colleagues for taking two different approaches to this veterans challenge and working it out so a bipartisan bill can be offered. I think we owe it to the veterans, and especially in light of these recent challenges, to show a unified face in trying to fix these problems. I look forward to working with my colleagues to do so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I too want to join my colleague from Virginia in adding accolades to our Senators from Vermont and Arizona in putting together this proposal. I would like to make a few points here. First, the veterans should come first. These are people whom we sent overseas to risk their lives for us. When they come back injured, nothing should stand in the way of us giving them the best medical care possible.

Senators MCCAIN and SANDERS, of different political philosophies—if they each had to write their own bill would write different bills—came together, not for their ideology's sake, not for political advantage, but for the good of these veterans. That is the highest duty we have here.

The second point I would make is this: In a body that has been wracked by partisanship, I was hoping and praying that that partisanship would not stand in the way of us helping our veterans. Because of this good work of Vermont and Arizona's Senators, that has happened. That has happened. We are not home yet. We hope no one will be so selfish that they feel their own amendment or amendments have to be voted on if they are extraneous, because that could blow up the deal. We all know how fragile, even for our veterans, bipartisan agreements are in this body. This is a higher calling.

I talked at length over the last several days with Senator SANDERS. I know how heartfelt this is for him. As he said: If he wrote his own bill, he

would have done a lot more. But each of us writing a bill and giving a speech about it is not going to help a single veteran. The way this body works is, we have to come together. There is no one on the other side of the aisle, perhaps no one in this Chamber, who better respects what veterans have gone through than Senator MCCAIN after what he went through himself as a prisoner of war. He was just the right person for the chairman of our Veterans Committee, BERNIE SANDERS, to reach out to. Because they both cared so much about veterans, they came together. It is now up to the rest of us, the other 98, to do the same, to come together, to pass this bill quickly. This does not mean this will be the last thing we will do for veterans. This is an issue we are going to have to revisit, given the sickness we have in parts of the Veterans Administration, given the long waiting lists, given the fact that while most veterans get very good care in our VA, not every veteran does. Our goal is to have every veteran get good care in our VA.

Hopefully this bill will pass. Hopefully maybe this will set a precedent that we can work together on important issues; we can each submerge some of our heartfelt feelings that it has to be our way and reach compromise with the other side. That is what Senator SANDERS has done. That is what Senator MCCAIN has done. I salute them for their patriotism, their good sense, and, frankly, their courage.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EPA REGULATIONS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I come this afternoon to speak about the regulations proposed by the administration on Monday relating to the Environmental Protection Agency. This time the agency's target is a 30-percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from existing powerplants by the year 2030.

The regulation that has been announced, which has been the subject of a great deal of conversation this week, should not be confused with EPA rules for cooling water intake or for proposed powerplants or for cross-state air pollution or for boilers or for ozone or for incinerators or for regional haze or for fuel economy or for the waters of the United States or for renewable fuels or for cement kilns or for coal ash or for effluent limitations or for any other number of regulatory actions that the agency has taken or is expected to take.

This rule—and there have been so many of them, it almost feels like this should be EPA's rule of the week or rule of the month—is a unilateral effort to bypass Congress and to force into place policies that we in Congress have not approved. The goal is to push our electric supply away from coal and, I think, ultimately, away from natural gas as soon as possible.

As the ranking member on the energy committee, I can attest that energy is always the flip side of the environmental debate. If we have a discussion about energy, we always have a discussion about the environment.

I believe we should advance policies that make our energy abundant, affordable, clean, diverse, and secure. To that end, our environmental goals must be balanced with our energy needs.

Because of this, I have for years expressed concern that EPA's relentless onslaught will harm the affordability and the reliability of our electric supply. In fact, I even released a white paper on this matter earlier this year. We still do not have an accurate accounting of the cumulative costs associated with all of these EPA rules that I just gave in the laundry list, but we do know not to trust their math because EPA has dramatically underestimated the powerplant retirements in very recent past.

I will give you some examples. For the mercury and air toxic rules, EPA estimated only 4.7 gigawatts of coal-fired capacity retirements by the year 2015. But then we see the contrast. The labor unions forecast that MATS alone would result in 55 gigawatts of coal plant retirements and the loss of some 250,000 jobs. Government experts have determined that approximately 10 to 20 percent of existing coal capacity could be retired by the middle of the next decade. This is a calculation that really dwarfs EPA's number and one that doesn't include the potential impact of the latest proposal.

Now, I know that the EPA has an important job to do, and I appreciate that, but I also recognize that it does not and cannot regulate in a vacuum. Baseload coal and the ancillary services that it provides account for almost 40 percent of our power. In many instances the EPA's regulations will render generating units uneconomic, with compliance requiring retrofitting, the use of best available technology, and downtime for installation. So I am concerned—greatly concerned—that the EPA's rules, particularly when you combine them with one another, will result in a grid that is less stable and less reliable. The cumulative effect of federal regulations on baseload capacity resources, whether they are coal or nuclear, which produce electricity on demand has to be looked at. We have to examine and appreciate the cumulative effect of this loss of production and not discount or ignore it.

Many this past winter got a taste of what life in Alaska is like in the wintertime when we experienced the polar vortex here in the lower 48. The polar vortex caused 50,000 megawatts of powerplant outages. For one key system 89 percent of the coal capacity that is scheduled for retirement next year because of an EPA rule was called upon to meet the rising demand.

So again, just think about that.

We had a tough winter. We had coal-fueled facilities that were able to step up and provide for that increased demand—89 percent of that capacity was utilized during this polar vortex. That is fine. But what happens when those facilities are now offline, when they are in retirement, when you do not have that backup?

The question we really need to be asking is, What happens when that capacity is gone? Hoping for a mild winter isn't a viable strategy. You cannot have a hope-and-prayer energy policy, hoping that the weather is not going to be so bad. Our Nation relies on installed dispatchable power generation during extreme weather, which is why we need to ensure grid reliability through a diversity of baseload capacity.

Today it is unclear how many plants will retrofit to comply with various EPA regulations—including this most recent one—as opposed to making a decision to just shut down. It is uncertain if there will be enough time—to say nothing of sufficient capital available for investment—to build these new facilities or other forms of generation needed to ensure the continued reliability of the grid.

I have been talking about grid reliability for a long while now, and I think it speaks to our system that while we may have been pushed to the edge of getting nervous, we have been able to meet that reliability requirement Americans have just come to expect. They want to know that when they want to have the lights on or keep cool or keep warm, there is that availability. Reliability is key here. I am even more troubled that the EPA, which has conceded that a single rule may result in what they have called a "localized effect," has not sought from our grid regulators, FERC and NERC, an analysis of the cumulative impact its rules may have. Understanding the impacts of these rules by checking in with our grid regulators, FERC and NERC, as part of a formal process is an important part of what needs to go on. Yet we are not seeing that follow-through. Instead, EPA appears to be morphing into an industrial planning agency for the energy sector. That is not what they are designed to do. This latest rulemaking makes it even more important for FERC and the Department of Energy to step up, to really go toe-to-toe here with EPA to protect the reliability and the affordability of our power supply.

The current chairwoman of FERC, while she has not called for a formal official role for the commission—as many of us would like—is certainly up to the task in my view. But with that situation at play right now within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, it appears that the White House doesn't want to keep the acting chair in charge. Its nominee to serve as chairman is both short on energy experience and largely unaware of the electricity reliability implications of EPA's rules.

In response to a hearing question about grid reliability from Senator MANCHIN, the nominee conceded that he "has not been following the decisional process at EPA closely enough to know."

I find that response not only disturbing, but I think it raises the question of whether anyone within the administration is actually following the EPA process closely enough to know what will happen to our electric grid. I can tell you that I don't think the EPA knows the impact for my State of Alaska. The Agency readily admits that its proposal "fails to account for the expected costs and benefits for areas outside of the contiguous United States."

Alaska is one-fifth the size of the country, and we are part of the country. But the EPA, in advancing these proposed regulations, admits that "we don't know." We don't know the cost-benefit for Alaska. We don't know the cost-benefit for Hawaii. That does not mean that my State is exempt from this rule as some reports have led Alaskans to believe. Instead, without the benefit of any analysis, EPA has directed Alaska to reduce our emissions by 26 percent and this while EPA ignores—totally ignores—the likely inflationary costs and increases inherent in requiring the revamping of so much power production likely within a single decade.

The EPA has recommended that States work together, work together to figure out how we are going to make these cuts. But again, when you are not part of the contiguous United States, it is a little more difficult for us in Alaska and our neighbors to the south in Hawaii if we are not part of an interstate electricity grid. Alaska is really in many ways on its own. Because of our constant need for Federal approvals or at best Federal cooperation that is too often slow to come, we are not even able to develop our clean hydro-power.

Some may ask: Well, I understand that you have about 25 percent of your power in the State of Alaska coming from hydro. That is correct. But because of other Federal policies—whether it is the roadless rule or other policies—we are truly hamstrung in our ability to build out more hydro. Based on more than 50 years of delay or broken Federal promises, there is no guarantee that we will be able to develop

fully our abundant natural gas or even our vast renewable resource potential.

We have challenges and we acknowledge them. We are working on those challenges. We are working diligently because there is nobody who wants to get reliable, affordable, clean diverse energy supplies to our State more honestly and earnestly than myself. But it is challenging. So as we work towards that transition, we need that flexibility. We need that time.

Now the EPA has suggested a series of strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. But of the five powerplants in Alaska that are directly impacted by this proposed rule, four are natural-gas-fired plants, and they are located near each other and Anchorage. So in the whole State of Alaska there are only five plants that are impacted by this regulation. Everything else is small enough or doesn't sell its power. So of the five, four of them are already natural gas. The fifth already has clean coal technology. The proposed strategies of switching to natural gas, dispatch changes or retiring plants are really just unworkable given the configuration we have in my State. Given that we live in this polar vortex every winter—everywhere is polar vortex in Alaska—many of our houses are well insulated to protect from the cold. So efficiency programs will provide comparatively small gains.

Having said that, I know that we can and must do more when it comes to efficiencies, and I will continue to push on that because that is an area where I think we can make a difference. But trying to get to this 26-percent reduction is a challenge. I am still canvassing my State, but it will be difficult for Alaska to reach our 26-percent emissions reduction without serious economic impact.

Electricity is already more expensive in Alaska than in most of the rest of the Nation. We have to reduce these prices, not engage in policies that will raise those prices even higher. In the lower 48 States, on average, an American family spends a little over 4 percent of their household budget towards their energy—keeping the lights on and keeping the house warm or cool—depending on the season. In many parts of my State of Alaska we have households that pay between 40 and 50 percent of their household budget to stay warm and to keep the lights on. So I am looking at this very, very critically. While I want to ensure that our air is clean, that we are working to reduce health risks, we don't have any room in Alaska to increase our energy costs. We have to be working aggressively with one another to reduce those costs.

So I look at the proposal that has come out from the EPA this week, and I am very concerned about how a State such as mine will achieve the level that the EPA has imposed on it without extraordinary increases to cost.

Some have labeled this recent EPA proposed regulation ObamaCare 2.0, and in many ways it is. The administration insists that there will be no cost increases associated with this rule. All we are missing here is an awful Web site and a pledge that if you like your current electricity bill, you can keep it. The President promises the electricity bills will shrink, but I am not buying that. The Wall Street Journal has rightly labeled this a huge tax on the poor and the middle class, and no one understands what will happen if States perhaps refuse to move forward with their own plans. Again, you have to ask the question: Does anybody really think that the EPA has the ability to impose its Federal will while simultaneously keeping the lights on and keeping power affordable to all 50 States?

Despite negative economic growth last quarter and despite far better approaches pending in Congress to promote energy efficiency and energy innovation, such as an energy efficiency bill that my colleague from Ohio has been working doggedly to try to advance—a measure that I think is smart and sound and built on good policy—to not only help States like mine but all across the country, we do have some good proposals out there. We have initiatives we can move forward. But instead the President has decided to push ahead and to propose sweeping new regulations on our still weak economy.

We must keep costs and reliability in mind as regulatory mandates push more and more baseload coal plants offline. FERC must be the unambiguous champion of reliability with a formal and a documented role with respect to EPA's rulemaking process. Powerful regulatory laws must be judicially administered, and only Congress—not the EPA—should decide such consequential changes for our energy supply, our economy, and our people. I think anything less is unacceptable and could very well yield significant negative consequences for a wide variety of American families and our businesses.

I thank the Presiding Officer for her attention and the opportunity to discuss a very important issue for our entire country.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I commend my colleague from Alaska, who is the ranking member, and thank her for her hard work. She mentioned the energy efficiency bill. I know she strongly supports that bill, and I hope it will come back to the floor. It is a more logical way to get at some of these issues.

I come to the floor to follow up on the conversation I had earlier with Senator LANDRIEU. She and I announced earlier this afternoon that we

were going to offer unanimous consent in the Senate on bipartisan and non-controversial legislation. I had hoped Senator LANDRIEU would come back to the floor, but apparently she can't, so I will offer this on behalf of both of us.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO INSTALL A WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, as if in legislative session, that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 339, S. 1044.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1044) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on D-day, June 6, 1944.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1044) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1044

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. PLACEMENT OF PLAQUE OR INSCRIPTION AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL.

The Secretary of the Interior—

(1) shall install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day;

(2) shall design, procure, prepare, and install the plaque or inscription referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) may not use Federal funds to prepare or install the plaque or inscription referred to in paragraph (1), but may accept and expend private contributions for this purpose.

SEC. 3. COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.

Chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Commemorative Works Act"), shall apply to the design and placement of the plaque within the area of the World War II Memorial.

D-DAY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, the clerk just read part of the description of this legislation, and I thank this body on both sides of the aisle for working with us.

Tomorrow we mark a momentous occasion. It is the 70th anniversary of D-day. It is a day, of course, that will go down in history as one of the greatest naval invasions in the history of our country but also a day when we lost

many brave American soldiers and one where the country came together to pray for them and give them the strength they would need not just on that D-day but to go through Europe to ultimately vanquish the Nazis and liberate that continent.

On that day, 70 years ago tomorrow, Franklin D. Roosevelt decided not to give a speech at the White House but instead to give a prayer for the troops and for the Nation. This body has just passed legislation to make that prayer a part of the World War II Memorial. That prayer will help to give it some additional context and interpretation at a critical time. The prayer helps us look at our history and shows how our country came together at a critical time. It is a very powerful prayer. My dad was a World War II veteran, and I always found it to be one of the most moving prayers in our Nation's history.

I will mention a couple of aspects of this prayer. President Roosevelt explained—I thought in very powerful words—why America fought. When talking about the troops, he said:

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest—until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

That is why we fight.

Again, I think that prayer is an important part of our history but also an important message for us even today.

The prayer also includes a number of other very powerful messages that brought the Nation together in a single day for prayer and thanksgiving. It asks for God's help in a number of ways, and one that I think is particularly poignant is where it asks God to give us the ability to deepen our faith.

It says:

And, O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee, faith in our sons; faith in each other . . .

Again, I appreciate the work of Senator LANDRIEU and, before her, Senator Lieberman, who was the original co-sponsor with me on this legislation.

I thank my friends from Ohio, the Christian Alliance, and others who have brought this to my attention over the years.

I thank my colleagues in the House, who passed this legislation last year with a resounding vote. I hope they will take up this legislation and pass it again in the House this year so we can indeed move to have this inscription placed in the World War II Memorial in order to remind us of a day in our Nation's history where our country did come together and where we, as Americans—not as conquerors but as lib-

erators—provided for the liberation of a continent and established this precedent for our country that with God so much is possible.

I yield back my time and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VETERANS CARE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, there is good news for America's veterans this afternoon. Senator MCCAIN and Senator SANDERS, the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, have apparently come to a tentative agreement on what we should do to deal with some of the serious problems at the Veterans' Administration.

We know a couple of things. First of all, we know that health care in the veterans hospitals, in the VA system, in the community-based clinics in places such as Akron and Canton and Youngstown and Springfield and Mansfield and the care in the big hospitals, such as Wade Park and Dayton, is superb and there is overwhelming support among veterans for the care they have earned and deserve and are getting. The problem is getting access to that care in a number of cases. Too many veterans have waited too long, been forced to wait too long to get the medical care and the medical treatment they need.

That is a product, frankly, of a historically underfunded VA. We know a decade ago, when the President a decade ago—more than a decade ago—and the Senate and the House took the country to war the Veterans' Administration funding was put pretty flat. There was no real preparation by the Congress, by the President—then President Bush—and by the VA to scale up veterans' capacity, the VA capacity, veterans' health care—not enough nurses, not enough doctors, not enough health care personnel, not enough capacity at the VA health care system to take care of the surging numbers of soldiers coming home, sailors coming home, marines coming home, air men and women coming home.

We also know at the same time what happened with Agent Orange, and the Agent Orange presumptive eligibility. As Vietnam veterans were beginning to get sicker, were beginning to show more and more symptoms, the government made the right decision, Congress made the right decision, if a soldier had boots on the ground, they were eligible. If a soldier had an illness defined by the law that was connected to Agent Orange, then they were presumed to be eligible. They didn't have to go back and prove they were actually exposed

at a certain place at a certain time in Vietnam. All of those were good things, as our country, our government, our VA, embraced war, men and women, to get the VA care they earned.

The bad news was Congress and the President didn't prepare for it a decade ago as this surge of new people, the veterans coming home, veterans living here for a number of years after doing their service, that they could get the health care they needed. That is the reason we have had these long delays.

There are certainly issues of leadership within the VA. There are issues of administrators not doing their jobs. They should be held accountable. They should pay a price for that—sometimes termination, certainly disciplinary action if shown to have failed to live up to their responsibilities ethically and efficiently and correctly and responsibly.

It is clear this new agreement will take us forward. It will mean a couple of things. One, it means those administrators, those VA officials who didn't do their jobs, will be held accountable. Secondly, and most importantly, it will mean veterans who have had long delays or who live in rural areas and simply can't get the coverage, can't get to the VA clinic, the community-based outpatient clinic or the VA hospital, the VA center, if they can't get that health care treatment today, or soon, they can go to a private hospital, they can go to a community-based health clinic and get the coverage, get the care they need at no cost to the veteran.

The third thing is, to make up for the neglect of a decade ago that we have tried to remedy by almost doubling the VA budget over the last 5 years to take care of all these people who are now in the system who have suffered much more serious illness and disability than the veterans of a generation ago who might have died on the battlefield from these same injuries, that we scale up the training of doctors and nurses in these VA facilities.

There has been an agreement reached among a group of us on the veterans committee and both parties that we will fund a number of new facilities around the country as we train more doctors and nurses and other health care personnel—physical therapists, occupational therapists, and others.

At a time of not particularly good news for veterans over the last few weeks and really over the last few months, this is good news. This will make for a better VA. We know the VA is a huge health care system, with 85 million veteran visits, patient visits to the VA over the last year and 8 million different veterans have used the VA over the last 12 months. We have to make sure we do our jobs as Senators and Members of Congress and in the White House to take care of our veterans. For those who served us, it is time we served our veterans.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 70th anniversary of the heroic landings of D-day.

The incredible bravery exhibited on June 6 of 1944, in the first phase of Operation Overlord to liberate Western Europe from the clutches of Nazi Germany, is one of the defining moments of modern history.

The images of American GIs landing at Omaha Beach, Utah Beach, and Pointe du Hoc have come to represent not only the great sacrifices made during World War II, but the enduring cause of freedom for which the United States still stands.

I have had the humbling experience of visiting the American cemetery at Normandy that honors those who fell during the invasion. As I walked the peaceful fields of brilliant white headstones in perfect formation, it was hard to imagine the terrifying landscape that greeted those American and allied soldiers, many of them not yet 20 years old, when they lowered the ramps of their landing craft in the shallows off of Normandy. Yet they understood the importance of their mission, and they held fast against one of the greatest evils the world has ever faced, and they prevailed.

The men and women who answered the call to serve in World War II and those who supported them on the home front are often revered as the "greatest generation," and deservedly so. They gave up their lives and their livelihoods and endured separation from their loved ones and fought in unspeakable conditions.

From the beaches of Normandy to the islands of the Pacific, where my father served as a Navy pilot, the United States and allied forces fought for freedom and for the dignity of mankind, and we owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

As we honor the memory of those who served before us, we honor their legacy by upholding the values for which they fought.

We are here today because of the immense burdens our men and women in uniform have carried on our behalf. May we never forget their sacrifices or the solemn responsibility we have to all of those who have answered the call to serve.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO NAVAJO CODE TALKER CHESTER NEZ

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, my State of New Mexico has a great tradition of military service. When the Nation has called, New Mexico has always answered. Today I wanted to say a few words to remember Chester Nez, the last of the original 29 Navajo code talkers of World War II.

Mr. Nez passed away Wednesday morning in Albuquerque, NM. We are forever indebted to him and his fellow warriors. They turned the Navajo language into an unbelievable code, using the language they were forbidden to speak in school, as a weapon to defend our freedoms in war, freedoms they themselves did not always enjoy. This is a great story of courage, of love of country, of tremendous sacrifice. In battle after battle in ferocious combat, the Navajo code saved countless lives and helped secure the allied victory. In 2001, the original code talkers received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor the Congress can give.

Our former colleague, Senator Jeff Bingaman, fought hard for this. I was pleased to push for it in the House. It was richly deserved and long overdue. Mr. Nez was there for the ceremony, and the Presiding Officer, who was in the House with me, may remember we had that ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. It was a great and uplifting day to finally see the Navajo code talkers receive their medals.

I said then what I continue to feel now: Their service can never be forgotten and can never be diminished. Chester Nez was modest in his own life but proud of the code talkers and proud of the Navajo traditions. In his later years, he visited schools and colleges all across the Nation to tell the story of those Navajo code talkers.

In his memoir, written with Judith Avila, he said:

I recommended myself that my Navajo people had always been warriors, protectors. In that there was honor. I would concentrate on being a warrior, on protecting my homeland.

As we mark Chester's passing, we honor his memory with a renewed dedication to preserve our Native languages, to keep alive the story of our code talkers, the heroic story of the Navajo, and also of other Native American tribes, their codes and their commitment forever unbroken.

Today we say goodbye to this great hero, this humble man who served our country with such devotion. We say goodbye with sadness but also with appreciation for a debt that can never be fully repaid, for courage that will forever inspire, and for a life that truly made a difference.

Chester, you made a real difference in our lives. I would just say to Chester's family, we send them our heartfelt condolences.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAREWELL TO PAGES

Mr. REID. As we leave for the week, I wanted to say something on the record regarding the pages. They are going to graduate tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. I look forward to these graduations every year. These are fine young men and women who come here and spend a semester of school with us.

This is a tradition we have been doing for a long time. Two of my grandchildren were pages, and even though my family has been involved in government through me for all these many years, they were never exposed to it like coming here and being pages. It really changed their lives, and I am sure some of these young men and women's lives have been changed also.

I can remember when I was about their age and I went to Boys State and the friends I made at that weeklong program—friends I still have. These young men and women—friends they make here, they will have for the rest of their lives.

These boys and girls are not the summer pages. We have two classes of summer pages, and they are here for a month, and that is it. These young men and women are here for a semester, and the school is hard. It is not some kind of a lark back in Washington. They studied hard. We look for good students, and that is what we get. They get up early in the morning, they go to school, and they come here and try to learn more about government. They really get to know us, personalities. Some of us are nicer to them than others. They recognize that.

I congratulate these pages because they are an integral part of what goes on around here. They really do things that are hard. We don't ask them to write dissertations, at least here in the Senate; for the school, they do that. But they run bills around the Capitol Complex, and they help us on some of the more mundane things we take for granted.

I really look forward to meeting them. I try to meet all the pages every year. Sometimes I don't get to meet all of the Republican pages, but I try. I want them to know that even though they won't hear from every one of us, we all very much appreciate what they do.

Today is their last day here, as I mentioned. I thank them for their service, and I hope their slight glance into the government will be something that will cause them to be involved in government.

As for young men and women, the Presiding Officer in this body has had a

great political career. She has held a number of statewide offices in the State of North Dakota. In all of what we do in life, there are disappointments that come. She would have been the Governor of the State of North Dakota, but she was stricken with breast cancer, which, I understand, messed up her campaign. But she came back and as a real underdog decided to run for the Senate, and she won. She has made a tremendous difference in this body. I hope each of you can look around here and see people, such as the Presiding Officer, whom you would like to be like someday.

When I first came to this body—I say to these young women especially—BARBARA MIKULSKI was a Senator from Maryland. I came with her to the Senate, and she was the woman. That was it. And now, I couldn't help but smile earlier this week because a number of women—seven or eight women—had congregated here, and one of the Senators said to me—a female Senator said: Look, many of us wore turquoise today. And it was so bright and the clothes looked so vibrant and added so much to this body.

So it used to be boys, that the Senators we had here, with rare exception, were men, but that is not the way it is anymore. And I can speak from experience—the Senate is a much better place because of the input of women. Men and women are different. They have different views and outlooks on life. As a result of that, this is a much better place.

I can remember a number of years ago when I looked here on the floor—I was whip at that time, taking care of the floor—it was stunning to me, on the military construction bill, appropriations bill, two women were running it. Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Republican from Texas, was the ranking member, and DIANNE FEINSTEIN from California was the chair of that committee, determining billions of dollars for construction of military facilities around the world. So things have changed a great deal. You have been part of watching this great change take place, young men and women. Thank you for your service here, and I hope someday some of you will be serving in this august body.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF M. HANNAH LAUCK TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 734.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie K. Hirono.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LEO T. SOROKIN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie K. Hirono.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF RICHARD FRANKLIN BOULWARE II, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 739.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie Hirono.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LAEL BRAINARD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 769.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of 14 years from February 1, 2012.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Ron Wyden, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren, Bill Nelson, Robert Menendez.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JEROME H. POWELL TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 771.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is a cloture motion I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Ron Wyden, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren, Bill Nelson, Robert Menendez.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF STANLEY FISCHER TO BE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 767.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is a cloture motion that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Ron Wyden, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren, Bill Nelson, Robert Menendez.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Normandy invasion by

Allied Forces. On June 6, 1944, a date known ever since as D-day, a mighty armada crossed a narrow strip of sea from England to Normandy, France and broke the Nazi grip on Western Europe. The day before—June 5, 1944—a fleet of 3,000 landing craft, 500 naval vessels, and 2,500 miscellaneous ships left English ports bound for Normandy, France. The amphibious landing was the largest effort ever in the history of mankind with the simultaneous landings of U.S., British, and Canadian forces on five separate beachheads in Normandy. An additional 13,000 aircraft supported Allied Forces on D-day.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower—the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe—addressed the troops immediately prior to the invasion, saying:

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force! You are about to embark upon a great crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers in arms on other fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

And by the end of August 1944, all of northern France was liberated and the invading forces were reorganized for the drive into Germany where they would eventually meet up with Soviet forces advancing from the east to bring an end to the Third Reich and its tyranny of terror.

The aftermath of World War II saw much of Europe devastated in a way that is now difficult to imagine. Over 36 million Europeans died in the conflict; 19 million of them were civilians. Millions more were left homeless, the European economy had collapsed, and much of the European industrial infrastructure was destroyed.

But from these ashes of war came the beginning of a new era for international cooperation and diplomacy. In the wake of World War II, the United Nations agreed to outlaw wars of aggression in an attempt to prevent a third world war. With the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, in 1949 and the institutionalization of the Helsinki Accords 25 years later, we committed ourselves to the work that began with the assault on those beachheads—Utah, Omaha, Juno, Sword, and Gold Beach—in June 1944.

The guiding principles of the Helsinki Final Act are the foundations of lasting peace. These principles are worth enumerating: sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty, refraining from threat or use of force, inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity of States, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention in internal affairs, respect for human rights, self determination of

peoples, co-operation among States, and fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law. Additionally, the Helsinki Final Act reaffirmed mankind's fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief.

Today, we remember the tremendous efforts of Allied Forces as they signaled to the world that unprovoked aggression and genocide have no place in our international order and will be met with our greatest resolve. I am reminded of the Maryland National Guard units who participated in the D-day landings. These brave Marylanders served with great distinction in the 29th Infantry Division, fighting their way across Western Europe and liberating France and Holland. The 29th Division suffered one of the highest casualty rates of any American division during World War II. We must honor those heroes by safeguarding all that they fought and sacrificed for.

Today, there are one million surviving World War II veterans in the U.S., and 17,346 of them are Marylanders. These same heroes who landed on those beaches in Normandy and parachuted behind enemy lines 70 years ago are joined by veterans who have served in conflicts spanning from the Korean war to the war in Afghanistan. Today, I call on each of my colleagues to commit themselves to the work of meeting our obligations to all of these veterans. The best way to honor their sacrifices is to ensure that we are unwavering in our support for them and their families.

NEVADA'S FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate two of Nevada's own, MSG Davis B. Leonard and Private Gaetano R. Benza, for being awarded the National Order of the French Legion of Honor in the rank of chevalier. Their service to our country and dedication to ensuring freedom beyond America's borders earn them a unique place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

As we approach the anniversary of D-day, nearly 70 years after World War II, these heroes are being honored with the Legion of Honor, France's highest distinction. Veterans who risked their lives during World War II and fought on French territory have this award bestowed upon them as a token of gratitude from France for defending liberty on their soil. The sacrifices these brave soldiers made set America and the world on a path to peace, freedom, and liberty that we as Americans enjoy today. Master Sergeant Leonard and Private Benza are joining the ranks of other notable Americans, such as GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower and Douglas

MacArthur and even, as an institution, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, by receiving this honorable recognition.

A highly decorated veteran from Henderson, NV, MSG Davis Leonard served in the U.S. Army Air Force Reserve as part of the 8th Air Force. He was transferred to England, where he flew his first of 64 combat missions as a bombardier and navigator. Master Sergeant Leonard was active in the Battle of Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. For his service, he earned several medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross with two bronze and one silver oak leaf medal. Upon his return home, he worked to rebuild our country working for Pacific Telephone Company for 30 years. Now retired at the age of 91, Master Sergeant Leonard resides in Henderson with his wife.

Private Gaetano Benza from Las Vegas, NV, spent 4 months transporting supplies and ammunition to the men on Omaha Beach as a longshoreman for the Port Battalion 297th Port Company. During the invasion of Normandy, Private Benza worked tirelessly, while under heavy enemy fire, to ensure that the soldiers that landed were equipped for battle. After spending 4 months at Omaha Beach, he moved to La Havre, France, where he would remain until the end of the war. Awarded for his service to our country, Private Benza received the World War II Victory medal. Once he returned home, he continued his education and became a barber at Nellis Air Force Base. While retired from the Armed Forces, 89-year-old Private Benza refuses to retire from his active lifestyle and is still a barber in the Las Vegas area.

Their commitment to this country, as well as their dedication to their families and communities, exemplified why the legacy of all World War II veterans must be preserved for generations to come. These veterans truly are the "greatest generation"—selflessly serving not for recognition but because it was the right thing to do. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals but to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

Please join me in congratulating these men for their acts of heroism and valor that helped to defend France from the greatest enemy they or we have ever faced. May we never forget the brave actions by these heroes that allowed the Allied troops to begin a march across Europe and defeat tyranny. Today, I join the Clark County community and citizens of the Silver State to congratulate these courageous men and honorable Nevadans.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GORDON STEWART

• Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I wish to honor Gordon Stewart, who is retiring from serving as the air traffic manager at Boise Airport.

Gordon channeled his early exposure to aviation, through family members who owned airplanes, into a distinguished career. Gordon got his start in aviation through his military service. He served for 3 years in the U.S. Army, through which he received his air traffic control training. He was a distinguished graduate at Fort Rucker, AL, in both basic and advanced individual training. He then went on to work at various helicopter training airports, serve in Vietnam, and receive valuable experience working with a wide variety of aircraft at the joint use airfield at Fort Huachuca, AZ.

He utilized the experience and training obtained through his military service in his numerous Federal Aviation Administration assignments that built up his deep knowledge of air traffic control. After returning to his family farm in Montana and serving as acting manager at the Flight Service Station in Cut Bank, MT, he spent 3 years at Missoula International Airport, where he learned about nonradar approach. He went on to work for more than a year at Billings Logan International Airport and then at the Salt Lake City Terminal Radar Approach Control, TRACON, before returning to the Missoula International Airport, where he served as acting air traffic manager before obtaining a position at Boise Airport.

Gordon worked as a supervisor for 12 years at Boise Airport before becoming the air traffic manager for the past nearly 12 years. His leadership during his time there has been instrumental in making the airport successful. The numerous recognitions he received for his outstanding work include multiple facility of the year awards and a Fire Fighting Award for support of fire fighting in the Northwest Mountain Region.

Gordon's effort to remain true to his core values and manage the same way he has parented—fair but firm—has been exemplary. Integrity has been a central element of Gordon's work. He can always be counted on to do what is right. His principled approach to working through considerable challenges has been indispensable. This especially includes his work on the development of the new Boise Air Traffic Control Tower and the effort to locate the TRACON.

Thank you, Gordon, for your outstanding and dedicated service. As you retire, you deserve to reflect on your extraordinary career with pride in a job well done. I hope that retirement affords you more time with your

friends and family, including your six children. I congratulate you on your retirement and wish you all the best.●

MINNESOTA POETRY CONTEST
WINNERS

• Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, today I am proud to enter into the RECORD the poems of the winners of the 3rd Annual Minnesota Military Children's Poetry Contest. The theme of this year's competition was "Celebrating the Veteran in My Life." Each of the poems submitted by a Minnesota child paid tribute to the men and women who have honorably served and have had a profound impact on the lives of children and families in Minnesota and across our great Nation. Seventy students from kindergarten, middle and high school submitted entries for this year's contest. There were three age categories for the competition—Kindergarten through 6th grade, 7th through 9th grade, and 10th through 12th grade—and nine poems were chosen as the winning entries.

I want to thank all the students from across Minnesota who helped us honor our veterans for their commitment and service. I also want to recognize and thank the judges of this year's contest: the Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard, MG Richard Nash; Minnesota commissioner of veterans affairs Larry Shellito; Minnesota commissioner of education Brenda Cassellius; and Minnesota poet laureate Joyce Sutphen.

I ask that nine winning poems from the 3rd Annual Minnesota Military Children's Poetry Contest be printed in the RECORD.

"DELVIN MENZE"

(By Riley Menze)

1ST PLACE GRADES K-6

A little boy turned two,
The day Pearl Harbor went boom!
You could call him my grandpa,
You could call him my friend,
You could say his job wasn't that great,
I'd say it was more awesome than cake.
Without him, the crew might've starved,
But they lived through the night,
Have you guessed it yet?
Yep, he was an Army cook.
He might slice potatoes all day,
Or make soup to warm cold souls,
But he is the greatest,
The greatest beyond great.
Today he's a farmer,
A dairy farmer to be exact,
Lives with his wife in the countryside,
Of a little town called Ottertail.
He taught me to milk cows,
Or feed romping heifers,
To drive tractors, four-wheelers,
Plus snowmobiles too.
You could call him my grandpa,
You could call him my friend,
Either way, he's better than a king,
And worth more money than the world.

"THANK YOU TO THE GREAT VETERANS IN MY
LIFE"

(By Sebastian Carlo Cerda)

2ND PLACE GRADES K-6

He is the oldest veteran I know

He is the oldest veteran I love
He is my Lolo, how Filipino grandpas are called

Philippines is where he was born
and where he served in World War II
He was with the U.S. Army
Lolo only has three toes on one foot
He said one morning during the war
He was shot many times from the sky, from
a Japanese airplane

He lost some toes

My Lolo and Lola wanted to bring the family
to a new country

Called the United States of America
He came to a Veterans Convention in Min-
neapolis 40 years ago

It was very cold with lots of snow
They had a parade or something like that
A friend let him borrow a thick coat to wear
He was very happy and proud to be in the pa-
rade

My Lolo is a strong and brave man
He is honest and wise

Lolo's sons, my three uncles are veterans too
They serve in the U.S. Navy
Lolo is proud of all my Uncles

I am proud of my Lolo and my Uncles

They are all good men
They work so hard in their lives

They make me want to learn and do good

They show me I can do many things too

They teach me to be strong

They teach me to never give up

They teach me to live a good life

"CELEBRATING MY VETERAN"

(By Ellie Wachenheim)

3RD PLACE GRADES K-6

I like to celebrate my mom
The veteran in the house
She isn't really bossy.

And she doesn't scream or shout.

I like to make her happy

I like to make her proud

And she can tell that I try

Because I show her how.

I tell her how to do it

I tell her what to say

I tell her that I love her

In every single way.

I know my mom is smart

So she must know a lot

One thing that she knows

Is that I love her a lot.

When me and my younger brother

Know that my mom's coming home

We get all excited

and call her on the phone.

She says that she loves us

And we tell her that we know

But one of the times she's happy

Is when we celebrate that she's home.

"GRANDPA THE VETERAN"

(By Chineng Vang)

1ST PLACE GRADES 7-9

This poem can be read forwards and
backwards.

You are the best veteran I know
50 years from now, I'll still believe that

You are the greatest

There's no doubt

You're amazing

I'll never forget the fact that

You always try your best

Everyone knows

You're intelligent and smart

The whole military believes

You are gifted

With many talents

You've fought and won many battles

It's clear that
You are special
I wish I could be like you because
You're awesome
There's nothing bad about you because
You always do the right thing
I can always know that
You'll be there for me
Like you did for Grandma
Be the best veteran you can be

“NUMBERS”

(By Ezekiel Town)

2ND PLACE GRADES 7-9

Men in bitter rage of war
People scared and wounded
They bled upon the ground
And I saw only numbers
Many lie forever crippled and wounded
Few will rise again
And I saw only numbers
Every dollar spent on war
A joy never felt by the fallen
Their futures are never told
And I saw only numbers
Their blood is spilt upon the ground
The guilty and the not
Children in their youth
Dead and shot
And I saw only numbers
On this free path I trod
What am I from them?
For I saw only numbers
Not the faces of the dead
These people die for me
And what do I do for them?
I forget their faces and their stories
Because I see only numbers
I cannot look at the setting sun
The horrors are too much
For I know their faces are there
Never to be touched
I look upon this barren land
Full of blood and hate
I don't understand their pain
For I can see only numbers on this slate
My tears they fall on burning sands
As blood comes from their wounds
I still cannot understand
For I see only numbers
These numbers do not tell the story
Of these woman and these men
For the only thing I can see is these heart-
less numbers
That burn inside my head
All these people crying
For their wounded and their dead
I cannot feel them
All I have is these numbers in my head

“DEEP DOWN”

(By Alarie Chu)

3RD PLACE GRADES 7-9

Friend
Dear and old
Veteran
Part of World War 2
Fragile
But hard willed
Herman Czeck
Greatest man to live
You only see a pale-old soul
But deep down there are acts of greatness;
Kindness, sweetness
Deep down hides a boy of twenty
A young draftee to fight in the army;
Soldier, military
Deep down suffers a man who's seen death
The deaths from a world's disaster;
The Second World War
It's hard to imagine,
People being scared
Of such a harmless chum

Since my birth in 2001
There was an extra family member;
Dad, Uncle
A selfless giver
A man of joy and love;
Admirable, marvelous
A Christian companion
One loved by all;
A stupendous gift from God
It's hard to see,
The deep down truth
Of a life long lived
Just last month
A stroke came along
To the strongest man I know
Who still is recovering
It just goes to show
We live life one day at a time
Not knowing which one will be the last.

“BROTHER”

(By Joseph Gabel)

1ST PLACE GRADES 10-12

He is a wind rider gliding above the clouds
He is a predator dominating the sky
He is homeland security aloft
He is America's ever present air wall
He is an eagle with piercing gaze
He is a guardian for the defenseless
He is talons snatching our defenders from
danger
He is courage with wings
He is the American heart patrolling the
skies
He is my Brother

“MEMORIES OF THE HOME FRONT”

(By Sarah Borntrager)

2ND PLACE GRADES 10-12

As a child of a veteran,
My youth was different than most.
I remember when my father would leave.
My mother would hand out his shirts to us
children to sleep in.
At the age of six, I had seemingly come to
terms with the chance,
that one day my mother would hold a folded
flag instead of her husband.
I had asked my mother one day that,
“If daddy died, would we go and visit him at
the cemetery?”
My mother immediately tried to reassure me
that daddy was ok, to which I replied,
“I said IF.”
I don't truly remember my father at home
all that well,
But I can remember what I did when my fa-
ther was gone.
Wake up,
Get dressed,
Good morning mommy,
Go to school,
Learn,
Go home,
Mommy, I'm home is daddy back?,
Eat supper,
Get daddy's shirt,
Pray for daddy to come home safe,
And sleep.
My father was never truly in danger,
He was just a loadmaster.
I never understood that,
so the joy of seeing him was not just that.
It was the joy of hugging a father,
not a flag.
But now I understand.
My father served in the US Air Force for 24
years,
As a weapons loader and then as a
C-130 Hercules loadmaster.
And I couldn't be any more proud of him.
I love my veteran,
I love my dad.

“LIFE SAVERS”

(By Taylor Van de Streek)

3RD PLACE GRADES 10-12

You see them on the street,
You see them in your school,
You see them at home.
They're the ones who take the risk for free-
dom.
They come home in hopes
That life will be the same.
But nothing can stop the memories
Of all the destruction they've seen.
I pray for all of them
When I can,
So they return safe and in peace
To sleep calm in their beds.
They could be a Physics Teacher,
A Family Friend,
A Father or Mother,
Or maybe even the man begging on the
street.
They are our Veterans,
We have many in our lives.
So the next time you see one
Thank them; they might have saved your
life.●

CERRO GORDO COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts. I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Cerro Gordo County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Cerro Gordo County worth over \$13 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$182 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is working to help Northern Iowa Community College obtain over \$2 million in Federal

funds to support their programs, helping the city to improve the drinking water supply, and working to improve area lakes and waterways.

Among the highlights: investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In northern Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Cerro Gordo County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Cerro Gordo County, I have fought for more than \$8.4 million for water treatment facilities which have allowed major food processing entities to operate in the region, knowing that the water they need to use is clean and healthy, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities. I have also secured over \$310,000 to clean up area lakes and waterways, over \$393,000 to rehabilitate the City National Bank Building, and over \$444,000 for repairs to the Delaware Street bridge.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns such as Mason City to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Cerro Gordo County has earned \$150,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a

school district. Over the years, Cerro Gordo County has received \$2.2 million in Harkin grants.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Cerro Gordo County has received over \$9 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Cerro Gordo County has received more than \$8.4 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Cerro Gordo County's fire departments have received over \$1.19 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment and more than \$879,000 in Byrne Justice Assistance Grants.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in

our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Cerro Gordo County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$460,000 for community wellness activities.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Cerro Gordo County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Cerro Gordo County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

MUSCATINE COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Muscatine County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Muscatine County worth over \$4.8 million and successfully acquire financial

assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$10.2 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the community's success in obtaining over \$2.5 million for airport improvements since 2001. As a strong supporter of small community airports, I have long fought for funding from programs that support service to small communities and infrastructure support to keep these airports modern.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Southeast Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects, including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Muscatine County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Muscatine County, I have fought for \$450,000 to improve the water system as well as more than \$894,000 in funds for flood control, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why for the past decade and a half I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Muscatine County has received more than \$3.5 million in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Muscatine County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$32,500.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years, including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans

that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Muscatine County has received more than \$1.1 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Muscatine County's fire departments have received over \$2.1 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Muscatine County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Muscatine County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, co-operation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Muscatine County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

CONGRATULATING NICHOLAS CAROTHERS NIMMO

● Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate Nicholas

“Cole” Carothers Nimmo, on obtaining one of the Boy Scouts of America's highest ranks of Eagle Scout.

Cole began his journey to the rank of Eagle Scout when he became a Boy Scout in 2008. Throughout his time in the Boy Scouts, he has tirelessly worked to achieve this next rank and honor. He completed his Eagle project this past fall by leading a team of friends, family, and leaders in raising money for the materials and building a large storage shed for a local girls summer camp. Becoming an Eagle Scout enabled Cole to develop an appreciation and love of the outdoors. Biking in the Acadia National Forest with Troop 388, canoeing on the Susquehanna River, and earning his favorite merit badge in camping were highlights of his tenure in the scouts thus far.

As one of tomorrow's leaders, Cole's dedication to his local community enhances my faith in our great Nation's future. His training has enabled him to develop skills and knowledge that will help him serve those around him his whole life. It is truly an honor for me to help in celebrating his advancement to Eagle Scout. Continuing at this level of accomplishment, with such a strong commitment to civic duty, Cole will become a strong, contributing citizen of this great Nation. He knows that achieving the rank of Eagle is just the beginning of a life filled with leadership and service opportunities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cole on his loyal service and contributions to his troop and community.●

ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

● Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I recognize this June as the inaugural Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. Alzheimer's remains one of our Nation's leading causes of death, and the number of diagnoses is expected to triple by 2050—resulting in 16 million Americans over the age of 65 living with Alzheimer's. Today, one in three seniors will die with Alzheimer's disease. Currently, in my home of State of Florida, 480,000 residents over the age of 65 are living with Alzheimer's, and the number is project to rise to 720,000 by 2050.

Given these staggering numbers, it is important we focus our resources to address this disease as outlined in the National Alzheimer's Plan, a roadmap for confronting Alzheimer's and dementia. The National Alzheimer's Plan is released annually and outlines steps the government should pursue in the fight against Alzheimer's. Last year, the Special Committee on Aging, for which I am privileged to serve as chairman, held a hearing to assess the progress made in combatting Alzheimer's disease and examined the first year of the National Alzheimer's Plan

as it continues its ongoing efforts to find an effective treatment by 2025.

This June, the first Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, we must initiate a global conversation about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Despite the prevalence of the disease, it is still widely misunderstood. The Alzheimer's Association, the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support, and research, is working to reduce stigma surrounding the illness, promote education on the realities of the disease, and help promote research to end Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer's Association is also encouraging Americans to "Go Purple"—the color of the Alzheimer's movement to fight Alzheimer's disease and promote public awareness of this month's mission.

Recently, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, AFA, released a cost analysis report of the caregiver provisions in the 2012 National Alzheimer's Plan. The AFA works to ensure the best care and services are available to improve quality of life for individuals confronting Alzheimer's disease. I believe that the work of the AFA and other Alzheimer's advocacy organizations is increasingly important as we continually work to improve the care and well-being for those living with Alzheimer's disease while also improving the quality of life for caregivers and family members as they care for their loved ones.

AFA's recent report, "Cost of Care: Quantifying Care-Centered Provisions of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease," evaluates the costs and benefits associated with implementation of coordinated care delivery models, transitional care programs, and expanded caregiver supports in the 2012 National Alzheimer's Plan. AFA found that implementation of these caregiver provisions provide significant cost savings while promoting better health outcomes for those living with Alzheimer's disease by reducing hospital readmissions and emergency room visits and delaying nursing home placement. The enactment of these provisions could result in Federal savings that exceed \$110 billion over 10 years.

I am well aware of the hardships for those living with this disease and their loved ones. I hear frequently from my constituents about the importance of continuing to appropriate research dollars for Alzheimer's research and the necessity of making Alzheimer's a national priority. For example, Jeff from Palm Beach Gardens has been caring for his mother for the last 5 years as her disease slowly progresses. And Heather of Winter Park, who wrote to me last October, shared the heart-breaking "loss and grief that comes slowly and constantly" with her mother's illness and the mourning for the person her mother was before her diag-

nosis. The work to improve care services for those living with Alzheimer's as well as support services for their loved ones is a growing necessity as our Nation's population ages and the number of individuals confronting the disease dramatically increases over the coming decades.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4435. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2432. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4435. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4587. An act to impose targeted sanctions on individuals responsible for carrying out or ordering human rights abuses against the citizens of Venezuela, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5944. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Rule to Implement a 2014 Gray Triggerfish Recreational Sector Quota Reduction and Recreational Harvest Closure in the Gulf of Mexico" (RIN0648-XD033) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5945. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Connect America Fund; Developing an Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime" ((RIN3060-AG49) (DA 14-434)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5946. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Greenland Turbot in the Aleutian Island Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XD260) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5947. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to certifications granted in relation to the incidental capture of sea turtles in commercial shrimping operations; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5948. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2014 Quadrennial Regulatory Review—Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996" ((MB Docket No. 14-50) (FCC 14-28)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5949. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; 2014 Management Measures" (RIN0648-XD072) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5950. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Framework Adjustment 51 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan" (RIN0648-BD88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5951. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sector Operations Plans and Allocations for Fishing Year 2014" (RIN0648-XC995) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29,

2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5952. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Interim 2014 Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications" (RIN0648-XD020) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5953. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Annual Report of the Maritime Administration (MARAD) for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5954. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Temporary Rule; Inseason Angling Category Retention Limit Adjustment" (RIN0648-XD251) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5955. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Closure of the Commercial Harvest of Gray Triggerfish in South Atlantic Waters" (RIN0648-XD271) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5956. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2014 Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack Recreational Sector Annual Catch Limit and Annual Catch Target Reduction" (RIN0648-XD230) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5957. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Correction for Final Rule to Modify Bottom Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area Boundaries for Vessels in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery" (RIN0648-BD37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5958. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Implement an Accountability Measure for the Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery" (RIN0648-BE08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5959. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Rule to Implement a 2014 Red Grouper Recreational Sector Accountability

Measures in the Gulf of Mexico" (RIN0648-XD231) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5960. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5961. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5962. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2014 Annual Report: U.S. Department of Transportation's Status of Actions Addressing the Safety Issue Areas on the NTSB's Most Wanted List"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5963. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Jones Beach Air Show; Atlantic Ocean, Sloop Channel through East Bay, and Zach's Bay; Wantagh, NY" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0250)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5964. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Bush River, Perryman, MD" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0972)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5965. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Recurring Marine Events and Fireworks Displays within the Fifth Coast Guard District" ((RIN1625-AA00 and RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0095)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5966. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Stuart Sailfish Regatta, Indian River; Stuart, FL" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0089)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5967. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0134)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5968. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Captain of the Port Boston Fireworks display zones, Boston Harbor, Boston, Ma" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0503)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5969. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Tiburon's 50th Anniversary Fireworks, San Francisco Bay, Tiburon, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0175)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5970. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Titusville, FL" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0279)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5971. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; BMA Media Group Fireworks, Presque Isle Bay, Erie, PA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0258)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5972. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Atlantic Ocean; Virginia Beach, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0111)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5973. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Atlantic Ocean; Virginia Beach, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0007)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5974. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Waiver of Citizenship Requirements for Crewmembers on Commercial Fishing Vessels" ((RIN1625-AB50) (Docket No. USCG-2010-0625)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5975. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Elizabeth River, Elizabeth, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0285)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5976. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Belt Parkway Bridge Construction, Gerritsen Inlet, Brooklyn, NY" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0471) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5977. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Atlantic Ocean; Ocean City, MD" (RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0056) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5978. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Fifth Coast Guard District Fireworks Display Cape Fear River; Wilmington, NC" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0148) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5979. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, an Executive Order that terminates the prohibitions contained in section 1 of Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as amended by Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5980. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Thailand; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5981. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Existing Validated End-User Authorizations in the People's Republic of China: Samsung China Semiconductor Co. Ltd and Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation" (RIN0694-AG15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5982. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations Based on the 2013 Missile Technology Control Regime Plenary Agreements" (RIN0694-AG02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5983. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report relative to the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5984. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on

the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13617 of June 25, 2012, with respect to Russia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5985. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5986. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5987. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Freezers" (RIN1904-AB86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5988. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "North Dakota Regulatory Program" (SATS No. ND-053-FOR) (Docket No. OSM-2012-0006) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5989. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Utah Regulatory Program" (SATS No. UT-049-FOR) (Docket No. OSM-2012-0015) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5990. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of waiver authority for Turkmenistan; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5991. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Medicare Gainsharing Demonstration: Final Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5992. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Exchange and Insurance Market Standards for 2015 and Beyond" (RIN0938-AS02) (CMS-9949-F) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 27, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5993. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Exchange and Insurance Market Standards for 2015 and Beyond" (RIN0938-AS02) (CMS-9949-F) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5994. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2014-0740); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5995. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1002 (P.L. 107-243) and the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (P.L. 102-1) for the February 15, 2014-April 15, 2014 reporting period; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5996. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-024); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5997. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Continuation of Certain Benefit and Loan Programs, Acreage Reporting, Average Adjusted Gross Income, and Payment Limit" (7 CFR Chapter XIV) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5998. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Relaxing Grade Requirements for Valencia and Other Late Type Oranges" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0041; FV14-905-2 IR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5999. A communication from the Director of Congressional Activities (Intelligence), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the results of a study of security measures on United States military installations by June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6000. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6001. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Status of the Tribal Law and Order Act Pilot Program Report to Congress"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6002. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-028); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6003. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0010;

FV14-925-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6004. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6005. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6006. A communication from the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6007. A communication from the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6008. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, legislative proposals relative to proposed legislation entitled the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6009. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Health and Human Service's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6010. A communication from the Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Seventy-Third Financial Statement for the period of October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6011. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-up for the period of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6012. A communication from the Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6013. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2013 quarterly report of the Department of Justice's Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6014. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 20-337, "Transportation Infrastructure Improvements GARVEE Bond Financing Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6015. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-336, "Better Prices, Better Quality, Better Choices for Health Coverage Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6016. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-338, "Shiloh Way Designation Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6017. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act (No FEAR Act) of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6018. A communication from the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6019. A communication from the Director of the Diversity and Inclusion Division, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6020. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, Policy, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6021. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2014 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals through the 1st Quarter of the Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MIKULSKI, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2437. An original bill making appropriations for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-181).

By Mrs. MURRAY, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2438. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and re-

lated agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-182).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 51. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (Rept. No. 113-183).

S. 212. A bill to approve the transfer of Yellow Creek Port properties in Iuka, Mississippi (Rept. No. 113-184).

S. 224. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay (Rept. No. 113-185).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with amendments:

S. 491. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to modify provisions relating to grants, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-186).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 741. A bill to extend the authorization of appropriations to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2017 (Rept. No. 113-187).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with amendments:

S. 969. A bill to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to reauthorize the Act (Rept. No. 113-188).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1077. A bill to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to provide for the reauthorization of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network (Rept. No. 113-189).

S. 1080. A bill to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship (Rept. No. 113-190).

S. 1451. A bill to provide for environmental restoration activities and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or shipment of quagga mussels, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-191).

S. 2080. A bill to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, enhance fish and wildlife-dependent recreation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-192).

S. 898. A bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1934. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse back to Teton County, Wyoming.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2433. A bill to provide assistance to Ukraine to reduce the dependence of Ukraine on imports of natural gas from the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. HAGAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2434. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that working families have access to affordable health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2435. A bill to amend section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that any hours worked by Federal firefighters under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement shall be excluded for purposes of determinations relating to overtime pay; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT:

S. 2436. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that agencies may not deduct labor organization dues from the pay of Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. MIKULSKI:

S. 2437. An original bill making appropriations for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2438. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. COATS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2439. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to provide for the Inspector General of the National Security Agency to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. HELLER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. INHOFE, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2440. A bill to expand and extend the program to improve permit coordination by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2441. A bill to extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education and rail carriers that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2442. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land and mineral rights on the reservation of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana and other culturally important land into trust for the benefit of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2443. A bill to direct the Attorney General to make grants to States that have in place laws that terminate the parental rights of men who father children through rape; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. THUNE, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2444. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2015 through 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2445. A bill to provide family members and close associates of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others new tools to prevent gun violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin:

S. 2446. A bill to require the Congressional Budget Office to annually report changes in direct spending and revenue associated with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 2447. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to clarify the use of credentials by enrolled agents; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 2448. A bill to protect servicemembers in higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 468. A resolution to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, *supra*.

S. 822

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 822, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 887

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 887, a bill to repeal the violation of sovereign nations' laws and privacy matters.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1141

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the rehabilitation credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1156

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1156, a bill to amend the Higher Education Opportunity Act to add disclosure requirements to the institution financial aid offer form and to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make such form mandatory.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1803

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1803, a bill to require certain protections for student loan borrowers, and for other purposes.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen Federal-State partnerships in postsecondary education.

S. 1896

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1896, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit and provide designated allocations for areas impacted by a decline in manufacturing.

S. 1905

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1905, a bill to provide direction to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the establishment of standards for emissions of any greenhouse gas from fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units, and for other purposes.

S. 2048

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2048, a bill to include New Zealand in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E-1 and E-2 non-immigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of New Zealand.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2095

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2095, a bill to reauthorize and modify the pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provides health services to veterans through qualifying non-Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs health care providers, and for other purposes.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, *supra*.

S. 2107

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2107, a bill to increase students' and borrowers' access to student loan information within the National Student Loan Data System, and to encourage improved outreach to and communication with borrowers.

S. 2152

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2152, a bill to direct Federal investment in carbon capture and storage and other clean coal technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 2171

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2171, a bill to address voluntary location tracking of electronic communications devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2238

At the request of Mr. COATS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2238, a bill to ensure that the United States Government in no way recognizes Russia's annexation of Crimea.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2338

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2338, a bill to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes.

S. 2349

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2349, a bill to establish a grant program to enable States to promote participation in dual enrollment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2352

At the request of Mr. COATS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2352, a bill to re-impose sanctions on Russian arms exporter Rosoboronexport.

S. 2359

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2359, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2370

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2370, a bill to rescind unused earmarks provided for the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 2374

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2374, a bill to improve college affordability.

S. 2401

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2401, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Office of the Medical Inspector within the Office of the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 2414

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2414, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the regulation of emissions of carbon dioxide from new or existing power plants under certain circumstances.

S. 2422

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2422, a bill to improve the access of veterans

to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2424

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2424, a bill to provide veterans with the choice of medical providers and to increase transparency and accountability of operations of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2432

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S.J. RES. 36

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 36, a joint resolution relating to the approval and implementation of the proposed agreement for nuclear cooperation between the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

S. CON. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 32, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for investigation and prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, whether committed by officials of the Government of Syria, or members of other groups involved in civil war in Syria, and calling on the President to direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States to immediately promote the establishment of a Syrian war crimes tribunal, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 410

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 410, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCOTT:

S. 2436. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that agencies may not deduct labor organization dues from the pay of Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, the Empower Employees Act prohibits Federal agencies from automatically deducting union dues from the pay of Federal employees. The current system provided for under title 5 of the United States Code permits taxpayer resources to be used for the collection of these dues, which in turn are often used for political purposes. This legislation takes an important step in eliminating this taxpayer subsidy to organized labor by shifting the administrative burden of funding public sector unions to labor organizations and away from the American taxpayer. Federal union employees enjoy benefits far greater than those in the private sector and the unions' power to bargain is supported by the dues they automatically collect from employees' paychecks. This bill in no way prohibits Federal workers from joining a union or paying dues, but rather increases freedom and choice for American workers while decreasing the strong-hold that labor unions have on American politics and the Federal budget.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2441. A bill to extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education and rail carriers that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Equity in Law Enforcement Act to extend Federal benefits to law enforcement officers who serve private institutions of higher education and rail carriers. This legislation would make these individuals eligible for the same benefits provided to public law enforcement officers, including line-of-duty death benefits under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program and bulletproof vest partnership grants through the Department of Justice.

The Public Safety Officers Benefits, PSOB, Act of 1976 was enacted to aid in the recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers and firefighters by providing a one-time financial benefit to the eligible survivors of public safety officers whose deaths are the direct result of traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

The same risks also apply to officers protecting our private universities and

railways. However, the PSOB Act does not include these officers, even though they enforce the law. These brave individuals, who protect our college and university campuses and railways every day and receive similar training to their government counterparts, are thus excluded from receiving the line-of-duty federal death benefits available to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local governments.

Over the last 50 years, 35 college or university law enforcement officers have lost their lives in the line of duty, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. The names of these officers, including Patrol Officer Joseph Francis Doyle who was killed in the line of duty at Brown University in 1988, as well as the railway officers who have been killed in the line of duty are inscribed on the memorial.

A recent name on the memorial is Patrol Officer Sean Collier. We recently marked the first anniversary of the bombing at the Boston Marathon, an act of terror that tragically killed three and injured over 260 others. Three days later, during the manhunt for the attackers, the perpetrators shot and killed Officer Collier of the MIT Police Department on the university's campus. Officer Collier was not only bravely serving the students and faculty of MIT last April. He was also serving the city of Boston, working with others in the law enforcement community to keep the city and our Nation safe during an exceptionally tense and difficult time. However, since he was employed by a private university, Officer Collier was not eligible for line-of-duty death benefits. To honor Officer Collier's service and sacrifice, this bill would be retroactive to April 15, 2013, the day of the Boston bombings.

I am pleased that Senators AYOTTE, LEAHY, MARKEY, and WHITEHOUSE have joined me in introducing this legislation, which would ensure that officers who give their full measure and their families are eligible for the benefits associated with law enforcement work, and that they have access to the protective equipment they need.

The bill would only apply to officers who are sworn, licensed or certified to enforce the law within their jurisdiction, and is supported by the National Association of Police Organizations and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

I urge our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring and passing the Equity in Law Enforcement Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 468—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. McCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 468

Whereas, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs conducted an investigation into Caterpillar Inc.'s Offshore Tax Strategy;

Whereas, the Subcommittee has received a request from a federal regulatory agency for access to records of the Subcommittee's investigation;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to law enforcement officials, regulatory agencies, and other entities or individuals duly authorized by federal, state, or foreign governments, records of the Subcommittee's investigation into Caterpillar's Offshore Tax Strategy.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 5, 2014, at 9:15 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, "Preserving Public Safety and Network Reliability in the IP Transition."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 5, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "Developments in Ukraine."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select

Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 5, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 5, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "Wildfires: Assessing First Responder Training and Capabilities."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for floor privileges for the day for Daniel Head of my staff.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Cathy Cahill for the remainder of the 113th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING DOCUMENT PRODUCTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 468, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 468) to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has received a request from a Federal regulatory agency seeking access to records that the Subcommittee obtained during its recent investigation and hearing on Caterpillar Inc.'s offshore tax strategy.

This resolution would authorize the chairman and ranking minority member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, acting jointly, to provide records, obtained by the Subcommittee in the course of its investigation, in response to this request and requests from other government

entities and officials with a legitimate need for the records.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 468) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Thursday, June 5, through Monday, June 9, the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use until later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to consider Calendar Nos. 734, 736, and 739 and the Senate proceed to vote on the nominations in the order listed; further, that if cloture is invoked on the nominations, on Tuesday, June 10, at 10 a.m., all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, for the benefit of all Senators, there will be three rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m. on Monday evening.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate today, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:31 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 9, 2014, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

JESSIE HILL ROBERSON, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2018. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

DANIEL J. SANTOS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2017, VICE JOSEPH F. BADER, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KEVIN F. O'MALLEY, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO IRELAND.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

JEREMY J. BEARSS
DALE R. BEEBE
TODD M. BELL
ROBIN L. BURKE
GWYNNE E. KINLEY
SHANNON H. LACY
AUDREY C. MCMILLANCOLE
JODI L. NICKLAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

NORMAN W. AYOTTE
DAVID J. BAUDER
THOMAS A. BRYANT
RENEE E. COLE
MICHAEL J. COOTE
DAVID N. FELTWELL
OWEN T. HILL
AMY L. JACKSON
CYNTHIA L. MCLEAN
ELIZABETH E. PAINTER
CHARLES D. QUICK
DEJUANA L. RIAT
SCOTT R. SCHMIDT
RONNA L. TRENT
BRENDA D. WHITE
D001875
D005191

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

DAWUD A. A. AGBERE
CHARLES F. BARNA
JAMES W. BLOUNT
RICHARD E. BROWN
CHARLES M. BURGESS
DONALD S. CARROTHERS
DARREN K. COLEMAN
EDDIE W. COOK
RONALD E. COOPER, JR.
LANE J. CREAMER
LAWRENCE M. DABECK
KEVIN L. GUTHRIE
WARREN L. HAGGRAY
CHARLES E. HAMLIN
LADISLAO HERNANDEZ, JR.
DOUGLAS C. HOOVER
WILLIAM H. HORTON II
TERRELL L. JONES
MOON H. KIM
YOUNG D. KIM
EDDIE KINLEY, JR.
KENNETH M. LEBON
JAMES B. LEE
WILLIAM A. LOVELL
ROBERT A. MILLER

JOHN L. MORALES
STEVEN J. MOSER
LINDA D. NORLIEN
STEVE W. PROST
IBRAHEEM A. RAHEEM
CELESTENE ROBB
WILLIAM H. SCRITCHFIELD
MUHAMMAD K. SHABAZZ
SCOTT E. SIMPSON
DOUGLAS C. SWIFT, JR.
ROBERT R. THOMAS
DAVID K. TROGDON
ROBERT K. WALKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

DENISE K. ASKEW
DANIEL A. BLAZ
KEVIN T. BOJAR
TAMEKA D. BOWSER
DAVID F. BOYD III
JAMEY L. BROACH
CRAIG S. BUDINICH
BRETT G. BUEHNER
SEAN W. BURKE
JENNIFER R. BUTERA
JACQUELINE A. CLEMENTS
MICHELLE M. COUNTOURIOTIS
SHANE A. CRASK
JOELLEN S. FIELDEN
MITZI A. FIELDS
JIMMIE C. FOSTER
BRAD E. FRANKLIN
STACEY S. FREEMAN
SUSAN K. FRISBIE
ANDREA J. FULLER
EDWIN S. FULLER
MATTHEW K. GARRISON
JAMES B. HACKER
JOSEPH J. HOFFERT
TELESHIA L. HORTONHARGROVE
GEORGE A. JOHNSON
DENAR D. JOYNER
JULIE H. JUDD
CHARLES S. KUHENS
GREGORY L. LARA
MARKUS D. LEE
THERESA L. LEWIS
LARRY J. LINVILLE, JR.
ROBERT P. LONG II
RANAE T. LOWE
ALICIA A. MADORE
DANIEL N. MOBIT
MICHAEL U. NNADOZIE
BIRGIT B. NOSALIK
RACHEL E. PARK
JOSHUA D. PAUL
LORNA D. PEAY
BARRY P. RAINWATER
ERNESTO A. RAYMUNDO
SAUNDRA C. RIVERS
THURMAN J. SAUNDERS
HOLLY L. SHENEPIEL
TIMOTHY M. SNAVELY
JENNIFER V. SNELSON
GUY G. STLOUIS
JERRY B. STOVER
ALICIA D. SURREY
JODI L. B. TERPENNING
JIMMIE J. TOLVERT
ANA M. UKACHUKWU
SARA I. VILLACORTA
KEVAN S. WEAVER
MATTHEW D. WELDER
GORDON F. WEST
HAROLD E. WILLIAMS
JOHN T. WILSON
BRET G. WITT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

CLAYTON A. CARR
ROBERT CARTER III
BRIAN CHAMPINE
JINJONG CHUNG
TRISHA A. COBB
TRACY A. COFFIN
JAMES F. COLE
DAVID B. COWGER
MATTHEW M. CURLEE
CHRISTOPHER L. DURK
DEBORAH A. ENGERRAN
STEFAN FERNANDEZ
NATHANIEL C. FORRESTER
CHARLA E. GADDDY
ROBERT A. GEDDIE
JOHN D. GOETTE, JR.
JEREMY L. GOODIN
MARIO K. GOULD
PAUL C. GRAVES
JAMES H. HALL
JAMES T. HAMACHER
MICHELLE HARRIS
CHARLOTTE L. HILDEBRAND
JEFFERY S. HOGUE
MARCUS A. HURD
DOMINICK J. IVENER
RICHARD G. JARMAN III
THOMAS A. JARRETT
LAURA D. JOHNSON
NICHOLAS E. JOHNSON
BRADLEY D. LADD
ROBERT J. LANG
ROBIN W. LEA
DEIDRE B. LOCKHART
ELIASIB LOZANO
KEVIN J. MAHONEY
TRANG N. MALONE
MATTHEW J. MAPES
KURT N. MARTIN
RAYMOND MCCLENNEN
DAVID M. MELTZER
JOHN A. MERKLEY
TRACY MICHAEL
DAVID R. MILLER
MATTHEW A. MOSER
JOHN G. NGUYEN
DAN F. OHAMA
BRIAN D. OLEARY
DENNIS J. OREILLY
ROBERT V. PARISH
ADAM J. PETERS
GORDON W. POMEROY
NATHAN C. RAUCH
COLLEEN M. REICHENBERG
KEVIN J. RIDDERHOFF
FRANK E. RIGGLE, JR.
EDWIN H. RODRIGUEZROSA
MICHAEL D. RONN
THOMAS M. ROUNTREE
WILLIAM H. RUDDER III
GINNETTE RUTH
JOY A. SCHMALZLE
THOMAS W. SHERBERT
KIMBERLEE J. SHORT
ANDREW G. SIMS, JR.
DAVID C. SLOAN
JACOB C. SMITH
KIRSTEN S. SMITH
KENNETH D. SPICER
JAMES G. STANLEY
HARRY M. STEWART, JR.
JENNIFER S. STOWE
STUART D. TYNER
JOHN A. URCUOLI
GEORGE C. WALKER
BRIAN J. WALLACE, JR.
MICHAEL J. WATKINS
CHAN L. WEBSTER
ABDUL R. WILLIS
MAX WU
MATTHEW M. WYATT
GEORGE J. ZECKLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

DOREENE R. AGUAYO
FELY O. ANDRADA
MIGUEL A. ARROYOCAZURRO
WERNER J. BARDEN
JASON C. BARNHILL
JOHN E. BEZOU, JR.
KYLE P. BOURQUE
DAVID W. BRINES
MICHAEL A. BUKOWITZ
KEITH M. BURNETTE
OSCAR A. CABRERA

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 5, 2014:

PEACE CORPS

CAROLYN HESSLER RADELET, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF RIO VISTA HIGH SCHOOL AP GOVERNMENT CLASS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of California's 3rd Congressional District, I want to congratulate the AP Government students and their teacher Mr. Paul Heaney at Rio Vista High School for completing a class report on three major policy issues: welfare reform, health care, and unequal access to education.

The students, Victor Aguilera, Frederick Alvarez, Jamie Moe, Dylan Coito, Alexandra Correia, Hannah Cronin, Christina Curiel, Eric Del Aguila, Diana Elisea, Tyler Gomes, Jonathon Heaney, Alexis Johnson, Rebekah Kinser, Chace Marlowe, Alexa Martinez, Melanie Oakes, Lily Roberts, Christina Rutledge, Alyssa Schneider, Caroline Schulz, Kimberly Schneder, Maria Silva, Brady Swing, Dora Uribe, Raven Vance, Elizabeth Ventura, Antonio Wright, and Emily Zepeda demonstrated hard work in this inspiring program. Education is about developing knowledge and critical thinking skills. These students are civically engaged, reaching their lawmakers with policy recommendations on key issues facing our nation.

I was honored to learn more about their recommendations during a class visit on Tuesday, May 28. They engaged in a robust debate and succeeded in finding compromise on complex issues.

Their willingness to work together in good faith and to build consensus is laudable and a lesson for us all.

COMMENDING THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE INTERIM REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN VIETNAM

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest appreciation to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for officially recognizing the Interim Representative Committee of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam, of which I am a member. I thank the Politburo, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, President Truong Tan Sang, the Fatherland Front, the National Assembly, Foreign Ministry, Public Security, and any and all government agencies, especially

the Committee on Religious Affairs, for sparing no effort to bring this day about.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the efforts and leadership of Chairman Pham Dung, Vice Chair Bui Thanh Ha, retired Vice Chair Nguyen Thanh Xuan, as well as Director Hoang Thi Thao, and the entire staff of the Committee on Religious Affairs.

I am grateful to H.E. President Nguyen Sinh Hung, Vice President Madam Tong Thi Phong, Vice President Madam Nguyen Thi Doan of the National Assembly, as well as Vice Chairman Ha Huy Thong of the Foreign Committee and all other Members of the National Assembly.

I thank Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh as well as any and all associated with the Foreign Ministry.

I also express my deepest appreciation to Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong, Dr. Luan Thuy Duong, and Mr. An Nguyen at the Embassy of Vietnam in the United States for their tireless efforts.

I also thank officers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including The First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve, the Asia Area Presidency, as well as local leaders in Vietnam. In particular, I thank members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam and abroad.

I thank all those who have participated in this marvelous work and glory—those named in addition to all those who have added their efforts and prayers to ours, including those who have gone before us.

May 30, 2014, the official day of recognition, is a special occasion, a sacred occasion. Vietnam is a multi-religious society with approximately 25,000 places of worship and about 24 million followers of various faiths. In my official capacity as former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have attended religious services in diverse houses of worship in Vietnam, and did so unannounced. Always, I found Vietnam to be a place favorable for religious activities and I thank Vietnam for encouraging and protecting the rights of individuals, families, and congregations to practice their religions and contribute as good parents and good citizens under the law.

I am very proud of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the work it does to protect activities of religious groups, including those of my faith. I consider the followers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam my brothers and sisters. I feel the same about the leaders and officials of Vietnam. With mutual understanding, respect and trust, we have walked together to this day of recognition. We have walked together with faith in every footstep. And, as we journey forward, I am confident we will do so side by side.

When President Brigham Young led the followers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints into the Salt Lake valley in

1847, he declared: "This is the right place. Drive on." To members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to government and party officials in Vietnam, to friends and family, I echo Brigham Young's words. Drive on knowing that May 30, 2014 will forevermore be one of the best days of my life, and I am sure many others will always cherish this day, too.

HONORING MRS. ANGETTI R. McLAUGHLIN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Thirty years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Educational System; and

Whereas, Mrs. Angetti R. McLaughlin began her educational career in teaching and this year she retires as a Teacher at Dunaire Elementary School in Stone Mountain, Georgia, she has served the DeKalb County, Talbot County, and Atlanta City Public Schools System well, and our community has been blessed through her service as a community activist; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Teacher, Educator and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader, a devoted scholar and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of our youth; and

Whereas, Mrs. McLaughlin is formally retiring from her educational career today, she will continue to promote education because she is a cornerstone in our community and has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Angetti R. McLaughlin on her retirement from the DeKalb County Public Schools System and to wish her well in her new endeavors; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 27, 2014 as Mrs. Angetti R. McLaughlin Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 27th day of May, 2014.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY J. SCHWAB

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Major General

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Gregory Schwab of the United States Air Force on his illustrious military career spanning more than four decades. Major General Schwab will be honored at a ceremony at Camp Dodge on Saturday by Iowa's Adjutant General, Major General Timothy Orr.

Before he was a Major General, Gregory Schwab spent his childhood growing up on a farm in Minnesota. Upon his high school graduation in 1968, Gregory enrolled in the University of Minnesota, Duluth to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Geography. In 1972, Gregory received his degree and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force through the ROTC program. He earned his wings in 1973 and would begin his storied career serving as an A-7 pilot and Forward Air Controller across the world before joining the Iowa Air National Guard in May of 1978.

Since joining the 132nd Fighter Wing, Major General Schwab's remarkable efforts have been invaluable to the State of Iowa. Initially serving a number of squadron roles in and out of the A-7, Major General Schwab transitioned to the F-16 with the unit and led two combat deployments to Southwest Asia in 1996 and 1997 as the 124th Fighter Squadron Commander. By 2002, he had ascended to Commander of the 132nd Fighter Wing. His remarkable leadership and management of such a renowned unit led to his service as the Deputy Adjutant General for the Iowa National Guard in 2008. In this role, Major General Schwab assisted leading Iowa's 9,000 Guardsmen in meeting mission requirements at the state and federal level. His outstanding work in Iowa resulted in his selection as the Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander of Air Combat Command in which he has served since 2011.

Mr. Speaker, our state and nation owes Major General Schwab a great debt of gratitude for his decades of service and sacrifice. His unwavering commitment to honorably serving his country and fellow Americans has been recognized through numerous decorations and continues to positively impact both Iowa and our nation as a whole. I know all of my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in thanking Major General Schwab for his years of faithful service and congratulating him on a truly stellar career. I wish him, and his wife Debey, the very best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO SEC. 217 OF H.R. 4435, WHICH PLACES COSTLY AND UNNECESSARY LIMITATIONS ON MODERNIZATION INITIATIVES FOR THE SPACE-BASED INFRARED SYSTEMS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to Sec. 217 of H.R. 4435, the 'Buck' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. During the committee markup of this bill, language was added that limits the availability of funding for the modernization initiatives for the Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) program.

This provision fences off 50 percent of the funds for the SBIRS SMI Hosted Payloads and Wide Field of View Testbed projects until the ongoing analysis of alternatives for the SBIRS is completed and reported to the congressional defense committees.

I am concerned that restricting funding for these initiatives will derail important efforts to develop future architecture concepts for the missile warning platform. Fencing funds for those projects will likely ensure that alternative architectures will not be viable or informative when the major acquisition milestone decision on the next SBIRS is made in the 2017-2018 timeframe.

The Air Force's Space and Missile Systems Center estimates that the 50 percent restriction will delay the launch of the demonstration by seven months, pushing the project completion date to April 2018 and incurring about \$10 million in cost growth.

It is my understanding that the intent of the bill's language is not to damage or derail these important modernization efforts, but rather to compel the timely completion of the Department's ongoing Analysis of Alternatives for the missile warning architecture. I support that goal, but I believe it should be achieved without limiting funds for the modernization initiatives for the SBIRS program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS STEWART

OF UTAH
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I am recorded as voting "aye" on rollcall vote No. 254, an amendment by Mr. MORAN that would facilitate closing the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by allowing the transfer of those dangerous detainees, who were captured on the battlefield in the war on terror, to be transferred to the United States of America. Mr. Speaker on this vote I was misrecorded. I duly intended to vote "no" on rollcall No. 254.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. T. NATHANIEL HERCULES

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Reverend Dr. T. Nathaniel Hercules is celebrating fifty-five (55) years in ministry this year and has provided stellar leadership to his church on an international level; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. T. Nathaniel Hercules, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Saint Paul AME Worship Center, as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the hungry and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. T. Nathaniel Hercules is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Reverend Dr. T. Nathaniel Hercules as he celebrates fifty-five years in ministry and to salute him as he retires from pastoral leadership; A true Man of Excellence; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim June 6, 2014 as Reverend Dr. T. Nathaniel Hercules Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 6th day of June, 2014.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE GARCIA, VISIONARY, ACTIVIST, AND FIERCE WARRIOR FOR TEXAS WOMEN AND EQUALITY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and remember one of the most influential and prominent leaders in the movement to empower women and groom the next generation of women Democratic political leaders.

Grace Garcia died on Monday, June 2, in a traffic accident in Waxahachie, Texas. She was 59 years old. She died doing what she loved and what she was put on earth to do, and that was to help women gain the skills, resources, and opportunities to become leaders in their communities.

Powerful and courageous, compassionate and sympathetic; this was the rare and beautiful blend that was Grace Garcia.

Grace Garcia came from a military family and the ethic of duty and service to others was embedded in her soul. Although the family relocated often, Grace claimed San Antonio, Texas, as her home.

Grace Garcia attended Jefferson High School in the San Antonio Independent School District and went on to earn her B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, and afterwards, moved on to live out her dreams.

From the start of her career, Grace Garcia was actively involved in government and politics. She went on to hold prestigious senior level positions from the state to the national level.

She played prominent roles in the management of President Clinton's successful 1992 and 1996 presidential campaigns, Senator Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign, and was an advisor and confidante of Texas State Senators Wendy Davis and Senator Leticia Van de Putte in their bids for Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Texas.

During the Clinton Administration, Grace Garcia held the position of Deputy Director in the Office of Presidential Scheduling and Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Grace Garcia later went on to work in the Obama Administration as Senior Advisor to

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in the Office of the Chief of Protocol at the U.S. Department of State.

Upon her return to Texas, Grace Garcia was named Executive Director of Annie's List, an organization dedicated to "advancing progressive women in Texas from the ballot box to the halls of power."

She was a mentor to many women who had dreams and ambitions to become leaders in the Democratic Party. But she was more than that: she was a beacon of light.

Annie's List flourished as a result of leadership and organizational genius as reflected in the unprecedented achievement of nominating women to the two highest statewide constitutional offices.

Grace Garcia was a visionary leader and had tremendous passion for advancing equality and opportunity for women in the field of public service.

Women like Grace Garcia are diamonds. They are sharp, shine brightly, are unbreakable, and perfectly suited for their mission.

Grace Garcia loved to defy the odds; where others were deterred by obstacles, she saw and seized opportunity.

As a founder of the National Latina Political Action Committee and leading member of the National Latino Finance Council for Hillary Clinton's presidential bid, Grace Garcia proved to be an influential leader for the Latino community.

Grace Garcia's modesty belied her remarkable ability to influence events and improve people's lives.

Her departure came all too soon, but the trail she blazed leaves us a path to follow.

Grace Garcia opened doors of opportunity for women, and to honor her memory, we must continue that effort.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember the gift with which we were abundantly blessed with, and that is the life of Grace Garcia.

I hope it is a comfort to her family that so many of us mourn with them at this sad time.

But through our sadness, we draw strength from the legacy she left behind.

Grace Garcia will never be forgotten. She lives on in lives and deeds of progressive women political leaders in this generation and those to come.

So long my friend. We will miss you dearly, and forever hold you in our hearts.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the remarkable Grace Garcia.

with a towering legacy of leadership and accomplishment, built through the vision, determination and energy that has long defined his many years of service.

Rolin was born in Atmore, Alabama in 1940. He spent eight years in the Army, occasionally hitchhiking home from Fort Benning, Georgia to enjoy his weekend passes back in Poarch. His first job after the army was as a haberdasher in Pensacola, Florida. Eventually Rolin found a job with Dixie Asphalt and Paving.

Over the years, his insight and expertise has fueled work in positions involving diverse groups including the National Committee on Indian Work, the Episcopal Church, the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Creek Indian Arts Council, Creek Indian Heritage Memorial Association, and the State of Alabama Public Health Board.

His hands-on experience with Indian health issues led to his appointment as Tribal Co-Chair National Steering Committee (NSC) for Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) in 1998. After his service as Tribal Co-Chair for the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee, President Bill Clinton appointed him to the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy. The National Congress of American Indians recognized his leadership by appointing him to the NCAI Tribal Leaders Health Information Technology Task Force in 2001. Diabetes prevention has long been a focus of Rolin's leadership, and just last year, he received the IHS Director's Special Recognition Award for his many years devoted to tackling this challenge.

Chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians since 2006, Rolin has been a tenacious and devoted advocate for tribal sovereignty, the duty of the trust responsibility, and the health and prosperity of his people. Today, the state-of-the-art Buford L. Rolin Health Center—named in recognition of a lifetime improving health across Indian Country—carries forward his great work, caring for his home community with a host of primary care, nutrition, diabetes, diagnostic, and rehabilitative services.

As he enters the next chapter of his life, I join with many others in thanking him for the many years of service and leadership he has given Indian Country and our Nation. For while Chairman Rolin is ending his career, we know that his achievements will make a difference in the lives of his community for generations to come. Congratulations on a well-earned retirement.

individuals, and that certainly is true for Janet Gray Hayes. She made a profound impact on our community in San Jose, and in a larger sense, was one of the pioneers who helped open the doors for women to serve their communities in public service.

Born Janet Gray Frazee in Rushville, Indiana, on July 12, 1926, she was the second of two daughters of John P. Frazee, Jr., and Lucile Charman Gray Frazee. Like other members of the famed "Greatest Generation," she grew up in the hard scramble years of the Great Depression. These humble beginnings, and the personal challenges she overcame, taught Janet Gray about character, empathy for others, and standing strong when it came to matters of principle.

Janet Gray would go on to pursue a higher education, graduating as a Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Indiana. She met her future husband Kenneth while she was a student at the University of Chicago. They married in 1950, after Janet Gray earned a master's degree in social work, and she supported his medical studies. Their marriage would last for over five decades until Kenneth passed away in 2013.

In 1956, when Janet Gray's husband Kenneth took a job as a physician at Agnews State Hospital, they moved to San Jose. Having been raised in an active Republican family, Janet Gray was introduced to politics at a young age when her family home became an official campaign base for Wendell Willkie, the Republican presidential nominee in 1940. But her real impetus for launching into the world of civics and politics came when she was eight months pregnant and made an appeal to the City Council for a school crossing guard in her neighborhood.

That battle for a simple community issue would ultimately take sixteen years, but it unleashed Janet Gray's involvement in San Jose politics. By 1960 she became the president of both the San Jose and Bay Area Leagues of Women Voters. Six years later she was appointed to the San Jose Redevelopment Board and rose to become chair.

In 1971, Janet Gray won election to the San Jose City Council, and four years later, sought to succeed Mayor Norman Mineta after he was elected to Congress. Against tremendous odds, and against a deeply entrenched establishment that fought her candidacy, she won.

Her election threw the doors open for other women to follow, sparking a movement for women to get actively involved and seek public office. Over the next two elections, women were elected to eight of the eleven City Council seats and three out of the five Santa Clara County supervisor seats—including a future Member of Congress named ZOE LOFGREN.

San Jose was declared the "feminist capital of the world." And as Janet Gray welcomed delegates at the 1977 National Women's Political Caucus, hosted in the city, she proudly remarked that "In sunny Santa Clara Valley, you are in the heartland of women in power." However, Janet Gray's accomplishments were not limited to her milestone election.

Her successful stewardship running a major city shattered long held myths that women could not be successful executives. Janet Gray made a commitment to improving access to the mayor's office and presided over San

MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF
CHAIRMAN BUFORD ROLIN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished career of a great tribal leader, Chairman Buford Rolin. For more than three decades, Chairman Rolin has worked tirelessly to build stronger, healthier and more prosperous communities—for his fellow Poarch Band of Creek Indians and for native peoples across the country. He retires

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
JANET GRAY HAYES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congresswoman ANNA G. ESHOO and Congressman MIKE HONDA, to honor the life of our friend Janet Gray Hayes, the first woman elected as Mayor of San Jose, California.

We often use words like pioneer and trailblazer in tribute to inspiring and remarkable in-

Jose's growth during the high-tech development years by laying out a vision to make the city "better before we make it bigger." That vision for San Jose is present today in a city that has focused on smart growth and urban planning to avoid urban sprawl and achieve a better quality of life for its citizens.

When asked by her son to name her biggest source of pride, Janet Gray replied "I was proudest of the fact that I could open doors. I had a lot to do with these women getting where they are today." Her generous assistance, guidance, leadership and friendship helped emerging women leaders after her success.

Mr. Speaker, more than fifty years ago, Adlai Stevenson praised another pioneering woman when he said of Eleanor Roosevelt that she would 'rather light a candle than curse the darkness.' Those words are also fitting for Janet Gray Hayes. Because of her, and other pioneering women like her, future generations of women inherit a country where women are increasingly encouraged to engage in serving their communities and our country in public office.

We invite all of our colleagues in Congress to join us in paying tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of Janet Gray Hayes.

HONORING JANICE T. CRAWFORD

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Thirty-five years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Educational System; and

Whereas, Mrs. Janice T. Crawford began her educational career in teaching and this year she retires as a Principal at Dunaire Elementary School in Stone Mountain, Georgia, she has served the DeKalb County Public Schools System well and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Teacher, Educator and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader, a devoted scholar and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of our youth; and

Whereas, Mrs. Crawford is formally retiring from her educational career today, she will continue to promote education because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Janice T. Crawford on her retirement from the DeKalb County Public Schools System and to wish her well in her new endeavors; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 21, 2014 as Mrs. Janice T. Crawford Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 21st day of May, 2014.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR MARTIN BARRERAS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Command Sergeant Major Martin Barreras, who died on May 13, 2014 from wounds suffered while serving in Afghanistan. CSM Barreras was serving with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire. CSM Barreras joined the Army in 1988 after serving five years in the Marine Corps and served 22 years in the 75th Ranger Regiment in both 1st and 2nd Battalions. During his time in the Ranger Regiment, he served in a large range of positions and completed multiple combat deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Restore/Uphold Democracy in Haiti, and other special operations missions.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with V device, Bronze Star with three oak leaf clusters, Purple Heart with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Iraqi Campaign Medal with three stars, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with four stars, Combat Infantryman Badge with one star, Expert Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge with bronze star, Military Freefall Badge and Pathfinder Badge.

CSM Barreras was respected by both his community and colleagues, and deeply loved by his family and friends. He was 49 years old and left behind a wife, a young son and two daughters.

This husband, father, and friend cannot be replaced, but his sacrifice will always be remembered and his legacy of compassion and service will live on after him. He is gone but not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Command Sergeant Major Barreras, and I thank him for all he gave back to the people of this great Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOUG
HAWTHORNE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doug Hawthorne, who is stepping down as chief executive officer of Texas Health Resources after 44 years of outstanding service to the communities of North Texas.

Hawthorne played a vital role in 1997 with the merger of Presbyterian Healthcare Resources, Harris Methodist Health System and Arlington Memorial Hospital. He created the Texas Health Resources health care system, which has grown to become one of the largest faith-based, not-for-profit health care systems in the nation under his leadership.

Hawthorne received many awards and recognition for his work. He was named to Mod-

ern Healthcare magazine's annual list of the 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare in 2012 and 2013 after being on the list six times in prior years.

As a physician, I can say that his dedication and commitment have been instrumental in transforming the delivery of healthcare in North Texas. He is truly deserving of recognition for his exceptional work, and I wish him all the best on his next endeavor. I am proud to represent him in Congress.

HONORING CYNTHIA V. LEWIS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Thirty years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Educational System; and

Whereas, Mrs. Cynthia V. Lewis began her educational career in teaching and this year she retires as a Teacher at Dunaire Elementary School in Stone Mountain, Georgia, she has served the DeKalb County and New York Schools Systems well, and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Teacher, Educator and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia and New York a person of great worth, a fearless leader, a devoted scholar and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of our youth; and

Whereas, Mrs. Lewis is formally retiring from her educational career today, she will continue to promote education because she is a cornerstone in our community and has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Cynthia V. Lewis on her retirement from the DeKalb County Public Schools System and to wish her well in her new endeavors; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 27, 2014 as Mrs. Cynthia V. Lewis Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 27th day of May, 2014.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW GARCIA

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of New Mexico resident Andrew "Andy" Garcia, a man of iconic proportions who developed, refined, and transformed New Mexican cuisine in our great State of New Mexico.

Andy began his entrepreneurial pursuits on his own, 50 years ago with his first venture selling New Mexican food at carnivals and street fairs. It was not until a few years later

that Andy founded the wildly successful Garcia's Tents and Events. Andy's life success culminated with the establishment of eight Garcia's Kitchen restaurants, a popular food choice throughout the Albuquerque metro area.

For those visiting Albuquerque, as locals will tell you, a stop at Garcia's is a must. Today at Andy's establishments, business leaders, political icons, and New Mexicans enjoy great food, hospitality and camaraderie. Garcia's embodies the spirit of New Mexico culture and is a historic pillar in the Albuquerque community—still today and for years to come.

The truth is that Andy's life is a testament to the American Dream and the idea that with hard work, persistence, and dedication nothing is unattainable. His vision and accomplishments serve as an inspiration for future generations of entrepreneurs and small business owners, and demonstrate the impact one individual can have on an entire community. As a proud family man, Andy was fortunate to see these values passed down to his children and grandchildren who continue to manage and build his enterprises.

His family will tell you that he:

Shared his love, his wisdom, his will to love life and all it brings. He has had many peaks and valleys, highlights and adventures in his 90 years of life, more than most of us. He lived everyday with passion to do his best and to be happy. He is now on his journey into somewhere we will all meet again.

A successful businessman, loving father, and community icon, Andy was indeed a talented man of courage and integrity. His character, love of life, enthusiasm and selflessness were felt by all who knew him. It is individuals like Andy that make our Nation a sought-after home for those with a dream. My thoughts and prayers are with family, and everyone who has enjoyed Andy's hospitality and a meal at one of his restaurants. May the memory of Andy live on in our hearts.

HONORING ELIZABETH JONES

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, A virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Educational System; and

Whereas, Ms. Elizabeth Jones began her educational career in teaching thirty-five (35) years ago, and this year she retires from teaching at Stephenson Middle School in Stone Mountain, Georgia, she has served the DeKalb County School District well and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Teacher, Educator and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader, a devoted scholar and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of our youth; and

Whereas, Ms. Jones is formally retiring from her educational career today, she will continue

to promote education because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Elizabeth Jones on her retirement from the DeKalb County School District and to wish her well in her new endeavors; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 25, 2014 as Ms. Elizabeth Jones Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of May, 2014.

HONORING THEODOSIA MURPHY NOLAN

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, today I submit the homily of Theodosia Murphy Nolan, a legendary Arkansas businesswoman and philanthropist, delivered on May 28, 2014, and authored by her godson, the Reverend Doctor Christoph Keller III.

Theodosia; from theos (God) and dosis (gift). "Gift of God."

As Jesus was passing through Samaria, he met a woman at a well. Thirsty, he asked for water. "Who are you," she said, "a Jew, a man, asking me, a woman of Samaria, for water?" That's when he said: "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that asks you for a drink, he would give you living water." If you knew the Gift of God. If you knew Theodosia.

If you knew Theodosia, then you know the story; that her father was already forty-five, her mother thirty—old for those days—when they married; that in the first two pregnancies, they lost their baby. Now came a daughter, beautiful and healthy. With thankful hearts, they named her Theodosia.

You know that she grew up gentle, respectful and devoted to her parents, but not meek; that at sixteen, she owned and flew an airplane, setting a dangerous example for her sister, in the opinion of my father; and that at eighteen, she married William, over objections from her parents. She was too young; about William, there were questions. As she stood her ground opposite her parents, she was being every inch their daughter. Firm and loving, they gave their children rope to make and accept the consequences of their own decisions. It was her life and she would get to live it as she saw fit.

So how did she live it? As a firm and loving wife and mother, devoted to her family—and with William, who was a keeper.

If you knew Theodosia, you know Bubba. For our guests, Bubba is our term of endearment for Bertie Wilson Murphy, Theodosia's mother. I guess Charlie Nolan must have been the first to call her that. Eventually, Bubba was her name to everyone in El Dorado.

When Bubba died almost forty years ago, Theodosia—now "Dosis," thanks to Diny—assumed the matriarchal mantle for our wider family, including siblings Charles, Polly and Bertie, plus all their progeny and in-laws. Ours has been a fruitful, multiplying clan, now sprawled out across the planet from Seattle to Beirut. The family center,

though, is here in El Dorado: 900 N. Madison, where you can dangle your feet in the pool, sucking scuppernongs and muscadines.

If you've read King Lear, or Faulkner, or Genesis and 2nd Samuel, or the Wall Street Journal, or watched Dallas, then you should know that life in families isn't simple, necessarily.

Theodosia, however, doesn't bring to mind the complexity of family life. She represents its grace. It was Robert Frost who said: "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." True enough, I suppose, but it doesn't capture Theodosia. With her, you wanted to go there and she wanted to take you in. She wanted to feed you a heart-healthy breakfast: quail and scrambled eggs, Talla Bena sausage with a side order of bacon, pancakes with Ribbon Cane syrup (maple syrup only if you begged, served with a slight frown of disapproval). She wanted you to plop down beside her on the couch, get comfortable, and tell her the latest chapter of your story. She would know that you weren't telling her the whole truth. You would know that, even if you did, she would love you. There was nothing you could do or say that would warrant expulsion. You were family, period.

A word to my younger Nolan cousins: I used the word "grace." If you have heard that word and wondered what it means, then think of where you stood with Dosis.

Remember your worst day. You know that on that day she still loved you. That is grace. Jesus made that point through parables, like the prodigal son returning to his father. You can understand the father in that parable just by knowing Dosis. Once you understand that father, you know God.

The force of Theodosia's presence and example on our family history is impossible to calculate, but I am thinking that her impact was enormous. After everything, and no small thanks to her, we know our family as a blessing. We won't let it be less.

If you knew Theodosia, you know that, not only was she devoted to a family, she was devoted to a place: El Dorado, Arkansas.

Let's think on this place. Growing up in Arkansas, we learn early on of our three distinct geological regions: mountains to the north and west, delta to the east and, in between, spreading south from Little Rock, the gulf coastal plane. Of the three regions, this is the one that seems to have lacked a national identity: Hillbillies, they know, delta planters, they know, but who are we?

Well, there is a lot of wood, so I will start with that. Wood means deer, and I will mention that. Then came oil. My wife Julie recently took on a project to salvage and restore a Steinway piano at Central High School in Little Rock. This instrument had been purchased for the school in 1927. Julie tracked down the original Steinway distributor's ledger that recorded the sale. That particular ledger page shows 73 sales from throughout the Mid-South. Looking it over, Julie noticed a sale, December 28, 1926, to Bertie Wilson Murphy. When Julie showed me her find, I noticed that, of the entries on that page, no fewer than twenty were to buyers in El Dorado, Arkansas. It made perfect sense! The Busey-Armstrong well came in 1921. Through the twenties, El Dorado was a boomtown. What are you going to do with all that new money? The good citizens of El Dorado were going to purchase Steinways, which we now know is what people did with extra cash before the invention of the bass boat. Just three weeks ago, Julie brought that ledger down to 900 North Madison and showed it to Theodosia. They sat down on

the couch beside Bubba's Steinway, and Julie caught Theodosia up on Keller family stories.

El Dorado's early glory day was back before the great depression. Even then, it would not have been the kind of town that is full of its own importance. There are such places. Great ladies in such places are not called Bubba. I have lived in such places and I appreciated and enjoyed them. But they don't care. They don't need our loyalty and love. If we want the kind of instant self-esteem they offer, we can have it just by living there. They give us that, needing nothing in return. These places are in New York or California. I am told there may be some in Texas. They are not in Arkansas. They are not El Dorado.

The big oil play petered out and the economics of the region began to favor dispersion: raise your kids and send them off, pack up the Steinways and move on. But El Dorado defied that fate with muscular determination, as well as cultured sensibility and aesthetic flair. Does that sound like anyone we know?

As much as Theodosia's love for family was unconditional, so was her commitment to South Arkansas. The taxes are a little higher here than Florida or Texas, the lights a little brighter in New York, but she belonged to El Dorado, case closed. She stayed put, as did her brother; and, as they insisted, so did the companies they founded. So Madison stayed too, with Suzanne; and Bill, with Deborah; and Bob with Candi, and in came Claiborne with Elaine; now Raymond with Liza; and back come Mike and Sydney. And now El Dorado is recognized throughout the country as the town where anyone and everyone can get a college education. There are no such towns in Texas, New York or California. El Dorado has an impressive new identity; and a remarkable town square; and a beautiful new school; and a growing reputation for commitment to the arts. Also, the Wildcats are doing well.

All this grew as much from heart as calculation. This is a little bit like faith. It has to stand the tests of reason—in this case, economic reason—and it does, but there are other factors in the blend: appreciation for tradition; memories of loved ones; love of neighbor. As Newman said of faith, belief in El Dorado lives in the desire for that which it confesses. There are things between earth and heaven, my dear Horatio, undreamt of by Investor's Weekly. To Theodosia, such things were real and exceedingly important—and in some small part because she saw them as such, they took hold. Through grace, grit and imagination, El Dorado perseveres against the tide.

If you knew Theodosia, you know where else her love of place and family coalesced: the Coast and Cherokee. When we say "coast" we don't mean the Pacific Palisades, we mean Pass Christian and the Mississippi Sound—waveless, brown and shallow. We couldn't wait to get there: slathered up with Off and Coppertone, fishing from the pier, catching crabs and speckled trout and occasionally a stingray; swinging in a hammock with a good or trashy book; zooming up and down the Gulf Coast Highway; eating better than kings. All that, we lost to Hurricane Katrina. Even the house that Bubba built couldn't hold against that primal tide. Safely inland, Cherokee endures.

If you knew Theodosia, you know that, as we reckon long, she lived a long time: from Model T to Prius. Not that she would drive a Prius: she belonged in Thunderbirds. She lived through social revolutions. I always

knew what Polly Keller thought about those revolutions as they happened. I also had a solid take on William Nolan's views, which reliably ran opposite to Polly Keller's. Theodosia held her opinions closer to the vest. She seemed neither restless with the way things were, nor much disturbed by the thought that they were changing. There would still be town and family to attend to, come what may.

I do know that in 1966 she supported David Pryor's run for Congress in the Fourth District, because I read that in his book (actually, my son Christoph read the whole book and showed this to me. I read only the two or three sentences concerning Theodosia.) In the primary, Charles Murphy was backing Richard Arnold. (Show me a congressional election from New York to California that involved such commendable opponents.) The battle went to Pryor and Theodosia over Charles and Richard Arnold. As I said, meek she was not.

Watch over thy child Theodosia. O Lord, as her days increase. Bless and guide her, wherever she may be.

If you know Theodosia, you know her faith: Methodist, with the occasional Episcopal accoutrements; and you know that she called her children, and their children, and theirs, on their birthdays, to pray with them from the Book of Common Prayer.

Strengthen her when she stands, comfort her when discouraged or sorrowful . . .

Well, certain aspects of that prayer are no more applicable to Theodosia. She leaves sorrow and discouragement behind. She leaves you, her beloved family, with that prayer, to say for one another as you carry on. As you say that prayer, as I know you'll do, you will think of her. As you think of her, remember her in faith. The faith in that prayer imbues our attitude towards place and family—actually, our attitude towards everything, Theodosia's death included. At least, it should; and for her, it did.

This place, First United Methodist, was the church through which she lived that faith through all her many years. Here, she commended the souls of Charles and Bertie her parents; William her husband; Charles her brother; and Bill her son, to the good Lord who was grace itself, incarnate.

If you know Theodosia, you know that, good Methodist that she was, her faith in Christ was first and last a matter of the heart.

She had a good one, didn't she. She was a gift.

RECOGNIZING OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. STEVEN A. HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Opportunity Village and the AbilityOne Program. The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals who have significant disabilities or are blind. Organizations like Opportunity Village, located in every state of our great nation, employ nearly 50,000 Americans who are blind or have significant disabilities through this Program.

AbilityOne affiliated non-profit agencies like Opportunity Village offer people who are blind or who have significant disabilities opportunities to acquire the job skills and training necessary to receive good wages and benefits and ultimately improve their quality of life. Today, over 75 percent of people with significant disabilities do not have jobs. Census statistics indicate there are 9.4 million people with significant disabilities in the United States who could work given the appropriate opportunity and support.

Opportunity Village is a shining example, providing employment opportunities and training to over 1,990 individuals with disabilities; many of whom live in the 4th district of Nevada; through this Program. Opportunity Village helps them to lead more productive lives, support their families, gain important work experience, and share in the same pride that each of us has after a day's work. Many of these individuals work in support of our men and women in uniform, doing their part to improve our country and ensure safety and security for us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I extend my support to the AbilityOne Program and to Opportunity Village. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment of Mr. Ed Guthrie, the Executive Director of Opportunity Village, and to his staff for helping individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities find employment opportunities. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of society. I also commend each of the nearly 50,000 AbilityOne employees who work every day to improve their lives, and make our country a better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP DR. STEWART REESE, JR.

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Bishop Dr. Stewart Reese, Jr., is celebrating forty five (45) years in pastoral leadership this year as the founder of Bethesda Cathedral of the Apostolic Faith, Inc., and has provided stellar leadership to his church; and

Whereas, Bishop Reese, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Bethesda Cathedral as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Bishop Reese is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the nation his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop Reese, as he celebrates forty five years in pastoral leadership on this the Founder's Day of Bethesda

Cathedral of the Apostolic Faith; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim June 1, 2014 as Bishop Dr. Stewart Reese, Jr. Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 1st day of June, 2014.

COMMENDING THE SALVATION
ARMY OF BROWARD COUNTY ON
THE LAUNCH OF THE OPEN
DOOR PROJECT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Salvation Army of Broward County, Florida. In the coming week, the Salvation Army will launch the Open Door Project, a new homeless shelter in Fort Lauderdale that will focus on helping the chronically homeless.

Our nation is currently faced with a harsh reality. Roughly 2 million Americans face homelessness every year. We have made great progress in reducing the number of Americans without a home, but there is much more to be done. The Open Door Project will be instrumental in helping vulnerable individuals in Broward County find shelter, support, and eventually, a permanent home.

The Salvation Army of Broward County has been serving the South Florida community since 1926, tirelessly working to serve the needs of the less fortunate. The organization offers transitional housing, life-skill training, and a structured support system to help individuals and families escape the cycle of homelessness. With the launch of the Open Door Project, the Salvation Army of Broward County has again demonstrated its dedication to providing resources for anyone grappling with homelessness in the Fort Lauderdale region.

The Open Door Project is a low demand facility. All they ask of their guests is their name, and do not require more private information.

This ensures that individuals suffering from drug and alcohol addiction, mental illness, or those who would otherwise avoid these services can still find a safe place to sleep for the night. By providing homeless individuals with a safe bed and a meal the following morning, the Open Door Project will build a system of trust, in hope that these individuals may be comfortable seeking further help in the future.

Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Homelessness Caucus, I believe that ending homelessness must be one of our top priorities as a nation. Allowing men, women, and children to live on the streets is not a standard America should be willing to accept. I am pleased to offer my deepest appreciation and congratulations to the staff and volunteers of the Salvation Army as they continue in their mission to combat homelessness in Fort Lauderdale. I look forward to working with the Open Door Project in the future to advocate for those who so often cannot advocate for themselves.

HONORING FREDERICK LEE
MCHENRY, SR.

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Mr. Frederick Lee McHenry, Sr., a tenacious and illustrious man from Lawrenceville, Georgia, utilizes his gifts, talents and wisdom everyday to ensure that citizens are inspired and lives are touched; and

Whereas, Mr. Frederick Lee McHenry, Sr., is a renowned advocate, business leader, motivator and community leader in the state of Georgia; and

Whereas, he is the Grandmaster of the Genesis Willingham Grand Lodge of Georgia, Chief Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Masonic Order and has been an active Mason for over thirty years; and

Whereas, this model citizen has shared his time and talents for the betterment of his community and his nation through his tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration that continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mr. Frederick Lee McHenry, Sr., for his outstanding leadership and service to the citizens in the state of Georgia; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 17, 2014 as Frederick Lee McHenry, Sr. Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 17th day of May, 2014.

TO RECOGNIZE BOY SCOUTS FROM
TROOP 28

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three Boy Scouts from Troop 28 of Southampton, Bucks County. Harrison Kampf, Dylan McKernan, Ron Brown and one of their Scoutmasters Tom McCullough were on a white water rafting trip last October when another rafter became trapped underwater due to the strong river current and pinned up against a rock formation. Realizing the situation at hand, the Scouts acted quickly and decisively to stabilize their own raft and pull the man out of the water—saving his life. For their courageous and life-saving action, the Boy Scouts of America recognized these young men with the Honor Medal, which has only been awarded to 2,354 scouts since its inception in 1923. I am honored to recognize these individuals and proud to say that the values and skills taught by the Boy Scouts of America are alive and well in Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District.

SENATE—Monday, June 9, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

King of glory and peace, Your love sustains us. Each day You give us Your peace and joy, providing rest to the weary and renewing the strength of those exhausted by life's trials.

In Your compassion lead our lawmakers to Your desired destination. When they cry to You for help, be their strength and shield. Lord, You are peace, joy, gladness, gentleness, beauty, and truth. Be our protector, guardian, and defender from this time forth even forever more.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 409, the Warren college affordability legislation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2432) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if any, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. this evening. At 5:30 there will be three cloture votes on nominations of U.S. district judges: Lauck of Virginia, Sorokin of Massachusetts, and Boulware of Nevada.

(Ms. HIRONO assumed the Chair.)

LAS VEGAS TRAGEDY

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is with a lot of sadness that I come to the

floor today following the tragic event that took place in Las Vegas yesterday.

I spoke with Sheriff Gillespie this morning.

Two police officers were having lunch in a pizza restaurant on Nellis Boulevard in Las Vegas, and two people walked in, shot them both and killed them, took their guns and their badges, put some kind of a flag over them representing whomever they were representing, and walked across the street to Wal-Mart and killed an innocent woman. Then they killed themselves. All the details are not available, but there is no question they were murdered in cold blood—for no reason other than the weirdness or craziness of this couple.

So all of Nevada mourns the loss of our neighbors, our friends and, in the case of Officers Alyn Beck and Igor Soldo, our protectors. My sympathy goes to their family members and loved ones. This hits very close to home.

Many years ago when I practiced law, I brought a fine young man into my law firm named Claude Zobell. Claude has been with me for all these years. He ran my Washington office. He went on to become dean of a law school, and he is now an attorney for a hotel chain in Tennessee. But he has helped me all these years fill out my financial disclosures. His nephew, his wife's mom's son, was one of the police officers killed. Anne, Claude Zobell's daughter, works for me here in Washington. I talked to him this morning. The cousin was killed. The pain that people go through in these unnecessary tragedies and senseless shootings is awful.

No words can undo the unspeakable act which claimed the lives of these two men. They have families—wives, children. So that their families know, not only is Nevada grieving but all of America is grieving.

My thanks go to the law enforcement officers who were called in after the killings to work at that scene and the scene across the street, putting their lives in peril every step of the way. It seems that our law enforcement officers respond to these scenes every day—in Santa Barbara, in Seattle, and on and on with the names of cities where people are shot. I so appreciate these law officers every day putting their lives on the line.

We take for granted here in the Senate the people looking after us. There are people out there who are so evil, who try every day to do harm to not only the Presiding Officer, not only me, but to people who work in these buildings, the tourists that come to

these buildings. So if there are any complaints about having too much security, come to me and I will try to explain why we need it.

So without elaborating, my deepest sympathies are with the families of those who died.

We in Congress have a duty to put in place legislation that helps prevent these deranged, weird, and evil people who carry out such savage acts of violence. A step in the right direction would be background checks so that people who are criminals, who are deranged, can't buy a gun. The American people are depending on us to pass legislation to prevent gun violence to safeguard our communities, schools, and families.

There is not a single Senator I know of who says: Let's get rid of all the guns; let's make sure that people don't have guns. We are not saying that. Listen to what we are saying.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Madam President, we have a lot to do this week. We need to confirm some people as we are still way behind.

Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE—the junior Senator from Rhode Island has been a real trooper—has been so enthused and so invigorated; he has traveled the country alerting the American people to the dangers of what is happening to our world regarding climate. It has been a one-man show. Tonight he is going to work with a number of Senate Democrats in highlighting the need for congressional action to fight climate change. I applaud him for his work on this issue. He has focused like no other on our changing world.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

The care of our Nations' veterans is another issue we need to talk about, and we will talk about that today, also.

Last Thursday Senator BERNIE SANDERS, Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Senator JOHN MCCAIN announced a bipartisan agreement on legislation to address patient wait times at VA hospitals. The details of the agreement are not in writing yet. At least they weren't a few minutes ago. They are being drafted. The legislation is a comprehensive approach to ensure that veterans are getting the care they deserve. This agreement is very important to all Nevadans, to all Americans, and of course it is extremely important to countless veterans and their families.

Recently, along with America and this body, I was shocked to learn that VA hospitals all over the country—and in Nevada in particular—were affected by dangerous wait times for patients. That is unacceptable. This legislation

worked on by SANDERS and MCCAIN is not going to solve all the problems that exist, but it is certainly putting the VA on the right track.

This bipartisan agreement aims to improve accountability throughout the entire Veterans Affairs Administration, holding VA officials responsible for poor job performance. One of the things we learned is that they covered up wait times. Why? Because by doing that they would get bonuses at the end of the year. So that will stop.

This legislation will also take big steps in addressing accessibility to health care at VA institutions nationwide. The agreement will allow veterans facing long delays to seek health care outside of the VA—in private doctors' offices, community health centers, military hospitals, and other places that SANDERS and MCCAIN are now working on.

Their legislation will expedite the hiring for VA doctors and nurses and authorize 26 new medical facilities nationwide.

In addition to improving access and accountability throughout the Veterans Administration, this bipartisan agreement addresses other important issues such as GI eligibility for surviving spouses and in-state tuition to veterans enrolling in colleges and universities.

Much will depend on the details of the final bill, but Senators SANDERS and MCCAIN have put together an agreement which is good for American veterans and our country. I commend them. I commend especially Senator SANDERS for his leadership in this issue since he has been working on veterans care. It is a clear indication how much he values this Nation's servicemembers. In JOHN MCCAIN we could not have a more exemplary person dealing with VA health care as a result of his having spent long periods of time in VA facilities around the country as he was recovering from his ordeal in Vietnam. So I appreciate him in many different ways, but today for his labors in bringing both sides to the table to get something done on behalf of our veterans.

I look forward to this legislation coming before us, and I will be happy to schedule a vote on it as quickly as possible. America's veterans are depending on us to complete this legislation to ensure that our veterans get the care and resources they were promised by a grateful Nation.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

It appears there is no one rushing to the floor to speak, so I would ask unanimous consent that the Presiding Officer announce the business of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Madam President.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Last year something happened in Washington, DC, that most of us in the Senate and most Americans would like to see more of. The President and the Republican House of Representatives and a bipartisan group here in the Senate worked together to reform the student loan program. It is a lot of money, and it affects a lot of students.

Every year the Federal Government loans about \$100 billion to students who attend colleges and universities around this country. We have 6,000 of those higher education institutions. In addition to those loans—which, of course, students pay back—the Federal Government grants about \$33 or \$34 billion each year in Pell grants—up to \$5,645—which students don't pay back.

Last year we were in this usual pattern that has developed around the Congress where student loans become a semi-annual political stunt. Every 2 years, before an election, one party or the other would show up with a student loan proposal to try to appeal to students, hoping that students and others in America would reward them with their votes.

Last year we changed that for new student loans. The President and the Republican House of Representatives and the Democratic Senate in a bipartisan way worked together to reform the student loan program by applying a market-priced system to the \$100 billion or so we loan every year, and saying to the students: We will give you the benefit of that. You don't have to wait for Congress to engage in its semi-annual political stunt to know what your loan is.

The result was that for loans for undergraduate students, which are 85 percent of all the loans, we were able to cut in half the interest rate on student loans for undergraduate students in America without raising taxes and without raising the debt. That resulted from overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate. It had strong support of the chairman of the Senate education

committee, the HELP Committee, Senator HARKIN and I supported it, as did many others. It worked the way the Senate is supposed to work.

This body is for the purpose of taking an important issue, which student loans are, having an extended debate on it until we come to a consensus, which we did, and then coming to a result the American people could approve. We did that as well.

Now this week we are seeing something entirely different. Senate Democrats would interrupt a serious discussion that is going on in the Senate education committee about reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, which was first enacted in 1965. Senator HARKIN, the Senator from Iowa, is our chairman. I am the ranking Republican on that committee. We have had 10 hearings. We have been hard at work. We have had terrific testimony, some very good ideas about the student loan program and about a lot of issues affecting higher education. We are doing what we are supposed to do in the Senate: We are trying to come to a conclusion so that we can recommend in a bipartisan way to this full body what to do about higher education for the next several years, including student loans.

Yet, all of a sudden, we hear that Senate Democrats want to show up on the floor with a partisan, political stunt that interrupts the work of the Senate education committee, and here is what they would do: They would raise individual income taxes, they would raise the debt, and, based upon data from the Congressional Research Service, they would give some former students with old student loans a \$1-a-day Federal subsidy to pay off their loans.

Let me go back over the terms of this proposal just so everybody has it in mind. The main issue is \$1 a day subsidy. That is the benefit. It doesn't do anything for current or new students. For some former students—according to the Congressional Budget Office, maybe half the loans—the taxpayers will give them \$1 a day to help pay off their student loans.

Along with that, we increase the Federal debt by up to \$420 billion. That debt is out of control to begin with. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that over the next 10 years we are going to go from \$200 billion to \$800 billion just to pay interest on the debt. In 10 years we will be spending more on interest on our national debt than we will on national defense. Yet for this political stunt we are going to run that up another \$420 billion maybe or close to $\frac{1}{2}$ trillion.

That is not all. To pay for all of this, we are going to raise individual income taxes by \$72 billion. This is a familiar proposal. This is the class warfare tax increase the Senate has rejected eight times. There is nobody in this Senate who thinks this will pass the Senate

the ninth time it is brought up. It is only being brought up and interrupting what we are doing in our committee for a partisan political stunt.

We are going to raise the debt and increase taxes for what? Well, to help students pay off their loans. So they get \$1 a day to pay off what loan? Well, 85 percent of the student loans—and there are a lot of them. There is over \$1 trillion worth of outstanding student loans because we have a lot of students and we are a big country. We have 6,000 colleges and universities. But 85 percent of loans are for undergraduate students and they have \$21,600 on average. That is right. We are talking about 1 or 2 years for students who go to community colleges. Some get a 4-year degree. But for 85 percent of the student loans that are undergraduate loans, \$21,600 is the average debt. It is not \$300,000. It is not \$200,000. It is not \$100,000. It is \$21,600. Of those undergraduate loans, this is the average debt for a Federal student loan.

If you attend a 4-year college or university, such as the University of Tennessee or the University of California or Michigan or wherever you are, and you borrowed money to go to school—the average debt is \$27,300 for students who graduate with a 4-year college degree.

It is about the same for a new car loan. Sometimes students take out a car loan before they take out a student loan. To get a sense of how big a burden this loan is for the average graduate with a 4-year degree, it is the same as a car loan. I suspect that if we are going to have a \$1-a-day taxpayer subsidy to pay off a \$27,000 student loan, the next thing you know the Democrats are going to show up during the election year and say: Let's have \$1 a day to help people pay off their \$27,000 car loans. At least we know that the day you drive your car off the lot, it starts depreciating.

What do we know about a college education? If you have a 4-year degree, according to the College Board, it is worth \$1 million in increased earnings during your lifetime. That is according to the College Board. No one really contradicts that. I saw a very good article by a New York Times economist a couple of weeks ago that had a little different number. They were using a net negative of $\frac{1}{2}$ million after you deduct the cost of going to college. A person with a college education will have $\frac{1}{2}$ million to \$1 million in increased earnings. Can you think of a better investment than \$27,000 to earn \$1 million over your lifetime? Well, that is what a college degree does.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle are saying we need to raise the debt and taxes so we can help college graduates—who will be earning \$1 million more over their lifetime—pay off a \$27,000 loan. College students don't need a \$1-a-day Federal taxpayer sub-

sidy to pay off a \$27,000 student loan, which is the average loan for a 4-year college degree. They need a job, and Republicans are prepared—if this comes to the floor—to offer amendments to help create more new good jobs. We tried several times to do that, but the majority leader doesn't like us to bring up these issues.

For example, we would like to offer a bill to increase the hours of the workweek from 30 to 40 hours under the health care law, which has bipartisan support, but it would change the health care law, so we can't offer that amendment.

We would like to offer an amendment to build the Keystone Pipeline. Well, that has 60 or so Senators on both sides of the aisle—maybe more than that—who voted for it and say they support it, but the majority leader doesn't want us to bring up that one.

We would like to have an amendment to give the President the trade promotion authority that President Obama has asked for. President Obama sees the world. He sees Asia. He is negotiating a treaty with Asia and a trade treaty with Europe. He would like to see more American exports go to Europe and Asia, which would increase jobs at home. He stood right here at the State of the Union and asked Congress to approve that, but the majority leader said: No, we are not going to bring that up.

We have a Workforce Investment Act that we hope will come up this week.

We would like to repeal the ObamaCare individual mandate.

There are a number of provisions we would like to bring up as far as jobs go, but this \$1-a-day subsidy is supposed to be the keystone of the Democrats' jobs program. We are ready to talk about jobs, and we will have amendments when this comes to the floor.

If the subject is education, we are ready to talk about education. It would certainly be a lot better if we considered bills on the floor that have actually gone through the education committee.

I complimented the Senator from Iowa earlier. I have enjoyed working with him. I am the ranking member on the Republican side, and he is the ranking member on the Democrat side. The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has been the most productive committee in this Senate. It has a large jurisdiction. We passed 19 bills out in a bipartisan way, and 10 of them have become law. I don't think any other committee can say that. We take our work very seriously, just as we are doing today on the Higher Education Act and just as we did when we tried to fix No Child Left Behind.

The HELP Committee spent a good deal of time on No Child Left Behind. We reported a bill to the Senate floor. Republicans and Democrats offered competing proposals. Democrats effec-

tively wanted to double down on what I call a national school board and Republicans wanted to reverse the trend towards a national school board by sending most decisions back to State and local communities.

We want to fix No Child Left Behind. We have competing visions of how to do this, but I committed to bring the Democratic bill to the floor so we could have a debate. The House is ready to fix No Child Left Behind, and the Senate education committee is ready to fix No Child Left Behind. We want to have a debate about education this week. Let's bring up a bill that has been considered by the committee—where there are competing proposals—and fix No Child Left Behind. Better schools means higher college graduation rates, and that means better jobs.

We are ready to offer our amendments for better jobs. We are ready to offer our amendments for better schools.

In addition to our proposal for reversing the trend toward a national school board, I have introduced a proposal to create scholarships for kids. Did you know that if you took 80 Federal education programs that spend about \$24 billion a year and gave States authority to do this, they could create \$2,100 scholarships that follow 11 million low-income children in America to the public or accredited private school of the parents' choice? We would not impose a school choice plan on any State. We don't believe in mandates. But if a State wanted to use the money to follow the low-income student to their school so they can have an after-school program or an extra teacher, a Governor could do that under this proposal.

Senator SCOTT of South Carolina has offered a similar proposal for the six million children with disabilities. His proposal says: If you have a child with Down syndrome and find a school that better fits that child's needs, why not allow that Federal disability money to follow the child to the school they attend? Let the parent make that choice. We are ready to offer that amendment.

We have a quality charter schools proposal. Six percent of the public schools in America are charter schools. Charter schools are public schools that give parents more choices and teachers more freedom to serve the children who are in that school. They began more than 20 years ago, and they have bipartisan support. President Clinton was in Nashville not long ago announcing his support and raising money for a charter school.

I have an amendment to stop the Education Secretary from becoming chairman of a national school board. States are struggling with the unworkable requirements of No Child Left Behind. There is a provision in the law that allows the Secretary of Education to grant waivers to states from certain

provisions of No Child Left Behind, but this Secretary, who is a fine man and a great friend, has said: If Oregon or Hawaii or Washington or Tennessee wants a waiver, they must agree to do four or five things that aren't otherwise required in the law. States have to adopt certain standards, implement certain teacher evaluation systems, and set performance targets as conditions for receiving a waiver. I don't think the Secretary of Education has the authority to place these conditions on states. The American people don't want a national school board.

If they want to talk about education, we are ready with amendments on education. If they want to introduce a class warfare tax, we are ready to talk about taxes as well. We would like to repeal the medical device tax, and we are looking for an opportunity to offer that. If they are going to put a tax provision on the floor, let's have a tax debate. Let's have a debate about permanent State and local tax deductions. Let's prohibit the individual tax mandate in ObamaCare. Let's make the expensing of Section 179 permanent. Senator THUNE has that proposal, and the House is acting on it this week. Let's make the research and development tax credit permanent, which has bipartisan support as well. If the subject is just higher education, we have amendments about that as well.

The place for these amendments and this discussion is in our Senate education committee where we are discussing those ideas today. The way to do it this year is the way we did it last year. When the President, to his great credit, saw an opportunity to work with the Republicans in the House, he came over here to a bipartisan group, and we hammered out an agreement on a very big subject that, as I said, nearly cut the interest rate in half on undergraduate student loans.

Why in the world do Senate Democrats want to waste a week on a political stunt? We thought we ended that with the student loan bill last year. We have veterans standing in lines at clinics, we have appropriations bills waiting to be considered that deal with cancer research and national defense, and Democrats say: No, let's put that aside. Let's have a political stunt on higher education even though we know it is not going anywhere. We know it is not going anywhere.

I am very disappointed by this.

The \$1-a-day taxpayer subsidy to help some former students with loans pay off a \$27,000 debt is an example of how Democrats hope to get some votes. I thought we put that behind us. This is one reason the American people lose confidence in the Senate.

This body is described in a book called "The American Senate," written by the late Neil MacNeil and the former Historian of the Senate. It is described as the one piece of authentic

genius in the American constitutional system. Why is that? Because there are 100 of us. We operate by unanimous consent. It is a place for extended debate on important issues until we reach consensus.

Our Founders were so wise because they thought they had a complicated country, but it was not nearly as complex as it is today. The only way to govern a complex country is through consensus, just as we did last year on new student loans.

I would like to see the Senate move back to the place it was a few years ago. It was not that long ago. Many of the Members of the Senate don't know about it because so many Members are new. Did you know that half of the Members of the Senate have been here one term or less? They have not really seen the Senate operate the way it is supposed to operate.

The Republican leader said that if Republicans were in charge of the Senate, he would like to operate it the way a former Democratic leader did, Senator Mike Mansfield, which is, No. 1, let bills go through committee the way we do in our education committee, and No. 2, bring them to the floor for a robust debate. Let people put up their ideas. The idea is that the majority has the right to set the agenda and the minority has the right to offer amendments. In the Senate, the idea is to have an extended discussion until a consensus is reached, if you can.

I remember Senator Byrd and Senator Baker—I was here as an aide then, not as a Senator—would say to a chairman or a ranking member: Bring me a bill. Today, they would say to Chairman HARKIN: Bring me the fix No Child Left Behind bill, if you have the Ranking Members' support. I would say in this case: The bill doesn't have my support, but I support taking it to the floor. I will stand there, he will stand there and we will open it to debate and Republicans will try to amend it. We may win, we may lose, but then we will send it to the House. Then we have a conference and the bill comes back and we come to a consensus. How could we get all that done? The majority leader could stand up on Monday and say: We are going to fix No Child Left Behind this week, and we are going to finish by Saturday, or we are going to finish by 1 week from Saturday. Members may offer all the amendments they want, but they are going to be here Saturday and Sunday. So pretty soon, by about Thursday, many Senators would say: I have a grandchild's soccer game and I might want to go home and it regulates that way.

It is never perfect. This is a place where we debate big issues, but the idea that Senators can't offer amendments on important issues is making this Senate into a trivial place instead of a place where it is an authentic piece of genius.

The Senator from Wyoming, Mr. BARRASSO, did some interesting research. He pointed out that since July, there have only been nine amendments offered by Republicans that received a rollcall vote—nine amendments offered by Republicans since last July that received a rollcall vote. In Tennessee they would say that is akin to being in the Grand Ole Opry and not being allowed to sing. We are supposed to have a say about student loans, about Iran, about Ukraine, and about all of these issues. We might win or lose, but on behalf of our constituents, we are supposed to have a say.

That is not nearly as bad as what the Senator from Wyoming discovered when he did a little more research, and this is what he found: While Senate Republicans have had nine amendments since last July, guess how many amendments Senate Democrats have had—seven. According to the Senator from Wyoming, 676 amendments, and the majority leader has allowed 7 rollcall votes since last July. How do we explain that when we go home?

How do we explain a political stunt on student loans that everybody knows is a political stunt that will not pass? How do we explain to veterans standing in lines at clinics and to Appropriations Committee members waiting to deal with bills to fund cancer research and national defense that a political stunt is more important? This is not the way the Senate is supposed to operate.

Let's go back to this \$1-a-day stunt. It is unfair to students, it is unfair to taxpayers, and it is unfair to future generations.

It is unfair to students because it treats former students better than it treats current students and new students. This proposal—the Senate Democrats' proposal that is being brought to the floor this week—doesn't do a single thing for a student if he or she is a current student or if they are going to be a student next year or the following year. It just helps some former students with old loans, and it treats them better than it would treat a new student because it will freeze in place an interest rate that 3 years from now will treat former students with old loans better than new students whose rate will be determined by the market and that rate might be a little higher.

The Senate Democratic proposal is unfair to taxpayers for two reasons. First, it increases individual income taxes by \$72 billion. That is a big number. It has been rejected by the Senate eight times. It is a class warfare tax focused on a few people.

Second, my colleagues may have heard that the government profits off of students under the student loan program. In fact, the reverse is true. When we use the accounting system the Congressional Budget Office says we ought to use, the student loan program actually costs taxpayers \$88 billion over the

next 10 years. Let me repeat that. We will hear it said by the advocates of the \$1-a-day subsidy to help students pay off student loans that the government is profiting from the students but not if we use the accounting system the Congressional Budget Office has said we should use. What is the difference? The Congressional Budget Office says the system we are using doesn't take into account the risk that students might not pay back their loans. Today the Congressional Budget Office estimates that less than 10 percent of student loan volume is in default.

This proper accounting system is not foreign to the Senate. It was used with the Troubled Asset Relief Program—the so-called bailout—because the idea of assessing the true cost of the program needed to fully account for risk.

The Congressional Budget Office recommends that we use fair value accounting. They consider that a better methodology. They say the student loan program, as it exists under that accounting system, will cost taxpayers \$88 billion over the next 10 years. As I said, the main reason is that the fair value system takes into account risk—the risk that students might not pay off some of their loans.

For those who might not know about the Congressional Budget Office, we pay this group to tell us the truth. They are nonpartisan. They don't always tell us what we want to hear, and we usually try to ignore it when they don't and say, well, we heard a different point of view. But here is what they said “. . . under the fair-value approach, estimates are based on market values—market prices when those prices are available or approximations of market prices when directly comparable figures are unavailable—which more fully account for the cost of the risk the government takes on. In particular, the fair-value approach accounts for the cost of the market risk,” which the other accounting method we currently use does not.

The Congressional Budget Office continues in a May 2014 report:

The government is exposed to market risk when the economy is weak because borrowers default on their debt obligations more frequently and recoveries from borrowers are lower.

That makes sense.

When the government extends credit, the associated market risk of those obligations is effectively passed along to taxpayers, who, as investors, would view that risk as having a cost. Therefore, the fair-value approach offers a much more comprehensive estimate of Federal costs.

Last year, when the President worked in a bipartisan way with Senators and with the Republican House, we came to a conclusion that didn't raise taxes, that didn't raise the debt, and that still cut rates nearly in half for undergraduates.

Finally, the Senate Democratic proposal is unfair to future generations

because it could add as much as \$420 billion to an already out-of-control national debt. It does this by allowing private loans to be turned into public loans—private debt becomes the government's debt. Recently, as I said, the Congressional Budget Office warned that interest on the debt in the next 10 years will rise from \$227 billion to \$876 billion, an amount greater than the entire cost of our Nation's national defense.

So this \$1-a-day subsidy does not justify this unfairness to other students, to taxpayers, and to future generations.

Let me conclude by talking about the real problem and the real solutions with student loans. Today the President held a press conference in which he proposed issuing a regulation by Executive order that would extend an income based repayment plan to millions more students. We have some questions about this. We don't know what it will cost and apparently neither does he. We know it doesn't take effect for another year or so because it will take some time to figure it out. I have had a hard time figuring out, reading the law, where the President has the authority to do this. It is based upon the health care law in 2010 which included provisions about student loans and included an income based repayment plan that affects loans issued after July 1, 2014. But the President, both with the Executive order today and his 2011 Executive order on the same subject, includes loans issued before July 1, 2014. So we don't know the cost and it has questionable authority.

So here we have a press conference at the White House and a political stunt on the Senate floor dealing with loans. We know better than that. The President knows he could sit down with those of us in the Senate who are working on student loans—and in the House—and say: Here, I have some ideas about income based repayment. We would say: Mr. President, No. 1, we respect what you did last year and would like to work with you again; and, No. 2, you are on the right subject.

There are two big problems—real problems—with student loans. One is the complexity of the income based repayment plans. The truth is the Obama administration itself is guilty of causing most of the complexity because the first income based repayment plan was created by law in 2007 and then it was amended in 2010 and then the President issued a regulation expanding the program in 2011 and now there is another regulation to do the same. Basically, it started out that if a student has a student loan to pay back but they are not making much money, then they don't have to pay more than 15 percent of their discretionary income. That is not even total income; it is just part of a person's income. If they can't pay it off over 25 years, the government will for-

give it. What the bill did in 2010 was lower the amount to 10 percent of income for borrowers, and if the loan isn't paid off in 20 years, the government will forgive it. Income based repayment plans are available today for students.

Let's talk about what is already on the books, even if the President's Order today doesn't go into effect for students. For students who want lower monthly payments on their student loans, there are already provisions in Federal law that allow the typical undergraduate borrower to lower his or her payment by \$60 more per month than the \$1-a-day plan from Senate Democrats. For the typical graduate student, the existing repayment plans could lower monthly payments by \$300 a month more than the Senate Democratic plan. Under current law, as I said, if the loan isn't paid off in 20 or 25 years, the government forgives it.

So here is what we have in America today. There are \$100 billion in student loans every year, \$33 billion in Federal grants, all going out to students at a very low rate. Most of the students don't have any credit history, and they don't need it to get the money.

We hear a lot of talk about the expense of a college education, and at some colleges it is very expensive. When I went to school, I had two or three jobs and a couple of scholarships. That is how I was able to go to Vanderbilt University. But for students today who want a less expensive college education, it is important for them to know that the average cost of tuition and fees at a 2-year public college—and there are some excellent ones all over our country—is \$3,200. The average cost of tuition and fees at a public 4-year institution—and some of the best 4-year institutions in America are public 4-year institutions, including California, Tennessee, Hawaii, and Washington State; these are very good universities—is \$8,900. Three out of four college students go to 2-year public colleges where the tuition and fees is \$3,200 or to a 4-year public college where tuition and fees is just under \$9,000.

In addition, 40 percent of those same students—the three out of four who go to public colleges and universities—40 percent of them have a grant which they don't have to pay back. It is called a Pell grant, and it may be as much as \$5,645. So the truth is that for millions of college students going to college today, it is free. Do the math. If a community college is \$3,200 and a student gets a \$5,645 Pell grant, that student has some extra money, and he or she can still get a loan if they want to and then they have even more extra money.

That leads to the other real problem with student loans that we would like to work with the President on; that is, over borrowing. The first real problem

is the complexity of the income based repayment plans, and we can change that. Just as we did last year with many of the new loans, we could make the income based repayment plans, working together, much simpler and make it easier for students to take advantage of.

But what about overborrowing? We read in the paper about huge student loan debt. It seems as though everybody we read about has a \$300,000 loan or a \$150,000 loan they will never be able to pay back. I guess a few people do. But according to Mark Kantrowitz, who is a financial aid expert and has studied student debt, more than 90 percent of students who graduate with loans of more than \$100,000 are graduate students. Let me say that again. If you read about a student loan that is more than \$100,000, more than 90 percent of those are for graduate students.

I said a moment ago that undergraduate students can earn more than \$1 million more in their lifetime with their 4-year degree. Doctors, lawyers, and other graduate students can earn a lot more than that with their advanced degrees in many cases.

But those graduate students with more-than-\$100,000 loans are only 6 percent of all graduate students, and that is only 2 percent of all student loans. So 2 percent of all federal student loans in the country are more than \$100,000. The average undergraduate loan for a 4-year degree is \$27,000, and the average for all undergraduate loans, which are 85 percent of loans, is \$21,000.

There is some overborrowing even among undergraduates. Young people are—and maybe they are not all young—borrowing more than they can afford to pay back. In our committee, we are considering a number of proposals to deal with this for both graduate and undergraduate loans.

For example, we would like to simplify the student loan program so more students can take advantage of it and take advantage of the repayment options that exist in the law today. But we need to know how much that costs the taxpayers.

No. 2, we have been talking about eliminating the graduate PLUS Program that provides virtually unlimited loans to graduate students regardless of their credit history. That may be how they took out these loans we occasionally read about of \$150,000, \$200,000. We want to prohibit part-time students from taking out the same amount of loans that full-time students can. Let's say you are taking a half-time load at a 4-year institution and you take out a full-time loan to pay for that. That means you have some extra money for living expenses or for a car. I am not sure as a matter of national policy that money for expenses other than for education and costs associated with education should be allowed.

We would like to give colleges and universities the ability to require addi-

tional counseling for students. Did you know that under current law a college is prohibited from requiring additional counseling to an entering student at Vanderbilt or the University of Tennessee who says: Give me my loan. I am entitled to it? I am 18 or 19 years old. I have no credit history, maybe not much experience with money, and the college that hands me the money is prohibited—by federal law—from requiring additional counseling.

We may want to limit the amount a student can borrow. We may want to allow colleges to have a role in doing that. We may even—and this has been suggested—require higher education institutions in some instances to have skin in the game to ensure that graduate students and undergraduate students repay their loans. In other words, the higher education institution would share the risk. These are some of the ideas that are being considered today in the Senate education committee.

Every Senator has a right to bring on this floor whatever she or he wants. It is up to the majority leader to decide what we focus our precious time on. I am here today to suggest that a \$1-a-day subsidy for college graduates to help them pay off a \$27,000 loan—which is the average loan for a 4-year college graduate, which is almost exactly the same as the average car loan—is not a worthy subject for our discussion this week when we have veterans standing in lines at clinics and appropriations bills dealing with cancer, and national military defense waiting to come to the floor.

That is especially true when we have a President of the United States who has proved he can work with Congress on student debt. He did that last year. He did a good job. He was very helpful with the final result. The Republicans in the House said that, the Senate said that in a bipartisan way, and I think most students who are enjoying the benefit of that would agree with that.

So we thought last year we had stopped the political stunts on student loans. We put a market price system on all new loans, at no new cost to the taxpayers, no new debt, so this would not become an election-year football; but apparently it has, at least for a week. So we are going to have to endure going on to the floor and talking about a proposal that every single Senator knows has no chance not only of getting to the House, which will not touch it, but even passing the Senate—no chance whatsoever. Why? Because over in the Senate education committee we are discussing this subject in a bipartisan way and the way we are supposed to do it.

So if it comes to the floor we are ready to amend it. We have our proposals for more good jobs. College graduates do not need a \$1-a-day subsidy to help pay off a \$27,000 loan. They need a good, decent job, and we are ready to

help them get one. With the Keystone Pipeline, with the trade authority the President wants, with lower taxes, with changes in ObamaCare, with going from a 30- to a 40-hour workweek, we have a lot of ideas about jobs. If we want to bring up taxes, which this proposal does, we have some taxes we would like to bring up as well; and that includes repealing the medical device tax, which ought to have a good, bipartisan vote here in the Senate. It has before.

On education, we have our ideas too, and so do the Democrats, by the way. Some have been through the HELP committee. They have been hashed out. They are ready for the floor. There is a competing vision. Democrats want a national school board. Republicans want to reverse the trend towards a national school board. So on this bill, if we want to talk about education, I would like to have a chance to offer my amendment that says no national school board. Let's send those decisions back to State and local communities. I think there are lots of Senators on both sides of the aisle who would like to vote for that.

But what I would really like to see is the President accept our invitation to work with him. That is what we would like to do. We did that last year. We produced a good result. He has put his focus in the right place. I might say respectfully, maybe he is in the right church but the wrong pew. He is talking about income based repayment plans. We think that is one of the big problems left to solve, and we will work with him to simplify and reform the various plans. But we want to make sure the government has clear legislative authority to do it, and we want to know what it costs. Then we would like to work with him on excessive overborrowing. I would suspect he would like to do that too.

So why don't we do that? Why don't we send this \$1-a-day proposal back to the Senate education committee—actually it never was there—but let's send it to the Senate education committee and put it in with all the other ideas we are discussing. Let's continue our bipartisan work in the committee to see if we can this year present to the Senate a proposal for reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, and let's use this time for the veterans standing in line or the appropriations bills, which deal with so many issues and which we have not had a chance to consider for the last few years.

I am disappointed with today's press conference at the White House and the political stunt that is headed toward the Senate floor. But I am hoping the President will take a look at what he did last year and feel a good deal of satisfaction about it and say: Let me sit down with those same men and women whom I worked with last year and see if we cannot do something

about simplifying income based repayment so more students can take advantage of it, and dealing with excessive borrowing and some of the other issues we are working on in higher education.

I think we can do that 2 years in a row, and I think the American people would appreciate it if we tried.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING CHESTER NEZ

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, it is an honor to join my colleague from New Mexico, Senator TOM UDALL, in celebrating the life and service of Chester Nez, the last of the original 29 Navajo code talkers, who passed away this last Wednesday, and to honor the historic role the Native American code talkers played in the allied victory in World War II.

Our Nation's liberties and patriotic spirit were personified by the commitment and service and the legacy of Chester Nez. He was a true American hero. Chester Nez helped to create an unbreakable code during World War II. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps to protect the Nation and also his people, language, and culture. He understood the significance and the importance of his language, and he used it as a shield to defend this Nation.

Chester Nez chose to enlist in the marines at a young age, not knowing he would become part of an elite group of indigenous code talkers. Despite growing up in an era where speaking the Navajo language was not only prohibited but often punished, his fluency in both Navajo and English made him invaluable to the war effort. He was a member of the all-Navajo 382nd Marine Platoon entrusted to create a code that would prove impenetrable to the Japanese. The 382nd Marine Platoon literally changed the course of history.

After Chester Nez's service, he continued to remain silent about his instrumental role as a Navajo code talker, maintaining a quiet, modest, and humble lifestyle until the mission was declassified in 1968.

Later in life Mr. Nez shared his contributions and his experiences in World War II with younger generations. He advocated for keeping the Navajo language, its traditions, and culture alive so that future generations would know how influential the Navajo people and language were during World War II.

Thanks to Mr. Nez and his fellow code talkers, our Nation's remarkable

spirit continues to thrive and we are forever grateful for their service. I join all New Mexicans in keeping Chester Nez's family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

KADZIK NOMINATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I come to the floor to speak about the nomination of Peter Kadzik to be an Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs in the Justice Department. I happen to know that the majority leader hasn't yet filed cloture on this nomination, but I expect that he will in the near future. So now I take the opportunity to speak about that nomination.

It is no secret that I have concerns about Mr. Kadzik's nomination. I opposed his nomination in committee, and I will oppose it when it comes to a vote on the floor.

The reasons are pretty simple. Mr. Kadzik has been acting in that position since April 2013—in other words, in the very same position for which he has been nominated. His job is to respond to questions from Members of Congress. We have a clear track record to judge his performance, and that record has been dismal. Letters go unanswered for months. Then, when answers come, they ignore or dodge the questions.

Even before coming to the Justice Department, Mr. Kadzik had shown a lack of respect for congressional oversight. While he was in private practice, he represented the billionaire tax fugitive Marc Rich. Rich was infamously pardoned at the end of the Clinton administration following a large donation by Mrs. Rich to the Clinton Presidential Library. No fugitive has ever been pardoned before—let alone a billionaire fugitive who owed millions of unpaid taxes.

In the course of the congressional investigation into that controversy, Mr. Kadzik was subpoenaed to testify at the House hearing in 2001. He refused the committee's invitation to testify voluntarily. Then, he decided to fly to California the day before the hearing. The House committee had to send the U.S. marshals to serve him with a subpoena in California ordering him to return for the hearing. He later denied that his attorneys knew a subpoena was on the way when he got on the plane. But his denial is contradicted by handwritten notes from 2001 telephone conversations with his attorneys about the subpoena. Those notes are in the record of his confirmation hearings, and I invite any Senator to review them.

Some people might say: Well, that was a long time ago, and maybe it was just a misunderstanding.

But one thing is not in dispute even by Mr. Kadzik: He refused the House committee's request to testify voluntarily. He was unwilling to cooperate unless forced to do so by compulsory legal process. Everything in his record since then has reinforced the impression that Mr. Kadzik is simply not interested in answering questions from Congress unless he has no other choice.

He was not forthcoming during his nomination hearing on several issues, not just the Marc Rich controversy. Getting him to answer simple inquiries has required two or even three sets of questions. He wouldn't even promise to answer each individual question from members of our Judiciary Committee. Instead, he had a bad habit of grouping together a set of specific detailed questions, and then repeating one vague nonanswer over and over. In one set of responses he repeated word for word the same answer to previous questions nine times. That simply is not a good-faith effort to be responsive to each question.

When his answer was one he thought I didn't want to hear, he glossed over it. Example: At his nomination hearing, I asked Mr. Kadzik whether he intended to provide certain documents Chairman ISSA and I had requested relating to a briefing by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. After he failed to mention the documents in his response, I prompted him about the documents once again and he evaded the question. Only after two subsequent sets of questions for the record did Mr. Kadzik finally come clean and admit that the Department would refuse to provide those documents requested. Mr. Kadzik should have been that candid initially, instead of avoiding the issue.

His seeming inability to give straightforward and accurate answers to simple questions causes real concern for me about his ability to perform his job, of which a very important part is answering inquiries from Members of Congress. I think an Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs needs to ensure that Congress receives accurate information from the Department. That is what checks and balances of our constitutional setup is all about.

This also became a problem for Mr. Kadzik's predecessor, whose false denials about Operation Fast and Furious eventually had to be retracted. This office needs leadership that will restore its credibility. Mr. Kadzik's track record in the acting position makes it clear he does not have what it takes to restore sorely needed credibility. At Mr. Kadzik's confirmation hearing last October, Senator FEINSTEIN told Mr. Kadzik that the Senate's Select Committee on Intelligence had recently received answers to questions for the record from the FBI that were over 1 year late. As she pointed out to Mr.

Kadzik, "A year is really outside the pale of propriety."

Mr. Kadzik said in response: "One of my missions at the Department is to improve that record and to expedite the providing of information to this Committee and all Members of Congress." But from what I have seen so far, Mr. Kadzik's record has been even worse than his predecessor's.

The Judiciary Committee still has not received answers to questions for the record from Attorney General Holder from an oversight hearing dating back to March 6, 2013, 14 months ago. Recently, the Judiciary Committee received answers to FBI questions for the record dated "current as of August 26, 2013." According to the FBI Congressional Affairs staff, that is when the answers were forwarded to Mr. Kadzik's office. Although the FBI responses to Congress were then only 2 months old, apparently they sat in Mr. Kadzik's Office of Legislative Affairs for another 9 months.

Mr. Kadzik is just as unresponsive to letters. His staff recently acknowledged they were aware of 13 pending letters from this Senator that have gone completely unanswered. I don't mean he replied with an answer I didn't think was good enough; I mean there was simply no reply whatsoever. Some of those questions from this Senator dated back to October 2012, well over a year and a half ago. His office is completely ignoring those letters.

He did send me a couple of very weak responses in just the last few days. Each of those was essentially one paragraph long. One was a reply to a letter I sent almost 1 year ago. The other replied to a letter from January in which I asked four simple questions. They addressed Attorney General Holder's failure to issue a report on the need for reform of the FBI's whistleblower procedures.

The Attorney General was required to report to President Obama within 180 days of the Presidential directive on whistleblowers, which was issued October 2012. A little history: The FBI was exempted from whistleblower provisions in the Civil Service Act of 1978 and the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989. That has resulted in the FBI being one of the worst retaliators against whistleblowers over the years. Therefore, the FBI report President Obama requested was an important part of the Presidential directive. I had written to the Justice Department 3 weeks after the Presidential directive in 2012 to emphasize how important it was that the directive be followed and that the FBI people have proper whistleblower protection. Then there was a 180-day deadline. That deadline came and went.

I wrote the Justice Department earlier this year asking about the report because at that time it was more than 10 months overdue. I asked the current

status of the report, why they had failed to issue it so far, when it would be complete, and whether they would provide a copy to the Judiciary Committee.

So those are the simple questions I asked Mr. Kadzik. Once again, the nominee failed to send a prompt, good-faith response to my letter. Mr. Kadzik could have written immediately to say the Justice Department knows this review is important and explain why it was taking longer than they thought. Mr. Kadzik could have told me the review was expected to take several more months. Instead he waited 4 long months until the report was complete, then simply sent me a one-paragraph response, stating the report was sent to the President of the United States. He didn't try to explain why it took so long. He completely ignored my question about providing a copy of the report to our Judiciary Committee. This is not the kind of good-faith, candid response the Justice Department owes Congress, especially in our oversight capacity to see that the laws are faithfully executed by the President of the United States.

As a nominee who already works in that office, Mr. Kadzik had the opportunity to demonstrate a real commitment to the role of congressional oversight in our constitutional system of checks and balances. He could have answered the mail on time. He could have insisted on candid, good-faith, substantive replies to Congress. Rather than trying to raise the bar, he lowered it.

The attitude this nominee brings to dealing with congressional oversight and the requests we make is a symptom of much larger problems. The Justice Department has a lot of work to do to rebuild trust and confidence after the false letter it sent me on Operation Fast and Furious. It still is fighting in court to avoid turning over documents that explain its decision to ultimately withdraw the letter and admit that letter was false.

The Obama administration is arguing for a vastly expanded view of executive privilege. They want the ability to expand it far beyond direct advice a counselor would give to the President. They want it to include internal emails between lower level bureaucrats and agencies and departments. These, the administration claims, are so-called deliberative documents. They are created by people who may never even have been to the White House, let alone advise the President on anything where lawyer-client relationship can be established. That kind of broad privilege would be a massive blow to government transparency and to our system of checks and balances.

The position the Obama administration is taking in the Operation Fast and Furious lawsuit is a direct breach of the promise the President made in

his first day in office. He pledged at that time to have the most transparent administration in the history of this country, but now the President's Justice Department is arguing for a massive expansion of executive privilege to include all of that so-called deliberative material. This nominee, Mr. Kadzik, is aggressively implementing that new policy even today, refusing to answer questions and withholding documents. His actions today are consistent with his history. Voluntary cooperation takes a backseat to legalism and forcing a legal confrontation.

I wish I could say Mr. Kadzik had demonstrated the kind of serious commitment to open, honest, and forthright cooperation with congressional oversight that the office needs. Unfortunately, he has not, but the failure to cooperate extends far beyond Mr. Kadzik's investigations.

We don't need to look any further than today's headlines to see the latest instance of this administration's failure to abide by its obligations under the law to submit to congressional oversight. Of course I am referring to the recent release of five of the most dangerous detainees from Guantanamo. The President's decision to release what some have called the Taliban Dream Team without notifying Congress in advance exemplifies this administration's contempt for congressional oversight. It is troubling for a host of reasons, especially when the stakes are so high.

In December 2013, Congress passed and the President signed the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. Section 1035 of that law addresses the procedure the executive branch is required to follow if the President decides to release a detainee being held at Guantanamo Bay. This process isn't optional. It is not something that is a matter of Presidential discretion. It is actually required as a matter of federal law. It is required by a law this President signed.

The White House's failure to follow the law in this instance is just the latest example of this administration's blatant disregard for congressional authority. The law requires the President to notify certain House and Senate committees, including the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, at least 30 days before Guantanamo Bay detainees are transferred or released. Obviously that did not happen.

Not only that but the law requires the President to explain "why the transfer or release is in the national security interest of the United States." That didn't happen either. The President also had a legal obligation to describe any actions his administration took "to mitigate the risks of re-engagement by the individuals to be

transferred or released.” Such mitigating actions are required by the law, but that didn’t happen either.

The reasons for these legal requirements are fairly obvious. The Members of this body understand and respect the President’s responsibility to protect national security. That is in fact his paramount responsibility as Commander in Chief, but we too have a responsibility in this Congress and all Congresses to ensure that the national security is protected. Congress is a co-equal branch of government. Yet our ability to ensure that the actions this President takes are designed to promote the national security have been thwarted because this White House kept us in the dark about the release of the five Taliban kingpins every step of the way.

The administration is fully aware it violated Federal law in failing to timely notify Congress of its intentions. We know this because the White House has contacted some of my colleagues on the Select Committee on Intelligence and apologized—actually apologized—for failing to notify them in advance; in other words, apologized for not following the law.

According to press reports the White House said the failure to make notification required by law was “an oversight.” An oversight? What happened is not an oversight. An oversight is what happens when you forget to send a thank-you note for a birthday gift. This was not an oversight. In other words, it is extremely difficult to view this as anything but a deliberate attempt to leave Senators in the dark. You don’t simply forget to meet your legal obligations to notify Congress, and it is not as if this was some obscure provision of the law nobody knew anything about. This has always been a very big deal. Not only did the White House have an obligation to notify Congress, but the White House had previously promised that it would in fact comply with the law.

On June 21, 2013, at the White House press briefing, Press Secretary Jay Carney promised that the administration “would not make any decision about the transfers of any detainees without consulting with Congress and without doing so in accordance with U.S. law.”

It is perfectly clear the administration was aware of its duties under the law and made a calculated and deliberate decision to ignore them. The President more or less admitted this when he recently explained at a press conference in Poland that he saw an opportunity he had to take immediately because “we were concerned about Sgt. Bergdahl’s health.”

I am sick and tired of the approach this administration takes toward its legal obligations under the law, and that is why I wrote to the Attorney General in January of this year con-

cerning some statements the President made in the State of the Union Address, hinting that he intended to take unilateral action using executive orders.

In the letter I wrote to the Attorney General, I asked him to direct the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel to publicly disclose its opinions and conclusions concerning the lawfulness of executive orders issued by the President.

Here is where Mr. Kadzik comes in. In May he declined my request, citing again his overbroad and legally unsupported claims of executive privilege.

It is not without good reason that the former executive editor of the New York Times—by the way, an outlet that is not exactly an aggressive critic of the President—called this White House the most secretive she ever covered.

So let me renew my request to the Attorney General regarding the publication of opinions from the Office of Legal Counsel. Frankly, I think my request is all the more important now that we have seen the administration’s flagrant disregard for Federal law in the matter of the Taliban prisoner deal. I am, therefore, asking the Attorney General to direct the Office of Legal Counsel to make public any opinions or legal analysis concerning the lawfulness of the transfer of the Taliban commanders without compliance with section 1035 of the National Defense Authorization. But given this Department’s track record, I am not going to hold my breath that that request will be honored.

I will sum up by saying this: Mr. Kadzik’s nomination is a perfect example of the contempt that this—the self-professed most transparent administration in history—has for congressional oversight authority.

Let me be clear to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. One day you folks might be in the minority or the administration might be controlled by the Republican Party. If a Republican administration ignores your oversight request, how can you complain, if you don’t stand up today, when the shoe was on the other foot? If you support this kind of stonewalling now by supporting this nominee, it will come back to bite you, and, of course, you will deserve it. I plan to be around here to remind you of that.

I will vote against this nominee and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, last week, the Senate confirmed Sylvia Burwell as our new Secretary of Health and Human Services. She is now the administration’s main implementer and representative of ObamaCare. She is its new face and will be its primary salesperson to the American people. I think the President made a competent choice, and I supported her confirmation. But I would be remiss if I did not mention or bring to light the difficult job she has ahead of her.

From its botched website to ever increasing premiums, to canceled health insurance plans, ObamaCare has been and remains a complicated mess of broken promises and confusing implementation. I was back home in Indiana last weekend and the weekend before that, and ObamaCare, along with complaints about overregulation, remain the top two issues on people’s minds. On Friday, I was in DeKalb County and Noble County up in northeast Indiana meeting with representatives of those two counties and communities and across the spectrum of people engaged in various business enterprises—housewives, small businesses, big businesses, elected officials, et cetera. In each of those discussions, as I went across those two counties, as I said, overregulation and ObamaCare were No. 1 and No. 2, or vice versa, on everyone’s mind. It continues to remain on their minds because they see this as a very complicated and messy intrusion into their individual lives in terms of their ability to run their businesses. For many, it is not a question of ObamaCare not hurting them, but how it has hurt them and their concerns about how it is going to hurt them in the future.

The President promised us that this plan—quote “will lower the cost of health care for our families, our businesses, and our government.” Let me repeat that. The President said that ObamaCare would lower the cost of health care—which it hasn’t—for our families, our businesses, and our government.

That is not what I have heard as I talk to people across the State of Indiana. What I hear from Hoosiers is their premiums have increased, they have higher health care costs, their deductibles have risen dramatically, their copays have risen, and they have fewer provider options. Remember what the President said: If you like your doctor or your health plan, you can keep it, period. That is not the case, and I hear that from hundreds of Hoosiers as I travel around the State.

Let me speak about a specific story from a constituent, Jeremy, from Randolph County, who said this:

My plan for my wife and two kids, ages 2 and 5, just increased \$150 to \$615 per month. We cannot afford this massive hike!

He went on to say: Something must be done to lower these plans because

we are seriously going to think about not being able to have insurance for the first time since college because I simply can't afford it. It is unaffordable.

The ACA, the so-called Affordable Care Act, has been called unaffordable by so many Hoosiers—and I suspect that is true all around the country—that it ought to be the unaffordable care act and not the Affordable Care Act.

I don't know how many stories we have to bring to the floor of the Senate before my colleagues understand and realize this plan is faulty to the point that it needs to be replaced. It is deeply and fatally flawed at its very core.

I know the majority leader came to the floor and said none of these stories we have related are true. That is like telling Jeremy he doesn't exist.

I don't think he made this up: My plan for my wife and kids has just increased \$150 a month to \$615 a month. It is unaffordable. Americans across the country are repeating these stories. They are not made up. It is not something Republicans sit around and write in the back room and sends out that says: Here, say this, so we can repeat it on the floor of the House of Representatives or the Senate floor. These are concerned citizens sending by the thousands emails, phone calls, tweets, and any other means of communication. They are speaking to us directly when we go back home, whether I am in the grocery store buying a quart of milk, picking up a newspaper at the gas station, just speaking to people on the street, or when I sit down with business people. We have invited them to various small towns in Indiana. As I said, these stories that are coming from real people I represent—and they sent me here to represent them—is the impact of the health care plan that has been proposed by the President and now is being implemented. So all of the promises that were made early on—but it wasn't in force—have now been proven to be untrue.

Don't just take my word for it. Look at the headlines. Reuters, which I don't think is an arm of the Republican Senatorial Committee or the Republican National Committee, and is an independent newspaper says: "U.S. says 2.2 million ObamaCare enrollees have data problems."

CNBC—the last time I heard, they weren't making contributions to the Republican Party either: "Seven in 10 people say ObamaCare had bad or zero impact on U.S." Either nothing—no impact or bad impact—that is 70 percent.

Indianapolis Business Journal, to which I pay attention, and an independent organization: "Indiana's ObamaCare rates for 2015 all over the map."

People can't figure out how much they are going to have to pay next

year, but they have figured out one thing. It is going to be more than they paid last year.

Remember the statement "premiums won't go up?" It won't go up a penny?

I think many of us think it is time to start over and replace ObamaCare with real health care solutions. Republicans have offered a multitude of possibilities of suggestions and proposals, every one of which has been turned down by the President or not allowed to be brought to the floor by the Senate majority leader.

There are those who say: What would you do? Why don't you suggest something? We have tried our very best to bring forward packages of reforms, to reach across the aisle and say, if you will work with us, we will try to fix some of these problems. We think we should repeal it and start over because we don't think it is the right model for health care, to address the solution of providing people in this country with adequate health care at a reasonable cost.

So changing the face of ObamaCare by just putting in a new Secretary of Health and Human Services will not change this law's negative impact on Hoosiers such as Jeremy. I wish it would, but, obviously, it won't. It will not change this disaster of a law into what it should be: Better health care for all Americans. We are all committed to that goal, but we are simply saddled with a piece of legislation that was very poorly drafted, that was rushed through without any support or comments from those of us on the other side of the aisle.

I wasn't here at the time. One of the reasons I ran and came back was to try to address what I thought was legislation taking us down a road to a dysfunctional health care system, with less quality, less access, less choice, less competition.

Is there a need to reform this current health care system? Yes. Are there solutions that are better than what has been put before us? Yes. I wish we could summon the support and the will of those in this body to begin addressing that very problem.

Mr. President, I see other colleagues on the floor, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

GUANTANAMO BAY DETAINEES

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to raise an issue that has been of growing concern to the American people: the exchange of the so-called Taliban Five—five terrorist detainees from Guantanamo—in exchange for Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl.

Let me say from the outset, this is not about Sergeant Bergdahl. The circumstances under which he became a prisoner of the Taliban is an issue for the Army. There was an investigation

into this matter in 2010, and hopefully the Army will be able to bring clarity to that situation soon. What I wish to speak about today is keeping the American people safe from the terrorists who attacked us on September 11, 2001, resulting in the deaths of 2,977 innocent people.

The Taliban Five are among the worst of the worst. They were all high-level officials in the Taliban regime who gave aid and support to Al Qaeda in Afghanistan in the period leading up to the 9/11 attacks. These five were designated "high" risk by the Guantanamo Review Task Force convened in 2009 on the orders of President Obama, whose report was published on January 22, 2010. Two of the five are wanted by the United Nations for war crimes against Afghan civilians.

Khairullah Khairkhwah, for example, was described in his GTMO case file as "a hard-liner in Taliban philosophy" with "close ties to Osama bin Laden." Mohammad Fazl was second in command of the Taliban army in 2001. These were not junior-level players.

Capturing these five men was a priority when our troops participated in the liberation of Afghanistan from the Taliban in 2001, where our sons and daughters bled and died to free Afghanistan and to exact punishment on those who carried out a horrific terrorist attack on the United States of America. We cannot know for sure how many American soldiers paid the ultimate price to capture these five senior terrorists.

Even as many other detainees at GTMO have been released, up until now, these five have been considered too dangerous to let go. Given the level of threat they represent, any proposal to release them should be of the utmost seriousness. Unfortunately, by all indications the administration's release treated their threat as anything but serious.

Americans need to know how the Obama administration thinks it has made our Nation safer by negotiating with terrorists to release these five dangerous terrorist leaders. Until President Obama can make his case and convince the American public that this swap was in our national interests, prudence dictates that all further transfers and releases from Guantanamo Bay should be off the table.

Unfortunately, there have been no answers from this administration on how this deal furthers the national security interests of the American people or why the deal was so urgent that the administration refused to comply with its legal obligation to inform Congress 30 days before the transfer. Instead, the administration has vilified those who would raise questions about it as somehow not being concerned about securing the return of our troops. That attack—that slur—shouldn't even be dignified by a response, particularly given what has been publicly admitted.

President Obama has publicly admitted that there is “absolutely” a chance of the Taliban Five returning to the battlefield and attacking Americans.

Indeed, the current Taliban leadership has announced that from their perspective this deal is so good for them that they should now prioritize kidnapping other Americans. For example, last Thursday one top Taliban commander told *Time* magazine—and this is a quote—“It’s better to kidnap one person like Bergdahl than kidnapping hundreds of useless people. It has encouraged our people. Now everybody will work hard to capture such an important bird.”

This deal puts every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine—every man and woman standing up to defend this Nation—in jeopardy.

The chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, has publicly said that she has seen “no evidence” that Sergeant Bergdahl was under urgent threat in recent weeks or months.

All of these admissions together raise serious and legitimate concerns about the circumstances of the release of the Taliban Five, and they also make clear that the administration should stop vilifying any who raise these national concerns. Instead, the President should stand up and honor his commitment to the American people, defend this decision in terms of the national security interests of the United States—what should be the highest priority for the Commander in Chief.

Instead, we have recently learned from news reports that there are at least four other Gitmo detainees who are being considered for release. So not only has there not been accountability as to why this happened, but it appears the administration wants to go down the same road and I can only assume is willing again to violate the law and not notify Congress the next time, just the way it violated the law by not notifying Congress this time.

Before any further such action is considered, we need to take a pause and assess what happened with the Taliban Five. We need to answer:

Who did the vetting that resulted in the assessment that the Taliban Five no longer posed a high level of threat to the United States?

Who participated in the decision to release them?

Was this the same deal the administration says they offered to brief Congress on previously or is it something different?

Was the President fully briefed on the background of the Taliban Five and the likelihood of recidivism?

How did the administration reach its apparently high level of confidence that the Taliban Five will be secure in Qatar?

How did they arrive upon the notion that that security should last only 1

year, after which the American people will be safe if these terrorists are released altogether? On what basis did the administration judge that only 1 year was sufficient?

How was the decision made to ignore the law and bypass Congress, including bypassing the chairs of the Senate and House Intelligence Committees, Foreign Relations Committees, and Armed Services Committees?

In what circumstances does the administration intend once again to openly defy the law and refuse to provide notification to Congress?

These are questions, I might note, that should be bipartisan concerns. This should not be a partisan affair—asking questions that affect the national security of every single American citizen and every single man and woman serving in the military.

In order to give the Obama administration the opportunity to satisfy the many outstanding questions the American people have about their safety—and I would note, having just returned from Texas, I found over and over again Texans, men and women, asking these very questions—I will propose this week that before we consider any additional releases from Guantanamo, we answer these questions first.

The legislation I will be filing, No. 1, will immediately call for a 6-month freeze on any Federal Government funding to transfer detainees from Guantanamo. No. 2, to enforce this requirement, the legislation will provide that, should the President choose to disregard this law—as, sadly, has been his pattern so many other times—all funds expended in the transfer would be deducted directly from the budget of the Executive Office of the President. No. 3, because we understand that conditions might possibly arise that would necessitate the release of an individual prisoner and out of respect for the President’s special role in international matters, this legislation explicitly provides a means for the President to ask Congress for a waiver of the 6-month bar in an individual case. But, finally, because we believe the release of detainees from Guantanamo—which holds some of the most dangerous people on the planet—is a matter of the gravest import, this legislation would require that for every order for release of a Guantanamo detainee, it must be personally approved by the President. This would ensure that the fullest consideration and deliberation goes into the process.

This latest deal—which was announced to the American people as a fait accompli, with no opportunity for Congress to scrutinize it, no opportunity for the American people to assess it—this latest deal constituted negotiating with terrorists to release five senior terrorist leaders, and it raises obvious questions.

First of all, how many Americans did these five terrorist leaders directly or

indirectly murder? How many lives—American lives—are they responsible for taking?

Second, how many American soldiers gave their lives to capture these five senior terrorist leaders? How many graves do we have of sons and daughters of Americans because they were sent in to capture these five who have just been released?

Third, given their release—and the President’s admission that there is “absolutely” a chance that they will return to actively waging war against the United States—how many Americans are at risk of being killed directly or indirectly by these terrorist leaders we have just let go?

Finally, if the Taliban Five do return to actively trying to kill Americans, how many American soldiers will once again have to risk their lives or, indeed, will give their lives trying to kill or capture these terrorists once again?

These are questions of the utmost seriousness, and to date the administration has not even attempted to answer them. Instead, it has suggested that anyone raising these questions is simply failing to stand by the men and women of our military. I can tell you, the men and women of our military understand the value of protecting the national security of the United States of America, and the men and women of our military are not comforted by negotiations with terrorists to release senior terrorist leaders who can once again begin actively waging war on the United States.

Every American is naturally eager to end the long war in Afghanistan, but that does not mean we disregard the threat that violent terrorist groups such as the Taliban pose to our Nation. We know from the hard experience of the last decade that at least one in three Guantanamo detainees has returned to the battlefield. That has been what history has taught us.

Until we have full confidence that this threat to American lives is being fully and properly assessed, that we are taking steps to protect the lives of American civilians and American soldiers and sailors and airmen and marines, it is only prudent to take the steps in the legislation I am introducing this week, and I hope the Senate will do so.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY
LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MO-
TION TO PROCEED—Continued**

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion that is at the desk. I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 409, S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans.

Harry Reid, Ron Wyden, Elizabeth Warren, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Barbara Boxer, Jeanne Shaheen, Patty Murray, Richard J. Durbin, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Bill Nelson, Robert Menendez, Tammy Baldwin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have filed, I am sorry to say, another cloture motion to get on a bill. We have more student loan debt in America today than we have credit card debt. I just had a conference call with some students from the State of Nevada. What is going on is really very unfortunate. Some of these students lamented the fact: You know, I am not sure I should be in school. I am borrowing money. Maybe I should do something else.

I do not know how many times we have had to file cloture for the opportunity to get on a bill, but that is where we are. So we will have a cloture vote to see if they will let us on the bill on Wednesday.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. REID. Yes.

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to ask the Senator, through the Chair, it is my understanding that he just filed a procedural motion which will allow us to take up a bill and debate a bill which would give an opportunity to some of the 44 million Americans currently paying college student loans. This bill, authored by Senator ELIZABETH WARREN of Massachusetts, would allow students to refinance their college debt down to today's interest levels—3.8 percent, if I am not mistaken, for undergraduate loans—which would make paying back their loans easier and sooner, and we have to go through a procedure of waiting 2 days in the Senate to even start talking and debating on the bill. Is that what the Senator is telling us?

Mr. REID. Through the Chair to my dear friend, that is what I am saying.

What has happened around the country is not only in Nevada, it is all across the country, with rare exception. State legislatures don't support higher education.

If you take an organization such as the Board of Regents of the State of Nevada, and they have a lump sum of money the legislature gives them, they have to figure out a way to keep kids in school. So in Nevada last Thursday they raised the tuition of our universities by 17 percent. What will happen? They will borrow more money.

I told those young people when I started the conversation today, I worked hard but with a little scholarship here or there, I could work hard and put myself through school. I put myself through college and law school, and they can't do it now. There aren't enough hours in the day to pay for this tuition.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for another question through the Chair?

Mr. REID. I yield.

Mr. DURBIN. Procedurally, what the Senator had to do was file a motion so the Senate could actually start debate on this issue. There was a time in the Senate when you didn't have to have 60 votes to even start debating an issue. But is it my understanding, now that we are building up to a vote on Wednesday to see if five Republicans will cross the aisle and join us so we can have a debate on the floor of the Senate on whether we can refinance college student loans, we have to wait 2 days?

Mr. REID. We, the Senate, and the American people have waited for months, because we have done this time and time again. We have had to file cloture on just getting on a bill.

The sad part about it, on many occasions on nominations—they also do the same on nominations; we have approximately 140 nominations held up—they vote for them. Bills they have supported, nominations they have supported, they still make us file cloture and waste the time of the American people. And I say months.

Mr. DURBIN. If I could ask one last question through the Chair.

So we need five Republican Senators to join Democratic Senators if we are even going to debate the bill about refinancing college student loans; is that my understanding?

Mr. REID. The Senator is right.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAINE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LAUCK NOMINATION

Mr. KAINE. I rise in support of one of the judicial nominees whom we will

consider first by cloture vote in a few minutes and then a vote scheduled on confirmation tomorrow. It is the nomination of U.S. Magistrate Judge M. Hannah Lauck to the Federal bench in the Eastern District of Virginia. Judge Lauck is somebody whom I know quite well, because she serves as a magistrate in the Richmond division of the Eastern District where I live, and that is a court where I spent probably the majority of my 17-year legal practice.

She has come full circle. She is a native Virginian, went to college outside of Virginia but came back to the Commonwealth after graduating from Yale Law School. She began her legal career as a law clerk for Judge James Spencer, whose retirement has opened this position on the Federal bench. It is fitting as she was one of his first law clerks, and now she has the opportunity with this nomination to fill his shoes on the court.

Judge Lauck is very well prepared. She began, as I explained, as a judicial law clerk, which is a prestigious position, for a wonderful Federal judge, Judge James Spencer. She has included in her public career over the past 20-plus years both public service and private practice.

Before she joined the bench as a magistrate, Judge Lauck served as a corporate counsel for Genworth Financial, a Fortune 500 company, in Richmond. For 10 years before that she was assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia, where she started in civil litigation, handling the entire spectrum of civil cases involving the United States as a party, and finished as a criminal prosecutor. Coupled with her service as a magistrate, this extensive experience in both private practice and work in the U.S. Attorney's Office makes her very familiar with the docket of this court.

She became a U.S. magistrate judge in 2005. I know the Presiding Officer practiced law and understands the important work Federal magistrates do. Her work has involved all Federal misdemeanors.

Magistrates in the Richmond division try Federal misdemeanors, and they also try complex civil matters fully with the consent of the parties. It is the practice in eastern Virginia for parties to often consent to magistrate judges trying their cases. She has since 2005, 9 years, acted as a judge in virtually the entire range of matters that this court handles, this Federal court.

Along the way, Hannah has distinguished herself as an excellent attorney and earned awards for her work, including various commendations from the U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Marshals Service, the Virginia State Police, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and Genworth, her previous private sector employer. She was also named as a Virginia Leader in the Law for her work and service to the bench.

I am excited to be here on behalf of Judge Lauck. This is a vacancy on which both Senator WARNER and I have worked very hard. We first asked our local bar association, especially the Virginia State Bar, to conduct interviews and then make recommendations to us. We did that first, and then all the candidates were interviewed by us. We are proud to recommend her to the President and thankful that the President nominated her for the position.

In closing, I will say this is a court that I am very close to. My wife clerked for a Federal judge on this court when she started her legal career, just as Judge Lauck started her legal career in the same way. I served as a civil litigator for 17 years with a Richmond firm directly across the street from the courthouse and spent a lot of time there.

I know—the Presiding Officer reminded me; thank you for doing it—that the Presiding Officer’s father was the first Federal magistrate in Virginia in this same court, the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria division.

So the Presiding Officer knows well the work magistrates do. I have stayed very close to this court since I tried my last case in 2001. I know the judges, I know the court personnel, I know the lawyers, and I know many of the parties, and they speak with uniform plaudits in regard to the work Judge Lauck has done as a magistrate.

There is no better person for this seat being vacated than Judge Lauck to have the full article III power that will come if she is confirmed. I am very happy to recommend her to all my colleagues. She will be an excellent judge to serve on that court.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF M. HANNAH LAUCK TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

NOMINATION OF LEO T. SOROKIN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

NOMINATION OF RICHARD FRANKLIN BOULWARE II TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie K. Hirono.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted “nay.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 176 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hagan	Pryor
Bennet	Harkin	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Rockefeller
Boxer	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Stabenow
Carper	Klobuchar	Tester
Casey	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Chambliss	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Manchin	Walsh
Coons	Markey	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NAYS—32

Alexander	Cruz	McConnell
Ayotte	Enzi	Paul
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Flake	Rubio
Boozman	Grassley	Scott
Burr	Hatch	Sessions
Coats	Heller	Shelby
Coburn	Hoeven	Thune
Corker	Inhofe	Toomey
Cornyn	Johanns	Wicker
Crapo	Lee	

NOT VOTING—16

Begich	Landrieu	Risch
Cochran	McCain	Roberts
Graham	MCCASKILL	Schatz
Isakson	Moran	Vitter
Johnson (WI)	Murkowski	
Kirk	Murphy	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 52, the nays are 32. The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the next two votes be 10 minutes in duration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie K. Hirono.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 177 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Ayotte	Hagan	Pryor
Baldwin	Harkin	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Reid
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Rockefeller
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Stabenow
Cardin	Klobuchar	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Casey	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Manchin	Walsh
Coons	Markey	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NAYS—33

Alexander	Cruz	McCain
Barrasso	Enzi	McConnell
Blunt	Fischer	Paul
Boozman	Flake	Portman
Burr	Grassley	Rubio
Chambliss	Hatch	Scott
Coats	Heller	Sessions
Coburn	Hoeven	Shelby
Corker	Inhofe	Thune
Cornyn	Johanns	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Wicker

NOT VOTING—15

Begich	Kirk	Murphy
Cochran	Landrieu	Risch
Graham	McCaskill	Roberts
Isakson	Moran	Schatz
Johnson (WI)	Murkowski	Vitter

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 52, the nays are 33. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie Hirono.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be a United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 178 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Ayotte	Harkin	Nelson
Baldwin	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Heller	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—34

Alexander	Burr	Corker
Barrasso	Chambliss	Cornyn
Blunt	Coats	Crapo
Boozman	Coburn	Cruz

Enzi	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Fischer	Kirk	Sessions
Flake	Lee	Shelby
Grassley	McCain	Thune
Hatch	McConnell	Toomey
Hoeven	Paul	Wicker
Inhofe	Portman	
Johanns	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—13

Begich	Landrieu	Roberts
Boxer	McCaskill	Schatz
Cochran	Moran	Vitter
Graham	Murkowski	
Isakson	Risch	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 53, the nays are 34. The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Nevada.

VIOLENCE IN LAS VEGAS

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, before I begin, I would like to take a moment to address the unsettling events that occurred yesterday when two members of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and an innocent civilian were victims of a terrible act of violence. While words offer little comfort at this difficult time, I would like to express my sincere condolences to the victims' families. The Las Vegas community is grateful to these police officers for their service and joins their families in mourning their loss. I would also like to thank the men and women of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department who sprung into action following the tragic events, even after losing members of the law enforcement community.

BOULWARE NOMINATION

With that said, Mr. President, I wish to speak in favor of a fellow Nevadan's nomination that is currently pending before this body; that is, the nomination of Richard Boulware to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Nevada.

One of the most important and unique responsibilities we hold as Members of the Senate is to provide for the advice and consent of the President's judicial nominations and subsequent confirmations.

I believe each judicial nominee who comes before this body must not only be qualified but also must demonstrate fairness and commitment to upholding the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

In Nevada, it is critical for us to work together to find qualified candidates who will uphold America's principles of impartiality under the law.

Richard Boulware is an excellent example of an accomplished nominee who should be confirmed on a bipartisan basis. I believe Mr. Boulware embodies the characteristics of a nominee who is prepared to serve and that he will make an excellent district court judge for the State of Nevada. After sitting down with him and discussing his nomination at length, I found him to be an extremely impressive nominee. A graduate of Harvard University, Mr.

Boulware went on to earn his law degree from Columbia University. He currently serves as assistant Federal public defender for the District of Nevada in Las Vegas. He also has extensive experience arguing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. This trial experience, coupled with his impressive academic accomplishments while clerking for the U.S. district courts, will serve him well on the bench. Outside of his professional duties, he currently serves his local school system as a member of the Superintendent's Educational Opportunities Advisory Committee.

I am glad to see the Senate moving forward with this nomination, and I look forward to voting tomorrow to confirm Mr. Boulware's nomination to the Federal bench in Nevada.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. INHOFE. Will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. MARKEY. I will yield to the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of the remarks of the Senator from Massachusetts, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and two or three others at his choosing, that I be recognized as in morning business for such time as I shall consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. It is not an objection at this point, but I think it is our understanding that the Senator from Oklahoma will speak for 20 to 30 minutes but that the time would revert to me at the conclusion of his remarks after 20 to 30 minutes. If that is an acceptable amendment to the unanimous consent request, then I will agree to it.

Mr. INHOFE. Let's just amend the Senator's amendment that it be 20 to 35 minutes.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Perfect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

We are at a very important historical juncture, where the science is now conclusive that in fact the planet is dangerously warming.

Since we last met on this floor a lot has happened. The global temperature for April 2014 tied with 2010 for the warmest April ever recorded in the history of the planet. This goes back to 1880.

In May, the third National Climate Assessment presented the scientific evidence that climate change is already impacting the United States.

The good news. The good news is that the President last week promulgated

new rules to control greenhouse gases coming out of powerplants in the United States of America.

Here is the very good news—the Senator from Rhode Island, the Senator from Vermont, the States across the Northeast—nine States have already had a regional greenhouse gas initiative over the last 9 years. In Massachusetts, we are already 40 percent lower now in 2014 than we were in 2005—40 percent lower. We know a flexible system such as this can and will work across the country.

It is absolutely necessary for the United States to be the leader. We cannot preach temperance from a bar stool. The United States cannot tell the rest of the world they should reduce their greenhouse gases when we are still continuing on our historic path.

The good news is we are going to create a green energy revolution. We can save creation while engaging in massive job creation in the United States.

We can unleash this green energy revolution. We can reduce greenhouse gases. We can give the leadership to the rest of the world. We need to have a big debate here on the Senate floor. This is the place where the United States of America expects us to have this debate and where the rest of the world is watching.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the issue we are discussing tonight, frankly, is perhaps the most important issue facing our entire planet. The issue has everything to do with whether we are going to leave a habitable planet for our kids and our grandchildren. I want to thank the Senate Climate Action Task Force, led by Senator BOXER, Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator HEINRICH, and others for helping to bring us down here tonight to discuss this issue.

While it goes without saying that Senator INHOFE and many of us hold very different points of view regarding global warming, I want to congratulate him for having the courage to come down here and defend his point of view. That is what democracy is about. I think he is wrong, but I am glad he is here.

Virtually the entire scientific community agrees that climate change is real, that it is already causing devastating problems in the United States and around the world in terms of floods, droughts, wildfires, forest fires, and extreme weather disturbances. The scientific community is also almost virtually unanimous in agreeing that climate change is caused significantly by human activity.

According to a study published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters* in May of last year, more than 97 percent of peer-reviewed scientific literature on climate supports the view

that human activity is a primary cause of global warming.

What disturbs me very much about this debate is the rejection of basic science. We can have differences of opinion on health care, on the funding of education, on whether we should have a jobs program, on many other issues. But what the U.S. Senate should not be about is rejecting basic science. It saddens me very much that most of my colleagues in the Republican Party are doing just that.

We do not hear great debates on the floor of the Senate regarding research in terms of cancer, in terms of heart disease, in terms of other scientific issues. But for whatever reason—and I happen to believe those reasons have a lot to do with the power of the coal industry, of the oil industry, of the fossil fuel industry—we are suddenly seeing a great debate on an issue the overwhelming majority of scientists agree on; that is, climate change is real; it is caused by human activity.

2012 was the second worst year on record in the United States for extreme weather. Across the globe, the 10 warmest years on record have all occurred since 1998. The global annual average temperature has increased by more than 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit between 1880 and 2012. Last month the White House released the National Climate Assessment, emphasizing that global warming is already happening, and warning—and people should hear this—that global warming could exceed 10 degrees Fahrenheit in the United States by the end of this century—10 degrees Fahrenheit.

That is extraordinary. If that in fact happens, if we do not summon up the courage to transform our energy system, the damage done by that severity of increase in temperature will be huge.

Also last month scientists reported a large section of the West Antarctica ice sheet is falling apart, and that its continued melting is now unstoppable.

Bloomberg reported on the 1st of June that Australia hit new heat records in May. The 24-month period ending in April 2014 was the hottest on record for any 2-year period, and the 24-month period ending with May of 2014 is expected to exceed that.

But it is not just Australia; it is my home State of Vermont. The Associated Press reported last week that the average temperature in both Vermont and Maine rose by 2.5 degrees over the past 30 years. This is the second highest of any State in the lower 48, after Maine. Maine and Vermont are at the top.

Lake Champlain provides one telling illustration of these changes. It freezes over less often and later in the winter than it used to. Between 1800 and 1900, Lake Champlain froze over 97 out of 100 winters, 97 percent of the time. That number began dropping after 1900. In

the past 40 years, Lake Champlain has only frozen over 17 times. These changes impact the ski industry. They weaken our maple industry. They allow pests to survive the winter unharmed and to become more damaging to trees and crops as a result.

These impacts are expected to worsen. According to the 2014 National Climate Assessment, temperatures in the northeast could increase an additional 10 degrees Fahrenheit by 2080 if emissions continue at their current rate. By the end of the century, summers in Vermont—our beautiful summers—could feel like summers in Georgia right now. I love the State of Georgia. It is a great State. But the State of Vermont would prefer to have our summers the way they have been, not Georgia's.

The thing is these new proposed carbon pollution standards are actually quite modest. It is clear to me that if we listen to the scientific community, what they are telling us is there is a small window of opportunity, and it would be rather extraordinary—extraordinary—for us to look our kids and our grandchildren in the eye and to say: You know what. We rejected the science and we let this planet become less and less habitable for you and your kids.

We have a moral responsibility not to do that. It seems clear to me what we should be doing—and I think the scientific community is in agreement—first, we need to aggressively expand energy efficiency all over this country in terms of older homes and buildings. We can save an enormous amount of fuel, cut carbon emissions, lower fuel bills, and create jobs if we do that.

Furthermore, we must move aggressively to such sustainable energies as wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and other technologies. We must invest in research and development to make those technologies even more efficient. In my view, it is a no-brainer to say we must reject the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline once and for all. We need to end tax breaks and subsidies for oil and coal companies, which amount to well over \$10 billion a year. We should not be subsidizing those companies that are helping to destroy our planet.

Finally, we need to price carbon through a carbon tax or some other approach so the real cost of burning carbon is reflected in the price. I am very proud Senator BARBARA BOXER, the chairperson of the environmental committee, and I introduced such legislation last year.

The bottom line is we are in a pivotal moment in history. This Congress has got to act. It has to act boldly. When we do that, when we cut greenhouse gas emissions, when we transform our energy system, we can save many people money on their fuel bills, we can cut pollution in general, we can cut greenhouse gas emissions significantly,

and we can create good-paying jobs all over this country.

The bottom line here is we cannot afford to reject basic science. We have to listen to what the scientific community is saying. We have got to act aggressively, and let's do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, as an engineer one of the things I learned early in my education was that science does not care if you believe in it or not; you can deny science as much as you want, but the data suggests that the scientific method works pretty darn well.

The corollary to that fact is whether you believe in climate change has no bearing on whether it is actually occurring. Unfortunately, the data shows a warmer and warmer planet, characterized by weather fluctuations that are more extreme and oftentimes more destructive. In my home State of New Mexico, too often we find ourselves dealing with the impacts of climate change today, not at some theoretical future date.

For example, we are already seeing the effects of climate change and how it manifests itself in more extreme drought conditions, larger and more intense wildfires, shrinking forests, and increased flooding when it finally does rain. The longer we wait to act, the more difficult and expensive the solutions will be, and the more unpredictable our weather will become.

2012, as the Senator from Vermont mentioned, was our Nation's second most extreme year for weather on record. In my home State of New Mexico, we experienced the hottest year in our entire historical record. With humidity levels lower and temperatures higher, we are dealing with fire behavior in our forests that is markedly more intense than in the past.

We also see climate change take a toll directly on our economy, especially in my State. That is an important point, because inaction has its costs too. The costs already being borne in New Mexico are substantial. With less snowpack, communities that rely on winter sports tourism take an economic hit. Fewer people lodge in hotels, shop in stores, eat in restaurants.

Climate change is also having a devastating impact on New Mexico's agricultural industry, where farmers and ranchers are often the very first to see the direct impact of extreme weather. The agricultural sector is highly vulnerable due in large part to the sustained threat to the water supply, the soil and vegetation from continuous drought.

Things are only going to get worse if we do nothing. If we take our moral responsibility as stewards of this Earth seriously, it is imperative that we face

the challenge of reversing the effects of climate change head on and have a sober discussion about what actions we will need to take now and in the future. America clearly has the capacity to become energy independent. But we also need to transition from our current energy portfolio to one that produces as much or more power with substantially less carbon pollution per kilowatt hour.

That will require innovation, something that historically our country has done better than any country in the world. But additionally, we will need political will, something we have grown short of as climate denial and pseudoscience have made their way into the halls of Congress.

If history is our guide, we should know that investing in cleaner energy will not be without cost, but little of value is ever free. The question is, are we willing to make the modest investments now necessary to create the quality jobs of tomorrow and to protect our Nation from the serious economic and strategic risks associated with our carbon reliance, our reliance on both foreign and carbon pollution-intensive energy sources?

Since we are looking at history, let's take a moment and look at the Clean Air Act of 1990, and compare the rhetoric of debate with the reality of its implementation. In 1989, the Edison Electric Institute predicted a significant rise in energy costs due to the Clean Air Act. Yet the reality, according to a recent study by the Center for American Progress, actually showed a decrease of 16 percent over those years. In 1990, the U.S. Business Roundtable claimed that passage of the Clean Air Act would cost a minimum—a minimum—of 200,000 jobs. But a recent study released by the EPA revealed the reality. The Clean Air Act resulted in a net creation of jobs and new industries created to reduce pollution, good-paying jobs in industries such as engineering, manufacturing, construction, and maintenance.

By 2008 the environmental technology sector supported 1.7 million jobs in this country.

The time has come to address climate change rather than embracing the pseudoscience and denial that is embraced by far too many in Washington today. The Nation has never solved a single problem by denying the facts. Let me be clear. Inaction is not a solution to this very real crisis. Denial is not a strategy.

Consequently, if my Republican colleagues have a better way to address carbon pollution than what the President has proposed, I would ask them to join the debate. If they have a pollution solution that is more efficient or more effective, now is the time to have that discussion.

Through American ingenuity we can slow the impact of climate change and

unleash the full potential of cleaner energy. We can create a healthier, more stable environment for future generations, but we must have the will to recognize the facts as they are. We will need to make the investments that are necessary, and we will have to find the political will to act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator from Rhode Island withhold for just a moment.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I would gladly withhold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to my friend from Rhode Island, who is so courteous to everyone, and I appreciate it.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT— EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, June 10, following disposition of Executive Calendar No. 734, the Lauck nomination, the time until 12 noon be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and the Senate proceed to vote as under the previous order; further, that following disposition of Calendar No. 736, the Sorokin nomination, and Calendar No. 739, the Boulware nomination, the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.; that at 2:15 p.m. the time until 2:30 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and at 2:30 p.m. the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Calendar No. 769, the Brainard nomination, Calendar No. 771, the Powell nomination, and Calendar No. 767, the Fischer nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations on Thursday, June 12, 2014, at 1:45 p.m.; further, that any rollcall vote after the first in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. With this agreement, there will be one rollcall vote at approximately 10 a.m. tomorrow, two rollcall votes at 12 noon, and three additional rollcall votes beginning at 2:30 p.m. We had to move these votes around for a lot of reasons. One is there that is a bill signing, another is that there is a funeral, and another is that one of our Senators wants to attend his son's graduation. So we will wind up at

the same place—even though it won't be as orderly—at the end of the week.

Thank you again, my friend from Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Mr. President.

First, I thank Senator SANDERS of Vermont, Senator MARKEY of Massachusetts, and Senator HEINRICH of New Mexico for their remarks. I look forward to the remarks of Senator INHOFE of Oklahoma.

Viewers may wonder what we are doing here. As some will recall, several weeks ago a number of Democratic Senators—I think we ended up being 31 in total—participated in an all-night event to raise the awareness of and the discussion of climate change in this body. At that time only one of our Republican colleagues appeared to join the discussion, and that was the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma, who is here again this evening.

We heard some rumblings that some of our colleagues didn't feel they were included or wished they would have had the opportunity to participate. So taking them up on that offer, a number of us sent a letter on May 30 that says, in part:

Dear Colleague . . . We would welcome an opportunity to engage with our Republican colleagues in a discussion of how to address the problems of climate change. Indeed, we think our Republican colleagues could have a lot to offer if they wished to join us in exploring solutions.

Republican colleagues have co-authored bipartisan climate legislation, voted for the comprehensive Waxman/Markey climate legislation in the House, spoken out in favor of a carbon fee, and campaigned for national office on climate action. Republican senators represent states with great coastal cities inundated by rising tides, states with farmlands swept by unprecedented floods and droughts, states with forests lost to encroaching pine beetles and wildfires unprecedented in season and intensity, states with disappearing glaciers and reduced snowpack, and states with dying coral reefs and shifting habitats and fisheries. Republican senators represent home-state corporations with international brand names, corporations that urge action on climate. Republican senators represent great universities that contribute to the scientific understanding of climate change and how human activities are changing it. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss climate change and how to respond to it with Republican senators.

I ask unanimous consent the letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, May 30, 2014.

DEAR COLLEAGUE, As you may know, thirty-one of us recently took to the floor of the Senate for a "climate all-nighter" to express our concern over Congress's inaction on carbon pollution. We have heard some feedback expressing concerns that Republican colleagues were not invited to join in. We would

welcome an opportunity to engage with our Republican colleagues in a discussion of how to address the problems of climate change. Indeed, we think our Republican colleagues could have a lot to offer if they wish to join us in exploring solutions.

Republican colleagues have co-authored bipartisan climate legislation, voted for the comprehensive Waxman/Markey climate legislation in the House, spoken out in favor of a carbon fee, and campaigned for national office on climate action. Republican senators represent states with great coastal cities inundated by rising tides, states with farmlands swept by unprecedented floods and droughts, states with forests lost to encroaching pine beetles and wildfires unprecedented in season and intensity, states with disappearing glaciers and reduced snowpack, and states with dying coral reefs and shifting habitats and fisheries. Republican senators represent home-state corporations with international brand names, corporations that urge action on climate. Republican senators represent great universities that contribute to the scientific understanding of climate change and how human activities are changing it. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss climate change and how to respond to it with Republican senators.

For any colleague who felt left out of our climate all-nighter we invite you to come to the floor. We've requested from leadership that time after votes on June 9th be reserved to engage in a robust exchange of views.

We earnestly believe that the stakes of failing to exercise American leadership and solve this problem are very high, with ramifications for our health and safety, our economic well-being, our food and water supplies, and our national security and standing. We hope you will join us in a sincere discussion.

Sincerely,

SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
BARBARA BOXER,
BERNARD SANDERS,
JEFF MERKLEY,
EDWARD J. MARKEY,
U.S. Senators.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. That sets the frame for what we are doing. We have had four Democratic Senators speak. We will be joined, I believe, by Chairman BOXER and perhaps others later on in the evening.

Pursuant to the unanimous consent we have agreed to, I yield to the Senator from Oklahoma for his remarks and will seek recognition pursuant to the unanimous consent at the conclusion of his remarks.

Pursuant to that understanding, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. First, I thank my good friend for yielding. I think we will have several people coming down and talking about this tonight.

I want to say something about Senator SANDERS from Vermont. I appreciate very much his comments. I think they were very appropriate.

I remember one time when he and I had a difference of opinion on an amendment. It had to do with the amount of money one of the large oil companies made. He and I debated on floor for something like 3 hours. A vote

was taken, and I did win the vote. Afterward, he came up to me and he said: I want you to know that since I have been here from the House, that was probably the most enlightened debate we have ever had, and you won and I lost, and I really do appreciate it.

We have been very good friends since then.

Well, the comments he made are real because I don't have any doubt in my mind that Senator SANDERS and the rest of you have strong feelings about this.

What I want to do is something a little bit different. I have heard several people talk, and they talk about what is the hottest year and the coldest year and all of that. I am very careful to document anything I say, and I will continue to do that tonight.

Last Monday, the EPA released the long-awaited global warming regulations for the Nation's existing fleet of powerplants. We had already talked about the new powerplants and what we are going to do. We have seen the evidence of the increased pricing of energy in this country as a result of that. Now, of course, we are going to be talking about the existing program.

The interesting thing about this—this is what they are talking about doing through regulation after they have lost every single issue on the floor of this Senate—and so trying to do it now by regulations.

The EPA's proposed rule requires powerplants to reduce their CO₂ emissions by 25 percent by 2020 and by 30 percent by 2030. I do believe there will be major legal challenges facing this rule if it goes final, and I will talk about that in just a minute.

Over the past decade the Senate has debated a number of cap-and-trade bills. The first one was the McCain-Lieberman bill of 2003—I am going from memory now. I think Republicans had a majority at that time. I think I chaired either the subcommittee or the committee of jurisdiction. We defeated the McCain-Lieberman bill. It came up again slightly changed in 2005. We defeated it at that time too. Then the Warner-Lieberman bill came up in 2008, and we defeated that even by a larger margin. The Waxman-Markey bill—and keep in mind that this was when the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts was in the House—came up in 2009, but it never did reach the floor.

All of these bills would have established greenhouse gas regulations for the Nation's largest manufacturing power-generation facilities, but once the American people learned how much these cost, Congress ran away from these bills and they were defeated.

Each and every one of these bills would have cost the economy between \$300 and \$400 billion in lost GDP every year. These figures are not disputed. The first time they were calculated was back when the first bill came up.

At that time everyone assumed that global warming was real, they assumed that the end of the world was coming and that manmade gases were responsible for it, and that was something which was kind of accepted.

At that time, though—and I remember hearing the first speculation as to the cost—the Wharton Econometrics Forecasting Associates came out with the range of between \$300 and \$400 billion a year. Then the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT, and Charles River Associates and others came out with the same range—between \$300 and \$400 billion a year.

When you break this down to each household—every time there is some big regulation that comes along, I take the number of people from my State of Oklahoma who filed a Federal tax return, number of families, and then I will calculate, do the math, and it turns out about \$3,000 a family. That would make cap and trade the largest tax increase in American history.

It is not surprising that these bills did not become law. They were defeated. The McCain-Lieberman bill of 2003 fell 43 to 55; then the McCain-Lieberman bill in 2005—an even wider margin—38 to 60; and the Waxman-Markey fell because they didn't have the votes to do it.

What I am saying is that the trend is not going the way my good friend from Rhode Island would like to have it go. Instead, more and more people are opposing this.

Part of what is motivating the EPA's rule is that they want to say they leveled the playing field between parts of the country that don't have cap-and-trade programs. I think one of the previous speakers talked about the fact that many places like—I see the Senator from California is here now—California and the Northeastern States have cap and trade. These regions are hurting economically in part because of the onerous environmental regulations, including cap-and-trade programs they have been working to implement for so many years.

But the real result of this has been higher electricity prices. In fact, the average price of retail electricity in New England, according to the Energy Information Administration, is 17.67 cents per kilowatt hour. That is almost 18 cents a kilowatt hour. Compare that to Oklahoma. We are at 9 cents per kilowatt hour. We are one-half the cost in my State of Oklahoma for electricity. You see we have a real competitive advantage. There is nothing that keeps the Northeast from bringing their electricity costs down, but they are unwilling to do it. They are unwilling to do what we did; that is, utilize a diverse, inexpensive fuel supply we can source from right at home in Oklahoma.

California implemented its own cap-and-trade program just over a year ago, and it applies to both heavy indus-

try and power generation. The State boasts that its program is second in size only to the European cap-and-trade program. Today, however, California's electricity prices are 15.94 cents—in other words, 16 cents per kilowatt hour—a stunning 70 percent more than they are in my State of Oklahoma.

Knowing this, it isn't surprising we constantly hear about all the jobs and companies and manufacturing facilities that are moving from places such as California and New England to States such as Oklahoma and to the South where we don't have these same kinds of regulations. What we want to do in Oklahoma is develop a nurturing environment for business to thrive, and a big part of it is having inexpensive, reliable energy. That is what we have in Oklahoma. EPA's rule threatens all we have worked so hard to accomplish, and it is all because so many politicians are beholden to the radical environmentalists.

What is interesting to me is the more and more the other side talks about global warming and all of the purported solutions here in Washington, the less and less people care.

In March, when Senate Democrats hosted their first global warming slumber party, Gallup released the results of the poll I believe the same day, showing Americans rank global warming as the 14th most important issue out of 15. I believe this was on March 9 or 10 when they had their last slumber party. It used to be No. 1 or No. 2, and now it is nearly last. We can see on this chart Gallup's poll numbers over time showing Americans care less about environmental issues than they ever did before. We can see the changes that have taken place. What people really care about are the economy and government spending. Those are the top two issues across party lines.

If enacted, this rule is going to cause serious damage to the economy. The Chamber of Commerce last week put out a study on regulations similar to the EPA's new greenhouse gas rules and found they will cost the economy \$51 billion in lost GDP and 224,000 lost jobs each year—not just once but each year.

The Heritage Foundation put out separate analysis calculating that the rule would enact a cumulative hit of \$2.23 trillion in lost GDP and destroy 600,000 jobs. By their measure, the average income for a family of four would decrease by \$1,200 a year. I believe it is actually closer to \$3,000 a year. Nonetheless, there is the consistency.

If we want to see where these regulations will ultimately lead, we need look no farther than the modeling President Obama uses. We need to be, as he says, more like Germany. Starting a few years ago, Germany began implementing an aggressive alternative energy agenda where they hiked

subsidies and set a goal of generating 35 percent of their electricity from renewables by 2020. By 2050, this goal would increase to 80 percent. In doing this, the price of German retail electricity has doubled from where it was before. It is now 3 times—300 percent—higher than ours.

The next chart is *Der Spiegel*, a major publication in Germany. They recently had this on the cover of the magazine with the heading “Luxury Electricity: Why energy has become more expensive and what politicians must do about it.”

In this, they talk about the politicians and others who are wishing Germany had not done what it was doing. And while industry, utilities, consumers, and some politicians are calling for reforms to the laws, it may be too late because everything is already on the books. This is what they are finding in Germany—and we all know how hard it is to repeal a law once it becomes implemented. So the Germans started this, and we are now emulating Germany, and their cost of electricity has doubled. When we talk about doubling, to a lot of people—maybe a lot of us who serve in this Chamber—that is not a big deal. But take a poor family that is spending 50 percent of their income on energy. It is something they can't handle.

EPA's rules will push us in the same direction as Germany—which makes sense, when we consider the EPA's recent rules such as utility MACT and the 316(b) rule, and the NRC's incessant overregulation of the nuclear power industry. We have perfectly good powerplants being forced to shut down all over the country. Now we have this rule coming out of EPA that will force even more shutdowns and push the Nation to more aggressively adopt renewables, and over a very short period of time. This is going to cause reliability and affordability issues.

We have been talking about affordability. Reliability is another thing too, because we have to have a reliable source that doesn't stop. There is no way around it. It is not just me saying this. FERC Commissioner Phil Moeller recently predicted that because of EPA's overregulation, the Nation could face rolling blackouts by next summer. Renewables will only make this risk more severe. If a substantial amount of electricity is being provided by renewables, then we will become vulnerable to reliability risks.

What I mean by that is we don't always know when the Sun is going to be shining or when the wind is going to be blowing, but there is always a demand for power. The demand is always there, but the wind stops. I understand this. I am from Oklahoma. We can have a very windy day and all of a sudden it stops, and the Sun maybe stops shining. If the wind is blowing really hard one day and then stops the next, sig-

nificant strains are put on the electricity grid.

To compensate for that, we have to have backup power ready to come online at a moment's notice—where it is turned off 1 minute and then on the next. Having that kind of capacity sitting around waiting for the Sun to stop shining is incredibly expensive, which is one of the reasons Germany's power is so much more expensive than others.

So when I hear the President and EPA saying this rule could actually lower electricity bills, it makes me wonder if they ever sit down in the same room with FERC and NERC and NRC to tell it like it is. Honestly, they are not telling the truth.

The President and Administrator McCarthy have also been touting the human health benefits this rule will deliver. To help announce the new rule, President Obama did a conference call with the American Lung Association and said it would help reduce instances of childhood asthma. Gina McCarthy made the same point in her remarks about the rule. But this completely contradicts what EPA previously said.

In this chart which the Agency has published, in official documentation, it says greenhouse gases “do not cause direct adverse health effects such as respiratory or toxic effects.” I know others will stand up to refute this, but this is what the EPA said.

What is even worse is this rule will not have any impact on global CO₂ emissions. We know this because of the President's first EPA Administrator, Lisa Jackson. This is kind of interesting. I asked her the question during the committee hearing, on live TV: If we were to do away, either pass cap-and-trade or by regulation, would this reduce the overall CO₂ emissions worldwide?

And she said: No, it wouldn't. Her quote is: “U.S. action alone will not impact world CO₂ levels.” This is because the largest tax increase in history, without any benefits—because once you implement these regulations, our manufacturing base would go someplace where they can find it; maybe China, maybe India, maybe Mexico. But they will go places where they don't have the stringent emission requirements we have in this country. So in that case, emissions would actually go up instead of down.

Add to all of this the fact that there has been no increase in global surface temperature between 1998 and 2013. This is according to the journal *Nature*, the *Economist*, and even the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that is the United Nations. They are the ones who started this, and even they say there has not been any increase in global surface temperature between the years of 1998 and 2013.

This pause was totally unexpected by the scientific community. After all, CO₂ concentrations went up by 8 per-

cent over the same period of time—which, according to the models, should have led to significant temperature increases. This chart shows the difference between actual temperatures—the blue and the green lines down here—and the temperatures that were predicted by “consensus” scientific community—the red line. They said this is where the heat was coming, and it didn't happen. It is clear the scientific community, which everyone puts so much trust in, did not predict a pause would actually happen.

Add to this the fact that the U.S. Historical Climatology Network is reporting that this is the coldest year so far on record for the United States. Others will say, no, that is not true. So I quoted this source, the U.S. Historical Climatology Network, that if things continue as they are so far, this will be the coldest year on record in the United States.

Normally, putting all this together would make me wonder why the President is pushing these regulations. But then I remember Tom Steyer. Let me introduce him.

This man, who made billions in the traditional energy industry, is the new poster child of the environmental left. He is the one who promised to direct \$100 million to resurrect the dead issue of global warming. He has the President and others on board with his plan, and they are following through. Tonight's slumber party is proof enough.

I can hear it now. A severe case of righteous indignation is going to show up, and they are going to say: Are you saying Tom Steyer is putting 100 million in these races?

No, I am not saying that. That is what Tom Steyer is saying.

I have a quote here from him: It is true that we expect to be heavily involved in the midterm elections. We are looking at a bunch of races. My guess is we will end up being involved in eight or more races. And that is with \$100 million.

But that is what this all comes down to—a key constituency of the Democratic Party wanting to see the Nation completely change the way we generate and consume energy—for no environmental benefit. The only benefit here is a political one.

In closing, I wish to highlight a few of the legal issues I mentioned a minute ago that will likely come up once the rule is finalized. There are three main reasons why I do not believe this rule, from a legal perspective, is an appropriate construct of the Clean Air Act. I always supported the Clean Air Act amendments, and good things happened from them.

The first is the Clean Air Act was never designed to handle greenhouse gas emissions. We know that. This is a bipartisan perspective. Congressman JOHN DINGELL, one of the principal architects of the Clean Air Act over in the House, said last week:

I do not believe the Clean Air Act is intended, or is the most effective way, to regulate greenhouse gases.

The second legal reason is this rule relies on an outside-the-fence approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Section 111 of the Clean Air Act should only allow the EPA to establish a process where the States determine the most appropriate emission reductions on a facility-by-facility basis. Instead, the EPA has set statewide emission reduction mandates, without regard to the technical feasibility of actually accomplishing the goal.

Cap-and-trade proposals will emerge under this, which will ultimately pit industries against one another. So the real impact of this rule could far exceed its advertised intent of targeting only powerplants.

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt has effectively made this case and will lead the charge challenging the legal authority of this rule, should it become final. I am very proud of the attorney general, because he has been very effective in leading other attorneys general around the country to join in this effort.

The third reason this rule is inappropriate is because the Clean Air Act states that section 111(b) regulations cannot be pursued in the event the facilities are already regulated under section 112, which governs air toxins. Powerplants are already regulated under this section. So the fact they are trying to regulate them under 111(b) is inconsistent with the law, and that of course will be on our side on this.

There are a number of major reasons why this rule may not stand up in the courts. But it is my expectation that it will not come to that point. The largest tax increase in history. The Earth's surface has not gotten warmer in 14 years. Polling shows Americans don't believe it is a huge problem. It is huge for job losses. Stopping CO₂ in the United States won't affect world CO₂ emissions. That is what we have from the Administrator of the EPA. So we will be hearing a lot of things tonight, all about what is going on, and they will be discreet with me. That is the reason I always document things.

Let me predict what I think is going to happen. A lot of people are not aware that there is something called the CRA, the Congressional Review Act. The Congressional Review Act is something where people say: Yes, there is a crisis in this country. Don't blame me. I am a Member of Congress. I didn't vote for it, but the regulators did this. This puts them where they should be in having to take a position.

The CRA is something introduced with 30 cosponsors. I already have 30 cosponsors to file a CRA on every one of these regulations, if they do become final. You cannot do it until they become final. Then it is a simple majority. So people are going to have to get

on record, and to me that is really all we really need to get people on record on this.

I think you are probably going to hear some issues and people will assume that these are really happening. You will hear that extreme weather is increasing. The reinsurance company and global-related disaster losses have declined by 25 percent as a proportion of GDP. They will say that hurricanes are happening. Yet the Washington Post says the United States has not been witness to a category 3 or higher major hurricane landfall since October of 2005 when Wilma hit Southwest Florida as a Category 3 storm.

They will be talking about drought, in spite of the fact that even the IPCC has stated that in the United States droughts have become less frequent, less continuous, or shorter in central North America. Nature, the well-respected publication, says drought for the most part has become shorter, less frequent, and covered a smaller portion of the United States over the last century.

Flooding—the IPCC comes in again talking about this. The USGS says floods have not increased in the United States in frequency or intensity since at least 1950. NOAA says flood losses as a percentage of GDP have dropped by 75 percent since 1940. You are going to hear about flooding. That is why it is necessary to document these things.

NOAA, talking about tornadoes, says: Tornadoes have not increased in frequency, intensity or normalized damage since 1950. Some data shows that there has been a decline. So we have all these issues that I am sure we will be discussing sooner or later.

Polar bears—the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee gave me a polar bear coffee cup, which I use frequently, and we display that very prominently. But they say in the 1950s and 1960s there were between 5,000 and 10,000 polar bears. Today there are between 15,000 and 25,000.

So we have all these issues that are a reality on the glaciers. You can record the hurricanes and all these other items, and, yes, they are going to be talking about them, I am sure, during the course of the evening.

Let me just mention one other item from memory on this, but I know it is right because the I have said it so many times and it has recently been documented. We go through these 30-year cycles all the time. We have been going through them for a long time. If you take in 1895, all of a sudden everything started getting cooler, and that is when the term ice age first came along. They said another ice age is coming. That lasted until 1918. In 1918, all of a sudden it started getting warmer, and that was the first time you heard about global warming. That was 1918 to 1945. In 1945 it turned again—you see, every 30 years—and all of a

sudden it got cold. They talked about another ice age coming. I remember Time magazine had a cover talking about the ice age. Then in 1970 another warm period came along. That is the one that people have been talking about.

Here is the thing. In 1945 we had the largest amount of increase in CO₂ emissions of any time in the recorded history of this country, and that precipitated not a warming period but a cooling period. Now as they have said, we haven't been warming for the last 15 years. So this is always a difficult issue to deal with. I know the effort is there. I know it is renewed now and people are excited about it, and I could assure you the trend is in the wrong direction, and it is not going to happen.

With that, Mr. President, my time has expired, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Under the unanimous consent request, the floor reverts to me, but the distinguished Member from California, my chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, has joined us, and I will yield for the Senator from California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Presiding Officer, and I also want to thank my friend Senator WHITEHOUSE, such a great leader on this issue.

I am really glad that Senator INHOFE, my good friend, came down to the floor. He deserves a thank you because he has laid out why he denies the obvious, and that is that this planet is warming and it is due to human activity. Frankly, it is his right to turn his back on 97 percent of the scientists just like the deniers did when we learned that it was, in fact, smoking that was causing an epidemic of lung cancer. I respect Senator INHOFE. I am glad he came. But I have to say, I am sad that we haven't seen any Republicans come here except for Senator INHOFE who has written a whole book on this—and we know his views—but we don't see anybody else.

Let me tell you what we know from our other colleagues. Let's just take the Speaker—the Republican Speaker of the House, who said when asked about climate change—he kind of has a different view than Senator INHOFE, as does Senator RUBIO. This is what they said when asked what they think about climate change. Their answer is: Well, I am not a scientist. What do I know?

Well, right. They are not. Why don't you listen, then, to 97 percent of the scientists, if you admit that you are not a scientist?

What are Speaker BOEHNER or Senator RUBIO or the others who are these deniers saying? They are now saying they are not a scientist. Let's say they went to the doctor and the doctor said: Look, you have a serious liver condition, and I have a new drug that has

been created to cure your disease. I don't think we should wait, and let's go.

And you didn't say: Well, I want a second opinion; I want to go to another doctor. You said: You know what. I am not a doctor. I don't think so.

Does that make sense?

What if you went to a dentist and the dentist said: Senator, you have an abscess. It is pretty straightforward. I can fix it. If you let it go, you are going to get an infection. I don't know what can happen.

Now, if I said to the dentist that I am going to check with a couple other people, then that is fine. But no, if I said: Oh, I am not a dentist, but I don't think so. As my friend told me before, you take your car in for repair, and they say: You know, there is something wrong with the brakes here, and we have to tighten those brakes. Can you leave the car here?

Well, I am not a repairman.

Ninety-seven percent of the scientists—they are all peer reviewed and are telling us what is happening to our planet.

Here is the thing about these deniers. If they want to jump off the climate change cliff and just go by themselves, that is their choice, but they are going to take everybody with them; OK? My grandkids, your grandkids, and their kids—and we are not going to let it happen. Senator WHITEHOUSE isn't going to let it happen. I am not going to let it happen. The President isn't going to let it happen.

Climate change is all around us. We must take action to reduce harmful carbon pollution, which 97 percent of scientists agree is leading to dangerous climate change that threatens our families. We cannot be bullied by those who have their heads in the sand, and whose obstruction is leading us off the climate change cliff.

One week ago the President released his new proposal to control dangerous carbon pollution from existing power plants, and it is a win-win-win for the American people. Power plants are the largest source of the Nation's harmful carbon pollution accounting for nearly 40 percent of all carbon released into the air. Unlike other pollutants, right now there are no limits to the amount of carbon pollution that can be released into the air for power plants. The President's carbon pollution reduction plan will protect public health and save thousands of lives. It will avoid up to 6,600 premature deaths, 150,000 asthma attacks, 3,300 heart attacks, 2,800 hospital admissions, and 490,000 missed days at school and work.

The President's plan to reduce harmful carbon pollution will also create thousands of jobs. By reducing carbon pollution we can avert the most calamitous impacts of climate change—such as rising sea levels, dangerous heat waves, and economic disruption.

As the recent Congressionally-required National Climate Assessment report tells us, we could see a 10 degree Fahrenheit rise in temperature if we do not act to limit dangerous carbon pollution now.

The President's proposal is respectful of the States' roles and allows major flexibility, while ensuring that big polluters reduce their significant contributions to climate change. The plan will allow the States to work with the EPA to analyze costs, and ensure carbon pollution standards continue to promote innovation and continue America's leadership in pollution control technology.

By cutting carbon emissions from power plants by 30 percent nationwide from 2005 levels, the President's plan will also help American families and businesses. The President's plan is projected to shrink electricity bills roughly 8 percent by increasing energy efficiency and reducing demand in the electricity system.

The American public wants action. According to a Washington Post-ABC poll released today, a bipartisan majority of the American people want Federal limits on carbon pollution. Approximately 70 percent say the Federal Government should require limits to carbon pollution from existing power plants, and 70 percent—57 percent of Republicans, 76 percent of Independents, and 79 percent of Democrats—support requiring States to limit the amount of carbon pollution within their borders.

The President's proposed carbon pollution standards for existing power plants is supported by the Clean Air Act. Congress gave the President the ability to control air pollution in the Clean Air Act. In 1990, revisions to the Act overwhelming passed by a vote of 89-11 in the Senate and 401-21 in the House. In 2007, the Supreme Court confirmed in *Massachusetts v. EPA* that as passed by Congress, the Clean Air Act in no uncertain terms gave the Environmental Protection Agency authority to control carbon pollution. Four years later, the Supreme Court in *American Electric Power v. Connecticut*, specifically found that the Clean Air Act has provisions in place to limit carbon pollution from power plants—the very provisions the President is using in his proposed power plant carbon standards.

We have long known that air pollution contributes to climate change. During the debate on the 1970 Clean Air Act Amendments, Senator Boggs introduced into the record a White House Report stating that: "Air pollution alters climate and may produce global changes in temperature. . . . [T]he addition of particulates and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere could have dramatic and long-term effects on world climate." And the Clean Air Act has a proven track record.

The U.S. has shown we can continue to protect the environment and grow

the economy. Over the last 40 years since the passage of the Clean Air Act, air pollution has dropped 68 percent and America's GDP has grown 212 percent. Total private sector jobs increased by 88 percent. Between 1980 and 2012, gross domestic product increased 133 percent, vehicle miles traveled increased 92 percent, energy consumption increased 27 percent, and U.S. population grew by 38 percent. During the same time period, total emissions of the six principal air pollutants dropped by 67 percent.

It is in America's DNA to turn a problem into an opportunity, and that is what we have done by being a pioneer in the green technology industry. These new carbon pollution standards are no different. Landmark environmental laws have bolstered an environmental technology and services sector that employs an estimated 3.4 million people, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. And many of these jobs, like installing solar roofs and wind turbines cannot be outsourced.

We must take action to protect families and communities from the mounting impacts of climate change. Just look at China, which has hazardous levels of air pollution and toxic emissions. According to a scientific study from the Health Effect Institute on leading causes of death worldwide, outdoor air pollution contributed to 1.2 million premature deaths in China in 2010, which is nearly 40 percent of the global total. Officials in China have recently suggested that they plan to take steps to address their carbon pollution, but the U.S. cannot wait for China to act. The President's new power plant standards are a major step forward. They show that America will finally lead on a path to averting the most dangerous impacts of climate change.

On Friday the White House released a report on the harmful health impacts of climate change, especially on our most vulnerable populations like children, the elderly and low-income Americans. The report cited impacts like increased ground level ozone which could worsen respiratory illnesses like asthma, increased air pollutants from wildfires, and more heat-related and flood-related deaths. The first line in this new report sums up why we must take action to reduce carbon pollution:

We have a moral obligation to leave our children a planet that's not irrevocably polluted or damaged.

The American people want us to protect their children and families from dangerous climate change. We must safeguard our children, our grandchildren, and generations to come.

The people of my home State of California and the American people deserve these new protections, and the President should be lauded for moving forward and tackling one of our Nation's greatest challenges.

I am going to spend the rest of my time summing it up by refuting some of the things Senator INHOFE said.

I have to say the President deserves a lot of credit for his plan. What is really interesting is it is supported by 70 percent of the American people, who “think the Federal Government should limit the release of greenhouse gasses from existing power plants in an effort to reduce global warming.”

That includes amazingly 57 percent of Republicans, 79 percent of Democrats, and 76 percent of Independents who support the President’s plan. They are not stupid. They are smart.

Look what happens when you throw the environment under the bus. People walk around in air that you can see. You don’t want to see the air. You don’t want to wear a mask when you go outside. The American people get it.

Then my colleague says: They are going to scare you. They are going to scare you. There is no problem with carbon in the air. There is no problem at all.

Well, let me tell you who disagrees with Senator INHOFE, who disagrees with the Republicans: the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Thoracic Society, the American Public Health Association, the American Lung Association, the National Nurses Union. They all have statements that say climate change is a threat to public health.

Who are the people going to listen to? Us politicians or people who spend every day of their life waking up in the morning and thinking of ways to protect our health? Yes, if the deniers want to jump off the cliff and they only hurt themselves, I suppose that is their option. But they are taking my kids, and they are taking all the kids of our American families, and we are not going to let that happen.

I will close with this. The Senator from Oklahoma started to say: This is going to kill you. It is going to raise your prices of electricity. Jobs are going to be lost. He cited a U.S. Chamber of Commerce study that has been so rebuffed that the Washington Post gave it their most Pinocchios—in other words, four Pinocchios for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce because they were responding to something that never came about.

This plan of the President’s makes a whole lot of sense. He has courage to do it. We are going to stand behind it. And, yes, the Republicans are going to try to repeal it. Let me give them the bad news from their perspective. They have sent over dozens and dozens of environmental riders. I want to say over 90—over 90—and we have beaten back every single one of them. For colleagues to stand there and say Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE and I are doing this because it is an election year is a joke. We have been doing this for years.

I daresay Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE has made more speeches on the floor than anyone on this subject. When I had the gavel for the first time in 2007, I had to fight to keep it in my hand because, guess what. We had Al Gore before the committee. Remember? Senator INHOFE was so stressed he tried to grab the gavel. We have kind of a funny picture in our office in which I said: “Elections have consequences.” And they do. But to say that we are doing this because there is some donor is the most absurd thing I have ever heard.

I will put in the record a statement by Lyndon Johnson. This shows how far back Democrats have warned about this. This is amazing. My staff discovered this. He said this in 1965.

In his “Special Message to the Congress on Conservation and Restoration of Natural Beauty” President Lyndon B. Johnson stated that, “The Clean Air Act should be improved to permit [EPA] to investigate potential air pollution problems before pollution happens, rather than having to wait until the damage occurs, as is now the case, and to make recommendations leading to the prevention of such pollution.”

“Air pollution is no longer confined to isolated places. This generation has altered the composition of the atmosphere on a global scale through radioactive materials and a steady increase in carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels.”

So don’t come on this floor and say suddenly the Democrats care about this because it is an election year. It is ridiculous. We have known about this for years. We have been trying to get the attention of our colleagues.

I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE. He and I signed a letter with several others inviting our colleagues to the floor. All we got was Senator INHOFE—not that we don’t love him, and we appreciate he came over here, but we have to now assume he speaks for everybody on that side, which is scary, because they have turned their backs on the doctors. They have turned their backs on the scientists, and they have turned their backs on the American people.

Thank you, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and I would yield back to the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the hope for this evening was that by extending a formal invitation to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, somebody would come to the floor who was not just outright denying that climate change is happening.

For a while Senator INHOFE’s was focused on the economics of various types of regulation during his remarks. At that point I thought maybe we could have a conversation about the best way to solve the climate change problem, but toward the end of his remarks, he got back to denying that it

is happening at all, which makes a tough place to begin negotiations.

There are plenty of other Republican Senators in this body, many of whom have worked on this issue in the past. I don’t know whether it is a coincidence, but the level of activity by Republican Senators on climate change collapsed shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Citizens United*. As many of my Republican friends have pointed out to me on the floor, there have been times when the big, dark, anonymous election money that has been thrown around since that decision has been made has been spent against Republicans more than against Democrats.

We hope that as we resolve that issue, some of our friends find a way back to the positions they have held in the past, back to campaigning nationally on climate issues, supporting bipartisan climate legislation, supporting a carbon fee, and voting for a cap-and-trade bill. That is where they had been before *Citizens United*, and we had hoped to bring them back. But the champion sent by the Republican side to represent their point of view tonight was Senator INHOFE, who has written a book that said this is all just a big hoax. In that sense it was disappointing.

I have heard these arguments before, and as we go down the list, I think it is worth taking a moment to knock them aside. One of my personal favorites is that the EPA is doing this after the issue was repeatedly blocked in Congress. Well, yes, it has been blocked in Congress by coal and oil and polluter interests. So the interests that have blocked a highway don’t get to complain when traffic has to take a detour.

We would be delighted to work on serious climate legislation in this body. We would be delighted to have it here. For a lot of reasons, we would get a better result if we addressed climate change legislation here rather than through the EPA rule. This is where the conversation should take place, but when oil and coal and polluting industries take the position that this is not real and force the Republican Party into that position—that climate change is not real—then we are obviously not going to have a very meaningful discussion about solving a problem, and that is what forces it go to the EPA. It is a little rich for those who have shut down this forum for solving this problem to complain when it gets solved in another and less efficient way. They don’t very well get to do that.

The high cost of the solution is—I think Senator INHOFE said—\$300 to \$400 billion and that it is not disputed. Well, yes, it is totally disputed. It is absolutely disputed. In fact, it is not even true.

The best way to solve this problem is with a revenue-neutral carbon fee.

What does revenue neutral mean? Revenue neutral means that for every dollar that comes in from the carbon pollution fee that the polluters have to pay, it goes right back out to the American people and straight back into the economy; 100 cents on the dollar goes back to the American people. That is what I would like to see. It can be done through tax deductions.

A conservative organization, the American Enterprise Institute, has co-authored a report with the Brookings Institution on what they call a carbon tax. I call it a carbon pollution fee, because when we are giving all the money straight back to the American people, it is not truly a tax. It is not general revenue to the government. The money goes straight back out. When we do that, I think there is a case to be made that that actually propels the economy.

Investing in innovation, supporting and creating different types of energy that we can build in America is inevitably going to be better for our economy than having to use fossil fuels, clean up after the pollution, and deal with the foreign countries that traffic in fossil fuels. It would all lead to a better circumstance for our country.

The Senator from Oklahoma also said this is the product of what he called the radical environmental movement. One group that speaks very strongly on climate change is NASA. Right now NASA is driving around a Rover on the surface of Mars. They built a Rover that is about the size of an SUV, launched it into space, landed it successfully on the planet Mars, and they are now driving it around. Do you think these people know what they are talking about? Do you think NASA is a radical environmentalist movement? Really? That is a conspiracy theory that has run amok if you think NASA is part of a radical environmentalist movement.

How about our military? "National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change" by the CNA Military Advisory Board. The CNA Corporation is a corporation largely comprised of retired military who are kept on in that role to advise the military on emerging issues. It is sort of a think tank for the U.S. military that has been there through Republican and Democratic administrations alike. This report, "National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change," was done by this military advisory board with some very interesting people.

How about BG Gerald E. Galloway, Jr., the former dean at the U.S. Military Academy. Do you think the dean from West Point is part of a radical environmentalist movement?

How about Lee Gunn, a former inspector general of the Department of the Navy. He doesn't seem like a very radical environmentalist to me.

ADM Skip Bowman, former Director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program; Gen. James Conway, former Commandant of the Marine Corps—now there are some radical leftwing environmentalists for you, the U.S. Marines.

This is so far beyond that. Organizations such as Walmart, Coke and Pepsi, Ford and GM, UPS and FedEx, Target, Nike, VF Corporation, one of the biggest apparel manufacturers in the country located in North Carolina—all are totally on board with this.

The military is totally on board with this. NASA is totally on board with this, as is the National Science Foundation and every major scientific organization in the country—every single one. So let's not pretend this is a fringe group of radical environmentalists trying to foist an idea on the country. This is a fringe residue of oil and coal and polluting interests trying to prevent the end of a long holiday they have had from any responsibility for all the harm their carbon pollution has caused.

Let me tell you firsthand there is harm happening in my home State of Rhode Island, and it is not deniable. The deniers will never talk about the oceans. They will never talk about the oceans. They will talk about distant climate theory all day long, but when we go to the sea, the sea does not bear false witness.

The sea level is rising, and we measure that with essentially a yardstick nailed to the end of a pier. A tide gauge is not a complex instrument, and off the Naval War College in Newport, RI, the seas are up 10 inches since the 1930s. Why is that? We have known since President Lincoln was President that when we add carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, it warms the planet. That is not a hypothesis. That science has been established since Abraham Lincoln in his stovepipe hat drove around Washington in a carriage.

We know billions of tons of carbon dioxide have gone up there. We know further that virtually all the heat has gone into the oceans. Unless somebody wants to deny the law of thermal expansion—and I have not heard anybody willing to deny that yet—when we warm up the ocean, guess what. It expands and rises. We in Rhode Island have seen seas 10 inches higher thrown at our shores by a big storm or hurricane. It makes a big difference.

I challenge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to give me just 5 minutes of their time and go to Google and look up the images of the hurricane of 1938. Look at the pictures of what happened in my State when the sea level was 10 inches lower.

Senator INHOFE mentioned the U.S. Chamber of Commerce study. I am a little surprised he did that because he is not the first Republican to mention the U.S. Chamber of Commerce study.

Speaker BOEHNER mentioned the U.S. Chamber of Commerce study too. He earned a false from PolitiFact for referencing that study. The Washington Post gave it four Pinocchios. You know Pinocchio, his nose would grow longer when he would not tell the truth. So that was a strange place to go.

He said there has been no temperature increase. He said: "It didn't happen." It did happen. It absolutely did happen. It happened in the oceans where more than 90 percent of the heat goes. It happened in the oceans, and it can be measured with thermometers. It is not complicated.

If you go to Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island, you will see that the mean winter water temperature is 3 to 4 degrees warmer, and it has a real effect on Rhode Islanders. Men used to go out on boats with trawls and catch winter flounder in Narragansett Bay, and it was a cash crop. It was a fishery that fed their families. It has crashed 90 percent, and a significant part of that is because the bay is no longer hospitable to winter flounder when it is 3 to 4 degrees warmer. It simply doesn't work.

The public is with us, and we will get this done. Tonight we have seen what we are up against. Not one Republican in this building would come tonight at our invitation and say one word about climate change being real—not one Republican, not one word. So that is what we are up against. But they have lost the American public, and so the fall of the denial castle is inevitable. It is built on sand, and the sand is eroding. It is eroding.

Even among young Republican voters—self-identified Republican voters under the age of 35—the hypothesis offered by the deniers that climate change is not real is viewed as—and these are the words from the poll, not my words—"ignorant, out of touch, or crazy."

I submit that a party whose own voters under the age of 35 view that party's position of denying climate change as "ignorant, out of touch, or crazy" is a party that needs a new position on climate change. They are not even selling their own young voters, and they are certainly not selling the general public, which wants the President to do something about this in enormous numbers—70 and 80 percent, depending on whether one is looking at Democrats, Independents or the full population.

I will close with two specifics because we often have these debates sort of at the IPCC versus the Sierra Club level.

I have been going around to different States, and I have been looking at what is going on State by State. I have been to seven States already. I wish to mention two tonight. I just got back from New Hampshire, the most recent trip. What is going on in New Hampshire? New Hampshire, as many people

know, has a big ski industry. It is a winter holiday destination, a winter vacation and tourism destination, and skiing is a big part of that. I met with the guy who runs the Cranmore ski mountain. They have, I want to say, tripled, or thereabouts, the number of snowmaking guns they have on their slopes. They have gotten better at it. They have made it more efficient so they make more snow. So as there is less snowpack in the mountains, they are able to get around it by making more snow. But the reality of this is proven by the fact that they have to go out there and make more snow. As a New Hampshire official said, that is fine for the slopes. They can get out there, and they can roar those guns all night long and make snow on those mountain slopes. But if a person is a Nordic skier, they have to go out on trails, and there is no economic way to blow snow onto trails. If a person is a snowmobile enthusiast, they go out on snow trails, and there is no economic way to blow snow onto snowmobile trails. They are seeing a dramatic falling off in Nordic and snowmobile tourism as a result and of the availability of that important market for them.

They talked about two animals. I will start with the moose. It is a pretty iconic species for New Hampshire, I was told. There are moose tours. Who knew? People go up to New Hampshire to look at moose. Moose touring is a multimillion-dollar industry. I learned something new on that trip. That industry is suffering from a couple of things. First of all, sometimes they do the moose tours on snowmobiles—no snow, no snowmobile moose tours. But worse—indeed, eerily, horrifyingly, creepily—the moose are dying off because they are being overwhelmed by ticks. Now, picking a tick off my dog is enough to give me the heebie-jeebies, and if I find one myself, it is a little creepy. We are not talking about one tick on these moose. We are not talking about 100 ticks. We are not even talking about 1,000 ticks on these moose. We are talking about 50,000 to 100,000 ticks per moose—so much that they can't keep themselves healthy. The blood is being sucked out of them by tens of thousands of ticks.

So the expert in that area who spoke to me said the reaction from the mothers is to just have one calf instead of two. That keeps the population from growing, and the calves basically starve. They die of anemia. They can't feed themselves.

They can't keep a blood system running that feeds themselves and the thousands of ticks. These things grow to be the size of a blueberry or a grape. It is really appalling. This is an emblematic mammal of New Hampshire, and this is what is befalling it.

What do the New Hampshire folks say is causing it? The retreat of the snow. The ticks, when they are falling

and breeding and laying their eggs—whatever the heck they do to reproduce; I am no tick expert. But they do it on Earth now, whereas when they fell on snow, boom, that was it. So the explosion in the tick population and the disgusting infestation on those poor animals is directly related to the retreat of the snow.

The last point on New Hampshire, the State bird is evidently the purple finch. The purple finch has a very particular kind of habitat. Because of the way the climate is changing, that habitat is shrinking, and one of the bird experts I spoke to said they are looking at the prospect of the purple finch being a species that New Hampshire folks have to go to Canada to find. It is their State bird, but they have to go to Canada to find it.

The other State I will close with is Florida. Florida is ground zero for climate change. In Florida, great cities are flooding at high tide. The systems that used to drain water out of the cities in a rain storm are now flooding salt water into the cities because of sea level rise at high tides. I have met with former mayors and county commissioners who have shown me pictures of people riding their bicycle hub deep through water, on a bright sunny day. It is not raining; it is salt water. It has come up. One picture was of a yard where the homeowner had hammered a sign into the yard, "No wake zone," so that cars driving by on the flooded road wouldn't create a wake and wash more salt water into their yard. Some weren't so lucky, and the water was right through the front door and into the house.

The Republican mayor of Monroe County has made climate change a priority. She has instructed her county government to do a climate change report, looking particularly at sea level rise—the Republican mayor of Monroe County. Yet, what do we hear from the Republican side here? Not a peep. Not a peep.

She said something else that is interesting. I will close with this. I asked her how the coral reefs were doing. A lot of people go to Florida to snorkel and to scuba dive and to see the wonders of the world under the sea. I said: Mayor, how are your reefs doing? I have heard a lot about what acidification and warming temperatures are doing to reefs. She said: They are still beautiful. Then she paused and said: Unless you were here 10 or 20 years ago. Ten or 20 years, and we see that change.

What is happening to the reefs is really catastrophic.

My friends on the other side never want to talk about this. They want to talk about climate modeling. We don't need a model to go to the end of the dock at Fort Pulaski and see how much the sea level has risen. We measure it. It is simple. It is the same thing at the

Naval War College. We measure it. It is simple. We don't need complex computer models to go to Narragansett Bay and see it is nearly four degrees warmer mean water temperature and all the changes that happen as a result. We use a thermometer. It is not complicated. And the acidification of the oceans that is affecting the coral reefs and so many other creatures—it wiped out the northwest oyster spat. People grow oysters in the Pacific Northwest, and the sea water that came in was so acidic, it dissolved the shells of the baby oysters and wiped out a huge percentage of their crop. That we measure with the same kind of litmus tests kids do with their aquariums. It is not complicated. But they always want to talk about where it can be confusing. They never want to confront the problem.

We are going to find ways to continue to insist on confronting this problem. They may not be here tonight, but as the old saying goes, you can run, but you can't hide. There are too many of my colleagues who have been helpful and good on this issue before—as I said, before Citizens United. If we look at the Republican Senate activity on climate change before Citizens United and after, it is like looking at a heart attack. We see steady activity until Citizens United, and then it is a flat line. Citizens United, dark money, polluter money has done as much damage polluting our democracy as they have done polluting our planet. But we are going to continue to do something about it, and the American public not only is with us, they are going to insist on it.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GASPEE DAYS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am so glad to have you here because a recurring tradition on the Senate floor is about to take place, and it is always particularly good for a Senator from Rhode Island to have a Senator from Massachusetts presiding while I talk about this.

Today I am here to recognize and celebrate one of the earliest acts of defiance against the British Crown in our great American struggle for independence. Most Americans remember the Boston Tea Party as one of the major events building up to the American Revolution. We learned the story of spirited Bostonians—and when I say "spirited," I mean that in several senses; I gather that spirits had been served to those Bostonians before they embarked on this adventure—clambering onto the decks of the East India

Company's ships and dumping bales of tea into Boston Harbor as a protest of British "taxation without representation," which was a fine and worthy stunt, and I am certainly not here to defend taxation without representation.

However, there is a milestone on the path to revolution that is frequently overlooked, and it is the story of 60 brave Rhode Islanders who challenged British rule more than a year before that Tea Party in Boston, and they did a little bit more than throw tea bags overboard. So every year I honor those little known Rhode Island heroes who risked their lives in defiance of oppression 1 dark night more than 240 years ago.

In the years before the Revolutionary War, as tensions with the American Colonies grew, King George III stationed revenue cutters, armed customs patrol vessels, along the American coast. They were there to prevent smuggling, to enforce the payment of taxes, and to impose the authority of the Crown.

One of the most notorious of these ships was the HMS Gaspee. Its captain, Lieutenant William Duddingston, was known for destroying fishing vessels, seizing cargo, and flagging down ships only to harass, humiliate, and interrogate the colonials.

Outraged by this egregious abuse of power, the merchants and shipmasters of Rhode Island flooded civil and military officials with complaints about the Gaspee, exhausting every diplomatic and legal means to stir the British Crown to regulate Duddingston's conduct.

Not only did British officials ignore the Rhode Islanders' concerns; they responded with open hostility. The commander of the local British fleet, ADM John Montagu, warned that anyone who dared attempt acts of resistance or retaliation against the Gaspee would be taken into custody and hanged as a pirate, which brings us to June 9, 1772, 242 years ago.

Rhode Island ship captain Benjamin Lindsey was en route to Providence from Newport, in his ship the Hannah, when he was accosted and ordered to yield for inspection by the Gaspee. Captain Lindsey ignored the Gaspee's command and raced away up Narragansett Bay—despite warning shots fired by the Gaspee. As the Gaspee gave chase, Captain Lindsey knew a little something about Narragansett Bay and he knew a little something about the Hannah. He knew that she was lighter and drew less water than the Gaspee. So he sped north toward Pawtuxet Cove, toward the shallow waters off Namquid Point. His Hannah shot over the shallows there, but the heavier Gaspee grounded and stuck firm. The British ship and her crew were caught stranded in a falling tide, and it would be many hours before a rising tide could free the hulking Gaspee.

Presented with that irresistible opportunity, Captain Lindsey continued on his course to Providence and there enlisted the help of John Brown, a respected merchant from one of the most prominent Providence families. The two men rallied a group of Rhode Island patriots at Sabin's Tavern, in what is now the east side of Providence. So perhaps something the Bostonians at the Tea Party and the Rhode Islanders at the Gaspee had in common was spirits. Together, the group resolved to put an end to the Gaspee's threat to Rhode Island waters.

That night, the men, led by Captain Lindsey and Abraham Whipple—later to become a commander in the Revolutionary navy—embarked in eight longboats quietly down Narragansett Bay. They encircled the Gaspee, and they called on Lieutenant Duddingston to surrender his ship. Duddingston refused and ordered his men to fire upon anyone who tried to board.

Undeterred, the Rhode Islanders forced their way onto the Gaspee's deck—in a hail of oaths and sword clashes and musketfire—and Lieutenant Duddingston fell with a musket ball in the midst of the struggle. Right there in the waters of Warwick, RI, the very first blood in the conflict that was to become the American Revolution was drawn.

As the patriots commandeered the ship, Brown ordered one of his Rhode Islanders, a physician named John Mawney, to head to the ship's captain's cabin and tend to Duddingston's wound—a humane gesture in their moment of victory to help a man who had threatened to open fire on them only moments before.

Brown and Whipple took the captive English crew back to shore and then returned to the Gaspee to rid Narragansett Bay of her despised presence once and for all. They set her afire. The blaze spread through the ship, and ultimately to the ship's powder magazine, which went off with an explosion like fireworks, the blast echoing through the night across the bay, the flash lighting the sea up like daylight, and fragments of the ship splashing down into the water all around.

The site of this audacious act is now named Gaspee Point in honor of these brave Rhode Islanders. So I come again here to share this story and to commemorate this night so many years ago—June 9, 1772—and the names of Benjamin Lindsey, John Brown, and Abraham Whipple, and those men not known to history who fought beside them that night.

The Gaspee Affair, as it was called, generated furor in the British Government, which appointed a royal commission of inquiry based in Newport to gather evidence for indictment. The indicted men were then to be sent to England for trial.

Well, not so fast. Rhode Island's colonial charter guaranteed its citizens the right to a trial in the vicinity in which the crime was alleged to have occurred. And beyond that, these Rhode Islanders presumed they were entitled to the same rights as Englishmen in their mother country. Some went so far to say that this proposal to try them overseas violated ancient rights outlined in the Magna Carta.

This breach of the rights that colonists believed were enshrined in the British Constitution created continent-wide uproar. Young members of Virginia's House of Burgesses, such as Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry, yearning to protest, pushed the body to create a committee of correspondence to gather information from around the Colonies concerning the British Parliament's actions, while also urging other Colonies to do the same. By December 1773, 11 Colonies had set up committees of correspondence. These committees played a vital role in enflaming discontent. They were the first permanent modes of communication among the Thirteen Colonies and allowed abuses by Parliament to be quickly known throughout the Colonies.

John Allen, a little-known visiting minister in the Second Baptist Church in Boston, gave a sermon on the Gaspee Affair. It went the revolutionary equivalent of viral—widely published. In this sermon, Allen rejected the proposition that Parliament had a right to tax and enforce laws like the ones implicated in the Gaspee Affair on Americans without the consent of their colonial representatives—a position that would come to define colonial discontent and reverberates to this day through the slogan "no taxation without representation."

Allen concluded his sermon with the provoking and revolutionary question whether the British King had a right to rule over America in the first place. Reverend Allen asserted there was no parliamentary right to reign as in Britain, nor a right by conquest, as the American colonists had only signed compacts with the Crown for protection of their religious and civil rights. Allen espoused Enlightenment ideals of social compacts and political rights, stating that if the British Government enacted laws that were oppressive to the rights of American colonists, as it had with the creation of a commission of inquiry intending to send the Gaspee raiders to England for trial, then it lost its right to rule over them.

The sermon was published eight separate times in three different colonial cities and spread widely through the Colonies. Through that, the Gaspee Affair sparked in the minds of Americans ideas about parliamentary abuses and the King's right to rule that would seed a spirit of discontent and eventually boil over into revolution. The sermon,

along with fiery editorials published in the wake of the affair, inspired colonial leaders to speak openly about the British Government's abuses, instigating conflict that would culminate in the battles of Lexington and Concord.

The Gaspee Affair galvanized colonial discontent and led to greater unity among the Thirteen Colonies. After Rhode Islanders defiantly set fire to the Gaspee, the American Colonies came together for a common cause for the first time in their history, a formative step in the birth of our new Nation.

I know these events, and the patriots whose efforts allowed for their success, are not forgotten in my home State. Over the years, I have enjoyed marching in the annual Gaspee Days Parade through Warwick, RI, as every year we recall the courage and zeal of these men who fired the first shots that drew the first blood in that great contest for the freedoms we enjoy today.

They set a precedent for future patriots to follow, including those in Boston who more than 1 year later would have their tea party. But do not forget, as my home State prepares once again to celebrate the anniversary of the Gaspee incident, Massachusetts colonists threw tea bags off the deck of their British ship. We blew ours up and shot its captain more than 1 year earlier. We are little in Rhode Island, but as Lieutenant Duddingston discovered, we pack a punch.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NEVADA'S MISS USA—NIA SANCHEZ

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have to be honest. Last night I was flipping around—the NBA, the game of the week, the Red Sox playing Detroit, and the Tony awards. But also, Miss USA was going on. I have to acknowledge, I watched a little bit but not a lot of each. But I watched them all. I am disappointed that I caved in and watched the final of the Miss USA contest, because Miss Nevada won, and I would have liked to have seen that. I placed a call to her, and I will talk to her as soon as she gets out of the clouds, where I am sure she is now. But I congratulate the newly crowned Miss USA, Nevada's own Nia Sanchez.

What a story she has. This woman was homeless and spent a good part of her young days in a shelter. She is an exceptional Nevadan. She is gifted be-

yond her physical beauty. She holds a fourth-degree black belt in tae kwon do and is a certified instructor in the martial arts. When she is not practicing tae kwon do in her own studio, she is fighting on behalf of abused women. She volunteers at Shade Tree, a shelter for abused women. We are proud of Shade Tree.

So I, along with all Nevadans, congratulate Miss USA Nia Sanchez on her well-deserved victory. I wish her the very best as she pursues the crown of Miss Universe and undertakes her duties as a global ambassador.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BISHOP MCGUINNESS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP

• Mr. BURR. Madam President, I wish to congratulate the Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School boys tennis team for securing the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's 1A dual tennis championship. The team proved that hard work pays off by finishing the season 15 to 1 in dual matches.

With the expertise and positive influence of head coach Bob Weckworth and associate head coach Benny Jones, these young men achieved a well-deserved victory.

Winning a State championship is a testament to hard work and dedication. They displayed pride and sportsmanship throughout the season.

I join the students, teachers, friends and family of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High in congratulating Ben Jandzinski, Andrew Balogh, Alek Bissell, Jonathan Ingram, Zack Jones, Max Kreber, Sam McLaughry, Jesse Russell, Will Shannon, John Valle, Lance Dittrich, Adam Chinnasami, Jared Russell, Justin Russell and Dickson Tam on their hard-earned championship.●

REMEMBERING DR. VINCENT HARDING

• Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Madam President, I wish to commemorate the life of Dr. Vincent Harding, a prominent civil rights leader, beloved professor and proud Coloradan, who passed away on May 19, 2014. Although Dr. Harding is no longer with us, his presence lives on through the lasting influence of his life's work. Thanks to Dr. Harding and the countless others who took part in the civil rights movement, we have made great strides in the pursuit of equality for all through landmark legislation and advocacy. His passing also reminds us of the ongoing struggle for equal rights in America and moves us to continue this fight in his honor.

A devout believer in the power of social activism, Dr. Harding moved from Harlem, NY to Georgia in the early

1960s to join the American civil rights movement. He traveled the South to assist with anti-segregation campaigns, and he and his wife, Rosemarie Freeney Harding, founded the Menonite House, an interracial service center and gathering place for individuals active in the movement. Through this work, Dr. Harding met friend and co-activist, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for whom he became an aide and speechwriter. Following Dr. King's death, Dr. Harding went on to serve as the first director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center.

In addition to his life-long commitment to promoting and protecting civil rights through writings and advocacy, Dr. Harding served as a beloved professor to thousands of students at universities around the country, including spending over three decades with the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO. It was there that he founded the Veterans of Hope Project to document the stories of other social justice leaders around the world and inspire future generations of committed activists.

In commemoration, we recognize the great work and sacrifices of Dr. Harding and the many Americans who stand up for what is right every day—even when doing so brings its share of risks and challenges. Appropriately, this coming July we will proudly celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—a victory for all Americans and one that would not have been possible without the resolve of Dr. Harding, Dr. King and other advocates who devoted their lives to ending discrimination. While we continue our fight against persistent oppression in America, we can look to the legacy of Dr. Harding for inspiration and acknowledge the strength and struggles of all those involved in the civil rights movement.

On behalf of a grateful nation and State, I take this time to express my deepest gratitude for Dr. Harding's contributions and my heartfelt condolences to all those who were touched by his life.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2450. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6022. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Female Squash Flowers From Israel Into the Continental United States" (RIN0579-AD72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6023. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spirodiclofen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9910-52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6024. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imazapic; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Correction" (FRL No. 9911-17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6025. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Flutriaful; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9910-38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6026. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sodium bisulfate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9910-50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6027. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2013 Purchases from Foreign Entities"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6028. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of fourteen (14) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6029. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense Biennial

Core Report to Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6030. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Reasonably Available Control Technology Update to Address Control Techniques Guidelines Issued in 2006, 2007, and 2008" (FRL No. 9904-73-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6031. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation Implementation Plans; Kentucky; Approval of Revisions to the Jefferson County Portion of the Kentucky SIP; Emissions During Startups, Shutdowns, and Malfunctions" (FRL No. 9911-96-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6032. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Decommissioning of Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems" (FRL No. 9909-99-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6033. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-047); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6034. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-013); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6035. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Detention of Drugs Intended for Human or Animal Use" (Docket No. FDA-2013-N-0365) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6036. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Microbiology Devices; Reclassification of Nucleic Acid-Based Systems for Mycobacterium tuberculosis Complex in Respiratory Specimens" (Docket No. FDA-2013-N-0544) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6037. A communication from the Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the memorial construction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-6038. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans

Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Burial Benefits" (RIN2900-AO82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-245. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, urging Congress to fund mesothelioma research at the highest levels in the Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations Bill by including \$5.26 billion for the National Cancer Institute and \$25 million for the Peer Reviewed Research Program as part of the Congressionally Mandated Research Program; to the Committee on Appropriations.

POM-246. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing Congress of the United States to oppose the U.S. Department of Defense's budget proposal that would potentially close commissaries at U.S. military bases and to ensure that replacement aircraft are assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base to compensate for the proposed elimination of the A-10 fleet; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 319

Whereas, The proposed U.S. Department of Defense budget would dramatically cut commissary services throughout the nation and eliminate the nation's A-10 fleet, including aircraft at Michigan's Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Selfridge currently is home to 18 A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and the more than 400 personnel related to that mission; and

Whereas, Our brave men and women in uniform benefit greatly from commissaries, and we should continue to provide them as part of their service. Slashing the commissary budget would likely lead to the closing of commissary stores at military installations throughout the nation. Commissary stores currently provide military families an affordable and convenient location to shop for groceries and other necessities. The U.S. Defense Commissary Agency found that commissaries save shoppers an average of 30.5 percent annually compared to off-base options; and

Whereas, The proposed cuts would have a dramatic effect on the lives and morale of the dedicated men and women who choose to serve our country at Selfridge Air National Guard Base and other U.S. military bases. The elimination of the A-10 fleet would place in jeopardy more than 400 jobs at Selfridge alone. Closing commissaries would increase living expenses for military families, essentially helping to balance the defense budget at the expense of the men and women who serve; and

Whereas, In Michigan, these proposed cuts would have immeasurable impacts on Macomb County and the local communities surrounding the Selfridge Air National Guard Base. For nearly a century, the base has been a source of community pride, local jobs, and local revenue as well as a key component of disaster response for the entire state and a vital base for our nation's homeland security; and

Whereas, The A-10 fleet should not be eliminated until replacement aircraft can be assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard

Base. The proposed cuts would compound past, short-sighted decisions to transfer the A-10 aircraft to Selfridge despite the knowledge that these aircraft would be phased out. These decisions have made Selfridge vulnerable to closure in future Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations. Assigning replacement aircraft would not only maintain the viability of this important base for homeland security, but would also be cost-effective: the Air National Guard can operate aircraft at about half the cost of an active duty unit: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to oppose the U.S. Department of Defense's budget proposal that would potentially close commissaries at U.S. military bases and to ensure that replacement aircraft are assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base to compensate for the proposed elimination of the A-10 fleet; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-247. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to oppose the elimination of the 307th Red Horse Squadron based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

Whereas, established in the year 1932, the Barksdale Air Force Base, a United States Air Force Base located approximately 4.72 miles east-southeast of Bossier City, Louisiana, is named in honor of World War I aviator and test pilot 2nd Lieutenant Eugene Hoy Barksdale (1896-1926); and

Whereas, Barksdale Air Force Base has proudly served Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas and is home to the Air Force's newest command, Air Force Global Strike Command, the 2nd Bomb Wing, 2nd Mission Support Group, 2nd Operations Group, 2nd Maintenance Group, the 2nd Medical Group, 8th Air Force Museum, and the Air Force Reserve's 917th Wing; and

Whereas, the Red Horse unit, officially known as the 307th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, is a construction unit staffed with civil engineers, many of whom deployed to southwest Asia during the fall; and

Whereas, Barksdale Air Force Base has grown into a major source of revenue and employment for the region by providing jobs for nearly ten thousand military and civilian employees; and

Whereas, under the Defense Department's 2015 proposed spending plan, the 307th Red Horse Squadron would be deactivated as the Air Force Reserve's authorized strength would nationally decrease by almost five percent, to 61,700 airmen; and

Whereas, under the 2015 defense spending plan, the Air Force Reserve would lose the rest of the Air Force Reserve's venerable fleet of A-10s, which are Cold War-era aircraft known as Warthogs; and

Whereas, Barksdale Air Force Base continues to be a huge priority for national security and for communities in the state of Louisiana; and

Whereas, the deactivation of the 307th Red Horse Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base will have an adverse effect on not only the

economy, but the community as well: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to oppose the elimination of 307th Red Horse Squadron based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-248. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to support the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013, particularly the section providing those serving in the National Guard with veteran status; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 23

Whereas, the National Guard's roots date back to 1636, when colonial militias made up of ordinary citizens would put down their plows and pick up weapons to protect families and towns from hostile attacks; and

Whereas, commonly known as citizen-soldiers, members of today's National Guard hold civilian jobs or attend college while maintaining their military training part-time, always ready to defend the American way of life in the event of an emergency; and

Whereas, while the National Guard originally focused on protecting local communities, it eventually grew into a force that complements the active-duty military when help is needed anywhere in the world, including serving overseas in combat-deployment roles; and

Whereas, although the National Guard's primary area of operation is the National Guard unit's home state, National Guard members are often called on by the President of the United States to respond to, among other things, homeland security missions, domestic emergencies, counterdrug efforts, and reconstruction missions in addition to overseas combat missions; and

Whereas, while many National Guard members have similar duties and perform similar functions to their counterparts in the active-duty military, Title 38, United States Code, excludes from the definition of veteran, career reserve-component members who have not served on active duty under Title 10, United States Code, for other than training purposes; and

Whereas, a portion of the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013, or S. 944, would honor as veterans any person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of Title 10, United States Code, to retired pay for non-regular service or, but for age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service"; and

Whereas, this cost-neutral provision would not bestow any benefits other than the honor of claiming veteran status for nearly 300,000 men and women who honorably served and sacrificed as career reserve-component members, giving these individuals the respect they deserve for their uniformed service to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that Congress, including Hawaii's Congressional delegation, is urged to support the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013, particularly the section providing

those, serving in the National Guard with veteran status; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2449. A bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BURR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2450. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. REID (by request):

S.J. Res. 39. A joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Concerning the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 280

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 280, a bill to ensure effective control over the Congressional budget process.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 822

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 822, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of

counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1346

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1346, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the alternative tax liability limitation for small property and casualty insurance companies.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to support early learning.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1971

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1971, a bill to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, and for other purposes.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2169

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2169, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax regarding the taxation of distilled spirits.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. ENZI, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2252, a bill to reaffirm the importance of community banking and community banking regulatory experience on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, to ensure that the Federal Reserve Board of Governors has a member who has previous experience in community banking or community banking supervision, and for other purposes.

S. 2285

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2285, a bill to help small businesses access capital and create jobs by reauthorizing the successful State Small Business Credit Initiative.

S. 2298

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2298, a bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2362

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana

(Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2362, a bill to prohibit the payment of performance awards in fiscal year 2015 to employees in the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2366

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 2373

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2373, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 2374

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2374, a bill to improve college affordability.

S. 2393

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2393, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the protection and enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 2414

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2414, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the regulation of emissions of carbon dioxide from new or existing power plants under certain circumstances.

S. 2432

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID (by request):

S.J. Res. 39. A joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Concerning the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 39

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress does favor the proposed agreement for cooperation transmitted to the Congress by the President on May 8, 2014.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing to receive testimony on "Indian Education Series: Examining Higher Education for American Indian Students." Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting to consider the following bills: S. 919, A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, and for other purposes; S. 1447, A bill to make technical corrections to certain Native American water rights settlements in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; S. 1574, A bill to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes; S. 2041, A bill to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and for other purposes; S. 2188, A bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee

on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 1948, A bill to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program; S. 1998, A bill to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to reserve funds for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Tribal College or University adult education and literacy; and S. 2299, A bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 9, 2014, at 3:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Border Security: Examining the Implications of S. 1691, The Border Patrol Pay Reform Act of 2013."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kristie Johnson, an intern in Senator HEINRICH's office, be granted privileges of the floor for today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, with the concurrence of the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 523; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be imme-

diately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2450

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I understand that S. 2450, introduced earlier today by Senators SANDERS, MCCAIN, and others, is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2450) to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2014

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 734, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, under the previous order, there will be one vote at 10 a.m., two votes at noon, followed by a recess until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly caucus meetings, and then three additional votes at 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:23 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

CARY DOUGLAS PUGH, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE ROBERT ALLEN WHERRY, JR., RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JANE D. HARTLEY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM J. BENDER

WITHDRAWAL

Executive message transmitted by the President to the Senate on June 9, 2014 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

JEFFREY A. MURAWSKY, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE ROBERT A. PETZEL, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MAY 5, 2014.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, June 9, 2014

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 9, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

ELK COUNTY FLOODING

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in May, the citizens of Ridgway, Elk County, Pennsylvania, experienced a devastating flood. I rise today to express my sincere appreciation to the first responders, the borough employees, and the Ridgway citizens who came to the aid of their neighbors.

On Friday, May 23, following the flood and upon my return from Washington to the Fifth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I was in Ridgway for a briefing by borough manager, Colonel Kim Zimmerman. Our mission was to analyze the scope of the damage, coordinate all levels of government, and determine the best and most efficient path forward to bring relief to those in need.

The colonel, his staff, and the fire department did an outstanding job considering that the Clarion River rose from the normal 3 feet level to greater than 21 feet in a few hours. Despite record flooding, there was no loss of

life and no injuries. This fact is remarkable given that 100 citizens had to be evacuated by boat and a total of 500, including land evacuation.

I returned to Ridgway the next day to walk the streets to talk with residents and offer my support to the residents and businesses dealing with losses and damages caused by this devastating flooding.

During my 2 days on the scene, I witnessed heroes in action: fire department volunteers who had been on the job almost 48 hours with little or no sleep; borough employees who refused to be sent home after multiple shifts; neighbors who took time from their own cleanups to assist their neighbors; and church organizations that traveled from surrounding counties to help the community begin to put the pieces back together.

Mr. Speaker, the actions that I observed those days in Ridgway is one of the many reasons that I am proud to call this area my home, and I am proud to represent the Pennsylvania Fifth District.

I want to thank Governor Tom Corbett for his immediate presence and the work of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, along with the visit by Lieutenant Governor Cawley.

Now, based on the joint county, municipal, and State recommendations, Governor Corbett made a disaster declaration on May 29 and also requested loan and grant assistance from the Small Business Administration. Fortunately, the disaster designation was granted, and I offer the commitment from my offices and staff to assist businesses and homeowners who have been affected the resources to assist with their claims.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, over and over again, House Republicans complain about Federal spending, especially when it comes to our Nation's premier antihunger safety net program, a program known as SNAP. They say the program is too big, that it is bloated and it is full of fraud, waste, and abuse. These claims are patently false and have been dispelled over and over again. But there is something else missing from the House Republicans' attacks on SNAP—a plan to responsibly shrink the program.

Now, of course, House Republicans have many irresponsible plans to reduce SNAP spending. They want to make it harder and more costly for States to administer the program. They want to prevent people who have served their time in prison from being able to receive SNAP benefits. And they want to prevent those struggling with drug addiction from being able to receive SNAP benefits. In other words, they want to deny food to hungry people.

Not one of these ideas is thoughtful or responsible. But, Mr. Speaker, there is a way to reduce SNAP spending in a responsible way that doesn't take food away from hungry people. It is simple, it is noncontroversial, and it makes a lot of sense. Mr. Speaker, the best way to do this is to raise the minimum wage. We know that hunger is a subset of poverty. If people earned enough money, they wouldn't need help making ends meet. They wouldn't need Medicaid, SNAP, or housing assistance. The Federal minimum wage is currently \$7.25 and hasn't been raised in 5 years. The real value of today's minimum wage is less than two-thirds of what it was in 1968. The result of such a low minimum wage is that many full-time workers live in poverty and have to rely on public assistance programs in order to make ends meet.

Now, I am a cosponsor of the bill to raise the Federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. Doing so wouldn't just result in increased wages for American workers, although that is the most important result. Raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 would cut SNAP spending by \$4.6 billion a year—\$4.6 billion a year.

That is an amazing figure, Mr. Speaker, and that reduction in spending comes simply because people would earn enough money to buy their own food. Imagine that. By increasing people's wages, we reduce the number of people relying on Federal assistance.

A recent study commissioned by the Center for American Progress documents this. It shows that SNAP benefits decline 30 cents for every \$1 increase in family earnings. This report goes on to show that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage reduces SNAP enrollment by between 2.4 percent and 3.2 percent and reduces SNAP spending by 1.9 percent. That means that 3.5 million Americans would be cut from SNAP not because of some arbitrary or hurtful policy but because they earn enough so they don't need SNAP any longer.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is just good, plain common sense. We should be doing more to bridge the income inequality gap. We should be doing everything we can to make sure that people are earning as much as they can so that they do not need to rely on Federal programs like SNAP or Medicaid.

And, quite frankly, we shouldn't be talking about a minimum wage, Mr. Speaker. We should be talking about a living wage. Just look at my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts. The minimum wage is \$8 an hour. But a living wage for two childless adults is just under \$15 an hour, and it rises to \$18.30 for two adults with one child. Now, while I support an increase in minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour, that is not going to cut it for a family of three.

That is why I am encouraged by what the city of Seattle has done. They responsibly raised their minimum wage to \$15 an hour, an increase phased in over the next 6 years. That is essentially the average national living wage. While I believe our effort to raise the Federal minimum wage to \$10.10 is a good one and is the right policy, I believe we need to think bigger and bolder. Seattle passed its increase with the blessing and approval from both labor and business groups. That is an amazing coalition.

Mr. Speaker, raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do. It is the moral thing to do. And it will actually have real impacts on the lives of poor families living in this country. It will cut SNAP spending by \$4.6 billion per year, and 3.5 million people will be able to stop relying on SNAP simply because they are earning more in every paycheck they take home. It will help end hunger now. This is a good, commonsense way to reduce SNAP spending and make people's lives better.

We should increase the minimum wage today. I call on the Republican leadership to schedule a vote. Increasing the minimum wage is the right thing to do. If we want to end hunger now, we need to make sure that people who work ought not to have to live in poverty.

APEX HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor of attending the Apex High School graduation ceremony, where 556 seniors received their diplomas.

I was impressed, Mr. Speaker, to hear about their accomplishments while at Apex High. These seniors played on sports teams that were a part of 18 conference championships and five State championships, including men's basketball, men's and women's lacrosse,

volleyball, swimming, and track and field.

Their achievements were not limited to sports. The marching bands, chorus and orchestra, and theater have all been recognized for their talents. The Apex High School DECA club, which prepares students with unique opportunities for leadership and entrepreneurship in future careers, has been recognized statewide and nationally, Mr. Speaker. Apex High's Academy of Information Technology was also named as the top academy in the country by the National Academy Foundation.

The graduating class was outstanding academically, as well, earning over \$3.9 million in scholarships to some of the best universities in the country.

This time of year, Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of thousands of graduates across the Nation. It is a very special and significant time for many. For these students, this means ending one chapter and beginning a new one. I congratulate all the seniors at Apex High School and across the country on their commendable achievements and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

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

We ask Your blessing upon the men and women of this, the people's House. Keep them aware of Your presence as they face the tasks of this day, that no burden be too heavy, no duty too difficult, and no work too wearisome.

Help them, and indeed help us all, to obey Your law, to do Your will, and to walk in Your way. Grant that they might be good in thought, gracious in word, generous in deed, and great in spirit.

Make this a glorious day in which all are glad to be alive, eager to work, and ready to serve You, our great Nation, and all our fellow brothers and sisters.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

RETURN TO THE CONSTITUTION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, over \$1 billion in Federal grants have been wasted on poorly functioning State ObamaCare exchanges, including a reported \$655 million for three exchanges that have been completely shut down. These failed Web sites fit into a long line of government information technology projects that are over budget and underperforming.

Repeated attempts to build an electronic system that would allow the Defense Department and the VA to share medical records have failed, despite billions spent. This is a significant contributing factor to many of the VA's problems.

Mr. Speaker, it is increasingly clear that the government is simply unable to procure IT products at a reasonable cost. With the Internet's growing role in nearly all commerce and communication, this is yet another reason to stop expanding the reach of the bureaucracy and return our government to its constitutionally defined limits.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF LAUREN DABERKOW AND DAWSON PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT IN LEXINGTON, NEBRASKA

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Lauren Daberkow, a retired mechanic at Dawson Public Power District in Lexington, Nebraska. For the third year in a row, Lauren traveled to Caracol, Haiti, as part of a rural electrification project through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Each year, Lauren transports the supplies necessary to service utility trucks, addresses maintenance concerns, and then offers hands-on training so local staff can address such issues in the future.

While only 13 percent of the people in Haiti have regular access to electricity, when this project is linked to other electrification efforts, approximately 20,000 customers over the next 3 years will have access to electricity. Electricity can improve the quality of life through access to vital services like health care, education, and clean water.

For this reason, I thank Mr. Daberkow and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for their efforts to electrify communities around the world.

REMEMBERING COLONEL JOE HART OF PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a member of the Greatest Generation—Colonel Joe Hart of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, who passed away on May 23 at the age of 93. Colonel Joe was known for many things. He was a decorated World War II hero, a B-17 pilot, a POW, a participant in January 1945's infamous Death March, a Purple Heart recipient, a test pilot for Boeing, a patent holder, and the author of a book, "The Hart Dietary Procedure." He was a father and grandfather, a local radio commentator, and a frequent caller to my office.

Colonel Joe was not shy about his strong opinions, and his many visits to my Rogers office to share them were always welcomed by my staff. We—and the undoubtedly many others Colonel Joe touched throughout his long life—will certainly miss his presence.

My thoughts and prayers are with your family and friends. Rest in peace, Colonel Joe. We will miss you.

HONORING MR. JUDE HARRINGTON

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jude Harrington, supervisory park ranger at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Raystown Lake, located in Huntingdon County of the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District.

Mr. Harrington has been recognized as the recipient of the 2014 American Recreation Coalition's Legends Award.

For the past 30 years, Mr. Harrington's efforts have significantly contributed to the improvement of visitor recreational experiences and the enhancement of environmental, social, health, and economic benefits for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Jude's leadership helped to make Raystown Lake a national tourism destination through facility upgrades, co-

ordination of widely publicized special events, and a strong partnership program.

Jude is a founding member of the Friends of Raystown Lake and a long-time adviser, which has led to more than \$1.7 million in partnership contributions.

Mr. Speaker, without Mr. Harrington's high standards, customers and the surrounding community would not have such high quality camping facilities, roadways, trails, boat launches, and beaches to enjoy. He is a true professional, leader, and team member.

Congratulations, Jude, for your commitment to excellence as the 2014 Legends Award winner.

ER VISITS INCREASING AS A RESULT OF THE ACA

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, imagine you have a medical emergency, you show up at the emergency department of your hospital, and you are treated in the waiting room. That is exactly what is happening in hospitals all over America. Overcrowding has become a reality.

A recent report by the American College of Emergency Medicine showed that more than half of all ER doctors have reported this trend. It is ironic that the main pillar of the Affordable Care Act, which was an increase in patients' access to care, is exactly the opposite of what is happening.

We are having a hearing on Thursday in the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. I am looking forward to it. We will discuss the impact of the President's health care law on access to health care.

It is my sincere hope that the administration is cooperative and forthcoming as we investigate yet another aspect of the Affordable Care Act that instead of helping is hurting patients, doctors, and hospitals and putting a strain on our system.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 5, 2014 at 5:05 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1044.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4745, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 604 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4745.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1409

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. HOLDING in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

I am pleased today to present to the House for consideration H.R. 4745, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015.

The committee has put forth a bill that conforms to our 302(b) allocation of \$52 billion in budget authority and is in line with the budget cap of \$1.014 trillion. Under such an allocation, we prioritized programs and spending to achieve three very important goals: to continue the ob lim level funding levels of MAP-21 contingent upon reauthorization; keep the commercial air space running smoothly; and preserve the housing option for all current HUD-assisted families.

I think this is a good bill with the allocation that was given to us. We may hear today from some who say the bill spends too much money, and I am sure we will hear from those who believe we should be spending more money. However, this bill received a fair allocation under the Ryan-Murray budget agreement with a large, bipartisan majority, and, as such, we should continue that support.

Thanks to the return of regular order, the whole House of Representatives has the opportunity for full con-

sideration of this legislation. It is imperative that we move this bill to final passage, reflecting the amendments adopted by the House, and move this bill to conference in time for the new fiscal year.

I would like to thank my good friend and fellow future retiree, the gentleman from Arizona and the T-HUD ranking member, Mr. PASTOR, for his ideas and support in drafting the bill. It has been a real pleasure to work with the gentleman, and I really do appreciate his friendship. I would also

like to thank Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY, plus the members of the full committee, and especially the subcommittee, for the hours spent in hearings, markups, and meetings, working together to bring this bill to the floor and eventually have it signed into law.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle. They have worked tirelessly to get this bill done to this point, and I urge the adoption of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION					
Office of the Secretary					
Salaries and expenses.....	107,000	109,916	103,000	-4,000	-6,916
Immediate Office of the Secretary.....	(2,652)	(2,696)	(2,600)	(-52)	(-96)
Immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary.....	(1,000)	(1,011)	(980)	(-20)	(-31)
Office of the General Counsel.....	(19,900)	(20,312)	(19,000)	(-900)	(-1,312)
Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.....	(10,271)	(10,417)	(9,500)	(-771)	(-917)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs.....	(12,676)	(13,111)	(12,500)	(-176)	(-611)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs.....	(2,530)	(2,567)	(2,500)	(-30)	(-67)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration.....	(26,378)	(27,420)	(24,720)	(-1,658)	(-2,700)
Office of Public Affairs.....	(2,020)	(2,061)	(2,000)	(-20)	(-61)
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	(1,714)	(1,746)	(1,700)	(-14)	(-46)
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.....	(1,386)	(1,414)	(1,400)	(+14)	(-14)
Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response.....	(10,778)	(11,055)	(10,600)	(-178)	(-455)
Office of the Chief Information Officer.....	(15,695)	(16,106)	(15,500)	(-195)	(-606)
Research and Technology.....	14,765	14,625	12,625	-2,140	-2,000
National Infrastructure Investments.....	600,000	1,250,000	100,000	-500,000	-1,150,000
Infrastructure Permitting Center.....	---	8,000	---	---	-8,000
Financial Management Capital.....	7,000	5,000	5,000	-2,000	---
Cyber Security Initiatives.....	4,455	5,000	5,000	+545	---
Office of Civil Rights.....	9,551	9,600	9,600	+49	---
Transportation Planning, Research, and Development....	7,000	8,000	6,000	-1,000	-2,000
Rescission of unobligated balances.....	-2,750	---	---	+2,750	---
Subtotal.....	4,250	8,000	6,000	+1,750	-2,000
Working Capital Fund.....	(178,000)	---	(181,000)	(+3,000)	(+181,000)
Minority Business Resource Center Program.....	925	1,013	1,013	+88	---
(Limitation on guaranteed loans).....	(18,367)	(18,367)	(18,367)	---	---
Minority Business Outreach.....	3,088	3,099	3,099	+11	---
Safe Transport of Oil.....	---	40,000	---	---	-40,000
Payments to Air Carriers (Airport & Airway Trust Fund).....	149,000	155,000	149,000	---	-6,000
Total, Office of the Secretary.....	900,034	1,609,253	394,337	-505,697	-1,214,916
Federal Aviation Administration					
Operations.....	9,651,422	9,750,000	9,750,000	+98,578	---
Air traffic organization.....	(7,311,790)	(7,396,654)	(7,396,654)	(+84,864)	---
Aviation safety.....	(1,204,777)	(1,215,458)	(1,218,458)	(+13,681)	(+3,000)
Commercial space transportation.....	(16,011)	(16,605)	(16,000)	(-11)	(-605)
Finance and management.....	(762,462)	(765,047)	(762,652)	(+190)	(-2,395)
Staff offices.....	(296,600)	(296,147)	(296,147)	(-453)	---
NextGen.....	(59,782)	(60,089)	(60,089)	(+307)	---
Facilities and Equipment (Airport & Airway Trust Fund).....	2,600,000	2,603,700	2,600,000	---	-3,700
Research, Engineering, and Development (Airport & Airway Trust Fund).....	158,792	156,750	156,750	-2,042	---
Rescission of unobligated balances.....	-26,184	---	---	+26,184	---

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Grants-in-Aid for Airports (Airport and Airway Trust Fund)					
(Liquidation of contract authorization).....	(3,200,000)	(3,200,000)	(3,200,000)	---	---
(Limitation on obligations).....	(3,350,000)	(2,900,000)	(3,350,000)	---	(+450,000)
Administration.....	(106,600)	(107,100)	(107,100)	(+500)	---
Airport cooperative research program.....	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	---	---
Airport technology research.....	(29,500)	(29,750)	(29,750)	(+250)	---
Small community air service development program...	(5,000)	---	(3,000)	(-2,000)	(+3,000)
Rescission of contract authority.....	---	-256,000	-260,000	-260,000	-4,000
Pop-up contract authority.....	---	126,000	130,000	+130,000	+4,000
Total, Federal Aviation Administration.....	12,384,030	12,380,450	12,376,750	-7,280	-3,700
Limitations on obligations.....	(3,350,000)	(2,900,000)	(3,350,000)	---	(+450,000)
Total budgetary resources.....	(15,734,030)	(15,280,450)	(15,726,750)	(-7,280)	(+446,300)
Administrative Provision					
War Risk Insurance Program Extension.....	-100,000	---	---	+100,000	---
Federal Highway Administration					
Limitation on Administrative Expenses.....	(416,100)	(439,000)	(426,100)	(+10,000)	(-12,900)
Federal-Aid Highways (Highway Trust Fund):					
(Liquidation of contract authorization).....	(40,995,000)	(48,062,248)	(40,995,000)	---	(-7,067,248)
(Limitation on obligations).....	(40,256,000)	(47,323,248)	(40,256,000)	---	(-7,067,248)
Fixing and Accelerating Surface Transportation					
(Liquidation of contract authorization).....	---	(500,000)	---	---	(-500,000)
(Limitation on obligations).....	---	(500,000)	---	---	(-500,000)
(Exempt contract authority).....	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	---	---
Total, Federal Highway Administration.....	---	---	---	---	---
Limitations on obligations.....	(40,256,000)	(47,823,248)	(40,256,000)	---	(-7,567,248)
Exempt contract authority.....	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	---	---
Total budgetary resources.....	(40,995,000)	(48,562,248)	(40,995,000)	---	(-7,567,248)
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration					
Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs (Highway Trust Fund)					
(Liquidation of contract authorization)...	(259,000)	(315,770)	(259,000)	---	(-56,770)
(Limitation on obligations).....	(259,000)	(315,770)	(259,000)	---	(-56,770)
National Motor Carrier Safety Program (Highway Trust Fund)					
(Liquidation of contract authorization).....	(13,000)	---	---	(-13,000)	---
(Limitation on obligations).....	(13,000)	---	---	(-13,000)	---
Motor Carrier Safety Grants (Highway Trust Fund)					
(Liquidation of contract authorization).....	(313,000)	(352,753)	(313,000)	---	(-39,753)
(Limitation on obligations).....	(313,000)	(352,753)	(313,000)	---	(-39,753)
Total, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.....	---	---	---	---	---
Limitations on obligations.....	(585,000)	(668,523)	(572,000)	(-13,000)	(-96,523)
Total budgetary resources.....	(585,000)	(668,523)	(572,000)	(-13,000)	(-96,523)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration					
Operations and Research (general fund).....	134,000	152,000	134,000	---	-18,000
Operations and Research (Highway Trust Fund)					
(Liquidation of contract authorization).....	(123,500)	(122,000)	(128,500)	(+5,000)	(+6,500)
(Limitation on obligations).....	(123,500)	(122,000)	(128,500)	(+5,000)	(+6,500)
Subtotal, Operations and Research.....	257,500	274,000	262,500	+5,000	-11,500

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Highway Traffic Safety Grants (Highway Trust Fund)					
(Liquidation of contract authorization).....	(561,500)	(577,000)	(561,500)	---	(-15,500)
(Limitation on obligations).....	(561,500)	(577,000)	(561,500)	---	(-15,500)
Highway safety programs (23 USC 402).....	(235,000)	(241,146)	(235,000)	---	(-6,146)
National priority safety programs (23 USC 405)..	(272,000)	(278,705)	(272,000)	---	(-6,705)
High visibility enforcement.....	(29,000)	(29,000)	(29,000)	---	---
Administrative expenses.....	(25,500)	(28,149)	(25,500)	---	(-2,649)
Total, National Highway Traffic Safety					
Administration.....	134,000	152,000	134,000	---	-18,000
Limitations on obligations.....	(685,000)	(699,000)	(690,000)	(+5,000)	(-9,000)
Total budgetary resources.....	(819,000)	(851,000)	(824,000)	(+5,000)	(-27,000)
Federal Railroad Administration					
Safety and Operations.....	184,500	185,250	185,250	+750	---
Railroad Research and Development.....	35,250	35,100	35,250	---	+150
Rail Service Improvement Program.....	---	2,325,000	---	---	-2,325,000
Northeast Corridor Improvement Program (rescission)...	-4,419	---	---	+4,419	---
Next Generation High-Speed Rail (rescission).....	-1,973	---	---	+1,973	---
National Railroad Passenger Corporation:					
Operating Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.....	340,000	---	340,000	---	+340,000
Capital and Debt Service Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.....	1,050,000	---	850,000	-200,000	+850,000
Current Rail Passenger Service.....	---	2,450,000	---	---	-2,450,000
Subtotal.....	1,390,000	2,450,000	1,190,000	-200,000	-1,260,000
Total, Federal Railroad Administration.....	1,603,358	4,995,350	1,410,500	-192,858	-3,584,850
Federal Transit Administration					
Administrative Expenses.....	105,933	114,400	103,000	-2,933	-11,400
Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program.....	---	25,000	---	---	-25,000
Transit Formula Grants (Hwy Trust Fund, Mass Transit Account (Liquidation of contract authorization).....					
(Limitation on obligations).....	(9,500,000)	(13,800,000)	(9,500,000)	---	(-4,300,000)
(Limitation on obligations).....	(8,595,000)	(13,800,000)	(8,595,000)	---	(-5,205,000)
Fixing and Acceleration Surface Transportation					
(Liquidation of contract authorization).....	---	(500,000)	---	---	(-500,000)
(Limitation on obligations).....	---	(500,000)	---	---	(-500,000)
Transit Research.....	43,000	---	15,000	-28,000	+15,000
Technical Assistance and Training.....	5,000	---	3,000	-2,000	+3,000
Transit Research and Training.....	---	60,000	---	---	-60,000
Rapid-Growth Area Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Program					
(liquidation of contract authorization).....	---	(500,000)	---	---	(-500,000)
(limitation on obligations).....	---	(500,000)	---	---	(-500,000)
Capital Investment Grants.....	1,942,938	2,500,000	1,691,000	-251,938	-809,000
Rescission.....	---	---	-65,000	-65,000	-65,000
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority					
Capital and Preventive Maintenance.....	150,000	150,000	150,000	---	---
Administrative Provisions					
Rescission (Sec. 168).....	-96,228	---	---	+96,228	---
Total, Federal Transit Administration.....	2,150,643	2,849,400	1,897,000	-253,643	-952,400
Limitations on obligations.....	(8,595,000)	(14,800,000)	(8,595,000)	---	(-6,205,000)
Total budgetary resources.....	(10,745,643)	(17,649,400)	(10,492,000)	(-253,643)	(-7,157,400)

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation					
Operations and Maintenance (Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund).....	31,000	31,500	32,500	+1,500	+1,000
Maritime Administration					
Maritime Security Program.....	186,000	211,000	166,000	-20,000	-45,000
Operations and Training.....	148,003	148,400	132,000	-16,003	-16,400
Ready Reserve Force (by transfer).....	---	(291,000)	---	---	(-291,000)
Ship Disposal.....	4,800	4,800	4,000	-800	-800
Maritime Guaranteed Loan (Title XI) Program Account:					
Administrative expenses.....	3,500	3,100	3,100	-400	---
Guaranteed loans subsidy.....	35,000	---	---	-35,000	---
Rescission.....	---	---	-29,000	-29,000	-29,000
Subtotal.....	38,500	3,100	-25,900	-64,400	-29,000
Total, Maritime Administration.....	377,303	367,300	276,100	-101,203	-91,200
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration					
Operational Expenses:					
General Fund.....	21,015	22,225	21,654	+639	-571
Pipeline Safety Fund.....	639	---	---	-639	---
Pipeline Safety information grants.....	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)	---	---
Subtotal.....	21,654	22,225	21,654	---	-571
Hazardous Materials Safety:					
General Fund.....	45,000	52,000	52,000	+7,000	---
Special Permit and Approval Fees.....	---	-6,000	---	---	+6,000
Pipeline Safety:					
Pipeline Safety Fund.....	98,514	136,500	110,000	+11,486	-26,500
Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.....	18,573	19,500	19,500	+927	---
Pipeline Safety Design Review Fund.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	---	---
Subtotal.....	119,087	158,000	131,500	+12,413	-26,500
Subtotal, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.....	185,741	226,225	205,154	+19,413	-21,071
Pipeline safety user fees.....	-99,153	-136,500	-110,000	-10,847	+26,500
Pipeline Safety Design Review fee.....	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	---	---
Emergency Preparedness Grants:					
Limitation on emergency preparedness fund.....	(28,318)	(28,318)	(28,318)	---	---
(Emergency preparedness fund).....	(188)	(188)	(188)	---	---
Total, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.....	84,588	87,725	93,154	+8,566	+5,429
Office of Inspector General					
Salaries and Expenses.....	85,605	86,223	86,223	+618	---

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Surface Transportation Board					
Salaries and Expenses.....	31,000	31,500	31,250	+250	-250
Offsetting collections.....	-1,250	-1,250	-1,250	---	---
Total, Surface Transportation Board.....	29,750	30,250	30,000	+250	-250
=====					
Total, title I, Department of Transportation..	17,680,311	22,589,451	16,730,564	-949,747	-5,858,887
Appropriations.....	(17,813,115)	(22,852,701)	(17,085,814)	(-727,301)	(-5,766,887)
Rescissions.....	(-131,554)	---	(-94,000)	(+37,554)	(-94,000)
Rescissions of contract authority.....	---	(-256,000)	(-260,000)	(-260,000)	(-4,000)
Offsetting collections.....	(-1,250)	(-7,250)	(-1,250)	---	(+6,000)
Limitations on obligations.....	(53,471,000)	(66,890,771)	(53,463,000)	(-8,000)	(-13,427,771)
(By transfer).....	---	(291,000)	---	---	(-291,000)
Total budgetary resources.....	(71,151,311)	(89,480,222)	(70,193,564)	(-957,747)	(-19,286,658)
=====					
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT					
Management and Administration					
Executive Offices.....	14,500	15,234	14,000	-500	-1,234
Administration Support Offices.....	506,000	530,783	500,000	-6,000	-30,783
Program Office Salaries and Expenses:					
Public and Indian Housing.....	205,000	213,664	200,000	-5,000	-13,664
Community Planning and Development.....	102,000	110,535	100,000	-2,000	-10,535
Housing.....	381,500	386,677	370,000	-11,500	-16,677
Policy Development and Research.....	22,000	23,248	20,000	-2,000	-3,248
Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.....	69,000	77,629	68,000	-1,000	-9,629
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes...	7,000	7,879	7,000	---	-879
Subtotal.....	786,500	819,632	765,000	-21,500	-54,632
Total, Management and Administration.....	1,307,000	1,365,649	1,279,000	-28,000	-86,649
Public and Indian Housing					
Tenant-based Rental Assistance:					
Renewals.....	17,365,527	18,006,550	17,693,079	+327,552	-313,471
Tenant protection vouchers.....	130,000	150,000	130,000	---	-20,000
Administrative fees.....	1,500,000	1,705,000	1,350,000	-150,000	-355,000
Veterans affairs supportive housing.....	75,000	75,000	75,000	---	---
Sec. 811 mainstream voucher renewals.....	106,691	108,450	108,450	+1,759	---
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-15,000)	---	---	(+15,000)
Subtotal (available this fiscal year).....	19,177,218	20,045,000	19,356,529	+179,311	-688,471
Advance appropriations.....	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	---	---
Less appropriations from prior year advances.....	-4,000,000	-4,000,000	-4,000,000	---	---
Total, Tenant-based Rental Assistance appropriated in this bill.....	19,177,218	20,045,000	19,356,529	+179,311	-688,471
Rental Assistance Demonstration.....	---	10,000	---	---	-10,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-50)	---	---	(+50)
Public Housing Capital Fund.....	1,875,000	1,925,000	1,775,000	-100,000	-150,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-9,625)	---	---	(+9,625)
Public Housing Operating Fund.....	4,400,000	4,600,000	4,400,000	---	-200,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-10,070)	---	---	(+10,070)
Choice neighborhoods.....	90,000	120,000	25,000	-65,000	-95,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-600)	---	---	(+600)
Family Self-Sufficiency.....	75,000	75,000	75,000	---	---
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-375)	---	---	(+375)

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Native American Housing Block Grants.....	650,000	650,000	650,000	---	---
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-3,250)	---	---	(+3,250)
Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant.....	10,000	13,000	---	-10,000	-13,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-65)	---	---	(+65)
Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund Program Account....	6,000	8,000	8,000	+2,000	---
(Limitation on guaranteed loans).....	(1,818,000)	(1,200,000)	(1,200,000)	(-618,000)	---
Native Hawaiian Loan Guarantee Fund Program Account....	100	---	---	-100	---
(Limitation on guaranteed loans).....	(18,868)	---	---	(-18,868)	---
Total, Public and Indian Housing.....	26,283,318	27,446,000	26,289,529	+6,211	-1,156,471
Community Planning and Development					
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS.....	330,000	332,000	305,900	-24,100	-26,100
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-1,660)	---	---	(+1,660)
Community Development Fund:					
CDBG formula.....	3,030,000	2,800,000	3,000,000	-30,000	+200,000
Indian CDBG.....	70,000	70,000	60,000	-10,000	-10,000
Subtotal.....	3,100,000	2,870,000	3,060,000	-40,000	+190,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-14,350)	---	---	(+14,350)
Community Development Loan Guarantees (Section 108):					
(Limitation on guaranteed loans).....	(150,000)	(500,000)	(500,000)	(+350,000)	---
Credit subsidy.....	3,000	---	---	-3,000	---
Rescission.....	---	---	-3,000	-3,000	-3,000
HOME Investment Partnerships Program.....	1,000,000	950,000	700,000	-300,000	-250,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-4,750)	---	---	(+4,750)
Self-help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program.....	50,000	---	---	-50,000	---
Capacity Building.....	---	20,000	40,000	+40,000	+20,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-100)	---	---	(+100)
Homeless Assistance Grants.....	2,105,000	2,406,400	2,105,000	---	-301,400
Brownfields (rescission).....	---	---	-2,900	-2,900	-2,900
Total, Community Planning and Development.....	6,588,000	6,578,400	6,205,000	-383,000	-373,400
Housing Programs					
Project-based Rental Assistance:					
Renewals.....	9,651,628	9,536,000	9,536,000	-115,628	---
Contract administrators.....	265,000	210,000	210,000	-55,000	---
Subtotal (available this fiscal year).....	9,916,628	9,746,000	9,746,000	-170,628	---
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-15,000)	---	---	(+15,000)
Advance appropriations.....	400,000	400,000	400,000	---	---
Less appropriations from prior year advances.....	-400,000	-400,000	-400,000	---	---
Total, Project-based Rental Assistance appropriated in this bill.....	9,916,628	9,746,000	9,746,000	-170,628	---
Housing for the Elderly.....	383,500	440,000	420,000	+36,500	-20,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-2,200)	---	---	(+2,200)
Housing for Persons with Disabilities.....	126,000	160,000	135,000	+9,000	-25,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-800)	---	---	(+800)
Housing Counseling Assistance.....	45,000	60,000	47,000	+2,000	-13,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-300)	---	---	(+300)
Rental Housing Assistance.....	21,000	28,000	28,000	+7,000	---
Rent Supplement (rescission).....	-3,500	---	---	+3,500	---
Manufactured Housing Fees Trust Fund.....	7,530	10,000	10,000	+2,470	---
Offsetting collections.....	-6,530	-10,000	-10,000	-3,470	---
Total, Housing Programs.....	10,489,628	10,434,000	10,376,000	-113,628	-58,000

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Federal Housing Administration					
Mutual Mortgage Insurance Program Account:					
(Limitation on guaranteed loans).....	(400,000,000)	(400,000,000)	(400,000,000)	---	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	---	---
Offsetting receipts.....	-10,841,000	-7,951,000	-7,951,000	+2,890,000	---
Proposed offsetting receipts (HECM).....	-57,000	-36,000	-36,000	+21,000	---
Additional offsetting receipts (Sec. 244).....	---	-32,000	---	---	+32,000
Administrative contract expenses.....	127,000	170,000	130,000	+3,000	-40,000
Homeowners Armed with Knowledge Pilot.....	---	10,000	10,000	+10,000	---
HAWK prohibition (Sec. 232).....	---	---	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-850)	---	---	(+850)
General and Special Risk Program Account:					
(Limitation on guaranteed loans).....	(30,000,000)	(30,000,000)	(30,000,000)	---	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	---	---
Offsetting receipts.....	-926,000	-876,000	-876,000	+50,000	---
Total, Federal Housing Administration.....	-11,697,000	-8,715,000	-8,733,000	+2,964,000	-18,000
Government National Mortgage Association					
Guarantees of Mortgage-backed Securities Loan					
Guarantee Program Account:					
(Limitation on guaranteed loans).....	(500,000,000)	(500,000,000)	(500,000,000)	---	---
Administrative expenses.....	19,500	28,000	22,000	+2,500	-6,000
Offsetting receipts.....	-100,000	-94,000	-94,000	+6,000	---
Offsetting receipts.....	-707,000	-742,000	-742,000	-35,000	---
Proposed offsetting receipts (HECM) (Sec. 210).....	-12,000	-28,000	-28,000	-16,000	---
Additional contract expenses.....	1,000	1,000	---	-1,000	-1,000
Total, Gov't National Mortgage Association....	-798,500	-835,000	-842,000	-43,500	-7,000
Policy Development and Research					
Research and Technology.....	46,000	50,000	40,000	-6,000	-10,000
Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity					
Fair Housing Activities.....	66,000	71,000	46,000	-20,000	-25,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-355)	---	---	(+355)
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes					
Lead Hazard Reduction.....	110,000	120,000	70,000	-40,000	-50,000
Transformation initiative (transfer out).....	---	(-600)	---	---	(+600)
Information Technology Fund.....	250,000	272,000	97,000	-153,000	-175,000
Office of Inspector General.....	125,000	129,000	124,861	-139	-4,139
Transformation Initiative.....	40,000	---	---	-40,000	---
(by transfer).....	---	(80,000)	---	---	(-80,000)
Total, title II, Department of Housing and					
Urban Development.....	32,809,446	36,916,049	34,952,390	+2,142,944	-1,963,659
Appropriations.....	(41,062,476)	(42,285,049)	(40,295,290)	(-767,186)	(-1,989,759)
Rescissions.....	(-3,500)	---	(-5,900)	(-2,400)	(-5,900)
Advance appropriations.....	(4,400,000)	(4,400,000)	(4,400,000)	---	---
Offsetting receipts.....	(-12,643,000)	(-9,759,000)	(-9,727,000)	(+2,916,000)	(+32,000)
Offsetting collections.....	(-6,530)	(-10,000)	(-10,000)	(-3,470)	---
(by transfer).....	---	80,000	---	---	-80,000
(transfer out).....	---	-80,000	---	---	+80,000
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(40,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)	---	---
(Limitation on guaranteed loans).....	(931,986,868)	(931,700,000)	(931,700,000)	(-286,868)	---

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015 (H.R. 4745)
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE III - OTHER INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Access Board.....	7,448	7,548	7,548	+100	---
Federal Housing Finance Agency, Office of Inspector General (legislative proposal).....	---	48,000	45,000	+45,000	-3,000
Offsetting collections (legislative proposal).....	---	-48,000	-45,000	-45,000	+3,000
Federal Maritime Commission.....	24,669	25,660	25,499	+830	-161
National Railroad Passenger Corporation Inspector General.....	23,499	24,499	24,499	+1,000	---
National Transportation Safety Board.....	103,027	103,000	103,000	-27	---
Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation.....	204,100	182,000	182,000	-22,100	---
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.....	3,500	3,530	3,500	---	-30
Total, title III, Other Independent Agencies....	366,243	346,237	346,046	-20,197	-191
Grand total.....	50,856,000	59,851,737	52,029,000	+1,173,000	-7,822,737
Appropriations.....	(59,241,834)	(65,531,987)	(57,772,150)	(-1,469,684)	(-7,759,837)
Rescissions.....	(-135,054)	---	(-99,900)	(+35,154)	(-99,900)
Rescissions of contract authority.....	---	(-256,000)	(-260,000)	(-260,000)	(-4,000)
Advance appropriations.....	(4,400,000)	(4,400,000)	(4,400,000)	---	---
Offsetting receipts.....	(-12,643,000)	(-9,759,000)	(-9,727,000)	(+2,916,000)	(+32,000)
Offsetting collections.....	(-7,780)	(-65,250)	(-56,250)	(-48,470)	(+9,000)
(by transfer).....	---	371,000	---	---	-371,000
(transfer out).....	---	-80,000	---	---	+80,000
(Limitation on obligations).....	(53,471,000)	(66,890,771)	(53,463,000)	(-8,000)	(-13,427,771)
Total budgetary resources.....	(104,327,000)	(126,742,508)	(105,492,000)	(+1,165,000)	(-21,250,508)

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that we are beginning consideration of H.R. 4745, the fiscal year 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

I also want to thank Chairman LATHAM for his work on this bill. He has been a good friend throughout the years and has been a great chairman over these last few years on this subcommittee. I really have enjoyed his friendship. I enjoy working with him, and I thank him for all the courtesies he has extended to me.

I also want to thank the staff—the staff on the majority and the staff on the minority side. They have worked well together over these last few months to bring this bill on the floor.

On paper, this bill appears to be nearly \$1.2 billion higher than the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. However, the sharp differences between OMB and CBO on the receipt estimates for the FHA loan program mean that this bill is actually \$1.8 billion lower—lower than the FY 2014 bill.

As a result, many programs are frozen at last year's level. Deep cuts were made to Amtrak, cuts were made to grants for new transit systems, HUD's HOME program, and HUD's program to reduce the hazards of lead and other household toxins have been reduced.

On a positive note, the bill addresses many of the important safety functions of the Department of Transportation.

□ 1415

For example, this bill provides strong funding for the programs and activities of the Federal Aviation Administration. It will allow the FAA to continue to hire and train new controllers that were lost due to sequestration.

The bill also ensures that the FAA will be able to continue to make important investments to modernize our aging air traffic control system.

With regard to housing programs, the Community Development Block Grants program is adequately funded, and the chairman has worked to ensure that tenants in assisted housing can retain their housing.

The administration's Statement of Administration Policy makes it clear that this bill needs improvement before President Obama will sign it into law.

As we consider the bill over the next few days, I hope that we can prevent further cuts to important transportation and housing programs, and I also hope that we can defeat legislative provisions that will only weaken this bill's chances for enactment.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out to my colleagues that the Senate allocation for this bill is nearly \$2.4 billion higher than this bill. I hope

that we are able to consider this bill quickly, so we can go to conference with the Senate to produce a bill that we can all support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I rise, obviously, in great support of this bill. This is the fourth of the 12 appropriations bills that I hope to bring to the floor before August. It continues to move the ball down the field toward our goal of completing all of our appropriations work on time within the framework of the Ryan-Murray budget deal.

The bill contains a fiscally responsible level of discretionary funding—\$52 billion for the important Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, agencies that support critical transportation infrastructure, safety, and housing assistance programs.

With this bill in particular, we had to make some smart but difficult decisions, as Mr. PASTOR and Chairman LATHAM have said. Although the 302(b) allocation is \$1.2 billion more than last year, when technical adjustments are taken into account, it is more than \$1 billion below the current level. As Chairman LATHAM and Mr. PASTOR have described, this is due to a considerable drop in Federal Housing Administration receipts that are used as offsets within this legislation.

As a result, this bill, by necessity, strikes a fine balance between fiscal restraint and targeted investment in programs that will boost our economy, improve our quality of life, and provide housing options to those Americans most in need.

One of our chief priorities in this bill is providing key infrastructure programs with the funding needed to keep our economy moving. The bill provides \$40.26 billion from the highway trust fund for the Federal highway program for road investments, the same as the current level and contingent on the enactment of new transportation authorization legislation. It also includes funding to help communities build, maintain, and keep safe their mass transit systems.

Smooth, efficient, and safe air travel is another priority in this bill. We ensured that we provided full funding for air traffic control personnel, including controllers and safety inspectors. We are investing in the future of air travel as well, helping to ease future congestion and reduce delays by fully funding NextGen.

To protect every American who uses or lives near our roads, airways, pipelines, and waterways, we increased funding for important transportation safety programs.

Within the Department of Housing and Urban Development, we ensured that all those who are currently served by critical housing programs continue to keep a roof over their heads. To do so, the bill increases funding for public and Indian housing by \$6.2 million. We also fully fund the President's request for veterans' housing vouchers.

Lastly, Community Development Block Grants have been held consistent with last year's funding level.

As I said before, to balance out the important increases in the bill and to factor in the reductions in FHA receipts, cuts to lower-priority programs were necessary. For instance, the bill reduces Amtrak by \$193 million below last year and places strict policy reforms on how tax dollars are spent on this service.

We also reduced TIGER grants by \$500 million below last year's level and mandated that these funds address our most critical transportation needs—road, highway, and bridge construction and improvement. None of these funds under this bill will go toward non-essential purposes, like streetscaping.

Overall, Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill. It will address our most immediate infrastructure needs and provides our most vulnerable citizens with housing.

Before I close my remarks, Mr. Chairman, I want to say a few words about the coauthors of this bill—Chairman LATHAM and the ranking member, Mr. PASTOR. As you know, this will be their last T-HUD bill before they leave us at the end of the year for greener pastures.

These two men have been great assets to our committee, for their expertise, their willingness to work together, and their great attitudes; and we are going to miss them greatly. Their swan song, this bill, is a fine achievement, a capstone on two accomplished careers.

I want to thank them both for their hard work on this bill and others through the years and for their contributions to the Appropriations Committee and the House and the Nation.

My friend Mr. LATHAM and I have labored together on this committee for a good while—18 years, TOM says—and we have been friends all along. We served together on the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee for many, many years, among others, and I have learned to respect Chairman LATHAM.

He is a great personal friend whom I treasure greatly. Mr. PASTOR, the same way—we have worked together on this committee for a number of years as well. We have tried to serve the Nation and the Congress as best we could, and these two gentlemen have done great work on behalf of the American people.

This is a tough bill. It is a good bill, but it is a tough bill. They had to squeeze some oversized feet into some undersized shoes, given the allocation

that they had to work with, but they came through with flying colors.

So I enthusiastically urge my colleagues in the House to vote for this bill because it is the best we can do, and it is a great bill, but also, I want to say in closing, as a tribute to these two fine public servants.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman ROGERS for his kind words. We have worked together for many years, and over those years, we have been able to do appropriations bills and also developed a great friendship. Thank you, Chairman ROGERS.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman LATHAM and Ranking Member PASTOR for their outstanding service to the Congress and to the country. They exemplify the spirit and history of bipartisan cooperation of the Appropriations Committee, and they will certainly be missed. I wish them both the best in the next chapter of their lives.

I appreciate their efforts to put this bill together. Their job was made all the more difficult by much lower than expected FHA and Ginnie Mae receipts.

Unfortunately, I must oppose this bill because it provides inadequate funding for our country's highway and transit infrastructure.

Specifically, cuts to the following critical infrastructure programs are unacceptable: Amtrak's capital funding is decreased by \$200 million below fiscal year 2014, which will defer critical repairs; capital investment grants, which support new subway, light rail, and commuter projects are \$809 million below the request, and the bill contains no funding for transit projects that are in the pipeline; TIGER would receive a paltry \$100 million—while I am pleased the majority included it in its bill for the first time, the proposed level is insufficient; and on the housing side, both HOME and the Public Housing Capital Fund, which are vital for the rehabilitation and modernization of our country's affordable housing stock, face sharp decreases.

At \$700 million, HOME is funded at its lowest level since the program began in 1992, and the Public Housing Capital Fund is funded below the sequester level.

In addition, funding wasn't included to support the installation of positive train control, which could prevent deadly rail accidents like those experienced in New York and Connecticut in recent years. However, I do appreciate that the chairman is committed to addressing this issue if additional resources become available.

While I would have liked this bill to fully support the President's new safe transportation of energy products fund for prevention and response activities across all agencies at DOT that are

grappling with the dangers of crude oil transport by rail, I thank the chairman for working with me to include approximately \$11 million for the Federal Railroad Administration to support grade crossing safety improvements on rail routes that transport energy products and the hiring of safety staff to monitor the routing of energy products.

There is also \$7 million for Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to improve training and outreach efforts related to incident response, along with report language that directs the Department of Transportation to update emergency spill response plans for rail crude oil spills, improve first responder training protocols for spill incidents, and finalize a rule for improving safety standards for crude oil tank cars, like the DOT-111, by the end of September.

I would be remiss if I didn't note my objection to the inclusion of riders on California high-speed rail and on truck weight exemptions. These controversial riders will only hinder the bill's progress through the Congress.

I would note for my colleagues that the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up its transportation and housing bill last week. The Senate bill's allocation was nearly \$2.4 billion higher than this bill. As a result, it addresses many of the shortfalls of the bill we consider today.

It is my sincere hope that we can improve this bill in a conference with the Senate before it is signed into law.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, does the gentleman from Arizona have any more speakers?

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

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, while I extend my appreciation to Chairman LATHAM and Ranking Member PASTOR for their hard work on the FY15 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill, unfortunately, it is another example of the inadequacy of the FY15 budget allocation, and I regretfully rise in opposition.

The bill before us fails to address our nation's growing infrastructure and transportation needs, and the critical housing needs of the most vulnerable among us.

On paper, it looks like the THUD allocation is nearly \$1.2 billion higher than last year. But as we've heard, due to a discrepancy in FHA receipt estimates, this bill is actually \$1.8 billion lower than the FY 2014 bill.

This means that funding for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance grants falls \$20 million short of what is required to prevent vulnerable residents from being evicted from their current housing. It also means federal efforts to end chronic homelessness by 2016 will be stalled, despite evidence homeless assistance grants have contributed to a significant drop in the number of homeless people with serious disabilities and mental illness.

In addition, this bill does nothing to restore the 40,000 Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers eliminated by sequester cuts. Yet the demand for affordable housing is acute. In Los Angeles County alone, at least 490,340 more affordable housing units are needed to ease the housing burden on the county's poorest residents.

Furthermore, this bill cuts funding for the public housing capital fund by \$100 million to \$1.775 billion, which is a level not seen since the 1980s. These cuts add to the already chronic capital underfunding of deteriorating public housing and the living conditions of the more than one million families who live in public housing.

Unfortunately, the FY15 THUD bill also significantly underfunds critical transportation and infrastructure programs.

The bill cuts the funding for the TIGER Grant Program by 83 percent. That's a \$500 million cut to a crucial tool for investing in our nation's deteriorating transportation infrastructure. Without robust funding for Tiger Grants, many critical transportation projects will go unfunded and infrastructure needs will be unmet.

The Federal Transit Authority's Capital Investment Grant Program is cut by \$252 million. The program funds projects that create jobs and encourages future growth and sustainability for my district and for cities across the country. Unfortunately these cuts will severely limit investments in new projects and have a detrimental effect on current projects and jobs.

Amtrak's capital grants program is cut by \$200 million. This will impact both current and future projects. People rely on Amtrak to commute to work, shop, visit family and friends and travel to other cities. These cuts to critical infrastructure investments will leave my constituents and thousands of transit dependent Americans with limited and unreliable transportation.

Transit research is cut by \$28 million, or 65 percent. This is unacceptable and must be fixed. We have now learned that there has been a significant human contribution to climate change, and without more reliable and accessible public transportation, we will never be able to combat this very real and very serious problem which will negatively affect many generations to come.

Mr. Chair, this bill is grossly underfunded in almost every regard. The programs that meet the most critical needs in our country have been stripped to unacceptably low levels. I urge my colleagues to support the people and communities who need these programs the most, and vote no on the FY15 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the House FY15 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill. Today's bill lands with the same sound as its abbreviation . . . THUD.

While I appreciate the hard work of Chairman LATHAM, Ranking Member PASTOR, and their dedicated Appropriations staff, our insufficient 302(b) allocation, made worse with lower than expected FHA and Ginnie Mae receipts, makes this bill's funding levels unacceptable.

Simply put, the House bill would make sustaining and improving our nation's infrastructure impossible, a task made more difficult by years and years of deferred maintenance.

On the transportation side, the bill makes deep cuts to the capital programs and job creating infrastructure investments. Amtrak is cut by \$200 million despite record ridership; the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program is cut by \$252 million, stifling the shovel-ready projects; and the TIGER program is cut by more than 80 percent, despite the program's popularity and success at advancing critical surface transportation projects across the country, with thousands of meritorious proposals still unfunded. And, once again, the bill includes no funding for progress towards a high speed rail system.

Funding for community development and housing safety-net programs is even worse. The bill would cut funding for the HOME program by 30 percent to \$700 million, the lowest level in the program's history. The bill would also limit the ability for our country to maintain and improve our nation's public housing stock by funding the Public Housing Capital Fund below the sequester level and would only provide a paltry \$25 million for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, the successor program of Hope VI program and our only comprehensive public housing revitalization program.

Additionally, the bill would force public housing agencies to turn needy families away from shelter by significantly underfunding the administrative fees needed to run the housing voucher program, the best hope of thousands of America's poorest families for safe and decent housing.

Another program that provides housing to vulnerable Americans in my district and many others is the Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program. Despite benefiting from an amendment in the Appropriations Committee, the bill before us today would cut HOPWA by more than \$24 million below last year's funding level.

Perhaps the most disappointing and regrettable fact about this bill is that the cuts it imposes could have been avoided, had the Republican leadership understood that we cannot cut our way into fiscal balance. House leaders could reconsider their refusal to talk with the President and work with him to address the real drivers of the deficit—tax expenditures and mandatory spending. Instead, they have again and again slashed critical domestic investments.

We must rid ourselves of unworkable budget caps and sequestration, lifting the drag they represent on our economy and the mockery they make of the appropriations process. The bill before us today is Exhibit A of this travesty, and I urge my colleagues to raise their voices and their votes against it.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my appreciation for all the good work that has gone into in the FY 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill. I know a lot of difficult decisions had to be made but I wanted to express my concern over a \$20 million reduction in funding for the Maritime Security Program (MSP).

The U.S. flag fleet is critical to our military in delivering cargo overseas to our military to ensure proper readiness and sustainment. The

Department of Defense (DOD) for well over a decade has relied on MSP-enrolled vessels for sealift of necessary cargo into conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as other troubled areas in the world, all at a fraction of the cost of what it would cost DOD to replicate that sealift if it had to build its own vessels. These military-sensitive cargoes are handled by U.S.-flag ship operators and mariners that must meet DOD and homeland security standards. They have a demonstrated record of delivering these cargoes efficiently and safely.

I would like to encourage the bill's managers to bring the program's funding level to \$186 million in conference with the Senate. This program also has significant support from House members and I am including a letter signed by members in support of this funding. Finally this is the same amount appropriated in FY 2014, authorized by the Armed Services Committee in the NDAA, and requested by the President.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March, 2014.

HON. TOM LATHAM,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

HON. ED PASTOR,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LATHAM AND RANKING MEMBER PASTOR: We are writing to request that \$186 million in funding for FY 2015 for the Maritime Security Program (MSP) be included in the FY 2015 appropriations bill for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies. This is the congressionally authorized amount necessary to ensure that the U.S. Maritime Administration, in conjunction with the Department of Defense, has the necessary funds available to fully implement the MSP. It is the same amount appropriated by Congress for the program in FY 2014.

The MSP was originally enacted to ensure that the United States has the U.S.-flag commercial sealift capability and trained U.S. citizen merchant mariners available to crew the government and privately owned vessels needed by the Department of Defense in time of war or other international emergency. Most importantly, the Maritime Security Program and the uninterrupted operation of its maritime security fleet of 60 U.S.-flag militarily useful commercial vessels ensures that America will in fact be able to support and supply our troops overseas. It guarantees that American-flag vessels and American crews will continue to be available to transport the supplies and equipment our troops need to do their job in behalf of our nation.

Failure to approve the requested funding for the Maritime Security Program not only will put American troops at risk but will weaken America's overall security interests and will cost the American taxpayer significantly more than the amount requested for FY 2015 for the MSP. Without having the MSP and its maritime security fleet to rely upon, the options available to the Department of Defense and to our country to meet America's commercial sealift capability requirements are totally unacceptable.

On the one hand, our country would be faced with the option of giving foreign-flag

shipping interests and their foreign mariners—interests who may not share America's goals, objectives and values—the responsibility for supporting and advancing America's security interests overseas. These foreign-flag shipping services will have to be paid for by the United States, and it means our country will be encouraging the outsourcing of American maritime jobs as we spend taxpayer dollars on foreign-flag ships and their foreign crews.

On the other hand, our country would be faced with the option of having the Department of Defense build, maintain, and operate the requisite vessels itself, at a tremendous cost to the American taxpayer. In fact, a 2006 report prepared for the National Defense Transportation Association—Military Sealift Committee concluded that “the likely cost to the government to replicate just the vessel capacity provided by the MSP dry cargo vessels would be \$13 billion.” In addition, the United States Transportation Command has estimated that it would cost the U.S. Government an additional \$52 billion to replicate the “global intermodal system” that is made available to the Department of Defense by MSP participants who are continuously developing, maintaining, and upgrading their systems. In contrast, the commercial maritime industry, through the MSP, will provide the Department of Defense with these same vessels and global intermodal system at a cost to the taxpayer of \$186 million in FY 2015, a fraction of what it would cost our government to do the job itself.

In other words, without funding the MSP and ensuring the continued operation of its maritime security fleet, America would either have to place the safety of our troops and the security of our nation in the hands of foreign shipping interests or be forced to spend billions of dollars more of the taxpayers' dollars to achieve the commercial sealift capability that will be lost if the requested funds for MSP are not appropriated.

During congressional consideration of the reauthorization of the MSP in 2003, General John W. Handy, then-Commander in Chief, United States Transportation Command, told Congress that: “As we look at operations on multiple fronts in support of the War on Terrorism, it is clear that our limited defense resources will increasingly rely on partnerships with industry to maintain the needed capability and capacity to meet our most demanding wartime scenarios . . . MSP is a cost-effective program that assures guaranteed access to required U.S.-flag commercial shipping and U.S. merchant mariners when needed . . . MSP is a vital element of our military's strategic sealift and global response capability.”

We again ask that you support this highly efficient and low-cost public-private partnership by including \$186 million in your Subcommittee's FY 2015 appropriations legislation in order to fully implement the MSP. In so doing, you will be saving the American taxpayer billions of dollars because the Department of Defense will be able to utilize privately owned U.S.-flag vessels to meet its commercial sealift requirements rather than buying and maintaining this capability on its own.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,
HOWARD P. “BUCK” MCKEON,
Chairman,
Committee on Armed Services.
ADAM SMITH,
Ranking Member,
Committee on Armed Services.

Duncan Hunter; Corrine Brown; Scott Peters; Frank LoBiondo; Elijah Cummings; Nick Rahall; Bennie Thompson; John Garamendi; John Duncan; Don Young.

Dutch Ruppersberger; Gary Miller; Rick Larsen; Randy Forbes; Robert Wittman; Derek Kilmer; Jim Brindenshtine; Scott Rigell; Peter King; Leonard Lance.

Suzanne Bonamici; Carol Shea-Porter; Michael Michaud; Daniel Lipinski; Suzan DelBene; Michael Grimm; Frederica Wilson; Cedric Richmond; Sean Maloney; Chris Gibson.

William Enyart; David Joyce; Brian Higgins; Linda Sánchez; Howard Coble; Paul Cook; Janice Hahn; David McKinley; Tim Bishop; Jim McDermott.

Joe Courtney; Steve Israel; Michael Turner; Alan Lowenthal; Tulsi Gabbard; Denny Heck; Marc Veasey; Lois Frankel; Madeleine Bordallo; Albio Sires.

Peter DeFazio; Karen Bass; Pete Gallego; Rick Nolan; Tim Walz; Ed Perlmutter; Ron Barber; André Carson.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of continued funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant.

In 1921, Congress enacted the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) to help Native Hawaiians who, after the overthrow and annexation of the Kingdom of Hawaii, were largely disenfranchised from their traditional homelands. HHCA sought to provide for the rehabilitation of the Native Hawaiian people through a homesteading program that would reconnect them with former Crown Lands.

In 1959, the State of Hawaii adopted the HHCA as a provision of its constitution in accordance with the Hawaii Statehood Admissions Act, Public Law 86-3. This reaffirmed the responsibility that this nation has to its indigenous people and forever embedded the mission of HHCA in Hawaii's modern history and society.

The Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant provides the financial means to support HHCA and its mission of promoting Native Hawaiian well-being through homesteading. This is an important step towards reconciliation for the historical injustices that underline the social and economic inequality of our Native Hawaiians.

Safe and affordable housing helps to empower families to be productive members of society. Housing fulfills physical needs by providing security and shelter from weather and climate. It fulfills psychological needs by providing a sense of personal space and privacy. It fulfills social needs by providing a gathering area and communal space for the family. These factors combine to help ensure the well-being of our future generations, and are why continued funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program is so important.

Homesteading provided through this program helps to ease Hawaii's high cost of living and allows Native Hawaiians to remain connected to their traditional homelands. I strongly urge funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, and would like to express my support for the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act as well.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the provision within the Transpor-

tation Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations legislation to fund the contract tower program, which includes the tower at the Dubuque Regional Airport, and for funding of the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program. While I voted against the THUD legislation, I do support these provisions. Unfortunately, the overall bill cuts important transportation and housing programs, and on balance, the bill is not a win for Iowa.

The contract tower at the Dubuque Regional Airport is extremely important to commercial air service in the Dubuque region, and helps ensure the safety of passengers flying in and out of the Dubuque airport. The tower is also an important training tool for students at the University of Dubuque's professional pilot training program. Additionally, the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program provides important services to our veterans including housing services for homeless veterans. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that these programs are fully funded, while working to improve the other transportation and housing components of the bill which need significant improvement.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition of the proposed cuts to the Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery Program (TIGER) and the policy rider to TIGER included in the Fiscal Year 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill.

One of the primary objectives of TIGER is to invest in transportation projects that better connect communities to centers of employment, education, and services and that hold promise to stimulate long-term job growth, especially in economically distressed areas. TIGER has been traditionally open to all governmental entities from cities and counties to port and rail authorities and universities.

The House FY15 THUD bill includes \$100 million for TIGER grants. This is an 80% decrease from current funding levels. In the current (FY14) grant application round, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has received nearly 800 applications requesting a total of \$9.5 billion, with only \$600 million to invest—that's a request of more than 15 times what can be awarded.

The House FY15 THUD bill also includes a worrisome policy rider, with language that would restrict TIGER eligibility to roads/highways, bridges, freight rail and ports. This would be a major change to the grant program, which has traditionally attracted a wide variety of innovative projects including public transportation and passenger rail, bicycle and pedestrian projects.

These policy riders and severe cuts to TIGER are troubling. From the Durfee Avenue rail-highway grade separation project in Pico Rivera, to Artesia's proposal to build a public parking structure and expand sidewalks in the city's commercial district, to the City of Cerritos' request to facilitate the reconstruction of the Del Amo Boulevard Bridge, which is outdated and presents significant capacity, safety and accessibility problems. Substantial funding for TIGER grants is crucial for my District.

I ask that my colleagues join me in opposing the 80% cuts to TIGER grants and lan-

guage restricting TIGER eligibility in the House FY15 THUD bill. Providing funding for these and other TIGER projects are about the safety, economic development, and services that communities deserve.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment who has caused it to be printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4745

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$103,000,000, of which not to exceed \$2,600,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed \$980,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary; not to exceed \$19,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel; not to exceed \$9,500,000 shall be available for the Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; not to exceed \$12,500,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs; not to exceed \$2,500,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs; not to exceed \$24,720,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration; not to exceed \$2,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Public Affairs; not to exceed \$1,700,000 shall be available for the Office of the Executive Secretariat; not to exceed \$1,400,000 shall be available for the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization; not to exceed \$10,600,000 shall be available for the Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response; and not to exceed \$15,500,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent by all such transfers: *Provided further*, That notice of any change in funding greater than 5 percent shall be submitted for approval to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$60,000 shall be for allocation within the Department for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, excluding fees authorized in Public Law 107-71, there may be credited to this appropriation

up to \$2,500,000 in funds received in user fees: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for the position of Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.

□ 1430

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MEEHAN

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 41, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chair, my amendment seeks to transfer \$3 million from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation salaries and expense account to the Federal Railroad Administration to fund the use of a second car to support the inspection of crude oil routes covering more than 14,000 miles of track nationwide. This funding would also be available to expedite implementation of a remote automated track inspection capability to increase inspection mileage while reducing costs.

For more than 30 years, the Federal Railroad Administration's Automated Track Inspection Program has provided accurate track geometry data, as well as other track-related performance data, to assess compliance with the Federal track safety standards. Currently, FRA is operating only one ATIP car for inspections. My amendment would enable the FRA to add an additional car to support safety inspections.

Mr. Chairman, I realize you're in the unenviable position of allocating the difficult funding level given to you. I would like to be clear that I think you and your cohorts have done a tremendous job in crafting a bill which truly does more with less. My amendment seeks to match what is included in the Senate FY15 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill for the Automated Track Inspection Program.

According to data from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, more than 1.15 million gallons of crude oil were spilled from railcars in 2013. Last year's total spills of 1.15 million gallons means that 99.99 percent of shipments arrived without incident. But recent derailments in my home State of Pennsylvania, including one in Westmoreland County and one in my district of Philadelphia, have made us all keenly aware of the dangers that train derailments can pose to a community. Just yesterday, a train carrying crude oil derailed on a bridge outside Pittsburgh. At this moment, it

is dangling off the track and over the water.

Derailments are fairly uncommon. The sober truth is that people's lives are at risk, and we must do everything in our power to ensure we continue to transport this crude in the safest manner possible. Track data collected by ATIP is used by FRA, railroad inspectors, and Federal railroads to assist in assured track safety.

Oil has been moving by rail through populous areas for decades, and industry is responding by improving safety measures. It is time the Federal Government do its part and increase our investment in the safety inspections of our rail lines.

Mr. Chairman, this program produces results. It is not just people on one side of the aisle that recognize this, but Congress as a whole does. Why not take a modest increase in the funding of the FRA to double their capability in performing safety evaluations?

This amendment would make our rail lines safer while reducing costs. I urge its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, the amendment is very well intended, but I make a point of order.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment proposes to amend portions of the bill not yet read.

The amendment may not be considered en bloc under clause 2(f) of rule XXI because the amendment proposes to increase the level of outlays in the bill.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I ask for a ruling of the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order? If not, the Chair will rule.

To be considered en bloc pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule XXI, an amendment must not propose to increase the levels of budget authority or outlays in the bill. Because the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania proposes a net increase in the level of outlays in the bill, as argued by the chairman of the Subcommittee on Appropriations, it may not avail itself of clause 2(f) to address portions of the bill not yet read.

The point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FARENTHOLD

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$6,000,000)”.

Page 15, line 2, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$6,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to direct \$6 million to the FAA for additional

radar technology and equipment to the Standard Terminal Arrival Route, called STARs, in area navigation. This additional radar technology would be placed on U.S. Navy property where flight training operations are conducted. It is designed to mitigate the cumulative effects of electromagnetic radar interference from constructed or proposed wind turbines.

What we have got is a problem that is developing throughout the country where wind farms are interfering with the ability of our radar to track planes. This is a safety consideration. It is important to making sure that we have adequately trained pilots in the Navy.

As we move towards more clean energy like wind energy, it is important that we look at some of the unintended consequences of these. This radar interference with FAA radar and radar used by the Navy in training purposes, and in some instances other branches of the service, is a real safety hazard.

This money will be used to develop the technology so these radars can either be networked or additional weather band parts of the radar can be adapted to mitigate the interference of these wind turbines. There is a real chance that these wind farms, as more and more of them come online, would severely impact radar operations throughout the country.

It is crucial that we invest in mitigation technologies and strategies to make renewable energy products even more compatible with our Naval training and FAA operations, and the time to act is now. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. The purpose of the amendment is to provide funding for Navy operations that might be affected by new and existing wind turbines. Upgrades to air traffic control to address Navy requirements resulting from the construction of wind farms are the responsibility of the Department of Defense and potentially those who are constructing the new wind farms. FAA would have a role in consulting with DOD to upgrades of air traffic control facilities, but this is typically done as a reimbursable agreement between DOD and the FAA.

Further, we cannot accept this offset. We have already reduced DOT salaries and expenses for the Office of the Secretary down to the level provided in fiscal year 2012. We have provided funds in this account to protect transportation consumers, ensure safety across DOT programs, and provide oversight of DOT programs to safeguard the taxpayer.

I would be happy to work with the gentleman to ensure the FAA has an

appropriate partner to help in addressing this issue, but I must oppose the gentleman's amendment.

I urge a "no" vote and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

I agree with the chairman that DOD, Department of Defense, has the primary responsibility, and FAA would be a partner in that venture. We also agree that the reduction of salaries and expenses below the FY 2014 level—we don't know what consequences it would have, possibly RIFs or layoffs, and so for that reason, I ask opposition to the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

The amendment was rejected.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses related to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, \$12,625,000, of which \$8,218,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training: *Provided further*, That any reference in law, regulation, judicial proceedings, or elsewhere to the Research and Innovative Technology Administration shall continue to be deemed to be a reference to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology of the Department of Transportation.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

For capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure, \$100,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall distribute funds provided under this heading as discretionary grants to be awarded to a State, local government, or a collaboration among such entities on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region: *Provided further*, That funds under this heading shall be available only for highway and bridge activities described under paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code, and section 202(a) of such title; freight rail transportation projects; and port infrastructure investments: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may use up to 10 percent of the funds made available under this heading for the purpose of paying the subsidy and administrative costs of projects eligible for Federal credit assistance under chapter 6 of title 23, United States Code, if the Secretary finds that such use of the funds would advance the purposes of this paragraph: *Provided further*, That in distributing funds provided under this heading, the Secretary shall take such measures so as to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of funds and an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural areas: *Provided further*, That a grant funded under this heading shall be

not less than \$2,000,000 and not greater than \$15,000,000: *Provided further*, That not more than 20 percent of the funds made available under this heading may be awarded to projects in a single State: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of the costs for which an expenditure is made under this heading shall be, at the option of the recipient, up to 50 percent: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall give priority to projects that require a contribution of Federal funds in order to complete an overall financing package: *Provided further*, That not less than 20 percent of the funds provided under this heading shall be for projects located in rural areas: *Provided further*, That for projects located in rural areas, the minimum grant size shall be \$1,000,000 and the Secretary may increase the Federal share of costs to 80 percent: *Provided further*, That projects conducted using funds provided under this heading must comply with the requirements of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CAPITAL

For necessary expenses for upgrading and enhancing the Department of Transportation's financial systems and re-engineering business processes, \$5,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2016.

CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVES

For necessary expenses for cyber security initiatives, including necessary upgrades to wide area network and information technology infrastructure, improvement of network perimeter controls and identity management, testing and assessment of information technology against business, security, and other requirements, implementation of Federal cyber security initiatives and information infrastructure enhancements, implementation of enhanced security controls on network devices, and enhancement of cyber security workforce training tools, \$5,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2016.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$9,600,000.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for conducting transportation planning, research, systems development, development activities, and making grants, to remain available until expended, \$6,000,000.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For necessary expenses for operating costs and capital outlays of the Working Capital Fund, not to exceed \$181,000,000 shall be paid from appropriations made available to the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That such services shall be provided on a competitive basis to entities within the Department of Transportation: *Provided further*, That the above limitation on operating expenses shall not apply to non-DOT entities: *Provided further*, That no funds appropriated in this Act to an agency of the Department shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without majority approval of the Working Capital Fund Steering Committee and approval of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no assessments may be levied against any program, budget activity, subactivity or project funded by this Act unless notice of such assessments and the basis therefor are presented to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and are approved by such Committees.

MINORITY BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM

For the cost of guaranteed loans, \$417,000, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 332: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$18,367,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, \$596,000.

MINORITY BUSINESS OUTREACH

For necessary expenses of Minority Business Resource Center outreach activities, \$3,099,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding 49 U.S.C. 332, these funds may be used for business opportunities related to any mode of transportation.

PAYMENTS TO AIR CARRIERS

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

In addition to funds made available from any other source to carry out the essential air service program under 49 U.S.C. 41731 through 41742, \$149,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in determining between or among carriers competing to provide service to a community, the Secretary may consider the relative subsidy requirements of the carriers: *Provided further*, That basic essential air service minimum requirements shall not include the 15-passenger capacity requirement under subsection 41732(b)(3) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act or any other Act shall be used to enter into a new contract with a community located less than 40 miles from the nearest small hub airport before the Secretary has negotiated with the community over a local cost share: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act or any other Act shall be used to provide essential air service to communities in the 48 contiguous States that require a rate of subsidy per passenger in excess of \$500 before the Secretary has negotiated with the community over a local cost share so that the per passenger subsidy does not exceed \$500.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation to approve assessments or reimbursable agreements pertaining to funds appropriated to the modal administrations in this Act, except for activities underway on the date of enactment of this Act, unless such assessments or agreements have completed the normal reprogramming process for Congressional notification.

SEC. 102. The Secretary or his designee may engage in activities with States and State legislators to consider proposals related to the reduction of motorcycle fatalities.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 10, strike lines 12 through 14.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of an amendment which I am offering with Representatives SENSENBRENNER and RIBBLE of Wisconsin. I believe this amendment represents a simple, commonsense change to an otherwise excellent bill.

I thank Chairman LATHAM and his staff for their hard work in getting us here today.

Mr. Chairman, current Federal law prohibits Federal agencies from lobbying Congress in support of or against legislation. Thanks to Representative SENSENBRENNER's past leadership, Congress passed similar antilobbying language to prohibit the Department of Transportation from lobbying State and local officials in 1998.

In 1997, the Government Accountability Office released a report on activities undertaken by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, NHTSA, to allow the State legislators to enact State motorcycle helmet laws or discourage the repeal of existing State laws.

At the cost of tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars, NHTSA officials traveled across the country to testify before State legislative committees, participated in conferences, and produced videotapes and other printed materials all towards the goal of weakening State laws requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets.

NHTSA has an appropriate role to play in developing programs that prevent accidents, but Congress has made it clear they should not be in the business of lobbying State legislatures. Unfortunately, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 included language which repealed the lobby ban, and that provision is carried over into this bill. Allowing Federal agencies to lobby States would add to the severe governmental overreach, while violating the principles our Founding Fathers laid out in the 10th Amendment.

The amendment I am offering today clarifies that Federal Government agencies should not be in the business of lobbying State legislators. It is an inappropriate use of taxpayer dollars, and it violates the rights of States and local communities to make their own decisions. Just as importantly, I believe these funds can be better spent on programs to prevent distracted driving or on educating riders and the driving public.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1445

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, we would be happy to accept the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment would strike a provision that has been carried in every Transportation appropriations bill since 2009.

Section 102 simply grants the Secretary or his representatives the authority to engage in activities with States and State legislators to consider proposals related to the reduction of motorcycle fatalities. In 2012, there were nearly 5,000 motorcycle fatalities, which represented an increase of more than 7 percent over the previous year.

The research and expertise of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration can be extremely helpful to State highway traffic safety agencies as they consider measures to improve motorcycle safety. We ought to provide any resource necessary to help States address this important safety issue.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 103. Notwithstanding section 3324 of title 31, United States Code, in addition to authority provided by section 327 of title 49, United States Code, the Department's Working Capital Fund is hereby authorized to provide payments in advance to vendors that are necessary to carry out the Federal transit pass transportation fringe benefit program under Executive Order 13150 and section 3049 of Public Law 109-59: *Provided*, That the Department shall include adequate safeguards in the contract with the vendors to ensure timely and high-quality performance under the contract.

SEC. 104. The Secretary shall post on the Web site of the Department of Transportation a schedule of all meetings of the Credit Council, including the agenda for each meeting, and require the Credit Council to record the decisions and actions of each meeting.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
OPERATIONS
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Aviation Administration, not otherwise provided for, including operations and research activities related to commercial space transportation, administrative expenses for research and development, establishment of air navigation facilities, the operation (including leasing) and maintenance of aircraft, subsidizing the cost of aeronautical charts and maps sold to the public, lease or purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, in addition to amounts made available by Public Law 112-95, \$9,750,000,000 of which \$8,595,000,000 shall be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, of which not to exceed \$7,396,654,000 shall be available for air traffic organization activities; not to exceed \$1,218,458,000 shall be available for aviation safety activities; not

to exceed \$16,000,000 shall be available for commercial space transportation activities; not to exceed \$762,652,000 shall be available for finance and management activities; not to exceed \$60,089,000 shall be available for NextGen and operations planning activities; and not to exceed \$296,147,000 shall be available for staff offices: *Provided*, That not to exceed 2 percent of any budget activity, except for aviation safety budget activity, may be transferred to any budget activity under this heading: *Provided further*, That no transfer may increase or decrease any appropriation by more than 2 percent: *Provided further*, That any transfer in excess of 2 percent shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 405 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year hereafter, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall transmit to Congress an annual update to the report submitted to Congress in December 2004 pursuant to section 221 of Public Law 108-176: *Provided further*, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by \$100,000 for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to the Congress: *Provided further*, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year hereafter, the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a companion report that describes a comprehensive strategy for staffing, hiring, and training flight standards and aircraft certification staff in a format similar to the one utilized for the controller staffing plan, including stated attrition estimates and numerical hiring goals by fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by \$100,000 per day for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That funds may be used to enter into a grant agreement with a non-profit standard-setting organization to assist in the development of aviation safety standards: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for new applicants for the second career training program: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the Federal Aviation Administration to finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new aviation user fees not specifically authorized by law after the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections funds received from States, counties, municipalities, foreign authorities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred in the provision of agency services, including receipts for the maintenance and operation of air navigation facilities, and for issuance, renewal or modification of certificates, including airman, aircraft, and repair station certificates, or for tests related thereto, or for processing major repair or alteration forms: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than \$140,000,000 shall be for the contract tower program, of which \$9,500,000 is for the contract tower cost share program: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act for aeronautical charting and cartography are available for activities conducted by, or coordinated through, the Working Capital Fund.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for acquisition, establishment, technical support services, improvement by

contract or purchase, and hire of national airspace systems and experimental facilities and equipment, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including initial acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; engineering and service testing, including construction of test facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; construction and furnishing of quarters and related accommodations for officers and employees of the Federal Aviation Administration stationed at remote localities where such accommodations are not available; and the purchase, lease, or transfer of aircraft from funds available under this heading, including aircraft for aviation regulation and certification; to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, \$2,600,000,000, of which \$463,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2015, and \$2,137,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, for expenses incurred in the establishment, improvement, and modernization of national airspace systems: *Provided further*, That upon initial submission to the Congress of the fiscal year 2016 President's budget, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to the Congress a comprehensive capital investment plan for the Federal Aviation Administration which includes funding for each budget line item for fiscal years 2016 through 2020, with total funding for each year of the plan constrained to the funding targets for those years as estimated and approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for research, engineering, and development, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including construction of experimental facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant, \$156,750,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, which shall be available for expenses incurred for research, engineering, and development.

GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For liquidation of obligations incurred for grants-in-aid for airport planning and development, and noise compatibility planning and programs as authorized under subchapter I of chapter 471 and subchapter I of chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code, and under other law authorizing such obligations; for procurement, installation, and commissioning of runway incursion prevention devices and systems at airports of such title; for grants authorized under section 41743 of title 49, United States Code; and for inspection activities and administration of airport safety programs, including those related to airport operating certificates under section 44706 of title 49, United States Code, \$3,200,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds under this heading shall be avail-

able for the planning or execution of programs the obligations for which are in excess of \$3,350,000,000 in fiscal year 2015, notwithstanding section 47117(g) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the funds under this heading shall be available for the replacement of baggage conveyor systems, reconfiguration of terminal baggage areas, or other airport improvements that are necessary to install bulk explosive detection systems: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, of funds limited under this heading, not more than \$107,100,000 shall be obligated for administration, not less than \$15,000,000 shall be available for the Airport Cooperative Research Program, not less than \$29,750,000 shall be available for Airport Technology Research, and \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available and transferred to "Office of the Secretary, Salaries and Expenses" to carry out the Small Community Air Service Development Program.

(CANCELLATION)

Of the amounts authorized under sections 48103 and 48112 of Title 49, United States Code, \$260,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled from amounts authorized for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015 and prior years.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL
AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 110. None of the funds in this Act may be used to compensate in excess of 600 technical staff-years under the federally funded research and development center contract between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Center for Advanced Aviation Systems Development during fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 111. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to pursue or adopt guidelines or regulations requiring airport sponsors to provide to the Federal Aviation Administration without cost building construction, maintenance, utilities and expenses, or space in airport sponsor-owned buildings for services relating to air traffic control, air navigation, or weather reporting: *Provided*, That the prohibition of funds in this section does not apply to negotiations between the agency and airport sponsors to achieve agreement on "below-market" rates for these items or to grant assurances that require airport sponsors to provide land without cost to the FAA for air traffic control facilities.

SEC. 112. The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may reimburse amounts made available to satisfy 49 U.S.C. 41742(a)(1) from fees credited under 49 U.S.C. 45303 and any amount remaining in such account at the close of that fiscal year may be made available to satisfy section 41742(a)(1) for the subsequent fiscal year.

SEC. 113. Amounts collected under section 40113(e) of title 49, United States Code, shall be credited to the appropriation current at the time of collection, to be merged with and available for the same purposes of such appropriation.

SEC. 114. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for paying premium pay under subsection 5546(a) of title 5, United States Code, to any Federal Aviation Administration employee unless such employee actually performed work during the time corresponding to such premium pay.

SEC. 115. None of the funds in this Act may be obligated or expended for an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration to purchase a store gift card or gift certificate through use of a Government-issued credit card.

SEC. 116. None of the funds in this Act may be obligated or expended for retention bonuses for an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration without the prior written approval of the Assistant Secretary for Administration of the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available under this Act or any prior Act may be used to implement or to continue to implement any limitation on the ability of any owner or operator of a private aircraft to obtain, upon a request to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, a blocking of that owner's or operator's aircraft registration number from any display of the Federal Aviation Administration's Aircraft Situational Display to Industry data that is made available to the public, except data made available to a Government agency, for the noncommercial flights of that owner or operator.

SEC. 118. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than 9 political and Presidential appointees in the Federal Aviation Administration.

SEC. 119. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to increase fees pursuant to section 44721 of title 49, United States Code, until the FAA provides to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations the report related to aeronautical navigation products referred to in the explanatory statement described in section 4 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.

SEC. 119A. None of the funds appropriated or limited by this Act may be used to change weight restrictions or prior permission rules at Teterboro airport in Teterboro, New Jersey.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Contingent upon reauthorization, not to exceed \$426,100,000, together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Highway Administration, shall be paid in accordance with law from appropriations made available by this Act to the Federal Highway Administration for necessary expenses for administration and operation. In addition, not to exceed \$3,248,000 shall be paid from appropriations made available by this Act and transferred to the Appalachian Regional Commission in accordance with section 104 of title 23, United States Code.

FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon reauthorization, funds available for the implementation or execution of programs of Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs authorized under titles 23 and 49, United States Code, and the provisions of Public Law 112-141 shall not exceed total obligations of \$40,256,000,000 for fiscal year 2015: *Provided*, That the Secretary may collect and spend fees, as authorized by title 23, United States Code, to cover the costs of services of expert firms, including counsel, in the field of municipal and project finance to assist in the underwriting and servicing of Federal credit instruments and all or a portion of the costs to the Federal Government of servicing such credit instruments: *Provided further*, That such fees are available until expended to pay for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amounts are in addition to administrative expenses that are also available for such

purpose, and are not subject to any obligation limitation or the limitation on administrative expenses under section 608 of title 23, United States Code.

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon reauthorization, for the payment of obligations incurred in carrying out Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs authorized under title 23, United States Code, \$40,995,000,000, derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 120. Contingent upon reauthorization:

(a) For fiscal year 2015, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) not distribute from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways—

(A) amounts authorized for administrative expenses and programs by section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) amounts authorized for the Bureau of Transportation Statistics;

(2) not distribute an amount from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways that is equal to the unobligated balance of amounts—

(A) made available from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs for previous fiscal years the funds for which are allocated by the Secretary (or apportioned by the Secretary under sections 202 or 204 of title 23, United States Code); and

(B) for which obligation limitation was provided in a previous fiscal year;

(3) determine the proportion that—

(A) the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways, less the aggregate of amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection; bears to

(B) the total of the sums authorized to be appropriated for the Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs (other than sums authorized to be appropriated for provisions of law described in paragraphs (1) through (12) of subsection (b) and sums authorized to be appropriated for section 119 of title 23, United States Code, equal to the amount referred to in subsection (b)(13) for such fiscal year), less the aggregate of the amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection;

(4) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2), for each of the programs (other than programs to which paragraph (1) applies) that are allocated by the Secretary under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act and title 23, United States Code, or apportioned by the Secretary under sections 202 or 204 of that title, by multiplying—

(A) the proportion determined under paragraph (3); by

(B) the amounts authorized to be appropriated for each such program for such fiscal year; and

(5) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) and the amounts distributed under paragraph (4), for Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs that are apportioned by the Secretary under title 23, United States Code (other than the amounts apportioned for the National High-

way Performance Program in section 119 of title 23, United States Code, that are exempt from the limitation under subsection (b)(13) and the amounts apportioned under sections 202 and 204 of that title) in the proportion that—

(A) amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to each State for such fiscal year; bears to

(B) the total of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to all States for such fiscal year.

(b) EXCEPTIONS FROM OBLIGATION LIMITATION.—The obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways shall not apply to obligations under or for—

(1) section 125 of title 23, United States Code;

(2) section 147 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978 (23 U.S.C. 144 note; 92 Stat. 2714);

(3) section 9 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1981 (95 Stat. 1701);

(4) subsections (b) and (j) of section 131 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 2119);

(5) subsections (b) and (c) of section 149 of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 (101 Stat. 198);

(6) sections 1103 through 1108 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2027);

(7) section 157 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect on June 8, 1998);

(8) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 1998 through 2004, but only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(9) Federal-aid Highways programs for which obligation authority was made available under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (112 Stat. 107) or subsequent Acts for multiple years or to remain available until expended, but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used;

(10) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 2005 through 2012, but only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(11) section 1603 of SAFETEA-LU (23 U.S.C. 118 note; 119 Stat. 1248), to the extent that funds obligated in accordance with that section were not subject to a limitation on obligations at the time at which the funds were initially made available for obligation; and

(12) section 119 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 2013 and 2014, but only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years); and

(13) section 119 of title 23, United States Code (but, for fiscal year 2015, only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000).

(c) REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall, after August 1 of such fiscal year—

(1) revise a distribution of the obligation limitation made available under subsection (a) if an amount distributed cannot be obligated during that fiscal year; and

(2) redistribute sufficient amounts to those States able to obligate amounts in addition to those previously distributed during that fiscal year, giving priority to those States having large unobligated balances of funds apportioned under sections 144 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 112-141) and 104 of title 23, United States Code.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF OBLIGATION LIMITATIONS TO TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways shall apply to contract authority for transportation research programs carried out under—

(A) chapter 5 of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) division E of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Obligation authority made available under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) remain available for a period of 4 fiscal years; and

(B) be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs for future fiscal years.

(e) REDISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN AUTHORIZED FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of distribution of obligation limitation under subsection (a), the Secretary shall distribute to the States any funds (excluding funds authorized for the program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code) that—

(A) are authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year for Federal-aid Highways programs; and

(B) the Secretary determines will not be allocated to the States (or will not be apportioned to the States under section 204 of title 23, United States Code), and will not be available for obligation, for such fiscal year because of the imposition of any obligation limitation for such fiscal year.

(2) RATIO.—Funds shall be distributed under paragraph (1) in the same proportion as the distribution of obligation authority under subsection (a)(5).

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Funds distributed to each State under paragraph (1) shall be available for any purpose described in section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, funds received by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics from the sale of data products, for necessary expenses incurred pursuant to chapter 63 of title 49, United States Code, may be credited to the Federal-aid Highways account for the purpose of reimbursing the Bureau for such expenses: *Provided*, That such funds shall be subject to the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs.

SEC. 122. Not less than 15 days prior to waiving, under his or her statutory authority, any Buy America requirement for Federal-aid Highways projects, the Secretary of Transportation shall make an informal public notice and comment opportunity on the intent to issue such waiver and the reasons therefor: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall provide an annual report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on any waivers granted under the Buy America requirements.

SEC. 123. (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available, limited, or otherwise affected by this Act shall be used to approve or otherwise authorize the imposition of any toll on any segment of highway located on the Federal-aid system in the State of Texas that—

(1) as of the date of enactment of this Act, is not tolled;

(2) is constructed with Federal assistance provided under title 23, United States Code; and

(3) is in actual operation as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) NUMBER OF TOLL LANES.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any segment of highway on the Federal-aid system described in that subsection that, as of the date on which a toll is imposed on the segment, will have the same number of nontoll lanes as were in existence prior to that date.

(2) HIGH-OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANES.—A high-occupancy vehicle lane that is converted to a toll lane shall not be subject to this section, and shall not be considered to be a nontoll lane for purposes of determining whether a highway will have fewer nontoll lanes than prior to the date of imposition of the toll, if—

(A) high-occupancy vehicles occupied by the number of passengers specified by the entity operating the toll lane may use the toll lane without paying a toll, unless otherwise specified by the appropriate county, town, municipal or other local government entity, or public toll road or transit authority; or

(B) each high-occupancy vehicle lane that was converted to a toll lane was constructed as a temporary lane to be replaced by a toll lane under a plan approved by the appropriate county, town, municipal or other local government entity, or public toll road or transit authority.

SEC. 124. None of the funds in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to provide credit assistance unless not less than 3 days before any application approval to provide credit assistance under sections 603 and 604 of title 23, United States Code, the Secretary of Transportation provides notification in writing to the following committees: the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations; the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives: *Provided*, That such notification shall include, but not be limited to, the name of the project sponsor; a description of the project; whether credit assistance will be provided as a direct loan, loan guarantee, or line of credit; and the amount of credit assistance.

SEC. 125. Section 127 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) OPERATION OF VEHICLES ON CERTAIN OTHER WISCONSIN HIGHWAYS.—If any segment of the United States Route 41 corridor, as described in section 1105(c)(57) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, is designated as a route on the Interstate System, a vehicle that could operate legally on that segment before the date of such designation may continue to operate on that segment, without regard to any requirement under subsection (a).

“(k) LONGER COMBINATION VEHICLES IN IDAHO.—No limit or other prohibition under this section, except as provided in this subsection, applies to a longer combination vehicle operating on a segment of the Interstate System in Idaho if such vehicle—

“(1) has a gross vehicle weight of 129,000 pounds or less;

“(2) complies with the single axle, tandem axle, and bridge formula limits set forth in subsection (a); and

“(3) is authorized to operate on such segment under Idaho State law.

“(l) OPERATION OF VEHICLES ON CERTAIN MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAYS.—If any segment of United States Route 78 in Mississippi from mile marker 0 to mile marker 113 is des-

ignated as part of the Interstate System, no limit established under this section may apply to that segment with respect to the operation of any vehicle that could have legally operated on that segment before such designation.”

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DUFFY

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 34, line 15, strike the closing quotation marks and final period.

Page 34, after line 15, insert the following:

“(m) LOGGING VEHICLES IN WISCONSIN.—No limit or other prohibition under this section, except as provided in this subsection, applies to a vehicle transporting raw or unfinished forest product and operating on Interstate Route 39 in Wisconsin from mile marker 175.8 to mile marker 189 if such vehicle has a gross vehicle weight of 98,000 pounds or less.”

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, in central and northern Wisconsin, logging is an incredibly important industry for our community and for our economy.

In Mosinee, Wisconsin, we have a very large paper mill. A vast majority of the wood that feeds that paper mill comes from northern Wisconsin. What happens is, the wood is harvested in northern Wisconsin and it comes down Highway 51, where the weight limit for trucks is 98,000 pounds. In Wausau, Wisconsin, Highway 51 turns into I-39. It is at that time that the weight limit goes from 98,000 pounds down to 80,000 pounds. At that point, those logging trucks are still 12 miles away from their destination, the paper mill.

So what happens is our logging trucks go off the interstate and go onto our back roads—through our communities, through our neighborhoods, through downtown—where we have very tight-fitted areas and much narrower roads, all so they can make it to the paper mill.

What my amendment would do, it would allow for a 12-mile extension so those trucks can come from our forests in northern Wisconsin and stay on the freeway that extra 12 miles to get to the paper mill.

This amendment is an amendment that affects the safety of my community—my constituents—and it would have a small impact on our economy so those trucks have a straight route to the paper mill.

With that, I would ask that my colleagues support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation

in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

“An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.”

The amendment directly amends existing law and is not merely perfecting to the existing text of the bill.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. DUFFY. I do, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized to speak on the point of order.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, what I would just ask then is that the chairman and the ranking member, when this goes to conference committee, if they would consider the issue that I brought up today, and consider my constituents and the safety of my constituents in central and northern Wisconsin.

With that, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY OPERATIONS AND
PROGRAMS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon reauthorization, for payment of obligations incurred in the implementation, execution and administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs pursuant to section 31104(i) of title 49, United States Code, and sections 4127 and 4134 of Public Law 109-59, as amended by Public Law 112-141, \$259,000,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the sum of which shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for implementation, execution or administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs authorized under title 49, United States Code, shall not exceed total obligations of \$259,000,000 for “Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs” for fiscal year 2015, of which \$9,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017, is for the research and technology program, and of which \$1,000,000 shall be available for commercial motor vehicle operator's grants to carry out section 4134 of Public Law 109-59, and of which \$34,545,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017, is for information management.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon reauthorization, for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out sections 31102, 31104(a), 31106, 31107, 31109, 31309, 31313 of title 49, United States Code, and sections 4126 and 4128 of Public Law 109-

59, as amended by Public Law 112-141, \$313,000,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of motor carrier safety programs shall not exceed total obligations of \$313,000,000 in fiscal year 2015 for "Motor Carrier Safety Grants"; of which \$218,000,000 shall be available for the motor carrier safety assistance program, \$30,000,000 shall be available for the commercial driver's license improvements program, \$32,000,000 shall be available for border enforcement grants, \$5,000,000 shall be available for the performance and registration information system management program, \$25,000,000 shall be available for the commercial vehicle information systems and networks deployment program, and \$3,000,000 shall be available for the safety data improvement program: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available herein for the motor carrier safety assistance program, \$32,000,000 shall be available for audits of new entrant motor carriers.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 130. Funds appropriated or limited in this Act shall be subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in section 350 of Public Law 107-87 and section 6901 of Public Law 110-28.

SEC. 131. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration shall send notice of 49 C.F.R. section 385.308 violations by certified mail, registered mail, or another manner of delivery, which records the receipt of the notice by the persons responsible for the violations.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH

For expenses necessary to discharge the functions of the Secretary, with respect to traffic and highway safety authorized under chapter 301 and part C of subtitle VI of title 49, United States Code, \$134,000,000, of which \$22,500,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2016.

OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon reauthorization, for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 403, and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code, \$128,500,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2015, are in excess of \$128,500,000, of which \$123,500,000 shall be for programs authorized under 23 U.S.C. 403 and \$5,000,000 shall be for the National Driver Register authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That within the \$123,500,000 obligation limitation for operations and research, \$22,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, and shall be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for future years: *Provided further*, That \$10,000,000 of the total obligation limitation for operations and research in fiscal year 2015 shall be applied toward unobligated balances of contract authority provided in prior Acts for carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 403, and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon reauthorization, for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out provisions of 23 U.S.C. 402 and 405, section 2009 of Public Law 109-59, as amended by Public Law 112-141, and section 31101(a)(6) of Public Law 112-141, to remain available until expended, \$561,500,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account): *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2015, are in excess of \$561,500,000 for programs authorized under 23 U.S.C. 402 and 405, section 2009 of Public Law 109-59, as amended by Public Law 112-141, and section 31101(a)(6) of Public Law 112-141, of which \$235,000,000 shall be for "Highway Safety Programs" under 23 U.S.C. 402; \$272,000,000 shall be for "National Priority Safety Programs" under 23 U.S.C. 405; \$29,000,000 shall be for "High Visibility Enforcement Program" under section 2009 of Public Law 109-59, as amended by Public Law 112-141; \$25,500,000 shall be for "Administrative Expenses" under section 31101(a)(6) of Public Law 112-141: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used for construction, rehabilitation, or remodeling costs, or for office furnishings and fixtures for State, local or private buildings or structures: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$500,000 of the funds made available for "National Priority Safety Programs" under 23 U.S.C. 405 for "Impaired Driving Countermeasures" (as described in subsection (d) of that section) shall be available for technical assistance to the States: *Provided further*, That with respect to the "Transfers" provision under 23 U.S.C. 405(a)(1)(G), any amounts transferred to increase the amounts made available under section 402 shall include the obligation authority for such amounts: *Provided further*, That the Administrator shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of any exercise of the authority granted under the previous proviso or under 23 U.S.C. 405(a)(1)(G) within 60 days.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 140. Contingent upon reauthorization, an additional \$130,000 shall be made available to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, out of the amount limited for section 402 of title 23, United States Code, to pay for travel and related expenses for State management reviews and to pay for core competency development training and related expenses for highway safety staff.

SEC. 141. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration set in this Act shall not apply to obligations for which obligation authority was made available in previous public laws but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used.

SEC. 142. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to implement section 404 of title 23, United States Code.

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION
SAFETY AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses of the Federal Railroad Administration, not otherwise provided for, \$185,250,000, of which \$12,400,000 shall remain available until expended.

RAILROAD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for railroad research and development, \$35,250,000, to remain available until expended.

RAILROAD REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT FINANCING PROGRAM

The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to issue direct loans and loan guarantees pursuant to sections 501 through 504 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-210), as amended, such authority to exist as long as any such direct loan or loan guarantee is outstanding: *Provided*, That, pursuant to section 502 of such Act, as amended, no new direct loans or loan guarantee commitments shall be made using Federal funds for the credit risk premium during fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That no new direct loans or loan guarantee commitments made under the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program in fiscal year 2015 shall cause the total principal amount of direct loans and loan guarantees committed under the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program to projects in a single state to exceed \$5,600,000,000.

OPERATING GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make quarterly grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, in amounts based on the Secretary's assessment of the Corporation's seasonal cash flow requirements, for the operation of intercity passenger rail, as authorized by section 101 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (division B of Public Law 110-432), \$340,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the amounts available under this paragraph shall be available for the Secretary to approve funding to cover operating losses for the Corporation only after receiving and reviewing a grant request for each specific train route: *Provided further*, That each such grant request shall be accompanied by a detailed financial analysis, revenue projection, and capital expenditure projection justifying the Federal support to the Secretary's satisfaction: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Corporation shall transmit, in electronic format, to the Secretary and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations the annual budget, business plan, the 5-Year Financial Plan for fiscal year 2015 required under section 204 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 and the comprehensive fleet plan for all Amtrak rolling stock: *Provided further*, That the budget, business plan and the 5-Year Financial Plan shall include annual information on the maintenance, refurbishment, replacement, and expansion for all Amtrak rolling stock consistent with the comprehensive fleet plan: *Provided further*, That the Corporation shall provide monthly performance reports in an electronic format which shall describe the work completed to date, any changes to the business plan, and the reasons for such changes as well as progress against the milestones and target dates of the 2012 performance improvement plan: *Provided further*, That the Corporation's budget, business plan, 5-Year Financial Plan, semiannual reports, monthly reports, comprehensive fleet plan and all supplemental reports or plans comply with requirements in Public Law 112-55: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act may be used to support any route on which Amtrak offers a discounted fare of more than 50 percent off the normal peak fare: *Provided further*, That the preceding proviso does not apply to routes where the operating loss as a result of the discount is covered by a State and the State participates in the setting of fares.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF
GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 42, line 15, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$340,000,000)”.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$340,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would reduce the amount appropriated for the operating grants to Amtrak by \$340 million and increase the spending reduction account by the same amount. This reduction would eliminate all operating funds for Amtrak.

My amendment to some might be quite harsh, but I suspect that my colleagues who support Amtrak will argue that since the underlying bill keeps funding at concurrent levels, we should leave the embattled entity alone.

But the committee report for this bill gives us plenty of reasons why we shouldn't allow Amtrak to continue at the status quo.

The first sentence in the committee report says:

Amtrak runs a deficit each year and requires a Federal subsidy to cover both operating losses and capital improvements.

A couple of paragraphs later it says:

Although the Northeast corridor is profitable, the federally mandated services such as long-distance and State-supported routes sustain large losses that cannot be overcome by Amtrak's profitable services.

Let's talk about the long-distance routes, Mr. Chairman.

According to Amtrak's fiscal year 2013 ridership tables, the long-distance routes experienced the highest ridership in 20 years at 4.8 million passengers. That sounds pretty good. But despite this growth, these routes still lost \$587 million last year. In other words, for every passenger who traveled on one of Amtrak's long-distance routes last year, Amtrak lost \$122.29.

□ 1500

If you found a good deal on Priceline, we might be able to actually cut our losses by buying these passengers one-way airline tickets, and they would get to their destinations much more quickly.

I wish I could say that this was the extent of Amtrak's failures. Unfortunately, I can't.

Let's go back to the committee report. The report also addresses Amtrak's notoriously wasteful food and beverage service, which lost an estimated \$73 million in fiscal year 2013 alone. Over the last 5 years, food and beverage service has been responsible for approximately \$387 million in total losses, on top of the long-distance losses.

Look at the fine print. The committee points out that Amtrak routinely cooks its books to make these losses look better, usually by transferring amounts from first class tickets onto the food and beverage accounts. The current Amtrak inspector general has reported that these transfers have increased by more than \$22 million between fiscal year 2006 and fiscal year 2012.

So while the topline numbers make it look as though the food and beverage losses have gotten slightly less over the past year, with current estimated cost recovery at a paltry 65 percent, these numbers can't be trusted in the least.

Had enough, Mr. Chairman?

Let me leave you with one final thought: Amtrak is losing money hand over fist. They are cooking their books. There is not an end in sight.

How much do you suppose Amtrak's food and beverage service employees are paid annually? According to the committee report, these 1,200 employees are paid an average \$106,000 a year.

Amtrak is a pseudo-private entity with priorities that are way, way out of whack, and it will not become solvent, it will not right itself, until Congress steps up and says enough is enough, and now is the time for enough.

I urge my colleagues to join me and send Amtrak a message that its mismanagement should come to an end and that it is intolerable to us and the U.S. taxpayers.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment would shut down Amtrak.

I concede that Amtrak could be more efficient. However, it has made significant improvements in this area recently, and it is moving in the right direction.

The bill provides \$340 million in operation grants to Amtrak, which fully cover Amtrak's anticipated operating losses for fiscal year 2015. This is a realistic number that we base on Amtrak's most recent operating loss projections.

The bill does not include arbitrary funding decisions. We held hearings, and we scrubbed every account. It isn't prudent to eliminate an entire transportation option.

I urge a “no” vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, and I would tell my colleague

and friend, the Congressman from Georgia, that harsh is more than mild, in what you want to do.

I know that you and I want to continue to have constituents take the “Midnight Train to Georgia,” and I can't support your amendment.

I will tell you, Mr. Chairman, that I don't do Amtrak because we have just a few lines in Arizona, but I understand that Amtrak is very important to the Northeast and other parts of the country.

In my opinion, this is the Nation's railroad line. We need to improve it. I am for that. This amendment would not improve it. It would eliminate it.

I am in opposition to this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF
GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 42, line 15, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$34,000,000)”.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$34,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is along the same lines as the amendment I just offered, only it would reduce Amtrak operating grants by a paltry amount of only \$34 million or just a 10 percent reduction.

In offering my last amendment, I laid out a number of reasons why Amtrak has failed to be a good steward of taxpayers' money.

I understand that many of my colleagues might not want to fully defund this entity, so I am now asking that we join together and send a message to Amtrak leadership, a smaller message, but a strong one nonetheless.

I am asking my colleagues to tell Amtrak that we will not continue to reward bad behavior and that, when we ask for reform, we expect real reform to begin and take place—not fuzzy numbers, not misleading reports, not sky-high employee salaries, but real, honest reform.

Amtrak has struggled for way too long under the status quo. It is time to send them a message.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I have to oppose the amendment.

The fact of the matter is the bill provides \$340 million in operating grants

to Amtrak, which will fully cover their operating losses. If in fact the amendment were put in place, there could very easily be interruptions of service in the Northeast or throughout the system, and it could cause real problems as far as the operations itself, obviously, of Amtrak.

For those reasons, I would oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, we are also in opposition to the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

CAPITAL AND DEBT SERVICE GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for capital investments as authorized by section 101(c), 102, and 219(b) of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (division B of Public Law 110-432), \$850,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$150,000,000 shall be for debt service obligations as authorized by section 102 of such Act: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, not less than \$50,000,000 shall be made available to bring Amtrak-served facilities and stations into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act: *Provided further*, That after an initial distribution of up to \$200,000,000, which shall be used by the Corporation as a working capital account, all remaining funds shall be provided to the Corporation only on a reimbursable basis: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, up to \$20,000,000 may be used by the Secretary to subsidize operating losses of the Corporation should the funds provided under the heading "Operating Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation" be insufficient to meet operational costs for fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the funds provided under this heading to fund the costs of project management and oversight of activities authorized by subsections 101(a) and 101(c) of division B of Public Law 110-432: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall approve funding for capital expenditures, including advance purchase orders of materials, for the Corporation only after receiving and reviewing a grant request for each specific capital project justifying the Federal support to the Secretary's satisfaction: *Provided further*, That except as otherwise provided herein, none of the funds under this heading may be used to subsidize operating losses of the Corporation: *Provided*

further, That none of the funds under this heading may be used for capital projects not approved by the Secretary of Transportation or on the Corporation's fiscal year 2015 business plan: *Provided further*, That in addition to the project management oversight funds authorized under section 101(d) of division B of Public Law 110-432, the Secretary may retain up to an additional \$5,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading to fund expenses associated with implementing section 212 of division B of Public Law 110-432, including the amendments made by section 212 to section 24905 of title 49, United States Code.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 150. The Secretary of Transportation may receive and expend cash, or receive and utilize spare parts and similar items, from non-United States Government sources to repair damages to or replace United States Government owned automated track inspection cars and equipment as a result of third-party liability for such damages, and any amounts collected under this section shall be credited directly to the Safety and Operations account of the Federal Railroad Administration, and shall remain available until expended for the repair, operation and maintenance of automated track inspection cars and equipment in connection with the automated track inspection program.

SEC. 151. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule or regulation, the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to allow the issuer of any preferred stock heretofore sold to the Department to redeem or repurchase such stock upon the payment to the Department of an amount to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 152. None of the funds provided to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation may be used to fund any overtime costs in excess of \$35,000 for any individual employee: *Provided*, That the president of Amtrak may waive the cap set in the previous proviso for specific employees when the president of Amtrak determines such a cap poses a risk to the safety and operational efficiency of the system: *Provided further*, That Amtrak shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations each quarter of the calendar year on waivers granted to employees and amounts paid above the cap for each month within such quarter and provide documentation of the specific activities of each employee during his or her paid overtime in excess of \$35,000 and how the work resulted in increased safety or operational efficiencies: *Provided further*, That the president of Amtrak shall certify the documentation in the previous proviso is accurate and correct: *Provided further*, That Amtrak shall provide to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations by March 1, 2015, a summary of all overtime payments incurred by the Corporation for 2014 and the two prior calendar years: *Provided further*, That such summary shall include the total number of employees that received waivers and the total overtime payments the Corporation paid to those employees receiving waivers for each month for 2014 and for the two prior calendar years.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For necessary administrative expenses of the Federal Transit Administration's programs authorized by chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, \$103,000,000, of which not more than \$4,000,000 shall be available to carry out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5329 and

not less than \$1,000,000 shall be available to carry out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5326: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided or limited in this Act may be used to create a permanent office of transit security under this heading: *Provided further*, That upon submission to the Congress of the fiscal year 2016 President's budget, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to Congress the annual report on New Starts, including proposed allocations for fiscal year 2016.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BUTTERFIELD

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 48, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

Page 49, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 49, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

The CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, the amendment that I am offering today with my good friends—Congressman LANGEVIN, Congressman PRICE, and Congressman QUIGLEY—will increase funding for FTA technical assistance and training back simply to the 2014 levels.

Individuals with disabilities and older adults disproportionately rely on public transit to live, learn, work, and access recreation in their communities. There is a complex and ever-evolving need to adapt our transit systems and services, so they are more accessible for people with disabilities and older adults who rely on them.

FTA, Mr. Chairman, has a long history of working with Easter Seals, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and others to provide training, technical assistance, and other problem-solving support to the transit industry, people with disabilities, and older adults; and it is imperative for this work to continue as more people age and more people with disabilities seek to live as independently as possible.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. We will accept the amendment.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Thank you, Mr. LATHAM.

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, the amendment I authored with my good friends Congressman PRICE, Congressman QUIGLEY and Congressman BUTTERFIELD will increase funding for FTA Technical Assistance and Training, returning them to their 2014 levels.

The technical assistance and training dollars made available by this amendment will help increase mobility for people with disabilities and older adults. By providing this assistance to our transit systems and services, we can

ensure they become more accessible for those who rely on them the most.

Easter Seals, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging and others have a long history of working with the FTA to provide training, technical assistance and support services to the transit industry, the elderly and people with disabilities. It is critical for this work to continue, especially as more people age and more of those with disabilities seek to live as independently as possible.

For FTA to do this effectively, it must have adequate resources to support these technical assistance activities.

Accordingly, our amendment will increase funding by \$2 million for FTA Technical Assistance and Training, restoring it to \$5 million, which equals last year's levels.

Individuals with disabilities and older adults disproportionately rely on public transit to work, live, learn, and access recreation in their communities. I ask that my colleagues support this amendment, which will provide immeasurable benefits to all those it serves.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFIN OF ARKANSAS

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 48, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$500,000)".

Page 57, line 16, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$500,000)".

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking Chairman LATHAM.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. We accept the amendment.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. I want to, again, thank Chairman LATHAM, who has made this possible, working with his staff. I want to thank all the bipartisan support for this amendment from Mr. KIND, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. TERRY, as well as my staff.

I want to acknowledge the success that this builds on from the omnibus bill passed earlier this year, which incorporated my amendment from the FY14 T-HUD bill to increase funding for DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA, over lower priority programs.

Mr. Chairman, on March 29, 2014, the ExxonMobil Pegasus pipeline in Mayflower, Arkansas, the Second Congressional District, suffered a catastrophic accidental rupture.

It inundated nearby homes and businesses with thousands of gallons of spilled oil. I am committed to making things right for the people of

Mayflower and ensuring that another spill never occurs again in Arkansas.

PHMSA is the Federal Government's primary agency for regulating and ensuring the safe and secure movement of oil and petroleum products to industry and consumers through America's interstate pipelines. As an interstate pipeline, the inspection of the Pegasus pipeline was and is PHMSA's responsibility.

Pipelines move nearly two-thirds of the oil and petroleum products transported annually. Interstate pipelines deliver over 11.3 billion barrels of petroleum each year. The cost to transport a barrel of petroleum products from Houston to the New York Harbor is about a dollar.

American pipelines are, without question, the safest way to move oil, and ensuring the safe operation of pipelines that move oil from one State to another is unquestionably a necessary function of the Federal Government.

Although the amount of oil spilled from these pipelines is a minimal fraction of what we safely transport every day throughout the country, there is more we can do to ensure they are operated safely.

My amendment would increase the budget for PHMSA's operational expenses by \$500,000 to further ensure the safety of our Nation's pipeline, and it will be taking this money from another account.

This appropriation finances the operational support costs for PHMSA and will help keep these pipelines and the communities like Mayflower that surround them safe from other tragic but preventable accidents, without spending additional dollars.

I ask that the House support this amendment.

I thank the chairman for supporting this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1515

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TRANSIT FORMULA GRANTS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Contingent upon enactment of multi-year surface transportation authorization legislation, for payment of obligations incurred in the Federal Public Transportation Assistance Program in this account, and for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5318, 5322(d), 5329(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by Public Law 112-141; and section 20005(b) of Public Law 112-141, as amended, \$9,500,000,000, to be derived from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of pro-

grams authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5318, 5322(d), 5329(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by Public Law 112-141, and section 20005(b) of Public Law 112-141, shall not exceed total obligations of \$8,595,000,000 in fiscal year 2015.

TRANSIT RESEARCH

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5312 and 5313, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$14,000,000 shall be for activities authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5312 and \$1,000,000 shall be for activities authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5313.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5314 and 5322(a), (b) and (e), \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$2,000,000 shall be for activities authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5314 and \$1,000,000 shall be for activities authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5322(a), (b) and (e).

CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5309, \$1,691,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the unobligated balances made available under this heading in division L of Public Law 113-76, \$65,000,000 is hereby rescinded.

GRANTS TO THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

For grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority as authorized under section 601 of division B of Public Law 110-432, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall approve grants for capital and preventive maintenance expenditures for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority only after receiving and reviewing a request for each specific project: *Provided further*, That, prior to approving such grants, the Secretary shall determine that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has placed the highest priority on those investments that will improve the safety of the system: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, in order to ensure safety throughout the rail system, may waive the requirements of section 601(e)(1) of title VI of Public Law 110-432 (112 Stat. 4968).

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL

TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 160. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the Federal Transit Administration shall not apply to any authority under 49 U.S.C. 5338, previously made available for obligation, or to any other authority previously made available for obligation.

SEC. 161. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated or limited by this Act under the heading "Fixed Guideway Capital Investment" of the Federal Transit Administration for projects specified in this Act or identified in reports accompanying this Act not obligated by September 30, 2019, and other recoveries, shall be directed to projects eligible to use the funds for the purposes for which they were originally provided.

SEC. 162. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds appropriated before October 1, 2014, under any section of chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, that remain available for expenditure, may be transferred to and administered under the most recent appropriation heading for any such section.

SEC. 163. For purposes of applying the project justification and local financial commitment criteria of 49 U.S.C. 5309(d) to a New

Starts project, the Secretary may consider the costs and ridership of any connected project in an instance in which private parties are making significant financial contributions to the construction of the connected project; additionally, the Secretary may consider the significant financial contributions of private parties to the connected project in calculating the non-Federal share of net capital project costs for the New Starts project.

SEC. 164. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act shall be used to enter into a full funding grant agreement for a project with a New Starts share greater than 50 percent.

SEC. 165. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be available to advance in any way a new light or heavy rail project towards a full funding grant agreement as defined by 49 U.S.C. 5309 for the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas if the proposed capital project is constructed on or planned to be constructed on Richmond Avenue west of South Shepherd Drive or on Post Oak Boulevard north of Richmond Avenue in Houston, Texas.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 52, strike lines 13 through 21.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, today, I rise to introduce an amendment to strike section 165 from the underlying bill. Section 165 states that no funds "in this or any other act" may be available for a light or heavy rail project in Houston, Texas, if the route goes through Richmond or down Post Oak Boulevard.

This language is contrary to the will of the voters of Harris County, Texas, and should not be included in this Federal Government appropriations bill. Houstonians voted in support of new transportation options for the Houston area in a local referendum in 2003. Now some disagree with the results of that referendum, but local voters have made their decision, and I rise to support their right to make these decisions in Houston, Texas, and in local elections without the interference of Congress.

If the Federal Government has the right to overrule a local election and referendum, then what is next?

Blocking Federal funds via obscure riders in appropriations bills in order to try and steer routing decisions is wrong. It is inappropriate overreach by the Federal Government. It violates the will of the voters of Harris County, and, ultimately, it hurts the City of Houston, Texas.

For Members outside of Texas who may be unfamiliar with this debate, the precedent that this language will set, if allowed to remain in the bill, is far-reaching, and it will affect more than just Texas. The passage of this language as is means that local votes just don't matter to Congress and that local officials don't really decide trans-

portation matters in each State and city because these decisions can be toyed with and overruled by Congress.

This language is also bad policy. It is a throwback to the old Houston when our only transportation plan was to build more highways as far as the eye could see and block attempts to do anything else.

Houston has one of the most expansive and efficient highway systems in the world, and, with the soon-to-be-completed Grand Parkway, the system will be even better, but we can only build so many roads. We can only build so many concrete monstrosities like the I-10 West corridor. Over 130,000 people moved to Harris County last year. That is as many as in Charleston, South Carolina, and another estimated 150,000 will move to Harris County next year. Houston will soon be the third largest city in the country, overtaking Chicago. With this increase in population, we need solutions for transportation, not attempts to stonewall all options from Washington.

The debate that we are having on the floor is not about whether or not METRO is doing a good job, nor is it even about METRO. We know that METRO has had its fair share of problems over the years. It must get its financial house in order, and it must become efficient. It also must get the credibility it needs from the voters once again, but it is not our job to debate that local issue in Congress. The voters in a local referendum made that decision 11 years ago. It is an inappropriate misuse of authority to divert money away from Houston because the Federal Government disagrees with the outcome of a local election. As the saying goes, we need to let Texans run Texas. These decisions should be made at the local level.

Supporters of this language may try to argue that this is an attempt at fiscal responsibility. That is nonsense. This money is already appropriated for Houston. If Houston doesn't use it, it is not going back into the coffers, and it is not going to pay down the national debt. The money is going to some other city that will take the money. The idea that we will not take available transportation money for Houston sets a bad precedent for Houston because the next time Houston wants some Federal money, which is taxpayer money, we may not be so fortunate to get that money, because the folks up here said: Well, we offered you money once before, and you didn't take it. No more money for transportation.

Houston is a donor State. Of the funds we send up here, 91 percent is all we get back. We don't get the other 9 percent.

This is about the availability of transportation money to Houston, Texas. The underlying bill prohibits that money because of certain factors in the Houston area that don't like the

outcome of this election and that don't like light rail. Debate that issue in the city. Let city officials make that decision. Let METRO make that decision. Let there be a lively debate among the citizens who are affected by light rail, but don't let Congress come in and overrule the will of the people of Houston, Texas, in an election that they had 11 years ago to accept Federal funding when it is appropriate for us to take it.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. Chairman, I submit for the RECORD letters from the North Montrose Civic Association, the Greater Houston Partnership, the Upper Kirby Management District, the Transportation Advocacy Group Houston Region, the Women in Transportation, letters from the mayor's office, the Washington Avenue Improvement Committee, Houston Tomorrow, and other letters that I have received in support of my amendment.

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP,

Houston, Texas, June 6, 2014.

Subject: Federal funding is crucial for Houston

Hon. TED POE,

House of Representatives, Rayburn Building, Washington, DC

DEAR CONGRESSMAN POE: On behalf of the 2,100 members of the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP), we thank you for your leadership in Congress. In particular, we thank you for your efforts to ensure that every dollar of federal funding that is available to the greater Houston region continues to flow to our region.

As an economic development organization we have been successful in attracting new businesses and development to our region since our establishment in 1989. In 2013, we estimate that our region brought in more than 300 projects, totaling more than \$20 billion in capital investment, more than 20,000 new employees, and more than 30 million square feet in development. Since 2009, the businesses that GHP attracted to our region equates to \$22.9 billion in economic development. A significant reason for our success has been our ability to leverage federal dollars in order to guarantee that our infrastructure is highly functional and our business climate is attractive. When relocating, businesses are attracted to cities that are progressing and planning for the future.

At GHP, we continuously analyze issues of regional significance. Importantly, we also survey the Houston business community as well as business leaders across the nation and around the world to gauge perceptions about how Houston compares to other major metropolitan areas. One challenge for our region is the need to improve the attractiveness and quality of life aspects of Houston. Without improvements we will not be able to attract global talent and address local socioeconomic gaps that can hinder our region. Houston simply cannot afford to have limitations on federal funding or turn away money that can be utilized to make our region a better place to live, work and build a business. We are setting a bad precedent.

As the largest business organization in the greater Houston region we encourage you to continue to stand up for your constituents. We share your commitment and dedication to the betterment of our region, and we

thank you for your leadership on this issue. We stand ready to assist.

Regards,

BOB HARVEY,
President & CEO.

TRANSPORTATION ADVOCACY GROUP,
Houston Region, June 6, 2014.

Hon. TED POE,
*House of Representatives, Rayburn Building
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE POE: TAG—Houston Region advocates for adequate and sustainable transportation infrastructure funding for all modes of transportation. We urge you to oppose any proposed legislation that would restrict the ability to deploy transit in the Houston region. We are making great strides in Houston towards meaningful transit access for all Houstonians. We cannot afford to lose this momentum.

Thank you for your leadership and service. Most sincerely,

JACK DRAKE,
*Chairman,
TAG—Houston Region.*
ANDREA FRENCH,
*Executive Director,
TAG—Houston Region.*

JUNE 9, 2014.

Hon. TED POE,
*House of Representatives, Rayburn Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. POE: WTS Houston is a premier transportation organization of men and women dedicated to the advancement of women in the transportation industry. Encompassing the Texas Gulf Coast region, our membership is comprised of industry giants that take on Road and Bridge, Rail, Aviation, Transit and Port related transportation projects. Representing public agencies and private firms, WTS Houston boasts over 70 members and our corporate members include industry leaders from across the nation.

Regarding transportation legislation currently under discussion in Congress, our organization is opposed to any legislative restrictions on federal funding for transportation in Houston, Texas. The Houston region is one of the fastest growing urban areas in the country. However, the region will not be able to maintain its economic vitality without the ability to create and preserve the infrastructure that supports the movement of people and goods through Texas and the country.

Sincerely,

MEREDITH ALBERTO,
WTS Houston Immediate Past President.

MONTROSE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,
June 8, 2014.

Re Legislative Restrictions on Federal Funding for Transportation projects in Houston, Texas.

Hon. TED POE,
*Second Congressional District,
Houston, Texas.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN POE: I write you on behalf of the Board of Directors for the Montrose Management District to express our concern over actions proposed by Congressman Culberson related to restriction of the use of future federal funding for mobility and rail projects in Houston.

The Board of Directors for the District have expressed support for the development of rail along the Richmond avenue corridor as it falls in line with the District's overall goal of seeing economic development occur within the District. We believe that any continued limitation on the use of federal fund-

ing to expand the Metro Rail system along Richmond, with its vital and necessary east/west connection from the central part of the City to the Galleria area should be eliminated. We need Washington's help with this significant mobility project, not only for the benefits it will clearly derive to those that live and work in the Montrose area, but also to help the City of Houston attain a higher level of air quality through the elimination of traffic congestion and pollution that occurs through emissions from gas and diesel burning engines.

Please know that we support any efforts you might take to lift or defeat the further imposition of limitations on the use of federal funding for transportation projects in Houston, Texas. Thank you for your continued hard work and support.

Sincerely,

BILL CALDERON,
*Executive Director, Montrose Management
District.*

UNIVERSITY PLACE ASSOCIATION,
Houston, Texas, June 6, 2014.

Congressman TED POE,
Congressman MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Congressman AL GREEN,
Congressman PETE OLSON,
Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
Congressman GENE GREEN,
Congressman RANDY WEBER,
Congressman KEVIN BRADY.

DEAR CONGRESSMEN AND CONGRESSWOMAN: On behalf of the Board of Directors of University Place Association & Super Neighborhood, I am writing to oppose the proposed legislation that would restrict Metro's ability to deploy transit in the Houston region.

On June 9th, we urge you to please remove any Federal limits to the future of transit in the Houston region. Imposing unnecessary, arbitrary limits on the future choices of the people of Houston—such as those in section 165 of HR 4575—would be a huge mistake.

Sincerely,

KATHIE EASTERLY,
Executive Director.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, in years to come, when history books look back and ask the question why America went bankrupt, they are going to look at my colleague TED POE's amendment as exhibit A. It is very unfortunate that my friend and fellow Texan (Mr. POE), who has until today portrayed himself as a fiscal conservative, would offer an amendment to force the people of my district to spend money we don't have on a project we don't want and that is unaffordable, unnecessary, and unapproved by the voters. These are my constituents, and it has no effect on Mr. POE's district or on anyone else's district.

Mr. POE of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. No, I will not yield.

The amendment is very narrowly drawn, Mr. Chairman, so that it only affects my district. I wrote this amend-

ment because it says that no money can be spent on rail in my district. In the boundaries of District Seven, which is west of Shepherd on Richmond, and on Post Oak, north of Richmond and south Post Oak, those lines are entirely in my district.

The people of my district—I have polled them—oppose this line, and 80 percent of the folks who own property or who live or work on those two streets don't want it. The voters did not approve the line on Richmond. It was not on the ballot. The people on Post Oak do not want it. It will destroy The Galleria.

Mr. POE is advocating for the construction of rail on Richmond and Post Oak, which will destroy those two streets. The Richmond line is not approved by the voters, and the Post Oak line will destroy that area. Houston METRO has no money to build it. They can't afford it. There is no money in this bill or in any other bill to pay for these lines. In fact, for the lines that have been approved by the voters, METRO is building a rail line on the east side of town, which I support, because the voters approved it. The local transit authority is spending \$3,000 an inch to build a rail line on the east side of Houston.

This is a waste of money. We simply cannot afford it. That is why the Citizens Against Government Waste opposes Mr. POE's amendment. That is why Americans for Tax Reform opposes Mr. POE's amendment. That is why the National Taxpayers Union opposes Mr. POE's amendment. The Club for Growth opposes Mr. POE's amendment because it is amendments like this—those attempting to force us to spend money we don't have on projects we don't want—that are completely unnecessary, of which the voters did not approve and that are going to bankrupt this Nation. Imagine if you did not want to build a pool in your backyard but that your next-door neighbor had the deed restrictions changed to force you to build a pool in your backyard. That is exactly what this amendment is.

This amendment affects only my district. I am doing my job as their Representative to protect my constituents' quality of life and to protect their pocketbooks against a rail line that we cannot afford and that nobody wants and that voters did not approve. That is why I am proud to have the help and support of Chairman LATHAM and of the ranking member, Mr. PASTOR. Americans for Tax Reform, the National Taxpayers Union, Club for Growth, and Citizens Against Government Waste are all in opposition to this amendment as are the people whom I represent.

I am very disappointed and disheartened that my friend Mr. POE would stand up and offer this amendment and call the Katy Freeway a concrete monstrosity. The Katy Freeway is my pride

and joy. The first thing I did when I got elected to Congress was to get the Katy Freeway built without a single earmark and without any new Federal money. We got it built in 5 years and 3 months, and it went from eight lanes to 22 lanes. The economic growth on the west side has ballooned because of the Katy Freeway, and that freeway is moving more cars in less time and at more savings to taxpayers than is any other transportation project in the history of Houston.

I am proud of the Katy Freeway. I am immensely proud to represent my district. This amendment and the language in the bill affect only my district and are in complete conformity with the voters' decision in 2003. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing Mr. POE's amendment and vote "no."

I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for joining me in the opposition of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 166. Unobligated and recovered fiscal year 2010 through 2012 funds that were made available to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5339 shall be available to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5309, as amended by Public Law 112-141, subject to the terms and conditions required under such section.

SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to the Corporation, and in accord with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act, as amended, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the Corporation's budget for the current fiscal year.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses to conduct the operations, maintenance, and capital asset renewal activities of those portions of the St. Lawrence Seaway owned, operated, and maintained by the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, \$32,500,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, pursuant to Public Law 99-662.

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to maintain and preserve a U.S.-flag merchant fleet to serve the national security needs of the United States, \$166,000,000, to remain available until expended.

OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses of operations and training activities authorized by law, \$132,000,000, of which \$11,300,000 shall remain available until expended for maintenance and repair of training ships at State Maritime Academies, and of which \$2,400,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2016, for the Student Incentive Program at State Maritime Academies, and of which \$1,500,000 shall remain available until expended for facilities maintenance and repair, equipment, and capital improvements at the United State Merchant Marine Academy: *Provided*, That amounts apportioned for the United States Merchant Marine Academy shall be available only upon allotments made personally by the Secretary of Transportation or the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs: *Provided further*, That the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and the Director of the Office of Resource Management of the United State Merchant Marine Academy may not be allotment holders for the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and the Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall hold all allotments made by the Secretary of Transportation or the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs under the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That 50 percent of the funding made available for the United States Merchant Marine Academy under this heading shall be available only after the Secretary, in consultation with the Superintendent and the Maritime Administrator, completes a plan detailing by program or activity how such funding will be expended at the Academy, and this plan is submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SHIP DISPOSAL

For necessary expenses related to the disposal of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet of the Maritime Administration, \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended.

MARITIME GUARANTEED LOAN (TITLE XI) PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For necessary administrative expenses of the maritime guaranteed loan program, \$3,100,000 shall be paid to the appropriations for "Maritime Administration—Operations and Training": *Provided*, That of the funds made available under this heading in division L of Public Law 113-76, \$29,000,000 is rescinded.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 170. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Maritime Administration is authorized to furnish utilities and services and make necessary repairs in connection with any lease, contract, or occupancy involving Government property under control of the Maritime Administration, and payments received therefor shall be credited to the appropriation charged with the cost thereof: *Provided*, That rental payments under any such lease, contract, or occupancy for items other than such utilities, services, or repairs shall be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

SEC. 171. None of the funds available or appropriated in this Act shall be used by the United States Department of Transportation or the United States Maritime Administration to negotiate or otherwise execute, enter into, facilitate or perform fee-for-service contracts for vessel disposal, scrapping or recycling, unless there is no qualified domestic

ship recycler that will pay any sum of money to purchase and scrap or recycle a vessel owned, operated or managed by the Maritime Administration or that is part of the National Defense Reserve Fleet. Such sales offers must be consistent with the solicitation and provide that the work will be performed in a timely manner at a facility qualified within the meaning of section 3502 of Public Law 106-398. Nothing contained herein shall affect the Maritime Administration's authority to award contracts at least cost to the Federal Government and consistent with the requirements of 16 U.S.C. 5405(c), section 3502, or otherwise authorized under the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operational expenses of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, \$21,654,000: *Provided*, That \$1,500,000 shall be transferred to "Pipeline Safety" in order to fund "Pipeline Safety Information Grants to Communities" as authorized under section 60130 of title 49, United States Code.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY

For expenses necessary to discharge the hazardous materials safety functions of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, \$52,000,000, of which \$7,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That up to \$800,000 in fees collected under 49 U.S.C. 5108(g) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training, for reports publication and dissemination, and for travel expenses incurred in performance of hazardous materials exemptions and approvals functions.

PIPELINE SAFETY

(PIPELINE SAFETY FUND)

(OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND)

(PIPELINE SAFETY DESIGN REVIEW FUND)

For expenses necessary to conduct the functions of the pipeline safety program, for grants-in-aid to carry out a pipeline safety program, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 60107, and to discharge the pipeline program responsibilities of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, \$131,500,000, of which \$19,500,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and shall remain available until September 30, 2017; and of which \$110,000,000 shall be derived from the Pipeline Safety Fund, of which \$54,436,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017; and of which \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from the Pipeline Safety Design Review Fund, as authorized in 49 U.S.C. 60117(n): *Provided*, That not less than \$1,058,000 of the funds provided under this heading shall be for the One-Call state grant program.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

(EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND)

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5128(b), \$188,000, to be derived from the Emergency Preparedness Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That not more than \$28,318,000 shall be made available for obligation in fiscal year 2015 from amounts made available by 49 U.S.C. 5116(i) and 5128(b)-(c): *Provided further*, That

none of the funds made available by 49 U.S.C. 5116(i), 5128(b), or 5128(c) shall be made available for obligation by individuals other than the Secretary of Transportation, or his or her designee.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Inspector General to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$86,223,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the Department: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading may be used to investigate, pursuant to section 41712 of title 49, United States Code: (1) unfair or deceptive practices and unfair methods of competition by domestic and foreign air carriers and ticket agents; and (2) the compliance of domestic and foreign air carriers with respect to item (1) of this proviso: *Provided further*, That: (1) the Inspector General shall have the authority to audit and investigate the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA); (2) in carrying out these audits and investigations the Inspector General shall have all the authorities described under section 6 of the Inspector General Act (5 U.S.C. App.); (3) MWAA Board Members, employees, contractors, and subcontractors shall cooperate and comply with requests from the Inspector General, including providing testimony and other information; (4) The Inspector General shall be permitted to observe closed executive sessions of the MWAA Board of Directors; (5) MWAA shall pay the expenses of the Inspector General, including staff salaries and benefits and associated operating costs, which shall be credited to this appropriation and remain available until expended; and (6) if MWAA fails to make funds available to the Inspector General within 30 days after a request for such funds is received, then the Inspector General shall notify the Secretary of Transportation, who shall not approve a grant for MWAA under section 47107(b) of title 49, United States Code, until such funding is made available for the Inspector General: *Provided further*, That hereafter funds transferred to the Office of the Inspector General through forfeiture proceedings or from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund or the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund, as a participating agency, as an equitable share from the forfeiture of property in investigations in which the Office of Inspector General participates, or through the granting of a Petition for Remission or Mitigation, shall be deposited to the credit of this account for law enforcement activities authorized under the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, to remain available until expended.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Surface Transportation Board, including services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$31,250,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$1,250,000 from fees established by the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board shall be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections and used for necessary and authorized expenses under this heading: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund

shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2015, to result in a final appropriation from the general fund estimated at no more than \$30,000,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 180. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations to the Department of Transportation shall be available for maintenance and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; purchase of liability insurance for motor vehicles operating in foreign countries on official department business; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 181. Appropriations contained in this Act for the Department of Transportation shall be available for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for an Executive Level IV.

SEC. 182. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than 110 political and Presidential appointees in the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That none of the personnel covered by this provision may be assigned on temporary detail outside the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 183. (a) No recipient of funds made available in this Act shall disseminate personal information (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(3)) obtained by a State department of motor vehicles in connection with a motor vehicle record as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(1), except as provided in 18 U.S.C. 2721 for a use permitted under 18 U.S.C. 2721.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall not withhold funds provided in this Act for any grantee if a State is in noncompliance with this provision.

SEC. 184. Funds received by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and Federal Railroad Administration from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training may be credited respectively to the Federal Highway Administration's "Federal-Aid Highways" account, the Federal Transit Administration's "Technical Assistance and Training" account, and to the Federal Railroad Administration's "Safety and Operations" account, except for State rail safety inspectors participating in training pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 20105.

SEC. 185. None of the funds in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or grant unless the Secretary of Transportation notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project competitively selected to receive a discretionary grant award, any discretionary grant award, letter of intent, loan commitment, loan guarantee commitment, line of credit commitment, or full funding grant agreement is announced by the department or its modal administrations from:

(1) any discretionary grant or federal credit program of the Federal Highway Administration including the emergency relief program;

(2) the airport improvement program of the Federal Aviation Administration;

(3) any program of the Federal Railroad Administration;

(4) any program of the Federal Transit Administration other than the formula grants and fixed guideway modernization programs;

(5) any program of the Maritime Administration; or

(6) any funding provided under the headings "National Infrastructure Investments" in this Act: *Provided*, That the Secretary gives concurrent notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for any "quick release" of funds from the emergency relief program: *Provided further*, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 186. Rebates, refunds, incentive payments, minor fees and other funds received by the Department of Transportation from travel management centers, charge card programs, the subleasing of building space, and miscellaneous sources are to be credited to appropriations of the Department of Transportation and allocated to elements of the Department of Transportation using fair and equitable criteria and such funds shall be available until expended.

SEC. 187. Amounts made available in this or any other Act that the Secretary determines represent improper payments by the Department of Transportation to a third-party contractor under a financial assistance award, which are recovered pursuant to law, shall be available—

(1) to reimburse the actual expenses incurred by the Department of Transportation in recovering improper payments; and

(2) to pay contractors for services provided in recovering improper payments or contractor support in the implementation of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002: *Provided*, That amounts in excess of that required for paragraphs (1) and (2)—

(A) shall be credited to and merged with the appropriation from which the improper payments were made, and shall be available for the purposes and period for which such appropriations are available: *Provided further*, That where specific project or accounting information associated with the improper payment or payments is not readily available, the Secretary may credit an appropriate account, which shall be available for the purposes and period associated with the account so credited; or

(B) if no such appropriation remains available, shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts: *Provided further*, That prior to the transfer of any such recovery to an appropriations account, the Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of the amount and reasons for such transfer: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this section, the term "improper payments" has the same meaning as that provided in section 2(d)(2) of Public Law 107–300.

SEC. 188. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if any funds provided in or limited by this Act are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be provided to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, transmission of said reprogramming notice shall be provided solely to the Committees on Appropriations, and said reprogramming action shall be approved or denied solely by the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That the Secretary may provide notice to other congressional committees of the action of the Committees on Appropriations on such reprogramming but not sooner than 30 days following the date on which the reprogramming action has been approved or denied by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 189. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Surface Transportation Board of the Department of Transportation to charge or collect any filing fee for rate or practice complaints filed with the Board in

an amount in excess of the amount authorized for district court civil suit filing fees under section 1914 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 190. Funds appropriated in this Act to the modal administrations may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary for the costs related to assessments or reimbursable agreements only when such amounts are for the costs of goods and services that are purchased to provide a direct benefit to the applicable modal administration or administrations.

SEC. 191. The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to carry out a program that establishes uniform standards for developing and supporting agency transit pass and transit benefits authorized under section 7905 of title 5, United States Code, including distribution of transit benefits by various paper and electronic media.

SEC. 192. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used by the Surface Transportation Board to take any actions with respect to the construction of a high speed rail project in California unless the Board has jurisdiction over the entire project and the permit is or was issued by the Board with respect to the project in its entirety.

SEC. 193. None of the funds limited or otherwise made available by this Act to carry out chapter 6 of title 23, United States Code, may be used to subsidize a credit instrument authorized under such chapter that would cause the credit subsidy obligated in fiscal year 2015 to fund projects located in a single State to exceed 33 percent of the total credit subsidy made available by this Act on October 1, 2014 to carry out such chapter.

SEC. 194. None of the funds limited or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deny an application to renew a Hazardous Materials Safety Program permit for a motor carrier based on that carrier's Hazardous Materials Out-of-Service rate, unless the carrier has the opportunity to submit a written description of corrective actions taken, and other documentation the carrier wishes the Secretary to consider, including submitting a corrective action plan, and the Secretary determines the actions or plan is insufficient to address the safety concerns that resulted in that Hazardous Materials Out-of-Service rate.

SEC. 195. Any unexpended amounts available for obligation under the heading "Federal Railroad Administration—Safety and Operations" under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-447) shall be made available for rail safety oversight activities for the transport of energy products: *Provided*, That \$10,000,000 of unexpended amounts available for obligation under the heading "Federal Railroad Administration—Capital Assistance to States—Intercity Passenger Rail Service" for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 shall be made available for grade crossing safety improvements on rail routes that transport energy products.

This title may be cited as the "Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 2015".

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Executive Offices, which shall be comprised of the offices of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Adjudicatory Services, Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Public Affairs, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utili-

zation, and the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, \$14,000,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of the amount made available under this heading shall be available to the Secretary for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Administrative Support Offices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, \$500,000,000, of which not to exceed \$45,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer; not to exceed \$93,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel; not to exceed \$194,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Administration; not to exceed \$52,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer; not to exceed \$49,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Field Policy and Management; not to exceed \$16,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer; not to exceed \$2,500,000 shall be available for the Office of Departmental Equal Employment Opportunity; not to exceed \$3,500,000 shall be available for the Office of Strategic Planning and Management; and not to exceed \$45,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be used for necessary administrative and non-administrative expenses of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, not otherwise provided for, including purchase of uniforms, or allowances therefore, as authorized by U.S.C. 5901-5902; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support the housing mission area: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide the Committees on Appropriations quarterly written notification regarding the status of pending congressional reports: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide all signed reports required by Congress electronically.

PROGRAM OFFICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Public and Indian Housing, \$200,000,000.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Community Planning and Development, \$100,000,000.

HOUSING

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Housing, \$370,000,000, of which at least \$9,000,000 shall be for the Office of Risk and Regulatory Affairs.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Policy Development and Research, \$20,000,000.

FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, \$68,000,000.

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, \$7,000,000.

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of tenant-based rental assistance au-

thorized under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) ("the Act" herein), not otherwise provided for, \$15,356,529,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, shall be available on October 1, 2014 (in addition to the \$4,000,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2014), and \$4,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, shall be available on October 1, 2015: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading are provided as follows:

(1) \$17,693,079,000 shall be available for renewals of expiring section 8 tenant-based annual contributions contracts (including renewals of enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act) and including renewal of other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, from amounts provided under this paragraph and any carryover, the Secretary for the calendar year 2015 funding cycle shall provide renewal funding for each public housing agency based on validated voucher management system (VMS) leasing and cost data for the prior calendar year and by applying an inflation factor as established by the Secretary, by notice published in the Federal Register, and by making any necessary adjustments for the costs associated with the first-time renewal of vouchers under this paragraph including tenant protection, HOPE VI, and Choice Neighborhoods vouchers: *Provided further*, That in determining calendar year 2015 funding allocations under this heading for public housing agencies, including agencies participating in the Moving To Work (MTW) demonstration, the Secretary may take into account the anticipated impact of changes in targeting and utility allowances, on public housing agencies' contract renewal needs: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this paragraph may be used to fund a total number of unit months under lease which exceeds a public housing agency's authorized level of units under contract, except for public housing agencies participating in the Moving To Work (MTW) demonstration, which are instead governed by the terms and conditions of their MTW agreements: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the extent necessary to stay within the amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph), pro rate each public housing agency's allocation otherwise established pursuant to this paragraph: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the following provisos, the entire amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph) shall be obligated to the public housing agencies based on the allocation and pro rata method described above, and the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies of their annual budget by the latter of 60 days after enactment of this Act or March 1, 2015: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may extend the notification period with the prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded pursuant to their MTW agreements and shall be subject to the same pro rata adjustments under the previous provisos: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may offset public housing agencies' calendar year 2015 allocations based on the excess amounts of public housing agencies' net restricted assets accounts, including HUD held programmatic reserves (in accordance with VMS data in calendar year

2014 that is verifiable and complete), as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall also be subject to the offset, as determined by the Secretary, excluding amounts subject to the single fund budget authority provisions of their MTW agreements, from the agencies' calendar year 2015 MTW funding allocation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use any offset referred to in the previous two provisos throughout the calendar year to prevent the termination of rental assistance for families as the result of insufficient funding, as determined by the Secretary, and to avoid or reduce the proration of renewal funding allocations: *Provided further*, That up to \$75,000,000 shall be available only: (1) for adjustments in the allocations for public housing agencies, after application for an adjustment by a public housing agency that experienced a significant increase, as determined by the Secretary, in renewal costs of vouchers resulting from unforeseen circumstances or from portability under section 8(r) of the Act; (2) for vouchers that were not in use during the 12-month period in order to be available to meet a commitment pursuant to section 8(o)(13) of the Act; (3) for adjustments for costs associated with HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers; (4) for public housing agencies that despite taking reasonable cost savings measures, as determined by the Secretary, would otherwise be required to terminate rental assistance for families as a result of insufficient funding: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall allocate amounts under the previous proviso based on need, as determined by the Secretary; and (5) for adjustments in the allocations for public housing agencies that experienced a significant increase, as determined by the Secretary, in renewal costs as a result of participation in the Small Area Fair Market Rent demonstration;

(2) \$130,000,000 shall be for section 8 rental assistance for relocation and replacement of housing units that are demolished or disposed of pursuant to section 18 of the Act, conversion of section 23 projects to assistance under section 8, the family unification program under section 8(x) of the Act, relocation of witnesses in connection with efforts to combat crime in public and assisted housing pursuant to a request from a law enforcement or prosecution agency, enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act, HOPE VI and Choice Neighborhood vouchers, mandatory and voluntary conversions, and tenant protection assistance including replacement and relocation assistance or for project-based assistance to prevent the displacement of unassisted elderly tenants currently residing in section 202 properties financed between 1959 and 1974 that are refinanced pursuant to Public Law 106-569, as amended, or under the authority as provided under this Act: *Provided*, That when a public housing development is submitted for demolition or disposition under section 18 of the Act, the Secretary may provide section 8 rental assistance when the units pose an imminent health and safety risk to residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may only provide replacement vouchers for units that were occupied within the previous 24 months that cease to be available as assisted housing, subject only to the availability of funds: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this paragraph, \$5,000,000 may be available to provide tenant protection assistance, not

otherwise provided under this paragraph, to residents residing in low vacancy areas and who may have to pay rents greater than 30 percent of household income, as the result of (1) the maturity of a HUD-insured, HUD-held or section 202 loan that requires the permission of the Secretary prior to loan prepayment; (2) the expiration of a rental assistance contract for which the tenants are not eligible for enhanced voucher or tenant protection assistance under existing law; or (3) the expiration of affordability restrictions accompanying a mortgage or preservation program administered by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That such tenant protection assistance made available under the previous proviso may be provided under the authority of section 8(t) or section 8(o)(13) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(t)): *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue guidance to implement the previous provisos, including, but not limited to, requirements for defining eligible at-risk households within 120 days of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That any tenant protection voucher made available from amounts under this paragraph shall not be reissued by any public housing agency, except the replacement vouchers as defined by the Secretary by notice, when the initial family that received any such voucher no longer receives such voucher, and the authority for any public housing agency to issue any such voucher shall cease to exist: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, for the purpose under this paragraph, may use unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryovers, remaining from amounts appropriated in prior fiscal years under this heading for voucher assistance for nonelderly disabled families and for disaster assistance made available under Public Law 110-329;

(3) \$1,350,000,000 shall be for administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the section 8 tenant-based rental assistance program, of which up to \$10,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to allocate to public housing agencies that need additional funds to administer their section 8 programs, including fees associated with section 8 tenant protection rental assistance, the administration of disaster related vouchers, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers, and other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That no less than \$1,335,000,000 of the amount provided in this paragraph shall be allocated to public housing agencies for the calendar year 2015 funding cycle based on section 8(q) of the Act (and related Appropriation Act provisions) as in effect immediately before the enactment of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-276): *Provided further*, That if the amounts made available under this paragraph are insufficient to pay the amounts determined under the previous proviso, the Secretary may decrease the amounts allocated to agencies by a uniform percentage applicable to all agencies receiving funding under this paragraph or may, to the extent necessary to provide full payment of amounts determined under the previous proviso, utilize unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryovers, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading from prior fiscal years, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That all public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded pursuant to their MTW agreements, and shall be subject to the same uniform per-

centage decrease as under the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this paragraph shall be only for activities related to the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under section 8, including related development activities;

(4) \$108,450,000 for the renewal of tenant-based assistance contracts under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), including necessary administrative expenses: *Provided*, That administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the special purpose vouchers in this paragraph shall be funded under the same terms and be subject to the same pro rata reduction as the percent decrease for administrative and other expenses to public housing agencies under paragraph (3) of this heading;

(5) \$75,000,000 for incremental rental voucher assistance for use through a supported housing program administered in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs as authorized under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall make such funding available, notwithstanding section 204 (competition provision) of this title, to public housing agencies that partner with eligible VA Medical Centers or other entities as designated by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, based on geographical need for such assistance as identified by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, public housing agency administrative performance, and other factors as specified by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for (in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs), any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective delivery and administration of such voucher assistance: *Provided further*, That assistance made available under this paragraph shall continue to remain available for homeless veterans upon turn-over; and

(6) The Secretary shall separately track all special purpose vouchers funded under this heading.

□ 1530

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CHABOT
Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 73, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,535,652,900)".

Page 73, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$400,000,000)".

Page 73, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,769,307,900)".

Page 76, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$7,500,000)".

Page 77, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$13,000,000)".

Page 78, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$500,000)".

Page 80, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$135,000,000)".

Page 80, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 80, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$133,500,000)”.

Page 82, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,845,000)”.

Page 82, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,500,000)”.

Page 101, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$934,600,000)”.

Page 101, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$40,000,000)”.

Page 102, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$21,000,000)”.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,910,252,900)”.

Mr. CHABOT (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would reduce section 8 spending across the board by 10 percent, \$3 billion, and place the savings in the spending reduction account.

The section 8 voucher program, which was intended to provide temporary assistance for struggling Americans, has become, unfortunately, a way of life for far too many in this country. Many of our communities, like my community, Cincinnati, are struggling to deal with the program's unintended consequences in many instances in many neighborhoods.

As a result, the program is in need of serious reform. For example, to help reduce dependency on the program, we should establish time limits for beneficiaries, except for the elderly or disabled. The payments should not go on basically forever, as they do under current law.

To make certain that section 8 landlords are accountable to local communities, landlords should be required to comply with local laws and ordinances, and not be allowed to hide behind the HUD regulations when faced with complaints about their properties.

To make the program safer for both its recipients and the neighbors of those recipients, we need to ensure that convicted felons and sex offenders are barred from participation in the section 8 program.

If you are able to work, then you should have to work in order to be eligible for section 8 benefits. Until reforms like these have been implemented, spending more tax dollars on the Section 8 voucher program is akin to throwing good money after bad.

Faced with a national debt that exceeds \$17 trillion and, in fact, is around \$17.5 trillion now, continuing this funding is something we simply cannot afford.

Mr. Chairman, as we look for areas to reduce Federal spending, a broken program like section 8 that rewards government dependency with our tax dollars is a good place to start.

Those other things that I mentioned are things that we have offered in the past and intend to offer in legislation in the future. But relative to this particular amendment, this would just cut the funding by \$3 billion, which is approximately 10 percent of the section 8 program.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I think we all know in section 8 there are reforms that are needed. This amendment does nothing to those reforms, and it should be to the authorizing Financial Services Committee to initiate the reform so that, in fact, we can change it, make it work better, and do the right thing for the people in the system. But this is just not the way to approach it.

We have worked in this bill to cut all unnecessary spending in HUD's programs. We provided funds to continue assistance to the 2.2 million families while cutting administrative fees by \$150 million to \$1.35 billion.

It also would cut the housing assistance for homeless veterans program, which we need to give those veterans the kind of services that they desperately need.

I agree with the gentleman from Ohio that reforms need to be done to the program. This is not the place to do those reforms, nor is he even proposing any reforms to the program, rather than just slashing important programs for people. And I don't want to be the one to have to pick and choose who is going to lose their house, their place to live under this amendment.

So for those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I would oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I also rise in opposition to this amendment.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, recently they have announced that we are slowly still recovering from the Great Recession, and we still have a large number of people who are underemployed or unemployed.

The reality is that the reform that my friend from Ohio would like to bring in section 8 housing will not occur by these cuts, as pointed out by the chairman.

We believe that what this amendment would do is it would evict over 150,000 people from their homes. It would have an effect on the homeless veterans and reduce their assistance.

The reality is today that over half of the residents who live in section 8 are families with children, and so the con-

sequences of this amendment are too dire, and we can't support it, so I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 73, line 7, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$988,471,000)”.

Page 73, line 15, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$633,471,000)”.

Page 80, line 10, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$355,000,000)”.

Page 80, line 21, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$335,000,000)”.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, we have not even seen the amendment. For that reason, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, two of our central responsibilities as Members of Congress are to support a strong national infrastructure and to ensure that every American has a place to call home. The funding levels provided in this legislation will make it impossible to fulfill either of those responsibilities.

There can be no question that we must put people back to work and bring our crumbling, outdated infrastructure into the 21st century. At the funding levels provided in this bill, few of those goals can be accomplished.

□ 1545

The bill cuts the FTA's Capital Investment Grant Program, more commonly known as New Starts, by \$252 million. It includes a \$500 million cut to the TIGER grant program, funding it \$1.15 billion below the President's request, and it cuts \$200 million from Amtrak's capital funding, while providing no funding for high-speed rail.

Beyond simply cutting critical funding, the bill places restrictions on the use of TIGER grants and high-speed rail, and it exempts three States—Wisconsin, Mississippi, and Idaho—from truck size and weight limits on Federal highways.

Congress should not preempt the comprehensive study currently being conducted by USDOT, required as part

of MAP-21, the last legislation we enacted on the subject, by enacting piecemeal riders on appropriations bills.

The devastating impacts these cuts will have on our economy will only be exacerbated by the cuts to vital housing programs for hardworking families.

The HOME Investment Partnership Program is funded at its lowest level since its creation in 1992, and the Public Housing Capital Fund falls below its sequestered funding level, adding at least \$1 billion to the backlog of capital needs, but perhaps most startling is the failure of this legislation to provide enough funding for every low-income senior and hardworking family to access affordable and secure housing through HUD's tenant-based rental assistance program, or section 8.

My amendment finally provides enough funding for HUD to renew every section 8 voucher, including the 70,000 vouchers lost under sequestration, and to support robust staffing at public housing agencies around the country.

Rental assistance helps 2.1 million very low-income households rent modest homes in the private market at an affordable cost. Households who use Section 8 have incomes well below the Federal poverty line, and nearly every household using a section 8 voucher includes children, seniors, or people with disabilities.

Research consistently demonstrates that this program reduces poverty, housing instability, and homelessness, and helps families live in safe, healthy communities.

Despite the success, only about one in four eligible low-income families receives Federal rental assistance. Long waiting lists remain in nearly every community, even as the number of poor families who pay more than half their monthly income for housing costs has risen 28 percent since 2007. These long wait lists are exacerbated by a lack of administrative funding for public housing agencies.

In the past, Congress consistently provided the necessary funds to ensure that no one receiving a Section 8 voucher loses access to affordable, decent, and stable housing year to year, but sequestration has had a devastating impact on section 8.

With inadequate funding for voucher renewals and extreme cuts to administrative fees, State and local housing agencies assisted an estimated 70,000 fewer families at the end of 2013 compared to a year earlier.

The increased funding that Congress provided through the FY14 budget agreement restored less than half of those vouchers, leaving 40,000 very low-income families with no access to affordable housing. This bill does nothing to help those families.

My amendment will ensure that public housing agencies can renew every current voucher and restore those lost under sequestration. The amendment

funds Section 8 voucher renewals at the President's request of \$18 billion and provides an additional \$320 million to provide vouchers to the 40,000 families who lost access due to Congress' inability to address sequestration.

Of course, this additional funding would go a long way to ensuring that every family who qualifies for rental assistance finds a home. However, at the funding levels for administrative fees in this legislation, it would be impossible for public housing agencies to hire and maintain enough staff to process and renew vouchers.

We cannot continue to undermine our hardworking public housing agencies by failing to provide them enough money to function; yet, once again, this bill woefully underfunds administrative fees for public housing by providing only \$1.35 billion, a \$150 million reduction from last year's enacted level.

My amendment would finally address the undercutting at public housing agencies by providing an additional \$335 million to match the President's request of \$1.7 billion for administrative fees.

Mr. Chairman, our first priority must be to ensure that every working family, every senior, and every child has access to a safe, healthy, and affordable home. This amendment will guarantee that no one has to choose between paying their rent and putting food on the table.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order that the amendment proposes a net increase in budget authority in the bill.

The amendment is not in order under section 3(d)(3) of House Resolution 5, 113th Congress, which states:

"It shall not be in order to consider an amendment to a general appropriation bill proposing a net increase in budget authority in the bill (unless considered en bloc with another amendment or amendments proposing an equal or greater decrease in such budget authority pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule XXI)."

The amendment proposes a net increase in budget authority in the bill in violation of such section.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, we can all agree, I think, that this amendment is necessary.

We are talking about denying tens of thousands of families and seniors access to an efficient, cost-effective program that keeps families together and lowers the government's costs over the long term.

Without this amendment, we will see a spike in homelessness, a spike in

medical costs, and a spike in hungry kids.

I understand the point of order. I understand that the rules demand an offset for any funding increase in the bill. I also appreciate the chairman's efforts to support Section 8 and public housing.

But when funding levels are this restrictive across the board, as they are in this bill, it is impossible to offset such drastic underfunding without hurting other people in need. The rules and the drastic underfunding of this bill make it impossible to meet basic human needs.

I hope that, as we go forward, we can find a way to provide these funds so that kids, working families, and seniors are not out on the street, as I guarantee you this bill at this funding level will do.

The CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule on the point of order.

The gentleman from Iowa makes a point of order that the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York violates section 3(d)(3) of House Resolution 5.

Section 3(d)(3) establishes a point of order against an amendment proposing a net increase in budget authority in the pending bill.

As persuasively asserted by the gentleman from Iowa, the amendment proposes a net increase in budget authority in the bill. Therefore, the point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that we return to page 70, line 16, to consider my amendment that was passed a moment ago.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

Mr. LATHAM. Objection.

The CHAIR. Objection is heard.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chair, if I had an opportunity to offer my amendment today, an amendment that passed with the support of both parties in last year's T-HUD appropriations bill, I would raise the fact that the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in many communities across the country, has taken a step back from their mission.

They have a very important mission when it comes to homelessness among veterans, ensuring affordable housing partnerships, and combating the foreclosure crisis.

Still, last year, we were disserved by the leadership at the Department when they closed a number of field offices all across the country, including the field office in the Tampa Bay area, that I represent, and in the Orlando area.

Now, Florida has a population of almost 20 million people. We have 1.5

million veterans, and it is estimated that about 8,000 of them are homeless. We have 47,000 people in Florida that are battling homelessness, and our foreclosure rate is still too high. Nearly 9 percent of all Florida homes with mortgages are in some state of foreclosure.

So it was very disturbing last year when HUD pulled back on the ground, closed community offices in Tampa and Orlando. In fact, they shut down 16 field offices. The problem was that they didn't consult Congress, as they were supposed to. They came, they talked with us, but they didn't really allow us any adequate input.

I encourage the leaders, like the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR), who has been on this issue, to continue this dialogue with the Department and the U.S. Senate in conference.

My amendment would have cut the executive office budget of HUD here in Washington, D.C., by \$3.5 million and, instead, devoted those funds back to our local communities to fight homelessness among veterans, foreclosures, and the other challenges we face.

The shift of these dollars out of D.C. to our local communities would have sent a very strong message. You know, those field offices, especially the one I had in the Tampa Bay area, was a critical access point for my neighbors and for many of the community's non-profits.

We are being hurt by their decision, and all my amendment would have done—and I hope this dialogue will continue—is ensure that the Department remains focused on backing up what they said that they would do to ensure that our local communities would not be hurt by taking away people on the ground that interact on an everyday basis with the people we represent.

So at this time, I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR) for his involvement in this issue and urge everyone involved in the negotiations to emphasize the importance of having HUD focused on their mission on the ground in our neighborhoods, in our cities and towns and not on the bureaucracy here in Washington, D.C.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that we go back to page 70 for the purpose of offering an amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

Mr. LATHAM. There is an objection. The CHAIR. Objection is heard.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, if I would have been able to offer my amendment today, it would have clar-

fied an existing Federal highway priority corridor between Raleigh, North Carolina, and Norfolk, Virginia.

It would have also codified the corridor as a future interstate highway. This designation, Mr. Chairman, could eventually improve transportation and commerce and economic development in North Carolina and Virginia.

Eastern North Carolina, Mr. Chairman, remains one of the poorest areas in the country, despite the economic resurgence many other areas of the country have seen. My amendment, if it had been made in order, would enable future construction between Raleigh and Norfolk to build on an existing corridor where half of the route already meets Federal freeway standards.

Improving on existing infrastructure can save taxpayer money and help expedite the project's completion.

Mr. Chairman, I urge colleagues in future debates to consider this request.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BROUN of Georgia) having assumed the chair, Mr. HOLDING, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 1600

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

URGING AFGHANISTAN TO PURSUE A TRANSPARENT, CREDIBLE, AND INCLUSIVE RUN-OFF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 600) urging the Government of Afghanistan, following a successful first round of the presidential election on April 5, 2014, to pursue a transparent, credible, and inclusive run-off presidential election on June 14, 2014, while ensuring the safety of voters, candidates, poll workers, and election observers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 600

Whereas on April 5, 2014, the Government of Afghanistan held the first round of the presidential election in which voter participation was 60 percent;

Whereas on May 15, 2014, Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission (IEC) certified the results, and announced that a run-off election would be held on June 14, 2014, because no candidate received more than 50 percent of the votes;

Whereas on May 14, 2014, the IEC invalidated votes from 331 polling stations and removed them from the final tabulation, based on Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) decisions;

Whereas there have been widespread reports of voter and election monitor intimidation, including the killing of members of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) during an attack at the Serena Hotel in Kabul on March 20, 2014, as well as attempts to bribe members of the IEC, the ECC, and other election monitoring organizations;

Whereas investigations by the ECC, and its coordination with the IEC, have not been conducted in a transparent manner;

Whereas 17 members of the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF) were killed in Taliban and insurgent attacks while supporting the April 5, 2014, elections;

Whereas the United States and Afghanistan signed the Enduring Strategic Partnership Agreement to strengthen Afghan sovereignty, stability, and prosperity, while emphasizing a shared goal to defeat al-Qaeda and its terrorist affiliates;

Whereas United States and coalition armed forces have greatly contributed to the stability and security of Afghanistan at a considerable personal sacrifice; and

Whereas the United States has contributed more than \$100,000,000 toward the 2014 Afghan presidential election: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Government of Afghanistan for holding a successful first round of the presidential election and expresses strong support for a credible, inclusive, and transparent second round on June 14, 2014;

(2) supports the mandate of Afghan electoral bodies such as the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) to administer, adjudicate, and manage polls, as well as oversee logistical and technical preparations in a transparent, fair, and credible manner to prevent fraud and misconduct;

(3) encourages the Government of Afghanistan to implement measures that will increase voter participation, particularly among the Afghan female population;

(4) recognizes the determination of the Afghan people to exercise their right to vote and determine their country's destiny;

(5) urges the Government of Afghanistan to take steps to assure that fraudulent electoral activities do not take place during the runoff;

(6) urges the IEC to adopt measures to better mitigate fraud, improve electoral transparency of the polling and counting process, and communicate these measures clearly and consistently to the people of Afghanistan;

(7) urges close and continuing communication between the IEC and the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF) to identify

and provide security for vulnerable areas of the country during the election period;

(8) encourages all elements of Afghan society to refrain from fomenting violence and other disturbances in voting areas;

(9) urges the ANSF to make every necessary effort to ensure the safety of voters, candidates, poll workers, and election observers;

(10) expresses its support for the full participation of Afghan civil society in the election process;

(11) recognizes that a democratically-elected government that reflects the will of the Afghan people and is committed to combating terrorism would promote the long-term stability and security interests of Afghanistan, its neighbors, and its partners in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Security Assistance Force, including the United States; and

(12) recognizes the sacrifices of United States and coalition armed forces that have contributed, and will continue to contribute, to the security and stability of Afghanistan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday, the Afghan people will exercise their right to vote and their right to determine their country's future, choosing between two candidates to complete the first democratic transfer of power in Afghanistan's long, violent history.

This vote holds out the promise of helping to solidify the achievements of U.S. international forces there. That is why this bipartisan resolution, which I am pleased to cosponsor, urges the Government of Afghanistan to pursue a secure, transparent, and credible runoff Presidential election.

Make no mistake—the Taliban would love nothing more than to disrupt this democratic process and see the Government of Afghanistan fail. During the past month, Taliban fighters have ramped up their attacks, of course, while threatening polling centers and election officials.

Indeed, on Friday, the Taliban attempted to assassinate the leading Afghan Presidential candidate, Abdul Abdullah, in a suicide car bombing. After emerging unharmed, Abdullah said:

Threats can't stop us and our people. We are still dedicated to what we have promised for a better future.

For those of you who followed his campaign later that day, he was

undeterred and went from event to event.

Well, this election offers the chance for Afghanistan to embark on that better future by taking the final steps towards a legitimate transition of power.

Just over 2 months ago, Afghans overwhelmingly flocked to the polls to vote in Presidential and in provisional elections. More than 7 million Afghan citizens cast a ballot during the first round of voting. To put that in perspective, for those of you who remember, that was about 4.5 million who voted in 2009. This dwarfed that number—7 million.

That first round election also saw a prominent female politician selected as a running mate, a choice that likely helped inspire some 2.5 million Afghan women to come out to the polls and to vote. While she and her running mate came in third, no aspiring leader can afford to ignore the interests of half of Afghanistan's population, who want better education, health, and other basic services.

Although the April elections were a significant improvement over 2009, there is plenty of room for progress. Numerous electoral complaints led to the invalidation of votes, and in May, Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission fired poll workers, some of whom were accused of voter fraud. This is exactly why it is so critical for the Government of Afghanistan to take these proactive steps to champion a secure and fair runoff election. A successful election will help emphasize Afghanistan's commitment to good governance, and it will provide much-needed legitimacy to the incoming President of that country.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has been heavily involved in Afghanistan for years. We have made great sacrifice. While the Obama administration has U.S. involvement in Afghanistan coming to a close, U.S. interest in a stable and secure Afghanistan will continue. The United States maintains an enduring national security interest in an Afghanistan that prevents itself from becoming a safe haven for terrorism. That goal becomes much harder if the Taliban is rejuvenated and successful in wrecking this weekend's elected government.

But one way we can demonstrate our commitment to Afghanistan's success is by supporting the country's first-ever democratic transition of executive power. This resolution does exactly that, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 600, to extend my gratitude to Chairman ROYCE, and to urge my colleagues' support as well.

This Saturday, the people of Afghanistan will travel to the polls to elect a new President in a runoff election. The

victorious candidate will replace Hamid Karzai, who has led Afghanistan since 2001.

House Resolution 600 recognizes this important moment in history and urges the Government of Afghanistan to pursue a transparent, credible, and inclusive runoff Presidential election while ensuring the safety of voters, candidates, poll workers, and election observers.

So far, the U.S. Government has contributed more than \$100 million toward the 2014 Afghanistan election, and numerous United States and coalition soldiers have sacrificed their lives in efforts to secure Afghanistan and prepare it for this crucial moment of peaceful transition of power.

I think that it is important to recognize these facts, and that is part of what House Resolution 600 seeks to do.

On April 5, the Government of Afghanistan held the first round of a Presidential election, in which almost 60 percent of eligible voters participated. Now, according to the Afghan Constitution, because no single candidate claimed more than 50 percent of the vote, a runoff election between the top two candidates will be held.

The first round of elections were promising in terms of increased voter turnout, no civilian deaths in attacks on election day, and a quick certification of results in order to set the stage for a runoff election, but more work remains to be done.

Votes from 331 polling stations were invalidated and removed from the final tabulations. Reports of voter and election monitor intimidation persist. Reports of attempts to bribe election monitors have occurred. Reports of SMS and texting capabilities being suspended on election day exist. Concerns remain about the lack of transparency and activities of the Afghan Independent Election Commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission. Seventeen members of the Afghan National Security Forces were killed in attacks on election day. And female voter participation and protection remains at a level below what Afghan males enjoy.

In light of these issues, House Resolution 600 commends the Government of Afghanistan for holding the first round of elections and scheduling a second; expresses support for a credible, inclusive, and transparent runoff election; supports the mandate of Afghan electoral bodies to prevent voter fraud and misconduct; encourages the Government of Afghanistan to implement measures that will increase voter participation, particularly among Afghan females; and urges the security force to continue to provide protection to vulnerable areas of the country during the election period, as well as recognizing the sacrifices of those forces that have contributed and will continue to contribute to the security and stability of Afghanistan.

This is an exciting time for Afghanistan, Mr. Speaker, and this election is an important one. American forces have been in Afghanistan now for a decade, and most of them are now coming home. This election will be crucial in proving to the world that Afghanistan is ready again to chart its own course and to provide its own security.

I wish the Afghan people well in this endeavor, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER).

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important bipartisan resolution to urge the Government of Afghanistan to ensure a transparent process in its June 14 runoff Presidential election.

I want to commend my former Foreign Affairs Committee colleague, Mr. GRAYSON, for bringing this measure forward, and also Chairman ROYCE for his leadership on this important issue.

It makes clear that the United States supports the Afghan people in their pursuit to form an effective government through credible, violence-free elections.

Afghanistan certainly faces major challenges, but this transition is an opportunity for Afghanistan to build upon the progress it has made since 2001. Under the Taliban, women were banned from social, political, and educational participation. Now, more than one-quarter of the country's parliament is female, and more than one-third of the voters in the first round of elections were women.

There has been other strong progress, both big and small. Infant mortality has declined, the media is more accessible, the literacy rates have increased from the single digits, and there are even substantially more paved roads. Don't get me wrong. It is not all cotton candy and rainbows. To be certain, Afghanistan still has a long road ahead to achieve a democratic future, but this election is a critical step in the right direction.

It is my hope that the Government of Afghanistan recognizes the sacrifices that have been made to get to this point and will turn a page to ensure a peaceful transition of power.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

Mr. GRAYSON. I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1615

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and will just take a moment and recognize the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) for his initiative in introducing this bill and for his commitment to the success of democratic governance in Afghanistan.

The international community has previously pledged aid support to Af-

ghanistan on the condition that the country hold transparent, credible, and inclusive elections this year and next year. This resolution encourages the Government of Afghanistan to uphold that commitment when Afghans finally select a successor to President Karzai on June 14.

This new government will have a chance to start anew, tackling corruption—the kind of corruption that has jeopardized the success of international aid efforts there. This resolution urges the Government of Afghanistan to lessen the risk of fraud, to improve electoral transparency, enhance security efforts, and increase voter participation during the upcoming runoff.

Importantly, it has also been the case that we need to recognize the sacrifices of members of the Armed Forces, and this resolution does that. It recognizes those in our Armed Forces and underscores that this election will contribute to the security and stability interests of both Afghanistan and the United States.

This is an historic opportunity to bolster the Afghan-led electoral process, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution, which demonstrates our commitment to a legitimate and democratic transition to power in Afghanistan.

Also, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) has reminded me that, as Afghanistan walks down this road, it might behoove the new government there to look at local elections as part of the solution, rather than to have people perennially appointed from the center of the country, empower people locally to elect their own local mayors, their own local leaders.

They will certainly have that opportunity next year in the parliamentary elections.

With that said, again, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) for this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 600, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4412) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4412

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Fiscal year 2014.

TITLE II—HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT

Subtitle A—Exploration

Sec. 201. Space exploration policy.
Sec. 202. Stepping stone approach to exploration.
Sec. 203. Space Launch System.
Sec. 204. Orion crew capsule.
Sec. 205. Space radiation.
Sec. 206. Planetary protection for human exploration missions.

Subtitle B—Space Operations

Sec. 211. International Space Station.
Sec. 212. Barriers impeding enhanced utilization of the ISS's National Laboratory by commercial companies.
Sec. 213. Utilization of International Space Station for science missions.
Sec. 214. International Space Station cargo resupply services lessons learned.
Sec. 215. Commercial crew program.
Sec. 216. Space communications.

TITLE III—SCIENCE

Subtitle A—General

Sec. 301. Science portfolio.
Sec. 302. Radioisotope power systems.
Sec. 303. Congressional declaration of policy and purpose.
Sec. 304. University class science missions.
Sec. 305. Assessment of science mission extensions.

Subtitle B—Astrophysics

Sec. 311. Decadal cadence.
Sec. 312. Extrasolar planet exploration strategy.
Sec. 313. James Webb Space Telescope.
Sec. 314. National Reconnaissance Office telescope donation.
Sec. 315. Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope.
Sec. 316. Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy.

Subtitle C—Planetary Science

Sec. 321. Decadal cadence.
Sec. 322. Near-Earth objects.
Sec. 323. Near-Earth objects public-private partnerships.
Sec. 324. Research on near-earth object tsunami effects.
Sec. 325. Astrobiology strategy.
Sec. 326. Astrobiology public-private partnerships.
Sec. 327. Assessment of Mars architecture.

Subtitle D—Heliophysics

Sec. 331. Decadal cadence.
Sec. 332. Review of space weather.

Subtitle E—Earth Science

Sec. 341. Goal.
Sec. 342. Decadal cadence.
Sec. 343. Venture class missions.
Sec. 344. Assessment.

TITLE IV—AERONAUTICS

Sec. 401. Sense of Congress.

- Sec. 402. Aeronautics research goals.
- Sec. 403. Unmanned aerial systems research and development.
- Sec. 404. Research program on composite materials used in aeronautics.
- Sec. 405. Hypersonic research.
- Sec. 406. Supersonic research.
- Sec. 407. Research on NextGen airspace management concepts and tools.
- Sec. 408. Rotorcraft research.
- Sec. 409. Transformative aeronautics research.
- Sec. 410. Study of United States leadership in aeronautics research.

TITLE V—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 501. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 502. Space Technology Program.
- Sec. 503. Utilization of the International Space Station for technology demonstrations.

TITLE VI—EDUCATION

- Sec. 601. Education.
- Sec. 602. Independent review of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.
- Sec. 603. Sense of Congress.

TITLE VII—POLICY PROVISIONS

- Sec. 701. Asteroid Retrieval Mission.
- Sec. 702. Termination liability sense of Congress.
- Sec. 703. Baseline and cost controls.
- Sec. 704. Project and program reserves.
- Sec. 705. Independent reviews.
- Sec. 706. Commercial technology transfer program.
- Sec. 707. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council.
- Sec. 708. Cost estimation.
- Sec. 709. Avoiding organizational conflicts of interest in major Administration acquisition programs.
- Sec. 710. Facilities and infrastructure.
- Sec. 711. Detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts.
- Sec. 712. Space Act Agreements.
- Sec. 713. Human spaceflight accident investigations.
- Sec. 714. Fullest commercial use of space.
- Sec. 715. Orbital debris.
- Sec. 716. Review of orbital debris removal concepts.
- Sec. 717. Use of operational commercial sub-orbital vehicles for research, development, and education.
- Sec. 718. Fundamental space life and physical sciences research.
- Sec. 719. Restoring commitment to engineering research.
- Sec. 720. Liquid rocket engine development program.
- Sec. 721. Remote satellite servicing demonstrations.
- Sec. 722. Information technology governance.
- Sec. 723. Strengthening Administration security.
- Sec. 724. Prohibition on use of funds for contractors that have committed fraud or other crimes.
- Sec. 725. Protection of Apollo landing sites.
- Sec. 726. Astronaut occupational healthcare.
- Sec. 727. Sense of Congress on access to observational data sets.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (1) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The term “Administration” means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- (2) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Administration.

(3) **ORION CREW CAPSULE.**—The term “Orion crew capsule” means the multipurpose crew vehicle described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

(4) **SPACE ACT AGREEMENT.**—The term “Space Act Agreement” means an agreement created under the authority to enter into “other transactions” under section 20113(e) of title 51, United States Code.

(5) **SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.**—The term “Space Launch System” means the follow-on Government-owned civil launch system developed, managed, and operated by the Administration to serve as a key component to expand human presence beyond low-Earth orbit, as described in section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 101. FISCAL YEAR 2014.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administration for fiscal year 2014 \$17,646,500,000 as follows:

- (1) For Space Exploration, \$4,113,200,000, of which—
 - (A) \$1,918,200,000 shall be for the Space Launch System, of which \$318,200,000 shall be for Exploration Ground Systems;
 - (B) \$1,197,000,000 shall be for the Orion crew capsule;
 - (C) \$302,000,000 shall be for Exploration Research and Development; and
 - (D) \$696,000,000 shall be for Commercial Crew Development activities.
- (2) For Space Operations, \$3,778,000,000, of which \$2,984,100,000 shall be for the International Space Station Program.
- (3) For Science, \$5,151,200,000, of which—
 - (A) \$1,826,000,000 shall be for Earth Science;
 - (B) \$1,345,000,000 shall be for Planetary Science, of which \$30,000,000 shall be for the Astrobiology Institute;
 - (C) \$668,000,000 shall be for Astrophysics;
 - (D) \$658,200,000 shall be for the James Webb Space Telescope; and
 - (E) \$654,000,000 shall be for Heliophysics.
- (4) For Aeronautics, \$566,000,000.
- (5) For Space Technology, \$576,000,000.
- (6) For Education, \$116,600,000.
- (7) For Cross-Agency Support, \$2,793,000,000.
- (8) For Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration, \$515,000,000.
- (9) For Inspector General, \$37,500,000.

TITLE II—HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT

Subtitle A—Exploration

SEC. 201. SPACE EXPLORATION POLICY.

(a) **POLICY.**—Human exploration deeper into the solar system shall be a core mission of the Administration. It is the policy of the United States that the goal of the Administration’s exploration program shall be to successfully conduct a crewed mission to the surface of Mars to begin human exploration of that planet. The use of the surface of the Moon, cis-lunar space, near-Earth asteroids, Lagrangian points, and Martian moons may be pursued provided they are properly incorporated into the Human Exploration Roadmap described in section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(b) **VISION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION.**—Section 20302 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **ORION CREW CAPSULE.**—The term ‘Orion crew capsule’ means the multipurpose crew vehicle described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-

tion Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

“(2) **SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.**—The term ‘Space Launch System’ means the follow-on Government-owned civil launch system developed, managed, and operated by the Administration to serve as a key component to expand human presence beyond low-Earth orbit, as described in section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).”

(c) **KEY OBJECTIVES.**—Section 202(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18312(b)) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” after the semicolon;
- (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and
- (3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) to accelerate the development of capabilities to enable a human exploration mission to the surface of Mars and beyond through the prioritization of those technologies and capabilities best suited for such a mission in accordance with the Human Exploration Roadmap under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.”

(d) **USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES.**—Section 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18311(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) **USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—NASA may not obtain non-United States human space flight capabilities unless no domestic commercial or public-private partnership provider that the Administrator has determined to meet safety and affordability requirements established by NASA for the transport of its astronauts is available to provide such capabilities.

“(2) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘domestic commercial provider’ means a person providing space transportation services or other space-related activities, the majority control of which is held by persons other than a Federal, State, local, or foreign government, foreign company, or foreign national.”

(e) **REPEAL OF SPACE SHUTTLE CAPABILITY ASSURANCE.**—Section 203 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18313) is amended—

- (1) by striking subsection (b);
- (2) in subsection (d), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “subsection (b)”; and
- (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

SEC. 202. STEPPING STONE APPROACH TO EXPLORATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 70504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 70504. Stepping stone approach to exploration

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to maximize the cost effectiveness of the long-term space exploration and utilization activities of the United States, the Administrator shall direct the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, or its successor division, to develop a Human Exploration Roadmap to define the specific capabilities and technologies necessary to extend human presence to the surface of Mars and the sets and sequences of missions required to demonstrate such capabilities and technologies.

“(b) INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION.—The President should invite the United States partners in the International Space Station program and other nations, as appropriate, to participate in an international initiative under the leadership of the United States to achieve the goal of successfully conducting a crewed mission to the surface of Mars.

“(c) ROADMAP REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the Human Exploration Roadmap, the Administrator shall—

“(1) include the specific set of capabilities and technologies that contribute to extending human presence to the surface of Mars and the sets and sequences of missions necessary to demonstrate the proficiency of these capabilities and technologies with an emphasis on using or not using the International Space Station, lunar landings, cis-lunar space, trans-lunar space, Lagrangian points, and the natural satellites of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, as testbeds, as necessary, and shall include the most appropriate process for developing such capabilities and technologies;

“(2) include information on the phasing of planned intermediate destinations, Mars mission risk areas and potential risk mitigation approaches, technology requirements and phasing of required technology development activities, the management strategy to be followed, related International Space Station activities, and planned international collaborative activities, potential commercial contributions, and other activities relevant to the achievement of the goal established in section 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014;

“(3) describe those technologies already under development across the Federal Government or by nongovernment entities which meet or exceed the needs described in paragraph (1);

“(4) provide a specific process for the evolution of the capabilities of the fully integrated Orion crew capsule with the Space Launch System and how these systems demonstrate the capabilities and technologies described in paragraph (1);

“(5) provide a description of the capabilities and technologies that need to be demonstrated or research data that could be gained through the utilization of the International Space Station and the status of the development of such capabilities and technologies;

“(6) describe a framework for international cooperation in the development of all technologies and capabilities required in this section, as well as an assessment of the risks posed by relying on international partners for capabilities and technologies on the critical path of development;

“(7) describe a process for utilizing nongovernmental entities for future human exploration beyond lunar landings and cis-lunar space and specify what, if any, synergy could be gained from—

“(A) partnerships using Space Act Agreements (as defined in section 2 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014); or

“(B) other acquisition instruments;

“(8) include in the Human Exploration Roadmap an addendum from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council, and an addendum from the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, each with a statement of review of the Human Exploration Roadmap that shall include—

“(A) subjects of agreement;

“(B) areas of concern; and

“(C) recommendations; and

“(9) include in the Human Exploration Roadmap an examination of the benefits of utilizing current Administration launch facilities for trans-lunar missions.

“(d) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall update such Human Exploration Roadmap as needed but no less frequently than every 2 years and include it in the budget for that fiscal year transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, and describe—

“(1) the achievements and goals reached in the process of developing such capabilities and technologies during the 2-year period prior to the submission of the update to Congress; and

“(2) the expected goals and achievements in the following 2-year period.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘Orion crew capsule’ and ‘Space Launch System’ have the meanings given such terms in section 20302.”

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a copy of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code, to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall transmit a copy of each updated Human Exploration Roadmap to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 7 days after such Human Exploration Roadmap is updated.

SEC. 203. SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Space Launch System is the most practical approach to reaching the Moon, Mars, and beyond, and Congress reaffirms the policy and minimum capability requirements for the Space Launch System contained in section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322);

(2) the primary goal for the design of the fully integrated Space Launch System, including an upper stage needed to go beyond low-Earth orbit, is to safely carry a total payload to enable human space exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond over the course of the next century as required in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)); and

(3) In order to promote safety and reduce programmatic risk, the Administrator shall budget for and undertake a robust ground test and uncrewed and crewed flight test and demonstration program for the Space Launch System and the Orion crew capsule and shall budget for an operational flight rate sufficient to maintain safety and operational readiness.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President’s annual budget requests for the Space Launch System and Orion crew capsule development, test, and operational phases should strive to accurately reflect the resource requirements of each of those phases, consistent with the policy established in section 201(a) of this Act.

(c) IN GENERAL.—Given the critical importance of a heavy-lift launch vehicle and crewed spacecraft to enable the achievement of the goal established in section 201(a) of this Act, as well as the accomplishment of intermediate exploration milestones and the provision of a backup capability to transfer crew and cargo to the International Space

Station, the Administrator shall make the expeditious development, test, and achievement of operational readiness of the Space Launch System and the Orion crew capsule the highest priority of the exploration program.

(d) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the Administration’s acquisition of ground systems in support of the Space Launch System. The report shall assess the extent to which ground systems acquired in support of the Space Launch System are focused on the direct support of the Space Launch System and shall identify any ground support projects or activities that the Administration is undertaking that do not solely or primarily support the Space Launch System.

(e) UTILIZATION REPORT.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall prepare a report that addresses the effort and budget required to enable and utilize a cargo variant of the 130-ton Space Launch System configuration described in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)). This report shall also include consideration of the technical requirements of the scientific and national security communities related to such Space Launch System and shall directly assess the utility and estimated cost savings obtained by using such Space Launch System for national security and space science missions. The Administrator shall transmit such report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) NAMING COMPETITION.—Beginning not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and concluding not later than 1 year after such date of enactment, the Administrator shall conduct a well-publicized competition among students in elementary and secondary schools to name the elements of the Administration’s exploration program, including—

(1) a name for the deep space human exploration program as a whole, which includes the Space Launch System, the Orion crew capsule, and future missions; and

(2) a name for the Space Launch System.

(g) ADVANCED BOOSTER COMPETITION.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Associate Administrator of the Administration shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(A) describes the estimated total development cost of an advanced booster for the Space Launch System;

(B) details any reductions or increases to the development cost of the Space Launch System which may result from conducting a competition for an advanced booster; and

(C) outlines any potential schedule delay to the Space Launch System 2017 Exploration Mission-1 launch as a result of increased costs associated with conducting a competition for an advanced booster.

(2) COMPETITION.—If the Associate Administrator reports reductions pursuant to paragraph (1)(B), and no adverse schedule impact

pursuant to paragraph (1)(C), then the Administration shall conduct a full and open competition for an advanced booster for the Space Launch System to meet the requirements described in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)), to begin as soon as practicable after the development of the upper stage has been initiated.

SEC. 204. ORION CREW CAPSULE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Orion crew capsule shall meet the practical needs and the minimum capability requirements described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

(1) detailing those components and systems of the Orion crew capsule that ensure it is in compliance with section 303(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18323(b));

(2) detailing the expected date that the Orion crew capsule will be available to transport crew and cargo to the International Space Station; and

(3) certifying that the requirements of section 303(b)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18323(b)(3)) will be met by the Administration.

SEC. 205. SPACE RADIATION.

(a) STRATEGY AND PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop a space radiation mitigation and management strategy and implementation plan to enable the achievement of the goal established in section 201 that includes key research and monitoring requirements, milestones, a timetable, and an estimate of facility and budgetary requirements.

(2) COORDINATION.—The strategy shall include a mechanism for coordinating Administration research, technology, facilities, engineering, operations, and other functions required to support the strategy and plan.

(3) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the strategy and plan to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) SPACE RADIATION RESEARCH FACILITIES.—The Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall assess the national capabilities for carrying out critical ground-based research on space radiation biology and shall identify any issues that could affect the ability to carry out that research.

SEC. 206. PLANETARY PROTECTION FOR HUMAN EXPLORATION MISSIONS.

(a) STUDY.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for a study to explore the planetary protection ramifications of potential future missions by astronauts such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars.

(b) SCOPE.—The study shall—

(1) collate and summarize what has been done to date with respect to planetary protection measures to be applied to potential human missions such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars;

(2) identify and document planetary protection concerns associated with potential

human missions such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars;

(3) develop a methodology, if possible, for defining and classifying the degree of concern associated with each likely destination;

(4) assess likely methodologies for addressing planetary protection concerns; and

(5) identify areas for future research to reduce current uncertainties.

(c) COMPLETION DATE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide the results of the study to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

Subtitle B—Space Operations

SEC. 211. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The International Space Station is an ideal testbed for future exploration systems development, including long-duration space travel.

(2) The use of the private market to provide cargo and crew transportation services is currently the most expeditious process to restore domestic access to the International Space Station and low-Earth orbit.

(3) Government access to low-Earth orbit is paramount to the continued success of the International Space Station and National Laboratory.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The following is the policy of the United States:

(1) The United States International Space Station program shall have two primary objectives: supporting achievement of the goal established in section 201 of this Act and pursuing a research program that advances knowledge and provides benefits to the Nation. It shall continue to be the policy of the United States to, in consultation with its international partners in the International Space Station program, support full and complete utilization of the International Space Station.

(2) The International Space Station shall be utilized to the maximum extent practicable for the development of capabilities and technologies needed for the future of human exploration beyond low-Earth orbit and shall be considered in the development of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(3) The Administrator shall, in consultation with the International Space Station partners—

(A) take all necessary measures to support the operation and full utilization of the International Space Station; and

(B) seek to minimize, to the extent practicable, the operating costs of the International Space Station.

(4) Reliance on foreign carriers for crew transfer is unacceptable, and the Nation's human space flight program must acquire the capability to launch United States astronauts on United States rockets from United States soil as soon as is safe and practically possible, whether on Government-owned and operated space transportation systems or privately owned systems that have been certified for flight by the appropriate Federal agencies.

(c) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—Congress reaffirms—

(1) its commitment to the development of a commercially developed launch and delivery system to the International Space Station for crew missions as expressed in the

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-155), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-422), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-267);

(2) that the Administration shall make use of United States commercially provided International Space Station crew transfer and crew rescue services to the maximum extent practicable;

(3) that the Orion crew capsule shall provide an alternative means of delivery of crew and cargo to the International Space Station, in the event other vehicles, whether commercial vehicles or partner-supplied vehicles, are unable to perform that function; and

(4) the policy stated in section 501(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18351(b)) that the Administration shall pursue international, commercial, and intragovernmental means to maximize International Space Station logistics supply, maintenance, and operational capabilities, reduce risks to International Space Station systems sustainability, and offset and minimize United States operations costs relating to the International Space Station.

(d) ASSURED ACCESS TO LOW-EARTH ORBIT.—Section 70501(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) POLICY STATEMENT.—It is the policy of the United States to maintain an uninterrupted capability for human space flight and operations in low-Earth orbit, and beyond, as an essential instrument of national security and the capability to ensure continued United States participation and leadership in the exploration and utilization of space.”

(e) REPEALS.—

(1) USE OF SPACE SHUTTLE OR ALTERNATIVES.—Chapter 701 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to such chapter in the table of chapters for such title, are repealed.

(2) SHUTTLE PRICING POLICY FOR COMMERCIAL AND FOREIGN USERS.—Chapter 703 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to such chapter in the table of chapters for such title, are repealed.

(3) SHUTTLE PRIVATIZATION.—Section 50133 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the table of sections for chapter 501 of such title, are repealed.

(f) EXTENSION CRITERIA REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the feasibility of extending the operation of the International Space Station that includes—

(1) criteria for defining the International Space Station as a research success;

(2) any necessary contributions to enabling execution of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code;

(3) cost estimates for operating the International Space Station to achieve the criteria required under paragraph (1);

(4) cost estimates for extending operations to 2024 and 2030;

(5) an assessment of how the defined criteria under paragraph (1) respond to the National Academies Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space; and

(6) an identification of the actions and cost estimate needed to deorbit the International

Space Station once a decision is made to deorbit the laboratory.

(g) **STRATEGIC PLAN FOR INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION RESEARCH.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Administrator, academia, other Federal agencies, the International Space Station National Laboratory Advisory Committee, and other potential stakeholders, shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a strategic plan for conducting competitive, peer-reviewed research in physical and life sciences and related technologies on the International Space Station through at least 2020.

(2) **PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**—The strategic plan shall—

(A) be consistent with the priorities and recommendations established by the National Academies in its Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space;

(B) provide a research timeline and identify resource requirements for its implementation, including the facilities and instrumentation necessary for the conduct of such research; and

(C) identify—

(i) criteria for the proposed research, including—

(I) a justification for the research to be carried out in the space microgravity environment;

(II) the use of model systems;

(III) the testing of flight hardware to understand and ensure its functioning in the microgravity environment;

(IV) the use of controls to help distinguish among the direct and indirect effects of microgravity, among other effects of the flight or space environment;

(V) approaches for facilitating data collection, analysis, and interpretation;

(VI) procedures to ensure repetition of experiments, as needed;

(VII) support for timely presentation of the peer-reviewed results of the research;

(VIII) defined metrics for the success of each study; and

(IX) how these activities enable the Human Exploration Roadmap described in section 70504 of title 51, United States Code;

(ii) instrumentation required to support the measurements and analysis of the research to be carried out under the strategic plan;

(iii) the capabilities needed to support direct, real-time communications between astronauts working on research experiments onboard the International Space Station and the principal investigator on the ground;

(iv) a process for involving the external user community in research planning, including planning for relevant flight hardware and instrumentation, and for utilization of the International Space Station, free flyers, or other research platforms;

(v) the acquisition strategy the Administration plans to use to acquire any new support capabilities which are not operational on the International Space Station as of the date of enactment of this Act, and the criteria the Administration will apply if less than full and open competition is selected; and

(vi) defined metrics for success of the research plan.

(3) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States

shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the progress of the organization chosen for the management of the International Space Station National Laboratory as directed in section 504 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18354).

(B) **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.**—The report shall assess the management, organization, and performance of such organization and shall include a review of the status of each of the 7 required activities listed in section 504(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18354(c)).

SEC. 212. BARRIERS IMPEDING ENHANCED UTILIZATION OF THE ISS'S NATIONAL LABORATORY BY COMMERCIAL COMPANIES.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) enhanced utilization of the International Space Station's National Laboratory requires a full understanding of the barriers impeding such utilization and actions needed to be taken to remove or mitigate them to the maximum extent practicable; and

(2) doing so will allow the Administration to encourage commercial companies to invest in microgravity research using National Laboratory research facilities.

(b) **ASSESSMENT.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for an assessment to—

(1) identify barriers impeding enhanced utilization of the International Space Station's National Laboratory;

(2) recommend ways to encourage commercial companies to make greater use of the International Space Station's National Laboratory, including corporate investment in microgravity research; and

(3) identify any legislative changes that may be required.

(c) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the results of the assessment described in subsection (b).

SEC. 213. UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION FOR SCIENCE MISSIONS.

The Administrator shall utilize the International Space Station for Science Mission Directorate missions in low-Earth orbit wherever it is practical and cost effective to do so.

SEC. 214. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION CARGO RESUPPLY SERVICES LESSONS LEARNED.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that—

(1) identifies the lessons learned to date from the Commercial Resupply Services contract;

(2) indicates whether changes are needed to the manner in which the Administration procures and manages similar services upon the expiration of the existing Commercial Resupply Services contract; and

(3) identifies any lessons learned from the Commercial Resupply Services contract that should be applied to the procurement and management of commercially provided crew

transfer services to and from the International Space Station.

SEC. 215. COMMERCIAL CREW PROGRAM.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that once developed and certified to meet the Administration's safety and reliability requirements, United States commercially provided crew transportation systems offer the potential of serving as the primary means of transporting American astronauts and international partner astronauts to and from the International Space Station and serving as International Space Station emergency crew rescue vehicles. At the same time, the budgetary assumptions used by the Administration in its planning for the Commercial Crew Program have consistently assumed significantly higher funding levels than have been authorized and appropriated by Congress. It is the sense of Congress that credibility in the Administration's budgetary estimates for the Commercial Crew Program can be enhanced by an independently developed cost estimate. Such credibility in budgetary estimates is an important factor in understanding program risk.

(b) **OBJECTIVE.**—The objective of the Administration's Commercial Crew Program shall be to assist the development of at least one crew transportation system to carry Administration astronauts safely, reliably, and affordably to and from the International Space Station and to serve as an emergency crew rescue vehicle as soon as practicable within the funding levels authorized. The Administration shall not use any considerations beyond this objective in the overall acquisition strategy.

(c) **SAFETY.**—Consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, the Administration shall—

(1) ensure that, in its evaluation and selection of contracts for the development of commercial crew transportation capabilities, safety is the highest priority; and

(2) seek to ensure that minimization of the probability of loss of crew shall be an important selection criterion of the Commercial Crew Transportation Capability Contract.

(d) **COST MINIMIZATION.**—The Administrator shall strive through the competitive selection process to minimize the life cycle cost to the Administration through the planned period of commercially provided crew transportation services.

(e) **TRANSPARENCY.**—Transparency is the cornerstone of ensuring a safe and reliable commercial crew transportation service to the International Space Station. The Administrator shall, to the greatest extent practicable, ensure that every commercial crew transportation services provider has provided evidence-based support for their costs and schedule.

(f) **INDEPENDENT COST AND SCHEDULE ESTIMATE.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after the Federal Acquisition Regulation-based contract for the Commercial Crew Transportation Capability Contract is awarded, the Administrator shall arrange for the initiation of an Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate for—

(A) all activities associated with the development, test, demonstration, and certification of commercial crew transportation systems;

(B) transportation and rescue services required by the Administration for International Space Station operations through calendar year 2020 or later if Administration requirements so dictate; and

(C) the estimated date of operational readiness for the program each assumption listed in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) ASSUMPTIONS.—The Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate shall provide an estimate for each of the following scenarios:

(A) An appropriation of \$600,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years.

(B) An appropriation of \$700,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years.

(C) An appropriation of \$800,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years.

(D) The funding level assumptions over the next 3 fiscal years that are included as part of commercial crew transportation capability contract awards.

(3) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 180 days after initiation of the Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall transmit the results of the Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(g) IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the completion of the Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate under subsection (f), the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing 4 distinct implementation strategies based on such Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate for the final stages of the commercial crew program.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—These options shall include—

(A) a strategy that assumes an appropriation of \$600,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years;

(B) a strategy that assumes an appropriation of \$700,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years;

(C) a strategy that assumes an appropriation of \$800,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years; and

(D) a strategy that has yet to be considered previously in any budget submission but that the Administration believes could ensure the flight readiness date of 2017 for at least one provider.

(3) INCLUSIONS.—Each strategy shall include the contracting instruments the Administration will employ to acquire the services in each phase of development or acquisition and the number of commercial providers the Administration will include in the program.

SEC. 216. SPACE COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) PLAN.—The Administrator shall develop a plan, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, for updating the Administration's space communications and navigation architecture for low-Earth orbital and deep space operations so that it is capable of meeting the Administration's communications needs over the next 20 years. The plan shall include lifecycle cost estimates, milestones, estimated performance capabilities, and 5-year funding profiles. The plan shall also include an estimate of the amounts of any reimbursements the Administration is likely to receive from other Federal agencies during the expected life of the upgrades described in the plan. At a minimum, the plan shall include a description of the following:

(1) Steps to sustain the existing space communications and navigation network and infrastructure and priorities for how resources will be applied and cost estimates for the maintenance of existing space communications network capabilities.

(2) Upgrades needed to support space communications and navigation network and in-

frastructure requirements, including cost estimates and schedules and an assessment of the impact on missions if resources are not secured at the level needed.

(3) Projected space communications and navigation network requirements for the next 20 years, including those in support of human space exploration missions.

(4) Projected Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System requirements for the next 20 years, including those in support of other relevant Federal agencies, and cost and schedule estimates to maintain and upgrade the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System to meet projected requirements.

(5) Steps the Administration is taking to meet future space communications requirements after all Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System third-generation communications satellites are operational.

(6) Steps the Administration is taking to mitigate threats to electromagnetic spectrum use.

(b) SCHEDULE.—The Administrator shall transmit the plan developed under this section to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—SCIENCE

Subtitle A—General

SEC. 301. SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.

(a) BALANCED AND ADEQUATELY FUNDED ACTIVITIES.—Section 803 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (124 Stat. 2832) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 803. OVERALL SCIENCE PORTFOLIO—SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

“Congress reaffirms its sense, expressed in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010, that a balanced and adequately funded set of activities, consisting of research and analysis grants programs, technology development, small, medium, and large space missions, and suborbital research activities, contributes to a robust and productive science program and serves as a catalyst for innovation and discovery.”

(b) DECADAL SURVEYS.—In proposing the funding of programs and activities for the Administration for each fiscal year, the Administrator shall to the greatest extent practicable follow guidance provided in the current decadal surveys from the National Academies' Space Studies Board.

SEC. 302. RADIOISOTOPE POWER SYSTEMS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that conducting deep space exploration requires radioisotope power systems, and establishing continuity in the production of the material needed to power these systems is paramount to the success of these future deep space missions. It is further the sense of Congress that Federal agencies supporting the Administration through the production of such material should do so in a cost effective manner so as not to impose excessive reimbursement requirements on the Administration.

(b) ANALYSIS OF REQUIREMENTS AND RISKS.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall conduct an analysis of—

(1) the requirements of the Administration for radioisotope power system material that is needed to carry out planned, high priority robotic missions in the solar system and other surface exploration activities beyond low-Earth orbit; and

(2) the risks to missions of the Administration in meeting those requirements, or any additional requirements, due to a lack of adequate radioisotope power system material.

(c) CONTENTS OF ANALYSIS.—The analysis conducted under subsection (b) shall—

(1) detail the Administration's current projected mission requirements and associated timeframes for radioisotope power system material;

(2) explain the assumptions used to determine the Administration's requirements for the material, including—

(A) the planned use of advanced thermal conversion technology such as advanced thermocouples and Stirling generators and converters; and

(B) the risks and implications of, and contingencies for, any delays or unanticipated technical challenges affecting or related to the Administration's mission plans for the anticipated use of advanced thermal conversion technology;

(3) assess the risk to the Administration's programs of any potential delays in achieving the schedule and milestones for planned domestic production of radioisotope power system material;

(4) outline a process for meeting any additional Administration requirements for the material;

(5) estimate the incremental costs required to increase the amount of material produced each year, if such an increase is needed to support additional Administration requirements for the material;

(6) detail how the Administration and other Federal agencies will manage, operate, and fund production facilities and the design and development of all radioisotope power systems used by the Administration and other Federal agencies as necessary;

(7) specify the steps the Administration will take, in consultation with the Department of Energy, to preserve the infrastructure and workforce necessary for production of radioisotope power systems and ensure that its reimbursements to the Department of Energy associated with such preservation are equitable and justified; and

(8) detail how the Administration has implemented or rejected the recommendations from the National Research Council's 2009 report titled “Radioisotope Power Systems: An Imperative for Maintaining U.S. Leadership in Space Exploration”.

(d) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the analysis to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 303. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF POLICY AND PURPOSE.

Section 20102(d) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) The direction of the unique competence of the Administration to the search for life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe. In carrying out this objective, the Administration may use any practicable ground-based, airborne, or space-based technical means and spectra of electromagnetic radiation.”

SEC. 304. UNIVERSITY CLASS SCIENCE MISSIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that principal investigator-led small orbital science missions, including CubeSat class, University Explorer (UNEX) class, Small Explorer (SMEX) class, and

Venture class, offer valuable opportunities to advance science at low cost, train the next generation of scientists and engineers, and enable participants in the program to acquire skills in systems engineering and systems integration that are critical to maintaining the Nation's leadership in space and to enhancing the United States innovation and competitiveness abroad.

(b) REVIEW OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR-LED SMALL ORBITAL SCIENCE MISSIONS.—The Administrator shall conduct a review of the science missions described in subsection (a). The review shall include—

(1) the status, capability, and availability of existing small orbital science mission programs and the extent to which each program enables the participation of university scientists and students;

(2) the opportunities such mission programs provide for scientific research;

(3) the opportunities such mission programs provide for training and education, including scientific and engineering workforce development, including for the Administration's scientific and engineering workforce; and

(4) the extent to which commercial applications such as hosted payloads, free flyers, and data buys could provide measurable benefits for such mission programs, while preserving the principle of independent peer review as the basis for mission selection.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the review required under subsection (b) and on recommendations to enhance principal investigator-led small orbital science missions conducted by the Administration in accordance with the results of the review required by subsection (b).

SEC. 305. ASSESSMENT OF SCIENCE MISSION EXTENSIONS.

Section 30504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 30504. Assessment of science mission extensions

“(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall carry out biennial reviews within each of the Science divisions to assess the cost and benefits of extending the date of the termination of data collection for those missions that exceed their planned missions' lifetime. The assessment shall take into consideration how extending missions impacts the start of future missions.

“(b) CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF INSTRUMENTS ON MISSIONS.—When deciding whether to extend a mission that has an operational component, the Administrator shall consult with any affected Federal agency and shall take into account the potential benefits of instruments on missions that are beyond their planned mission lifetime.

“(c) REPORT.—The Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, at the same time as the submission to Congress of the Administration's annual budget request for each fiscal year, a report detailing any assessment required by subsection (a) that was carried out during the previous year.”

Subtitle B—Astrophysics

SEC. 311. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the extent

practicable a steady cadence of large, medium, and small astrophysics missions.

SEC. 312. EXTRASOLAR PLANET EXPLORATION STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to develop a science strategy for the study and exploration of extrasolar planets, including the use of the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, the James Webb Space Telescope, a potential Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission, or any other telescope, spacecraft, or instrument as appropriate. Such strategy shall—

(1) outline key scientific questions;

(2) identify the most promising research in the field;

(3) indicate the extent to which the mission priorities in existing decadal surveys address the key extrasolar planet research goals;

(4) identify opportunities for coordination with international partners, commercial partners, and other not-for-profit partners; and

(5) make recommendations on the above as appropriate.

(b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall use the strategy to—

(1) inform roadmaps, strategic plans, and other activities of the Administration as they relate to extrasolar planet research and exploration; and

(2) provide a foundation for future activities and initiatives.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall transmit a report to the Administrator, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, containing the strategy developed under subsection (a).

SEC. 313. JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the James Webb Space Telescope will revolutionize our understanding of star and planet formation and how galaxies evolved, and advance the search for the origins of the universe;

(2) the James Webb Space Telescope will enable American scientists to maintain their leadership in astrophysics and other disciplines;

(3) the James Webb Space Telescope program is making steady progress towards a launch in 2018;

(4) the on-time and on-budget delivery of the James Webb Space Telescope is a high congressional priority; and

(5) maintaining this progress will require the Administrator to ensure that integrated testing is appropriately timed and sufficiently comprehensive to enable potential issues to be identified and addressed early enough to be handled within the James Webb Space Telescope's development schedule prior to launch.

SEC. 314. NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE TELESCOPE DONATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate outlining the cost of the Administration's potential plan for developing the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope as described in the 2010 National Academies' astronomy and astrophysics decadal survey, including an alternative plan for the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope 2.4, which

includes the donated 2.4-meter aperture National Reconnaissance Office telescope. Due to the budget constraints on the Administration's science programs, this report shall include—

(1) an assessment of cost efficient approaches to develop the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope;

(2) a comparison to the development of mission concepts that exclude the utilization of the donated asset;

(3) an assessment of how the Administration's existing science missions will be affected by the utilization of the donated asset described in this section; and

(4) a description of the cost associated with storing and maintaining the donated asset.

SEC. 315. WIDE-FIELD INFRARED SURVEY TELESCOPE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator, to the extent practicable, should make progress on the technologies and capabilities needed to position the Administration to meet the objectives of the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission, as outlined in the 2010 National Academies' astronomy and astrophysics decadal survey, in a way that maximizes the scientific productivity of meeting those objectives for the resources invested. It is further the sense of Congress that the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission has the potential to enable scientific discoveries that will transform our understanding of the universe.

(b) CONTINUITY OF DEVELOPMENT.—The Administrator shall ensure that the concept definition and pre-formulation activities of a Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission continue while the James Webb Space Telescope is being completed.

SEC. 316. STRATOSPHERIC OBSERVATORY FOR INFRARED ASTRONOMY.

The Administrator shall not use any funding appropriated to the Administration for fiscal year 2014 for the shutdown of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy or for the preparation therefor.

Subtitle C—Planetary Science

SEC. 321. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the greatest extent practicable that the Administration carries out a balanced set of planetary science programs in accordance with the priorities established in the most recent decadal survey for planetary science. Such programs shall include, at a minimum—

(1) a Discovery-class mission at least once every 24 months;

(2) a New Frontiers-class mission at least once every 60 months; and

(3) at least one Flagship-class mission per decadal survey period, including a Europa mission with a goal of launching by 2021.

SEC. 322. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Near-Earth objects pose a serious and credible threat to humankind, as many scientists believe that a major asteroid or comet was responsible for the mass extinction of the majority of the Earth's species, including the dinosaurs, approximately 65,000,000 years ago.

(2) Similar objects have struck the Earth or passed through the Earth's atmosphere several times in the Earth's history and pose a similar threat in the future.

(3) Several such near-Earth objects have only been discovered within days of the objects' closest approach to Earth, and recent discoveries of such large objects indicate

that many large near-Earth objects remain to be discovered.

(4) The efforts undertaken by the Administration for detecting and characterizing the hazards of near-Earth objects should continue to seek to fully determine the threat posed by such objects to cause widespread destruction and loss of life.

(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “near-Earth object” means an asteroid or comet with a perihelion distance of less than 1.3 Astronomical Units from the Sun.

(c) NEAR-EARTH OBJECT SURVEY.—The Administrator shall continue to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize the physical characteristics of near-Earth objects equal to or greater than 140 meters in diameter in order to assess the threat of such near-Earth objects to the Earth, pursuant to the George E. Brown, Jr. Near-Earth Object Survey Act (42 U.S.C. 16691). It shall be the goal of the Survey program to achieve 90 percent completion of its near-Earth object catalogue (based on statistically predicted populations of near-Earth objects) by 2020.

(d) WARNING AND MITIGATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS.—Congress reaffirms the policy set forth in section 20102(g) of title 51, United States Code (relating to detecting, tracking, cataloguing, and characterizing asteroids and comets).

(e) PROGRAM REPORT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, an initial report that provides—

(1) recommendations for carrying out the Survey program and an associated proposed budget;

(2) analysis of possible options that the Administration could employ to divert an object on a likely collision course with Earth; and

(3) a description of the status of efforts to coordinate and cooperate with other countries to discover hazardous asteroids and comets, plan a mitigation strategy, and implement that strategy in the event of the discovery of an object on a likely collision course with Earth.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Subsequent to the initial report the Administrator shall annually transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that provides—

(1) a summary of all activities carried out pursuant to subsection (c) since the date of enactment of this Act, including the progress toward achieving 90 percent completion of the survey described in subsection (c); and

(2) a summary of expenditures for all activities carried out pursuant to subsection (c) since the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) STUDY.—The Administrator, in collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies, shall carry out a technical and scientific assessment of the capabilities and resources to—

(1) accelerate the survey described in subsection (c); and

(2) expand the Administration’s Near-Earth Object Program to include the detection, tracking, cataloguing, and characterization of potentially hazardous near-Earth objects less than 140 meters in diameter.

(h) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Administrator shall transmit the results of the assessment carried out under subsection (g) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 323. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administration should seek to leverage the capabilities of the private sector and philanthropic organizations to the maximum extent practicable in carrying out the Near-Earth Object Survey program in order to meet the goal of the Survey program.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, Transportation of the Senate a report describing how the Administration can expand collaborative partnerships to detect, track, catalogue, and categorize near-Earth objects.

SEC. 324. RESEARCH ON NEAR-EARTH OBJECT TSUNAMI EFFECTS.

(a) REPORT ON POTENTIAL TSUNAMI EFFECTS FROM NEAR-EARTH OBJECT IMPACT.—The Administrator, in collaboration with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other relevant agencies, shall prepare a report identifying and describing existing research activities and further research objectives that would increase our understanding of the nature of the effects of potential tsunamis that could occur if a near-Earth object were to impact an ocean of Earth.

(b) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the report required and prepared under subsection (a) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 325. ASTROBIOLOGY STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to develop a science strategy for astrobiology that would outline key scientific questions, identify the most promising research in the field, and indicate the extent to which the mission priorities in existing decadal surveys address the search for life’s origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe. The strategy shall include recommendations for coordination with international partners.

(b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall use the strategy developed under subsection (a) in planning and funding research and other activities and initiatives in the field of astrobiology.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall transmit a report to the Administrator, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, containing the strategy developed under subsection (a).

SEC. 326. ASTROBIOLOGY PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, Transportation of the Senate a report describing how the Administra-

tion can expand collaborative partnerships to study life’s origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe.

SEC. 327. ASSESSMENT OF MARS ARCHITECTURE.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to assess—

(1) the Administration’s revised post-2016 Mars exploration architecture and its responsiveness to the strategies, priorities, and guidelines put forward by the National Academies’ planetary science decadal surveys and other relevant National Academies Mars-related reports;

(2) the long-term goals of the Administration’s Mars Exploration Program and such program’s ability to optimize the science return, given the current fiscal posture of the program;

(3) the Mars architecture’s relationship to Mars-related activities to be undertaken by agencies and organizations outside of the United States; and

(4) the extent to which the Mars architecture represents a reasonably balanced mission portfolio.

(b) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the assessment to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

Subtitle D—Heliophysics

SEC. 331. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady cadence of large, medium, and small heliophysics missions.

SEC. 332. REVIEW OF SPACE WEATHER.

(a) REVIEW.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Administrator, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to provide a comprehensive study that reviews current and planned ground-based and space-based space weather monitoring requirements and capabilities, identifies gaps, and identifies options for a robust and resilient capability. The study shall inform the process of identifying national needs for future space weather monitoring, forecasts, and mitigation. The National Academies shall give consideration to international and private sector efforts and collaboration that could potentially contribute to national space weather needs. The study shall also review the current state of research capabilities in observing, modeling, and prediction and provide recommendations to ensure future advancement of predictive capability.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 14 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall transmit a report containing the results of the study provided under subsection (a) to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

Subtitle E—Earth Science

SEC. 341. GOAL.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administration is being asked to undertake important Earth science activities in an environment of increasingly

constrained fiscal resources, and that any transfer of additional responsibilities to the Administration, such as climate instrument development and measurements that are currently part of the portfolio of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, should be accompanied by the provision of additional resources to allow the Administration to carry out the increased responsibilities without adversely impacting its implementation of its existing Earth science programs and priorities.

(b) **GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall continue to carry out a balanced Earth science program that includes Earth science research, Earth systematic missions, competitive Venture class missions, other missions and data analysis, mission operations, technology development, and applied sciences, consistent with the recommendations and priorities established in the National Academies' Earth Science Decadal Survey.

(c) **COLLABORATION.**—The Administrator shall collaborate with other Federal agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, non-government entities, and international partners, as appropriate, in carrying out the Administration's Earth science program. The Administration shall continue to develop first-of-a-kind instruments that, once proved, can be transitioned to other agencies for operations.

(d) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—Whenever responsibilities for the development of sensors or for measurements are transferred to the Administration from another agency, the Administration shall seek, to the extent possible, to be reimbursed for the assumption of such responsibilities.

SEC. 342. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 341(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady cadence of large, medium, and small Earth science missions.

SEC. 343. VENTURE CLASS MISSIONS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administration's Venture class missions provide opportunities for innovation in the Earth science program, offer low-cost approaches for high-quality competitive science investigations, enable frequent flight opportunities to engage the Earth science and applications community, and serve as a training ground for students and young scientists. It is further the sense of Congress that the Administration should seek to increase the number of Venture class projects to the extent practicable as part of a balanced Earth science program.

SEC. 344. ASSESSMENT.

The Administrator shall carry out a scientific assessment of the Administration's Earth science global datasets for the purpose of identifying those datasets that are useful for understanding regional changes and variability, and for informing applied science research. The Administrator shall complete and transmit the assessment to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—AERONAUTICS

SEC. 401. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a robust aeronautics research portfolio will help maintain the United States status as a leader in aviation, enhance the competitiveness of the United States in the world economy and improve the quality of life of all citizens;

(2) aeronautics research is essential to the Administration's mission, continues to be an important core element of the Administration's mission and should be supported;

(3) the Administrator should coordinate and consult with relevant Federal agencies and the private sector to minimize duplication and leverage resources; and

(4) carrying aeronautics research to a level of maturity that allows the Administration's research results to be transitioned to the users, whether private or public sector, is critical to their eventual adoption.

SEC. 402. AERONAUTICS RESEARCH GOALS.

The Administrator shall ensure that the Administration maintains a strong aeronautics research portfolio ranging from fundamental research through integrated systems research with specific research goals, including the following:

(1) **ENHANCE AIRSPACE OPERATIONS AND SAFETY.**—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall address research needs of the Next Generation Air Transportation System and identify critical gaps in technology which must be bridged to enable the implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System so that safety and productivity improvements can be achieved as soon as possible.

(2) **IMPROVE AIR VEHICLE PERFORMANCE.**—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall conduct research to improve aircraft performance and minimize environmental impacts. The Associate Administrator for the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall consider and pursue concepts to reduce noise, emissions, and fuel consumption while maintaining high safety standards, and shall conduct research related to the impact of alternative fuels on the safety, reliability and maintainability of current and new air vehicles.

(3) **STRENGTHEN AVIATION SAFETY.**—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall proactively address safety challenges associated with current and new air vehicles and with operations in the Nation's current and future air transportation system.

(4) **DEMONSTRATE CONCEPTS AT THE SYSTEM LEVEL.**—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall mature the most promising technologies to the point at which they can be demonstrated in a relevant environment and shall integrate individual components and technologies as appropriate to ensure that they perform in an integrated manner as well as they do when operated individually.

SEC. 403. UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and other Federal agencies, shall carry out research and technological development to facilitate the safe integration of unmanned aerial systems into the National Airspace System, including—

- (1) positioning and navigation systems;
- (2) sense and avoid capabilities;
- (3) secure data and communication links;
- (4) flight recovery systems; and
- (5) human systems integration.

(b) **ROADMAP.**—The Administrator shall update a roadmap for unmanned aerial systems research and development and transmit this roadmap to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) **COOPERATIVE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE ACTIVITIES.**—Section 31504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting "Operational flight data derived from these cooperative agreements shall be made available, in appropriate and usable formats, to the Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration for the development of regulatory standards." after "in remote areas."

SEC. 404. RESEARCH PROGRAM ON COMPOSITE MATERIALS USED IN AERONAUTICS.

(a) **PURPOSE OF RESEARCH.**—The Administrator shall continue the Administration's cooperative research program with industry to identify and demonstrate more effective and safe ways of developing, manufacturing, and maintaining composite materials for use in airframes, subsystems, and propulsion components.

(b) **EXPOSURE OF RESEARCH TO NEXT GENERATION OF ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS.**—To the extent practicable, the Administration's cooperative research program with industry on composite materials shall provide timely access to that research to the next generation of engineers and technicians at universities, community colleges, and vocational schools, thereby helping to develop a workforce ready to take on the development, manufacture, and maintenance of components reliant on advanced composite materials.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—The Administrator, in overseeing the Administration's work on composite materials, shall consult with relevant Federal agencies and partners in industry to accelerate safe development and certification processes for new composite materials and design methods while maintaining rigorous inspection of new composite materials.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate detailing the Administration's work on new composite materials and the coordination efforts among Federal agencies and industry partners.

SEC. 405. HYPERSONIC RESEARCH.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a research and development roadmap for hypersonic aircraft research with the objective of exploring hypersonic science and technology using air-breathing propulsion concepts, through a mix of theoretical work, basic and applied research, and development of flight research demonstration vehicles. The roadmap shall prescribe appropriate agency contributions, coordination efforts, and technology milestones.

SEC. 406. SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) the ability to fly commercial aircraft over land at supersonic speeds without adverse impacts on the environment or on local communities could open new global markets and enable new transportation capabilities; and

(2) continuing the Administration's research program is necessary to assess the impact in a relevant environment of commercial supersonic flight operations and provide the basis for establishing appropriate sonic boom standards for such flight operations.

(b) **ROADMAP FOR SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a roadmap that allows for flexible funding profiles for supersonic aeronautics research and development with the objective of developing and demonstrating, in a relevant environment, airframe and propulsion technologies to minimize the environmental impact, including noise, of supersonic overland flight in an efficient and economical manner. The roadmap shall include—

(1) the baseline research as embodied by the Administration's existing research on supersonic flight;

(2) a list of specific technological, environmental, and other challenges that must be overcome to minimize the environmental impact, including noise, of supersonic overland flight;

(3) a research plan to address such challenges, as well as a project timeline for accomplishing relevant research goals;

(4) a plan for coordination with stakeholders, including relevant government agencies and industry; and

(5) a plan for how the Administration will ensure that sonic boom research is coordinated as appropriate with relevant Federal agencies.

SEC. 407. RESEARCH ON NEXTGEN AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS AND TOOLS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall, in consultation with other Federal agencies, review at least annually the alignment and timing of the Administration's research and development activities in support of the NextGen airspace management modernization initiative, and shall make any necessary adjustments by reprioritizing or retargeting the Administration's research and development activities in support of the NextGen initiative.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—The Administrator shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate annually regarding the progress of the Administration's research and development activities in support of the NextGen airspace management modernization initiative, including details of technologies transferred to relevant Federal agencies for eventual operation implementation, consultation with other Federal agencies, and any adjustments made to research activities.

SEC. 408. ROTORCRAFT RESEARCH.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a roadmap for research relating to rotorcraft and other runway-independent air vehicles, with the objective of developing and demonstrating improved safety, noise, and environmental impact in a relevant environment. The roadmap shall include specific goals for the research, a timeline for implementation, metrics for success, and guidelines for collaboration and coordination with industry and other Federal agencies.

SEC. 409. TRANSFORMATIVE AERONAUTICS RESEARCH.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator, in looking strategically into the fu-

ture and ensuring that the Administration's Center personnel are at the leading edge of aeronautics research, should encourage investigations into the early-stage advancement of new processes, novel concepts, and innovative technologies that have the potential to meet national aeronautics needs. The Administrator shall continue to ensure that awards for the investigation of these concepts and technologies are open for competition among Administration civil servants at its Centers, separate from other awards open only to non-Administration sources.

SEC. 410. STUDY OF UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN AERONAUTICS RESEARCH.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for a study to benchmark the position of the United States in civil aeronautics research compared to the rest of the world. The study shall—

(1) seek to define metrics by which relative leadership in civil aeronautics research can be determined;

(2) ascertain how the United States compares to other countries in the field of civil aeronautics research and any relevant trends; and

(3) provide recommendations on what can be done to regain or retain global leadership, including—

(A) identifying research areas where United States expertise has been or is at risk of being overtaken;

(B) defining appropriate roles for the Administration;

(C) identifying public-private partnerships that could be formed; and

(D) estimating the impact on the Administration's budget should such recommendations be implemented.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide the results of the study to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

TITLE V—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 501. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that space technology is critical to—

(1) enabling a new class of Administration missions beyond low-Earth orbit;

(2) developing technologies and capabilities that will make the Administration's missions more affordable and more reliable; and

(3) improving technological capabilities and promoting innovation for the Administration and the Nation.

SEC. 502. SPACE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 70507 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 70507. Space Technology Program authorized

“(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Administrator shall establish a Space Technology Program to pursue the research and development of advanced space technologies that have the potential of delivering innovative solutions and to support human exploration of the solar system or advanced space science. The program established by the Administrator shall take into consideration the recommendations of the National Academies' review of the Administration's Space Technology roadmaps and priorities, as well as applicable enabling aspects of the Human Exploration Roadmap specified in section 70504. In conducting the space technology program established under this section, the Administrator shall—

“(1) to the maximum extent practicable, use a competitive process to select projects to be supported as part of the program;

“(2) make use of small satellites and the Administration's suborbital and ground-based platforms, to the extent practicable and appropriate, to demonstrate space technology concepts and developments; and

“(3) undertake partnerships with other Federal agencies, universities, private industry, and other spacefaring nations, as appropriate.

“(b) SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall organize and manage the Administration's Small Business Innovation Research program and Small Business Technology Transfer Program within the Space Technology Program.

“(c) NONDUPLICATION CERTIFICATION.—The Administrator shall include in the budget for each fiscal year, as transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, a certification that no project, program, or mission undertaken by the Space Technology Program is duplicative of any other project, program, or mission conducted by another office or directorate of the Administration.”.

(b) COLLABORATION, COORDINATION, AND ALIGNMENT.—The Administrator shall ensure that the Administration's projects, programs, and activities in support of technology research and development of advanced space technologies are fully coordinated and aligned and that results from such work are shared and leveraged within the Administration. Projects, programs, and activities being conducted by the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate in support of research and development of advanced space technologies and systems focusing on human space exploration should continue in that Directorate. The Administrator shall ensure that organizational responsibility for research and development activities in support of human space exploration not initiated as of the date of enactment of this Act is established on the basis of a sound rationale. The Administrator shall provide the rationale in the report specified in subsection (d).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report comparing the Administration's space technology investments with the high-priority technology areas identified by the National Academies in the National Research Council's report on the Administration's Space Technology Roadmaps. The Administrator shall identify how the Administration will address any gaps between the agency's investments and the recommended technology areas, including a projection of funding requirements.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall include in the Administration's annual budget request for each fiscal year the rationale for assigning organizational responsibility for, in the year prior to the budget fiscal year, each initiated project, program, and mission focused on research and development of advanced technologies for human space exploration.

(e) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 70507 in the table of sections for chapter 705 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“70507. Space Technology Program authorized.”.

SEC. 503. UTILIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION FOR TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS.

The Administrator shall utilize the International Space Station and commercial services for space technology demonstration missions in low-Earth orbit whenever it is practical and cost effective to do so.

TITLE VI—EDUCATION

SEC. 601. EDUCATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration's missions are an inspiration for Americans and in particular for the next generation, and that this inspiration has a powerful effect in stimulating interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (in this section referred to as "STEM") education and careers;

(2) the Administration's Office of Education and mission directorates have been effective in delivering Administration educational content because of the strong engagement of Administration scientists and engineers in the Administration's education and outreach activities; and

(3) the Administration should be a central partner in contributing to the goals of the National Science and Technology Council's Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education 5-Year Strategic Plan.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall continue its education and outreach efforts to—

(1) increase student interest and participation in STEM education;

(2) improve public literacy in STEM;

(3) employ proven strategies for improving student learning and teaching;

(4) provide curriculum support materials; and

(5) create and support opportunities for professional development for STEM teachers.

(c) ORGANIZATION.—In order to ensure the inspiration and engagement of children and the general public, the Administration shall continue its STEM education and outreach activities within the Science, Aeronautics Research, Space Operations, and Exploration Mission Directorates.

(d) CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall continue to carry out education and outreach programs and activities through the Office of Education and the Administration mission directorates and shall continue to engage, to the maximum extent practicable, Administration and Administration-supported researchers and engineers in carrying out those programs and activities.

(e) CONTINUATION OF SPACE GRANT PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall continue to operate the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program through a national network consisting of a State-based consortium in each State that provides flexibility to the States, with the objective of providing hands-on research, training, and education programs, with measurable outcomes, to enhance America's STEM education and workforce.

(f) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—Congress reaffirms its commitment to informal science education at science centers and planetariums as set forth in section 616 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (51 U.S.C. 40907).

SEC. 602. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL SPACE GRANT COLLEGE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the National Space Grant Col-

lege and Fellowship Program, which was established in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 2486 et seq.), has been an important program by which the Federal Government has partnered with State and local governments, universities, private industry, and other organizations to enhance the understanding and use of space and aeronautics activities and their benefits through education, fostering of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary space research and training, and supporting Federal funding for graduate fellowships in space-related fields, among other purposes.

(b) REVIEW.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for—

(1) a review of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, including its structure and capabilities for supporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and training consistent with the National Science and Technology Council's Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education 5-Year Strategic Plan; and

(2) recommendations on measures, if needed, to enhance the Program's effectiveness and mechanisms by which any increases in funding appropriated by Congress can be applied.

(c) NATIONAL SPACE GRANT COLLEGE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PURPOSES.—Section 40301 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (5);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(7) support outreach to primary and secondary schools to help support STEM engagement and learning at the K-12 level and to encourage K-12 students to pursue post-secondary degrees in fields related to space."

(2) REGIONAL CONSORTIUM.—Section 40306 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

"(2) INCLUSION OF 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS.—A space grant regional consortium designated in paragraph (1)(B) may include one or more 2-year institutions of higher education."; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking "paragraphs (2)(C) and (3)(D)" and inserting "paragraphs (3)(C) and (4)(D)".

SEC. 603. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator should make the continuation of the Administration's Minority University Research and Education Program a priority in order to further STEM education for underrepresented students.

TITLE VII—POLICY PROVISIONS

SEC. 701. ASTEROID RETRIEVAL MISSION.

(a) ASTEROID RETRIEVAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the proposed Asteroid Retrieval Mission. Such report shall include—

(1) a detailed budget profile, including cost estimates for the development of all necessary technologies and spacecraft required for the mission;

(2) a detailed technical plan that includes milestones and a specific schedule;

(3) a description of the technologies and capabilities anticipated to be gained from the proposed mission that will enable future human missions to Mars which could not be gained by lunar missions;

(4) a description of the technologies and capabilities anticipated to be gained from the proposed mission that will enable future planetary defense missions, against impact threats from near-Earth objects equal to or greater than 140 meters in diameter, which could not be gained by robotic missions; and

(5) a complete assessment by the Small Bodies Assessment Group and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council of how the proposed mission is in the strategic interests of the United States in space exploration.

(b) MARS FLYBY REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, an independent, private systems engineering and technical assistance organization contracted by the Human Exploration Operations Mission Directorate shall transmit to the Administrator, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report analyzing the proposal for a Mars Flyby human spaceflight mission to be launched in 2021. Such report shall include—

(1) a technical development, test, fielding, and operations plan using the Space Launch System and other systems to successfully mount a Mars Flyby mission by 2021;

(2) a description of the benefits in scientific knowledge and technologies demonstrated by a Mars Flyby mission to be launched in 2021 suitable for future Mars missions; and

(3) an annual budget profile, including cost estimates, for the development test, fielding, and operations plan to carry out a Mars Flyby mission through 2021 and comparison of that budget profile to the 5-year budget profile contained in the President's Budget request for fiscal year 2015.

(c) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60 days after transmittal of the report specified in subsection (b), the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an assessment by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council of whether the proposal for a Mars Flyby Mission to be launched in 2021 is in the strategic interests of the United States in space exploration.

(d) CREWED MISSION.—The report transmitted under subsection (b) may consider a crewed mission with the Space Launch System in cis-lunar space prior to the Mars Flyby mission in 2021.

SEC. 702. TERMINATION LIABILITY SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that:

(1) The International Space Station, the Space Launch System, and the Orion crew capsule will enable the Nation to continue operations in low-Earth orbit and to send its astronauts to deep space. The James Webb Space Telescope will revolutionize our understanding of star and planet formation and how galaxies evolved and advance the search for the origins of our universe. As a result of their unique capabilities and their critical contribution to the future of space exploration, these systems have been designated by Congress and the Administration as priority investments.

(2) In addition, contractors are currently holding program funding, estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, to cover the potential termination liability should the Government choose to terminate a program for convenience. As a result, hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are unavailable for meaningful work on these programs.

(3) According to the Government Accountability Office, the Administration procures most of its goods and services through contracts, and it terminates very few of them. In fiscal year 2010, the Administration terminated 28 of 16,343 active contracts and orders—a termination rate of about 0.17 percent.

(4) The Administration should vigorously pursue a policy on termination liability that maximizes the utilization of its appropriated funds to make maximum progress in meeting established technical goals and schedule milestones on these high-priority programs.

SEC. 703. BASELINE AND COST CONTROLS.

Section 30104 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “Procedural Requirements 7120.5c, dated March 22, 2005” and inserting “Procedural Requirements 7120.5E, dated August 14, 2012”; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “beginning 18 months after the date the Administrator transmits a report under subsection (e)(1)(A)” and inserting “beginning 18 months after the Administrator makes such determination”.

SEC. 704. PROJECT AND PROGRAM RESERVES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the judicious use of program and project reserves provides the Administration’s project and program managers with the flexibility needed to manage projects and programs to ensure that the impacts of contingencies can be mitigated.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

(1) the Administration’s criteria for establishing the amount of reserves held at the project and program levels;

(2) how such criteria relate to the agency’s policy of budgeting at a 70-percent confidence level; and

(3) the Administration’s criteria for waiving the policy of budgeting at a 70-percent confidence level and alternative strategies and mechanisms aimed at controlling program and project costs when a waiver is granted.

SEC. 705. INDEPENDENT REVIEWS.

Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

(1) the Administration’s procedures for conducting independent reviews of projects and programs at lifecycle milestones and how the Administration ensures the independence of the individuals who conduct those reviews prior to their assignment;

(2) the internal and external entities independent of project and program management that conduct reviews of projects and programs at life cycle milestones; and

(3) how the Administration ensures the independence of such entities and their members.

SEC. 706. COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM.

Section 50116(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, while protecting national security” after “research community”.

SEC. 707. NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) STUDY.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Public Administration to assess the effectiveness of the NASA Advisory Council and to make recommendations to Congress for any change to—

- (1) the functions of the Council;
- (2) the appointment of members to the Council;
- (3) qualifications for members of the Council;
- (4) duration of terms of office for members of the Council;
- (5) frequency of meetings of the Council;
- (6) the structure of leadership and Committees of the Council; and
- (7) levels of professional staffing for the Council.

In carrying out the assessment, the Academy shall also assess the impacts of broadening the Council’s role to advising Congress, and any other issues that the Academy determines could potentially impact the effectiveness of the Council. The Academy shall consider the past activities of the NASA Advisory Council, as well as the activities of other analogous federal advisory bodies in conducting its assessment. The results of the assessment, including any recommendations, shall be transmitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) CONSULTATION AND ADVICE.—Section 20113(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and Congress” after “advice to the Administration”.

(c) SUNSET.—Subsection (b) shall expire on September 30, 2014.

SEC. 708. COST ESTIMATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that realistic cost estimating is critically important to the ultimate success of major space development projects. The Administration has devoted significant efforts over the past five years to improving its cost estimating capabilities, but it is important that the Administration continue its efforts to develop and implement guidance in establishing realistic cost estimates.

(b) GUIDANCE AND CRITERIA.—The Administrator shall provide to programs and projects and in a manner consistent with the Administration’s Space Flight Program and Project Management Requirements—

(1) guidance on when an Independent Cost Estimate and Independent Cost Assessment should be used; and

(2) the criteria to be used to make such a determination.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report—

(1) describing efforts to enhance internal cost estimation and assessment expertise;

(2) describing the mechanisms the Administration is using and will continue to use to ensure that adequate resources are dedicated to cost estimation;

(3) listing the steps the Administration is undertaking to advance consistent imple-

mentation of the joint cost and schedule process;

(4) identifying criteria used by programs and projects in determining when to conduct an Independent Cost Estimate and Independent Cost Assessment; and

(5) listing—

(A) the costs of each individual Independent Cost Estimate or Independent Cost Assessment activity conducted in fiscal year 2011, fiscal year 2012, and fiscal year 2013;

(B) the purpose of the activity;

(C) identification of the primary Administration unit or outside body that conducted the activity; and

(D) key findings and recommendations.

(d) UPDATED REPORT.—Subsequent to submission of the report under subsection (c), for each subsequent year, the Administrator shall provide an update of listed elements in conjunction with subsequent congressional budget justifications.

SEC. 709. AVOIDING ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN MAJOR ADMINISTRATION ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) REVISED REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall revise the Administration Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to provide uniform guidance and recommend revised requirements for organizational conflicts of interest by contractors in major acquisition programs in order to address elements identified in subsection (b).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The revised regulations required by subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

(1) address organizational conflicts of interest that could potentially arise as a result of—

(A) lead system integrator contracts on major acquisition programs and contracts that follow lead system integrator contracts on such programs, particularly contracts for production;

(B) the ownership of business units performing systems engineering and technical assistance functions, professional services, or management support services in relation to major acquisition programs by contractors who simultaneously own business units competing to perform as either the prime contractor or the supplier of a major subsystem or component for such programs;

(C) the award of major subsystem contracts by a prime contractor for a major acquisition program to business units or other affiliates of the same parent corporate entity, and particularly the award of subcontracts for software integration or the development of a proprietary software system architecture; or

(D) the performance by, or assistance of, contractors in technical evaluations on major acquisition programs;

(2) ensure that the Administration receives advice on systems architecture and systems engineering matters with respect to major acquisition programs from objective sources independent of the prime contractor;

(3) require that a contract for the performance of systems engineering and technical assistance functions for a major acquisition program contains a provision prohibiting the contractor or any affiliate of the contractor from participating as a prime contractor or a major subcontractor in the development of a system under the program; and

(4) establish such limited exceptions to the requirement in paragraphs (2) and (3) as may be necessary to ensure that the Administration has continued access to advice on systems architecture and systems engineering

matters from highly-qualified contractors with domain experience and expertise, while ensuring that such advice comes from sources that are objective and unbiased.

SEC. 710. FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration must reverse the deteriorating condition of its facilities and infrastructure, as this condition is hampering the effectiveness and efficiency of research performed by both the Administration and industry participants making use of Administration facilities, thus reducing the competitiveness of the United States aerospace industry;

(2) the Administration has a role in providing laboratory capabilities to industry participants that are economically viable as commercial entities and thus are not available elsewhere;

(3) to ensure continued access to reliable and efficient world-class facilities by researchers, the Administration should seek to establish strategic partnerships with other Federal agencies, academic institutions, and industry, as appropriate; and

(4) decisions on whether to dispose of, maintain, or modernize existing facilities must be made in the context of meeting future Administration and other Federal agencies' laboratory needs, including those required to meet the activities supporting the Human Exploration Roadmap required by section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that the Administration maintain reliable and efficient facilities and that decisions on whether to dispose of, maintain, or modernize existing facilities be made in the context of meeting future Administration needs.

(c) PLAN.—The Administrator shall develop a plan that has the goal of positioning the Administration to have the facilities, laboratories, tools, and approaches necessary to address future Administration requirements. Such plan shall identify—

(1) future Administration research and development and testing needs;

(2) a strategy for identifying facilities that are candidates for disposal, that is consistent with the national strategic direction set forth in—

(A) the National Space Policy;

(B) the National Aeronautics Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Infrastructure Plan;

(C) National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Acts; and

(D) the Human Exploration Roadmap specified in section 70504 of title 51, United States Code;

(3) a strategy for the maintenance, repair, upgrading, and modernization of the Administration's laboratories, facilities, and equipment;

(4) criteria for prioritizing deferred maintenance tasks and also for upgrading or modernizing laboratories, facilities, and equipment and implementing processes, plans, and policies for guiding the Administration's Centers on whether to maintain, repair, upgrade, or modernize a facility and for determining the type of instrument to be used;

(5) an assessment of modifications needed to maximize usage of facilities that offer unique and highly specialized benefits to the aerospace industry and the American public; and

(6) implementation steps, including a timeline, milestones, and an estimate of resources required for carrying out the plan.

(d) POLICY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-

ministrator shall establish and make publicly available a policy that guides the Administration's use of existing authorities to out-grant, lease, excess to the General Services Administration, sell, decommission, demolish, or otherwise transfer property, facilities, or infrastructure. This policy shall establish criteria for the use of authorities, best practices, standardized procedures, and guidelines for how to appropriately manage property, infrastructure, and facilities.

(e) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the plan developed under subsection (c) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(f) ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL FUND.—The Administrator shall establish a capital fund for the modernization of facilities and laboratories. The Administrator shall ensure to the maximum extent practicable that all financial savings achieved by closing outdated or surplus facilities at an Administration Center shall be made available to that Center for the purpose of modernizing the Center's facilities and laboratories and for upgrading the infrastructure at the Center.

(g) REPORT ON CAPITAL FUND.—Expenditures and other activities of the fund established under subsection (f) shall require review and approval by the Administrator and the status, including the amounts held in the capital fund, shall be reported to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate in conjunction with the Administration's annual budget request justification for each fiscal year.

SEC. 711. DETECTION AND AVOIDANCE OF COUNTERFEIT ELECTRONIC PARTS.

(a) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall revise the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to address the detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts.

(2) CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall provide that—

(A) Administration contractors who supply electronic parts or products that include electronic parts are responsible for detecting and avoiding the use or inclusion of counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts in such products and for any rework or corrective action that may be required to remedy the use or inclusion of such parts; and

(B) the cost of counterfeit electronic parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts and the cost of rework or corrective action that may be required to remedy the use or inclusion of such parts are not allowable costs under Administration contracts, unless—

(i) the covered contractor has an operational system to detect and avoid counterfeit parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts that has been reviewed and approved by the Administration or the Department of Defense;

(ii) the covered contractor provides timely notice to the Administration pursuant to paragraph (4); or

(iii) the counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts were provided to the contractor as Government property in accordance with part 45 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(3) SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRONIC PARTS.—The revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

(A) require that the Administration and Administration contractors and subcontractors at all tiers—

(i) obtain electronic parts that are in production or currently available in stock from the original manufacturers of the parts or their authorized dealers, or from suppliers who obtain such parts exclusively from the original manufacturers of the parts or their authorized dealers; and

(ii) obtain electronic parts that are not in production or currently available in stock from suppliers that meet qualification requirements established pursuant to subparagraph (C);

(B) establish documented requirements consistent with published industry standards or Government contract requirements for—

(i) notification of the Administration; and

(ii) inspection, testing, and authentication of electronic parts that the Administration or an Administration contractor or subcontractor obtains from any source other than a source described in subparagraph (A);

(C) establish qualification requirements, consistent with the requirements of section 2319 of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to which the Administration may identify suppliers that have appropriate policies and procedures in place to detect and avoid counterfeit electronic parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts; and

(D) authorize Administration contractors and subcontractors to identify and use additional suppliers beyond those identified pursuant to subparagraph (C) provided that—

(i) the standards and processes for identifying such suppliers comply with established industry standards;

(ii) the contractor or subcontractor assumes responsibility for the authenticity of parts provided by such suppliers as provided in paragraph (2); and

(iii) the selection of such suppliers is subject to review and audit by appropriate Administration officials.

(4) TIMELY NOTIFICATION.—The revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall require that any Administration contractor or subcontractor who becomes aware, or has reason to suspect, that any end item, component, part, or material contained in supplies purchased by the Administration, or purchased by a contractor or subcontractor for delivery to, or on behalf of, the Administration, contains counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts, shall provide notification to the applicable Administration contracting officer within 30 calendar days.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the revised regulations specified in subsection (a) have been implemented, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report updating the Administration's actions to prevent counterfeit electronic parts from entering the supply chain as described in its October 2011 report pursuant to section 1206(d) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18444(d)).

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "electronic part" means a discrete electronic component, including a microcircuit, transistor, capacitor, resistor, or diode that is intended for use in a safety or mission critical application.

SEC. 712. SPACE ACT AGREEMENTS.

(a) **COST SHARING.**—To the extent that the Administrator determines practicable, the funds provided by the Government under a funded Space Act Agreement shall not exceed the total amount provided by other parties to the Space Act Agreement.

(b) **NEED.**—A funded Space Act Agreement may be used only when the use of a standard contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is not feasible or appropriate, as determined by the Associate Administrator for Procurement.

(c) **PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.**—The Administrator shall make available for public notice and comment each proposed Space Act Agreement at least 30 days before entering into such agreement, with appropriate redactions for proprietary, sensitive, or classified information.

(d) **TRANSPARENCY.**—The Administrator shall publicly disclose on the Administration's website and make available in a searchable format each Space Act Agreement, with appropriate redactions for proprietary, sensitive, or classified information, not later than 60 days after such agreement is signed.

(e) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the use of Space Act Agreement authority by the Administration during the previous fiscal year.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report shall include for each Space Act Agreement in effect at the time of the report—

(A) an indication of whether the agreement is a reimbursable, nonreimbursable, or funded Space Act Agreement;

(B) a description of—

(i) the subject and terms;

(ii) the parties;

(iii) the responsible—

(I) mission directorate;

(II) center; or

(III) headquarters element;

(iv) the value;

(v) the extent of the cost sharing among Federal Government and non-Federal sources;

(vi) the time period or schedule; and

(vii) all milestones; and

(C) an indication of whether the agreement was renewed during the previous fiscal year.

(3) **ANTICIPATED AGREEMENTS.**—The report shall also include a list of all anticipated reimbursable, nonreimbursable, and funded Space Act Agreements for the upcoming fiscal year.

(4) **CUMULATIVE PROGRAM BENEFITS.**—The report shall also include, with respect to the Space Act Agreements covered by the report, a summary of—

(A) the technology areas in which research projects were conducted under such agreements;

(B) the extent to which the use of the Space Act Agreements—

(i) has contributed to a broadening of the technology and industrial base available for meeting Administration needs; and

(ii) has fostered within the technology and industrial base new relationships and practices that support the United States; and

(C) the total amount of value received by the Federal Government during the fiscal year pursuant to such Space Act Agreements.

SEC. 713. HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 70702(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) any other orbital or suborbital space vehicle carrying humans—

“(A) that is owned by the Federal Government; or

“(B) that is being used pursuant to a contract or Space Act Agreement, as defined in section 2 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014, with the Federal Government for carrying a researcher or payload funded by the Federal Government; or”.

SEC. 714. FULLEST COMMERCIAL USE OF SPACE.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on current and continuing efforts by the Administration to “seek and encourage, to the maximum extent possible, the fullest commercial use of space,” as described in section 20102(c) of title 51, United States Code.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the Administration's efforts to comply with the policy;

(2) an explanation of criteria used to define compliance;

(3) a description of programs, policies, and activities the Administration is using, and will continue to use, to ensure compliance;

(4) an explanation of how the Administration could expand on the efforts to comply; and

(5) a summary of all current and planned activities pursuant to this policy.

(c) **BARRIERS TO FULLEST COMMERCIAL USE OF SPACE.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on current and continuing efforts by the Administration to reduce impediments, bureaucracy, redundancy, and burdens to ensure the fullest commercial use of space as required by section 20102(c) of title 51, United States Code.

SEC. 715. ORBITAL DEBRIS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that orbital debris poses serious risks to the operational space capabilities of the United States and that an international commitment and integrated strategic plan are needed to mitigate the growth of orbital debris wherever possible. Congress finds the delay in the Office of Science and Technology Policy's submission of a report on the status of international coordination and development of mitigation strategies to be inconsistent with such risks.

(b) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **COORDINATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate with a report on the status of efforts to coordinate with countries within the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee to mitigate the effects and growth of orbital debris as required by section 1202(b)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18441(b)(1)).

(2) **MITIGATION STRATEGY.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall provide the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate with a report on the status of the orbital debris mitigation strategy required under section 1202(b)(2) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18441(b)(2)).

SEC. 716. REVIEW OF ORBITAL DEBRIS REMOVAL CONCEPTS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the amount of orbital debris in low-Earth orbit poses risks for human activities and robotic spacecraft and that this debris may increase due to collisions between existing debris objects. Understanding options to address and remove orbital debris is important for ensuring safe and effective spacecraft operations in low-Earth orbit.

(b) **REVIEW.**—The Administrator, in collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies, shall solicit and review concepts and technological options for removing orbital debris from low-Earth orbit. The solicitation and review shall also address the requirements for and feasibility of developing and implementing each of the options.

(c) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the solicitation and review required under subsection (b).

SEC. 717. USE OF OPERATIONAL COMMERCIAL SUBORBITAL VEHICLES FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND EDUCATION.

(a) **POLICY.**—The Administrator shall develop a policy on the use of operational commercial reusable suborbital flight vehicles for carrying out scientific and engineering investigations and educational activities.

(b) **PLAN.**—The Administrator shall prepare a plan on the Administration's use of operational commercial reusable suborbital flight vehicles for carrying out scientific and engineering investigations and educational activities. The plan shall—

(1) describe the purposes for which the Administration intends to use such vehicles;

(2) describe the processes required to support such use, including the criteria used to determine which scientific and engineering investigations and educational activities are selected for a suborbital flight;

(3) describe Administration, space flight operator, and supporting contractor responsibilities for developing standard payload interfaces and conducting payload safety analyses, payload integration and processing, payload operations, and safety assurance for Administration-sponsored space flight participants, among other functions required to fly Administration-sponsored payloads and space flight participants on operational commercial suborbital vehicles;

(4) identify Administration-provided hardware, software, or services that may be provided to commercial reusable suborbital space flight operators on a cost-reimbursable basis, through agreements or contracts entered into under section 20113(e) of title 51, United States Code; and

(5) describe the United States Government and space flight operator responsibilities for liability and indemnification with respect to

commercial suborbital vehicle flights that involve Administration-sponsored payloads or activities, Administration-supported space flight participants, or other Administration-related contributions.

(c) **ASSESSMENT OF CAPABILITIES AND RISKS.**—The Administrator shall assess and characterize the potential capabilities and performance of commercial reusable suborbital vehicles for addressing scientific research, including research requiring access to low-gravity and microgravity environments, for carrying out technology demonstrations related to science, exploration, or space operations requirements, and for providing opportunities for educating and training space scientists and engineers, once those vehicles become operational. The assessment shall also characterize the risks of using potential commercial reusable suborbital flights to Administration-sponsored researchers and scientific investigations and flight hardware.

(d) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the plan and assessment described in subsections (b) and (c) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(e) **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.**—In conjunction with the Administration's annual budget request justification for each fiscal year, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate describing progress in carrying out the Commercial Reusable Suborbital Research Program, including the number and type of suborbital missions planned in each fiscal year.

(f) **INDEMNIFICATION AND LIABILITY.**—The Administrator shall not proceed with a request for proposals, award any contract, commit any United States Government funds, or enter into any other agreement for the provision of a commercial reusable suborbital vehicle launch service for an Administration-sponsored spaceflight participant until transmittal of the plan and assessment specified in subsections (b) and (c), the liability issues associated with the use of such systems by the United States Government have been addressed, and the liability and indemnification provisions that are planned to be included in such contracts or agreements have been provided to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 718. FUNDAMENTAL SPACE LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that fundamental, discovery-based space life and physical sciences research is critical for enabling space exploration, protecting humans in space, and providing societal benefits, and that the space environment facilitates the advancement of understanding of the life sciences and physical sciences. Space life and physical science research contributes to advancing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research, and provides careers and training opportunities in academia, Federal laboratories, and commercial industry. Congress encourages the Administrator to augment discovery-based fundamental research and to establish requirements reflecting the importance of such research in keeping with the priorities established in the National Acad-

emies' decadal survey entitled "Recapturing a Future for Space Exploration: Life and Physical Sciences Research for a New Era".

(b) **BUDGET REQUEST.**—The Administrator shall include as part of the Administration's annual budget request for each fiscal year a budget line for fundamental space life and physical sciences research, devoted to competitive, peer-reviewed grants, that is separate from the International Space Station Operations account.

(c) **STRATEGIC PLAN.**—

(1) **DEVELOPMENT.**—The Administrator, in consultation with academia, other Federal agencies, and other potential stakeholders, shall develop a strategic plan for carrying out competitive, peer-reviewed fundamental space life science and physical sciences and related technology research, among other activities, consistent with the priorities in the National Academies' decadal survey described in subsection (a).

(2) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the strategic plan developed under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 719. RESTORING COMMITMENT TO ENGINEERING RESEARCH.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that engineering excellence has long been a hallmark of the Administration's ability to make significant advances in aeronautics and space exploration. However, as has been noted in recent National Academies reports, increasingly constrained funding and competing priorities have led to an erosion of the Administration's commitment to basic engineering research. This research provides the basis for the technology development that enables the Administration's many challenging missions to succeed. If current trends continue, the Administration's ability to attract and maintain the best and brightest engineering workforce at its Centers as well as its ability to remain on the cutting edge of aeronautical and space technology will continue to erode and will threaten the Administration's ability to be a world leader in aeronautics research and development and space exploration.

(b) **PLAN.**—The Administrator shall develop a plan for restoring a meaningful basic engineering research program at the Administration's Centers, including, as appropriate, collaborations with industry, universities, and other relevant organizations. The plan shall identify the organizational approach to be followed, an initial set of basic research priorities, and a proposed budget.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the plan specified in subsection (b) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 720. LIQUID ROCKET ENGINE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

The Administrator shall consult with the Secretary of Defense to ensure that any next generation liquid rocket engine made in the United States for national security space launch objectives can contribute, to the extent practicable, to the space programs and missions carried out by the Administration.

SEC. 721. REMOTE SATELLITE SERVICING DEMONSTRATIONS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration plays a key role in demonstrating the feasibility of using robotic technologies for a spacecraft that could autonomously access, inspect, repair, and refuel satellites;

(2) demonstrating this feasibility would both assist the Administration in its future missions and provide other Federal agencies and private sector entities with enhanced confidence in the feasibility to robotically refuel, inspect, repair, and maintain their satellites in both near and distant orbits; and

(3) the capability to refuel, inspect, repair, and maintain satellites robotically could add years of functional life to satellites.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate describing the Administration's—

(1) activities, tools, and techniques associated with the ultimate goal of autonomously servicing satellites using robotic spacecraft;

(2) efforts to coordinate its technology development and demonstrations with other Federal agencies and private sector entities that conduct programs, projects, or activities on on-orbit satellite inspection and servicing capabilities;

(3) efforts to leverage the work of these Federal agencies and private sector entities into the Administration's plans;

(4) accomplishments to date in demonstrating various servicing technologies;

(5) major technical and operational challenges encountered and mitigation measures taken; and

(6) demonstrations needed to increase confidence in the use of the technologies for operational missions, and the timeframe for these demonstrations.

SEC. 722. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that information security is central to the Administration's ability to protect information and information systems vital to its mission.

(b) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess the effectiveness of the Administration's Information Technology Governance. The study shall include an assessment of—

(1) the resources available for overseeing Administration-wide information technology operations, investments, and security measures and the Chief Information Officer's visibility into and access to those resources;

(2) the effectiveness of the Administration's decentralized information technology structure, decisionmaking processes and authorities and its ability to enforce information security; and

(3) the impact of providing the Chief Information Officer approval authority over information technology investments that exceed a defined monetary threshold and any potential impacts of the Chief Information Officer having such authority on the Administration's missions, flights programs and projects, research activities, and Center operations.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit a report detailing the results of the study conducted under subsection (b) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 723. STRENGTHENING ADMINISTRATION SECURITY.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Following the public disclosure of security and export control violations at its research centers, the Administration contracted with the National Academy of Public Administration to conduct an independent assessment of how the Administration carried out Foreign National Access Management practices and other security matters.

(2) The assessment by the National Academy of Public Administration concluded that “NASA networks are compromised”, that the Administration lacked a standardized and systematic approach to export compliance, and that individuals within the Administration were not held accountable when making serious, preventable errors in carrying out Foreign National Access Management practices and other security matters.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administration shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on how it plans to address each of the recommendations made in the security assessment by the National Academy of Public Administration and the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office and the Administration’s Office of the Inspector General regarding security and safeguarding export control information.

(c) **REVIEW.**—Within one year of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate its assessment of how the Administration has complied with the recommendations described in subsection (b).

SEC. 724. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CONTRACTORS THAT HAVE COMMITTED FRAUD OR OTHER CRIMES.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2014 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Administration may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals—

(1) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for—

(A) commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract;

(B) violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or

(C) commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property;

(2) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1); or

(3) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

SEC. 725. PROTECTION OF APOLLO LANDING SITES.

(a) **ASSESSMENT.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in

consultation with all relevant agencies of the Federal Government and other appropriate entities and individuals, shall carry out a review and assessment of the issues involved in protecting and preserving historically important Apollo Program lunar landing sites and Apollo program artifacts residing on the lunar surface, including those pertaining to Apollo 11 and Apollo 17. The review and assessment shall, at a minimum, include determination of what risks to the protection and preservation of those sites and artifacts exist or may exist in the future, what measures are required to ensure such protection and preservation, the extent to which additional domestic legislation or international treaties or agreements will be required, and specific recommendations for protecting and preserving those lunar landing sites and artifacts.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the results of the assessment required under subsection (a).

SEC. 726. ASTRONAUT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTHCARE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The National Academies’ Institute of Medicine report “Health Standards for Long Duration and Exploration Spaceflight: Ethics Principles, Responsibilities, and Decision Framework” found that the Administration has ethical responsibilities for and should adopt policies and processes related to health standards for long duration and exploration spaceflights that recognize those ethical responsibilities. In particular, the report recommended that the Administration “provide preventative long-term health screening and surveillance of astronauts and lifetime health care to protect their health, support ongoing evaluation of health standards, improve mission safety, and reduce risks for current and future astronauts”.

(b) **RESPONSE.**—The Administration shall prepare a response to the National Academies report recommendation described in subsection (a). The response shall include the estimated budgetary resources required for the implementation of those recommendations, and any options that might be considered as part of the response.

(c) **TRANSMITTAL.**—The response required under subsection (b) shall be transmitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 727. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ACCESS TO OBSERVATIONAL DATA SETS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administration should prioritize the development of tools and interfaces that make publicly available observational data sets more easy to access, analyze, manipulate, and understand for students, teachers, and the American public at large, with a particular focus on K-12 and undergraduate STEM education settings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4412, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, NASA has accomplished some of the most awe-inspiring and technologically advanced space initiatives in the history of mankind.

This bill, H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014, helps ensure that the United States will continue its proud tradition of being a world leader in space exploration.

The U.S. was the first nation to put a human on the Moon; and NASA’s Voyager 1, an American space mission, was the first human-made object to enter interstellar space.

Our astronauts are national heroes. Alan Shepherd, John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, and Buzz Aldrin are household names. Today’s astronauts, like Rick Mastracchio, Mike Hopkins, and Chris Cassidy, inspire American students to study science, technology, engineering, and math.

Space exploration is an investment in our Nation’s future—often the distant future. This bill expressed bipartisan support for investment in the future of America’s space endeavors. The bill provides the resources and guidance to NASA to push humanity further into the cosmos.

It contains provisions for the development of American rockets that will take cargo and people to low-Earth orbit and beyond. It supports the James Webb Space Telescope, which will identify and characterize new planets in our galaxy and help researchers look back in time to see how the universe began.

It directs NASA to continue to focus resources on the detection of near-Earth asteroids that may threaten the Earth and its inhabitants.

It instructs NASA to design and send a robotic mission to Jupiter’s moon, Europa, to see if any life exists in the waters under its icy surface. It directs NASA to work with the National Academies to put together a strategy for finding more exoplanets.

The bill also requires NASA to develop a human exploration roadmap similar to the recommendation made in last week’s National Academy of Sciences report. This roadmap will provide a long-term plan for future human space exploration.

This bill also reflects the skepticism that members of the Science Committee and the scientific community

have about the Obama administration's proposed asteroid retrieval mission.

The bill requires the administration to provide Congress with a detailed budget profile, a detailed technical plan, a description of the technologies and capabilities expected to be gained in the area of planetary defense, and a review by the Small Bodies Assessment Group and the NASA Advisory Council.

Congress will be better equipped to consider the administration's proposed missions once we have all of the proper information. This bill is an example of how well Congress can work together to accomplish an objective that will benefit the entire Nation. It was voted out of committee with unanimous bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the ranking member, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON; Mr. PALAZZO, chairman of the Space Subcommittee; and Ms. EDWARDS, ranking member of the Space Subcommittee, for their leadership in working together to find common ground on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to ensure that the United States maintains its leadership in space and continues to inspire young people to shoot for the stars.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014.

This act has come a long ways from its original state nearly a year ago, when the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on which I serve as ranking member passed a different version of the bill on a party-line vote, a departure from the committee's traditional bipartisan approach to NASA.

However, much has changed since that time, and I want to recognize the efforts of the committee leadership, including Chairman LAMAR SMITH and especially Space Subcommittee Chairman STEVE PALAZZO and Ranking Member DONNA EDWARDS, for their dedication and willingness to work together with me to achieve this bipartisan committee-passed bill, H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014.

While this is not a perfect bill, especially in terms of its short duration and lack of meaningful funding guidance, the bill in its present form includes many important policy provisions that help guide the future of NASA at a critical time for our space program.

In that regard, just last week, a congressionally mandated report on human space exploration by the National Academies was released that stated:

A sustainable program of human deep space exploration requires an ultimate horizon goal that provides a long-term force.

The report further states:

There is a consensus in national space policy, international coordination groups, and the public imagination, for Mars as a major goal for human space exploration.

I am pleased that H.R. 4412 is consistent with the National Academies' recommendation on both sides. It establishes a long-term goal for NASA's exploration program of carrying out a human mission to the surface of Mars, and it directs NASA to prepare a human exploration roadmap that will lay out the required milestones and capabilities for achieving that goal.

Achieving any of NASA's goals, including sending humans to the surface of Mars, however, requires investment across NASA's portfolio of programs. To that end and building upon past, successive NASA authorization acts, H.R. 4412 ensures the continuation of NASA as a multimission agency that includes programs in science, aeronautics, human spaceflight, and human exploration.

The bill also builds upon a pillar of Congress' oversight role for our civil space program, namely, ensuring the safety of our astronauts in outer space. Consistent with the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, H.R. 4412 requires that safety be given the highest priority in the selection of a commercial human spaceflight system to transport our astronauts to the international space station.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years, NASA has enabled the discovery of new planets outside our solar system, landed the Curiosity rover on Mars, and continued to study the Sun, our Earth system, and make other advances in space and earth science.

H.R. 4412 includes provisions to ensure the continued strength of NASA's space and earth science programs. It authorizes new studies and strategies on exoplanets and Mars robotic exploration, while also supporting work and future capabilities for astrophysical observatories, such as the James Webb Space Telescope, and planning for a wide-field infrared survey telescope.

About a year and a half ago, a meteor exploded over part of Russia, bringing renewed attention to the risks of near-Earth asteroids. H.R. 4412 builds on the policies that Congress has set in past authorizations to research, survey, detect, and characterize near-Earth asteroids and their risks.

The bill provides direction on NASA's aeronautics research program, an important contributor to our competitiveness in aviation, and it directs a study to benchmark the position of the United States on the aeronautics research with respect to the rest of the world.

H.R. 4412 includes many other good government provisions, including those on orbital debris, information technology governance, and cost controls, among other areas. It is well known

that many of our Nation's top engineers and scientists were inspired to pursue science and technology as a result of what we and NASA did with the space program during the Apollo era. NASA's ability to inspire and to engage is like no other part of our government.

While this bill makes clear that NASA's scientists and engineers, as well as NASA-supported researchers, need to continue to play a strong role in NASA's education activities to convey their knowledge and passion to the next generation, that is not enough.

We need a strong NASA with an inspired agenda for the next generation, and we need to fund it at a level commensurate with the task we have given it. Our children and grandchildren are our future science and technology workforce.

They will sustain our leadership on the global science and technology stage, maintain our competitiveness, and make the future discoveries in science and technology.

As I have said before, we must maintain our commitment to NASA to ensure our continued strength and leadership in space going forward.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4412, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO), who is the chairman of the Space Subcommittee of the Science Committee.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for the time.

I want to echo the words of Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. This is truly a bipartisan bill. The House should be proud of the work the committee has done to be inclusive of Members on both sides of the aisle. The authorization levels are responsible and consistent with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014.

In a time of increasing partisanship on Capitol Hill, both Republicans and Democrats came together on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee to craft legislation that moves beyond congressional districts and parochial interests. This bill provides a clear mission and the resources necessary to support that mission. It also continues looking to NASA to provide a strategic roadmap.

Space Subcommittee Ranking Member DONNA EDWARDS and I worked long days to put this legislation together. While Ms. EDWARDS and I don't always agree, we are united in our unwavering support for NASA and space exploration during this crucial time in our Nation's history. We are committed to once more launching American astronauts on American rockets from American soil.

I know many of our colleagues agree that American leadership in space is a matter of both national pride and national security. Yet over the last decade, the human exploration program at NASA has been plagued with instability from constantly changing requirements, budgets, and missions. Since President Obama canceled the Constellation program in 2010, NASA's human spaceflight program has been adrift.

We cannot continue changing our program of record every time there is new President. We must be consistent in our commitment to human exploration. That commitment is reflected in today's bipartisan bill, and I am confident it will continue into the future.

The bill before us today requires NASA to develop a human exploration roadmap and provides a framework to build an executable plan for future exploration efforts. The plan required in this bill will serve as a pathway to Mars, with multiple missions or mission sets that may be used to demonstrate those technologies and capabilities necessary for deep space exploration. NASA must use this plan as an opportunity to utilize assets from all the mission directorates to find the most efficient and effective ways to build technologies and capabilities within constrained budgets.

Both the Space Launch System and Orion crew capsule are reaffirmed in this bill, consistent with the NASA Authorization Act of 2010, which laid out very clear guidelines and direction for the development of these systems.

This bill authorizes ample funding for the Commercial Crew Program to ensure safe and on-time development of domestic access to the international space station. There are also oversight provisions to ensure transparency in the contracts and processes used to develop these systems. This agreement represents an understanding that both our commercial crew partners and those developing SLS and Orion have a crucial role to play in ending our reliance on Russian rockets.

A concrete plan for the future of human exploration beyond the Earth-Moon system must be developed if we have any hope of ensuring America's leadership in space. While this bill does not require NASA to return humans to the Moon, current Federal law is still in place that provides guidance on the best path forward into our solar system.

As a recent study from the National Research Council pointed out, "a return to extended surface operations on the Moon would make significant contributions to a strategy ultimately aimed at landing people on Mars."

This bill is not perfect. I will continue to raise questions and concerns over NASA's budgets: increases in Earth sciences funding at the risk of space exploration budgets, costly and

complex distractions such as the proposed asteroid retrieval mission, and maintaining adequate funding for the Space Launch System as the next generation of deep space exploration rockets and vehicles.

Our bill represents a serious bipartisan commitment to space exploration at a serious time in our Nation's history. American leadership in space depends on our ability to put people and sound policy ahead of politics. That is what we have tried to do with the House bill.

I urge our friends in the Senate to move forward with us by adopting our commonsense compromise and passing the House bill. Our Nation's space program needs this legislation.

Space exploration has always had its challenges, but the United States has always risen to the occasion. This country was built by people who dream big and do the hard things. I believe the decisions we make today will determine whether the U.S. maintains its leadership in space tomorrow. That is why I am proud to stand by this responsible proposal, alongside Chairman SMITH and Ranking Members JOHNSON and EDWARDS, in support of this bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014.

I want to say first a special thank you, Mr. Speaker, to our chairman, Mr. SMITH; our ranking member, Ms. JOHNSON; and my partner in crime, our subcommittee chairman, Mr. PALAZZO. This has indeed been a bipartisan effort. It didn't start out that way, but America and our national space program should be glad that it has ended that way.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, is recognized across the world as a symbol of the United States' greatness as a Nation and its leadership in science and technology. It should not be a surprise that so many developed and emerging nations seek to follow suit in pursuing space exploration.

Space exploration and the United States' preeminence in space is critical to our economic success in the 21st century. NASA, in fact, is our crown jewel. It is one of the things that our government really does do best.

NASA's space and aeronautics programs advance our technological competence, challenge our industries and workforce in ways that sustain their global competitiveness, advance scientific understanding, and truly inspire the next generation to dream big and to garner the skills to turn those dreams into action.

In my own State of Maryland, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center supports more than 15,000 civil service

and private sector jobs in my home county of Prince George's County, including highly skilled occupations such as engineers, technicians, mathematicians, and scientists.

NASA also collaborates extensively with Maryland's high-tech business sector. These collaborations encourage the expansion of the skilled workforce that has made Maryland a leader in research and technology. In fact, our State's economy is strengthened by our collective investment in space. And that is true for Maryland, but it is also true across the Nation, because we are explorers and we are innovators.

The NASA Authorization Act of 2014 builds on the bipartisan support that Congress has given NASA as a multi-mission agency with programs in space and Earth science, aeronautics, human spaceflight, and exploration. It also authorizes funding consistent with fiscal year 2014 appropriations that were enacted through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. And while I, too, would have preferred a multiyear authorization of appropriations that would have provided the stability that NASA and its contractor workforce need over time, this bill is foundational, and it provides important policy direction that will strengthen our Nation's space program.

In particular, H.R. 4412 sets the long-term goal for NASA's human exploration program of sending humans to the surface of Mars and directs NASA to provide a human exploration roadmap outlining the capabilities and milestones needed to achieve that goal. Recognizing two of the primary systems needed to accomplish this, H.R. 4412 directs the expeditious development, test, and achievement of the Space Launch System and the Orion crew capsule for operations as the highest priorities of NASA's human exploration program.

The bill also includes provisions to ensure the full and productive utilization of the international space station, the ISS, and that includes the development of a strategic plan for ISS research and a report on the progress of the organization chosen to manage the ISS national laboratory.

Mr. Speaker, NASA is in the process of working with the commercial industry on the development of human spaceflight systems that can transport NASA's astronauts to and from ISS on U.S. systems. This bill is faithful to the key recommendations of the Columbia accident investigation report as indicated by the ranking member.

In the area of science, the bill directs NASA to seek to ensure, to the extent practicable, a steady cadence of large, medium, and small missions. It requires new National Academies science strategies in extrasolar planet exploration and astrobiology and an assessment of NASA's Mars mission plans and goals. H.R. 4412 also sustains a

strong and comprehensive Earth science program—that is important to us at Goddard Spaceflight Center, but it is also important to the Nation—and a sense of the Congress on the importance of the James Webb Space Telescope to science and that priority be given to ensure that the program stays on budget and on schedule.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we are all becoming, also, sensitive to orbital debris or space junk. H.R. 4412 includes a number of provisions to advance our scientific and technical understanding of these issues and to identify potential options for mitigating the risk they pose.

Further, NASA's aeronautics research and development activities are critical to ensuring innovation in our aeronautics industry, sustaining safe operations, and mitigating the effects of aviation operations on the environment. The bill ensures that NASA maintains a strong aeronautics research portfolio ranging from fundamental research through integrated systems.

H.R. 4412 also provides important policy and programmatic direction on NASA's space technology program, and it reaffirms the importance of NASA's education activities, especially as they involve the NASA mission directorates and the scientists and engineers engaged in NASA programs. The Space Grant Program, in particular, provides critical opportunities for engaging students in the space-related as well as broader STEM fields, and this bill ensures the continuation of Space Grant and requires an independent review to recommend measures to enhance the program's effectiveness.

The bill also provides important good government policy direction, including on cost controls and cost estimation, avoiding conflicts of interest in major NASA acquisition programs.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman 1 more minute.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it also provides for detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts, information technology governance, and increased transparency in Space Act Agreements.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that our committee has worked hard to improve the original base bill and pass it on a bipartisan basis.

I want to thank our ranking member again and our chairman and Chairman PALAZZO. I particularly want to thank all of our staff, especially our subcommittee staff and our personal staff: Chris Shank, Tom Hammond, Jared Stout, Allison Rose-Sonnesyn, Gabriella Ra'anani, Richard Obermann, Allen Li, Pam Whitney, Megan Mitchell, and Anne Nelson.

With that, I urge the passage of H.R. 4412.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), who is a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014.

If enacted, this legislation would authorize NASA programs and set funding levels for fiscal year 2014. It supports the development of space exploration technology like the Space Launch System and critical NASA functions at the Johnson Space Center, which just happens to be located just outside my district. It also sets a clear goal that NASA's human spaceflight program should focus on missions below low Earth orbit.

It is time for NASA to focus scarce taxpayer resources on NASA's core mission: the development of capabilities necessary for manned missions to the Moon and beyond. As NASA no longer has the ability to transport American astronauts into space, it is also important that NASA continue development of systems to transport American astronauts to and from the international space station. We cannot afford to continue paying millions of dollars for seats on a Russian aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, on another front, I would argue that NASA is critical for four more reasons:

First, STEM—science, technology, engineering, and math. Imagine inspiring and encouraging young American students to shoot for the stars. NASA does just that.

Second, the technological advances afforded by NASA and its mission would once again make us, as my colleague from Maryland said, the envy of the world and give us the competitive edge in attracting new ideas, new talent, new businesses.

□ 1645

And third, and very importantly, Mr. Speaker, I would argue that any military commander knows that whoever occupies the high space in a military conflict will most likely win that conflict. Mr. Speaker, there is no other ultimate high ground than space.

Fourth and lastly, I would tell you that it is about international security. What do I mean by that? Think with me for a moment, Mr. Speaker. When the world has a catastrophe, whether it is a hurricane, a tsunami, whether it is war or floods, pestilence, famine, whatever it is, when the world has a catastrophe and dials 911, who is it that answers? It is us, isn't it, with our military might.

We have to have a strong America. NASA ensures that we have a strong America. A strong America ensures that we have a safe world. When America is that strong, safe world leader militarily and in innovation, this world will be a safer place.

NASA is critical, Mr. Speaker, and so are the brave, innovative men and women of NASA, and they deserve a clear mission and a roadmap from the administration and from us, the United States Congress.

That is why I support this legislation. As a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I look forward to continue working to ensure that precious taxpayer resources at NASA are not wasted, but prioritized in support of NASA's core mission so that it can remain the world's premier space exploration agency.

I am RANDY WEBER. There you have it.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member for yielding.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014, and to applaud the commitment made by my colleagues, Ranking Member EDWARDS and Chairman PALAZZO, to work so hard to find common ground on these complex issues.

The process of reauthorizing NASA's important research and exploration has historically been bipartisan, with space and the wonder it instills in our constituents unifying both sides of the aisle. Now, as budgets become tighter and we are evaluating Federal investments to find places to cut back, authorizing significant resources for NASA research and the operations that research supports has become more challenging.

When the markup process of the original NASA authorization bill began about a year ago, I joined several of my colleagues on the Science Committee to raise concerns about proposed cuts to important programs like NASA's Earth science research. I am pleased to see that important programs like Earth science, space technology, education, and environmental compliance are authorized in this legislation at levels that mirror their appropriation for fiscal year 2014.

As I have learned through my work on the Environment Subcommittee, bipartisan solutions are possible as long as both sides are committed to achieving an outcome and mindful of the impact that our efforts have on our constituents. Chairman PALAZZO and Ranking Member EDWARDS have embraced this spirit when drafting the NASA Authorization Act of 2014, and though the bill before us today might not be perfect, it is a positive step forward and worthy of our support.

I would also like to acknowledge the role of Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON for supporting the subcommittee leadership in their efforts to arrive at a bipartisan consensus. I know that Ms. EDWARDS and I

both appreciate this approach to leadership, as do our constituents.

I encourage support for this important legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no other individuals who wish to speak on this bill on this side. If the ranking member is willing to yield back her time, I am as well.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4412, the NASA Authorization Act of 2014, which was approved by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with unanimous bipartisan support.

The bill reaffirms Congress's commitment to space exploration, both human and robotic, and the bill makes clear that human spaceflight to Mars is NASA's primary goal. Taking into account the unfortunate—but realistic—budget constraints on NASA, the legislation affirms a stepping stone approach to exploration in a go-as-you-can-afford-to-pay manner by requiring an exploration roadmap.

I believe a sustained presence on the Moon would be an indispensable part of such a roadmap to Mars, and I introduced bipartisan NASA authorization legislation last year to accomplish this. I would expect a realistic roadmap to Mars to include lunar exploration, and should this roadmap approach become law I look forward to future discussions with NASA on meaningful missions that will get us to Mars.

The legislation continues the consistent guidance Congress has given to NASA for the development of the Space Launch System and the Orion Crew Vehicle to move forward with serious human exploration of space. Concurrently, the bill supports a robust commercial crew effort to restore American access to low earth orbit and the International Space Station. Considering certain geopolitical events in the news, it is paramount to ensure that we can launch American astronauts on American rockets from American soil as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank Chairman SMITH for working with me on bill language to improve security for NASA's information, technology and operations. NASA facilities, personnel, technologies, and information are highly regarded and of great interest to the world. That interest extends to some countries, governments, organizations, and individuals whose intent is to compromise those facilities, co-opt the personnel, and steal those technologies and information. The bill includes language to help mitigate this threat.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, while I originally intended that the Hon. DONNA EDWARDS and the Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON be added as cosponsors to my bill, H.R. 4412, the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2014, due to an error they were not added prior to the engrossment of the bill. This statement is intended to demonstrate their position as cosponsors of this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4412, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1254) to amend the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1254

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO THE HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 1451 note).

SEC. 3. INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA.

Section 603(a) is amended—

(1) by striking "the following representatives from" and inserting "a representative from";

(2) in paragraph (11), by striking "and";

(3) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (13);

(4) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

"(12) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and"; and

(5) in paragraph (13), as redesignated, by striking "such".

SEC. 4. NATIONAL HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA PROGRAM.

The Act is amended by inserting after section 603 the following:

"SEC. 603A. NATIONAL HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA PROGRAM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, the Under Secretary, acting through the Task Force, shall maintain and enhance a national harmful algal bloom and hypoxia program, including—

"(1) a statement of objectives, including understanding, detecting, predicting, controlling, mitigating, and responding to marine and freshwater harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events; and

"(2) the comprehensive research plan and action strategy under section 603B.

"(b) PERIODIC REVISION.—The Task Force shall periodically review and revise the Program, as necessary.

"(c) TASK FORCE FUNCTIONS.—The Task Force shall—

"(1) coordinate interagency review of the objectives and activities of the Program;

"(2) expedite the interagency review process by ensuring timely review and dispersal of required reports and assessments under this title;

"(3) support the implementation of the Action Strategy, including the coordination and integration of the research of all Federal programs, including ocean and Great Lakes science and management programs and centers, that address the chemical, biological, and physical components of marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

"(4) support the development of institutional mechanisms and financial instruments to further the objectives and activities of the Program;

"(5) review the Program's distribution of Federal funding to address the objectives and activities of the Program;

"(6) promote the development of new technologies for predicting, monitoring, and mitigating harmful algal bloom and hypoxia conditions; and

"(7) establish such interagency working groups as it considers necessary.

"(d) LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY.—Except as provided in subsection (h), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall have primary responsibility for administering the Program.

"(e) PROGRAM DUTIES.—In administering the Program, the Under Secretary shall—

"(1) promote the Program;

"(2) prepare work and spending plans for implementing the research and activities identified under the Action Strategy;

"(3) administer peer-reviewed, merit-based, competitive grant funding—

"(A) to maintain and enhance baseline monitoring programs established by the Program;

"(B) to support the projects maintained and established by the Program; and

"(C) to address the research and management needs and priorities identified in the Action Strategy;

"(4) coordinate with and work cooperatively with regional, State, tribal, and local government agencies and programs that address marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

"(5) coordinate with the Secretary of State to support international efforts on marine and freshwater harmful algal bloom and hypoxia information sharing, research, prediction, mitigation, control, and response activities;

"(6) identify additional research, development, and demonstration needs and priorities relating to monitoring, prevention, control, mitigation, and response to marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, including methods and technologies to protect the ecosystems affected by marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

"(7) integrate, coordinate, and augment existing education programs to improve public understanding and awareness of the causes, impacts, and mitigation efforts for marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

"(8) facilitate and provide resources to train State and local coastal and water resource managers in the methods and technologies for monitoring, preventing, controlling, and mitigating marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

"(9) support regional efforts to control and mitigate outbreaks through—

"(A) communication of the contents of the Action Strategy and maintenance of online data portals for other information about harmful

algal blooms and hypoxia to State, tribal, and local stakeholders; and

“(B) overseeing the development, review, and periodic updating of the Action Strategy;

“(10) convene at least 1 meeting of the Task Force each year; and

“(11) perform such other tasks as may be delegated by the Task Force.

“(f) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—The Under Secretary shall—

“(1) maintain and enhance the existing competitive programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration relating to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

“(2) carry out marine and Great Lakes harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events response activities;

“(3) develop and enhance, including with respect to infrastructure as necessary, critical observations, monitoring, modeling, data management, information dissemination, and operational forecasts relevant to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events;

“(4) enhance communication and coordination among Federal agencies carrying out marine and freshwater harmful algal bloom and hypoxia activities and research;

“(5) to the greatest extent practicable, leverage existing resources and expertise available from local research universities and institutions; and

“(6) increase the availability to appropriate public and private entities of—

“(A) analytical facilities and technologies;

“(B) operational forecasts; and

“(C) reference and research materials.

“(g) COOPERATIVE EFFORTS.—The Under Secretary shall work cooperatively and avoid duplication of effort with other offices, centers, and programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, other agencies on the Task Force, and States, tribes, and nongovernmental organizations concerned with marine and freshwater issues to coordinate harmful algal bloom and hypoxia (and related) activities and research.

“(h) FRESHWATER.—With respect to the freshwater aspects of the Program, the Administrator, through the Task Force, shall carry out the duties otherwise assigned to the Under Secretary under this section, except the activities described in subsection (f).

“(1) PARTICIPATION.—The Administrator's participation under this section shall include—

“(A) research on the ecology and impacts of freshwater harmful algal blooms; and

“(B) forecasting and monitoring of and event response to freshwater harmful algal blooms in lakes, rivers, estuaries (including their tributaries), and reservoirs.

“(2) NONDUPLICATION.—The Administrator shall ensure that activities carried out under this title focus on new approaches to addressing freshwater harmful algal blooms and are not duplicative of existing research and development programs authorized by this title or any other law.

“(i) INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM.—The collection of monitoring and observation data under this title shall comply with all data standards and protocols developed pursuant to the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.). Such data shall be made available through the system established under that Act.”.

SEC. 5. COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH PLAN AND ACTION STRATEGY.

The Act, as amended by section 4 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 603A the following:

“SEC. 603B. COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH PLAN AND ACTION STRATEGY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal

Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, the Under Secretary, through the Task Force, shall develop and submit to Congress a comprehensive research plan and action strategy to address marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. The Action Strategy shall identify—

“(1) the specific activities to be carried out by the Program and the timeline for carrying out those activities;

“(2) the roles and responsibilities of each Federal agency in the Task Force in carrying out the activities under paragraph (1); and

“(3) the appropriate regions and subregions requiring specific research and activities to address harmful algal blooms and hypoxia.

“(b) REGIONAL FOCUS.—The regional and subregional parts of the Action Strategy shall identify—

“(1) regional priorities for ecological, economic, and social research on issues related to the impacts of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

“(2) research, development, and demonstration activities needed to develop and advance technologies and techniques for minimizing the occurrence of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia and improving capabilities to detect, predict, monitor, control, mitigate, respond to, and remediate harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

“(3) ways to reduce the duration and intensity of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, including deployment of response technologies in a timely manner;

“(4) research and methods to address human health dimensions of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

“(5) mechanisms, including the potential costs and benefits of those mechanisms, to protect ecosystems that may be or have been affected by harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events;

“(6) mechanisms by which data, information, and products may be transferred between the Program and the State, tribal, and local governments and research entities;

“(7) communication and information dissemination methods that State, tribal, and local governments may undertake to educate and inform the public concerning harmful algal blooms and hypoxia; and

“(8) roles that Federal agencies may have to assist in the implementation of the Action Strategy, including efforts to support local and regional scientific assessments under section 603(e).

“(c) UTILIZING AVAILABLE STUDIES AND INFORMATION.—In developing the Action Strategy, the Under Secretary shall utilize existing research, assessments, reports, and program activities, including—

“(1) those carried out under existing law; and

“(2) other relevant peer-reviewed and published sources.

“(d) DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACTION STRATEGY.—In developing the Action Strategy, the Under Secretary shall, as appropriate—

“(1) coordinate with—

“(A) State coastal management and planning officials;

“(B) tribal resource management officials; and

“(C) water management and watershed officials from both coastal States and noncoastal States with water sources that drain into water bodies affected by harmful algal blooms and hypoxia; and

“(2) consult with—

“(A) public health officials;

“(B) emergency management officials;

“(C) science and technology development institutions;

“(D) economists;

“(E) industries and businesses affected by marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

“(F) scientists with expertise concerning harmful algal blooms or hypoxia from academic or research institutions; and

“(G) other stakeholders.

“(e) FEDERAL REGISTER.—The Under Secretary shall publish the Action Strategy in the Federal Register.

“(f) PERIODIC REVISION.—The Under Secretary, in coordination and consultation with the individuals and entities under subsection (d), shall periodically review and revise the Action Strategy prepared under this section, as necessary.”.

SEC. 6. REPORTING.

Section 603 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date the Action Strategy is submitted under section 603B, the Under Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that describes—

“(1) the proceedings of the annual Task Force meetings;

“(2) the activities carried out under the Program, including the regional and subregional parts of the Action Strategy;

“(3) the budget related to the activities under paragraph (2);

“(4) the progress made on implementing the Action Strategy; and

“(5) any need to revise or terminate research and activities under the Program.”.

SEC. 7. NORTHERN GULF OF MEXICO HYPOXIA.

Section 604 is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 604. NORTHERN GULF OF MEXICO HYPOXIA.

“(a) INITIAL PROGRESS REPORTS.—Beginning not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, and biennially thereafter, the Administrator, through the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force, shall submit a progress report to the appropriate congressional committees and the President that describes the progress made by activities directed by the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force and carried out or funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and other State and Federal partners toward attainment of the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan 2008.

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under this section shall—

“(1) assess the progress made toward nutrient load reductions, the response of the hypoxic zone and water quality throughout the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin, and the economic and social effects;

“(2) evaluate lessons learned; and

“(3) recommend appropriate actions to continue to implement or, if necessary, revise the strategy set forth in the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan 2008.”.

SEC. 8. GREAT LAKES HYPOXIA AND HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS.

Section 605 is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 605. GREAT LAKES HYPOXIA AND HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS.

“(a) INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, the Task Force, in accordance with the authority under section 603, shall complete and submit to the Congress and the President an integrated assessment that examines the causes, consequences, and approaches to reduce hypoxia and harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes, including the status of and gaps within current research, monitoring, management, prevention, response, and control activities by—

“(1) Federal agencies;

“(2) State agencies;

“(3) regional research consortia;

“(4) academia;

“(5) private industry; and

“(6) nongovernmental organizations.

“(b) PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, the Task Force shall develop and submit to the Congress a plan, based on the integrated assessment under subsection (a), for reducing, mitigating, and controlling hypoxia and harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The plan shall—

“(A) address the monitoring needs identified in the integrated assessment under subsection (a);

“(B) develop a timeline and budgetary requirements for deployment of future assets;

“(C) identify requirements for the development and verification of Great Lakes hypoxia and harmful algal bloom models, including—

“(i) all assumptions built into the models; and

“(ii) data quality methods used to ensure the best available data are utilized; and

“(D) describe efforts to improve the assessment of the impacts of hypoxia and harmful algal blooms by—

“(i) characterizing current and past biological conditions in ecosystems affected by hypoxia and harmful algal blooms; and

“(ii) quantifying effects, including economic effects, at the population and community levels.

“(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the plan, the Task Force shall—

“(A) coordinate with State and local governments;

“(B) consult with representatives from academic, agricultural, industry, and other stakeholder groups, including relevant Canadian agencies;

“(C) ensure that the plan complements and does not duplicate activities conducted by other Federal or State agencies;

“(D) identify critical research for reducing, mitigating, and controlling hypoxia events and their effects;

“(E) evaluate cost-effective, incentive-based partnership approaches;

“(F) ensure that the plan is technically sound and cost effective;

“(G) utilize existing research, assessments, reports, and program activities;

“(H) publish a summary of the proposed plan in the Federal Register at least 180 days prior to submitting the completed plan to Congress; and

“(I) after submitting the completed plan to Congress, provide biennial progress reports on the activities toward achieving the objectives of the plan.”.

SEC. 9. APPLICATION WITH OTHER LAWS.

The Act is amended by adding after section 606 the following:

“SEC. 607. EFFECT ON OTHER FEDERAL AUTHORITY.

“(a) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this title supersedes or limits the authority of any agency to carry out its responsibilities and missions under other laws.

“(b) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this title may be construed as establishing new regulatory authority for any agency.”.

SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS; CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Act, as amended by section 9 of this Act, is further amended by adding after section 607 the following:

“SEC. 608. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) ACTION STRATEGY.—The term ‘Action Strategy’ means the comprehensive research plan and action strategy established under section 603B.

“(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

“(3) HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM.—The term ‘harmful algal bloom’ means marine and freshwater phytoplankton that proliferate to high concentrations, resulting in nuisance conditions or harmful impacts on marine and aquatic ecosystems, coastal communities, and human health through the production of toxic compounds or other biological, chemical, and physical impacts of the algae outbreak.

“(4) HYPOXIA.—The term ‘hypoxia’ means a condition where low dissolved oxygen in aquatic systems causes stress or death to resident organisms.

“(5) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means the national harmful algal bloom and hypoxia program established under section 603A.

“(6) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, any other territory or possession of the United States, and any Indian tribe.

“(7) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Task Force’ means the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia under section 603(a).

“(8) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term ‘Under Secretary’ means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

“(9) UNITED STATES COASTAL WATERS.—The term ‘United States coastal waters’ includes the Great Lakes.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 603(a) is amended by striking “(hereinafter referred to as the ‘Task Force’)”.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The Act is further amended by adding after section 608 the following:

“SEC. 609. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Under Secretary to carry out sections 603A and 603B \$20,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

“(b) EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—The Under Secretary shall ensure that a substantial portion of funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) that are used for research purposes are allocated to extramural research activities. For each fiscal year, the Under Secretary shall publish a list of all grant recipients and the amounts for all of the funds allocated for research purposes, specifying those allocated for extramural research activities.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on S. 1254, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, reauthorizes oceanic and freshwater research activities. It also improves and streamlines existing activities at the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other Federal agencies.

I want to thank Senator BILL NELSON of Florida and Senator ROB PORTMAN of Ohio for their work on this legislation.

Harmful algal blooms are a significant problem that affects rivers, lakes, and tidal areas around the country. Known most often as “red tide,” harmful algae hurts local economies that are dependent on fishing, recreation, and tourism.

Sometimes referred to as “dead zones,” hypoxia harms ecosystems in fish populations by decreasing oxygen levels in the water. Our current understanding and response to these problems is inadequate.

In my home State of Texas, red and brown tides often affect our bays and coastlines. This damages tourism, harms our fishing industry, and impacts public health.

This bill strengthens scientific research about these phenomena, fosters collaboration between Federal agencies, States, and localities, and advances technological solutions to better understand and respond to outbreaks when they occur.

This bipartisan legislation passed the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology by a unanimous voice vote last month.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) and our Environmental Subcommittee ranking member, Ms. BONAMICI from Oregon, for the bipartisan amendment they offered in committee to improve this legislation.

I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS and Chairman SHUSTER for working with me to bring this legislation to the floor. I will insert our letters of exchange in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, May 22, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to review the relevant provisions of the text of S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013. As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, while the Committee on Natural Resources received an additional referral.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner, and, accordingly, I agree to discharge S. 1254 from further consideration by the Committee on Natural Resources. I do so with the understanding that by discharging the bill, the Committee on Natural Resources does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, the Committee on Natural Resources reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the bill report filed by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, as well as in the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE AND
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, May 22, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: Thank you for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013.

I agree that forgoing further action on this bill does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters into the report filed on S. 1254. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on Natural Resources as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, June 4, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning S. 1254, Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013, as ordered reported by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on May 21, 2014. S. 1254 contains provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring S. 1254 before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and would request that you insert our exchange of letters on this matter into the committee report on S. 1254.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE AND
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, June 4, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: Thank you for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013.

I agree that forgoing further action on this bill does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will insert this exchange into the report filed on S. 1254. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair wishes to clarify that the gentleman's motion is for the bill, as amended.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, that is correct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will re-report the title of the bill.

The Clerk re-reported the title of the bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014.

S. 1254 is a bipartisan bill, and I want to thank my colleagues, Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. POSEY, for their hard work to advance this important legislation. It authorizes an interagency program led by NOAA to improve our understanding and response to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events.

Unfortunately, over the past decade, the distribution and frequency of harmful algal blooms—or HABS—has increased steadily. Today, nearly every State is threatened by this toxic algae.

HABS can have serious economic and public health effects. Shellfish beds along the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific coasts are often closed during a major event to protect the public from significant respiratory distress, shellfish poisoning, and other illnesses.

The economic impact these closures can have on the shellfish industry and tourism is quite large. A single event can cost a coastal community tens of millions of dollars in lost revenue.

While NOAA and the research community have made great strides since the establishment of this program, the need for continued research and tools to lessen the impact of these events is greater than ever before.

More accurate and efficient tools for detecting toxins, early warning of blooms, better predictions of bloom

movement, methods for controlling outbreaks, and the development of local and regional partnerships will all allow for a more effective response.

For instance, in 2009, NOAA-funded scientists from Texas A&M University developed and deployed a sensor in Galveston Bay that can detect algae responsible for shellfish poisoning.

The sensor now provides an early warning to Texas State health officials, allowing them to temporarily close the bay to oyster harvesting. This early warning capability is a perfect example of how this program can minimize economic impacts and protect human health.

Addressing the many dimensions of HABS requires a coordinated multi-agency approach, and passage of S. 1254 and the reauthorization of this program will result in practical and innovative approaches to addressing hypoxia and HABS events in U.S. waters.

The health of our coast and waterways is critical to our economy, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY), a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events occur throughout the United States. They are damaging to water bodies, and are harmful to plant and animal life. They also cost local communities millions of dollars and many hours of recreational enjoyment. The adverse effects are both near-term and long-term.

The continued need for advancing research on harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events is very apparent. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation will continue robust funding for this important research, leading us to a better understanding of the causes, effects, and steps we can take to prevent harmful algae and hypoxia events in the future.

Reported to the floor with bipartisan support from the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014, includes provisions that Representative BONAMICI and I were privileged to advance. As amended, this bill will better streamline and coordinate existing harmful algae bloom and hypoxia research activities at NOAA and other Federal agencies.

We place a high priority on using research to create implementable action plans to minimize the economic, ecologic, and human health impacts from harmful algae blooms.

By incorporating provisions to encourage collaborative research between local, State, and Federal agencies, we

will be able to avoid costly duplicative research, which will stretch every dollar further and significantly advance this important research.

In my congressional district, the Indian River Lagoon has experienced algae blooms each year from 2011 to 2013, leading to the loss of nearly half of all the sea grass beds—the primary means of measuring health in the Indian River Lagoon. Prior to 2011, sea grass beds in the lagoon had been on a steady increase for nearly 15 years. The devastating economic and ecologic impacts of these blooms over the past 3 years can be felt across the entire length of the 156-mile lagoon.

The economic impact of the Indian River Lagoon is approximately \$3.5 billion. A healthy lagoon is vital to the economic well-being of the Treasure Coast and the Space Coast. I raised my family on the lagoon, so I can speak from personal experience about the changes we have seen and the benefits of our lagoon to our communities.

Our bill gives researchers another tool to help us better understand, anticipate, control, and mitigate harmful algal blooms like those we have seen in the Indian River Lagoon and in communities across the country.

I would like to thank Chairman SMITH and the majority and minority staff who worked together to shepherd this bill through committee. I would also like to thank the ranking member of the Environmental Subcommittee, Ms. BONAMICI. It was a pleasure to work with you and your staff to make several bipartisan perfecting changes to the Senate bill so that this bipartisan measure can make it here to the House floor.

I would encourage my colleagues to support the bill before us so that we can reauthorize this important program and continue to advance this research that is so important for communities, like the coastal community I am privileged to live in and represent in Congress.

□ 1700

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. I thank the ranking member of the Science Committee for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation, and I am glad the House is considering it today. I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY), for his willingness to work with me on an amendment to S. 1254 that was adopted in committee and made some modifications to the legislation we are considering today.

I would also like to thank the full committee chairman, Mr. SMITH, and our ranking member, Ms. JOHNSON, for supporting us as we developed the

amendment and moved the bill forward. This was truly a team effort, and our constituents are well served by this collaboration. I want to join Mr. POSEY, also, in thanking our staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work on this bill.

Authorization for the programs under the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act expired in 2012, so this reauthorization is long overdue. The rapid overproduction of algae can have devastating effects on aquatic plants and animals, as well as on human health.

For coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems and communities that depend on fishing and tourism to sustain their economies, the effect of algae blooms is a threat to their livelihood. The cost of these blooms has been estimated to be close to \$82 million each year, a significant hit to the economy in areas that are still struggling to recover.

This issue was first brought to my attention by Oregon State University scientists and the crab industry in Oregon, where business was struggling when Dungeness crabs were dying because of low oxygen levels in the water, a hypoxic event caused by algal blooms.

I do want to stress, however, that the effect of these blooms is not only felt in coastal communities. Last year, in my home State of Oregon, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs experiencing hypoxic events were closed to protect public health for a combined total of more than 700 days.

Research has helped advance our understanding of and response to harmful algal blooms, but we need to continue to invest in this research. The frequency and duration of these events and subsequent hypoxic conditions are on the rise, and our constituents need us to act.

In order to equip ourselves with the tools we need to manage these events and reduce the environmental and economic damage they cause, we need to better understand how and why algal blooms occur and how they respond to a changing environment.

The bill before us today directs NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to develop and implement a national strategy that takes a regional approach to helping communities understand, predict, and mitigate harmful algal bloom and hypoxic events.

It will not only improve coordination, but also assess the program's activities to ensure that we are prepared for these events and are able to respond in an effective and efficient manner.

This will become increasingly important as coastal populations increase and changes in the environment, such as warmer water temperatures, have the potential to alter the growth, toxicity, and geographic distribution of algal blooms.

The stakeholder community has been calling for the reauthorization of this critical program, and they are eager to see NOAA continue its work on this important issue.

The amendment that Mr. POSEY and I included responds to a number of suggestions offered by our colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee, which has joint jurisdiction over these programs; and the amendment clarifies that the bill does not establish any new programs or regulatory authority.

The amendment also ensures that State and local governments, along with other stakeholder groups, are involved in efforts to reduce harmful algal blooms and hypoxia.

Because freshwater ecosystems are also susceptible to HABs, the amendment makes certain that the plan also addresses harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events in the Great Lakes in a cost-effective and technically feasible manner.

NOAA researchers and the academic community have established a strong partnership to lead this effort, and I applaud their work. Now, Congress needs to reauthorize these important programs, so that work can continue; and this bill accomplishes that goal.

I urge our colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1254, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2014

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2072) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2072

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. SCORING OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory

Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

SEC. 3. ACCOUNTABILITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 712. Accountability of Secretary to Inspector General

“(a) LIST OF MANAGERS.—(1) If the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs determines that the Secretary has not appropriately responded with significant progress to a covered report by the date specified in the action plan of the Secretary developed in response to such covered report—

“(A) the Inspector General shall notify the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Secretary of such failure to appropriately respond; and

“(B) not later than 15 days after such notification, the Secretary shall submit to the Inspector General a list of the names of each responsible manager and the matter in the action plan for which the manager is responsible.

“(2) The Inspector General may not make public the names of responsible managers submitted under paragraph (1)(B).

“(b) PERFORMANCE OF RESPONSIBLE MANAGERS.—(1) The Secretary shall—

“(A) promptly notify each responsible manager of a covered issue by not later than seven days after the date on which the Secretary submits to the Inspector General the name of the manager under subsection (a)(1)(B);

“(B) direct such manager to resolve such issue; and

“(C) provide such manager with appropriate counseling and a mitigation plan with respect to resolving such issue.

“(2) The Secretary shall ensure that any performance review of a responsible manager includes an evaluation of whether the manager took appropriate actions during the period covered by the review to respond to the covered issue for which a request was made under subsection (a).

“(3) The Secretary may not pay to a responsible manager any bonus or award, including a performance award under section 5384 of title 5 if the covered issue for which a request was made under subsection (a) is unresolved.

“(c) ROLE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Any authority of the Inspector General provided under this section is in addition to any responsibility or authority provided to the Inspector General in the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App).

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered issue’ means, with respect to a responsible manager, an issue described in a covered report for which the manager is or was responsible.

“(2) The term ‘covered report’ means a report by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs that recommends actions to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (or other official or employee of the Department) to address an issue in the Department with respect to public health or safety.

“(3) The term ‘responsible manager’ means an individual who—

“(A) is an employee of the Department;

“(B) is or was responsible for an issue included in a covered report; and

“(C) in being so responsible, is or was employed in a management position, regardless of whether the employee is in the competitive civil service, Senior Executive Service, or other type of civil service.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 711 the following new item:

“712. Accountability of Secretary to Inspector General.”.

SEC. 4. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTRACT AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF VETERANS NON-DEPARTMENT MEDICAL FOSTER HOMES.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Section 1720 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h)(1) During the three-year period beginning on October 1, 2014, at the request of a veteran for whom the Secretary is required to provide nursing home care under section 1710A of this title, the Secretary may transfer the veteran to a medical foster home that meets Department standards, at the expense of the United States, pursuant to a contract or agreement entered into between the Secretary and the medical foster home for such purpose. A veteran who is transferred to a medical foster home under this subsection shall agree, as a condition of such transfer, to accept home health services furnished by the Secretary under section 1717 of this title.

“(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘medical foster home’ means a home designed to provide non-institutional, long-term, supportive care for veterans who are unable to live independently and prefer a family setting.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (h) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

SEC. 5. CONDITIONS ON THE AWARD OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVISION OF HOUSING OR SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) CONDITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 2012(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a per diem payment may not be provided under this section to a grant recipient or eligible entity unless the entity submits to the Secretary an annual certification, approved or verified by the authority having jurisdiction or a qualified third party, as determined by the Secretary, that the facility where the entity provides housing or services for homeless veterans using grant funds is in compliance with codes relevant to the operations and level of care provided, including applicable provisions of the most recently published version of the Life Safety Code or International Building Code and International Fire Code (or such versions of such codes that have been adopted as State or local codes by the jurisdiction in which the facility is located), licensing requirements, fire and safety requirements, and any other requirements in the jurisdiction in which the facility is located regarding the condition of the facility and the operation of the entity providing such supportive housing or services. For purposes of this paragraph, if a facility where a grant recipient or eligible entity provides housing or services for homeless veterans using grant funds is located in a jurisdiction without relevant code requirements, the Secretary shall determine code

and inspection requirements to be applied to the facility.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to an application for a per diem payment under section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, submitted on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 2065(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph (6):

“(6) The Secretary’s evaluation of the safety and accessibility of facilities used to provide programs established by grant recipients or eligible entities under section 2011 and 2012 of this title, including the number of such grant recipients or eligible entities who have submitted a certification under section 2012(c)(1).”.

(c) TREATMENT OF CURRENT RECIPIENTS.—In the case of the recipient of a per diem payment under section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, that receives such a payment during the year in which this Act is enacted, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall require the recipient to submit the certification required under section 2012(c)(1) of such title, as amended by subsection (a)(1), by not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act. If the recipient fails to submit such certification by such date, the Secretary may not make any additional per diem payments to the recipient under such section 2012 until the recipient submits such certification.

SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF LOAN GUARANTY FEE FOR CERTAIN SUBSEQUENT LOANS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking “October 1, 2017” and inserting “October 1, 2018”; and

(B) in clause (iv), by striking “October 1, 2017” and inserting “October 1, 2018”;

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “October 1, 2017” and inserting “October 1, 2018”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “October 1, 2017” and inserting “October 1, 2018”; and

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “October 1, 2017” and inserting “October 1, 2018”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “October 1, 2017” and inserting “October 1, 2018”.

SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO OBTAIN CERTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY OR THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY.

Section 5317 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “May 31, 2017”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2072, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2072, as amended, the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act.

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs inspector general—the IG—to determine whether appropriate action has been taken by the VA in response to an IG report concerning public health or patient safety.

It would require the IG to notify the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees and the Secretary of any failure of VA to respond appropriately.

The bill would require the Secretary, following such notification, to report the names of managers responsible for implementing the relevant action plan to the IG within 15 days and prohibit the IG from making such names public.

It would require the Secretary to promptly notify each responsible manager of an issue in a covered report, direct that responsible manager to resolve the issue, and provide such manager with counseling and a mitigation plan to resolve the issue.

It also would require the VA to include an evaluation of whether such manager took appropriate action to a covered report in his or her performance review, and it would prohibit the VA from paying a bonus or performance award to any responsible manager if an issue in a covered report is left unresolved.

Other provisions of the bill will authorize the VA for 3 years, beginning on October 1, 2014, to enter into a contract or agreement with certified medical foster homes to pay for long-term care for certain veterans already eligible for VA-paid nursing home care and require an eligible veteran to receive VA home health services as a component of such payment.

It would require per diem payment recipients under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program to provide VA with certification of compliance with all relevant fire, safety, and building codes; and it would allow entities already receiving grants or assistance under the program to submit such certification within 2 years of enactment, require the VA to determine the code requirement for a facility in a location without a code requirement, and also to determine how such facility would be inspected.

It would require VA to include an accounting and evaluation of the safety and accessibility of facilities used for homeless veterans in the annual report on assistance to homeless veterans.

It would also extend the current rate of certain VA housing loan guarantee funding fees from October 1, 2017, to October 1, 2018, and extend VA's authority to receive information from the Internal Revenue Service for pension income verification purposes from September 30, 2016, to May 31, 2017.

H.R. 2072, as amended, was reported out of the full committee last year with full support and is fully offset.

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the Members who cosponsored the provisions in this bill, particularly Chairman MILLER and Representative DAVID MCKINLEY from West Virginia, who we will be hearing from shortly.

I also commend Chairman MILLER; Ranking Member MICHAUD; the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health, JULIA BROWNLEY; and all the members of the Subcommittee on Health, for their hard work and leadership on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago today, our Nation commemorated Memorial Day in remembrance of the brave men and women throughout history who paid the ultimate price in defense of our freedoms.

One of the best ways we can honor these heroes is to ensure that their fellow servicemembers—those they fought side by side with—receive the best possible health care when they return home.

Unfortunately, it has become painfully clear that the VA is not only failing to reach the standard, they are not even coming close. It is a sad legacy that I have seen firsthand as a VA surgeon for 20 years.

From my first day on this committee, we have been working to identify the problems at VA and provide solutions for our veterans.

It has been more than a year since we on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee first began investigating delays in care and seeking answers, and it has been 2 months since public awareness of these problems took off, after CNN highlighted the tragedy in Phoenix, allegations which were first brought to light by the committee; yet we still cannot get clear answers from the VA and are still waiting for key VA officials to be held accountable.

I am sick and tired of these bureaucrats and undersecretaries coming before us to say: We know there's a problem, and we're working on it. We take this seriously. We're going to have a fix in a little while.

Yet there never seems to be a fix. Veterans are dying. The time for excuses and delays is long past. The time for action is now.

Two weeks ago, the VA IG released an interim report on the alleged negligence and mismanagement at the Phoenix VA health care system.

In that report, the IG states that they have issued reports to call attention to problems in analyzing critical data for almost a decade and called for a system to monitor VA's corrective action. That system is exactly what we are creating today.

No longer will VA officials be able to hide behind excuses. Instead, with this bill, we will take bold steps toward

ending the culture of mismanagement and complacency at VA.

When the VA concurs with an inspector general's recommendation on an issue that needs to be fixed and, indeed, nothing happens, who was the person responsible for following through on that fix?

Why is the fact that they didn't reply to an IG report and stated via a VA concurrence that an action would be completed, not punished? Why are they still getting bonuses if they don't comply? Why are they getting promotions for not getting the job done?

Anywhere else in America, these questions would already have been answered, but not in bureaucracies like VA. The Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act will correct this injustice.

Let me be clear. I know the people that are providing direct patient care for our veterans—the nurses and the doctors—are good people who work hard, but their leadership has failed them, and it has failed our veterans, and it must stop now.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and, in doing so, take a needed step to ensure that responsible individuals are held accountable for correcting any lapses in care that impact the health and well-being of our veterans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H.R. 2072, as amended, the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act.

This legislation addresses a number of concerns that have arisen during hearings and other forums that we have conducted during this Congress.

Too often, we have seen inspector general reports that find the same problem time and time again at VA medical centers, but nothing seems to change.

Recommendations are made, solutions are identified, plans are made, but there is no followthrough. Problems aren't fixed, processes aren't changed, and problems reoccur several times over.

□ 1715

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs inspector general to determine whether appropriate action has been taken by the Department in response to a report concerning public health or patient safety; and if he determines it has not, it authorizes the VA IG to alert the Secretary and Congress. This authority will increase accountability and will, hopefully, get the actions needed for things to change.

H.R. 2072, as amended, also addresses medical foster homes. It authorizes the Department to enter into contracts with medical foster homes to pay for

long-term care for veterans who are already eligible for VA-paid nursing home care. We know that many veterans prefer to be cared for in a home-like setting rather than in an institution. This provision gives them that option.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has many homeless programs, and I am proud to say that we have done a great job in reducing the number of homeless veterans by 50 percent. Buildings in which these homeless veterans receive services must be held to the highest standard concerning safety. This bill would require per diem payment recipients under the VA's Homeless Grant and Per Diem Program to provide the VA with a certification of compliance with all relevant fire, safety, and building codes.

It is our commitment—no, our obligation—to ensure that veterans receive the best care and treatment available. This is whether we are fighting homelessness, ensuring the safety and security of facilities, or ensuring that when a problem and a solution are identified they get addressed.

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Indiana, Mrs. JACKIE WALORSKI, my colleague on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and a member of the Subcommittee on Health.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act, a bill I am proud to cosponsor.

As the recent scandals at the VA have clearly demonstrated, better accountability and oversight are needed at the VA. This bill will actually help provide better accountability and oversight by ensuring that the VA inspector general recommendations are fully implemented by the VA.

Currently, after the VA inspector general investigates a VA facility, the inspector general releases a list of recommendations for what the VA must do to correct the problems identified during the investigation. Oftentimes, these recommendations are never fully implemented by the VA.

This bill will provide additional tools to ensure that the VA implements the IG recommendations.

Specifically, this bill requires the VA Secretary to determine exactly which employees within the VA are responsible for implementing the suggested changes. This bill prevents the employees who are charged with implementing those recommendations from receiving a bonus until the problems identified by the IG have been addressed. This bill also makes it easier to fire employees who are refusing or failing to implement those IG recommendations.

The VA's failure to fully implement IG recommendations has contributed to the mismanagement and corruption

we are seeing in the VA today. Think about it. If the VA had done a better job of implementing the IG's corrective actions, maybe we wouldn't be hearing about the things we are hearing about today—falsified records, secret waiting lists, deaths due to negligence. Our veterans certainly deserve better.

I will continue to work with my colleagues on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in order to bring accountability to the VA and to protect the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our Nation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia, Mr. DAVID MCKINLEY, my colleague on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. MCKINLEY. I commend the chairman for bringing this bill before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2072.

I would specifically like to talk about section 5 of the bill, which is based on legislation I previously introduced, the Safe Housing for Homeless Veterans Act. This is a modification of a bill that passed the House in 2012.

Currently, there are over 2,100 shelters for homeless veterans across the country. Unfortunately, some of these structures have been found to be unsafe for habitation. From 2006 to 2010, more than 1,900 fires had been reported in these structures. In the last decade alone, nearly 200 residents have been lost in unsafe shelters.

How can this slip through the cracks?

The answer is that, currently, there is no law mandating that VA homeless shelters meet building codes. There is only a loosely defined policy that is not universally followed. As a licensed professional engineer, I find this to be a shocking omission in the law governing our veterans' homeless program funds. This bill would require any organization that seeks funding from the VA for services to homeless veterans to have documentation that the shelter meets or exceeds building codes.

As a nation, it should be unacceptable for us to allow homeless veterans to be housed in unsafe conditions. In defense of our country, these men and women were put in harm's way. They should not be in doubt about their own safety now that they are back in this country.

Mr. Speaker, this is commonsense legislation that will ensure that our homeless veterans are in a safe envi-

ronment while they work and struggle to get back to a normal life.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WALORSKI). The gentlewoman has 17 minutes remaining.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENISHEK. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my colleague from New York (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of New York. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his leadership on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor tonight to speak in support of the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act, which I am proud to cosponsor.

You would think Congress wouldn't have to act to demand accountability from the VA on behalf of our veterans, but, sadly, as everyone knows, that is not the case with the current VA. The VA is supposed to provide service and benefits that all of our veterans have earned by protecting our freedom. Instead, what we have in too many cases is a bunch of bureaucrats in both Washington and in the local facilities who seem content to collect a paycheck and not serve the public.

Enough is enough.

The least we should expect is, when the inspector general issues a corrective action report about a public health or a patient safety problem, the VA employees would be held accountable for fixing it.

At the VA hospital in Buffalo, New York, which is right outside my district, the improper use of insulin pens resulted in some 700 veterans being potentially exposed to HIV and hepatitis. In this case, the IG issued a corrective action report. The public has every right to expect the VA to be held accountable for implementing a fix to make sure something like that never happens again. Without this legislation, we can't make that promise, and that is an insult to our veterans and to all Federal taxpayers.

This legislation also makes it easier to get rid of the bad apples at the VA so that issues with problem employees don't fester and overshadow the care being delivered by hardworking VA nurses and doctors.

Again, I want to thank Congressman BENISHEK for his work on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to pass the bill.

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

I am reminded of the words of the first President of the United States, and I think they are worth repeating here today: the willingness with which our young men are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justifiable,

should be directly proportionate as to how they perceive the veterans of early wars are treated and appreciated by their country.

I want everyone to know that I have been on this committee for 22 years. I am the longest-serving member on this committee, and I support the veterans 100 percent; but I remember in 2005 when the first servicemen started returning home and the Bush administration was underfunding the VA to the tune of \$1.5 billion. Congress had to pass a supplemental funding bill to pay for this shortfall. Because the administration was using old data, which was taken before all of these veterans returned for care, the number was wrong, and the veterans paid the price. Following that, a Democratic-leaning Congress increased the VA's budget to its highest level ever in the history of the United States, guaranteeing that veterans' health care would not be subject to the whims of politics and to advance appropriations on Capitol Hill.

I know many people don't remember that, because sometimes it is like we don't have any institutional memory around here.

I want to commend Secretary Shinseki. He did a yeoman's job as the Secretary. When each Vietnam veteran had to prove his case, he opened up the VA so that all of the veterans could come in. Certainly, the VA wasn't prepared for millions of additional veterans, but it was the right thing to do.

I can tell you that I have done my reconnaissance and that we are not involved in any scandals in Florida. When we had a problem in the Miami hospital—and this is a service that we should give the Secretary the authority to do—two small projects had to be stopped because they combined into one project—the operating facility. We were able to get it amended and get it taken care of so that the veterans in the Miami hospital were being cared for. In Orlando, we have been working on that VA hospital for over 25 years—a long time. The VA has not built any hospitals until recently, and now we are building six new hospitals. We had not built a VA hospital in the Veterans Administration for 15 years.

Yes, we are coming together in Congress and are doing what we should do for the veterans. Let me point out that I support this bill, but this bill should go to every agency, because every single agency ignores the reports that come in. So, if we are going to do our oversight, we should do it with all of the agencies. We should not let veterans think that we are not doing what we need to do to take care of them. It should be, as I would say, one team and one fight. We should be fighting for the veterans. Ever since I have been on this committee, it has been all for the veterans. It hasn't been about the politics that go on—you did not fill out my report. The important thing is that we are taking care of the veterans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 2072, as amended, the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act, and, in turn, to support our veteran heroes.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2072, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1730

AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA FOR CEREMONY COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENACTMENT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 100) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 100

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964.

The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on June 24, 2014, for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the significant impact the Act had on the Civil Rights movement. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of House Concurrent Resolution 100, authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

It is certainly fitting that we take pause and recognize the passage of this historic landmark legislation that was passed into law and the events in our Nation that called upon its leaders to act all those years ago.

The passage of the Civil Rights Act was a major step forward for America that finally allowed our great Nation to truly live up to its creed found in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal.

188 years following the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, 99 years after the conclusion of the Civil War, and after decades of struggle by great leaders like Martin Luther King and so many Americans who fought valiantly, broad bipartisan majorities of both Houses of Congress came together to ensure equality for every American.

The passage of the Civil Rights Act was a very proud moment for the House of Representatives because America faced a time of choosing in 1964, and together, our Congress rallied and voted to strengthen individual protections and rights, and voted to end discrimination and segregation 50 years ago.

The Civil Rights Act still remains one of the most important pieces of legislation that has ever been debated in our Chamber and instituted across our great Nation, not only for people of color or different nations of origin, but for each and every American, regardless of gender or socioeconomic status or their religious background.

Our Nation has a very vibrant and rich history, and that moment, 50 years ago, when many different people of various walks of life joined together and, in one voice, called for equality stands as one of the most monumental in our history.

Our Nation stood as a witness to those who led and participated in civil rights protests such as the March on Washington, sit-ins at lunch counters, and maintaining one's seat on a bus and refusing to move solely based on one's color of one's skin.

Fifty years ago, so many risked prison or worse to overcome huge odds and stand for what they truly believed must be changed. Their contributions reverberated across every State and every town and every home. Many took up roles as spokespersons, using their talents or what was available to them to make peaceful statements. Several have joined this Chamber as Members.

I see JOHN LEWIS has joined us today, and I am just very proud to be able to serve with a man of his historic background and distinguished service to our Nation, Mr. Speaker.

These people were pillars, absolutely pillars of strength. They used their courage to meet injustice head-on, and they are memorialized in the history that we carry forward. The actions of those individuals called on every citizen of our Nation to recognize and to listen to the struggles of others and to support the call for a change to our laws.

So many individuals from all walks of life rose up and lifted their voices to add to the call for change in our Nation, and they stood for all of those who were to come after them in the next generation and for the betterment of their lives.

They brought their concerns to the forefront of our political stage and they spoke for all of us, men, women, rich or poor.

In my home State of Michigan, Mr. Speaker, we were blessed to have so many great leaders in this movement, but one of those individuals was truly a civil rights icon who became a treasured member of our community. Rosa Parks inspired countless Americans with her grace, her dignity and strength, and through the simple yet profound act of refusing to give up her seat on a bus, she continued her advocacy for equality and freedom and inspired so many others who have carried the cause for individual rights forward to this very day.

She also has a connection to this House with another Member of Congress as well, a Michigan colleague of mine, JOHN CONYERS, who was also a recognized leader in the civil rights movement.

As we mark this 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, we remember the efforts, the struggles, and the achievement of those who stood for equal rights. They saw to it that America will make good on its promise for every individual to obtain justice, freedom, and equality.

It is certainly fitting, Mr. Speaker, that the House and the Senate join together later this month to formally remember and pay tribute to our Nation's civil rights attaining this milestone.

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairwoman for the support. It is very much appreciated.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 100, which authorizes the use of the Capitol rotunda to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The passing of the bill that became the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a critical turning point in the history of this Nation, prohibiting all forms of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

This significant law also ensured that the promise of equal protection

under the law would be true for all Americans.

Millions of Americans faced violent opposition to ensure that the Civil Rights Act was brought before Members of the House and the Senate for a vote.

During what was one of the most turbulent times in this Nation, a time when discrimination was commonplace and segregation was an accepted norm, passing this law was a true bipartisan effort, with Members of both parties overcoming their differences to do what was best for this Nation.

If passed, H. Con. Res. 100 would allow the use of the Capitol rotunda to recognize the courageous efforts made by former Members of this House to pass the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, and will honor civil rights and community leaders who dedicated their lives to see this bill become a reality and be signed into law by the President of the United States, President Lyndon B. Johnson.

I urge all Members to support H. Con. Res. 100, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the assistant Democratic leader of the House.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative MARCIA FUDGE, for yielding time to me on this important resolution. I also want to commend her for her leadership on this initiative to pay appropriate commemoration to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Prior to my first election to the House of Representatives, I served in the State government of my native State, South Carolina, in an office charged with administering this landmark legislative achievement.

We, in South Carolina, effectively used provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to enforce fair employment practices. That instrument has had tremendously positive impact on the working men and women of my State and across the country.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, along with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Fair Housing Law of 1968, and other initiatives embody the ideals upon which this Nation was founded.

I had the opportunity to expound on this notion at some length when I spoke in Dayton, Ohio, in 1985 as president of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies. At that time I spoke these words:

We are an experimental Nation toying with the idea of individual rights as opposed to collective control and tyranny. So far, the experiment has worked, no doubt to the sur-

prise of many who witnessed its birth over 200 years ago.

It is interesting to speculate why not only has the Nation survived, but also its ideals and principals. Let me hazard a few guesses as to why America and its ideals have worked over all these years. First of all, I do not believe America is perfect. Neither did the Founding Fathers of the Nation. No sooner had our Constitution been written than the first ten amendments were presented and adopted. They were called the Bill of Rights, and we can all be thankful that they were included in the package.

I continued on that day:

Americans have never tried to conceal or ignore their imperfections. For the most part, they have tried to recognize and correct them. When the enslavement of a race of people created a conflict which threatened the very foundation of our Constitution, the Nation went to war with itself to resolve the conflict and ensure the integrity and sovereignty of the Constitution. And, a century later, when it was found that discrimination still prevented millions of Americans from participating as full-fledged citizens, our Nation moved to correct the flaw with wide-ranging civil rights legislation.

This bill that we commemorate today was one of them:

Now, while it is common to say that no nation in the history of the world has granted more individual freedom, it is just as valid to say that no nation has ever tried harder to correct the flaws and impediments in its system. We are still imperfect, and we are still trying to live up to the principles to which the Constitution has committed us. The important message is that this Nation has never stopped trying, and we would do well not to stop now.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, too many in this country hold the view that the flaws in the system are not worth fixing or no longer need attention. Too often, the view is advanced that the civil rights movement and all of its achievements are things of the past.

I strongly disagree with that view. The work of securing a more perfect Union is never completed. The struggle continues.

I want to thank Chair FUDGE for her leadership on this resolution to commemorate the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in the rotunda of the Capitol.

□ 1745

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I have been blessed and privileged to work with many great people in this House. You have just heard from one, the assistant leader who is our historian and has been an activist in many, many ways throughout his life.

I now want to yield to someone who all of us consider an icon, as was referenced by the chairwoman earlier. It is, indeed, an honor to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, my good friend who is the face and voice for so many of the civil rights movement.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), the esteemed chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, for her hard work, for her leadership on this resolution, and for her kind words.

I would also like to thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for her kind words and for her leadership. The two of them have never given up or given in and have kept the faith, and for that, I thank them so much.

I would also like to thank the Speaker and our friends on both sides of the aisle for helping to bring this resolution to the floor.

I am glad to be on the floor with the gentleman from South Carolina, JIM CLYBURN, who I met more than 50 years ago at an organizer meeting of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, when we both were very young, first for the sit-ins, when we both had all of our hair.

To be here with the gentleman from South Carolina today, if someone had told me then that the two of us would be sitting here in the Congress, I would say: you are crazy, you are out of your mind, you don't know what you are talking about.

Fifty years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law. This bipartisan effort outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The following year, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law. It was a bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, if you visit my office in the Cannon Building, you will see both Democrats and Republicans standing together. You will see me standing with Members of the Senate. One man I will never forget, the Republican leader Everett Dirksen, helped make it possible to get the bill passed.

Too many people I knew and loved lost their lives in the fight for civil rights and simple justice. Every single day, each and every one of us must remember the heroes—average men, women, and children—who put their lives on the line in the fight for equality.

We cannot forget their sacrifice, and we must not ignore the lessons of history. When we come together across party lines, from different races, religions, and regions, we can achieve the greater good.

I hope and pray that we will come together again—Democrats and Republicans, of all faiths, colors, and regions—to pass laws that maintain, protect, and strengthen rights for which many gave their ultimate sacrifice.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan, the gentlewoman from Ohio, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their strong support of this resolution.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to say that the gentleman from Georgia, Rep-

resentative LEWIS, mentioned the term "heroes." He truly is a hero, an American hero, a treasure.

In the 12 years I have been honored to be a Member of Congress, anytime I hear him come to the floor and talk about civil rights, someone who has actually lived it, I wish I could take him home and have him talk to groups of schoolchildren, and I know he does that in his own district and around the country.

Because every time the gentleman from Georgia, as well as Representative CLYBURN and so many others come to this floor to talk about the civil rights movement, it really is very moving, and it makes us all think about, before we are anything, we are Americans first, and he truly is a hero.

I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, there are just some things that are inherently American. They are truth and freedom and justice, doing what is best for our Nation.

I know that we have disagreements, we have differences, but today, we stand together as one House, and I thank the chairwoman for allowing that to happen again.

Again, I urge all Members to support H. Con. Res. 100, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly urge all of my colleagues, as well, to support this resolution, which will authorize the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol Building for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 100, which authorizes the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It is fitting and proper that the Rotunda of the Capitol is the venue for the commemoration for one of the consequential governmental actions since the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.

On July 2, 1964, fifty years ago next month, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the act that profoundly changed our country and brought about the greatest reduction in economic and social inequality among Americans in history.

Mr. Speaker, today it is difficult to imagine there once was a time in our country when blacks and whites could not eat together in public restaurants, use the same public restrooms, stay at the same hotels, or attend the same schools. It is hard to believe today that just 50 years ago, discrimination on the ground of race was a legal and socially accepted practice.

But the Civil Rights Act of 1964 changed that.

The Civil Rights Act outlawed discrimination and segregation in employment, public accommodations, and education on the ground of

race, gender, religion, or national origin. This act became the soil from which our country flourished; opportunities were bred and dreams were born.

This change did not happen overnight or by accident. It took hard work and courage and an unwavering faith that America could live up to the true meaning of its creed. Fortunately for our country, there were such men and women who had that faith and courage. People like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Whitney Young, Rosa Parks, and JOHN LEWIS are just a few of the many noble leaders who took a stand for freedom and risked their lives to make real the promise of America for all Americans.

Today, 50 years later, we continue to preserve the rights and freedoms that so many fought for and could only dream of before the Civil Rights Act.

On the evening of June 11, 1963, President John F. Kennedy addressed the Nation and uttered the words that would echo in history:

It ought to be possible for every American to enjoy the privileges of being American without regard to his race or his color. But this is not the case.

We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the Scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution.

The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities, whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated.

One hundred years of delay have passed since President Lincoln freed the slaves, yet their heirs, their grandsons, are not fully free. They are not yet freed from the bonds of injustice. They are not yet freed from social and economic oppression. And this Nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be fully free until all its citizens are free.

Now the time has come for this Nation to fulfill its promise.

And a better country, we have become.

Although we have come a long way, we must not become complacent on the issues of civil rights. Our Nation is a growing melting pot, and we must continue to make sure American citizens, regardless of their religion, race, or gender, are granted the right to freedom and equality.

This Nation prides itself on the abundance of individual freedom. Through the Civil Rights Act of 1964, we have nurtured a land where every American citizen is born free, and with the opportunity to chase their own American dream.

Mr. Speaker, before signing the Civil Rights Act of 1964, President Lyndon Baines Johnson addressed the Nation on the significance of the bill he was about to sign:

We believe that all men are created equal. Yet many are denied equal treatment.

We believe that all men have certain unalienable rights. Yet many Americans do not enjoy those rights.

We believe that all men are entitled to the blessings of liberty. Yet millions are being deprived of those blessings—not because of their own failures, but because of the color of their skin.

The reasons are deeply imbedded in history and tradition and the nature of man. We can understand—without rancor or hatred—how this all happened.

But it cannot continue.

Our Constitution, the foundation of our Republic, forbids it. The principles of our freedom forbid it. Morality forbids it.

And the law I will sign tonight forbids it.

It is most fitting that the Rotunda of the Capitol be venue of the ceremony commemorating the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was passed by the Congress of the United States and has for 50 years ensured and protected the right of all Americans to live their dreams in a land where equal opportunity is the birthright of all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 100.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA FOR CEREMONY AWARDED CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO NEXT OF KIN OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 36

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF ROTUNDA FOR CEREMONY TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE NEXT OF KIN OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on July 9, 2014, for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the concurrent resolution, permitting the use of the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg.

The issuing of the Congressional Gold Medal is in recognition and in honor of this individual's heroism and selfless humanitarian actions.

Raoul Wallenberg was born on August 4, 1912, in Sweden; and in 1931, Mr. Wallenberg attended college in my home State of Michigan, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

In the years that followed his graduating at the top of his class in architecture, he quickly established himself in business in his home nation of Sweden, and like so many others, then he also witnessed the ever-growing threats coming from Germany.

At the age of 32, Mr. Wallenberg was recruited by the U.S. War Refugee Board, a board that was established by then-President Roosevelt and whose mission was to rescue the Jewish from occupied territories and to provide relief to those sent to concentration camps.

Mr. Wallenberg later became known as an individual who led one of the War Refugee Board's most extensive operations.

Mr. Wallenberg was given status as a Swedish diplomat and traveled to Hungary in the summer of 1944, a few months after Nazi forces occupied that nation.

Sweden was a neutral country; and, therefore, Nazi forces or the complying Hungarian authorities could not easily arrest or otherwise harm Swedish citizens. This enabled Mr. Wallenberg to save tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from concentration camps.

Shortly following Nazi occupation, the rounding up of Hungarian Jews and their transference into Nazi custody began. When Mr. Wallenberg arrived in Budapest that summer, the Nazis had already deported nearly 444,000 Hungarian Jews, with almost all of them being sent to the Auschwitz or Birkenau killing centers.

We now know that the SS killed approximately 320,000 of these individuals upon arrival and used the rest as forced labor. When Mr. Wallenberg made it to Budapest, only about 200,000 Jews remained in the city, but there were plans made by the Hungarian authorities under Nazi rule to deport those as well.

Provided with diplomatic credentials and the authorization from the Swedish Government, Mr. Wallenberg took

heroic action to save as many of these individuals and families as he could by creating and distributing protective Swedish certificates.

Through the War Refugee Board and assistance from Sweden, Mr. Wallenberg was able to use funds to set up hospitals, nurseries, a soup kitchen, and dozens of safe houses for the Jewish of Budapest. These safe houses actually formed the international ghetto, holding some of the same protective Swedish certificates that Wallenberg handed out.

Faced with the further breakdown of the Hungarian Government and increased Nazi control, deportations of the Jewish population resumed; but this time, the authorities decided to force tens of thousands to march toward Austria, due to the railroad being cut off by the Soviet troops.

That fall, Mr. Wallenberg personally worked to stop the further deportation of many by securing the release of those who had already had some of the same protection certificates that he had worked to distribute, and he was able to help them return to safe houses within the city.

Mr. Wallenberg was not alone. He worked with many of his colleagues and other diplomats who participated in the same types of rescue operations and issued their own neutral countries' protective certificates to Jewish people and found ways to house them.

By the end of 1944, Mr. Wallenberg and others were able to keep the authorities from destroying the ghetto and the individuals who resided there.

By the beginning of 1945, Soviet forces came to Budapest and liberated the city in February. More than 100,000 Jewish people remained.

But what happened to Mr. Wallenberg, like so many others during this time, is unknown. Mr. Wallenberg was last seen in Soviet custody, and it is thought he may have died in prison.

Mr. Speaker, the end of Mr. Wallenberg's life remains a mystery, but the life that he led and especially the actions he took while living in Budapest for those 6 months and saving as many as so many innocents are forever, forever remembered.

Raoul Wallenberg is a hero, not just for those who were in Budapest at that time, but a hero that the world remembers.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wallenberg's memory lives on and serves as the best kind of reminder for what it means to serve and accomplish the greater good for all of humanity, and it is certainly fitting that we gather, as a Congress, in the rotunda of the United States Capitol, to formally remember and pay tribute to this man, a man who used the tools he was given to work tirelessly for the lives of others, a man who did so much, even at his own peril.

Awarding Mr. Wallenberg the Congressional Gold Medal is the very least

that we can do as a grateful Nation and as a grateful member of the world.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 36. Few people in history have shown the sort of bravery for which we will be honoring Raoul Wallenberg.

As Sweden's special envoy to Hungary during the Second World War, Mr. Wallenberg quietly issued thousands—and I say thousands—of protective passports and sheltered as many Jews as he could in Swedish Embassy buildings, protecting them from being rounded up by the Fascist authorities. It is estimated that his efforts saved potentially up to 100,000 Jews from the horrors of the Holocaust.

Sadly, as the gentlewoman from Michigan pointed out, Mr. Wallenberg would never see the impact of his great work. As the Iron Curtain descended on Eastern Europe, he was apprehended by Soviet authorities, never to be seen again; but if not for his commitment to the protection of human rights, untold thousands would not be among us today.

One of the lives that he saved was that of our former colleague, Congressman Tom Lantos, who wrote the bill making Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of the United States in 1981.

In 2012, we posthumously awarded Raoul Wallenberg the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust. This resolution will allow the use of the rotunda for a ceremony presenting the Gold Medal to his family in honor of Mr. Wallenberg for his noble and selfless actions.

I urge all Members to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 36, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1800

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as well, I would urge all of my colleagues to support S. Con. Res. 36, which is a resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 36.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MORTGAGE CHOICE ACT OF 2013

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3211) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3211

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Mortgage Choice Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF POINTS AND FEES.

(a) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 103 OF TILA.—Section 103(bb)(4) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1602(bb)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking “paragraph (1)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(A) and section 129C”;

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by inserting “and insurance” after “taxes”;

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “, except as retained by a creditor or its affiliate as a result of their participation in an affiliated business arrangement (as defined in section 2(7) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2602(7))” after “compensation”; and

(C) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) the charge is—

“(I) a bona fide third-party charge not retained by the mortgage originator, creditor, or an affiliate of the creditor or mortgage originator; or

“(II) a charge set forth in section 106(e)(1);”;

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking “accident.”; and

(B) by striking “or any payments” and inserting “and any payments”.

(b) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 129C OF TILA.—Section 129C of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1639c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5)(C), by striking “103” and all that follows through “or mortgage originator” and inserting “103(bb)(4)”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(C)(i), by striking “103” and all that follows through “or mortgage originator”)” and inserting “103(bb)(4)”.

SEC. 3. RULEMAKING.

Not later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall issue final regulations to carry out the amendments made by this Act, and such regulations shall be effective upon issuance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 3211, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3211, the Mortgage Choice Act. As someone who worked in the housing industry for a number of years, this is a very important issue to me, and, more importantly, to my constituents in Michigan as well as, frankly, all of our constituents across the country.

Earlier this year, the Qualified Mortgage, also known as the (QM)/Ability to Repay Rule, as mandated by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act went into effect. The QM rule is the primary means for mortgage lenders to satisfy their “ability to repay” requirements.

Additionally, Dodd-Frank provides that a QM may not have points and fees in excess of 3 percent of the loan amount. As currently defined, points and fees include, among other charges:

One, fees paid to affiliated, but not unaffiliated, title companies; two, salaries paid to loan originators; three, amounts of insurance and taxes held in escrow; four, loan level price adjustments; and number five, payments by lenders to corresponding banks as they interact with them, credit unions, and mortgage brokers in wholesale transactions—not in any kind of retail transaction.

As a result of this confusing and problematic definition, many affiliated loans, particularly those made to low and moderate-income borrowers, would not qualify as QMs and would be unlikely to be made or would only be made available at much higher rates due to heightened liability risks. Consumers would lose the ability to take advantage of the convenience and the market efficiencies offered by one-stop shopping.

I, along with Representative GREGORY MEEKS, introduced H.R. 3211, a strong, bipartisan bill that would modify and clarify the ways points and fees are calculated. I should note, Mr. Speaker, that of our nine original cosponsors, two of them were Republicans, seven of them were Democrats, and we are very pleased that this has seen wide and broad support.

This legislation is narrowly focused to promote access to affordable mortgage credit without overturning the important consumer protections and sound underwriting required under Dodd-Frank’s “ability to repay” provisions.

Specifically, my bill, H.R. 3211, would provide equal treatment for unaffiliated title fees compared with unaffiliated title fees. What that means is, for companies that are owned and integrated in, those same requirements and same designations would apply to those who are totally separate and independent companies. It also would clarify the treatment of insurance and taxes held in escrow. Now think about that. We

are talking about taxes that no one makes a profit off of, that just literally get sent to the government, being counted in this points and fees definition. That, to me, just seems fundamentally unfair. And only—again, I might add—if they are an affiliated company versus an unaffiliated company.

These commonsense changes will promote access to affordable mortgage credit for low- and moderate-income families and first-time home buyers by ensuring that safer, properly underwritten mortgages pass the QM test.

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative MEEKS, along with many others, who have worked tirelessly to help fix this flawed provision currently being implemented.

Mr. Speaker, this evening, Congress has the opportunity to help more Americans realize a portion of the American Dream, not by some grandiose law or decree or something that is going to be big, but by simply reforming a burdensome regulation. Homeownership has been a pillar in American life for generations. Tonight, we can reaffirm that pillar and reassert that homeownership can and should be an attainable goal.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 3211 and make the dreams of so many Americans a reality by ensuring that all consumers have greater access to mortgage credit and more choices to credit providers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Representative HUIZENGA on this very, very important bill.

This legislation is about two things: fairness and opportunity. My fellow co-sponsors—both Democrats and Republicans—and I support H.R. 3211, which is the Mortgage Choice Act, because of our shared concern about access; access to credit, yes, for all consumers, but especially for lower-income consumers and middle-income consumers, and to ensure that everybody in America that needs a home and wants a home, when securing a loan, that they have a choice in selecting both the mortgage and the title insurance providers of their choice.

I urge my colleagues to support this needed legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, but I, too, would like to thank my friend, Mr. SCOTT from Georgia, for working with Representative MEEKS to bring this to the forefront. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my strong support for the Mortgage Choice Act. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his leadership on this important bill.

Owning a home has long been the cornerstone of the American Dream, but regulations

are currently restricting consumer access to mortgage credit for low and moderate income homebuyers. The Mortgage Choice Act will ensure that potential homeowners can borrow funds for their home in a responsible manner while keeping intact consumer protections established by Dodd-Frank's ability to pay provisions.

I urge passage of this bill today. This is a legislative initiative that merits strong bipartisan support.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, as I stated during the hearing and the mark up on The Mortgage Choice Act of 2013 (H.R. 3211), there are serious concerns about steering consumers into buying title insurance with hidden commissions and inflated costs.

I bought two homes in my life. Like most homebuyers, I was asked to sign a bunch of papers with lots of fees such as origination charges, appraisal fees, scoring fees, recording charges, tax service fee and title insurance. Like most consumers, I chose my title insurance provider based on referral: I did not comparison shop.

For most of us, title insurance is the most expensive of the closing cost fees—sometimes running in the thousands of dollars. These fees are poorly understood by homebuyers. This can lead to paying higher fees than is necessary or appropriate.

When Congress passed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, we required the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to do a better job at protecting consumers when buying a home.

We know that the housing finance system had too much predatory and discriminatory lending. African Americans and Latinos were frequently charged much higher interest rates than they qualified for. Homeowners were refinanced into high fee and interest rates they could not afford. The result was more than five million foreclosures and a colossal loss of wealth.

In response to the new law, the CFPB wrote rules to protect people buying homes from products which would strip their wealth. One of those rules defined a Qualified Mortgage (QM) standard which was established in Dodd-Frank. As part of that QM standard, the CFPB established a "points and fees" bright line limit for mortgages that qualified under the Ability to Repay provision.

The CFPB established a limit on "points and fees"—which account for a loan's origination costs—that exceed 3 percent of the loan amount—although it can be up to 8 percent for lower cost homes. Because of concerns that the affiliated title insurance system was leading to higher costs for borrowers in a market based on reverse competition, the CFPB wisely chose to require title insurance charges from affiliated title agents be within the points and fees cap.

H.R. 3211 reverses the CFPB's decision.

By excluding affiliated title insurance firms from within the points and fees cap, H.R. 3211 restores an incentive to overcharge homebuyers.

We know how hard it is to get people into homes. Homebuyers need to save thousands of dollars for a downpayment. So why should we make it easier to let them get overcharged

as much as a thousand or more dollars on title insurance? Some say that as much as half or more of a title insurance premium goes to the referral agent. Why would we want to preserve this practice of overpricing title insurance to fund referral commissions?

At the Financial Services hearing that included this bill, I requested that we hear from independent land title agents as well as from groups like the Consumer Federation of America, the Center for Responsible Lending, Americans for Financial Reform and its 100 affiliates and the AFL-CIO.

I requested that the National Association of Independent Land Title Agents be invited to testify. I have heard concerns directly from title agents in my state that some referral sources ask to share ownership of their business. Since title insurance is based on referrals, when realtors, homebuilders and mortgage brokers refuse to provide referrals to a title agent firm, the firm may not be able to survive financially. Unfortunately, these independent unaffiliated title agents were not invited to testify nor was there another hearing on the bill.

Many organizations opposed the bill including the AFL-CIO, Alliance for a Just Society, Americans for Financial Reform, Center for Economic Justice, Center for Responsible Lending, Connecticut Fair Housing Center, Consumer Action, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, Empire Justice Center, Home Defenders League, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, NAACP, National Association of Consumer Advocates, National Association of Independent Land Title Agents, National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low income clients), National Council of La Raza, National Fair Housing Alliance, New Economic Project, Public Citizen, Woodstock Institute and Center for Responsible Lending.

These concerns about hidden referral commissions are not hypothetical. Last month, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) fined RealtySouth, the largest real estate firm in Alabama for violations of the Real Estate Settlement and Practices Act (RESPA). RealtySouth improperly steered consumers to its affiliated firm, TitleSouth LLC. In addition, The CFPB has taken action against Borders & Borders PLC in Kentucky for funneling kickbacks to shell companies. In June, the CFPB fined Stonebridge Title Services in New Jersey for paying illegal kickbacks to referral sources.

Some who support H.R. 3211 say there are some fixed costs in lending that could result in lower valued mortgages to need to pay loans higher than the Qualified Mortgage guideline of points and fees established by smaller loans. However, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau already provided for flexible definitions based upon the amount of a borrower's mortgage:

3 percentage cap on a loan balance at \$100,000 or greater,

5 percentage cap on a loan balance from \$20,000.00 to \$60,000, or

8 percentage cap on loan balances of less than \$12,500.¹

Since the average mortgage origination fees are below one percent according to the Center for Responsible Lending, the caps set by the QM are appropriate. I have not seen any compelling evidence that shows that lenders will

not make loans if the title premiums charged by their affiliates are included in the points and fees cap. Lenders are free to make loans outside the ability to repay rules as well.

I have also heard the proponents of H.R. 3211 arguing that the availability of affiliate service providers helps reduce the overall cost of obtaining a mortgage loan. I question their evidence. The 2010 Harris Interactive study paid by the National Association of Realtors is suspect. In that study, more than 70 percent of buyers “did not know” what an affiliate service provider provided or what benefit it allegedly gave.

By contrast, in 2013, The National Association of Independent Land Title Agents (NAILTA) commissioned the first-ever national settlement preference survey of American real estate consumers.ⁱⁱ More than 900 consumers participated in the nationwide survey. The results include:

93 percent of American real estate consumers surveyed said it was important that title insurance agents remain a neutral third party in the performance of title insurance-related services.

62 percent of American real estate consumers surveyed said that a title agency cannot remain objective if it is partially owned by a bank, real estate firm, mortgage company or homebuilder.

Only 1 percent of American real estate consumers surveyed prefer a “one stop shop”.

For all the efficiencies that proponents assert existed prior to this new rule that provided a disincentive to refer homebuyers to controlled/affiliated title firms, settlement costs—exclusive of inflation—continue to rise. I believe the CFPB’s rule could actually lower title insurance premiums and increase homeownership for Americans.

I have concerns about a market where people assert that half or more the cost of the product is a referral fee unlinked to the product itself. Consumers and independent title insurance agents say that title insurance premiums can provide remuneration to the referral source based on the capture rate such as lower desk rental fees, bonuses, gifts or higher commissions. This should not be permitted.

I urge Members to stand with homebuyers who want to understand all the fees they are charged.

I urge Members to support a market free of pressures for referral commissions.

I urge Members to vote no on H.R. 3211.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201401_cfpb_atr_qm_small-entity-compliance-guide.pdf

ⁱⁱ <http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/getfile/1102880907824-107/Executive+Summary+10-17-2013.pdf>

CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING,

June 9, 2013.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We are writing to urge you to oppose H.R. 3211. This bill reintroduces some of the higher fees borrowers faced in the lead up to the mortgage crisis; fees that the new mortgage rules were designed to prevent. Specifically, this bill creates a loophole that would allow loans with higher costs to the borrower to improperly meet the Qualified Mortgage (QM) standard established in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Con-

gress should refrain from weakening the QM standard and reject this bill.

H.R. 3211 would allow many more risky, high-cost loans to qualify as QM loans by creating exceptions to the points and fees threshold. These exceptions would exclude fees paid to certain title companies affiliated with the lender. The points and fees definition is designed to include all compensation received by the lender. It is a reasonable standard that provides basic protections for homebuyers.

The title insurance market is a broken market. In 2007, a GAO report concluded that borrowers “have little or no influence over the price of title insurance but have little choice but to purchase it.” As a result, the fees are grossly inflated—recent studies have found that between 5 and 11 cents is paid out in claims for each \$1 of premiums. Almost the entirety of a title insurance premium (approximately 70%) goes to commissions, not insurance coverage. In contrast, loss ratios for health insurance are minimally 80% and ratios for auto insurance fluctuate between 50% and 70%. Borrowers already pay inflated title insurance costs. Including affiliated title insurance fees in the QM defined points and fees cap will not solve all the problems in the market but the rule provides important market pressure to control costs.

The current QM protections represent an appropriate step to directly address recent problems for borrowers without impacting access to credit. Creating a title insurance loophole in the statute would eliminate one important protection to keep costs to borrowers from escalating further.

We welcome the opportunity to engage in a discussion for a comprehensive fix to the flaws in the current title insurance market. However, incentivizing an already overpriced market to further raise rates for borrowers is no solution.

The Center for Responsible Lending urges Congress to reject H.R. 3211—which will neither benefit consumers nor expand access to credit.

Sincerely,

KENNETH W. EDWARDS,
VP, Federal Affairs.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2014.

Re NAACP Strong Opposition to H.R. 3211,
the Mortgage Choice Act of 2013

MEMBERS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the NAACP, our nation’s oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization, I strongly urge you to oppose H.R. 3211, the Mortgage Choice Act of 2013, which is scheduled to come before you under suspension of the rules later today. This ill-conceived legislation would reopen the door to the higher fees borrowers faced in the lead-up to the recent mortgage crisis; higher fees, which for decades, were sadly targeted at specific demographics including African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority homebuyers. As a result, communities of color are still suffering disproportionately from the foreclosure crisis. On behalf of the constituency served and represented by the NAACP, I urge you in the strongest terms possible to vote against H.R. 3211 and to be reminded by our nation’s past experiences and not to create the types of incentives to predatory lenders that will repeat the lending abuses which led to the ruination of so many families.

H.R. 3211 would weaken the consumer protections of Qualified Mortgage loans as established by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act by legislating exceptions to the 3 percent points and fees threshold. These exceptions include exempting title insurance paid to a company affiliated with a lender from counting toward the 3 percent cap. The approach taken in this bill leaves the door open for abuses that were typical in the recent subprime crisis. Our specific concerns about mortgage insurance are based on the fact that lenders have historically steered borrowers to overpriced title insurance. Consumers do not, and essentially cannot, shop for this product, so this is a broken market where competition does not function to drive down prices. One result of this practice is that title insurance prices are vastly inflated. The opaque pricing and sales system for title insurance leaves borrowers without information or leverage to get a better price.

Again, I urge you in the strongest terms possible, to oppose H.R. 3211, the Mortgage Choice Act of 2013, and to vote against it if it does indeed come before you under a suspension of the rules later today. Many of our communities across our nation are still suffering from the foreclosure crisis which continues to decimate too many American families. We need to learn from and correct our past mistakes, not open the door to repeating them. Thank you for considering the concerns of the NAACP. Should you have any questions or comments on the NAACP position, please feel free to contact me at (202) 463-2940.

Sincerely,

HILARY O. SHELTON,
Director, NAACP
Washington Bureau
& Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy.

OCTOBER 17, 2013.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS, we are writing to urge you to oppose H.R. 3211 and any Senate companion bill, which reopens the door to the higher fees borrowers faced in the lead up to the mortgage crisis. Specifically, this bill creates loopholes that would allow loans with higher costs to improperly meet the Qualified Mortgage (QM) standard established in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Congress should refrain from weakening the Qualified Mortgage standard and reject this bill. Due to a broken market, title insurance fees are grossly inflated—less than 10 cents is paid out in claims for each \$1 of premiums, and title insurance adds \$1,000 or more to the upfront costs of many mortgages. In other words, almost the entirety of a title insurance premium goes to commissions, not insurance coverage. The QM protections represent appropriate steps to directly address recent problems without impacting access to credit.

The mortgage reforms in Title XIV of Dodd-Frank were put in place as a direct response to the deceptive and unsound mortgage lending practices and products that put borrowers into risky, high-cost loans they could not understand or afford. Many of these inflated loans were made in communities of color and low-income communities, where the effects of the recent economic collapse are ongoing. The Ability to Repay provision requires all lenders to reasonably determine whether a mortgage is affordable for the borrower. Lenders can demonstrate their compliance with the Ability to Repay requirement by originating loans that meet

the bright line tests in the Qualified Mortgage definition. One such bright line is a limit on "points and fees"—which account for a loan's origination costs—that exceed 3 percent of the loan amount. This borrower protection prevents loans with more expensive origination costs from gaining QM status.

H.R. 3211 would weaken the consumer protections of QM loans by legislating exceptions to the 3 percent points and fees threshold. These exceptions include exempting title insurance paid to a company affiliated with a lender from counting toward the 3 percent cap. The approach taken in this bill, which is misleadingly named the Mortgage Choice Act, leaves the door open for abuses that were typical in the recent subprime crisis. During the subprime lending boom, borrowers often paid excessive origination costs; Dodd-Frank's Qualified Mortgage provisions aim at restoring a fair market.

This bill would undermine those rules just as they are about to take effect. Congress passed Dodd-Frank and the Bureau, as directed, has written regulations for Qualified Mortgages and the Ability to Repay requirements. Plans for implementation of the new rules are already underway for the January effective date. Congress should not now second guess a two-year rulemaking process with thoughtful input from a variety of stakeholders with hasty passage of a bill to undermine the protections put in place to prevent the next housing crisis.

There are a number of specific features of the title insurance market which add to our concerns about H.R. 3211

Lenders steer borrowers to overpriced title insurance. Borrowers are responsible for paying title insurance costs, but the price for this product is agreed upon between the lender and the title insurance company. Consumers do not, and essentially cannot, shop for this product, so this is a broken market where competition does not function to drive down prices. The incentives to increase the costs of title insurance paid by borrowers are enhanced when lenders are coordinating with their own affiliates that provide title insurance.

Title insurance prices are vastly inflated. The opaque pricing and sales system for title insurance leaves borrowers without information or leverage to get a better price. As a result, higher prices can be charged with most of the insurance fee going to the sales agent, not to provide coverage for losses. See attached Chart from a GAO study on the title insurance market.

States don't adequately regulate the market. The "file and use" approach employed by many states allows insurers and lenders to push prices up at their own discretion, filing fee hike requests with regulators and then using them with homeowners. There is minimal evaluation as to the appropriateness of fee increases.

Households and communities across the country have yet to recover from the recent subprime lending crisis, and Congress should learn from the past instead of creating incentives to repeat these lending abuses. As a result, the undersigned organizations oppose H.R. 3211 and ask that you not support this bill.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO, Alliance for a Just Society, Americans for Financial Reform, Center for Economic Justice, Center for Responsible Lending, Connecticut Fair Housing Center, Consumer Action, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, Empire Justice Center.

Home Defenders League, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, NAACP, National Association of Consumer Advocates, National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low income clients), National Council of La Raza, National Fair Housing Alliance, New Economic Project, Public Citizen, Woodstock Institute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3211.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPEDITED FUNDS AVAILABILITY ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1679) to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1679

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

SECTION 1. APPLICATION OF THE EXPEDITED FUNDS AVAILABILITY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Expedited Funds Availability Act (12 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 602(20) (12 U.S.C. 4001(20)) by inserting ", located in the United States," after "ATM";

(2) in section 602(21) (12 U.S.C. 4001(21)) by inserting "American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," after "Puerto Rico,";

(3) in section 602(23) (12 U.S.C. 4001(23)) by inserting "American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," after "Puerto Rico,"; and

(4) in section 603(d)(2)(A) (12 U.S.C. 4002(d)(2)(A)), by inserting "American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," after "Puerto Rico,".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials in the RECORD on H.R. 1679, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also thank my colleague, Delegate FALDOMAVAEGA, for introducing this bill. This bill makes a technical change to clarify that the Expedited Funds Availability Act applies to banks located in American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as the other 50 States and contiguous States. It was an inadvertent error that these territories were not included in this act. This legislation remedies this error.

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

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Our Financial Services Committee simply amends the Expedited Funds Availability Act to apply it to American Samoa. Essentially, it does just these few things. It extends by 2 business days for American Samoa any time periods established for large or re-deposited checks, repeated overdraft, reasonable cause, or other emergency exceptions to the 30-day funds availability requirements for deposits in a depository institution account by a new depositor.

It also applies this 2-day extension to any deposit in an account at a depository institution located in American Samoa by a check drawn on an originating depository institution which is not located in the same State as the receiving depository institution.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the distinguished gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALDOMAVAEGA) who has worked tirelessly on this effort and deserves so much credit for his sterling leadership.

Mr. FALDOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1679, as amended, a bill to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that act to American Samoa and to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a bipartisan effort, and I want to thank Chairman JEB HENSARLING and Ranking Member MAXINE WATERS of the Committee on Financial Services for bringing this legislation on the floor today. I also want to thank my good friend, Congressman KILILI SABLAN, for his support of this bill. And I would be remiss if I did not also express my appreciation to the subcommittee chairman of our Financial Services Committee, Congresswoman SHELLEY CAPITO, and Ranking Member GREGORY MEEKS for their efforts in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is important because it will not only improve the current banking system in both territories, but it will also allow our constituents quicker access to their funds.

I introduced this legislation last year because one of our only two banks in

the territory was scheduled to close all of its branches for good. In working together with Governor Lolo and many stakeholders in delaying the bank's departure, we learned that there was a systematic delay in access to funds for bank customers in American Samoa.

H.R. 1679 will fix this delay and will put American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in line with the schedule of availability of funds that are already required of banks in all States and other territories under regulation CC.

Under regulation CC, banks in the U.S. mainland and certain territories are required to make funds available for consumer use for in-State checks no later than the second business day after the check is deposited. Out-of-State checks can be held up to 5 business days before funds can be released. Banks in Hawaii, Alaska, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico may, at their discretion, hold out-of-State checks for an extra day.

This is not the same for American Samoa. Checks can be held for an intermittent and undetermined amount of time, even up to 21 days, before funds are available for the consumer to have access. This is unfair for my constituents and has a direct and indirect impact on our local economy.

For the record, I do not hold the banks at fault, but given the trend of electronic banking and quicker access to mailing services, I feel that they are able to provide quicker and better services for their customers.

Again, I thank Chairman HENSARLING, Ranking Member WATERS, and their staff for their work on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, with that, I would just like, again, to congratulate Delegate FALEOMAVAEGA for his leadership on this, and I am glad that we could get this done. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1679, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1815

DHS ACQUISITION ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4228) to require the Department of Homeland Security to improve discipline, accountability, and transparency in acquisition program management, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4228

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Findings.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.
- Sec. 5. Prohibition on additional authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES

- Sec. 101. Acquisition authorities for Under Secretary for Management.
- Sec. 102. Acquisition authorities for Chief Financial Officer.
- Sec. 103. Acquisition authorities for Chief Information Officer.
- Sec. 104. Chief Procurement Officer.
- Sec. 105. Requirements to ensure greater accountability for acquisition programs.

TITLE II—ACQUISITION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT DISCIPLINE

- Sec. 201. Acquisition Review Board.
- Sec. 202. Requirements to reduce duplication in acquisition programs.
- Sec. 203. Government Accountability Office review of Board and of requirements to reduce duplication in acquisition programs.
- Sec. 204. Excluded Party List System waivers.
- Sec. 205. Inspector General oversight of suspension and debarment.

TITLE III—ACQUISITION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- Sec. 301. Congressional notification and other requirements for major acquisition program breach.
- Sec. 302. Multiyear acquisition strategy.
- Sec. 303. Acquisition reports.
- Sec. 304. Government Accountability Office review of multiyear acquisition strategy.
- Sec. 305. Office of Inspector General report.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Department of Homeland Security does not consistently implement its policies and Government and private sector best practices for acquisitions and procurement.

(2) It is difficult to determine the cost of the Department's major acquisition programs because the Department has not provided consistent, comparable updates on an annual basis. As of January 2014, the Department identified over 80 major acquisition programs costing over \$300,000,000, and, based on 2011, estimates it plans to spend about \$170,000,000,000 in the future on major acquisition programs.

(3) Since 2005, the Government Accountability Office has placed Department acquisition management activities on its "High-Risk List", which identifies Government operations that have greater susceptibility to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement or greater need for transformation to address economy, efficiency, or effectiveness challenges.

(4) While the Department has taken actions to address some high-risk acquisition program management issues, many programs continue to experience challenges with funding instability, workforce shortfalls, reliable cost estimates, realistic schedules, agreed-upon baseline objectives, and consistent and reliable data needed to accurately measure program performance.

(5) Of the 77 Department major acquisition programs in 2011, the Government Accountability Office identified 42 programs that experienced cost growth, schedule slips, or both. The Department reported that the magnitude of the cost growth for 16 of the 42 programs, which increased from almost \$20,000,000,000 to over \$50,000,000,000 in 2011, had an aggregate increase of 166 percent.

(6) In 2012, the Government Accountability Office found that only 20 of 63 programs had Department-approved acquisition program baselines. The Government Accountability Office also reported that the Department planned to spend more than \$105 billion on programs lacking acquisition program baselines.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEES.—The term "congressional homeland security committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and of the Senate.

(b) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) ACQUISITION.—The term "acquisition" has the meaning provided in section 131 of title 41, United States Code.

(2) BEST PRACTICES.—The term "best practices", with respect to acquisition, means a knowledge-based approach to capability development that includes identifying and validating needs; assessing alternatives to select the most appropriate solution; clearly establishing well-defined requirements; developing realistic cost assessments and schedules; securing stable funding that matches resources to requirements; demonstrating technology, design, and manufacturing maturity; using milestones and exit criteria or specific accomplishments that demonstrate progress; adopting and executing standardized processes with known success across programs; establishing an adequate workforce that is qualified and sufficient to perform necessary functions; and integrating these capabilities into the Department's mission and business operations.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS IN HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) by striking "In this Act," and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act,";

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting "(A)" after "(2)"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) The term ‘congressional homeland security committees’ means—

“(i) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(ii) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and of the Senate, where appropriate.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) ACQUISITION-RELATED DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the following definitions apply:

“(1) ACQUISITION.—The term ‘acquisition’ has the meaning provided in section 131 of title 41, United States Code.

“(2) ACQUISITION DECISION AUTHORITY.—The term ‘acquisition decision authority’ means the authority, held by the Secretary acting through the Deputy Secretary or Under Secretary for Management—

“(A) to ensure compliance with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives;

“(B) to review (including approving, halting, modifying, or cancelling) an acquisition program through the life cycle of the program;

“(C) to ensure that program managers have the resources necessary to successfully execute an approved acquisition program; and

“(D) to ensure good program management of cost, schedule, risk, and system performance of the acquisition, including assessing acquisition program baseline breaches and directing any corrective action for such breaches.

“(3) ACQUISITION DECISION EVENT.—The term ‘acquisition decision event’, with respect to an investment or acquisition program, means a predetermined point within the acquisition phases of the investment or acquisition program at which the investment or acquisition program will undergo a review prior to commencement of the next phase.

“(4) ACQUISITION DECISION MEMORANDUM.—The term ‘acquisition decision memorandum’, with respect to an acquisition, means the official acquisition decision event record that includes a documented record of decisions, exit criteria, and assigned actions for the acquisition as determined by the person exercising acquisition decision authority for the acquisition.

“(5) ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE.—The term ‘acquisition program baseline’, with respect to an acquisition program, means a summary of the cost, schedule, and performance parameters, expressed in standard, measurable, quantitative terms, which must be met in order to accomplish the goals of the program.

“(6) CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN.—The term ‘capability development plan’, with respect to a proposed acquisition, means the document that the Acquisition Review Board approves for the first acquisition decision event related to validating the need of a proposed acquisition.

“(7) COMPONENT ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE.—The term ‘Component Acquisition Executive’ means the senior acquisition official within a Component who is designated in writing by the Under Secretary for Management, in consultation with the Component head, with authority and responsibility for leading a process and staff to provide acquisition and program management oversight, policy, and guidance to ensure that statutory, regulatory, and higher level policy requirements are fulfilled, including compliance with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation,

and Department acquisition management directives established by the Under Secretary for Management.

“(8) LIFE CYCLE COST.—The term ‘life cycle cost’, with respect to an acquisition program, means all costs associated with research, development, procurement, operation, integrated logistics support, and disposal under the program, including supporting infrastructure that plans, manages, and executes the program over its full life, and costs of common support items incurred as a result of the program.

“(9) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘major acquisition program’ means a Department acquisition program that is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of at least \$300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2014 constant dollars) over its life cycle cost.”

SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act. This Act and such amendments shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

TITLE I—ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES

SEC. 101. ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES FOR UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “Procurement” and inserting “Acquisition and procurement”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) ACQUISITION AND RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1702(b) of title 41, United States Code, the Under Secretary for Management is the Chief Acquisition Officer of the Department. As Chief Acquisition Officer, the Under Secretary shall have the authority and perform the functions as specified in section 1702(b) of such title, and perform all other functions and responsibilities delegated by the Secretary or described in this subsection.

“(2) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the authority and functions specified in section 1702(b) of title 41, United States Code, the duties and responsibilities of the Under Secretary for Management related to acquisition include the following:

“(A) Advising the Secretary regarding acquisition management activities, taking into account risks of failure to achieve cost, schedule, or performance parameters, to ensure that the Department achieves its mission through the adoption of widely accepted program management best practices and standards.

“(B) Exercising the acquisition decision authority to approve, halt, modify (including the rescission of approvals of program milestones), or cancel major acquisition programs, unless the Under Secretary delegates the authority to a Component Acquisition Executive pursuant to paragraph (3).

“(C) Establishing policies for acquisition that implement an approach that takes into account risks of failure to achieve cost, schedule, or performance parameters that all Components of the Department shall comply with, including outlining relevant authorities for program managers to effectively manage acquisition programs.

“(D) Ensuring that each major acquisition program has a Department-approved acquisition program baseline.

“(E) Ensuring that the heads of Components and Component Acquisition Executives

comply with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives.

“(F) Ensuring that grants and financial assistance are provided only to individuals and organizations that are not suspended or debarred.

“(G) Distributing guidance throughout the Department to ensure that contractors involved in acquisitions, particularly companies that access the Department’s information systems and technologies, adhere to internal cybersecurity policies established by the Department of Homeland Security.

“(3) DELEGATION OF ACQUISITION DECISION AUTHORITY.—

“(A) LEVEL 3 ACQUISITIONS.—The Under Secretary for Management may delegate acquisition decision authority in writing to the relevant Component Acquisition Executive for an acquisition program that has a life cycle cost estimate of less than \$300,000,000.

“(B) LEVEL 2 ACQUISITIONS.—The Under Secretary for Management may delegate acquisition decision authority in writing to the relevant Component Acquisition Executive for a major acquisition program that has a life cycle cost estimate of at least \$300,000,000 but not more than \$1,000,000,000 if all of the following requirements are met:

“(i) The Component concerned possesses working policies, processes, and procedures that are consistent with Department-level acquisition policy.

“(ii) The Component Acquisition Executive has adequate, experienced, dedicated program management professional staff commensurate with the size of the delegated portfolio.

“(iii) Each major acquisition program concerned has written documentation showing that it has a Department-approved acquisition program baseline and it is meeting agreed-upon cost, schedule, and performance thresholds.

“(4) EXCLUDED PARTIES LIST SYSTEM CONSULTATION.—The Under Secretary for Management shall require that all Department contracting and procurement officials consult the Excluded Parties List System (or successor system) as maintained by the General Services Administration prior to awarding a contract or grant or entering into other transactions to ascertain whether the selected contractor is excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain types of Federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits.

“(5) RELATIONSHIP TO UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Nothing in this subsection shall diminish the authority granted to the Under Secretary for Science and Technology under this Act. The Under Secretary for Management and the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall cooperate in matters related to the coordination of acquisitions across the Department so that investments of the Directorate of Science and Technology can support current and future requirements of the Components.”

SEC. 102. ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES FOR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.

Section 702 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 342) is amended by adding at the end of subsection (b)(2) the following new subparagraph:

“(J) Notwithstanding section 902 of title 31, United States Code, provide leadership over financial management policy and programs for the Department as they relate to the Department’s acquisitions programs, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management.”

SEC. 103. ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES FOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.

Section 703 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 343) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) **ACQUISITION RESPONSIBILITIES.**—Notwithstanding section 11315 of title 40, United States Code, the acquisition responsibilities of the Chief Information Officer, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, shall include the following:

“(1) Serve as the lead technical authority for information technology programs and establish departmental information technology priorities, policies, processes, standards, guidelines, and procedures.

“(2) Oversee the management of the Homeland Security Enterprise Architecture and ensure that, before each acquisition decision event, approved information technology acquisitions comply with departmental information technology management processes, technical requirements, and the Homeland Security Enterprise Architecture, and in any case in which information technology acquisitions do not comply with Departmental management directives, make recommendations to the Acquisition Review Board regarding such noncompliance.

“(3) Be responsible for providing recommendations to the Acquisition Review Board established in section 836 of this Act on information technology programs, and be responsible for developing information technology acquisition strategic guidance.”

SEC. 104. CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 708. CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is a Chief Procurement Officer of the Department, who shall report directly to the Under Secretary for Management. The Chief Procurement Officer is the senior procurement executive for purposes of section 1702(c) of title 41, United States Code, and shall perform procurement functions as specified in such section. The Chief Procurement Officer also shall perform other functions and responsibilities set forth in this section and as may be assigned by the Under Secretary for Management.

“(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Chief Procurement Officer shall—

“(1) exercise leadership and authority to the extent delegated by the Under Secretary for Management over the Department procurement function;

“(2) issue acquisition regulations and policies;

“(3) account for the integrity, performance, and oversight of Department procurement and contracting functions and be responsible for ensuring that a procurement’s contracting strategy and plans are consistent with the intent and direction of the Acquisition Review Board established in section 836 of this Act;

“(4) serve as the Department’s business advisor and main liaison to industry on procurement-related issues by providing advice on industry engagement, acquisition policy, oversight of the procurement function, and development of the acquisition workforce;

“(5) oversee a centralized certification and training program, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, for the entire Department acquisition workforce while using, to the greatest extent practicable, best practices and acquisitions training opportunities already in existence within the Federal Government, the private sector, or universities and colleges, as appropriate, and

including training on how best to identify actions that warrant referrals for suspension or debarment;

“(6) delegate or retain contracting authority, as appropriate, except as provided in section 701(d)(3) of this Act;

“(7) participate in the selection, and periodic performance review, of the head of each contracting activity within the Department;

“(8) collect baseline data and establish performance measures on the impact of strategic sourcing initiatives on the private sector, including, in particular, small businesses; and

“(9) ensure that a fair proportion (as defined pursuant to the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.)) of Federal contract and subcontract dollars are awarded to small businesses, maximize opportunities for small business participation, and ensure, to the extent practicable, small businesses that achieve qualified vendor status for security-related technologies are provided an opportunity to compete for contracts for such technology.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding after the item relating to section 707 the following new item:

“Sec. 708. Chief Procurement Officer.”

SEC. 105. REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 709. REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

“(a) **REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH MECHANISM.**—Within the Management Directorate, the Under Secretary for Management shall establish a mechanism to prioritize improving the accountability, standardization, and transparency of major acquisition programs of the Department in order to increase opportunities for effectiveness and efficiencies and to serve as the central oversight function of all Department acquisition programs.

“(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The Under Secretary for Management shall designate an Executive Director to oversee the requirement under subsection (a). The Executive Director shall report directly to the Under Secretary and shall carry out the following responsibilities:

“(1) Monitor the performance of Department acquisition programs regularly between acquisition decision events to identify problems with cost, performance, or schedule that Components may need to address to prevent cost overruns, performance issues, or schedule delays.

“(2) Assist the Chief Acquisition Officer in managing the Department’s acquisition portfolio.

“(3) Conduct oversight of individual acquisition programs to implement Department acquisition program policy, procedures, and guidance with a priority on ensuring the data it collects and maintains from its Components is accurate and reliable.

“(4) Serve as the focal point within the Department for policy, process, and procedure regarding life cycle cost estimating and analysis.

“(5) Serve as the focal point and coordinator for the acquisition life cycle review process and as the executive secretariat for the Acquisition Review Board established under section 836 of this Act.

“(6) Advise the persons having acquisition decision authority in making acquisition de-

isions consistent with all applicable laws and in establishing clear lines of authority, accountability, and responsibility for acquisition decisionmaking within the Department.

“(7) Engage in the strategic planning and performance evaluation process required under section 306 of title 5, United States Code, and sections 1105(a)(28), 1115, 1116, and 9703 of title 31, United States Code, by supporting the Chief Procurement Officer in developing strategies and specific plans for hiring, training, and professional development in order to rectify any deficiency within the Department’s acquisition workforce.

“(8) Oversee the Component Acquisition Executive structure to ensure it has sufficient capabilities and complies with Department policies.

“(9) Develop standardized certification standards in consultation with the Component Acquisition Executives for all acquisition program managers.

“(10) In the event that a program manager’s certification or actions need review for purposes of promotion or removal, provide input, in consultation with the relevant Component Acquisition Executive, into the relevant program manager’s performance evaluation, and report positive or negative experiences to the relevant certifying authority.

“(11) Provide technical support and assistance to Department acquisitions and acquisition personnel in conjunction with the Chief Procurement Officer.

“(12) Prepare the Department’s Comprehensive Acquisition Status Report, as required by the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2013 (division D of Public Law 113–6; 127 Stat. 343) and section 840 of this Act, and make such report available to congressional homeland security committees.

“(13) Prepare the Department’s Quarterly Program Accountability Report as required by section 840 of this Act, and make such report available to the congressional homeland security committees.

“(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPONENTS.**—Each head of a Component shall comply with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives established by the Under Secretary for Management. For each major acquisition program, each head of a Component shall—

“(1) establish a complete life cycle cost estimate with supporting documentation, including an acquisition program baseline;

“(2) verify each life cycle cost estimate against independent cost estimates, and reconcile any differences;

“(3) complete a cost-benefit analysis with supporting documentation;

“(4) develop and maintain a schedule that is consistent with scheduling best practices as identified by the Comptroller General of the United States, including, in appropriate cases, an integrated master schedule; and

“(5) ensure that all acquisition program information provided by the Component is complete, accurate, timely, and valid.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 708 the following new item:

“Sec. 709. Requirements to ensure greater accountability for acquisition programs.”

**TITLE II—ACQUISITION PROGRAM
MANAGEMENT DISCIPLINE**

SEC. 201. ACQUISITION REVIEW BOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 836. ACQUISITION REVIEW BOARD.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an Acquisition Review Board (in this section referred to as the ‘Board’) to strengthen accountability and uniformity within the Department acquisition review process, review major acquisition programs, and review the use of best practices.

“(b) COMPOSITION.—The Deputy Secretary or Under Secretary for Management shall serve as chair of the Board. The Secretary shall also ensure participation by other relevant Department officials, including at least two Component heads or their designees, as permanent members of the Board.

“(c) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet every time a major acquisition program needs authorization to proceed from acquisition decision events through the acquisition life cycle and to consider any major acquisition program in breach as necessary. The Board may also be convened for non-major acquisitions that are deemed high-risk by the Executive Director referred to in section 709(b) of this Act. The Board shall also meet regularly for purposes of ensuring all acquisitions processes proceed in a timely fashion to achieve mission readiness.

“(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Board are as follows:

“(1) Determine whether a proposed acquisition has met the requirements of key phases of the acquisition life cycle framework and is able to proceed to the next phase and eventual full production and deployment.

“(2) Oversee executable business strategy, resources, management, accountability, and alignment to strategic initiatives.

“(3) Support the person with acquisition decision authority for an acquisition in determining the appropriate direction for the acquisition at key acquisition decision events.

“(4) Conduct systematic reviews of acquisitions to ensure that they are progressing in compliance with the approved documents for their current acquisition phase.

“(5) Validate the acquisition documents of each major acquisition program, including the acquisition program baseline, to ensure the reliability of underlying data.

“(6) Ensure that practices are adopted and implemented to require consideration of trade-offs among cost, schedule, and performance objectives as part of the process for developing requirements for major acquisition programs prior to the initiation of the capability development plan, second acquisition decision event, including, at a minimum, the following practices:

“(A) Department officials responsible for acquisition, budget, and cost estimating functions are provided with the appropriate opportunity to develop estimates and raise cost and schedule matters before performance objectives are established for capabilities when feasible.

“(B) Full consideration of possible trade-offs among cost, schedule, and performance objectives for each alternative is considered.

“(e) ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE REPORT REQUIREMENT.—If the person exercising acquisition decision authority over a major acquisition program approves the program to proceed beyond the acquisition decision event requiring a capability development plan before it has a Department-approved ac-

quisition program baseline, then the Under Secretary for Management shall create and approve an acquisition program baseline report on the decision, and the Secretary shall—

“(1) within seven days after an acquisition decision memorandum is signed, notify in writing the congressional homeland security committees of such decision; and

“(2) within 60 days after the acquisition decision memorandum is signed, submit a report to such committees stating the rationale for the decision and a plan of action to require an acquisition program baseline for the program.

“(f) BEST PRACTICES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘best practices’ has the meaning provided in section 4(b) of the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 835 the following new item:

“Sec. 836. Acquisition Review Board.”

SEC. 202. REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE DUPLICATION IN ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 837. REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE DUPLICATION IN ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

“(a) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH POLICIES.—In an effort to reduce duplication and inefficiency for all Department investments, including major acquisition programs, the Deputy Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, shall establish Department-wide policies to integrate all phases of the investment life cycle and help the Department identify, validate, and prioritize standards for common Component requirements for major acquisition program requirements in order to increase opportunities for effectiveness and efficiencies. The policies shall also include strategic alternatives for developing and facilitating a Department Component-driven requirements process that includes oversight of a development test and evaluation capability; identification of priority gaps and overlaps in Department capability needs; and provision of feasible technical alternatives, including innovative commercially available alternatives, to meet capability needs.

“(b) MECHANISMS TO CARRY OUT REQUIREMENT.—The Deputy Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, shall coordinate the actions necessary to carry out subsection (a), using such mechanisms as considered necessary by the Secretary to help the Department reduce duplication and inefficiency for all Department investments, including major acquisition programs.

“(c) COORDINATION.—In coordinating the actions necessary to carry out subsection (a), the Deputy Secretary shall consult with the Under Secretary for Management, Component Acquisition Executives, and any other Department officials, including the Under Secretary for Science and Technology or his designee, with specific knowledge of Department or Component acquisition capabilities to prevent unnecessary duplication of requirements.

“(d) ADVISORS.—The Deputy Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, shall seek and consider input within legal and ethical boundaries from members of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and

the private sector, as appropriate, on matters within their authority and expertise in carrying out the Department’s mission.

“(e) MEETINGS.—The Deputy Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, shall meet at least quarterly and communicate with Components often to ensure that Components do not overlap or duplicate spending or priorities on major investments and acquisition programs within their areas of responsibility.

“(f) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying out this section, the responsibilities of the Deputy Secretary are as follows:

“(1) To review and validate the requirements documents of major investments and acquisition programs prior to acquisition decision events of the investments or programs.

“(2) To ensure the requirements and scope of a major investment or acquisition program are stable, measurable, achievable, at an acceptable risk level, and match the resources planned to be available.

“(3) Before any entity of the Department issues a solicitation for a new contract, coordinate with other Department entities as appropriate to prevent duplication and inefficiency and—

“(A) to implement portfolio reviews to identify common mission requirements and crosscutting opportunities among Components to harmonize investments and requirements and prevent overlap and duplication among Components; and

“(B) to the extent practicable, to standardize equipment purchases, streamline the acquisition process, improve efficiencies, and conduct best practices for strategic sourcing.

“(4) To ensure program managers of major investments and acquisition programs conduct analyses, giving particular attention to factors such as cost, schedule, risk, performance, and operational efficiency in order to determine that programs work as intended within cost and budget expectations.

“(5) To propose schedules for delivery of the operational capability needed to meet each Department investment and major acquisition program.

“(g) BEST PRACTICES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘best practices’ has the meaning provided in section 4(b) of the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 836 the following new item:

“Sec. 837. Requirements to reduce duplication in acquisition programs.”

SEC. 203. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW OF BOARD AND OF REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE DUPLICATION IN ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the effectiveness of the Acquisition Review Board established under section 836 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by section 201) and the requirements to reduce duplication in acquisition programs established under section 837 of such Act (as added by section 202) in improving the Department’s acquisition management process.

(b) SCOPE OF REPORT.—The review shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the effectiveness of the Department in increasing program management oversight, best practices and standards, and discipline among the Components of the Department, including in working together and in preventing overlap and duplication.

(2) An assessment of the effectiveness of the Department in instilling program management discipline.

(3) A statement of how regularly each major acquisition program is reviewed by the Board, how often the Board stops major acquisition programs from moving forward in the phases of the acquisition life cycle process, and the number of major acquisition programs that have been halted because of problems with operational effectiveness, schedule delays, or cost overruns.

(c) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional homeland security committees a report on the review required by this section not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 204. EXCLUDED PARTY LIST SYSTEM WAIVERS.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide notification to the congressional homeland security committees within five days after the issuance of a waiver by the Secretary of Federal requirements that an agency not engage in business with a contractor in the Excluded Party List System (or successor system) as maintained by the General Services Administration and an explanation for a finding by the Secretary that a compelling reason exists for this action.

SEC. 205. INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERSIGHT OF SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT.

The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security—

(1) may audit decisions about grant and procurement awards to identify instances where a contract or grant was improperly awarded to a suspended or debarred entity and whether corrective actions were taken to prevent recurrence; and

(2) shall review the suspension and debarment program throughout the Department of Homeland Security to assess whether suspension and debarment criteria are consistently applied throughout the Department and whether disparities exist in the application of such criteria, particularly with respect to business size and categories.

TITLE III—ACQUISITION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

SEC. 301. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM BREACH.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 838. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM BREACH.

“(a) **BREACH DEFINED.**—The term ‘breach’, with respect to a major acquisition program, means a failure to meet any cost, schedule, or performance parameter specified in the acquisition program baseline.

“(b) **REQUIREMENTS WITHIN DEPARTMENT IF BREACH OCCURS.**—

“(1) **NOTIFICATIONS.**—

“(A) **NOTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL BREACH.**—If a major acquisition program has a potential for a future breach, as determined by the program manager for that program, the program manager shall notify the person exercising acquisition decision authority for the program.

“(B) **NOTIFICATION OF ACTUAL BREACH.**—If an actual breach occurs in a major acquisition program, the program manager for that program shall notify the head of the Component concerned, the Component Acquisition

Executive for the program, the Executive Director referred to in section 709(b) of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management, and the Deputy Secretary.

“(C) **NOTIFICATION TO SECRETARY.**—If a major acquisition program has an actual breach with a cost overrun greater than 20 percent or a schedule delay greater than 12 months from the costs or schedule set forth in the acquisition program baseline for the program, the Secretary and the Inspector General of the Department shall be notified not later than five business days after the actual breach is identified.

“(2) **REMEDIATION PLAN AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of an actual breach with a cost overrun greater than 15 percent or a schedule delay greater than 180 days from the costs or schedule set forth in the acquisition program baseline, a remediation plan and root cause analysis is required, and the Under Secretary for Management or his designee shall establish a date for submission within the Department of a breach remediation plan and root cause analysis in accordance with this subsection.

“(B) **REMEDIATION PLAN.**—The remediation plan required under this subsection shall be submitted in writing to the head of the Component concerned, the Executive Director referred to in section 709(b) of this Act, and the Under Secretary for Management. The plan shall—

“(i) explain the circumstances of the breach;

“(ii) provide prior cost estimating information;

“(iii) propose corrective action to control cost growth, schedule delays, or performance issues;

“(iv) in coordination with Component Acquisition Executive, discuss all options considered, including the estimated impact on cost, schedule, or performance of the program if no changes are made to current requirements, the estimated cost of the program if requirements are modified, and the extent to which funding from other programs will need to be reduced to cover the cost growth of the program; and

“(v) explain the rationale for why the proposed corrective action is recommended.

“(C) **ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS.**—The root cause analysis required under this subsection shall determine the underlying cause or causes of shortcomings in cost, schedule, or performance of the program, including the role, if any, of the following:

“(i) Unrealistic performance expectations.

“(ii) Unrealistic baseline estimates for cost or schedule or changes in program requirements.

“(iii) Immature technologies or excessive manufacturing or integration risk.

“(iv) Unanticipated design, engineering, manufacturing, or technology integration issues arising during program performance.

“(v) Changes in procurement quantities.

“(vi) Inadequate program funding or changes in planned out-year funding from one five-year funding plan to the next five-year funding plan as outlined in the Future Years Homeland Security Program required under section 874 of this Act.

“(vii) Legislative, legal, or regulatory changes.

“(viii) Inadequate program management personnel, including lack of training, credentials, certifications, or use of best practices.

“(3) **CORRECTION OF BREACH.**—The Under Secretary for Management or his designee shall establish a date for submission within the Department of a program of corrective

action that ensures that one of the following actions has occurred:

“(A) The breach has been corrected and the program is again in compliance with the original acquisition program baseline parameters.

“(B) A revised acquisition program baseline has been approved.

“(C) The program has been halted or cancelled.

“(c) **REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION IF BREACH OCCURS.**—

“(1) **NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.**—If a notification is made under subsection (b)(1)(B) for a breach in a major acquisition program with a cost overrun greater than 15 percent or a schedule delay greater than 180 days from the costs or schedule set forth in the acquisition program baseline, or with an anticipated failure for any key performance threshold or parameter specified in the acquisition program baseline, the Under Secretary for Management shall notify the congressional homeland security committees of the breach in the next quarterly Comprehensive Acquisition Status Report after the Under Secretary for Management receives the notification from the program manager under subsection (b)(1)(B).

“(2) **SUBSTANTIAL VARIANCES IN COSTS OR SCHEDULE.**—If a likely cost overrun is greater than 20 percent or a likely delay is greater than 12 months from the costs and schedule set forth in the acquisition program baseline for a major acquisition program, the Under Secretary for Management shall include in the notification required in (c)(1) a written certification, with supporting explanation, that—

“(A) the acquisition is essential to the accomplishment of the Department’s mission;

“(B) there are no alternatives to such capability or asset that will provide equal or greater capability in both a more cost-effective and timely manner;

“(C) the new acquisition schedule and estimates for total acquisition cost are reasonable; and

“(D) the management structure for the acquisition program is adequate to manage and control performance, cost, and schedule.

“(3) **SUBMISSIONS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 30 calendar days after submission to such committees of a breach notification under paragraph (1) of this section for a major acquisition program, the Under Secretary for Management shall submit to such committees the following:

“(A) A copy of the remediation plan and the root cause analysis prepared under subsection (b)(2) for the program.

“(B) A statement describing the corrective action or actions that have occurred pursuant to subsection (b)(3) for the program, with a justification for the action or actions.

“(d) **ADDITIONAL ACTIONS IF BREACH OCCURS.**—

“(1) **PROHIBITION ON OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.**—During the 90-day period following submission under subsection (c)(3) of a remediation plan, root cause analysis, and statement of corrective actions with respect to a major acquisition program, the Under Secretary for Management shall submit a certification described in paragraph (2) of this subsection to the congressional homeland security committees. If the Under Secretary for Management does not submit such certification by the end of such 90-day period, then funds appropriated to the major acquisition program shall not be obligated until the Under Secretary for Management submits such certification.

“(2) CERTIFICATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the certification described in this paragraph is a certification that—

“(A) the Department has adjusted or restructured the program in a manner that addresses the root cause or causes of the cost growth in the program; and

“(B) the Department has conducted a thorough review of the breached program’s acquisition decision event approvals and the current acquisition decision event approval for the breached program has been adjusted as necessary to account for the restructured program.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 837 the following new item:

“Sec. 838. Congressional notification and other requirements for major acquisition program breach.”.

SEC. 302. MULTIYEAR ACQUISITION STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 839. MULTIYEAR ACQUISITION STRATEGY.

“(a) MULTIYEAR ACQUISITION STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate homeland security committees a multiyear acquisition strategy to guide the overall direction of the acquisitions of the Department while allowing flexibility to deal with ever-changing threats and risks and to help industry better understand, plan, and align resources to meet the future acquisition needs of the Department. The strategy shall be updated and included in each Future Years Homeland Security Program required under section 874 of this Act.

“(b) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategy, the Secretary shall consult with others as the Secretary deems appropriate, including headquarters, Components, employees in the field, and when appropriate, individuals from industry and the academic community.

“(c) FORM OF STRATEGY.—The report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex for any sensitive or classified information if necessary. The Department also shall publish the plan in an unclassified format that is publicly available.

“(d) CONTENTS OF STRATEGY.—The strategy shall include the following:

“(1) PRIORITIZED LIST.—A systematic and integrated prioritized list developed by the Under Secretary for Management or his designee in coordination with all of the Component Acquisition Executives of Department major acquisition programs that Department and Component acquisition investments seek to address, that includes the expected security and economic benefit of the program or system and an analysis of how the security and economic benefit derived from the program or system will be measured.

“(2) INVENTORY.—A plan to develop a reliable Department-wide inventory of investments and real property assets to help the Department plan, budget, schedule, and acquire upgrades of its systems and equipment and plan for the acquisition and management of future systems and equipment.

“(3) FUNDING GAPS.—A plan to address funding gaps between funding requirements for major acquisition programs and known available resources including, to the maximum extent practicable, ways of leveraging

best practices to identify and eliminate overpayment for items to prevent wasteful purchasing, achieve the greatest level of efficiency and cost savings by rationalizing purchases, aligning pricing for similar items, and utilizing purchase timing and economies of scale.

“(4) IDENTIFICATION OF CAPABILITIES.—An identification of test, evaluation, modeling, and simulation capabilities that will be required to support the acquisition of the technologies to meet the needs of the plan and ways to leverage to the greatest extent possible the emerging technology trends and research and development trends within the public and private sectors and an identification of ways to ensure that the appropriate technology is acquired and integrated into the Department’s operating doctrine and procured in ways that improve mission performance.

“(5) FOCUS ON FLEXIBLE SOLUTIONS.—An assessment of ways the Department can improve its ability to test and acquire innovative solutions to allow needed incentives and protections for appropriate risk-taking in order to meet its acquisition needs with resiliency, agility, and responsiveness to assure the Nation’s homeland security and facilitate trade.

“(6) FOCUS ON INCENTIVES TO SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS.—An assessment of ways the Department can develop incentives for program managers and senior Department acquisition officials to prevent cost overruns, avoid schedule delays, and achieve cost savings in major acquisition programs.

“(7) FOCUS ON ADDRESSING DELAYS AND BID PROTESTS.—An assessment of ways the Department can improve the acquisition process to minimize cost overruns in requirements development, procurement announcements, requests for proposals, evaluation of proposals, protests of decisions and awards and through the use of best practices as defined in section 4(b) of the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act and lessons learned by the Department and other Federal agencies.

“(8) FOCUS ON IMPROVING OUTREACH.—An identification and assessment of ways to increase opportunities for communication and collaboration with industry, small and disadvantaged businesses, intra-government entities, university centers of excellence, accredited certification and standards development organizations, and national laboratories to ensure that the Department understands the market for technologies, products, and innovation that is available to meet its mission needs to inform the requirements-setting process and before engaging in an acquisition, including—

“(A) methods designed especially to engage small and disadvantaged businesses and a cost-benefit analysis of the tradeoffs that small and disadvantaged businesses provide, barriers to entry for small and disadvantaged businesses, and unique requirements for small and disadvantaged businesses; and

“(B) within the Department Vendor Communication Plan and Market Research Guide, instructions for interaction by program managers with such entities to prevent misinterpretation of acquisition regulations and to permit freedom within legal and ethical boundaries for program managers to interact with such businesses with transparency.

“(9) COMPETITION.—A plan regarding competition as described in subsection (e).

“(10) ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.—A plan regarding the Department acquisition workforce as described in subsection (f).

“(11) FEASIBILITY OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND PILOT PROGRAM.—An assessment of the feasibility of conducting a pilot program to establish an acquisition workforce development fund as described in subsection (g).

“(e) COMPETITION PLAN.—The strategy shall also include a plan (referred to in subsection (d)(9)) that shall address actions to ensure competition, or the option of competition, for major acquisition programs. The plan may include assessments of the following measures in appropriate cases if such measures are cost effective:

“(1) Competitive prototyping.

“(2) Dual-sourcing.

“(3) Unbundling of contracts.

“(4) Funding of next-generation prototype systems or subsystems.

“(5) Use of modular, open architectures to enable competition for upgrades.

“(6) Acquisition of complete technical data packages.

“(7) Periodic competitions for subsystem upgrades.

“(8) Licensing of additional suppliers, including small businesses.

“(9) Periodic system or program reviews to address long-term competitive effects of program decisions.

“(f) ACQUISITION WORKFORCE PLAN.—

“(1) ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.—The strategy shall also include a plan (referred to in subsection (d)(10)) to address Department acquisition workforce accountability and talent management that identifies the acquisition workforce needs of each Component performing acquisition functions and develops options for filling those needs with qualified individuals, including a cost-benefit analysis of contracting for acquisition assistance.

“(2) ADDITIONAL MATTERS COVERED.—The acquisition workforce plan shall address ways to—

“(A) improve the recruitment, hiring, training, and retention of Department acquisition workforce personnel, including contracting officer’s representatives, in order to retain highly qualified individuals that have experience in the acquisition life cycle, complex procurements, and management of large programs;

“(B) empower program managers to have the authority to manage their programs in an accountable and transparent manner as they work with the acquisition workforce;

“(C) prevent duplication within Department acquisition workforce training and certification requirements through leveraging already-existing training within the Federal Government, academic community, or private industry;

“(D) achieve integration and consistency with Government-wide training and accreditation standards, acquisition training tools, and training facilities;

“(E) designate the acquisition positions that will be necessary to support the Department acquisition requirements, including in the fields of—

“(i) program management;

“(ii) systems engineering;

“(iii) procurement, including contracting;

“(iv) test and evaluation;

“(v) life cycle logistics;

“(vi) cost estimating and program financial management; and

“(vii) additional disciplines appropriate to Department mission needs;

“(F) strengthen the performance of contracting officer’s representatives (as defined in Subpart 1.602-2 and Subpart 2.101 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation), including by—

“(i) assessing the extent to which contracting officer’s representatives are certified and receive training that is appropriate;

“(ii) determining what training is most effective with respect to the type and complexity of assignment; and

“(iii) implementing actions to improve training based on such assessment; and

“(G) identify ways to increase training for relevant investigators and auditors to examine fraud in major acquisition programs, including identifying opportunities to leverage existing Government and private sector resources in coordination with the Inspector General of the Department.

“(g) FEASIBILITY OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND PILOT PROGRAM.—The strategy shall also include an assessment (referred to in subsection (d)(11) of the feasibility of conducting a pilot program to establish a Homeland Security Acquisition Workforce Development Fund (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Fund’) to ensure the Department acquisition workforce has the capacity, in both personnel and skills, needed to properly perform its mission and ensure that the Department receives the best value for the expenditure of public resources. The assessment shall address the following:

“(1) Ways to fund the Fund, including the use of direct appropriations, or the credit, transfer, or deposit of unobligated or unused funds from Department Components into the Fund to remain available for obligation in the fiscal year for which credited, transferred, or deposited and to remain available for successive fiscal years.

“(2) Ways to reward the Department acquisition workforce and program managers for good program management in controlling cost growth, limiting schedule delays, and ensuring operational effectiveness through providing a percentage of the savings or general acquisition bonuses.

“(3) Guidance for the administration of the Fund that includes provisions to do the following:

“(A) Describe the costs and benefits associated with the use of direct appropriations or credit, transfer, or deposit of unobligated or unused funds to finance the Fund.

“(B) Describe the manner and timing for applications for amounts in the Fund to be submitted.

“(C) Explain the evaluation criteria to be used for approving or prioritizing applications for amounts in the Fund in any fiscal year.

“(D) Explain the mechanism to report to Congress on the implementation of the Fund on an ongoing basis.

“(E) Detail measurable performance metrics to determine if the Fund is meeting the objective to improve the acquisition workforce and to achieve cost savings in acquisition management.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 838 the following new item:

“Sec. 839. Multiyear acquisition strategy.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO FUTURE YEARS HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM.—Section 874(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 454(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (2);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) include the multiyear acquisition strategy required under section 839 of this Act.”

SEC. 303. ACQUISITION REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 840. ACQUISITION REPORTS.

“(a) COMPREHENSIVE ACQUISITION STATUS REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Management each year shall submit to the congressional homeland security committees, at the same time as the President’s budget is submitted for a fiscal year under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a comprehensive acquisition status report. The report shall include the following:

“(A) The information required under the heading ‘Office of the Under Secretary for Management’ under Title I of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74) (as required under the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6).

“(B) A listing of programs that have been cancelled, modified, paused, or referred to the Under Secretary for Management or Deputy Secretary for additional oversight or action by the Board, Department Office of Inspector General, or the Comptroller General.

“(C) A listing of established Executive Steering Committees, which provide governance of a program or related set of programs and lower-tiered oversight, and support between acquisition decision events and Component reviews, including the mission and membership for each.

“(2) INFORMATION FOR MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.—For each major acquisition program, the report shall include the following:

“(A) A narrative description, including current gaps and shortfalls, the capabilities to be fielded, and the number of planned increments or units.

“(B) Acquisition Review Board (or other board designated to review the acquisition) status of each acquisition, including the current acquisition phase, the date of the last review, and a listing of the required documents that have been reviewed with the dates reviewed or approved.

“(C) The most current, approved acquisition program baseline (including project schedules and events).

“(D) A comparison of the original acquisition program baseline, the current acquisition program baseline, and the current estimate.

“(E) Whether or not an independent verification and validation has been implemented, with an explanation for the decision and a summary of any findings.

“(F) A rating of cost risk, schedule risk, and technical risk associated with the program (including narrative descriptions and mitigation actions).

“(G) Contract status (including earned value management data as applicable).

“(H) A lifecycle cost of the acquisition, and time basis for the estimate.

“(3) UPDATES.—The Under Secretary shall submit quarterly updates to such report not later than 45 days after the completion of each quarter.

“(b) QUARTERLY PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT.—The Under Secretary for Management shall prepare a quarterly program accountability report to meet the Department’s mandate to perform program health assessments and improve program execution and governance. The report shall be submitted to the congressional homeland security committees.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 839 the following new item:

“Sec. 840. Acquisition reports.”

SEC. 304. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW OF MULTIYEAR ACQUISITION STRATEGY.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—After submission to Congress of the first multiyear acquisition strategy (pursuant to section 839 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002) after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the plan within 180 days to analyze the viability of the plan’s effectiveness in the following:

(1) Complying with the requirements in section 839 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 302 of this Act.

(2) Establishing clear connections between Department objectives and acquisition priorities.

(3) Demonstrating that Department acquisition policy reflects program management best practices and standards.

(4) Ensuring competition or the option of competition for major acquisition programs.

(5) Considering potential cost savings through using already-existing technologies when developing acquisition program requirements.

(6) Preventing duplication within Department acquisition workforce training requirements through leveraging already-existing training within the Federal Government, academic community, or private industry.

(7) Providing incentives for program managers to reduce acquisition and procurement costs through the use of best practices and disciplined program management.

(8) Assessing the feasibility of conducting a pilot program to establish a Homeland Security Acquisition Workforce Development Fund.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional homeland security committees a report on the review required by this section. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 305. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—No later than 2 years following the submission of the report submitted by the Comptroller General of the United States as required by section 304, the Department’s Inspector General shall conduct a review of whether the Department has complied with the multiyear acquisition strategy (pursuant to section 839 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002) and adhered to the strategies set forth in the plan. The review shall also consider whether the Department has complied with the requirements to provide the Acquisition Review Board with a capability development plan for each major acquisition program.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Inspector General shall submit to the congressional homeland security committees a report of the review required by this section. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BARBER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation to improve the Department of Homeland Security's, DHS, acquisition management. In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, DHS was created to ensure such an attack would never occur again; yet for much of its existence, proper management has taken a back seat.

DHS is now the third largest Federal department with a budget authority of almost \$60 billion. A significant amount of the budget is used to buy systems and programs used to secure our borders, protect our shores, and scan people and cargo coming into the United States, among other missions. Unfortunately, many of these major acquisition programs cost more, are late, and do less than is expected.

For 9 years, the Government Accountability Office has been telling the DHS in its high-risk list that its acquisition programs are highly susceptible to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.

In addition, the DHS inspector general has identified acquisition management as a major management challenge for DHS, and it audits have found serious mismanagement in TSA body scanners and canine teams, failures to improve radio systems, and waste in CBP and Coast Guard helicopters.

Although DHS has taken steps to implement an acquisition policy with elements of commercial best practices and put mechanisms in place to review programs, it has routinely failed to hold programs accountable. This must change. DHS cannot afford its major acquisition programs. In a time of reduced budgets, DHS must make every dollar count.

Today's legislation, H.R. 4228, the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act, follows consistent subcommittee oversight of DHS acquisition issues. In the 112th Congress, the subcommittee published an August 2012 report providing recommendations for DHS to correct weaknesses in its acquisition and contracting practices. This report went unheeded, and the weaknesses remain to this day.

In the 113th Congress, we have sent numerous letters to DHS and the GAO requiring greater scrutiny on various acquisition programs, and in September 2013, we held a hearing on ways that the DHS could use best practices

from the Defense Department and private sector to save taxpayer dollars in acquisition management.

In view of these efforts, I am pleased that the bipartisan cooperation that the ranking member and I have had in drafting H.R. 4228, and I am grateful for the strong support this bill has received.

I would also like to note letters of support from the Project Management Institute, Security Industry Association, Professional Services Council, TechAmerica, IT Alliance for Public Sector, and the American Conservative Union. Business Executives for National Security has also stated its support publicly.

This bill addresses DHS' acquisition problems in several ways. First, it requires leadership accountability from the chief acquisition officer and components in following Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and DHS acquisition management directives.

Second, it requires discipline. Every major acquisition program must have an approved acquisition program baseline, an APB, which is a vital document that DHS programs need to measure performance, manage cost growth, and schedule slips; and the acquisition review board must validate acquisition documents of programs.

Third, it provides clarity for American businesses by authorizing the chief procurement officer to serve as the main liaison to industry and oversee a certification and training program for DHS' acquisition workforce; by requiring a multiyear acquisition strategy to guide the direction of DHS acquisitions and help industry better understand, plan, and align resources to meet future acquisition needs of DHS; and by compelling DHS to address issues regarding bid protests.

Fourth, this bill increases transparency by requiring DHS to report to Congress on programs that failed to meet cost, schedule, or performance parameters specified in the APB and by instructing DHS to eliminate unnecessary duplication and inefficiency.

I believe we have a precedent for such efforts under President Ronald Reagan's leadership. In the 1980s, he worked with Congress to address these types of issues in troubled defense programs, and I believe that DHS needs similar leadership from today's President and Congress.

H.R. 4228 will not solve every acquisition problem that DHS has, but it is a first step in forcing DHS to hold its acquisition programs accountable. This bill will help find cost savings through better management policies and strategies.

This is essential if our government is ever going to climb out of the \$17.5 trillion worth of debt. It starts one good decision at a time, and DHS can make a difference by improving its acquisi-

tion management and by thinking more strategically about its acquisition choices. The American people deserve nothing less. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I will insert in the RECORD the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2014.

HON. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4228, the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

H.R. 4228—DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4228 would cost \$1 million in 2015 and less than \$500,000 in each year thereafter, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 4228 would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to improve the accountability, transparency, and efficiency of its major acquisition programs. The bill would specify procedures for the department to follow if it fails to meet timelines, cost estimates, or other performance parameters for these programs. In addition, H.R. 4228 would require DHS to prepare a comprehensive report each year on the status of its acquisition program and would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the DHS Inspector General to review and report on certain issues related to departmental acquisition policies.

Based on the cost of similar activities, CBO estimates that the new DHS administrative procedures as well as additional reviews and reports by GAO and DHS required by H.R. 4228 would cost \$1 million in 2015 and less than \$500,000 annually thereafter, assuming availability of appropriated funds. CBO expects that DHS will continue to seek to improve its efficiency in acquiring goods and services under current law; we have no basis for estimating any savings in procurement costs that might occur as a result of the bill's directives to the department.

H.R. 4228 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4228, the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act, and I urge the House to pass the bill. As an original cosponsor of this legislation, I was very pleased to work with my colleague, Congressman JEFF DUNCAN, who chairs our Oversight Subcommittee, and I fully

support the legislation as yet another product of collaboration between Republicans and Democrats on our committee to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security succeeds in streamlining its acquisitions management process.

As the ranking member of the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, I am absolutely committed to saving taxpayer money and working to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security eliminates waste, fraud, and abuse. We must be good stewards of the taxpayers' money, and we must require the departments to be the same.

As a Representative whose district covers 83 miles of Arizona border with Mexico, I have seen firsthand the failures of the Department of Homeland Security's acquisition processes, and the need for an effective and efficient process that gets resources to the agents and other DHS employees on the ground.

They need them to secure our borders, our ports of entry, and our Nation. In my district, we have witnessed for far too long many acquisitions that did not stand up to scrutiny, cost overruns, and money spent in excessive ways that did not meet the end goal.

If enacted, H.R. 4228 will give the Department the tools to bring greater transparency, accountability, and consistency to the Department's acquisition process.

The Department expends almost one-quarter of its overall budget to purchase goods and services, with a total of \$12.2 billion spent in fiscal year 2013 on 85,000 acquisitions. Thus far, in fiscal year 2014, the Department has allocated upwards of \$4 billion on 27,000 transactions, with more expenditures to come.

Since January 2003, the Government Accountability Office has included the Department on its high-risk list due to its task of integrating 22 legacy agencies into one entity. It is still, obviously, a work in progress. In its 2013 high-risk update, the GAO cited the Department for its failure to adequately overhaul its management challenges, including its acquisition process.

Inefficient management practices and procedures hurt the Department's ability to effectively and efficiently achieve its mission and keep America safe. In spite of the Department's agreement with the Government Accountability Office's findings, the Department has yet to fully improve its management functions, and as a result, the Department remains on the high-risk list.

According to the GAO, the Department's acquisitions costs increased from \$19.7 billion in 2008 to \$52.2 billion in 2011, representing an increase of 166 percent in 16 major acquisitions programs.

In response, H.R. 4228 will assist the Department in better managing its acquisitions management process by directing individual component agencies to follow the Department's rules for acquisitions and assure that resources are spent as intended.

This legislation also will address the Department's ongoing management challenges by implementing a process to alert Congress should programs begin to veer over budget and off schedule.

H.R. 4228 will make sure that, for the first time, the Department as a whole takes part in the acquisition review board process, a process that brings officials from across the entire Department together to monitor Department acquisitions.

It will help DHS in achieving another needed reform, the need for a stable, well-trained acquisitions workforce across all component agencies.

Furthermore, H.R. 4228 will ensure that small businesses are able to fairly compete for contracting opportunities. Making the Department of Homeland Security's acquisitions process more efficient and effective will absolutely save taxpayers money and allow the Department to more effectively accomplish its mission of protecting the Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for all of his efforts to help get this bill passed out of committee. It was a truly bipartisan effort. I know he was rushed to get here from a flight from Arizona, but I am glad he was able to participate today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), the chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as cosponsor of this bill and chairman of the Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Homeland Security, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4228.

Over this past year, I have aggressively called for a reform agenda to address the evolving needs of DHS. This bill tackles one of the most urgent, the need to reform DHS acquisitions. These reforms are much needed and long overdue. I sincerely appreciate Chairman MCCAUL's and subcommittee Chairman DUNCAN's collaboration on this effort.

I urge a "yes" vote.

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

A lot is said over and over again about how Congress cannot find common ground. With this piece of legislation, we truly have shown that is possible. In fact, I would go on to say, Mr.

Speaker, that our committee works in a very bipartisan manner. I am proud to be a member of a collaborative group who are interested in securing the homeland.

I was very pleased to work with Chairman DUNCAN, who chairs the House Oversight and Management Subcommittee, on this very important piece of legislation. In order for the Department of Homeland Security to better achieve its mission of securing our Nation, it must have efficient and effective management practices in place, and this legislation gives the Department the tools needed to bring greater transparency, accountability, and consistency to its acquisition process and to make sure that it reports accurately and timely to Congress on its progress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

□ 1830

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4228, the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act.

As the vice chairman of the Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee, I am proud to join Chairman DUNCAN in sponsoring this most important legislation, which works to improve efficiency at DHS and improve accountability to hardworking American taxpayers.

The DHS acquisition process has long faced problems resulting in waste, delays, and mismanaged taxpayer dollars. This is simply unacceptable. American taxpayers deserve better from their government. Through increased accountability, transparency, and improved collaboration with the private sector, this bill works to address these problems and bring accountability to DHS.

This legislation adopts common-sense, private sector principles, like developing incentives for program managers and senior Department acquisition officials to prevent cost overruns, avoid scheduled delays, and achieve cost savings in major acquisition programs.

It is long past time we move away from the government agency "spend it or lose it" budgeting tactic. This legislation could serve as a pilot program for adopting this principle across other agencies.

I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further speakers. I want to urge the adoption of this bipartisan bill to provide the necessary reforms to DHS' acquisition process.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4228, the "DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act," which was developed and introduced by the gentleman from

South Carolina, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight & Management Efficiency, JEFF DUNCAN.

Since its inception, DHS has faced significant management challenges and the Government Accountability Office continues to include DHS management on its “High Risk List” of areas vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

Over the course of several years, the Committee on Homeland Security has conducted extensive oversight of DHS management and acquisition practices. At the start of the Congress, the Committee pledged to manage DHS with a business-model approach and we are.

Last year, the House passed H.R. 2719, the “Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act” to improve TSA technology acquisition programs and today’s bill builds upon that effort with cost savings through better management policies and strategies across the Department. While I’m encouraged by a recent memo from Secretary Johnson to his DHS leadership team calling for greater component agency collaboration and accountability, more work is still needed.

H.R. 4228 safeguards taxpayer dollars, increases accountability for DHS’s big-ticket acquisition purchases, and takes important steps to improve communication with industry to ensure DHS is fully leveraging the private sector to protect the homeland.

I appreciate the hard work of my colleagues on the Committee and I’d like to especially thank the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN, and the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. BARBER for the bipartisan approach that they took in crafting this important piece of legislation, and the collaborative, deliberative process they followed to bring it to the floor.

There are many more opportunities for cost savings at DHS and through continued oversight, investigations and legislation, my Committee will continue to find them and present solutions. Taxpayers deserve no less.

I urge all my colleagues to join us in passing this vital piece of legislation that will further protect our Nation and the American taxpayer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4228, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on the motion to suspend the rules previously postponed.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the mo-

tion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4412) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 2, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 272]
YEAS—401

- Aderholt
- Amash
- Amodei
- Bachmann
- Bachus
- Barber
- Barletta
- Barr
- Barrow (GA)
- Barton
- Bass
- Beatty
- Becerra
- Benishek
- Bentivolio
- Bera (CA)
- Bilirakis
- Bishop (GA)
- Bishop (NY)
- Black
- Blackburn
- Blumenauer
- Bonamici
- Boustany
- Braley (IA)
- Bridenstine
- Brooks (AL)
- Brooks (IN)
- Brown (FL)
- Brownley (CA)
- Buchanan
- Bucshon
- Burgess
- Bustos
- Butterfield
- Byrne
- Calvert
- Camp
- Cantor
- Capito
- Capps
- Capuano
- Cárdenas
- Carney
- Carson (IN)
- Carter
- Cartwright
- Castor (FL)
- Castro (TX)
- Chabot
- Chaffetz
- Chu
- Cicilline
- Clarke (NY)
- Clay
- Cleaver
- Clyburn
- Coble
- Coffman
- Cohen
- Cole
- Collins (GA)
- Collins (NY)
- Conaway
- Connolly
- Conyers
- Cook
- Cooper
- Costa
- Cotton
- Courtney
- Cramer
- Crawford
- Crenshaw
- Crowley
- Cuellar
- Culberson
- Cummings
- Daines
- Davis (CA)
- Davis, Rodney
- DeFazio
- DeGette
- Delaney
- DeLauro
- DelBene
- Denham
- DesSantis
- DeJarlais
- Diaz-Balart
- Dingell
- Doggett
- Duckworth
- Duffy
- Duncan (SC)
- Duncan (TN)
- Edwards
- Ellmers
- Engel
- Enyart
- Eshoo
- Esty
- Farenthold
- Farr
- Fattah
- Fincher
- Fitzpatrick
- Fleischmann
- Fleming
- Flores
- Forbes
- Fortenberry
- Foster
- Fox
- Frankel (FL)
- Franks (AZ)
- Frelinghuysen
- Fudge
- Gabbard
- Gallego
- Garamendi
- Garcia
- Gardner
- Garrett
- Gerlach
- Gibbs
- Gibson
- Gingrey (GA)
- Gohmert
- Goodlatte
- Gosar
- Gowdy
- Granger
- Graves (GA)
- Graves (MO)
- Grayson
- Green, Al
- Green, Gene
- Griffin (AR)
- Grijalva
- Grimm
- Guthrie
- Gutiérrez
- Hahn
- Hall
- Hanna
- Harper
- Harris
- Hartzler
- Hastings (FL)
- Hastings (WA)
- Heck (NV)
- Heck (WA)
- Hensarling
- Herrera Beutler
- Higgins
- Himes
- Hinojosa
- Holding
- Holt
- Honda
- Horsford
- Hoyer
- Hudson
- Huelskamp
- Huffman
- Huizenga (MI)
- Hultgren
- Hurt
- Issa
- Jeffries
- Jenkins
- Johnson (GA)
- Johnson (OH)
- Johnson, E. B.
- Johnson, Sam
- Jolly
- Jones
- Jordan
- Joyce
- Kaptur
- Keating
- Kelly (IL)
- Kelly (PA)
- Kennedy
- Kildee
- Kilmer
- Kind
- King (IA)
- King (NY)
- Kingston
- Kinzinger (IL)
- Kirkpatrick
- Kline
- Kuster
- Labrador
- LaMalfa
- Lamborn
- Lance
- Langevin
- Larsen (WA)
- Larson (CT)
- Latham
- Latta
- Lee (CA)
- Levin
- Lewis
- Lipinski
- LoBiondo
- LoBrock
- Lofgren
- Long
- Lowenthal
- Lowey
- Lucas
- Luetkemeyer
- Lujan Grisham
- (NM)

- Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
- Lummis
- Lynch
- Maffei
- Maloney, Carolyn
- Maloney, Sean
- Marchant
- Marino
- Massie
- Matheson
- Matsui
- McCarthy (CA)
- McCarthy (NY)
- McCaul
- McClintock
- McCollum
- McDermott
- McGovern
- McHenry
- McIntyre
- McKeon
- McKinley
- McMorris
- Rodgers
- McNerney
- Meadows
- Meehan
- Meeks
- Meng
- Messer
- Mica
- Michaud
- Miller (FL)
- Miller (MI)
- Miller, George
- Moore
- Moran
- Mullin
- Mulvaney
- Murphy (FL)
- Murphy (PA)
- Nadler
- Napolitano
- Neal
- Negrete McLeod
- Neugebauer
- Noem
- Nolan
- Nugent
- Nunes
- O’Rourke
- Olson
- Palazzo
- Pallone
- Pascarell
- Pastor (AZ)
- Paulsen
- Payne
- Pearce
- Pelosi
- Perlmutter
- Perry
- Peters (CA)
- Peterson
- Petri
- Pingree (ME)
- Pittenger
- Pitts
- Pocan
- Poe (TX)
- Polis
- Pompeo
- Posey
- Price (GA)
- Price (NC)
- Quigley
- Rahall
- Reed
- Reichert
- Renacci
- Ribble
- Rice (SC)
- Rigell
- Roby
- Roe (TN)
- Rogers (AL)
- Rogers (KY)
- Rogers (MI)
- Rohrabacher
- Rokita
- Rooney
- Ros-Lehtinen
- Roskam
- Ross
- Rothfus
- Roybal-Allard
- Royce
- Ruiz
- Runyan
- Ruppersberger
- Ryan (OH)
- Ryan (WI)
- Salmon
- Sánchez, Linda T.
- Sanchez, Loretta
- Sarbanes
- Scalise
- Schakowsky
- Schiff
- Schneider
- Schock
- Schrader
- Schwartz
- Schweikert
- Scott (VA)
- Scott, Austin
- Scott, David
- Sensenbrenner
- Serrano
- Sessions
- Sewell (AL)
- Shea-Porter
- Sherman
- Shimkus
- Shuster
- Simpson
- Sinema
- Sires
- Slaughter
- Smith (MO)
- Smith (NE)
- Smith (NJ)
- Smith (TX)
- Smith (WA)
- Southerland
- Speier
- Stewart
- Stivers
- Stockman
- Stutzman
- Swalwell (CA)
- Takano
- Terry
- Thompson (CA)
- Thompson (PA)
- Thornberry
- Tiberi
- Tierney
- Tipton
- Titus
- Tonko
- Tsongas
- Turner
- Upton
- Valadao
- Van Hollen
- Vargas
- Veasey
- Vela
- Velázquez
- Visclosky
- Wagner
- Walberg
- Walden
- Walorski
- Walz
- Wasserman
- Schultz
- Waters
- Waxman
- Weber (TX)
- Webster (FL)
- Welch
- Wenstrup
- Westmoreland
- Whitfield
- Williams
- Wittman
- Wolf
- Womack
- Woodall
- Yarmuth
- Yoder
- Yoho
- Young (AK)
- Young (IN)

NAYS—2

Broun (GA)

Sanford

NOT VOTING—28

- Bishop (UT)
- Brady (PA)
- Brady (TX)
- Campbell
- Cassidy
- Clark (MA)
- Davis, Danny
- Dent
- Deutch
- Doyle
- Ellison
- Griffith (VA)
- Hanabusa
- Hunter
- Israel
- Jackson Lee
- Lankford
- McAllister
- Miller, Gary
- Nunnelee
- Owens
- Peters (MI)
- Rangel
- Richmond
- Rush
- Thompson (MS)
- Wilson (FL)
- Wilson (SC)

□ 1856

Messrs. REICHERT and PETERS of California changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE TO HONOR THE VICTIMS OF THE JUNE 8, 2014, LAS VEGAS SHOOTING

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, the Nevada delegation comes before you with a heavy heart this evening in the wake of yesterday's tragic events in Las Vegas.

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, two individuals who had recently moved to southern Nevada and participated in the Cliven Bundy resistance walked into a neighborhood pizza parlor. Carrying swastikas and the Gadsden flag and spouting antigovernment rhetoric, they shot and killed two police officers having lunch. They then killed an innocent bystander shopping at a nearby department store.

The officers, Alyn Beck and Igor Soldo, were both veterans of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, with a combined 21 years on the force. Officer Beck leaves behind a wife and three children, and Officer Soldo leaves behind a wife and a baby.

Joseph Robert Wilcox, 31, also of Las Vegas, was shopping when the two killers entered the department store and lost his life attempting to intervene.

Tonight, we ask you to join us in honoring the lives of these three victims of senseless violence, in mourning their family's devastating loss, in praying for all who have suffered as a result of these horrible events, and in commending Metro for its effective action and steadfast commitment to protecting our community even under the worst of circumstances.

I ask that the Members join us in a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). Members will rise for a moment of silence.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 604 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4745.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) kindly take the chair.

□ 1901

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. WOODALL (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on an amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) had been postponed, and the bill had been read through page 83, line 23.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

An amendment by Mr. CHABOT of Ohio.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for each electronic vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 154, noes 248, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 273]

AYES—154

Amash	Fleischmann	Kline	Polis	Ryan (WI)	Thornberry
Bachmann	Fleming	Klabrador	Pompeo	Salmon	Tsongas
Barr	Flores	LaMalfa	Posey	Sanford	Wagner
Barrow (GA)	Poxx	Lamborn	Price (GA)	Scalise	Walberg
Barton	Franks (AZ)	Latta	Reichert	Schweikert	Walden
Benishek	Garcia	Long	Renacci	Scott, Austin	Walorski
Bentivolio	Garrett	Luetkemeyer	Ribble	Sensenbrenner	Weber (TX)
Billirakis	Gibbs	Lummis	Rice (SC)	Sessions	Wenstrup
Bishop (GA)	Gingrey (GA)	Marchant	Roe (TN)	Smith (MO)	Westmoreland
Black	Gohmert	Massie	Rogers (AL)	Smith (NE)	Williams
Blackburn	Goodlatte	McAllister	Rohrabacher	Smith (TX)	Wittman
Bridenstine	Gosar	McCarthy (CA)	Rokita	Southerland	Woodall
Brooks (AL)	Gowdy	McCaul	Rooney	Stewart	Yoder
Brooks (IN)	Granger	McClintock	Roskam	Stockman	Yoho
Broun (GA)	Graves (GA)	McHenry	Ross	Stutzman	Young (IN)
Buchanan	Graves (MO)	McMorris	Royce		
Burgess	Guthrie	Rodgers			
Byrne	Harris	Meadows			
Camp	Hartzler	Messer			
Cantor	Heck (NV)	Mica			
Carter	Hensarling	Miller (FL)			
Chabot	Herrera Beutler	Miller (MI)			
Chaffetz	Holding	Mulvaney			
Coble	Hudson	Neugebauer			
Coffman	Huelskamp	Noem			
Collins (GA)	Huizenga (MI)	Nugent			
Collins (NY)	Hultgren	Nunes			
Conaway	Hurt	Olson			
Cotton	Issa	Palazzo			
DeSantis	Jenkins	Paulsen			
DesJarlais	Johnson (OH)	Pearce			
Duffy	Johnson, Sam	Perry			
Duncan (SC)	Jones	Petri			
Duncan (TN)	Jordan	Pittenger			
Farenthold	King (IA)	Pitts			
Fincher	Kingston	Poe (TX)			
			Aderholt	Gabbard	McKeon
			Amodei	Gallego	McKinley
			Bachus	Garamendi	McNerney
			Barber	Gardner	Meehan
			Barletta	Gerlach	Meeks
			Bass	Gibson	Meng
			Beatty	Grayson	Michaud
			Becerra	Green, Al	Miller, George
			Bera (CA)	Green, Gene	Moore
			Bishop (NY)	Griffin (AR)	Moran
			Blumenauer	Grijalva	Mullin
			Bonamici	Grimm	Murphy (FL)
			Boustany	Gutiérrez	Murphy (PA)
			Braley (IA)	Hahn	Nadler
			Brown (FL)	Hall	Napolitano
			Brownley (CA)	Hanna	Neal
			Bucshon	Harper	Negrete McLeod
			Bustos	Hastings (FL)	Nolan
			Calvert	Hastings (WA)	O'Rourke
			Capito	Heck (WA)	Pallone
			Capps	Higgins	Pascrell
			Capuano	Himes	Pastor (AZ)
			Cárdenas	Hinojosa	Payne
			Carney	Holt	Pelosi
			Carson (IN)	Honda	Perlmutter
			Cartwright	Horsford	Peters (CA)
			Castor (FL)	Hoyer	Peterson
			Castro (TX)	Huffman	Pingree (ME)
			Chu	Jeffries	Pocan
			Ciilline	Johnson (GA)	Price (NC)
			Clarke (NY)	Johnson, E. B.	Quigley
			Clay	Jolly	Rahall
			Cleaver	Joyce	Reed
			Clyburn	Kaptur	Rigell
			Cohen	Keating	Roby
			Cole	Kelly (IL)	Rogers (KY)
			Connolly	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (MI)
			Conyers	Kennedy	Ros-Lehtinen
			Cook	Kildee	Rothfus
			Cooper	Kilmer	Roybal-Allard
			Costa	Kind	Ruiz
			Courtney	King (NY)	Runyan
			Cramer	Kinzinger (IL)	Ruppersberger
			Crawford	Kirkpatrick	Ryan (OH)
			Crenshaw	Kuster	Sánchez, Linda
			Crowley	Lance	T.
			Cuellar	Langevin	Sanchez, Loretta
			Culberson	Larsen (WA)	Sarbanes
			Cummings	Larson (CT)	Schakowsky
			Daines	Latham	Schiff
			Davis (CA)	Lee (CA)	Schneider
			Davis, Rodney	Levin	Schock
			DeFazio	Lewis	Schrader
			DeGette	Lipinski	Schwartz
			Delaney	LoBiondo	Scott (VA)
			DeLauro	Loeb sack	Scott, David
			DelBene	Lofgren	Serrano
			Denham	Lowenthal	Sewell (AL)
			Diaz-Balart	Lowey	Shea-Porter
			Dingell	Lucas	Sherman
			Doggett	Lujan Grisham	Shimkus
			Duckworth	(NM)	Shuster
			Edwards	Luján, Ben Ray	Simpson
			Ellmers	(NM)	Sinema
			Engel	Lynch	Sires
			Enyart	Maffei	Slaughter
			Eshoo	Maloney,	Smith (WA)
			Esty	Carolyn	Speier
			Farr	Maloney, Sean	Stivers
			Fattah	Marino	Swalwell (CA)
			Fitzpatrick	Matheson	Takano
			Forbes	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
			Fortenberry	McCarthy (NY)	Thompson (PA)
			Foster	McCollum	Tiberi
			Frankel (FL)	McDermott	Tierney
			Frelinghuysen	McGovern	Tipton
			Fudge	McIntyre	Titus

Tonko
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela

Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)

NOT VOTING—29

Bishop (UT)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Butterfield
Campbell
Cassidy
Clark (MA)
Davis, Danny
Dent
Deutch

Doyle
Ellison
Griffith (VA)
Hanabusa
Hunter
Israel
Jackson Lee
Lankford
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee

Owens
Peters (MI)
Rangel
Richmond
Rush
Smith (NJ)
Thompson (MS)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1905

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, during rollcall vote No. 273 on H.R. 4745, I mistakenly recorded my vote as “yes” when I should have voted “no.”

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CHABOT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 127, noes 279, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 274]

AYES—127

Amash
Bachmann
Barton
Bentivolio
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Byrne
Camp
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Daines
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)

Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Harper
Harris
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hurt
Issa
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam

Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Long
Luetkemeyer
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Mica
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer

Noem
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rogers (AL)

Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)

NOES—279

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Braley (IA)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Elmiers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr

Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibson
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Hultgren
Israel
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)

Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yoho

Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
Nugent
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader

Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Swalwell (CA)

Bishop (UT)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Campbell
Cassidy
Clark (MA)
Davis, Danny
Dent
Deutch

NOT VOTING—25

Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walden

Owens
Peters (MI)
Rangel
Richmond
Rush
Thompson (MS)
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1911

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

VACATING DEMAND FOR RECORDED VOTE ON AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my request for a recorded vote on my amendment to the end that the amendment stand rejected by the earlier voice vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment stands rejected in accordance with the previous vote thereon.

□ 1915

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND (INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading, the heading “Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing” and the heading “Project-Based Rental Assistance”, for fiscal year 2015 and prior years may be used for renewal of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts and for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided*, That any obligated balances of contract authority from fiscal year 1974 and prior that have been terminated shall be rescinded: *Provided further*, That amounts heretofore recaptured, or recaptured during the current fiscal year, from section 8 project-based contracts from source years fiscal year 1975 through fiscal year 1987 are hereby rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority, equivalent to the amount rescinded is hereby appropriated, to remain available until expended, for the

purposes set forth under this heading, in addition to amounts otherwise available.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, at a time when Congress should be working together to make long-term investments in our crumbling infrastructure, today's T-HUD bill compromises our ability to meet the transportation needs of our local communities.

This bill significantly cuts funding to one of the Nation's most vital transportation programs—TIGER grants. Even worse, this bill significantly changes TIGER grant eligibility to prevent the funding for public transit, bike, and pedestrian projects. The significant funding and eligibility changes this bill makes have left this important program without any teeth. It seems that "TIGER" is no longer a fitting name. Instead, we should be referring to this bill's National Infrastructure Investments program simply as "kitten grants."

TIGER grants support critical projects that are driving economic growth and job creation across America. This bill includes only \$100 million for TIGER grants, which is a reduction of more than 80 percent from this year's funding level. This move is ridiculous given that the current funding level can't even keep up with the demand of an incredibly popular program. Already, in the current grant application round, the U.S. Department of Transportation has received nearly 800 applications that are requesting a total of \$9.5 billion—a request of more than 15 times what can be awarded. Additionally, the bill includes a bad policy rider with language that restricts TIGER eligibility to roads, highways, bridges, freight rail, and ports. This would be a devastating change for a wide variety of innovative projects that include public transportation, passenger rail, and bicycle and pedestrian programs.

TIGER grants help us modernize our transportation and infrastructure and create the 21st century highway and public transit systems America desperately needs, and nowhere are these programs needed more than in cities like my hometown of Chicago. Back home, TIGER grants have supported updates to the Chicago Transit Authority, have advanced the sustainable transportation efforts of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and local bike share programs, and have helped fund the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project. Investing in a 21st century transportation system is essential for our economy, and more importantly, it will create jobs. Remember that every billion dollars invested in our infrastructure creates 30,000 jobs.

I joined the House Committee on Appropriations to make the tough fund-

ing choices that shape our national priorities, but this year's budget allocations have only taken that power away from us, forcing us to vote on a bill that drastically cuts vital services that people around the country depend upon. As we consider the T-HUD bill, we must stand together and demand Congress take action on long-term, smart investments that will move our people and our country forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Chairman, it is time that we invest in the roads, bridges, and railways that are vital to the economy of this great Nation. Businesses in the Eighth Congressional District need a strong transportation system to send their products across the country.

The companies in my district are investing in their infrastructure, yet our Nation's transportation networks have not kept up. A recent study showed that more than 300 bridges in the Chicago area are structurally deficient. This is simply unacceptable. We need to invest in infrastructure initiatives because all Americans will benefit from the results, be they increases in job opportunities or in shorter drives to work.

That is why I am appalled by the low TIGER funding in this bill as \$100 million is nowhere near what my Eighth District and other projects around the country need to get people back to work and our economy moving again. One of these projects is the Fox River Bridge Improvement Project in Elgin, Illinois. This bridge has not been updated for over 80 years and is crucial to the railways of the suburbs of Chicago that transport both commercial freight and commuters. I am disappointed that this bill does not make the investments that will create jobs and make our economy competitive globally.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I want to join with Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WATERS, and other colleagues to call attention to the abysmally low funding contained in this bill for the TIGER program and to the need to increase and multiply this investment for the sake of our communities.

We have many concerns with this T-HUD bill before us, but I want to talk particularly about the TIGER program, otherwise known as the National Infrastructure Investments. It is a critical grant program which provides a unique opportunity for the Department of

Transportation to invest in shovel-ready projects across transportation modes that promise to achieve critical national objectives, laying the groundwork for our future prosperity.

TIGER bridges critical gaps in formula funding programs to ensure that we are able to make investments in projects that are essential to both local and national goals. Each innovative project this program funds is multimodal, multijurisdictional and/or otherwise challenging to fund through existing transportation programs and funding streams.

Unfortunately, the bill before us would reduce the program's landmark flexibility by restricting the eligibility for TIGER to only road, bridge, freight, and port projects. Now, there is nothing wrong with these kinds of projects, but the downside of this restriction is that there is no room for funding that involves pedestrian crossings or bike lanes or recreational trails or planning activities or public transit or inner city passenger rail.

Many of us have benefited from having TIGER funding help a critical project in our districts. Let me just give one example, though, of a project that has gotten a lot of bipartisan praise, a project that would not have received funding if these eligibility restrictions had been in place. It is the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, which is a bicycle and pedestrian network that is one-third funded by TIGER. It is now touted as a draw to convention planners, as a central catalyst for hundreds of millions of dollars in new commercial and residential development, and it is the linchpin of a vibrant community. It simply could not have been funded if these restrictions which the majority has included in this bill had been in place. My district has been fortunate to receive TIGER funds to help build our multimodal Raleigh Union Station, but my community is not alone.

Over the last five funding rounds, TIGER has provided \$3.5 billion for 270 critical infrastructure projects that have covered all 50 States, D.C., and Puerto Rico. That is just the tip of the iceberg. Previous TIGER funding rounds have shown significant latent demand for this type of Federal program. In TIGER rounds one through five, the U.S. DOT received more than 5,300 project proposals, seeking more than \$115 billion, with between only 4 and 8 percent of grant applicants each year able to receive funding. In the current grant application round, the U.S. DOT has received nearly 800 applications, requesting \$9.5 billion, with only \$600 million to invest. That is a request of more than 15 times what can be awarded.

The bill before us would make the situation even worse. Next year, rather than doubling down on these essential

transportation infrastructure investments as the President's budget request would do, the bill before us calls for dramatic funding decreases of over 80 percent to the TIGER program.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time House Republicans have tried to cut or eliminate TIGER funding. It is hard to escape the conclusion that this is another example of reflexive opposition to anything coming from the Obama administration, because this is, in fact, a model program in terms of stretching Federal dollars. TIGER programs have been catalysts that have leveraged Federal funds to secure further investment from the private sector and other sources. Each dollar invested through TIGER has leveraged 3.5 non-Federal dollars.

The projects that have received TIGER funding, along with those that are anxiously awaiting an award announcement, will help our local communities address transportation challenges, create good-paying jobs, spur local economic development, revive our city centers, and create regional integrated transportation solutions. We can do better than the bill before us today. Let's reexamine and restore the funding for these TIGER grants.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I must join with my colleagues Mr. PRICE and Mr. QUIGLEY. The reference here to the TIGER grant program is really almost incomprehensible in terms of what one would think Congress and even our friends in the Republican majority should be supporting. These are amongst the most popular programs that we have had in transportation, and the goal of the TIGER program was to maximize the impact. It required local communities to come together, often across jurisdictional boundaries, to figure out how to leverage the most impact from this program.

Mr. PRICE referenced the heritage trail in Indianapolis. I have heard the mayor of Indianapolis give a spirited explanation of what difference that has made in the revitalization of that community. It is leveraging over \$60 million to be able to improve the livability of Indianapolis. I was in Philadelphia, watching the program there, where the entire region came together for a \$23 million program for bike and pedestrian, which would not be possible under the restrictions that the Republicans have inexplicably designed. Mr. LATHAM has a couple of TIGER grants in his district that would not be possible under this language. In Houston, a \$200 million investment in bike and pedestrian trails has leveraged another \$50 million from the private sector and

is part of their effort to revitalize the downtown.

It is a formula that is used across the country—being able to give people more choices—but instead, the committee has decided that they know better than the mayor of Indianapolis, that they know better than local communities about what they need to be able to make a difference.

The irony is that the resources that are used for bike and pedestrian programs actually create more jobs than simply road construction. Talk to people around the country, as I have, about the ability to invest in making their children safer for cycling and pedestrian. It is not incidental. It is not something that should be just simply brushed aside.

Mr. Chairman, this is part of what we should be doing. I have got two of these projects in my district that have leveraged private investment, that are wildly supported by the public. It is why we are seeing that there are thousands of requests for only a couple of hundred slots. To dramatically reduce the spending and restrict what the local communities can use it for, I think, is misguided. It is a step in the wrong direction, and it is not where America is going. It is not what we are seeing in communities—large and small, red States and blue States. What they want is to be able to revitalize their communities, to keep young, talented professionals there, to give people more choices, to cut down on pollution, and to be able to maximize transportation investment.

I hope that this misguided language does not survive the legislative process. It would be a tragic mistake, and it is one that is actually going to end up undercutting some of the most progressive and energetic efforts we are seeing in communities, large and small. I respectfully urge my colleagues to think again—eliminate the restrictions, and look at where we are going to be able to maximize the impact. Where we are watching people in this Congress not willing to provide adequate resources for a transportation bill, we should be maximizing elements like the TIGER grants because we are going to need them more than ever.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1930

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the Republican Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2015. This bill drastically underfunds critical transportation and housing programs.

The bill's cuts to the TIGER program are particularly egregious. TIGER, for-

mally known as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, is a competitive grant program that creates jobs by funding investments in transportation infrastructure.

The Republican bill cuts TIGER from the 2014 level of \$600 million down to a mere \$100 million in 2015. Moreover, the bill includes restrictive language that limits TIGER grants by excluding public transit, passenger rail, bicycle, and pedestrian projects.

Public transit is an essential part of a modern transportation system. A previous TIGER grant helped the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to accelerate the construction of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor, a light rail project that will reduce traffic congestion and improve transportation service in my district.

Under the bill's restrictive language, this innovative project would never have qualified for a grant.

TIGER needs to be expanded, not restricted, not cut. The President requested \$1.25 billion for TIGER in fiscal year 2015 in order to create jobs and modernize our Nation's transportation infrastructure.

Earlier this year, I sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee urging support for the President's request, and 144 Members of Congress signed my letter.

I urge my colleagues to strike the restrictive language in this bill, expand the TIGER program, and invest in a transportation system for the 21st century.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, the appropriations bill before us includes only \$100 million for the National Infrastructure Investment grants, otherwise known as TIGER grants. This is an 83 percent cut to this critical investment. This wrongheaded and foolish slashing of infrastructure monies will cost us far more than the money saved.

TIGER grants have invested, as my colleagues have pointed out, in road, in rail, transit, and port projects that achieve vital national objectives all across this great Nation.

Yet, the bill before us not only imposes a savage cut to the program, it restricts the use of these grants to highway, bridge, port, and freight rail intermodal projects only. It says that these are the only projects that can get done, meaning that transit, passenger rail, bike and pedestrian paths would no longer be eligible.

Mr. Chairman, we face an infrastructure crisis in this country. The American Society of Civil Engineers has estimated that we need to invest \$3.6 trillion by 2020 to bring our Nation's infrastructure back to good condition.

We also face a job crisis in this country, and TIGER creates jobs. A study last year on the Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment found that every \$1 billion invested supports 21,800 jobs, and these are jobs that cannot be outsourced. It generates \$3 billion of additional business sales, and \$432 million in Federal, State, and local tax revenues.

We need to invest in our national infrastructure. We need to support projects that make our communities more livable and sustainable.

In this project's history, we have found that so many of our colleagues in Arkansas and Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota, Arizona, Iowa, Pennsylvania, and, yes, Connecticut, Georgia, Utah, Washington State, Idaho, Florida, Virginia, Maine, California, Nevada, North Carolina, many of whom have received more than one TIGER grant, with the results that, the reason why they wanted these grants was because, in fact, it does make that investment in infrastructure. It creates jobs and creates future economic growth.

TIGER grants are an excellent way to do this that make our communities more livable, more sustainable, and we should support them. I urge my colleagues to oppose this deep and this dangerous cut.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, first I wish to dedicate my remarks tonight in memory of our former colleague, James Oberstar, who knew the transportation system of this Nation like the back of his hand. And I know the first thing he would say if he were down here. He would say transportation investment, infrastructure investment is the largest job creator that this Congress and this Nation can provide to the American people.

Infrastructure creates jobs. It is the highest form of development we can give to the American people. What are they asking this Congress for?

They are asking us for jobs, and they are asking us to fix the roads. Every place I go the public is complaining about potholes because of the bad winter in the part of the country that I represent.

We know, where do these jobs come from? The construction industry, the landscape industry, the paving industry, the fencing industry, the stone quarries, the concrete manufacturers. The list is endless.

In public transit we are talking about building rail cars to serve a growing population. America isn't declining in population. By 2050 we will have 500 million people in this country, up from 310 million today.

So communities across our country are asking for our help. They asked for \$9.5 billion in high-priority infrastructure projects just this year, 15 times more than the current funding.

So what does the majority do?

They cut the current funding by 80 percent, down to \$100 million, when the American people are saying—the mayors, the county commissioners, the Governors across this country—help us out.

TIGER has proven to be a successful program. It is not stove-piped. It is multimodal.

The Vice President, Vice President BIDEN just visited Cleveland. What did he see? The largest transit point in Ohio, where Amtrak comes right next to the major switching stations for all of the rail cars that serve Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland is waiting. It is only one of hundreds of places in America that are waiting for this Congress to do what the public wants us to do, and that is build this country forward.

Underinvestment will only hurt our people and cost us more in the long run. We know TIGER works.

The President recommended doubling the current funding to \$1.25 billion, up from 600 to \$800 million, to begin to meet the needs of our country. But remember, I said the public was asking for \$9.5 billion.

TIGER has provided already \$3.5 billion for 270 critical infrastructure projects across 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

In prior years, we know that transit and rail passenger projects have received only about one quarter of TIGER funds available, and there is typically no other predictable dedicated funding source for this type of project.

Without TIGER, and a few other Federal programs, mass transit and the shape of our Nation's highway system and rail system would be so much worse.

Americans increasingly look to this Congress and say, what are they worth?

This is one of the places where we should be worth something for the American people. So we rise tonight to say this is really a misguided decision. We need to take funds from elsewhere.

We send funds all over the world. We are building dams in Afghanistan. Who is going to take care of it after we leave?

Hundreds of millions of dollars in other places, and yet our own people are having to go get their cars realigned and buy new suspension systems because they are having to ride through all these potholes all over the country.

We ought to do our job. We ought to find a way to fund this program and repair this country from one end to the other.

I ask myself: If we had to build the Hoover Dam again, would this feckless Congress have the guts to do it?

So we have a problem like TIGER that, coast to coast, works. Where's the majority? Out to lunch.

No wonder the public doesn't have respect for the Congress of the United States. We are not at one with where the public is. The mayors are begging us. Our county commissioners are begging us. Our Governors are begging us. Our transit systems are saying measure up, Congress. Wake up. Wake up.

I rise in strong support of restoring the funding and, frankly, funding at the level that the President has proposed, \$1.25 billion. But even that is only about one-seventh of what the country has asked for, so it is severely underfunded for the needs of the Nation.

We know it is the best job creator. We know it has a proven record, and we know the American people want it. What more do we need to know?

I can just hear Jim Oberstar talking to me now.

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

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Chairman, infrastructure investment creates jobs in southern Illinois and nationwide while repairing highways, bridges and mass transit. The TIGER grant program is critical to infrastructure investment. We must fully fund this program.

Two great examples of successful TIGER recipients are in southern Illinois. America's Central Port in Granite City, Illinois, which was a BRAC'd Army installation, has leveraged Federal dollars with State and local funding to connect rail lines and four interstate highways with the Mississippi River.

Because of that investment, there are more private jobs at America's Central Port today than government jobs when it was an Army support center.

Another Southern Illinois TIGER grant recipient, the Alton Regional Multimodal Transportation Center, will allow passenger transfers between high-speed Amtrak trains, regional transit, bicycle, and even pedestrian trails. TIGER not only creates jobs, but better ways to get to those jobs.

At a time when we need to grow our economy and invest in our infrastructure here at home, it is a mistake to cut this critical program. I urge my colleagues to restore its funding.

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, many of us here grew up in a time in this country when our parents and our politicians weren't afraid to invest in America.

I have been having a series of meetings, along with other Members here, with the inspector general for Afghanistan. He has 250 investigators. Of the last \$100 billion in infrastructure that we have spent in Afghanistan, he can't find where the money has gone and/or where the projects have been completed.

Yet, here we are today, with bridges falling down, roads crumbling, and we are debating legislation that gives an 80 percent cut in our transportation needs, imposes severe restrictions onto a program that is so crucial to our long-term economic growth here in this country.

This program, the TIGER grant program, as you know, and the public needs to know, allows communities to compete for the funding of railroad upgrades, airport runways, highways, bridges, ports.

Recently, at a meeting with the Transportation Committee, we had about 10 transportation leaders from business and commerce before the committee, and I asked the question of every one of them—every one of them: Is there any disagreement here that our roads, our bridges are crumbling? No.

Make a note of it, Mr. Chairman.

Second question, is there anyone here who disagrees with the notion that this is jeopardizing our economic growth and our ability to create good-paying jobs and facilitate the advancement of business interests?

Nobody objects, Mr. Chairman. Make a note of it.

□ 1945

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, is there anybody here—now, mind you, all of the Democrats and Republicans were there. Is there anybody here on this committee that rejects the notion that we need to find more revenue for our transportation, our infrastructure, not less? Nobody disagreed.

So where does this notion come from that we should pass an 80 percent reduction in our TIGER grant program? Clearly, someone is not listening to the business and commercial interests in this country, and they are making a tragic and serious mistake.

Recently, Duluth Harbor, in my district, was a recipient of a \$10 million grant. As a result of that, we were able to restore an abandoned pier, dredge the harbor, so that the Great Lakes freighters could access it and extend the rail and the highway transportation accessing the terminal.

We are losing \$3 billion in business income a year through the Great Lakes

because we are 10 years behind on the dredging. The Lakers are only operating at 80 percent of capacity. We are talking about real jobs. We are talking about real business income. We are talking about our future as a Nation.

Mr. Chairman, this bill does contain some good and necessary increases in funding, such as the FAA and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, but an 80 percent cut in this program that spurs innovation, that boosts American manufacturing, creates good-paying jobs, that is no way to invest in our future. That is no way to have a pro-growth, pro-jobs economy.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge all of my colleagues: Let's come together here. We have common ground. Let's be bipartisan. Let's reject this 80 percent cut.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND

For the Public Housing Capital Fund Program to carry out capital and management activities for public housing agencies, as authorized under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) (the "Act") \$1,775,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, during fiscal year 2015 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may not delegate to any Department official other than the Deputy Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing any authority under paragraph (2) of section 9(j) regarding the extension of the time periods under such section: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such section 9(j), the term "obligate" means, with respect to amounts, that the amounts are subject to a binding agreement that will result in outlays, immediately or in the future: *Provided further*, That up to \$8,000,000 shall be to support ongoing Public Housing Financial and Physical Assessment activities: *Provided further*, That up to \$5,000,000 shall be to support the costs of administrative and judicial receiverships: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, not to exceed \$20,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to make grants, notwithstanding section 204 of this Act, to public housing agencies for emergency capital needs including safety and security measures necessary to address crime and drug-related activity as well as needs resulting from unforeseen or unpreventable emergencies and natural disasters excluding Presidentially declared emergencies and natural disasters under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) occurring in fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading \$45,000,000 shall be for supportive services, service coordinator and congregate services as authorized by section 34 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437z-6) and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, up to \$15,000,000 may be used for incentives as part of a Jobs-Plus Pilot initiative modeled after the Jobs-Plus demonstration: *Provided further*, That the funding provided under the previous pro-

viso shall provide competitive grants to partnerships between public housing authorities, local workforce investment boards established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and other agencies and organizations that provide support to help public housing residents obtain employment and increase earnings: *Provided further*, That applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide services to residents, partner with workforce investment boards, and leverage service dollars: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may set aside a portion of the funds provided for the Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency program to support the services element of the Jobs-Plus Pilot initiative: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may allow PHAs to request exemptions from rent and income limitation requirements under sections 3 and 6 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 as necessary to implement the Jobs-Plus program, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may approve upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective implementation of the Jobs-Plus Pilot initiative as a voluntary program for residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall publish by notice in the Federal Register any waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to the preceding proviso no later than 10 days before the effective date of such notice: *Provided further*, That from the funds made available under this heading, the Secretary shall provide bonus awards in fiscal year 2015 to public housing agencies that are designated high performers.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, this bill represents a massive step backward for transportation and infrastructure funding, reducing funds for rail, transit, and highway programs that our communities desperately need.

In addition to slashing TIGER grants by 80 percent, the bill restricts eligibility for these grants, effectively locking out public transportation and passenger rail projects from this critical funding stream.

In my district, Sonoma and Marin Counties have come together to support the SMART rail project. This is a new public transit project that will provide a critical service to commuters, to students going to school, to tourists that are visiting and spending money in the local economy.

The counties are putting a significant share forward in local funding. Over 90 percent of the cost of the project has come from these local sources, but they need the ability to access Federal assistance like TIGER grants to extend the first phase and close gaps in this important new system.

This bill puts roadblocks in the path that the SMART project and projects similar to it all over this country. In addition, this bill contains a rider blocking funding for California's high-speed rail project. We shouldn't undermine State and local efforts to invest

in transportation infrastructure and to promote economic development, and I urge a “no” vote on this unwise and unwarranted bill.

With my remaining time, Mr. Chairman, I also want to encourage the FHA to expand their PowerSaver pilot program to address the unique condition of many Native American communities, where housing is often in great need and capital is difficult to access.

Congress should enable homeowners to make cost-effective energy-saving improvements to their houses. This body took an important step in 2009 by creating the PowerSaver pilot program, which has helped in financing and construction of energy-efficient homes.

Since that time, homeowners all over the country have taken advantage of the program, worked with private lenders to purchase ENERGY STAR-certified furnaces, air conditioners, improve insulation, and install solar units.

This, in turn, has spurred investment in our housing sector. It has created jobs and saved money for homeowners. These are goals all of us should support.

We should be expanding this program to Native American communities. Native American communities across the country, including the Karuk Tribe in my district, have embraced sustainable and energy-efficient housing. This is lowering their electrical bills, increasing the value of their homes, and reducing dependency on dirty energy sources.

To enable other tribes, though, to make similar investments in their homes, the FHA will need to make substantive changes to the PowerSaver program, and I am very pleased that this underlying bill that we are considering already demonstrates support for Native American communities by fully funding the Indian Housing Block Grant and section 184 programs, but I encourage the FHA to go further to build on that support by ensuring that these programs, like PowerSaver, are implemented with all communities in mind.

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

Ms. LEE of California. I move to strike the last word, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. First, Mr. Chairman, let me just say that I join my other colleagues in opposition to the drastic cuts that this bill sets forth for the TIGER program, as well as language that would prohibit important environmentally sustainable projects from competing for these grants.

We know that smart and targeted investments in infrastructure projects grow local economies, and they create good-paying jobs.

I know firsthand the effectiveness of this program in my own district, at the

Port of Oakland, for example, and the East Bay Greenway, where local agencies have leveraged flexible TIGER grant funds to bring projects toward completion. These cuts now will reduce private sector investments, which are essential to public-private partnerships.

These urban projects around the country need to be able to compete for this important source of funding, and these funding levels and policy provisions simply won't allow that to happen.

We spend billions, mind you, billions on infrastructure projects in Iraq and Afghanistan. Why not in our own country? TIGER grants allow us to nation-build here at home, and we need this desperately.

I look forward to working with our ranking member and our chair, so that we can fix the funding level as this bill goes to conference. I think we know on both sides of the aisle that these grants have created jobs and economic opportunities and have helped create and fix our infrastructure. It is very important that we fully fund these TIGER grants.

So, again, I thank the ranking member, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Missouri is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chairman, this discussion tonight is, I think, exemplary of the dysfunctionality of this place. No matter whose fault it is, we are not serving the public.

I just came in from the break on a Third World road from Dulles Airport here to the Capitol, and if anybody wonders whether or not we are falling behind other countries, visit China. Look at the percentage of their GDP being spent on infrastructure compared to ours.

I would like to talk about what we call T-HUD, which affects Americans in every single State in this country.

There is no Republican road. There is no Democratic road. There is no Independent road or Tea Party road or Black Panther road. We all have to live in this Nation and function on the roads we build, and the only people on this planet—the only people on planet Earth who can make a decision about TIGER and our infrastructure are people who were elected to sit in this place. It is us.

In the first 4 years of TIGER, funds were awarded to all 50 States. TIGER funds are nearly evenly dispersed across the Central, South, West, North, and East regions of this great country. The Department of Transportation is required by statute to ensure TIGER funds are awarded to rural communities, as well as urban.

These grants are used to build highways, repair badly damaged bridges,

and upgrade rail. They are used to help communities who are struggling in this period of economic recovery to make key investments in their infrastructure and bolster local economies.

This bill would decimate TIGER funding, destroying one of the most successful Federal programs in generating bottom-up transportation solutions to our Nation's crumbling infrastructure problem.

TIGER has made a tremendous impact in my district, and I can recall the names of projects, from the Green Impact Zone, Troost Avenue Bridge over Brush Creek, all of these improvements in the communities have made my congressional district better.

Then last year, TIGER provided \$20 million to help finance the 2.2-mile streetcar project in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. The streetcar project will encourage economic development and housing, and along the line, we will also see a whole new community being rebuilt.

So, Mr. Chairman, I don't know what is going to happen, but I do hope that we can make a decision that, at least on the infrastructure, we can put partisanship and this political tribalism to the side and do what is in the best interest of the American public.

I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 85, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,100,000)”.

Page 87, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$17,600,000)”.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$24,700,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I agree with my friend from Missouri that Congress is dysfunctional.

I am told by people that were here in the late seventies, eighties, nineties, that if a President started usurping power of the legislature, of the Congress, that very quietly, the leaders of the House and Senate from both parties would make a quick trip down Pennsylvania Avenue to tell the President that he either needed to stop usurping congressional authority, start living within the law, or quit being lawless, and that would have generally taken care of it, and it was a bipartisan and bicameral effort.

Unfortunately, this body is dysfunctional, when you look at the efforts to protect an administration that keeps acting lawlessly.

I would like to have had accurate numbers showing the percentage of section 8 housing that is being provided to people illegally; that is, providing section 8 housing to people who are not

authorized, who are getting that housing against the law, mainly people illegally here, but the last official numbers that my staff and I could find go back to the January 1, 2009.

Under the Bush administration, 0.4 percent of section 8 housing was going to people illegally. In other words, it was illegally going to people because they were not authorized to be here.

There are indications from a report in 2010 that it increased to 1.17 percent, but, Mr. Chairman, I just felt that it was imperative for us to send a message: if you are not going to provide the housing to Americans who desperately need it and you are going to continue to provide housing to people who are not legally authorized to have that housing, then we will make a small cut here.

Then we will get more accurate numbers in the future, and we will continue to cut the program until the Department of Housing and Urban Development gets serious about making sure that only people authorized under the law to have the section 8 housing get it.

So we took four-tenths of a percent times that set-aside for the Public Housing Capital Fund at line 3 and the same percentage from the Public Housing Operating Fund at line 24, page 87, and then added that to the spending reduction account.

Why? Because this generation has shown that we are immoral. We, like no other generation before us, are spending lavishly on our own generation without regard for the massive millstone—or albatross, if you prefer—around future generations' necks. That is immoral. That is immoral that we cannot live within our means, and we would cast that upon future generations.

So with that, I would argue for the passage of this amendment. It does not legislate. It simply appropriates a more appropriate amount.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. I appreciate very much the gentleman raising the issue.

I think we should remember, this is an appropriation bill. It is a funding bill. It is not an authorizing bill. This is an issue that should be dealt with by the committee of jurisdiction, which needs to make a lot of changes at HUD. There is no question about it.

□ 2000

This is a funding bill, and, Mr. Chairman, we have already made tough, responsible choices in the bill, and we have already cut the Public Housing Capital Fund by \$100 million below last year. So while the gentleman wants to

cut a little bit more, I understand that, but the fact of the matter is we are down \$100 million from last year.

The Public Housing Operating Fund is held at last year's level of \$4.4 billion. I really think to cut any more out of this could possibly pose a risk to the health and safety of our housing capital.

For those reasons, again, I appreciate the gentleman's bringing the issue forward, it is an authorizing issue, and on this, as a funding bill, I would urge a "no" vote. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I also rise in opposition. As the chairman has outlined, both funds are either underfunded or at the same level, and the consequence of additional cuts will probably cause many, many individuals who qualify for public housing to either leave public housing or not be able then to enter. For those reasons, we oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESTY. I rise today to express my opposition to the funding priorities in this appropriations bill. While I am supportive of advancing the appropriations bills in a timely manner, this bill underfunds many important programs and initiatives, including TIGER grants, the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program, housing assistance, and our rail and transportation initiative.

In Connecticut, community leaders in Waterbury and Meriden have applied for TIGER grants to undertake important improvement projects in their cities. TIGER grants are critical for our communities to leverage Federal funds to create lasting, substantial improvements. But, unfortunately, this bill underfunds the TIGER grant program. This bill funds TIGER grants at \$500 million less than last year, and \$1.15 billion less than the President's request. TIGER grants are essential to provide that leverage for our State and local communities to make those choices about what will create jobs and allow those created jobs we have been

something people can get to by using the highways, as my colleagues have already mentioned the difficulty, particularly in the Northeast, with our aging infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to the TIGER provisions of the bill, one of the most important, life-saving programs is the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction program. Approximately 23 million U.S. households have significant lead-based paint hazards. The Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction program gives funds for lead abatement in low-income communities, where the combination of lead paint and inadequate nutrition makes young children particularly vulnerable to learning disabilities.

I am disappointed that this bill funds that program at \$40 million below last year and \$50 million less than the President's budget request. With 23 million households still having significant exposure to lead-based paint, we must fully fund this program to protect our children and young families.

In Connecticut, we are still recovering from the recession, and we have the seventh-most-expensive housing market in the country. In Danbury, an individual making the minimum wage—which is higher in Connecticut than Federal minimum wage—would need 3.5 full-time jobs to afford a two-bedroom rental apartment.

That is why HUD's public housing and housing choice vouchers are essential in my State and my community, and why it is so disappointing that HUD is not funded at a level to restore the housing vouchers that were lost during sequestration.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we need to get serious about investing in our highways and rail infrastructure. Just last Friday, the railroad bridge in Norwalk, Connecticut, failed, stranding thousands of passengers, including our colleague, Congressman JIM HIMES. The bridge—which was built in 1895—is now 118 years old and in desperate need of repair. Earlier today, the entire Connecticut delegation sent a letter to the Department of Transportation asking that the State receive funding to repair this very old and crumbling bridge. We should not have to wait until the bridge falls down or the train derails to repair our country's infrastructure. Unfortunately, this bill does not adequately fund the needs of the Federal Transit Administration.

Until we do our job together in this body and fully fund the Department of Transportation, our bridges and roads will continue to fail. These are, indeed, tough budgetary times, but we must fund our transportation and housing programs to protect and to serve the constituents we represent.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New Hampshire is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chairman, in addition to all of the other problems that my colleagues have cited, this bill would exclude walking, biking, and transit projects from TIGER funding, wrongly suggesting that these are not crucial parts of our transportation network. Rails to trails projects, like the one championed by the Mount Washington Valley Trails Association in New Hampshire, are innovative and important. According to Transportation for America, more than 11 percent of all trips are made by biking, and more than 12 percent by walking. We should continue to invest in transportation infrastructure that our constituents rely on and keep this TIGER program strong.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND

For 2015 payments to public housing agencies for the operation and management of public housing, as authorized by section 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(e)), \$4,400,000,000.

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

For competitive grants under the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (subject to section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v), unless otherwise specified under this heading), for transformation, rehabilitation, and replacement housing needs of both public and HUD-assisted housing and to transform neighborhoods of poverty into functioning, sustainable mixed income neighborhoods with appropriate services, schools, public assets, transportation and access to jobs, \$25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That grant funds may be used for resident and community services, community development, and affordable housing needs in the community, and for conversion of vacant or foreclosed properties to affordable housing: *Provided further*, That the use of funds made available under this heading shall not be deemed to be public housing notwithstanding section 3(b)(1) of such Act: *Provided further*, That grantees shall commit to an additional period of affordability determined by the Secretary of not fewer than 20 years: *Provided further*, That grantees shall undertake comprehensive local planning with input from residents and the community, and that grantees shall provide a match in State, local, other Federal or private funds: *Provided further*, That grantees may include local governments, tribal entities, public housing authorities, and nonprofits: *Provided further*, That for-profit developers may apply jointly with a public entity: *Provided further*, That such grantees shall create partnerships with other local organizations including assisted housing owners, service agencies, and resident organizations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall consult with the Secretaries of Education, Labor, Transportation, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, and Commerce, the Attorney General, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate and leverage other appropriate Federal resources: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances re-

maining from funds appropriated under this heading and the heading "Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing (HOPE VI)" in fiscal year 2014 and prior fiscal years may be used for purposes under this heading notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this paragraph may be used for a grant to a recipient that has previously received a Choice Neighborhoods Initiative implementation grant.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

For the Family Self-Sufficiency program to support family self-sufficiency coordinators under section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under sections 8(o) and 9 of such Act with public and private resources, and enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, \$75,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary may, by Federal Register notice, waive or specify alternative requirements under subsections b(3), b(4), b(5), or c(1) of section 23 of such Act in order for public housing agencies, owners and the Department to administer and to facilitate the operation of a unified self-sufficiency program for individuals receiving assistance under different provisions of the Act, as determined by the Secretary.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS

For the Native American Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), \$650,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, to determine the amount of the allocation under title I of such Act for each Indian tribe, the Secretary shall apply the formula under section 302 of such Act with the need component based on single-race census data and with the need component based on multi-race census data, and the amount of the allocation for each Indian tribe shall be the greater of the two resulting allocation amounts: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$3,000,000 shall be contracted for assistance for national or regional organizations representing Native American housing interests for providing training and technical assistance to Indian housing authorities and tribally designated housing entities as authorized under NAHASDA: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under the previous proviso, not less than \$2,000,000 shall be made available for a national organization as authorized under section 703 of NAHASDA (25 U.S.C. 4212): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$2,000,000 shall be to support the inspection of Indian housing units, contract expertise, training, and technical assistance in the training, oversight, and management of such Indian housing and tenant-based assistance, including up to \$300,000 for related travel: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$2,000,000 shall be made available for the cost of guaranteed notes and other obligations, as authorized by title VI of NAHASDA: *Provided further*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such notes and other obligations, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize the total principal amount of any

notes and other obligations, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$16,530,000: *Provided further*, That the Department will notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, notwithstanding section 302(d) of NAHASDA, if on January 1, 2015, a recipient's total amount of undisbursed block grants in the Department's line of credit control system is greater than three times the formula allocation it would otherwise receive under this heading, the Secretary shall adjust that recipient's formula allocation down by the difference between its total amount of undisbursed block grants in the Department's line of credit control system on January 1, 2015, and three times the formula allocation it would otherwise receive: *Provided further*, That grant amounts not allocated to a recipient pursuant to the previous proviso shall be allocated under the need component of the formula proportionately among all other Indian tribes not subject to an adjustment: *Provided further*, That the two previous provisos shall not apply to any Indian tribe that would otherwise receive a formula allocation of less than \$5,000,000: *Provided further*, That to take effect, the three previous provisos do not require the issuance of any regulation.

INDIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z-13a), \$8,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, up to \$1,200,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That up to \$750,000 of this amount may be for administrative contract expenses including management processes and systems to carry out the loan guarantee program.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS

For carrying out the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program, as authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.), \$305,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, except that amounts allocated pursuant to section 854(c)(3) of such Act shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall renew all expiring contracts for permanent supportive housing that initially were funded under section 854(c)(3) of such Act from funds made available under this heading in fiscal year 2010 and prior fiscal years that meet all program requirements before awarding funds for new contracts under such section, and if amounts provided under this heading pursuant to such section are insufficient to fund renewals for all such expiring contracts, then amounts made available under this heading for formula grants pursuant to section 854(c)(1) shall be used to provide the balance of such renewal funding before awarding funds for such formula grants: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 93, line 21, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$29,100,000)”.

Page 114, line 7, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$29,100,000)”.

Page 114, line 8, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$29,100,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, since 1992, the Housing Opportunity for Persons With Aids, or HOPWA, has provided a vital safety net for people living with HIV/AIDS. In the United States, 50,000 people become infected with HIV every year, and 1.1 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. More than 500,000 of those individuals will need some form of housing assistance during the course of their illness, but 145,000 of these individuals will have unmet housing needs.

Housing interventions are critical in our continued fight against HIV/AIDS, and research clearly shows that stable housing leads to better health outcomes. Inadequately or unstably housed individuals are less likely to access routine medical care and more likely to rely on costly emergency and acute care that leads to far higher health care costs. Providing stable housing to people with HIV/AIDS has an immediate impact on the health outcomes, reducing the risk of transmission to a partner by 96 percent, reducing emergency room visits by 36 percent, and reducing hospitalizations by 57 percent. In other words, investing a modest amount in HOPWA today saves us millions, if not billions, of Federal taxpayer dollars in the future, not to mention many lives.

HOPWA is the only Federal program to provide cities and States with dedicated resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with HIV/AIDS. And yet, despite the bipartisan agreement on HOPWA's effectiveness and the clear need for additional funding, this legislation provides only \$305.9 million for HOPWA in FY15, a cut of more than \$24 million from last year, and pushes HOPWA funding below its fiscal year 2008 funding levels, despite an estimated 300,000 people being newly infected with HIV since that time. At this abysmally low funding level, thousands of families and individuals will lose access to HOPWA and face dire health consequences.

My amendment would stop this devastating cut by increasing HOPWA funding by \$29.1 million and restoring the program to \$335 billion, the level it received 5 years ago in fiscal year 2010. I recognize \$29 million may sound small by Federal budgeting standards, but this additional funding will ensure that those families and individuals who rely on HOPWA for secure, stable housing will not suddenly find themselves

back on the street with no access to lifesaving medical treatment.

To protect those living with HIV/AIDS and to stay within the House rules, my amendment offsets this additional funding through cuts to HUD's Information Technology fund. I recognize—I recognize—the importance of providing HUD with phones and computers, but nothing is more important, quite simply, than saving lives. We must pass this amendment and give those families battling HIV/AIDS a fighting chance.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. I appreciate very much the gentleman's effort to help more vulnerable households by increasing funding for HOPWA, but I simply cannot support this amendment.

The increase is offset by a more than 30 percent reduction in funding for HUD's information technology systems. These systems are critical to HUD's ability to oversee billions of dollars in grants, subsidies, and loans. Many HUD systems are antiquated and require significant maintenance and investment to keep operating. A cut of this magnitude would undermine the agency's ability to function, so I would urge a “no” vote and also remind folks that there is \$305 million for HOPWA in the bill already, a slight reduction from last year, but with our allocation, very significant funding for this program.

So I rise in opposition to the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

For assistance to units of State and local government, and to other entities, for economic and community development activities, and for other purposes, \$3,060,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, unless otherwise specified: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided, \$3,000,000,000 is for carrying out the community development block grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (the “Act” herein) (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.): *Provided further*, That un-

less explicitly provided for under this heading, not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with funds appropriated under this heading shall be expended for planning and management development and administration: *Provided further*, That a metropolitan city, urban county, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe, or insular area that directly or indirectly receives funds under this heading may not sell, trade, or otherwise transfer all or any portion of such funds to another such entity in exchange for any other funds, credits or non-Federal considerations, but must use such funds for activities eligible under title I of the Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for grants for the Economic Development Initiative (“EDI”) or Neighborhood Initiatives activities, Rural Innovation Fund, or for grants pursuant to section 107 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5307): *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That \$60,000,000 shall be for grants to Indian tribes notwithstanding section 106(a)(1) of such Act, of which, notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 204 of this Act), up to \$3,960,000 may be used for emergencies that constitute imminent threats to health and safety.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. CAPITO

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 94, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$100,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$100,000,000)”.

Page 97, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$100,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from West Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment which would increase funding for a program critical for the development of our local communities.

The Community Development Block Grant, CDBG, has been essential to helping our local communities address critical needs and improve residents' quality of life. Many of these communities struggle to find funds to improve lower-income or underutilized areas, and the CDGB is a lifesaver for these towns.

In my home State of West Virginia, this program has funded critical sewer and infrastructure projects, improving residents' health and their quality of life. More than 92,000 West Virginians have benefited from \$71 million in Community Development Block Grants over the last 5 years. It is invaluable to rural States like West Virginia.

Despite its proven track record, funding for the CDBG program has been cut every year. As we prioritize programs in this appropriations bill, it is my belief that the CDBG program and the residents it helps should be considered a priority. In this era of fiscal restraint and responsibility, we must use taxpayer dollars where they can have the

most impact, and my amendment would increase the CDBG by \$100 million, redirecting \$100 million from the troubled HOME program.

□ 2015

This redirection makes my amendment budget-neutral. While the HOME program has had some success, the evidence shows it is a program struggling from dubious oversight that has been slow to adapt to improvements that have been suggested by the Government Accountability Office.

States are not even using all of their HOME funds. Last year, HUD recaptured \$16 million from States who didn't spend the funds that were granted. In the State of West Virginia, HUD has recaptured millions of dollars, and HUD officials have told me that the HOME program is scheduled to have even more funds recaptured due to inactivity.

It is clear that the HOME program has more than enough money, and we should be reallocating these funds towards programs that work, like the CDBG. It is a vital program, and I ask my colleagues to support my amendment.

I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY), who is a staunch supporter of CDBG.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

During meetings held the past 3 years with West Virginia government officials, they consistently state that the money for infrastructure upgrades like sewer and water lines is an absolute priority. The program that funds these projects is what the gentlewoman said, the Community Development Block Grant, known as CDBG.

This amendment would provide much-needed funding for CDBG and provide vital funds for improving sewer and water lines throughout America, rehabilitating public buildings, and assisting economic development initiatives.

The past 2 years and, again, this year, President Obama has cut crucial funding to the CDBG program. Therefore, I am honored to work with my fellow colleague from West Virginia, SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, on an amendment to once again put the money back into this program that the President took away.

Mr. Chairman, the CDBG program has made a difference in the lives of Americans, thousands of people all across West Virginia, and this country. That is why, even in difficult financial times, we must make sure that the CDBG is fully funded. I urge support of this amendment.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for his support. We know, in rural States like West Virginia, how important this program is, not to fund entire projects, but to backfill and frontfill projects that absolutely would

not get done without the great help of the communities joining together and using the CDBG funds in the proper and right fashion to enhance the quality of life for so many across this country.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. I think we should keep in mind that we have \$3 billion in the Community Development Block Grant account. That is slightly less than last year by \$30 million, but there are \$3 billion in that.

I appreciate the gentlewoman's effort to increase funding, but the offset for that increase is a \$100 million reduction to the HOME program, which is already reduced by \$300 million, so we are already cutting HOME by \$300 million from the fiscal year 2014 enacted level.

It is important to remember that, just a few years ago, the HOME program was funded at \$1.6 billion. In this bill, it will be at \$700 million, so it is less than half of what it was at that time.

The program is targeted to the development of affordable housing that benefits low-income families, and we don't believe, at this point, a further reduction is warranted. So while I appreciate the benefits of the block grants, I must urge a "no" vote on the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, while I support the intention of the amendment—I am a supporter of CDBG—the program that the Member seeks to increase is one that is worthwhile and successful, and if we had a better allocation, we would have provided more for CDBG.

However, I must rise in opposition to the amendment because of the offset. It is my hope that we can improve the funding levels of this bill as we conference with the Senate.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF
GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 94, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$200,000,000)".

Page 94, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$200,000,000)".

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$200,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, two of my colleagues just came asking to increase the Community Development Block Grant program by \$100 million, and actually, the bill itself has an increase above the President's request by \$200 million.

Sometimes, I agree with the President, and sometimes, I don't; and this is one time I do agree with the President. The President only requested \$2.8 billion for the Community Development Block Grant program, and this bill would appropriate \$3 billion.

So my amendment would remove the \$200 million increase over the Obama administration's FY 2015 budgetary request—and only increase—from the Community Development Block Grant program and transfer that amount to the spending reduction account. Why the committee has chosen to go above and beyond what even the President has requested fails me.

Mr. Chairman, the Community Development Block Grant program is one of the most wasteful and ineffective programs found within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It was originally proposed by President Gerald Ford in his effort to revitalize decaying and low-income neighborhoods in American cities and towns.

Unfortunately, CDBG has strayed from its original purpose. Today, many of these grants have been diverted to wasteful, parochial projects, such as funding a pet shampoo company, issuing risky business loans, paying for renovation of a wealthy multinational architectural company, and I can go on and on.

I am not asking that we eliminate this program or even drastically cut its funding. Mr. Chairman, I am simply asking that we do not increase this funding above what the President has asked for and that we put the rest of this large increase toward paying down our Nation's debt. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. This is obviously just the opposite of the previous amendment in the reduction of our proposed amount of \$3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant.

This amendment would accept the President's proposal to cut \$230 million

from the Community Development Block Grant program. Our bill already has a small reduction, \$30 million, from what was enacted last year.

The CDBG program provides critical funding to State and local jurisdictions for affordable housing, economic development, and public service projects such as homeless shelters.

What is great about the program is that the grants are very flexible, which empowers jurisdictions to identify and fund investments that meet local priorities. Also, these funds often attract significant coinvestment from private and other non-Federal sources.

CDBG is an important source of Federal partnership and support in many of our jurisdictions, and so I must urge a “no” vote on the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I would tell my colleague from Georgia: if there is one line item in this bill that has bipartisan support in terms of keeping the program and funding it at this level, this is it.

So I would tell him that even I, because of the bipartisan agreement, that I would rise in opposition to his amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF
GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 94, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$20,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I will try again. This amendment is much like my previous amendment.

As I noted before, this bill provides for a \$200 million increase above the President’s request in the Community Development Block Grant program, by his request, the President’s request, the Democratic President’s request for the FY 2015 budget.

My previous amendment would have removed that \$200 million increase above the President’s request in its entirety. This amendment just cuts 10 percent of that increase above the President’s request, \$20 million—which is a lot of money to most Georgians, it seems to be not a lot of money around here, but it is a lot of money to me—and it transfers that sum to the spending reduction account.

Mr. Chairman, I spoke earlier about wasteful spending being funded by the Community Development Block Grant program, and I would like to take this opportunity to provide some examples.

The State of Nebraska has directed approximately \$500,000 in taxpayer funds, hard-earned money, from the CDBG grant program to a pet shampoo company.

The State of Vermont has directed \$255,000 of its Federally-funded Community Development Block Grant to support a program for graduates for the Center of Cartoon Studies.

The Community Development Block Grant program has provided \$356,000 to pay for infrastructure improvements for a meat snack manufacturer that makes beef jerky.

Mr. Chairman, I love pets—particularly dogs—I love cartoons, and I really like beef jerky, and I like these things as much as anyone, but I fail to see how it is appropriate for the Federal Government to provide taxpayer money to fund these projects.

Again, I am not asking to eliminate the Community Development Block Grant program or even cut its funding below the FY 2014 levels.

Obviously, my amendment to cut out the increase above the President’s requested amount to CDBG failed. Now, I am just asking to cut out just 20 percent of that increase above the President’s level.

So if my colleagues cannot bring themselves to cut the entire \$200 million increase over the President’s budget request, then let’s cut at least one small percentage of that increase, just 10 percent, and save the American taxpayers \$20 million. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. I will not go through the merits of the program again, but the fact of the matter is we are \$30 million less than the enacted level from last year, so there is a reduction in the account.

A lot of people would say “unfortunately,” but there is, in fact, a reduction, and for that reason, I would oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I also rise in opposition to the amendment and oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOAN GUARANTEES
PROGRAM ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING RESCISSION)

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2015, commitments to guarantee loans under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308), any part of which is guaranteed, shall not exceed a total principal amount of \$500,000,000, notwithstanding any aggregate limitation on outstanding obligations guaranteed in subsection (k) of such section 108: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall collect fees from borrowers, notwithstanding subsection (m) of such section 108, to result in a credit subsidy cost of zero for guaranteeing such loans, and any such fees shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That all unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading are hereby permanently rescinded.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

For the HOME investment partnerships program, as authorized under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, \$700,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the amount made available under this heading, the threshold reduction requirements in sections 216(10) and 217(b)(4) of such Act shall not apply to allocations of such amount: *Provided further*, That the requirements under provisos 2 through 6 under this heading for fiscal year 2012 and such requirements applicable pursuant to the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013”, shall not apply to any project to which funds were committed on or after August 23, 2013, but such projects shall instead be governed by the Final Rule titled “Home Investment Partnerships Program; Improving Performance and Accountability; Updating Property Standards” which became effective on such date: *Provided further*, That funds provided in prior appropriations Acts for technical assistance, which were made available for Community Housing Development Organizations technical assistance, and which still remain available, may be used for HOME technical assistance, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, up to \$10,000,000 shall be made available to the Self-help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program, as authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996, as amended (42 U.S.C. 12805 note).

CAPACITY BUILDING

For the second, third, and fourth capacity building activities authorized under section 4(a) of the HUD Demonstration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 9816 note), \$35,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, of which not less than \$5,000,000 shall be made available for rural capacity-building activities. In

addition, \$5,000,000 shall be made available for capacity building by national rural housing organizations with experience assessing national rural conditions and providing financing, training, technical assistance, information, and research to local non-profits, local governments, and Indian Tribes serving high-need rural communities.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the emergency solutions grants program as authorized under subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended; the continuum of care program as authorized under subtitle C of title IV of such Act; and the rural housing stability assistance program as authorized under subtitle D of title IV of such Act, \$2,105,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That any rental assistance amounts that are recaptured under such continuum of care program shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That not less than \$200,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for such emergency solutions grants program: *Provided further*, That not less than \$1,800,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for such continuum of care and rural housing stability assistance programs: *Provided further*, That up to \$5,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for the national homeless data analysis project: *Provided further*, That all funds awarded for supportive services under the continuum of care program and the rural housing stability assistance program shall be matched by not less than 25 percent in cash or in kind by each grantee: *Provided further*, That for all match requirements applicable to funds made available under this heading for this fiscal year and prior years, a grantee may use (or could have used) as a source of match funds other funds administered by the Secretary and other Federal agencies unless there is (or was) a specific statutory prohibition on any such use of any such funds: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may renew on an annual basis expiring contracts or amendments to contracts funded under the continuum of care program if the program is determined to be needed under the applicable continuum of care and meets appropriate program requirements, performance measures, and financial standards, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That all awards of assistance under this heading shall be required to coordinate and integrate homeless programs with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which homeless populations may be eligible, including Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food Stamps, and services funding through the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grant, Workforce Investment Act, and the Welfare-to-Work grant program: *Provided further*, That all balances for Shelter Plus Care renewals previously funded from the Shelter Plus Care Renewal account and transferred to this account shall be available, if recaptured, for continuum of care renewals in fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That with respect to funds provided under this heading for the continuum of care program for fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 provision of permanent housing rental assistance may be administered by private nonprofit organizations: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation from amounts allocated (which may represent initial or final

amounts allocated) for the emergency solutions grant program within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

□ 2030

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DUFFY

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 99, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, this town, this Congress, spends a lot of money to alleviate the pain of poverty, of homelessness, and hunger, but a majority of that money is focused on urban centers. I don't take issue with that. There is a lot of poverty in the urban parts of our country. But so often, the rural parts of America are forgotten.

I have to tell you, coming from rural America, the pain of poverty is just as great, and it affects our communities in rural America just like in urban America. Oftentimes, it can be a lot more complicated, poverty in rural America.

The face of poverty is different in rural America. Instead of having families living on the street, oftentimes we see neighbors, two, three families move into a single-room apartment so they can give their kids shelter.

Last year I hosted a homelessness and hunger summit where I brought in people who provide food and shelter for folks in rural Wisconsin. We had a conversation about what we can do better out of Washington to help them address the pain of this poverty in our community. In regard to the homeless shelters, their main point was that they need flexibility so that they can address the risks of homelessness in our community.

In 2009, a program was included in the HEARTH Act called the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program. This program allows rural communities to serve individuals that don't necessarily meet HUD's definition of homelessness but are, in fact, without a stable home of their own.

My amendment is very simple and doesn't cost a lot of money. It would allow \$10 million to be made available for the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program.

Now, take a look at how much money we spend on homelessness—\$2.1 billion. My amendment asks for \$10 million to be used for the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program. Let's not forget rural America.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DUFFY. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. The gentleman makes a very compelling argument, and we would accept the amendment.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, with that, I think this is important. I appreciate the chairman's support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk, Conyers No. 1.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 99, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, ladies and gentlemen, this amendment seeks to increase funding for the National Homeless Data Analysis Project by \$2 million. This requested increase from \$5 million to \$7 million is consistent with both the President's budget request and the appropriations bill the Senate reported out of the committee late last week.

The level of funding provided for in this bill falls below not just requested amounts, but also below the current enacted amount for this program. My amendment amount would solve this discrepancy.

Mr. Chair, homelessness is not only corrosive to individual lives, but also to our national character. It is unthinkable that more than a million people routinely go homeless in the most prosperous nation this world has ever known.

In the struggle to eliminate homelessness, the National Homeless Data Analysis Project is essential. In 2001, Congress directed HUD to "take the lead on data collection" on homelessness, and the result was this project. It provides critical resources to communities to improve data collection, reporting, and integration of data with other Federal funding streams.

Over the past decade, the data collection, integration, and reporting produced by this project has allowed HUD and other agencies to move away from using largely anecdotal and often inconsistent evidence to using quality data for policy decisions.

At the end of the day, no matter which side of the aisle we sit on, this is the type of initiative we should all support. Better information leads to better decisionmaking and, ultimately, better policy outcomes, particularly in times of shrinking budgets.

In a policy arena as important as homeless assistance, this House cannot afford to underfund enhanced data collection initiatives. A vote for this amendment is a vote for smarter use of Federal funds and a vote to make every homeless assistance program better targeted and more effective.

In my own district, homelessness is a chronic problem. In the Detroit area

during 2012, over 19,000 people were homeless at some point. That figure includes nearly 4,000 children. In order to help them, however, we need to understand the circumstances that have forced them onto the streets.

The 6,000 homeless families with children in Detroit have different needs than homeless adults. Certain similarities between those who are homeless because of unaffordable housing and those who are homeless because of mental illness or domestic violence may hide the critical differences that prevent help from achieving its intended goal.

I fully support any project that would lead to a better accounting of the real experiences of the poorest people in my district or anyone else's and ultimately result in better decision-making in the provision and administration of Federal homeless assistance programs. I hope and feel certain that my colleagues feel the same.

This measure is, quite simply, about good government. This measure is not a budget increase. This amendment would simply grant discretion to allocate up to \$2 million of the already existing funding in the bill for homelessness assistance grants to the National Homeless Data Analysis Project. It would not increase the overall appropriations under the heading for homelessness assistance grants. Under the \$2.1 billion heading for homelessness assistance grant, there is still approximately \$100 million in flexibility.

I urge support for the National Homeless Data Analysis Project. I urge support for smarter usage of Federal funds; and I urge support for enhanced policy outcomes. I thank you for the time, and I hope that we can pass this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT
(RESCISSION)

Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading are hereby permanently rescinded.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Chairman, I want to first off thank my good friend from Iowa, Chairman LATHAM, for the hard work he has put into this bill. There is a matter that I think we are going to have to do some more work on.

The Federal Government, through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, each year allocates a sig-

nificant amount of taxpayer dollars to public housing authorities to provide affordable and safe housing for those in need.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, some public housing authorities, executives of public housing authorities, are taking home excessively generous compensation packages each year, partly paid for with Federal dollars. One needs to look no further than the public housing authority in Raleigh, North Carolina, the Raleigh Housing Authority, to see an example of excessive compensation.

Audits that I requested from both the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Raleigh Housing Authority itself have brought to light this fundamental problem with compensation. When the executive director of the Raleigh Housing Authority manages a housing authority that ranks somewhere near 400th in terms of overall size but still receives a total compensation package, Mr. Chairman, that puts him in the top ten of all public housing authority directors in terms of salary and other benefits, it certainly raises some red flags to me.

Following the disclosure of the executive director's compensation package, which brought about outrage from the local community and Congress, the Raleigh Housing Authority board made what amounts to cosmetic changes to their compensation practices—which still flout Congress' intent, in my opinion.

Mr. Chairman, I commend Chairman LATHAM and the T-HUD subcommittee for including provision section 227 in the base text that continues a cap on how many Federal dollars public housing authorities can use to compensate a chief executive officer or any other official or employee of a public housing authority. So I commend for that. I want to thank the chairman for his work on this issue and hope we can examine additional measures that Congress can take to ensure that public housing authorities serve the public.

So thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

HOUSING PROGRAMS
PROJECT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of project-based subsidy contracts under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) ("the Act"), not otherwise provided for, \$9,346,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2014 (in addition to the \$400,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that became available October 1, 2014), and \$400,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2015: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for expiring or terminating section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including

section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for amendments to section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for contracts entered into pursuant to section 441 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11401), for renewal of section 8 contracts for units in projects that are subject to approved plans of action under the Emergency Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 or the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990, and for administrative and other expenses associated with project-based activities and assistance funded under this paragraph: *Provided further*, That of the total amounts provided under this heading, not to exceed \$210,000,000 shall be available for assistance agreements with performance-based contract administrators for section 8 project-based assistance, for carrying out 42 U.S.C. 1437(f): *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may also use such amounts in the previous proviso for performance-based contract administrators for the administration of: interest reduction payments pursuant to section 236(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1(a)); rent supplement payments pursuant to section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s); section 236(f)(2) rental assistance payments (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1(f)(2)); project rental assistance contracts for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q); project rental assistance contracts for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)); project assistance contracts pursuant to section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667); and loans under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667): *Provided further*, That amounts recaptured under this heading, the heading "Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing", or the heading "Housing Certificate Fund", may be used for renewals of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts or for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the request of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 8 project-based Housing Assistance Payments contract that authorizes HUD or a Housing Finance Agency to require that surplus project funds be deposited in an interest-bearing residual receipts account and that are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to be available until expended: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited pursuant to the previous proviso shall be available in addition to the amount otherwise provided by this heading for uses authorized under this heading.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

For amendments to capital advance contracts for housing for the elderly, as authorized by section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended, and for project rental assistance for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of such Act, including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 1-year term, and for senior preservation rental assistance contracts, as authorized by section 811(e) of the American Housing and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000, as amended,

and for supportive services associated with the housing, \$420,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, up to \$70,000,000 shall be for service coordinators and the continuation of existing congregate service grants for residents of assisted housing projects: *Provided further*, That amounts under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 202 projects: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the provisions of section 202 governing the terms and conditions of project rental assistance, except that the initial contract term for such assistance shall not exceed 5 years in duration.

HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

For amendments to capital advance contracts for supportive housing for persons with disabilities, as authorized by section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), for project rental assistance for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of such Act and for project assistance contracts pursuant to section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667), including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 1-year term, for project rental assistance to State housing finance agencies and other appropriate entities as authorized under section 811(b)(3) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Housing Act, and for supportive services associated with the housing for persons with disabilities as authorized by section 811(b)(1) of such Act, \$135,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 811 projects.

HOUSING COUNSELING ASSISTANCE

For contracts, grants, and other assistance excluding loans, as authorized under section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, \$47,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, including up to \$4,500,000 for administrative contract services: *Provided*, That grants made available from amounts provided under this heading shall be awarded within 180 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That funds shall be used for providing counseling and advice to tenants and homeowners, both current and prospective, with respect to property maintenance, financial management/literacy, and such other matters as may be appropriate to assist them in improving their housing conditions, meeting their financial needs, and fulfilling the responsibilities of tenancy or homeownership; for program administration; and for housing counselor training.

RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE

For amendments to contracts under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s) and section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1) in State-aided, noninterest rental housing projects, \$28,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount, together with unobligated balances from recaptured amounts appropriated prior to fiscal year 2006 from terminated contracts under such sections of law, and any unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated under this heading after fiscal year 2005, shall also be available for extensions of up to

one year for expiring contracts under such sections of law.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 106, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,000,000)”.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$7,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my amendment will remove the \$7 million increase over current spending levels, this year, fiscal year 2014 funding levels, to the rental housing assistance account to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and transfer that amount to the spending reduction account.

□ 2045

I understand that times are tough nationwide. They are tough for families, they are tough for businesses, and everyone has had to cut back. Unfortunately, the fact remains that we as our Nation are in an incredible amount of debt. It is an unsustainable amount of debt.

Let me be clear, I am not asking that we cut funding for this program at all above this year's level. I am just asking that we simply hold the line—fund what we have been funding, not increase it, as proposed by this legislation.

I think it is irresponsible to continue expanding programs without being able to pay for them. We are in an economic emergency as a Nation. We are headed to an economic collapse of America if we don't stop spending money that we don't have. We have to restore fiscal sanity to Washington.

I am just asking that we hold the line on this program. Cut the \$7 million increase that is proposed. I think that is reasonable. It is not a cut over current funding; it is holding the line.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I must oppose the gentleman's amendment.

The bill funds rental housing assistance at \$28 million. This is the amount necessary to fund the 18,000 existing long-term project-based rental assistance contracts. This will ensure that these units remain available to low-income families. In fact, if the gentleman's amendment were adopted we would actually break contracts. We would not be able to fund contracts that we are legally obligated to do.

The bill's funding levels are not arbitrary. We have scrubbed these accounts. We have held hearings and made recommendations on what must be funded.

Again, I must oppose it. There are no new contracts. We are not expanding the program; we are basically paying for what we already have in this account. Again, to have this reduction, we would, in fact, break our contract.

With that, I oppose the amendment and urge a “no” vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. This account renews long-term housing assistance contracts and the number varies from year to year. The amount needed to renew these contracts depends on how many agreements HUD entered into years ago, not the number we renewed last year.

Reducing the funds in this account will threaten the viability of these units if the funding is not preserved.

I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PAYMENT TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING FEES TRUST FUND

For necessary expenses as authorized by the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.), up to \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$10,000,000 is to be derived from the Manufactured Housing Fees Trust Fund: *Provided*, That not to exceed the total amount appropriated under this heading shall be available from the general fund of the Treasury to the extent necessary to incur obligations and make expenditures pending the receipt of collections to the Fund pursuant to section 620 of such Act: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced as such collections are received during fiscal year 2015 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at zero, and fees pursuant to such section 620 shall be modified as necessary to ensure such a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation: *Provided further*, That for the dispute resolution and installation programs, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may assess and collect fees from any program participant: *Provided further*, That such collections shall be deposited into the Fund, and the Secretary, as provided herein,

may use such collections, as well as fees collected under section 620, for necessary expenses of such Act: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the requirements of section 620 of such Act, the Secretary may carry out responsibilities of the Secretary under such Act through the use of approved service providers that are paid directly by the recipients of their services.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION
MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM
ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee single family loans insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund shall not exceed \$400,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2015, obligations to make direct loans to carry out the purposes of section 204(g) of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall not exceed \$20,000,000: *Provided further*, That the foregoing amount in the previous proviso shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with sales of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund.

For administrative contract expenses of the Federal Housing Administration, \$130,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That to the extent guaranteed loan commitments exceed \$200,000,000 on or before April 1, 2015, an additional \$1,400 for administrative contract expenses shall be available for each \$1,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments (including a pro rata amount for any amount below \$1,000,000), but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed \$30,000,000.

GENERAL AND SPECIAL RISK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee loans insured under the General and Special Risk Insurance Funds, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-3 and 1735c), shall not exceed \$30,000,000,000 in total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2015, gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by sections 204(g), 207(1), 238, and 519(a) of the National Housing Act, shall not exceed \$20,000,000, which shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with the sale of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under such Act.

GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE
ASSOCIATION

GUARANTEES OF MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES
LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to issue guarantees to carry out the purposes of section 306 of the National Housing Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1721(g)), shall not exceed \$500,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That \$22,000,000 shall be available for necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Government National Mortgage Association: *Provided further*, That receipts from Commitment and Multiclass fees collected pursuant to title III of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For contracts, grants, and necessary expenses of programs of research and studies relating to housing and urban problems, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title

V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z-1 et seq.), including carrying out the functions of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under section 1(a)(1)(i) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1968, and for technical assistance, \$40,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That with respect to amounts made available under this heading, notwithstanding section 204 of this title, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements funded with philanthropic entities, other Federal agencies, or State or local governments and their agencies for research projects: *Provided further*, That with respect to the previous proviso, such partners to the cooperative agreements must contribute at least a 50 percent match toward the cost of the project: *Provided further*, That for non-competitive agreements entered into in accordance with the previous two provisos, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall comply with section 2(b) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-282, 31 U.S.C. note) in lieu of compliance with section 102(a)(4)(C) with respect to documentation of award decisions: *Provided further*, That prior to obligation of technical assistance, the Secretary shall submit a plan, for approval, to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on how it will allocate funding for this activity.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 111, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 140, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, working with housing developments in my own district, there is an interest in making sure that the tenants are informed of their rights and responsibilities. This amendment provides for informing tenants of their rights and responsibilities.

The amendment would increase funding to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Policy Development and Research Office to support efforts to inform tenants of their rights and responsibilities.

In 2012, 23.8 percent of Houstonians were living in poverty. According to the Christian Community Service Center, 17.3 percent of Houston families live below poverty. In the city of Houston, 31.3 percent of children under the age of 18 live in poverty, and 33.6 percent of children under the age of 5 live in poverty.

The amendment will increase the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Policy Development and Research funding. This amendment will support work by HUD to inform tenants of their rights and responsibility-

ties. Those who provide shelter to residents of publicly subsidized housing may own monthly family dwellings or a single home.

A relationship between the tenant and the property owner is very important to the long-term housing stability of those living in public or subsidized housing. Many residents of low-income communities may never have lived in a home of their own and may not have the knowledge or experience to know the basics regarding their obligation as tenants to abide by rental agreements or the obligation of property owners to maintain safe and pest-free housing.

It is my interest to continue to press forward for more information to the many housing developments that I have in my congressional district. I think it is important to give notice to the Department of Housing and Urban Development that a better job can be done.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read the following:

FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES

For contracts, grants, and other assistance, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, and section 561 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, as amended, \$46,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Secretary may assess and collect fees to cover the costs of the Fair Housing Training Academy, and may use such funds to provide such training: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading shall be used to lobby the executive or legislative branches of the Federal Government in connection with a specific contract, grant or loan: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$300,000 shall be available to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for the creation and promotion of translated materials and other programs that support the assistance of persons with limited English proficiency in utilizing the services provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF
CALIFORNIA

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 112, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Page 114, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 114, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is cosponsored by my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) who has been such a tremendous leader on fair housing and equal opportunity issues and civil rights issues since way before he came to Congress, but he has kept his passion and his focus on issues of fairness and justice even now to this day. So I just want to thank him for cosponsoring this amendment.

Our amendment would increase funding for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program by 10 million, offset from Information Services. I want to thank the chairman, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. PASTOR for your assistance in helping us work through this and for your commitment to fair housing.

Fair housing initiatives are a central component of our Nation's civil rights protections under the Fair Housing Act. Unfortunately, we know that despite gains, discrimination remains.

This program funds competitive grants to provide nonprofit entities for critical education and enforcement services to prevent housing discrimination based on race, ethnicity, disability, veteran status, familial status, and other factors.

In my home district, for example, in California, the Bay Area Legal Aid and Fair Housing of Marin have utilized these funds to provide critical education programs, including workshops on fair housing for domestic violence victims and investigations of discriminatory housing practices.

In 2013, private fair housing organizations investigated more than twice as many housing complaints as government agencies. At the same time, however, many fair housing organizations have had to close or reduce their staffing capacity due to continuous cuts to this program.

This program has a history of bipartisan support. And I know that my colleagues across the aisle acknowledge its vital role in ensuring that our constituents are not the subject of unfair and discriminatory practices in an increasingly competitive and uncertain housing market.

While I am very pleased that we are able to provide this supplemental funding, I must also acknowledge that the funding levels across the bill are still far too low to truly provide the affordable housing resources that our Nation sorely needs.

I want to thank again Congressman AL GREEN from Texas, Chairman LATHAM, and our ranking member, Mr. PASTOR, for your support for this amendment and, more importantly, for this important program.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Ms. LEE for her

efforts and her work in trying to restore funding.

Mr. Chairman, this does not bring it back to the FY14 funding level, but it does help. I am so grateful that Ms. LEE took the lead to get this done. She worked with the ranking member and the chair of the committee. I want to compliment and thank both of them for working with Ms. LEE to get this done.

Let me mention this about this program. The Fair Housing Initiatives Program, affectionately known as FHIP, has been of great benefit to persons who are being discriminated against, especially veterans now. We have a good many veterans who are coming back. They don't return the way they left, and they are disabled. Many times when persons are discriminating against people, they don't know that the person is a veteran because the person happens to be in a wheelchair.

This initiative allows for housing entities—NGOs—that are qualified and certified to actually do testing to ascertain whether or not this kind of invidious discrimination exists. When they do find that there is discrimination, most of the cases, about 70 percent, are resolved by way of reconciliation. There is not a lawsuit filed. There is a means by which people become educated, and they abide by the law.

This opportunity for us to continue the program, notwithstanding the fact that it is not at the Senate level, it is not at the level that the President requested, but it is at an additional \$10 million, and I am grateful to Ms. LEE for what she has done.

Ms. LEE, I compliment you, and I am grateful that you took the time to work with our colleagues to show some bipartisanship in getting this done.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your bipartisanship on this effort. Mr. Ranking Member, I thank you as well.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 112, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$150,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment seeks to raise by 50 percent the cap on funding for the Limited English Proficiency initiative under the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity section of this bill, an amount more in keeping with the historical levels on spending for this initiative.

This amendment passed by voice vote last year, and it is my hope that it will do so again this year. The Limited English Proficiency initiative within HUD is vital for ensuring that individuals who are not proficient in English are aware of their rights, are able to understand the terms of leases and other housing-related documents, and are able to receive important announcements that affect the health and safety of their households.

□ 2100

Additionally, this initiative educates HUD-assisted housing providers about their responsibilities under Federal law and HUD regulations to ensure that housing programs and activities are fully accessible to all, regardless of national origin or English proficiency.

Historically, the Limited English Proficiency initiative within HUD has been funded at \$500,000. In the first year of its existence, 2008, it received \$380,000. After that, from 2009 through 2011, it received \$500,000. Then, with the change in leadership in this House, funding has slipped to \$300,000 in recent years.

Last year, however, this House—both Democrats and Republicans—did the right thing. It voted to raise the cap for this initiative, an initiative that translates documents outlining how to become a first-time homeowner and how to avoid loan fraud and foreclosure, as well as fair housing information for disaster housing providers and survivors. I ask that we do so again here today.

I want to point out that we are not taking away from any other programs. We are simply slightly lifting the cap on this particular initiative.

We do have to realize that there are over 40 million Americans who do not speak English as their first language. This tiny program demonstrates to the American people that we have equal protection under the law, regardless of whether people are English-speaking, Spanish-speaking, or speak some other language.

Given the tiny amount of money that is involved here, this program has been extraordinarily effective. In the last year for which we have statistics, almost 30,000 people benefited for a program that cost the Federal Government only \$300,000.

I ask the majority and my friends across the aisle to consider the value of this program to every community across America, and I urge them to accept this amendment, as they did last year.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CHAFFETZ). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND
HEALTHY HOMES
LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION

For the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, as authorized by section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, \$70,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That up to \$10,000,000 of that amount shall be for the Healthy Homes Initiative, pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 that shall include research, studies, testing, and demonstration efforts, including education and outreach concerning lead-based paint poisoning and other housing-related diseases and hazards: *Provided further*, That for purposes of environmental review, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other provisions of the law that further the purposes of such Act, a grant under the Healthy Homes Initiative, or the Lead Technical Studies program under this heading or under prior appropriations Acts for such purposes under this heading, shall be considered to be funds for a special project for purposes of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND

For the development of, modifications to, and infrastructure for Department-wide and program-specific information technology systems, for the continuing operation and maintenance of both Department-wide and program-specific information systems, and for program-related maintenance activities, \$97,000,000, of which \$82,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, and of which \$15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017 for Development, Modernization and Enhancement: *Provided*, That any amounts transferred to this Fund under this Act shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That any amounts transferred to this Fund from amounts appropriated by previously enacted appropriations Acts may be used for the purposes specified under this Fund, in addition to any other information technology purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That not more than 40 percent of the funds made available under this heading for Development, Modernization and Enhancement, including development and deployment of a Next Generation Management System and development and deployment of modernized Federal Housing Administration systems may be obligated until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations and the Comptroller General of the United States a plan for expenditure that— (A) provides for all information technology investments: (i) the cost and schedule baselines with explanations for each associated variance, (ii) the status of functional and performance capabilities delivered or planned to be delivered, and (iii) mitigation strategies to address identified risks; (B) outlines activities to ensure strategic, consistent, and effective application of information technology management controls: (i) enterprise architecture, (ii) project management, (iii) investment management, and (iv) human capital management.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$124,861,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have independent authority over all personnel and acquisition issues within this office.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Fifty percent of the amounts of budget authority, or in lieu thereof 50 percent of the cash amounts associated with such budget authority, that are recaptured from projects described in section 1012(a) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1437 note) shall be rescinded or in the case of cash, shall be remitted to the Treasury, and such amounts of budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury shall be used by State housing finance agencies or local governments or local housing agencies with projects approved by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for which settlement occurred after January 1, 1992, in accordance with such section. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the Secretary may award up to 15 percent of the budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury to provide project owners with incentives to refinance their project at a lower interest rate.

SEC. 202. None of the amounts made available under this Act may be used during fiscal year 2015 to investigate or prosecute under the Fair Housing Act any otherwise lawful activity engaged in by one or more persons, including the filing or maintaining of a non-frivolous legal action, that is engaged in solely for the purpose of achieving or preventing action by a Government official or entity, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 203. Sections 203 and 209 of division C of Public Law 112-55 (125 Stat. 693-694) shall apply during fiscal year 2015 as if such sections were included in this title, except that during such fiscal year such sections shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2015” for “fiscal year 2011” and for “fiscal year 2012” each place such terms appear, and shall be amended to reflect revised delineations of statistical areas established by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(3), 31 U.S.C. 1104(d), and Executive Order 10253.

SEC. 204. Except as explicitly provided in law, any grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance made pursuant to title II of this Act shall be made on a competitive basis and in accordance with section 102 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545).

SEC. 205. Funds of the Department of Housing and Urban Development subject to the Government Corporation Control Act or section 402 of the Housing Act of 1950 shall be available, without regard to the limitations on administrative expenses, for legal services on a contract or fee basis, and for utilizing and making payment for services and facilities of the Federal National Mortgage Association, Government National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Financing Bank, Federal Reserve banks or any member thereof, Federal Home Loan banks, and any insured bank within the meaning of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1811-1).

SEC. 206. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or through a reprogramming of funds, no part of any appropriation for the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be available for any program, project or activity in excess of amounts set forth in the budget estimates submitted to Congress.

SEC. 207. Corporations and agencies of the Department of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment which are subject to the Government Corporation Control Act are hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of such Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for 2015 for such corporation or agency except as hereinafter provided: *Provided*, That collections of these corporations and agencies may be used for new loan or mortgage purchase commitments only to the extent expressly provided for in this Act (unless such loans are in support of other forms of assistance provided for in this or prior appropriations Acts), except that this proviso shall not apply to the mortgage insurance or guaranty operations of these corporations, or where loans or mortgage purchases are necessary to protect the financial interest of the United States Government.

SEC. 208. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding all uncommitted, unobligated, recaptured and excess funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit additional, updated budget information to these Committees upon request.

SEC. 209. The President’s formal budget request for fiscal year 2016, as well as the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s congressional budget justifications to be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall use the identical account and sub-account structure provided under this Act.

SEC. 210. A public housing agency or such other entity that administers Federal housing assistance for the Housing Authority of the county of Los Angeles, California, the States of Alaska, Iowa, and Mississippi shall not be required to include a resident of public housing or a recipient of assistance provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 on the board of directors or a similar governing board of such agency or entity as required under section (2)(b) of such Act. Each public housing agency or other entity that administers Federal housing assistance under section 8 for the Housing Authority of the county of Los Angeles, California and the States of Alaska, Iowa and Mississippi that chooses not to include a resident of public housing or a recipient of section 8 assistance on the board of directors or a similar governing board shall establish an advisory board of not less than six residents of public housing or recipients of section 8 assistance to provide advice and comment to the public housing agency or other administering entity on issues related to public housing and section 8. Such advisory board shall meet not less than quarterly.

SEC. 211. No funds provided under this title may be used for an audit of the Government National Mortgage Association that makes applicable requirements under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

SEC. 212. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to the conditions listed under this section, for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may authorize the transfer of some or all project-based assistance, debt held or insured by the Secretary and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions if any, associated with

one or more multifamily housing project or projects to another multifamily housing project or projects.

(b) PHASED TRANSFERS.—Transfers of project-based assistance under this section may be done in phases to accommodate the financing and other requirements related to rehabilitating or constructing the project or projects to which the assistance is transferred, to ensure that such project or projects meet the standards under subsection (c).

(c) The transfer authorized in subsection (a) is subject to the following conditions:

(1) NUMBER AND BEDROOM SIZE OF UNITS.—

(A) For occupied units in the transferring project: the number of low-income and very low-income units and the configuration (i.e. bedroom size) provided by the transferring project shall be no less than when transferred to the receiving project or projects and the net dollar amount of Federal assistance provided to the transferring project shall remain the same in the receiving project or projects.

(B) For unoccupied units in the transferring project: the Secretary may authorize a reduction in the number of dwelling units in the receiving project or projects to allow for a reconfiguration of bedroom sizes to meet current market demands, as determined by the Secretary and provided there is no increase in the project-based assistance budget authority.

(2) The transferring project shall, as determined by the Secretary, be either physically obsolete or economically nonviable.

(3) The receiving project or projects shall meet or exceed applicable physical standards established by the Secretary.

(4) The owner or mortgagor of the transferring project shall notify and consult with the tenants residing in the transferring project and provide a certification of approval by all appropriate local governmental officials.

(5) The tenants of the transferring project who remain eligible for assistance to be provided by the receiving project or projects shall not be required to vacate their units in the transferring project or projects until new units in the receiving project are available for occupancy.

(6) The Secretary determines that this transfer is in the best interest of the tenants.

(7) If either the transferring project or the receiving project or projects meets the condition specified in subsection (d)(2)(A), any lien on the receiving project resulting from additional financing obtained by the owner shall be subordinate to any FHA-insured mortgage lien transferred to, or placed on, such project by the Secretary, except that the Secretary may waive this requirement upon determination that such a waiver is necessary to facilitate the financing of acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of the receiving project or projects.

(8) If the transferring project meets the requirements of subsection (d)(2), the owner or mortgagor of the receiving project or projects shall execute and record either a continuation of the existing use agreement or a new use agreement for the project where, in either case, any use restrictions on such agreement are of no lesser duration than the existing use restrictions.

(9) The transfer does not increase the cost (as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended) of any FHA-insured mortgage, except to the extent that appropriations are provided in advance for the amount of any such increased cost.

(d) For purposes of this section—

(1) the terms “low-income” and “very low-income” shall have the meanings provided

by the statute and/or regulations governing the program under which the project is insured or assisted;

(2) the term “multifamily housing project” means housing that meets one of the following conditions—

(A) housing that is subject to a mortgage insured under the National Housing Act;

(B) housing that has project-based assistance attached to the structure including projects undergoing mark to market debt restructuring under the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Housing Act;

(C) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 as amended by section 801 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(D) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as such section existed before the enactment of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(E) housing that is assisted under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act; or

(F) housing or vacant land that is subject to a use agreement;

(3) the term “project-based assistance” means—

(A) assistance provided under section 8(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937;

(B) assistance for housing constructed or substantially rehabilitated pursuant to assistance provided under section 8(b)(2) of such Act (as such section existed immediately before October 1, 1983);

(C) rent supplement payments under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965;

(D) interest reduction payments under section 236 and/or additional assistance payments under section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing Act;

(E) assistance payments made under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959; and

(F) assistance payments made under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act;

(4) the term “receiving project or projects” means the multifamily housing project or projects to which some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions are to be transferred;

(5) the term “transferring project” means the multifamily housing project which is transferring some or all of the project-based assistance, debt and the statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions to the receiving project or projects; and

(6) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(e) PUBLIC NOTICE AND RESEARCH REPORT.—

(1) The Secretary shall publish by notice in the Federal Register the terms and conditions, including criteria for HUD approval, of transfers pursuant to this section no later than 30 days before the effective date of such notice.

(2) The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the transfer authority under this section, including the effect of such transfers on the operational efficiency, contract rents, physical and financial conditions, and long-term preservation of the affected properties.

SEC. 213. (a) No assistance shall be provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to any individual who—

(1) is enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education (as defined under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002));

(2) is under 24 years of age;

(3) is not a veteran;

(4) is unmarried;

(5) does not have a dependent child;

(6) is not a person with disabilities, as such term is defined in section 3(b)(3)(E) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(E)) and was not receiving assistance under such section 8 as of November 30, 2005; and

(7) is not otherwise individually eligible, or has parents who, individually or jointly, are not eligible, to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(b) For purposes of determining the eligibility of a person to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), any financial assistance (in excess of amounts received for tuition and any other required fees and charges) that an individual receives under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), from private sources, or an institution of higher education (as defined under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall be considered income to that individual, except for a person over the age of 23 with dependent children.

SEC. 214. The funds made available for Native Alaskans under the heading “Native American Housing Block Grants” in title II of this Act shall be allocated to the same Native Alaskan housing block grant recipients that received funds in fiscal year 2005.

SEC. 215. Notwithstanding the limitation in the first sentence of section 255(g) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-20(g)), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may, until September 30, 2015, insure and enter into commitments to insure mortgages under such section 255.

SEC. 216. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in fiscal year 2015, in managing and disposing of any multifamily property that is owned or has a mortgage held by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and during the process of foreclosure on any property with a contract for rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 or other Federal programs, the Secretary shall maintain any rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and other programs that are attached to any dwelling units in the property. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that such a multifamily property owned or held by the Secretary is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of (1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (“MAHRAA”) and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may, in consultation with the tenants of that property, contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance. The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect prior to foreclosure, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for imminent major threats to health and safety after written notice to and informed consent of the affected tenants and use of other available

remedies, such as partial abatements or receivership. After disposition of any multifamily property described under this section, the contract and allowable rent levels on such properties shall be subject to the requirements under section 524 of MAHRAA.

SEC. 217. The commitment authority funded by fees as provided under the heading "Community Development Loan Guarantees Program Account" may be used to guarantee, or make commitments to guarantee, notes, or other obligations issued by any State on behalf of non-entitlement communities in the State in accordance with the requirements of section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974: *Provided*, That any State receiving such a guarantee or commitment shall distribute all funds subject to such guarantee to the units of general local government in non-entitlement areas that received the commitment.

SEC. 218. Public housing agencies that own and operate 400 or fewer public housing units may elect to be exempt from any asset management requirement imposed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in connection with the operating fund rule: *Provided*, That an agency seeking a discontinuance of a reduction of subsidy under the operating fund formula shall not be exempt from asset management requirements.

SEC. 219. With respect to the use of amounts provided in this Act and in future Acts for the operation, capital improvement and management of public housing as authorized by sections 9(d) and 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d) and (e)), the Secretary shall not impose any requirement or guideline relating to asset management that restricts or limits in any way the use of capital funds for central office costs pursuant to section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(g)(1), (2)): *Provided*, That a public housing agency may not use capital funds authorized under section 9(d) for activities that are eligible under section 9(e) for assistance with amounts from the operating fund in excess of the amounts permitted under section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2).

SEC. 220. No official or employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be designated as an allotment holder unless the Office of the Chief Financial Officer has determined that such allotment holder has implemented an adequate system of funds control and has received training in funds control procedures and directives. The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that there is a trained allotment holder for each HUD sub-office under the accounts "Executive Offices" and "Administrative Support Offices," as well as each account receiving appropriations for "Program Office Salaries and Expenses" within the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 221. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall report annually to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the status of all section 8 project-based housing, including the number of all project-based units by region as well as an analysis of all federally subsidized housing being refinanced under the Mark-to-Market program. The Secretary shall in the report identify all existing units maintained by region as section 8 project-based units and all project-based units that have opted out of section 8 or have otherwise been eliminated as section 8 project-based units. The Secretary shall identify in detail and by project the most likely reasons for any units which opted out or otherwise were lost as section 8 project-based units. Such analysis

shall include a review of the most likely impact of the loss of any subsidized units in that housing marketplace.

SEC. 222. The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall, for fiscal year 2015, notify the public through the Federal Register and other means, as determined appropriate, of the issuance of a notice of the availability of assistance or notice of funding availability (NOFA) for any program or discretionary fund administered by the Secretary that is to be competitively awarded. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2015, the Secretary may make the NOFA available only on the Internet at the appropriate Government Web site or through other electronic media, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 223. Payment of attorney fees in program-related litigation must be paid from individual program office personnel benefits and compensation funding. The annual budget submission for program office personnel benefit and compensation funding must include program-related litigation costs for attorney fees as a separate line item request.

SEC. 224. The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to transfer up to 5 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less, of the funds appropriated for any office funded under the heading "Administrative Support Offices" to any other office funded under such heading: *Provided*, That no appropriation for any office funded under the heading "Administrative Support Offices" shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less, without prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary is authorized to transfer up to 5 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less, of the funds appropriated for any account funded under the general heading "Program Office Salaries and Expenses" to any other account funded under such heading: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any account funded under the general heading "Program Office Salaries and Expenses" shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less, without prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may transfer funds made available for salaries and expenses between any office funded under the heading "Administrative Support Offices" and any account funded under the general heading "Program Office Salaries and Expenses", but only with the prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 225. The Disaster Housing Assistance Programs, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, shall be considered a "program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development" under section 904 of the McKinney Act for the purpose of income verifications and matching.

SEC. 226. (a) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall take the required actions under subsection (b) when a multifamily housing project with a section 8 contract or contract for similar project-based assistance:

(1) receives a Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) score of 30 or less; or
(2) receives a REAC score between 31 and 59 and:

(A) fails to certify in writing to HUD within 60 days that all deficiencies have been corrected; or

(B) receives consecutive scores of less than 60 on REAC inspections.

Such requirements shall apply to insured and noninsured projects with assistance attached to the units under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), but do not apply to such units assisted under section 8(o)(13) (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)) or to public housing units assisted with capital or operating funds under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g).

(b) The Secretary shall take the following required actions as authorized under subsection (a)—

(1) The Secretary shall notify the owner and provide an opportunity for response within 30 days. If the violations remain, the Secretary shall develop a Compliance, Disposition and Enforcement Plan within 60 days, with a specified timetable for correcting all deficiencies. The Secretary shall provide notice of the Plan to the owner, tenants, the local government, any mortgagees, and any contract administrator.

(2) At the end of the term of the Compliance, Disposition and Enforcement Plan, if the owner fails to fully comply with such plan, the Secretary may require immediate replacement of project management with a management agent approved by the Secretary, and shall take one or more of the following actions, and provide additional notice of those actions to the owner and the parties specified above:

(A) impose civil money penalties;

(B) abate the section 8 contract, including partial abatement, as determined by the Secretary, until all deficiencies have been corrected;

(C) pursue transfer of the project to an owner, approved by the Secretary under established procedures, which will be obligated to promptly make all required repairs and to accept renewal of the assistance contract as long as such renewal is offered; or

(D) seek judicial appointment of a receiver to manage the property and cure all project deficiencies or seek a judicial order of specific performance requiring the owner to cure all project deficiencies.

(c) The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for imminent major threats to health and safety after written notice to and informed consent of the affected tenants and use of other remedies set forth above. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that the property is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of (1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 ("MAHRAA") and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may, in consultation with the tenants of that property, contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance. The Secretary shall report semi-annually on all properties covered by this section that are assessed through the Real Estate Assessment Center and have physical inspection scores of less than 30 or have consecutive physical inspection scores of less than 60. The report shall include:

(1) The enforcement actions being taken to address such conditions, including imposition of civil money penalties and termination of subsidies, and identify properties that have such conditions multiple times; and

(2) Actions that the Department of Housing and Urban Development is taking to protect tenants of such identified properties.

SEC. 227. None of the funds made available by this Act, or any other Act, for purposes authorized under section 8 (only with respect to the tenant-based rental assistance program) and section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.), may be used by any public housing agency for any amount of salary, for the chief executive officer of which, or any other official or employee of which, that exceeds the annual rate of basic pay payable for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule at any time during any public housing agency fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 228. None of the funds in this Act may be available for the doctoral dissertation research grant program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 229. None of the funds in this Act provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development may be used to make a grant award unless the Secretary notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project, State, locality, housing authority, tribe, nonprofit organization, or other entity selected to receive a grant award is announced by the Department or its offices.

SEC. 230. Section 579 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act (MAHRAA) of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note) is amended by striking "October 1, 2015" each place it appears and inserting in lieu thereof "October 1, 2016".

SEC. 231. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require or enforce the Physical Needs Assessment (PNA).

SEC. 232. None of the funds made available by this Act nor any receipts or amounts collected under any Federal Housing Administration program may be used to implement the Homeowners Armed with Knowledge (HAWK) program.

SEC. 233. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used by the Federal Housing Administration, the Government National Mortgage Administration, or the Department of Housing and Urban Development to insure, securitize, or establish a Federal guarantee of any mortgage or mortgage backed security that refinances or otherwise replaces a mortgage that has been subject to eminent domain condemnation or seizure, by a state, municipality, or any other political subdivision of a state.

This title may be cited as the "Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2015".

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HIMES

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 140, after line 9, insert the following new section:

SEC. 234. (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF BUDGET-NEUTRAL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR MULTIFAMILY HOUSING ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall establish a demonstration program under which, during

the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, and ending on September 30, 2017, the Secretary may enter into budget-neutral, performance-based agreements that result in a reduction in energy or water costs with such entities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate under which the entities shall carry out projects for energy or water conservation improvements at not more than 20,000 residential units in multifamily buildings participating in—

(1) the project-based rental assistance program under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), other than assistance provided under section 8(o) of that Act;

(2) the supportive housing for the elderly program under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q); or

(3) the supportive housing for persons with disabilities program under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) PAYMENTS CONTINGENT ON SAVINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to an entity a payment under an agreement under this section only during applicable years for which an energy or water cost savings is achieved with respect to the applicable multifamily portfolio of properties, as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with subparagraph (B).

(B) PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Each agreement under this section shall include a pay-for-success provision—

(I) that will serve as a payment threshold for the term of the agreement; and

(II) pursuant to which the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall share a percentage of the savings at a level determined by the Secretary that is sufficient to cover the administrative costs of carrying out this section.

(ii) LIMITATIONS.—A payment made by the Secretary under an agreement under this section shall—

(I) be contingent on documented utility savings; and

(II) not exceed the utility savings achieved by the date of the payment, and not previously paid, as a result of the improvements made under the agreement.

(C) THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION.—Savings payments made by the Secretary under this section shall be based on a measurement and verification protocol that includes at least—

(i) establishment of a weather-normalized and occupancy-normalized utility consumption baseline established pre-retrofit;

(ii) annual third-party confirmation of actual utility consumption and cost for owner-paid utilities;

(iii) annual third-party validation of the tenant utility allowances in effect during the applicable year and vacancy rates for each unit type; and

(iv) annual third-party determination of savings to the Secretary.

(2) TERM.—The term of an agreement under this section shall be not longer than 12 years.

(3) ENTITY ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall—

(A) establish a competitive process for entering into agreements under this section; and

(B) enter into such agreements only with entities that demonstrate significant experience relating to—

(i) financing and operating properties receiving assistance under a program described in subsection (a);

(ii) oversight of energy and water conservation programs, including oversight of contractors; and

(iii) raising capital for energy and water conservation improvements from charitable organizations or private investors.

(4) GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY.—Each agreement entered into under this section shall provide for the inclusion of properties with the greatest feasible regional and State variance.

(c) PLAN AND REPORTS.—

(1) PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed plan for the implementation of this section.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(A) conduct an evaluation of the program under this section; and

(B) submit to Congress a report describing each evaluation conducted under subparagraph (A).

(d) FUNDING.—For each fiscal year during which an agreement under this section is in effect, the Secretary may use to carry out this section any funds appropriated to the Secretary for the renewal of contracts under a program described in subsection (a).

Mr. HIMES (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by thanking my colleagues, Mr. Ross of Florida and Mr. DELANEY of Maryland, for cosponsoring this amendment.

I would like to briefly outline the amendment by saying that this is an amendment that is a bipartisan proposal that has been included in the Senate T-HUD appropriations and the bipartisan Shaheen-Portman energy bill.

It was also included in the President's budget, and more than 24 separate groups support this amendment. It presents no risk to the Federal Government, is budget neutral, and actually has the potential to reduce utility costs for HUD up to \$7 billion annually.

In brief, HUD-assisted properties are generally older stock, with inefficient energy and water usage. There are lot of barriers to improving that situation and, therefore, realizing those savings.

Under the pilot program proposed by this amendment, an intermediary will contract with HUD or with property owners to produce energy and water savings in exchange for a share of those ongoing savings.

Relying on this contract, the intermediary will raise the capital to pay

for energy and water conservation for the affected property. This private capital would be used to pay energy efficiency experts, such as NAESCO, to perform energy and water efficiency upgrades in HUD-assisted housing, such as housing for seniors and people with disabilities.

Multifamily building owners would not take on any risk and would not need to spend any capital. The bill leverages the private sector to more effectively direct government resources and to ensure the best outcomes for the taxpayer.

Mr. Chairman, we may not agree on some things in the underlying bill, but smart, innovative approaches to financing energy savings improvements are simply common sense.

I hope the chairman and the ranking member will work with me and my fellow bipartisan cosponsors to ensure that this measure is ultimately enacted into law.

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

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states, in pertinent part:

“An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.”

The amendment imposes additional duties.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Hearing none, the Chair finds that this amendment includes language imparting direction. The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained and the amendment is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TITLE III—RELATED AGENCIES

ACCESS BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Access Board, as authorized by section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, \$7,548,000: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, there may be credited to this appropriation funds received for publications and training expenses.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$45,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, to be derived from assessments collected from the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the Federal Home Loan Banks under section 1106 of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Maritime Commission as authorized by section 201(d) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (46 U.S.C. 307), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343(b); and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902, \$25,499,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$24,499,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That the Inspector General may enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern the obtaining of such services within the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That the Inspector General may select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office of Inspector General, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern such selections, appointments, and employment within Amtrak: *Provided further*, That concurrent with the President's budget request for fiscal year 2016, the Inspector General shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a budget request for fiscal year 2016 in similar format and substance to those submitted by executive agencies of the Federal Government.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF
GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 141, line 23, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would reduce Amtrak's Office of the Inspector General by \$1 million and increase the spending reduction account by that same amount.

□ 2115

This reduction would eliminate a proposed increase to that account, keeping the funding level just like it is today for the coming year.

I spoke about Amtrak's failings at length during the consideration of the first title of this bill.

Amtrak consistently runs at a massive operating deficit. The long-distance routes are continually in the red, and the food and beverage service only nets a 65 percent return on what it spends despite paying its staff six-figure salaries, which is way above what the average American can expect to make in salary.

My colleagues who support Amtrak—and maybe even some who don't—will likely say that, if any part of this embattled entity deserves more funding, it is the inspector general. And, yes, the Office of the Inspector General has rooted out some fraud, and it has discovered some significant overpayments, but, Mr. Chairman, I would submit that health benefits fraud and overpayments are things that are just the tip of a very large and very obvious iceberg.

It is not some great mystery why Amtrak is hemorrhaging money. The long-distance routes lose incredible amounts of money, and taxpayers are being bilked for this tremendous amount of loss. It is breathtaking, really, that we continue to turn a blind eye to more than a half a billion dollars lost year after year just to sustain these routes which carry fewer than 5 million passengers annually. That number may sound large, but meanwhile, in 2012, there were more than 815 million ticketed airline passengers in the United States.

How about the food and beverage service on Amtrak trains?

Over the last 5 years, this service has resulted in nearly \$400 million in losses. Yes, the Office of the Inspector General does decent work, and I commend the Office for exposing and admitting Amtrak's history of cooking its books to make the losses sustained by these long-distance routes and the food and beverage service look slightly less awful than they actually are; but in this time of fiscal emergency, I think it would be prudent to tell the Amtrak OIG to work on the obvious issues first. Take care of the big problems before hiring new staff to look for new issues that are dwarfed by what we already know.

I urge the support of my amendment, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I am in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

As you know, one of the very important functions of this committee is oversight—ensuring agencies under our purview are effectively and efficiently managed.

The bill provides the Amtrak OIG with \$25 million for oversight studies and investigations into fraud, waste, and abuse at Amtrak. It is through

these investigations that the Amtrak OIG has helped improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of Amtrak's programs and operations.

For example, Amtrak OIG developed a program that has identified improper or overpayments to the tune of \$91.3 million. Amtrak has collected some of this back, which has saved taxpayer money. The impact of sequestration and unanticipated rail employee benefit cost increases wreaked havoc on Amtrak OIG and forced them to curtail or to suspend work on important initiatives and investigations. Amtrak needs more oversight, not less.

I appreciate the gentleman for pointing out all of the problems at Amtrak, but the only people there to fix it are in the OIG office, so I think to reduce funding for that would not be in the best interest. The bill's funding levels are not arbitrary. We have scrubbed these accounts. We have held hearings and have made recommendations on what should be funded and where increases or reductions need to be.

For those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I urge a "no" vote on the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the National Transportation Safety Board, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for a GS-15; uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901-5902), \$103,000,000, of which not to exceed \$2,000 may be used for official reception and representation expenses. The amounts made available to the National Transportation Safety Board in this Act include amounts necessary to make lease payments on an obligation incurred in fiscal year 2001 for a capital lease.

NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION
PAYMENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD
REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

For payment to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for use in neighborhood reinvestment activities, as authorized by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101-8107), \$132,000,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall be for a multi-family rental housing program: *Provided*, That in addition, \$50,000,000 shall be made available until expended to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for mortgage foreclosure mitigation activities, under the following terms and conditions:

(1) The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation ("NRC") shall make grants to counseling intermediaries approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (with match to be determined by the NRC based on affordability and the economic conditions of an area; a match also may be waived by the NRC based on the aforementioned conditions) to provide mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance primarily to States and areas with high rates of defaults and foreclosures to help eliminate the default and foreclosure of mortgages of owner-occupied single-family homes that are at risk of such foreclosure. Other than areas with high rates of defaults and foreclosures, grants may also be provided to approved counseling intermediaries based on a geographic analysis of the Nation by the NRC which determines where there is a prevalence of mortgages that are risky and likely to fail, including any trends for mortgages that are likely to default and face foreclosure. A State Housing Finance Agency may also be eligible where the State Housing Finance Agency meets all the requirements under this paragraph. A HUD-approved counseling intermediary shall meet certain mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance counseling requirements, as determined by the NRC, and shall be approved by HUD or the NRC as meeting these requirements.

(2) Mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance shall only be made available to homeowners of owner-occupied homes with mortgages in default or in danger of default. These mortgages shall likely be subject to a foreclosure action and homeowners will be provided such assistance that shall consist of activities that are likely to prevent foreclosures and result in the long-term affordability of the mortgage retained pursuant to such activity or another positive outcome for the homeowner. No funds made available under this paragraph may be provided directly to lenders or homeowners to discharge outstanding mortgage balances or for any other direct debt reduction payments.

(3) The use of mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance by approved counseling intermediaries and State Housing Finance Agencies shall involve a reasonable analysis of the borrower's financial situation, an evaluation of the current value of the property that is subject to the mortgage, counseling regarding the assumption of the mortgage by another non-Federal party, counseling regarding the possible purchase of the mortgage by a non-Federal third party, counseling and advice of all likely restructuring and refinancing strategies or the approval of a work-out strategy by all interested parties.

(4) NRC may provide up to 15 percent of the total funds under this paragraph to its own charter members with expertise in foreclosure prevention counseling, subject to a certification by the NRC that the procedures for selection do not consist of any procedures or activities that could be construed as an unacceptable conflict of interest or have the appearance of impropriety.

(5) HUD-approved counseling entities and State Housing Finance Agencies receiving funds under this paragraph shall have demonstrated experience in successfully working with financial institutions as well as borrowers facing default, delinquency and foreclosure as well as documented counseling capacity, outreach capacity, past successful performance and positive outcomes with documented counseling plans (including post mortgage foreclosure mitigation counseling), loan workout agreements and loan modification agreements. NRC may use other criteria

to demonstrate capacity in underserved areas.

(6) Of the total amount made available under this paragraph, up to \$2,500,000 may be made available to build the mortgage foreclosure and default mitigation counseling capacity of counseling intermediaries through NRC training courses with HUD-approved counseling intermediaries and their partners, except that private financial institutions that participate in NRC training shall pay market rates for such training.

(7) Of the total amount made available under this paragraph, up to 5 percent may be used for associated administrative expenses for the NRC to carry out activities provided under this section.

(8) Of the total amount made available under this paragraph, up to \$4,000,000 may be used for wind-down and closeout of the mortgage foreclosure mitigation activities program.

(9) Mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance grants may include a budget for outreach and advertising, and training, as determined by the NRC.

(10) The NRC shall continue to report bi-annually to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations as well as the Senate Banking Committee and House Financial Services Committee on its efforts to mitigate mortgage default.

UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON
HOMELESSNESS
OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness in carrying out the functions pursuant to title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, \$3,500,000.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 401. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for the planning or execution of any program to pay the expenses of, or otherwise compensate, non-Federal parties intervening in regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings funded in this Act.

SEC. 402. None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, nor may any be transferred to other appropriations, unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 403. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 404. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for any employee training that—

(1) does not meet identified needs for knowledge, skills, and abilities bearing directly upon the performance of official duties;

(2) contains elements likely to induce high levels of emotional response or psychological stress in some participants;

(3) does not require prior employee notification of the content and methods to be used in the training and written end of course evaluation;

(4) contains any methods or content associated with religious or quasi-religious belief

systems or “new age” belief systems as defined in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice N-915.022, dated September 2, 1988; or

(5) is offensive to, or designed to change, participants’ personal values or lifestyle outside the workplace.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict, or otherwise preclude an agency from conducting training bearing directly upon the performance of official duties.

SEC. 405. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, none of the funds provided in this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2015, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees and available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

(1) creates a new program;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by the Congress;

(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by either the House or Senate Committees on Appropriations for a different purpose;

(5) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;

(6) reduces existing programs, projects, or activities by \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or

(7) creates, reorganizes, or restructures a branch, division, office, bureau, board, commission, agency, administration, or department different from the budget justifications submitted to the Committees on Appropriations or the table accompanying the explanatory statement accompanying this Act, whichever is more detailed, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency funded by this Act shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House of Representatives to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the report shall include:

(A) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the prior year enacted level, the President’s budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(B) a delineation in the table for each appropriation and its respective prior year enacted level by object class and program, project, and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriation; and

(C) an identification of items of special congressional interest: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated or limited for salaries and expenses for an agency shall be reduced by \$100,000 per day for each day after the required date that the report has not been submitted to the Congress.

SEC. 406. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2015 from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2015 in this Act, shall remain available through September 30, 2016,

for each such account for the purposes authorized: *Provided*, That a request shall be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for approval prior to the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That these requests shall be made in compliance with reprogramming guidelines under section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 407. No funds in this Act may be used to support any Federal, State, or local projects that seek to use the power of eminent domain, unless eminent domain is employed only for a public use: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, public use shall not be construed to include economic development that primarily benefits private entities: *Provided further*, That any use of funds for mass transit, railroad, airport, seaport or highway projects as well as utility projects which benefit or serve the general public (including energy-related, communication-related, water-related and wastewater-related infrastructure), other structures designated for use by the general public or which have other common-carrier or public-utility functions that serve the general public and are subject to regulation and oversight by the government, and projects for the removal of an immediate threat to public health and safety or brownfield as defined in the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfield Revitalization Act (Public Law 107-118) shall be considered a public use for purposes of eminent domain.

SEC. 408. All Federal agencies and departments that are funded under this Act shall issue a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on all sole-source contracts by no later than July 30, 2015. Such report shall include the contractor, the amount of the contract and the rationale for using a sole-source contract.

SEC. 409. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 410. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to pay the salary for any person filling a position, other than a temporary position, formerly held by an employee who has left to enter the Armed Forces of the United States and has satisfactorily completed his or her period of active military or naval service, and has within 90 days after his or her release from such service or from hospitalization continuing after discharge for a period of not more than 1 year, made application for restoration to his or her former position and has been certified by the Office of Personnel Management as still qualified to perform the duties of his or her former position and has not been restored thereto.

SEC. 411. No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (41 U.S.C. 10a-10c, popularly known as the “Buy American Act”).

SEC. 412. No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act shall be made available to any person or entity that has been convicted of violating the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a-10c).

SEC. 413. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for first-class airline accommodations in contravention of sections 301-10.122 and 301-10.123 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 414. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a con-

tract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 415. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation with any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 416. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is \$0.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. WATERS

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. 4 _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require the relocation, or to carry out any required relocation, of any asset management positions of the Office of Multifamily Housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment that will continue to ensure that the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Multifamily staff remains locally based, connected to communities and on the ground to serve as the eyes and ears of law-makers.

Specifically, this amendment would prohibit HUD from using any of the funds appropriated by this bill for the Multifamily Housing transformation initiative, which is designed to relocate asset management staff and to restructure HUD’s Multifamily field offices nationwide.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would effectively stop HUD from closing any of the offices where asset management staff are currently located.

When HUD announced its plans for a major restructuring of Multifamily

field offices nationwide, I was deeply concerned. Under the plan, HUD will go from 50 Multifamily offices down to 12, with only five of them being designated as “regional centers.” The shortcomings of this plan are not more obvious than in my home district, where a decision was made to relocate the Los Angeles field office—one of the busiest hubs in the country. If undeterred, this plan would close the Los Angeles office, uproot its entire staff, and relocate its operations to another regional center, which would now be responsible for more than double its current workload and would be facing the daunting task of serving 73 million people in 14 States across 1.8 million square miles.

HUD promises that this plan will achieve significant savings without impacting program delivery. However, after careful review, I remain skeptical that HUD will be able to deliver on this promise. I join advocates, industry stakeholders and affected employees in expressing my continued, serious concern over the implications of this reorganization, and my concerns are numerous.

First, HUD’s plan does not seem to acknowledge the critical importance and value of having staff who are living and working in the communities they are serving. There are significant differences among local housing markets, and an awareness of each region’s unique characteristics is essential to the work of the Multifamily Housing office.

Second, reorganization would adversely affect the delivery of services by reducing the staff’s ability to effectively respond to unique local concerns and to remain connected to community leaders. Staff would have less interaction with owners and managers, and responsive walk-in assistance would be eliminated for thousands of people who rely on Multifamily offices.

California was one of the hardest hit States by the financial collapse, and too many families suffered from the subsequent wave of foreclosures. With our housing market still struggling to recover, we cannot afford to undercut what little progress we have made with a radical overhaul of HUD’s infrastructure.

I, for one, am still struggling to understand how this plan will save money while also preserving the quality of services delivered, and I have yet to receive satisfactory answers from HUD regarding my concerns. That is why I have been—and I remain—a vocal opponent of HUD’s Multifamily transformation in its entirety. Today, I am urging HUD to more carefully consider the details and full implications of its plan.

Although this amendment only addresses some of my concerns and would not stop the transformation altogether, it would codify the agreement between HUD and appropriators to

keep asset management staff on site and to leave all existing Multifamily offices open. Moreover, it reflects language that just passed the Senate last week. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote “aye” on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of Transportation to authorize a person—

(1) to operate an unmanned aircraft system in the national airspace system for the purpose, in whole or in part, of using the unmanned aircraft system as a weapon or to deliver a weapon against a person or property; or

(2) to manufacture, sell, or distribute an unmanned aircraft system, or a component thereof, for use in the national airspace system as a weapon or to deliver a weapon against a person or property.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman’s amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 2130

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is similar to one that I brought to the floor of the House 2 years ago. During that 2 years, there has been a lot of discussion about the use of unmanned aircraft, commonly referred to as drones, in the U.S. national airspace.

The constitutional protections that are important to so many of us can be infringed upon without constant vigilance to prevent abuse of such drones. Until recently, it was believed that the use of drones in the United States airspace was limited to surveillance. That is no longer the case.

To date, at least 17 police departments and sheriffs’ offices across the country have filed certificates of authorization with the FAA to be able to use a drone. Police chiefs and sheriffs in districts around the country have applied to the FAA for a certificate of authorization to use a drone in the national airspace.

Some departments might be using the drones for surveillance. However, others have announced their intention to take the drones they are currently using and attach a weapons platform to patrol their jurisdictions.

Further, over the past few years, the Obama administration’s policy regard-

ing drones has been cryptic. For instance, it is still not clear whether the President believes that he has the authority to kill an American citizen on American soil. This amendment would put an end to that ambiguity.

This amendment does not affect the use of armed drones in a war zone. Armed drones have been used with precision and success to seek out the enemy hiding in places where ground troops would have difficulty going.

But placing an unmanned drone over the skies of the United States is not only ill-advised, it flies in the face of the sincerely-held constitutional protections that we all hold dear.

This amendment would prevent the Secretary of Transportation and the head of the FAA from approving any application to use an unmanned aircraft in the national airspace for the purpose of arming or weaponizing that aircraft.

It does not affect surveillance. It does not affect weaponized drones being used outside the United States airspace in a war zone.

In my opinion, this is a road that we should not travel. It is a classic example of the oft-used quote by Benjamin Franklin: “Those who would give up liberty to purchase safety may deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

It is an important provision, and I encourage the chairman of the subcommittee to consider it to allow it to come to a vote.

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

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

“An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.”

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I wish to be heard on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. BURGESS. With all affection and reverence for the chairman of the subcommittee, this issue has remained unresolved for the last 2 years. It was unresolved in the FAA reauthorization that passed the House 2 years ago. It has been unresolved in rulemaking by the agency.

This is an opportunity, through the limitation amendment in the appropriations bill, to prevent the type of activity that I described in the offering memorandum. I think it is appropriate. I think the time is now for us to take

this action for the protection of our citizens.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

As the Chair ruled on June 27, 2012, the amendment violates clause 2 of rule XXI. The point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Nevada is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Chairman, this bill appropriates \$40 million less to the Community Development Block Grant program in fiscal year 2015 than it did last year.

I would have offered an amendment to maintain CDBG funding at last year's levels, but we know there is insufficient funding throughout this bill due to the budget caps.

The CDBG program provides direct grants to 1,209 State and local governments. Since the start of the program in 1974, CDBG has invested over \$135 billion in local economies, creating jobs, supporting local businesses, improving infrastructure, providing housing—including housing repairs and home ownership assistance—and services to low-income veterans, seniors, children, special-needs populations and working families.

The CDBG program grows local economies and improves the quality of lives for low and moderate-income citizens.

Over the past 10 years, CDBG-related funding is estimated to have sustained 400,000 jobs in local economies across the country. In 2012 alone, nearly 21,800 permanent jobs were created or retained using CDBG funds, and more than 32.5 million people benefited from CDBG-funded public facilities.

The total amount appropriated to CDBG has declined almost every year since 2000. When measured in inflation-adjusted constant dollars, total program funding declined by 46.4 percent since fiscal year 2000.

The CDBG program is essential for the functioning of more than 1,200 cities and counties of all shapes and sizes across the country, and there continues to be an increased need for investment in job creation, essential services for vulnerable populations, and economic and infrastructure development.

It is unfortunate that, due to an insufficient allocation of funds for projects throughout this bill, we must make cuts to vital programs like CDBG. We need to stop these cuts to our communities.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to speak in favor of the amendment that was proposed by the ranking member, Ms. WATERS, in support of the Multifamily Housing Office, which contributes to the development and preserva-

tion of healthy neighborhoods and communities. A core part of its mission is to maintain and expand home ownership, rental housing, and health care opportunities.

In an effort to achieve cost savings, HUD plans to consolidate 50 multifamily field offices organized into 17 hubs into just 12 locations organized into five regions. This would result in a severe loss of HUD's local presence in communities throughout the United States.

This means that for constituents living in Las Vegas, the closest hub location would be over 500 miles away, and that hub would simultaneously be responsible for 73 million people in 14 States. Hundreds of HUD employees would be forced to relocate, accept a buyout, or take early retirement. This drastic consolidation of HUD locations would compromise the quality of services that HUD's multifamily office provides.

It is, therefore, this reason that would create a problem at a project site in my district. There would be no local HUD employees to monitor and address the situation directly, or in a timely manner. Only if the situation rises to the level of an emergency would a HUD employee be able to send someone to investigate the issue, which would entail costly travel expenses on the taxpayers' dime.

It is also difficult to believe that, under these circumstances, HUD would somehow still be able to deliver the same quality of services that it currently delivers today.

HUD's plan to completely overhaul the multifamily office is both ill-conceived and poorly timed, and that is why I support the ranking member's amendment. I am pleased that this body has adopted it, to ensure HUD's multifamily staff remains locally-based and connected to communities who are on the ground.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. HARTZLER

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enforce section 319 of title 23, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Missouri is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Chairman, this is a simple, straightforward amendment to ensure highway dollars are spent wisely and are used for highways. Specifically, it prohibits our limited highway money from being used for highway beautification.

We have over 65,000 bridges that are considered structurally deficient. We

must ensure that our Federal highway dollars are spent improving our infrastructure.

From 1992 to 2001, over \$1.2 billion was spent on landscaping and scenic beautification, and these funds could have been put towards ensuring our roadways and bridges are safe.

It does not make sense for the hard-working families in Missouri and all across this country to send in their money on April 15, every year, and to, perhaps, forego buying their child a new coat or shoes or making a house payment so that they can pay their taxes, just so that their tax dollars can go to planting flowers alongside the road.

Now, I am for a beautiful highways, like everybody else, but I think a private solution is better. Why don't we, like we have adopted the highway sections for picking up trash and making our roads pretty, why don't we have adopt a corner for landscaping projects?

Why don't we have local garden clubs adopt an intersection, or a Girl Scout troop or a Boy Scout troop?

Why don't we leave that up to local community leaders and individuals to plant those flowers?

I don't believe we should be using our hard-earned tax dollars to be doing this highway beautification, especially in a time when our roads are falling apart and our bridges are deficient.

There are potholes in roads that are endangering our families, endangering our children, and yet we are spending these hard-earned tax dollars to plant flowers and bushes along the road. We can't afford luxuries like this anymore.

It is time to spend our highway dollars on our highways, make sure our roads are safe, make sure our bridges are safe, make sure that those hard-earned tax dollars are used wisely.

So that is why I am offering this simple amendment, and I would urge my colleagues to support my effort to make sure our highway dollars are spent where they need to be spent and to make sure our money is spent wisely. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly rise in opposition to the amendment. I very much understand where the gentlewoman is coming from with the tremendous needs that we have today in infrastructure, to have some of this money being diverted to other uses. I understand entirely.

This really is an authorizing issue if there ever was one. We appropriate money in this bill. We don't authorize or set up the programs themselves. That should be addressed in a reauthorization of the MAP-21 bill.

The funds here, oftentimes, go to erosion control. They preserve wetlands and meet some environmental regulations that the States have to comply with or the entities, government entities have to comply with.

But the real big problem here is the fact that States may have contracts already out there that they are obligated to pay and, basically, what we are saying is we are not going to reimburse you, so the Federal Government, even though the States have the contracts in place, we are not going to do our part and help pay the bill, and that really is where the problem is.

□ 2145

We have an obligation, but we don't have the money. Again, that is why this goes back to an authorizing issue that needs to be looked at. I totally agree with the gentlewoman, and I reluctantly oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I am in agreement with Chairman LATHAM that this is an authorizing issue, and it would cause great damage, especially to those contracts that are already in place, and for that reason, I am in opposition to the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. NORTON

Ms. NORTON. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of the 5th or 14th Amendment to the Constitution or title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, in July, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

My amendment enforces section 2000(d) of the act. It would require that no funds would be available or used to stop, investigate, detain, or arrest people on highways based on their phys-

ical appearance in violation of the Fifth and 14th Amendments and title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Supreme Court, in *Whren v. U.S.*, has found that profiling based on physical appearance on highways violates equal protection of the laws. Title VI of the 1964 act enforces the 14th Amendment and applies to funding for all Federal agencies and departments. My amendment carries out this mandate in transportation funding as well.

Federal guidance regarding the use of race by Federal law enforcement agencies finds that racial profiling is not merely wrong, but is also ineffective. Not only Blacks and Hispanics are affected, but many others in our country as well, given the increasing diversity of American society.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that Whites are stopped at a rate of 3.6 percent, but Blacks at 9.5 percent and Hispanics at 8.8 percent, more than twice the rate of Whites.

The figures are roughly the same, regardless of region or State. In Minnesota, for example, a statewide study of racial profiling found that African Americans, Hispanics, and Native American drivers were stopped and searched far more often than Whites, but contraband was found more frequently in cars where White drivers had been stopped.

In Texas, where disproportionate stops and searches of African Americans and Hispanics were found to have taken place, it was also found that Whites more often were carrying contraband.

Mr. Chairman, in 2005, I sponsored a transportation amendment that allowed a Federal grant to States who wanted to stop racial profiling. Nearly half of the States participated in this program.

Unfortunately, it was not renewed in 2009. My amendment seeks to prevent citizens from being stopped, investigated, arrested, or detained based on their physical appearance.

Considering our country's history and increasing diversity, we are late in barring profiling at the national level. At the very least, Federal taxpayers should not be compelled to subsidize the unconstitutional practice of profiling by law enforcement officials in the States.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. NORTON. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. We agree to the gentlewoman's amendment.

Ms. NORTON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DAINES

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to develop, issue, or implement regulations that increase levels of minimum financial responsibility for transporting passengers or property as in effect on January 1, 2014, under regulations issued pursuant to sections 31138 and 31139 of title 49, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Montana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Chairman, this April, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced that it would be moving forward with a rulemaking that would increase the amount of required liability coverage for truck and bus companies.

This comes despite findings by the Department of Transportation that less than 0.2 percent of truck-involved accidents have property and injury damages that exceed the current minimum liability coverage requirements, which is \$750,000.

Current proposals regarding the insurance increase call for minimum levels to go up by more than 500 percent, and this would lead to a significant reduction in insurance availability for motor carriers, especially small businesses. The bottom line is this: the trial lawyers win, the small businesses lose.

It is estimated that premiums could increase by more than four times the current levels, up to \$20,000 per truck and even more per bus. Further, more than 40 percent of currently operating motor carriers could go out of business due to these new requirements.

There is no evidence supporting higher insurance requirements or that coverage levels result in the improved safety performance of a motor carrier. DOT's own report argued that increasing minimum insurance levels is not the best way to meet the needs of catastrophic accident victims.

My amendment would prohibit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration from moving forward with a rulemaking action that would increase the minimum financial liability insurance requirements for truck and bus companies during the 2015 fiscal year.

Please join me in support of this effort to keep safe small business truck and bus companies on the road.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

I appreciate all of the courtesies from my good friend from Montana. I understand the motivations behind this amendment, but I must speak against

it because this amendment itself is a threat to the safety of Americans on the roadway.

It is counter to the goal that we all share, of protecting and preserving Social Security and Medicare, two vital safety net programs in this country; and, above all, it destroys accountability in the safety rules in the trucking industry.

Mr. Chairman, in 1980, Congress mandated that commercial motor carriers carry a minimum of \$750,000 in liability coverage. This number has not been adjusted in more than 33 years. In present dollars, simply adjusting for inflation using a health care cost CPI, consumer price index, would require changing the \$750,000 to \$4.4 million.

In fact, I have introduced, myself, H.R. 2730, the SAFE HAUL Act to do just that, simply to adjust for inflation over the 34 years that that \$750,000 limit was in place.

This past weekend, Mr. Chairman, Mr. James McNair, a talented comedian, died in New Jersey because of a tractor-trailer collision. Apparently, the tractor-trailer driver was awake for 24 hours, in violation of a myriad of hours of service requirements in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations. Tracy Morgan, his associate, remains in critical condition.

To suggest that \$750,000, with today's health care costs, is adequate to cover this kind of tragedy is ridiculous.

In fact, the truth is that, since 1980, more than 100,000 people have died in tractor-trailer-related collisions. We are not talking about cases where there was a genuine dispute about who was at fault for the accident.

We are talking about cases where it was clear that the tractor-trailer was at fault for the accident and people died, more than 100,000 over the past 34 years.

Mr. Chairman, in contradistinction to the comments of my good friend from Montana, a recent study conducted by the Trucking Alliance found that 42 percent of the value of settlements paid by trucking companies between 2005 and 2011 exceeded the minimum insurance requirement of \$750,000.

When you don't adjust for inflation, you are not doing the simple math that is required, and to suggest that adjustment for inflation is wrong somehow seems quite silly.

So, Mr. Chairman, what we need to realize is that, when a truck is underinsured, when a truck doesn't have enough insurance to cover the harm that it causes, who pays the difference? What happens when a truck doesn't have enough insurance to cover the harm that it causes in medical bills, in lost wages?

Well, what happens is the U.S. taxpayer picks up the difference, the U.S. taxpayer, paying into the Social Security system, paying into the Medicare

system, the U.S. taxpayer picks up the difference; and what ends up happening is we get a form of corporate welfare, where trucking companies at fault for accidents that kill, maim, and disable people, all of a sudden, don't have to pick up the difference. It is the American taxpayer that picks up the difference.

In a day and age when we should be doing everything and anything that we can to shore up Social Security and Medicare, this is not a policy decision that we want to be engaging in, protecting trucking companies at fault for death-dealing accidents from accountability for their actions.

So, Mr. Chairman, I do oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. I yield to the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Chair, just a reminder that the DOT's own study says that less than 0.2 percent of truck-involved accidents have property and injury damages that exceed the current requirements.

The bottom line is this: let the small business owner decide what they want to insure above the already required \$750,000. This is one more regulation that is going to benefit the trial lawyers at the expense of small businesses.

Remember, again, what the DOT said. Raising the minimum insurance levels is not the best way to meet the needs of catastrophic accident victims.

Mr. LATHAM. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

MAP-21 required the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to review whether the minimum insurance requirements for trucks and buses were sufficient.

This would freeze insurance claims at the current level. DOT is conducting a rulemaking to further evaluate the appropriate level of the financial responsibility. We ought to let the process go forward.

I oppose the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to approve a new foreign air carrier permit under sections 41301 through 41305 of title 49, United States Code, or exemption application under section 40109 of that title of an air carrier already holding an air operators certificate issued by a country that is party to the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement where such approval would contravene United States law or Article 17 bis of the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement.

Mr. DEFAZIO (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

Mr. LATHAM. I object.

The Acting CHAIR. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 2200

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, these limitation amendments often don't go to matters of national security.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. The reason I objected is we weren't sure as to what the amendment was, and we would accept the amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. We won't take much time if the gentleman just would allow me 1 or 2 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. If the gentleman doesn't take much time, we will accept the amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I agree. And Mr. WESTMORELAND will also be brief. This is extraordinarily important, and I thank the Chair for his indulgence and his support.

We, in the Open Skies Agreement with the EU, anticipated that some countries might try and go forum shopping, that is—like the cruise line industry—look for a nation that has lesser laws regulating labor, safety, and then also allow outsourcing. This would be a model for Norwegian—for this airline, which does not fly to the United States, to incorporate in Ireland. They would then hire crews from Malaysia to fly planes based in Singapore and hope to serve the United States with these crews.

This is the cruise line model. It is a recipe for disaster. You shop around

the world to find the least regulated, least trained, and cheapest labor you can—as has happened with the cruise line industry—and in this case, in aviation, it will both threaten consumers and national security given the Civil Reserve Air Fleet requirements of aviation.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, a subsidiary of the Norway-based Norwegian Air Shuttle, NAS, Norwegian Air International, is seeking to operate as an Irish airline and plans to conduct overseas flights from Europe to the U.S. NAI has been granted an Irish Air Operator's Certificate, but still has an application for a foreign air carrier permit pending with the U.S. DOT.

It appears that the NAI plans for its pilots to work under individual employment contracts that are governed by Singapore law that contains wages and working conditions substantially inferior to those of NAS's Norway-based pilots. These contracts will be with a Singapore employment company that will rent the pilots to NAI. Although it seeks to become an Irish airline, it appears that NAI will not be operating air transportation services from Ireland. This raises a question about how regulatory oversight of NAI's operations will be conducted.

The United States has the highest, most competitive airline industry in the world, the safest regulations, and so, I hope that we will adopt this DeFazio-Westmoreland amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to accept the amendment, but I just want to make it clear that this really states the obvious, that basically we are saying that you can't approve something that contravenes U.S. law or article 17 of the Air Transport Agreement. If so, it is obviously stating what is already law and really is nothing new.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding. It is not so obvious with this administration. They are desperate for the TPP, they are desperate for the trans-America free trade agreement, and we are very worried that they would think that disapproving this application from Ireland representing Norway, who intends to operate a rent-an-airline, rent-a-crew

from Singapore, would somehow derail their talks. So I don't think it is obvious. This is sending a message to the White House that we are not going to let this happen.

With that, I thank the gentleman.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading "Federal Transit Administration—Transit Formula Grants" may be used in contravention of section 5309 of title 49, United States Code.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, let me, first of all, thank Mr. LATHAM and Mr. PASTOR for their leadership on this important legislation and overall indicate that my amendment is important, but it restates a current law. In particular, what I think is important is that it emphasizes the nature of projects that create economic development, particularly in the transportation area.

It cites 5309, title 49, the Secretary may make grants under this section to State and local government authorities to assist in financing, goes on to say new fixed guideway capital projects, small start projects, including acquisition of real property. It goes on to talk about car capacity improvements, including double tracking, and it specifically goes into the line of work that deals with projects on approved transportation plans.

That is key. The language here says section grants to State and local governments, which means that when local governments propose their projects, the Secretary has the authority to go forward on them.

Let me, for a moment, give some quotes from organizations that have supported light rail and the economic development of transportation.

One statement says that we simply cannot afford to have limitations on Federal funding or turn away money that can be utilized to make our region a better place to live, work, and build businesses. It is well documented that

economic development of transportation projects guides the Nation. Whether or not it is on the seaways, whether or not it is dams, whether it is highways, whether or not it is tollways, whether or not it involves other modes of transportation, they are economic engines. And it is important for the local community to be the drivers of that.

One statement says that the region will not be able to maintain its economic vitality without the ability to create and preserve infrastructure that supports the movement of people and goods throughout our country.

So this amendment clearly speaks to the global aspect of the Secretary of Transportation having the ability to work with our local and State governments. I would ask my colleagues to emphasize in the support of this amendment, to recognize that we are emphasizing the crucialness of the high transportation dollars to economic development.

I would hope that this appropriations bill, which is focused on Housing and Urban Development in many ways, and focused on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development as it serves sometimes the poorest people, transportation as it provides those same people the opportunity to seek employment or reach places of employment—they should not be constrained. Federal funding that is designated and provided should not be constrained.

I would lastly make this point: that when you go through the environmental process through NEPA and that process is completed, and it has all the t's crossed and the i's dotted and the hearings are in, it is important that this authority that I just mentioned is allowed to proceed. Again, I emphasize the Secretary may make grants under this section to State and local government authorities to assist in the financing of any number of transportation projects.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, and with that, I will yield back with the point that, again, this meets the test of recognizing that important cities across America have the ability to receive this funding, including the fourth-largest city in the Nation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Thank you for this opportunity to briefly explain my amendment.

Let me offer my appreciation and thanks to Ranking Member PASTOR and to Chairman LATHAM for their work on this legislation and long commitment and advocacy for sound domestic policy regarding our nations transportation systems and provide for affordable safe housing to our nation's citizens.

Houston is the fourth most populous city in the country; but unlike other large cities, we have struggled to have an effective mass transit system.

Over many decades Houston's mass transit policy was to build more highways with more lanes to carry more drivers to and from work.

The city of Houston has changed course and is now pursuing Mass transit options that include light rail.

This decision to invest in light rail is strongly supported by the increased use by Houstonians in the light rail service provided by previous transportation appropriations bills.

The April 2014, Houston metropolitan transit Authority report on weekly ridership states that 44,267 used Houston's light rail Service representing a 6,096 or 16% change in ridership in April of last year.

This increase in light rail usage outpaced ridership of other forms of mass transit in the city of Houston: metro bus had a 2.3% increase over April 2013; metro bus-local had a 1.3% increase over April 2013; and Metro bus-Park and ride had a 8.0% increase over April 2013.

On February 5, 2013, the Houston Chronicle reported on the congestion Houston drivers face under daily commute to and from work.

The article stated that Houston commuters continue to enjoy some of the worst traffic delays in the country, according to the 2012 urban mobility report, Houston area drivers wasted more than two days a year, on average, in traffic congestion, costing them each \$1,090 in lost time and fuel.

Funds made available under this deal should be available for the construction of the University rail line and support of local government decisions by the Houston Metropolitan transit Authority and the city of Houston to expand rail service.

As elected officials and members of Congress we should allow local governments to decide how they will spend transportation dollars made available under this appropriations bill.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 156, after line 10, insert the following:
SEC. _____. Unobligated funds made available to a State in fiscal year 2010 for the Interstate Maintenance Discretionary program under section 118(c) of title 23, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Public Law 112-141), may be made available, at that State's request, to the State for any project eligible under section 133(b) of such title.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, after speaking with the majority committee staff, and in deference to the wishes of the Chair, I want to be clear

that I will be withdrawing this amendment at the conclusion of my control of time.

In fiscal year 2010, a number of transportation projects, including critical seismic safety projects, received appropriations from Congress but were unable to receive the funding due to an incorrect account designation in the appropriations act. According to the Department of Transportation, the funds remain unobligated but inaccessible due to the congressional error in the account designation.

Mr. Chair, crucial transportation projects needed to ensure public safety that were intended to be funded by Congress have been left without funding due to technical errors.

My amendment would ensure that those unobligated funds currently stuck in limbo would be made available for the surface transportation program projects. This shouldn't be controversial. There is already language in the underlying bill before us that does something very similar. It transfers unobligated funds appropriated in previous years from one transportation program to another.

I hope that, moving forward, the gentleman from Iowa will work with us to correct these accounting errors that have left crucial transportation projects without funding.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DESANTIS

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under title II of this Act may be used to repay any loan made, guaranteed, or insured by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, my amendment prohibits the Department of Housing and Urban Development grants from being used to repay loans from the same agency.

Under current practice, taxpayers can find themselves on the hook not only for loans to private developers, but also for repayments on those loans.

Now, even if one agrees with the questionable practice of government money being used to finance the building of hotels, parks, arenas, and restaurants, it is absurd that the government grants are also being used to repay such loans when the projects fail. This practice encourages cronyism and economic distortion while throwing

away taxpayer money on projects that couldn't survive on their own with private funding.

Now, my amendment simply bars the use of grant money from the Department of Housing and Urban Development from being used to pay back loans from the same agency. This commonsense amendment will ensure that taxpayer money isn't used to bail out developers or local governments when they make poor investment decisions—especially when these bad investments were made using taxpayer-funded loans to begin with. And I would note that an identical amendment to the one I am offering now was offered in the U.S. Senate by Senator TOM COBURN in October 2011, and it passed that body 73-26.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 2215

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals—

(1) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(2) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1); or

(3) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

Mr. GRAYSON (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, this amendment is identical to other amendments that have been inserted

by voice vote into every appropriations bill that has been considered under an open rule in this Congress.

My amendment would expand the list of parties with whom the Federal Government is prohibited from contracting because of serious misconduct on the part of those contractors. It is my hope that this amendment will remain non-controversial as it has always been, and again passed unanimously by the House.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to retain any legal counsel who is not an employee of such Department or the Department of Justice.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a simple amendment that will save taxpayers money and prevent HUD from hiring outside counsel. This wasteful practice has been utilized by the agency in the past to conceal questionable operations, stifle inspector general investigations, and limit overall transparency.

Mr. Chairman, a recent report commissioned by Inspector General David Montoya revealed that the Philadelphia Housing Authority paid more than \$30 million for outside legal services from April 2007 through August 2010. That is nearly \$10 million a year in outside legal fees for one public housing authority in this country.

The inspector general report stated:

Alarming, the Public Housing Authority could not adequately support \$4.5 million that it paid to outside attorneys during that period, virtually the entire limited amount we reviewed, raising questions about the propriety of the remaining \$26 million in payments that we did not review. In addition, the Public Housing Authority made unreasonable and unnecessary payments of \$1.1 million to outside attorneys to obstruct the progress of HUD Office of Inspector General audits. The Public Housing Authority also allowed an apparent conflict of interest situation to exist when it entered into a contract with a law firm that employed the son of its board chairman.

Mr. Chairman, all of this fraud and abuse was revealed by investigating one-fifth of the spending of one public housing authority during a 3-year period. There are more than 3,000 other public housing authorities throughout the country.

While not every public housing authority commits this type of abuse—

and to be fair, some are responsible stewards of the taxpayer dollar—the bottom line is this is shameful and an unnecessary expenditure of taxpayer money. It is inexcusable and must not continue.

The bill we are discussing here today provides nearly \$100 million for the sole purpose of funding HUD's Office of General Counsel.

As stated in the committee's report on the bill:

It is the responsibility of the Office of General Counsel to provide legal opinions, advice, and services with respect to all programs and activities, and to provide counsel and assistance to the development of the Department's programs and policies.

In addition to having their own counsel, HUD also has access to attorneys within the Department of Justice. There is no logical reason HUD should be spending millions of dollars a year on outside counsel. The inspector general agrees and has previously stated:

We have been concerned for some time about the extent to which some public housing authorities use outside legal counsel.

I appreciate the inspector general for bringing forward this wasteful and fraudulent practice to the attention of Congress. I ask my colleagues to recognize the inspector general's recommendations and support this commonsense amendment.

I thank the chairman and ranking member for their continued work on the committee.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. I understand the gentleman's concern, but this can have some unintended consequences. But the main reason is that unfortunately this would not affect the public housing authorities at all. This would affect HUD employees. Public housing authorities are not HUD employees. So this amendment, and I wish the gentleman and I could have worked together on this, but it does nothing to the public housing authorities because it does not prohibit them from hiring outside legal, and that is unfortunate.

We have been saying for years and years and years to the authorizers that these are issues they need to address, and they haven't been able to do it. Unfortunately, we get in an appropriation bill and end up with a lot of these issues. But again, the main reason to oppose it is because it does nothing to the public housing authorities. They would still be able to continue their practices as they are.

I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Would the gentleman understand that all grants under HUD go to public housing and, therefore, they are subject all under?

Mr. LATHAM. All this would do is limit the employees of HUD, and it would do nothing to the PHA employees. PHA employees are not HUD employees; and all you are doing is limiting funding to HUD employees, so it would have no effect as far as the PHAs.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I agree with the chairman's interpretation of the amendment because public authorities have their own employees which they hire and are not HUD employees. They receive money from HUD in grants, but that does not make the public authority employees HUD employees. And as I understand the amendment as read and explained, this amendment would only affect HUD and its employees, and it is too broad. It would not meet what the inspector general was trying to do in trying to limit public authorities from hiring outside counsel. So I rise in opposition to the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to develop or implement any rule to modify the criteria relating to citizenship that are applied in determining whether a person is eligible to be an operator (including a ship manager or agent) of a vessel in the National Defense Reserve Fleet.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, the United States Government maintains a series of ships that are standby, available to the Navy to be used in our national defense. Historically, these ships have been crewed, owned, and operated by American citizens.

There may be an attempt underway to change that to allow these ships to be crewed, owned, and operated by foreign entities. This amendment would preclude that.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing", published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Federal Register on July 19, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 43710; Docket No. FR-5173-P-01).

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment intended to prevent yet another costly overreach by the Federal Government into the jurisdiction of local towns and communities.

HUD has proposed a new regulation, titled Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, which would grant the Department authority to dictate local zoning requirements in any community across the country that applies for a Community Development Block Grant.

According to reports, in 2012, this rule would have negatively impacted more than 1,200 municipalities throughout the country. A trial run of the rule already took place in New York. It failed miserably, and a local county was forced to reject \$12 million in funds that would have benefited the community due to the impractical and unrealistic requirements associated with compliance.

The county had intended to use a large portion of the block grant funds to establish public housing for individuals in need. Clearly, this flawed proposal by HUD will increase local taxes, depress property values, and cause further harm to impoverished communities that are actually in need of these funds.

These new burdensome zoning rules being imposed by HUD bureaucrats on localities would be derived from tracked residential data based on citizens' race, sex, religion, and other federally protected demographics.

Multiple watchdog groups have raised serious and valid concerns about HUD's proposal. Americans for Limited Government President Nathan Mehrens wrote me in support of this amendment and stated:

We call on every Member of the House to support Representative GOSAR's amendment to defund HUD's scheme to redraw zoning maps in any locality that accepts any part of the \$3.5 billion a year in Community Development Block Grants from the Federal Government.

The utopian goal of creating evenly distributed neighborhoods based on racial composition and income is bad policy, and it is unconstitutional. HUD has no place in local zoning decisions. Under federalism, that is left up to States, counties, and municipalities to determine for themselves.

At a time when the Supreme Court is roundly rejecting racial quotas as unconstitutional, there is no place for wasting taxpayer dollars on social engineering that will never withstand judicial scrutiny.

Housing discrimination based on race has been illegal since the 1960s, and people should be allowed to choose for themselves where they live without D.C. bureaucrats nationalizing zoning decisions for political reasons.

Representative GOSAR deserves the thanks of all Americans for his courage in taking on this backdoor attempt to federalize our most basic living decisions.

Americans for Limited Government strongly supports Gosar's amendment to defund racial quotas in local zoning decisions.

I sincerely appreciate the strong support of this respected watchdog group. I completely agree that this misguided proposal by HUD is a clear infringement by the Federal Government on municipalities. HUD is essentially creating a thinly veiled set of rules and regulations by which these communities must conform or face losing out on billions of dollars in grant money.

What has been so wrong with the process thus far? Are there a plethora of examples of discriminatory applications of these grants? Couldn't the Federal Government simply deny further moneys to those grantees proved to have engaged in discrimination?

American citizens and communities should be free to choose where they would like to live and not be subject to Federal neighborhood engineering at the behest of an overreaching central government.

Further, the Federal Government must not hold hostage what are traditionally grant moneys to improve communities based on its quixotic ideas of what it believes every community should resemble. Local zoning decisions have traditionally been and should always be made by local communities, not bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

□ 2230

I ask my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment because it keeps the Federal Government from reorganizing communities to a fantastical standard.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment because its aim is to treat municipalities and individual citizens as capable and intelligent rather than disenfranchised, divided, and coddled groups in need of protection from a problem that does not exist.

As always, I thank the chairman and ranking member for their continued work on the committee, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The amendment prohibits HUD from implementing a new rule that was published in the Federal Register on July 19, 2013. The rule provides more data to local communities to comply with the Fair Housing Act and carry out their duties under the Fair Housing Act.

The rule does not change the statutory obligations of communities. It does not create social engineering, but rather asks for a more comprehensive report. The Fair Housing Act has been law for the past 45 years, and this rule does not change that law. This rule simply provides communities with more data to comply with their existing duties under the law.

I support fair housing, and I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentleman's point and his advocacy for the Fair Housing Act.

As I mentioned, I abhor racial discrimination, but to my knowledge, there is no widespread examples of these block grants being used for discriminatory practices.

Has the Community Development Block Grant system thus far been such a failure to warrant this rule? My concerns are numerous, but I will outline the main two.

First and foremost, this is a major violation of federalism. The Federal Government has a long history of infringing upon states' rights and the Tenth Amendment. This rule seeks to go even further and puts the Federal Government down into the municipal planning process. This overreach is disturbing and unfortunately all too common in the Obama administration.

Second, it really opens up a Pandora's box of problems related to unconstitutional practices. The government is essentially using this rule as a thinly veiled attempt to implement some sort of social justice.

But this rule leaves a lot to interpretation, not only at the Federal level, but at the local level. It is not difficult to imagine lawsuits flying in both directions if this rule is finalized.

For instance, HUD is trying to lay out a framework by which it wishes to see these grant monies used to better integrate societies, a solution which seems to be in search of a problem. In doing so, HUD places a large burden on communities to write plans and grant applications which necessitate unconstitutional and prejudicial practices.

Jim Crow is dead, and the free market and local policies have driven decisions such as community planning for years now.

How does a community make plans to enact these types of social justice without taking into consideration factors which we frown upon, factors such as racial demographics?

Let's move to the next step in the process, which is when the community is submitting their plan and an application to HUD for consideration. That is also incredibly difficult. For instance, one portion of the application which would simply be meant to appease HUD's quixotic standards of utopian society may open up the applicant municipality for lawsuits from the left and right.

Then HUD is charged with evaluating these applications to determine whether or not to award the grant. What exact criteria will HUD use to make these determinations? Might it be possible that HUD will deny grant monies to applicants based on HUD's opinion that the zoning plan did not do enough to integrate racial or religious clusters? The mere idea that HUD will be making such approvals or denials based even partially on these factors is counterintuitive and runs contrary to American values.

Imagine a denial letter from HUD on one of these applications. It will read one of two basic ways:

The first scenario is: Dear Community A, your block grant application has been denied because your plan did not integrate people of different races, ethnicities, or religions into one area. That would likely lead to an immediate lawsuit in which the court would uphold the municipality's case.

The second scenario would be a lengthy and wordy denial which is vague enough so that HUD does not open itself up to a lawsuit, but also so vague that the applicant will likely never know how to correctly plan and apply for one of these grants.

We see there are two separate and distinct avenues by which major lawsuits could fly and constitutional challenges arise. Both the Federal Government and the local government would be setting themselves up for failure.

If these issues arise and court challenges ensue, we have seen the recent patterns from the U.S. Supreme Court on issues of racial quotas and attempts at racial diversity. Again, the solution is looking for a problem. The mere notion that the Federal Government must step in and tamper with the most local of politics to integrate people of various races, economic statuses, ethnicities, and religious backgrounds is offensive to me and many of my constituents.

Mr. FLEMING. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have one last amendment at the desk, 129.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to administer the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Roadside Survey.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer an amendment to save taxpayers money, to protect the civil liberties and privacy of my constituents in accordance with the Fourth Amendment, and to champion efforts of local law enforcement and those advocacy groups which work hand-in-hand to curb citizens from driving under the influence.

My amendment is simple. It seeks to prohibit funds from being used to administer the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Roadside Survey. This "survey" looks like and acts like a police checkpoint and uses uniformed officers to pull cars over.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOSAR. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. We would be more than happy to accept the amendment in the interest of time if we could move on.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, our Nation is in the midst of a transportation and infrastructure crisis. In California alone, we have over 2,500 structurally deficient bridges in dire need of repair.

Current investments into transportation infrastructure are barely able to cover our Nation's most pressing needs, and critical projects in my district are the foundation of our growing economy. That is why in 2009 Congress created the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant program, known as TIGER. TIGER

grants have successfully funded projects to revitalize and expand infrastructure across the country.

A grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was to provide roughly 50 percent of the funding needed to upgrade the SunLine Transit Agency's operations management system in my district. These upgrades allowed SunLine to integrate vehicle location technology, scheduling systems, and automatic passenger counters into their Web site to provide riders with a gateway for simple information, like when the next bus is going to arrive and if it will have room for passengers, which is important for my constituents to reduce wait times outside in our desert heat. This technology has improved ridership, taken vehicles off the road, reducing our carbon footprint. There are other projects in my district that could receive TIGER funding should we adequately fund it.

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments has developed a CV Link project to connect eight cities in the Coachella Valley, with a new alternate transportation route to the busiest corridor in our valley. A TIGER award paired with local investment would be enough to make it a reality. The project would create 690 jobs and potentially generate \$147 billion in economic benefits through 2035 from sources such as increased tourism, reduced vehicle emissions, improved health conditions, and new jobs.

Mr. Chairman, this is why it is essential that we do not cut successful grant programs like TIGER, especially as our economy continues to recover and unemployment rates remain high. Ultimately, this is just part of the lack of funding for transportation infrastructure's story.

Within a few short months, the highway trust fund, which is responsible for the vast majority of Federal transportation funding, will run out of money. This will bring hundreds of transportation projects across the Nation to a grinding halt, eliminate the thousands of jobs they support, and jeopardize our economic recovery.

As Representatives, it is our responsibility to put aside our differences and work together to find a pragmatic, fiscally sound solution to fix the highway trust fund. Our communities in our districts are depending on us to demonstrate leadership to help them rebuild roads and bridges and operate public transit lines that take people to work, to their doctor's appointments, to grocery stores and, ultimately, keep our economy moving forward.

We must serve the people we represent by doing our jobs to find a bipartisan solution that addresses a highway trust fund crisis so critical infrastructure projects in my district and across the country are not ignored. I look forward to working with Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member

RAHALL of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to get this done. I encourage all my colleagues to put aside partisanship and problem-solve this critical issue.

I want to thank Chairman LATHAM and Ranking Member PASTOR for your great service. Thank you so much.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLEMING

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chair, I have amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to acquire a camera for the purpose of collecting or storing vehicle license plate numbers.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill that will prohibit the purchase of automated license plate readers that can record and indefinitely store innocent Americans' whereabouts as they drive by.

In the wake of the revelations about NSA data collection, Americans are now learning that police cars and traffic cameras are similarly accumulating a picture of their lives. In many States, there is no policy for how long the government may store the data, and so it is being retained indefinitely.

Just like phone metadata, this geolocation data with time stamps can be used to reconstruct intimate details of our lives, who we visit, where we worship, from whom we seek counseling, and how we might legally and legitimately protest the actions of our own government.

This language expands upon the prohibitions already adopted under previous MAP-21 reauthorizations preventing Federal funds from being used to purchase cameras for purposes of traffic law enforcement. Despite this prohibition, transportation grants can still currently be used to purchase cameras that collect and store license plate data even when no crime has been committed.

Certain highway safety grants within this bill can be used to purchase traffic monitoring systems that we see along highways. This amendment would not stop the purchase of such traffic monitoring cameras. It would only prohibit cameras that have the ability and the purpose of capturing and indefinitely storing the license plate information of innocent Americans.

Citizens of each State should have the opportunity to decide the question, but citizens of one State who oppose this policy should not subsidize such monitoring in other States. This

amendment does not stop States from purchasing these cameras on their own. Each State should have an open and fair debate in their legislatures about what their citizens are comfortable with. This amendment gives States and local governments a 1-year pause on purchasing these cameras until Congress can deal with the issue more fully.

Therefore, I ask the support of all in this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I certainly understand the issue the gentleman is trying to get at.

□ 2245

I must oppose the amendment because I think there are some unintended consequences. As far as the way the amendment itself is written, in effect you are banning DOT or HUD from ever purchasing another camera for any use, in essence, because of the possibility it might capture a license plate somewhere.

It simply will also have a lot of wide unanticipated operational impacts across all of the programs in this bill. There could be a prohibition on purchases of aircraft control surveillance technologies at the FAA, an unintended ban on cameras used for safety purposes at airports and air traffic control facilities.

The prohibition could prevent Federal and State motor carrier inspectors from using camera-based technology to screen vehicles for compliance with safety regulations.

The broad nature of this prohibition will negatively affect key research program studies and crash investigations for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The prohibition could undermine revenue collection systems on several large toll-funded routes who take pictures of a license plate—and that is how they charge—and put Federal loans at risk of default not having that means of collecting those revenues.

At HUD, the prohibition, being as broad as it is, could prevent housing authorities from purchasing or operating security systems that are critical to the health and safety of the residents in the public housing and the surrounding communities.

I totally understand the gentleman's point, but there are some ramifications here. I think that maybe we could tailor it better, working on it together in the future, but at this point I would have to oppose the amendment, and I would urge a "no" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for recapitalization of the Ready Reserve Force of the National Defense Reserve Fleet except in a manner consistent with chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code (popularly referred to as the "Buy American Act").

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I don't intend to take 5 minutes, but this issue is rather important.

In the long history of the United States Navy, we have always built our ships in America. The Ready Reserve Fleet is part of our national defense system. It provides ships that are necessary for the hauling of cargo that are always ready and available for the military to move its equipment—men, supplies, women—wherever they may need to go across the oceans.

That reserve fleet is going to need to be recapitalized and replaced over the next several years. The question before us is whether that fleet and those new ships will be built in America or in China or Japan or Korea.

This amendment would simply require that they be built in America, as they have in the past.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment imposes additional duties.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I wish to be heard on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. GARAMENDI. The point of order issue has been rather flexible, as we have seen in previous appropriation bills that have been on this floor. When the majority wants to change the law, it seems as though a point of order isn't appropriate. But when someone else wants to address a crucial national issue, such as making sure our shipyards have the work and our Navy and the Ready Reserve Fleet is American built, then I suppose a point of order seems to have some further power. Therefore, I don't think a point of order is appropriate.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

The Chair is prepared to rule on the point of order raised by the gentleman from Iowa.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination of whether certain actions are consistent with a provision of law not otherwise applicable to these actions.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to make bonus awards to contractors for work on projects that are behind schedule or over budget.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this is a simple good government provision. It says that when a contractor goes over budget or is behind schedule the contractor should not be rewarded for that. None of the funds made available in this act may be used to pay for bonus awards to contractors who work on projects that are behind schedule or over budget.

The provision that we are talking about here appears in the Senate Transportation, Housing Appropriations bill that was reported out of the committee in the Senate last week. It should appear in our bill and it should be signed into law.

Nothing in this amendment places a blanket ban on bonuses to contractors. What this amendment does, however, is to demonstrate that Congress expects Federal projects to be delivered on time and on budget.

We have heard so many words over the years in this Chamber about waste, fraud, and abuse. This simple amendment accurately cracks down on those examples of waste, fraud, and abuse that arise and prevents taxpayer money from being squandered. If projects are not delivered on time and on budget, this amendment simply ensures that bad contractors are not rewarded extra for that poor performance.

With regard to the terms that are used, the term "bonus award" refers to the Federal acquisition regulation, title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations, subpart 16.4, having to do with incentive contracts. That term is defined in that provision.

With regard to the term "work on projects," that simply refers to the contractor's contract.

With regard to the term "behind schedule," that refers to the time of delivery. That is a provision that is in every contract in FAR 52.211-8 or FAR 52.211-9. The regulations specifically provide for time of delivery with a delivery schedule, and that is the term that is used in the regulation, and also in the contract itself. Those provisions are proscribed in the Federal Acquisition Regulations in 48 C.F.R., subpart 11.4, specifically FAR 11.404.

The term "over budget" is very simply a reference to the contract award itself. The Federal Acquisition Regulations proscribes a specific form for that purpose in 48 C.F.R. 53, and that is Standard Form 33. In Box 22 of Standard Form 33 is the contract award amount. If the contractor goes over budget, the contract has exceeded the amount that appears in FAR 52.3 of 33 in the award amount box, in Box 20. The provision refers to cost reimbursement awards and it refers to time and material awards. If the goes over budget on a firm fixed price award, the contractor bears that expense. If the contractor goes over budget on a time and materials award or a cost reimbursement award and then seeks a bonus on top of that from the government, then that is what we are prohibiting here.

These are terms that are well recognized in the world of Federal contracting. This provision accurately targets overpayment to contractors, extra payment to contractors, bonus payment to contractors, when they have gone behind schedule or they are over budget.

I submit that the Senate was wise to include this in its bill. We should do the same.

I ask my colleagues respectfully for their support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment imposes additional duties.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I wish to be heard on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, it is simply not the case that this is legislating. It is simply not the case this imposes any additional duties.

As I indicated a few moments ago, the terms that are in this provision are terms that are ascertainable from every single government contract that is awarded. Every single government contract that is awarded by the Federal Government is done so through Standard Form 33. That lists the amount of the contract award.

Every single government contract that is awarded that has a delivery schedule—and not every one does—but every one that has a delivery schedule has a delivery schedule in the form of a provision in FAR 52.211-8 or 52.211-9.

All the government would have to do is simply observe the terms of its own contract and be able to ascertain these facts. When the government is looking at the terms of its own contract, that is something the government does every day; therefore, there is no additional legislating that is involved here.

I respectfully submit that this is not legislating. This is not asking the government to do anything in addition to what the government already is required to do. It is simply prohibiting a waste of expenditure, a waste of funds, and that is exactly a primary purpose of these appropriation bills.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, the rationale for the point of order is projects can be broad in scope, both in terms of the purpose of the project and the number and types of contractors involved.

For an agency to determine whether a specific bonus can be awarded, this amendment would require the agency to also determine whether the project as a whole is over budget or behind schedule, not simply the part of the project pertaining to the agency awarding the bonus.

So I, again, would insist on my point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I wish to be heard to respond to the last comment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair will hear further argument from the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, responding to the last point, respectfully, again, these are contract terms that are defined in the contract itself.

The gentleman has a point that the term "project" is one that could be taken to refer to something other than a contract if we were not talking about Federal contracting. Here we are talking about Federal contracts only, so the term "project" refers to what the contractor is working on.

There is no ambiguity here. Either the contract is on schedule or it is off schedule. Either the contract is over budget or it is on budget or it is under budget. There is simply no ambiguity involved here.

If we were legislating, then I would see the gentleman's point, but in this particular case we are not. Therefore, I respectfully request that the point of order be overruled and we be allowed to proceed to a vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

The Chair is prepared to rule on the point of order raised by the gentleman from Iowa.

The gentleman from Iowa makes a point of order that the amendment violates clause 2 of rule XXI by requiring a new determination by a relevant Federal official.

Specifically, the amendment would require each contracting official to determine whether any aspect of a project is behind schedule or over budget, especially if multiple agencies have entered into separate contracts on the same project.

Absent a showing that this determination is already required by law, the Chair is constrained to find that the amendment violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. 417. None of the funds made available by this Act and administered by the Department of Transportation may be used on a transportation project unless all contracts carried out within the scope of the applicable National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 finding, determination, or decision are Buy America compliant. If the Secretary finds that such a requirement is not in the public interest, this requirement can be waived, but only if the designation is justified and made available for public comment 30 days before the waiver takes effect.

□ 2300

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I understand the point of order. We are going to be facing that with my other six amendments, but I would like to speak to this issue and also to the others at the same time, and I will drop the other amendments.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of driving across San Francisco Bay on the brand-new east San Francisco Bay Bridge, a multibillion-dollar project. The steel of that project in its main section was built in China. It was fabricated in China. The Chinese steel company built a new steel mill, the most advanced in the world. There were 3,000 Chinese jobs and zero American jobs.

The way they are able to get around the Buy American provisions is that the State of California segmented the multibillion-dollar project into 20 different pieces, therefore avoiding the Buy America provisions on this crucial center span of that bridge. This amendment would prohibit that from ever happening again.

The other amendments speak to the \$50 billion that is going to be spent by this bill and would require, in various ways, that that money be spent here in America on American-made goods, American steel, American products, and on American workers.

We ought to buy in America. We ought to make this other national policy. We ought never have another Bay Bridge. We ought to do what we did in the American Recovery Act that required that some \$800 million for Amtrak locomotives be spent on 100 percent American-made. Indeed, Siemens, a German company, has established a manufacturing plant in Sacramento to manufacture those locomotives.

One of the other amendments I will not be taking up tonight deals specifically with the rolling stock for public transportation, that it, too, be American-made and that we increase the percentage of American content from 60 percent to 100 percent.

This is American taxpayer money. That money ought to be spent in America. American taxpayers should demand it. The Members of Congress should demand that their taxpayers' money be spent on American-made equipment, goods, and services. This is part of the Make It In America agenda.

It is most specific here at this time, as we are about to, in the next day, spend \$50 billion of American taxpayer money. Are we going to spend it on American-made equipment, American goods and services? Or are they going to be coming from China or somewhere else in the world?

The question is very straightforward for all of us. Unfortunately, because of the point of order that will be raised on this and the other six amendments, we will not have a chance tonight, tomorrow, and perhaps in the days ahead, to really do something for America in rebuilding our manufacturing sector by requiring that our taxpayer money be spent on American-made goods, services, and on American workers.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination of compliance with a law not otherwise applicable.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize, approve, or implement a toll on existing free lanes on any segment of Interstate 4 in the State of Florida.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would prohibit any funds appropriated by this bill from being used for the purpose of establishing a toll on any existing free lane of Interstate 4 in the State of Florida.

I-4, as we call it back home, is the most traveled road in the central Florida region. Thousands of my constituents, each day, commute to and from work using the road. To use their hard-earned tax dollars to implement a new fee on our commutes just seems wrong to me, and that is why I am offering this amendment.

I don't think Floridians should be treated any differently in this bill than, frankly, Texans are on pages 31 and 32 of this bill.

My constituents would like to keep their freeway free, and I don't blame them, particularly when ground has

been broken on new toll lanes that will run right down the middle of I-4.

Local authorities are free to build new lanes and expressways, as is the Federal Government, and provide for construction as they see fit, but I am here to make sure that the existing free lanes on I-4 remain untolled.

I urge support for this amendment. After all, a toll is very much like a tax, as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle should recognize.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. There are multiple toll finance projects along the I-4 corridor that could potentially be disrupted by this prohibition.

Further, this prohibition could undermine the creditworthiness of pending applications for Federal loans to support critical projects along I-4.

This route crosses multiple Members' districts, and it is not clear what effect it may have on future I-4 projects.

Therefore, I must urge a "no" vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, this amendment was originally drafted to apply to both new and existing lanes. This amendment was redrawn and redrafted to specifically limit it to existing free lanes.

All of the contract work that is being done in central Florida, and in fact around the country at this point, would not be affected by this amendment because it applies to only existing free lanes.

My question to the gentleman from Iowa is, Did the gentleman realize that the amendment had been modified before the gentleman opposed the amendment?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona controls the time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM).

Mr. LATHAM. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Yes, we were aware of it. We have been advised by the DOT of the ramifications of this amendment in the revised form. That is why I rise in opposition. It is DOT's concerns we are raising.

Mr. GRAYSON. I thank the gentleman for the clarification.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide a per-passenger subsidy in excess of \$250 under the Essential Air Service program.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, the Essential Air Service program, or EAS, is an expensive government handout. It is, in effect, welfare for airplanes.

Page 9 of this bill states that, under the EAS, the per-passenger subsidy for flights that would otherwise not exist to rural communities, excluding Hawaii and Alaska, is capped at \$500 per passenger. That is simply too high.

I don't see any reason why we should be paying people \$500 to fly from communities like Muscles Shoals, not when this Congress is cutting food aid programs and development block grants to communities.

I think this is a very poor use of taxpayer funds. It is an example of the waste, fraud, and abuse that we constantly decry.

My amendment would reduce the \$500 per passenger subsidy allowed under the EAS to a still very high \$250 because \$500 per passenger is simply outrageous.

If passengers don't want to fly those aviation routes, then those subsidies shouldn't exist, and in fact, the routes should exist.

For \$500 per passenger, we could rent a limousine for every single person that boards these EAS flights and drive them to the nearest commercial airport.

I understand the need for rural services for necessary aspects of life like Postal Service, telephones, and even the Internet, but I cannot understand the need to subsidize regular airline flights that would otherwise not exist to the tune of \$500 per passenger.

Many of these flights fly empty. Many have only one or two or three passengers on them on a large airplane. They exist only because the government is paying the bill. We are taxing people to subsidize other people's airfare.

The bill before us today would cut funding for transit starts by 13 percent, TIGER grants by 80 percent, public housing modernization by 5 percent, and the home program for 30 percent, among other things. Under these circumstances, I cannot stand here in

good conscience and allow a subsidy like this to continue.

I offer this amendment today because it is more important to put a roof over the heads of the poor in this housing bill and to make sure that people have a means to get to work and to get to their families and their loved ones in this transportation bill, than it is to hand out corporate welfare to United Airlines.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment requires a new determination with respect to the calculation of a per-passenger subsidy.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on this point of order?

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, this very same bill limits this subsidy to \$500 per passenger. Earlier on in this bill, that is a determination that this bill requires to be made. I am simply changing that figure from \$500 to \$250. It is, shall I say, unwarranted.

To say that that is expecting any new law, enacting anything new, it is simply modifying another provision in this specific act.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM) having assumed the chair, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE
PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on June 3, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 3080. To provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1726. To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5871. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Program: Amendment of Procedures and Notification of Request for Referendum [Docket No.: AMS-LPS-13-0066] received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5872. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Milk in the Appalachian and Southeast Marketing Areas; Order Amending the Orders [Doc. No.: AMS-DA-09-0001; AO-388-A17 and AO-366-A46; DA-05-06-A] received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5873. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on National Guard Counterdrug Schools Activities, pursuant to Public Law 109-469, section 901(f); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5874. A letter from the Director, Congressional Activities, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the annual report on the use or development of data mining; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5875. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the report on the payment of a Foreign Language Skill Proficiency Bonus to members of precommissioning programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5876. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the 100th Annual Report for Calendar Year 2013; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5877. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations (West Baton Rouge Parish, LA, et al.)

[Docket: ID FEMA-2014-0002] received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5878. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Norfolk County, MA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8331] received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5879. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to LATAM Airlines Group S.A. of Santiago, Chile pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5880. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation for Certain Industrial Equipment: Alternative Efficiency Determination Methods and Test Procedures for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers [Docket No.: EERE-2011-BT-TP-0024] (RIN: 1904-AC46) received May 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5881. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the 2013 National Healthcare Quality Report and the 2013 National Healthcare Disparities Report; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5882. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-13, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5883. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the periodic report on the National Emergency Caused by the Lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979 for August 26, 2013 — February 25, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5884. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5885. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's semi-annual report on the activities of the Inspector General for October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5886. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Indian Child Welfare Act; Change of Address (RIN: 1076-AF21) received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5887. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan [Docket No.: 131213999-4281-02] (RIN: 0648-BD82) received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5888. A letter from the Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Adjusting the Penalty for Violation of Notice Posting Requirements (RIN: 3046-AA95) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5889. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement [USCBP-2013-0040] (RIN: 1515-AD93) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5890. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Revenue Procedure: Procedures for Automatic Change in Method of Accounting for Sales-Based Royalties and Sales-Based Vendor Chargebacks (Rev. Proc. 2014-33) received May 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

H.R. 4809. A bill to reauthorize the Defense Production Act, to improve the Defense Production Act Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself,

Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. FLORES, Mr. RUYAN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. COOK, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. JOLLY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. BARBER, Mr. BARR, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LATTA, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SALMON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. UPTON, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VELA, Mr. WHITFIELD, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. THORBERRY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. LANCE, Mr. FALCOMAVAEGA, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BUCHSON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. AMASH, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MICA, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BLACK, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. FORBES, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. COLE, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. BARTON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois,

Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. REED, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. KLINE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SABLON, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. POMPEO):

H.R. 4810. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for Department of Veterans Affairs patients with extended waiting times for appointments at Department facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 4811. A bill to provide for a notice and comment period before the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection issues guidance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RICHMOND (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. PALAZZO):

H.R. 4812. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. HALL, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. BARR, Mr. BILLIRAKIS, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. HARPER, Mr. JONES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SALMON, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. OLSON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. NUGENT, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. CARTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. COOK, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. TERRY, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. KLINE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. DESANTIS):

H.R. 4813. A bill to nullify certain rules of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to greenhouse gas emissions from existing, new, and modified or reconstructed electric utility generating units; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MARINO (for himself and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 4814. A bill to improve the understanding of, and promote access to treat-

ment for, chronic kidney disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 4815. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide career education pathways in manufacturing; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 4816. A bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces, to provide certain services to those descendants, to establish an advisory board on exposure to toxic substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 4817. A bill to allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for gang prevention programs through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued postage stamps; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

H.R. 4818. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to codify the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account program conducted by the Department of Defense to assist spouses of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty to pursue educational opportunities and career training, to ensure that such educational opportunities and training are available to all military spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 4819. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to develop and submit class life recommendations for depreciable assets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4820. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national program to conduct and support activities toward the goal of significantly reducing the number of cases of overweight and obesity among individuals in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H.J. Res. 116. A joint resolution providing for the approval of the Congress of the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy transmitted on May 8, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H. Res. 612. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that

the Government of Mexico should forthwith repatriate Sgt. Andrew Paul Tahmooressi from Mexican prison(s) and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President of the United States should take actions to impose sanctions on Mexico until such time as Sgt. Tahmooressi is released; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Mr. CLAY):

H. Res. 613. A resolution commemorating the centennial of Webster University; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. COTTON introduced a bill (H.R. 4821) for the relief of Meriam Yahya Ibrahim, Martin Wani, and Maya Wani; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CAMPBELL

H.R. 4809

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The sources of constitutional authority for this bill are as follows:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;"

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause): "The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;"

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (the Necessary and Proper Clause): "The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. MILLER of Florida

H.R. 4810

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 12, 13, 14, and 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STUTZMAN

H.R. 4811

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution which gives Congress the authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. RICHMOND

H.R. 4812

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority for this bill stems from Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY

H.R. 4813

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MARINO

H.R. 4814

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: "To Make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California

H.R. 4815

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HONDA

H.R. 4816

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois

H.R. 4817

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 3 ("The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian tribes [.]").

U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 7 ("The Congress shall have Power . . . To establish post Offices and post Roads[.]").

U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 18 ("The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof[.]").

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida

H.R. 4818

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this bill as enacted pursuant to Article I Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida

H.R. 4819

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states that the Congress shall have Power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. NORTON

H.R. 4820

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. COTTON

H.R. 4821

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4: "The Congress shall have Power To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization"

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois

H.J. Res. 116

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 36: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 279: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 318: Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 322: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 375: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 401: Mr. LANCE and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 411: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. MCALLISTER.

H.R. 485: Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 543: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUPPERS-BERGER, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 594: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 679: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 715: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 789: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 808: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 847: Mr. SIRENS.

H.R. 920: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 929: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 958: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 962: Mr. COHEN, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 997: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 1020: Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 1070: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1091: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 1240: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 1249: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 1250: Mr. CHAFFETZ and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1274: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1317: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 1354: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 1418: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1419: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1428: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. RUPPERS-BERGER.

H.R. 1429: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1494: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 1507: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 1563: Mr. WOMACK, Mr. COOPER, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 1597: Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 1666: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1728: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 1826: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 1837: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1852: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 1975: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 2001: Ms. MOORE and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 2086: Mr. QUTGLEY.

H.R. 2116: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 2117: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2192: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 2324: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2342: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2377: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2453: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RENACCI, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. OWENS, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 2499: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2529: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 2536: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 2663: Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 2727: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 2750: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 2772: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2827: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 2835: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 2852: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 2918: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2921: Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 2959: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 2994: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 2997: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 3097: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 3116: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 3135: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 3351: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 3382: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 3383: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 3398: Mr. HONDA, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. PITTS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. PERRY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 3439: Mr. GALLEGRO.

H.R. 3490: Mr. SIRENS.

H.R. 3531: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 3554: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 3558: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 3574: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3707: Mr. AMODEL.

H.R. 3722: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 3747: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 3858: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 3877: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3905: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 3991: Mr. MCALLISTER and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 3992: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 4014: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 4016: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 4035: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 4068: Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 4086: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HOLT, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 4119: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 4122: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 4144: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 4166: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4187: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 4188: Mr. GIBSON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 4190: Mr. POCAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PERRY, Mr. NUNES, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 4191: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 4208: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 4217: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 4221: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 4227: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 4237: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 4262: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 4272: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 4285: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 4351: Mr. WALZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. TERRY, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. GRIMALVA.

H.R. 4361: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4365: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 4383: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 4384: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 4385: Mr. TONKO and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 4395: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4399: Mr. RUIZ.
 H.R. 4426: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. MORAN.
 H.R. 4446: Mr. RANGEL.
 H.R. 4450: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
 H.R. 4510: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. KILMER, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. LUCAS.
 H.R. 4574: Mr. CLAY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SIRES, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 4577: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
 H.R. 4578: Ms. TITUS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. DEUTCH.
 H.R. 4582: Mr. SIRES, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. FARR, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 4589: Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 4590: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
 H.R. 4607: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia and Mr. RAHALL.
 H.R. 4622: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. LOEBACK.
 H.R. 4629: Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 4630: Mr. PETERS of California.
 H.R. 4631: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 4634: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 4653: Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, and Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 4664: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. Delaney, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HOLT, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
 H.R. 4677: Mr. WOODALL and Mr. RENACCI.
 H.R. 4680: Mr. DELANEY and Ms. TSONGAS.
 H.R. 4698: Mr. ROTHFUS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. YODER, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
 H.R. 4699: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 4701: Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 4704: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
 H.R. 4706: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 4723: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. FARR, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 4759: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 4777: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
 H.R. 4781: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. FARR.
 H.R. 4783: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SIRES, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HONDA, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 4784: Mr. RUSH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 4786: Mr. RIBBLE.
 H.R. 4792: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
 H.R. 4795: Mr. GUTHERIE.
 H.R. 4802: Mr. RICHMOND.
 H.R. 4805: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. SCHOCK.
 H.J. Res. 20: Mr. ELLISON.
 H.J. Res. 21: Mr. ELLISON.
 H.J. Res. 50: Mr. HENSARLING.
 H. Res. 30: Mr. KILMER and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H. Res. 72: Mr. LYNCH.

H. Res. 109: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. SIRES.
 H. Res. 118: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
 H. Res. 387: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H. Res. 489: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MORAN, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. WOLF.
 H. Res. 532: Mr. ENYART.
 H. Res. 587: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. DEUTCH.
 H. Res. 600: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MESSER, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
 H. Res. 606: Mr. HOLT, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
 H. Res. 608: Mr. ROYCE.
 H. Res. 610: Mr. CLAY.
 H. Res. 611: Ms. ESTY.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. _____. Each amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. POE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 2: Page 52, strike lines 13 through 21.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. WALBERG

AMENDMENT NO. 3: Page 10, strike lines 12 through 14.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. WATERS

AMENDMENT NO. 4: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. 4. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require the relocation, or to carry out any required relocation, of any asset management positions of the Office of Multifamily Housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. ROYCE

AMENDMENT NO. 5: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568).

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 6: Page 70, line 16, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,500,000)".

Page 70, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,500,000)".

Page 71, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,500,000)".

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 7: Page 112, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$150,000)".

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 8: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to make bonus awards to contractors for work on projects that are behind schedule or over budget.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 9: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals—

(1) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(2) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1); or

(3) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 10: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize, approve, implement, or assist in any way a toll on any segment of Interstate 4 in the State of Florida.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 11: Page 52, strike lines 13 through 21.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 12: Page 36, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

Page 36, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 13: Page 70, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,000,000)".

Page 71, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,000,000)".

Page 73, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 80, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 80, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 14: Page 70, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 71, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 114, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

Page 114, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT No. 15: Page 70, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000)”.

Page 71, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000)”.

Page 73, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 82, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT No. 16: Page 70, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 71, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 80, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT No. 17: Page 72, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 73, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 82, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT No. 18: Page 85, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$500,000)”.

Page 86, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$500,000)”.

Page 114, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000)”.

Page 114, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000)”.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT No. 19: Page 106, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 140, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT No. 20: Page 111, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 140, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT No. 21: Page 113, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 140, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT No. 22: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading “Federal Transit Administration—Transit Formula Grants” may be used in contravention of section 5309 of title 49, United States Code.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. CASSIDY

AMENDMENT No. 23: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to promulgate or enforce rules, orders, or consent agreements or to fund approved projects under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program unless the Department of Transportation implements the recommendations provided in the preliminary report of the Government Accountability Office number GAO-14-628R TIGER Grants.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. CONYERS

AMENDMENT No. 24: Page 99, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT No. 25: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize, approve, implement, or assist in any way a toll on existing free lanes on any segment of Interstate 4 in the State of Florida.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT No. 26: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide a per-passenger subsidy in excess of \$250 under the Essential Air Service program.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GOHMERT

AMENDMENT No. 27: Page 85, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,100,000)”.

Page 87, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$17,600,000)”.

Page 156, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$24,700,000)”.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT No. 28: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide mortgage insurance under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) for any mortgage on a 1- to 4-family dwelling to be used as the principal residence of a mortgagor who provides only an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) for identification.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT No. 29: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay a Federal employee for any period of time during which such employee is using official time under section 7131 of title 5, United States Code.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT No. 30: Page 112, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 114, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 114, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. LOWENTHAL

AMENDMENT No. 31: Page 156, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . Unobligated funds made available to a State in fiscal year 2010 for the Interstate Maintenance Discretionary program under section 118(c) of title 23, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Public Law 112-141), may be made available, at that State’s request, to the State for any project eligible under section 133(b) of such title.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MS. BASS

AMENDMENT No. 32: At the end of the bill before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary or the Federal Transit Administration to implement, administer, or enforce section 18.36(c)(2) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, for construction hiring purposes.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE MARIN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Marin Shakespeare Company on the occasion of the organization's 25th Anniversary Celebration on May 31, 2014.

For the last twenty-five years, the Marin Shakespeare Company has worked to achieve excellence in the staging and study of Shakespearean plays, to celebrate Shakespeare, and to serve as a cultural and educational resource for the people of Marin, the San Francisco Bay Area, and beyond. Through programs such as Will Power and Play Power, Actor Intern Program, and various summer camps, the Marin Shakespeare Company has helped foster an appreciation and love of performing arts throughout the community and will continue to benefit Marin County for many years to come.

The Marin Shakespeare Company is a community treasure, and Marin County has benefited greatly from this organization's many years of experiencing, studying, and performing Shakespeare. Please join me in expressing deep appreciation to the Marin Shakespeare Company, and congratulations on 25 years of service.

RECOGNIZING MR. LEWIS DRISKELL, SR. FOR HIS EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATED COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Lewis Driskell, Sr., a community leader in the City of Flint with more than 50 years of experience in the printing profession.

Mr. Driskell graduated from Tuskegee Institute in 1955 with many awards to his credit, including the "Most Outstanding Student in Graphic Arts" from the Mercantile Paper Company. Following graduation he relocated to Flint and worked with three major printing establishments before forming his own company, Union Printing.

Mr. Driskell is driven by a strong belief of giving service to his community. In 1969 he was elected president of Flint Printers Local 282. In 1989, he received the State of Michigan's "Outstanding Minority Business Entre-

preneur" Award and the "Sydney B. Melet Humanitarian Award". In addition, in 1990, he received the Charles Stewart Mott "Citizen of the Year" Award from the Flint Chamber of Commerce and the Paul Harris Award from the Rotary Club of Flint.

His caring is further exemplified in the number of organizations for which he served as a policy maker. These organizations include: The Urban League of Flint, Greater Flint Opportunities Industrialization Center, Hurley Hospital Authority, Uptown Reinvestment, Planned Parenthood, Career Alliance, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, and as founder of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Moreover, his lifetime commitments, national and international are to: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Rotary International, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the Tuskegee University Alumni Club—Flint Chapter.

Now retired, Lewis enjoys spending time with his wife, Lois, their children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Lewis Driskell for his strong leadership and unwavering commitment to our community.

CONGRATULATING RICK JASCULA AND JIM TERMAN

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rick Jascula and Jim Terman of Jascula Terman Strategic Communications, who have been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Publicity Club of Chicago (PCC), the premier communications industry association in the region.

When they began their business, Jascula had worked as a lead advance man for President Jimmy Carter and Terman for Vice-President Walter Mondale. Together, they built their company from the ground up, and have been serving clients for more than 30 years. Jascula Terman is now a leader in public relations, specializing in public affairs, event management, crisis communications and digital strategies. Their reputation is rightly one to be respected. Rick and Jim are not only leaders in their field, but also in our greater Illinois community and they are truly deserving of this honor.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to again congratulate Rick Jascula and Jim Terman for their remarkable achievements. I am very grateful for the wonderful services that they provide for our community and so thankful that I am able to call them friends.

RECOGNIZING DEAN JOHN PIKE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dean John Pike and his accomplishments as the director of University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. As Dean Pike embarks on his retirement, I offer my deepest gratitude and commend him for dedicating most of his professional life to helping the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension fulfill its mission. Dean Pike received his Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, and Ph.D. from the place he loves and has served so well, the University of New Hampshire. A lifelong New Hampshire resident, Dean Pike joined Cooperative Extension in 1977 and has served an Extension educator, state program leader, and associate director prior to his appointment as dean and director in 1998.

Dean John Pike is truly passionate about the University of New Hampshire and the Cooperative Extension. In fact, he attributes his success to his steadfast belief in the mission of Cooperative Extension: "to enhance the ability of New Hampshire citizens to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families, and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy." Dean Pike's dedication to the University of New Hampshire is widely known and the Dean is well-respected by citizens, volunteers, and elected officials throughout the state for his staunch support of University of New Hampshire. His leadership will be missed by many.

In his years as Dean and Director, John Pike has served on many University of New Hampshire committees for the greater good of the institution. He has been active in the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities and served as a past chair of the Deans and Directors for the twelve Northeast States and District of Columbia. As Associate Director of the Cooperative Extension from 1986 to 1998, Dean Pike was instrumental in providing support to major legislative committees focused on the future of the organization.

As an Extension educator from 1977 to 1982, Dean Pike developed several innovative youth development programs, including an environmental education center and a nationally-recognized program to assist out-of-school, low income, and unemployed youth secure employment in the private sector. Furthermore, as a state program leader from 1982 to 1986, Dean Pike provided leadership for the implementation of a comprehensive 4-H program review, resulting in the restructuring of state 4-H positions and redirection of efforts in program development. In a show of his dedication to New Hampshire families, Dean Pike

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

was confirmed by the New Hampshire Governor and Executive Council as a board member of the New Hampshire Division of Children, Youth and Families, and was elected chair of the board in the mid-1980s.

Dean Pike's service to the Granite State has extended far beyond the University. He has served as a parochial school board member, mediator for a youth diversion program, member of his local recreation commission, youth sports coach, and as a commissioner for the Dover Housing Authority. In 1986, Pike was aptly awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the National Extension Agents Association.

I congratulate Dean Pike for his distinguished career and thank him for his dedication to serving the people of New Hampshire. Dean Pike's service to the University, the Cooperative Extension, and our state has impacted generations of New Hampshire leaders and his legacy will continue to inspire Granite Staters for years to come.

HONORING MARK SHANKER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Houses of Worship have played a major role in our communities, offering solace, support, and moral guidance to those in need, thanks to the selfless efforts of members like Mark Shinker.

For over 20 years, Mark has volunteered his time and talent to Temple Israel of New Rochelle to make it a more meaningful place of worship, education and friendship. His service to Temple Israel is truly inspiring. A member of the Board of Trustees, Mark also serves as the Youth Advisor Chair, Brotherhood President, and is a religious school teacher. He has served on numerous committees including clergy searches and clergy transitions.

Mark is perhaps best known for his leadership roles with children's programming, such as the Purim Carnivals, wacky game days and other events. He's also organized several programs and events that benefit both the congregation and the broader community, such as trips to Sammy's and Christmas at the Temple, all of which has earned Mark the affectionate name, "Temple Camp Counselor."

A long-time New Rochelle resident, Mark is an accountant and partner in the accounting firm Shinker & Shinker. Mark and his wife Phyllis are blessed with two children, Stephanie and Barry.

I am pleased to acknowledge Mark Shinker for his many contributions to Temple Israel of New Rochelle. It is a pleasure to celebrate a man who has made a big difference in the Jewish community, as well as greater New Rochelle.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF AKIVA HE-
BREW DAY SCHOOL

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a significant milestone in the history of Akiva Hebrew Day School in Southfield, Michigan—the school's 50th Anniversary of providing education to Greater Detroit's Jewish community.

Founded in 1964, Akiva was created by a dedicated group of educators who sought to provide the Jewish community in Metropolitan Detroit with a school that provided its students with a comprehensive academic curriculum, while deepening their connection to their faith and heritage. Today, Akiva offers an outstanding academic program for children from nursery school through high school, while providing complementary curricula that foster a love for their Jewish heritage, the State of Israel, and a deep commitment to a way of life that values the lessons of the Torah.

To support the ability of its students to achieve their maximum intellectual potential, Akiva provides them with a core academic curriculum that promotes the development of critical thinking and effective studying skills. Among the course offerings for students are an array of Advanced Placement level classes, as well as courses that support preparing them for higher education.

As part of this commitment to its students' education, Akiva is constantly revising and fine-tuning its programming at all phases in its students' development. Under the leadership of Rabbi Tzvi Klugerman, Akiva has recently made changes to its kindergarten reading program to promote both bilingualism and improved phonics skills during the earliest stages of development. Additionally, Akiva has implemented the ROAR program in its elementary school, to reinforce positive learning strategies among its students early in their academic careers. In its middle school, Akiva is providing an enhanced math program, and, in its high school, Akiva has added more Advanced Placement courses.

As a significant component of its curriculum, Akiva provides its students with a strong coursework of Judaic studies, which promotes the students' connection to their cultural heritage, faith, and the community—both locally and globally. Through a strong connection to their culture, Akiva students continue to take an active role in fostering the unique relationship between the United States and Israel, with many graduated students spending a year in Israel after high school. By practicing the tenants of their faith, Akiva students have supported a number of local non-profit organizations, like the Yad Ezra food pantry, the Friendship Circle and Yachad, which assist those who are experiencing moments of challenge in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, again, it is my pleasure to rise and recognize the outstanding leaders, educators and students of Akiva Hebrew Day School as they celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this great educational institution. Akiva pro-

grams are providing its students with a broad array of experiences both inside and outside the classroom which are preparing them to be future leaders, as well as supporting the special connection between the United States and Israel. It has been my pleasure to be partner with Akiva and to interact with its students. I look forward to the incredible impact that Akiva will continue to make as its faculty and staff guide future generations in their development.

RECOGNIZING THE MOUNT WASH-
INGTON OBSERVATORY ON THE
OPENING OF THE EXTREME
MOUNT WASHINGTON MUSEUM

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Hampshire's Mount Washington Observatory and its new Extreme Mount Washington Museum. The Mount Washington Observatory first established the observation center on the summit of Mount Washington in 1870 and operated there until 1892. This effort marked the first time a scientific observation center was located on the summit of a mountain. The observatory was re-opened in 1932 when a group of enthusiastic individuals recognized the value of collecting scientific data at the summit. This re-emergence came just in time, because in 1934, the highest wind speed ever observed by man was recorded at 231 miles per hour at the summit of Mount Washington. Given the breadth and importance of the data and observations, the Mount Washington Observatory opened its mountaintop museum in 1973 to provide educational opportunities to the public.

Over the past four decades, the Observatory's mountaintop museum has established itself as a world-class resource for science education. Each year, more than 100,000 visitors come to the museum to get a taste of the world's worst weather. Starting this summer, visitors will benefit from an enhanced experience at the state's most visited museum with the development of the Observatory's aptly named Extreme Mount Washington experience. This project, which will be officially unveiled this month, represents the largest and most significant undertaking by the Observatory in decades.

Today, I recognize this major accomplishment by the Mount Washington Observatory and share in their excitement as they reopen the museum for Extreme Mount Washington. Extreme Mount Washington is an interactive, hands-on experience that will provide visitors with an unparalleled window into Mount Washington's extreme conditions.

In keeping with New Hampshire tradition, this significant project was made possible through the collaborative efforts and generosity of over 400 individuals and organizations, and I commend them for their support. Moreover, the Gladys Brooks Foundation, Putnam Foundation, Public Service of New Hampshire and Northeast Utilities Foundation, Jane's Trust, and the Neil & Louise Tillotson

Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation all deserve special recognition for their significant contributions to the project.

As a lifelong resident of the Granite State, Mount Washington represents the playground of the North Country that was a critical part of my formative years. Even now, a painting of Mount Washington hangs in my Washington office, providing a taste of New Hampshire for all who visit me in our nation's capital. I am thrilled that the Extreme Mount Washington experience will make this larger-than-life symbol more accessible to all who visit our state.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND REMEMBERING THE MEMBERS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION WHO SAVED FREEDOM IN THE WORLD

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in humble gratitude to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied Forces' audacious amphibious landing at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

"Operation Overlord," as D-Day was formally known, was the largest single amphibious assault in the history of warfare.

The success of D-Day, which was far from certain at the outset, led to the liberation of Western Europe, signaled the death knell of the German Wehrmacht, and paved the way to unconditional victory by the Allied Forces over the evils of Nazism, fascism, and Japanese imperialism.

It is no exaggeration to say that D-Day changed the course of human history.

The aim of the meticulously planned D-Day operation was to open a second front in the European war theater from which the Allied Forces could attack the German army and push east to capture Berlin. With the Russian Army advancing from the east, coupled with the southern front opened by the Allied invasion of Italy from North Africa in 1942, the opening of a western front would set in motion the pincer movement that would catch the German Army in a trap from which there would be no escape.

The formidable German Army expected that the Allied Forces would try to launch an invasion from the western beaches of France, they just did not know when or where. So in anticipation of an Allied invasion, the Nazis constructed the infamous Atlantic Wall, an extensive system of coastal fortifications built along the western coast of Europe and Scandinavia.

Under the direction of Field Marshal Rommel, the Atlantic Wall was reinforced by the addition of concrete pillboxes built along the beaches to house machine guns, antitank guns and light artillery. Mines and antitank obstacles were planted on the beaches themselves and underwater obstacles and mines were placed in waters just off shore.

By the time of the D-Day landing, the Nazis had laid almost six million mines in northern France. And awaiting Allied soldiers who

made their way on to and away from the beaches were gun emplacements and minefields extended inland.

"War is hell," said General William Tecumseh Sherman during the Civil War. And that is an apt description of what awaited the brave Allied warriors who set sail from England to the beaches of Normandy in the early morning of June 6, 1944, at the beginning of what has rightly been called "The Longest Day."

But they were buoyed in their resolve by the millions of prayers from Americans and others back home, of all races, religions, and creeds, invoking the Lord's blessing, mercy, and grace. With the outcome in doubt, President Franklin Roosevelt asked the nation to join him in this solemn prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace.

They fight not for the lust of conquest.

They fight to end conquest.

They fight to liberate.

They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people.

They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

The prayers were needed because the cost of D-Day was high. U.S. casualties on D-Day totaled more than 2,499 dead, 3,184 wounded, 1,928 missing, and 26 captured.

Our British and Canadian allies suffered terrible losses on D-Day as well: approximately 2,700 for the British and 946 for the Canadians. German casualties are estimated at 4,000 to 9,000.

In total, the number of combatants killed, wounded or missing in the Battle of Normandy for both sides exceeded 425,000, not including the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 French civilians killed.

But the operation was a success. More than 156,000 troops or paratroopers came ashore on D-Day, 73,000 from the U.S., 83,000 from Great Britain and Canada.

By the end of June 11, D-Day+5, 326,547 troops, 54,186 vehicles and 104,428 tons of supplies had come ashore.

And with them the seeds for the victory in Europe that would come less than a year later, on May 8, 1945, with the fall of Berlin and the unconditional surrender of the Nazis.

On the eve of the Normandy invasion, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, addressed the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Forces to let them know that they were about to embark upon the "Great Crusade," and that the "eyes of the world were upon you."

He told them that their task would not be easy because the "enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely." But, General Eisenhower said, "this is the year 1944. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory."

And march to victory they did, full justifying General Eisenhower's "confidence in [their] courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle."

Because of the heroism of these men who willingly risked their lives to be the tip of the spear of liberty, the war was won and a world was saved for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, D-Day was, and remains, a day like no other in the history of man's sojourn on earth.

We remember Gettysburg. There, President Lincoln paid tribute to those "who gave their lives so that the nation might live."

And it is equally fitting and proper that we remember D-Day. And that we continue to honor those who risked all and gave all so that the world could remain free.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 271, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING NATALY AND STEPHEN NEUWIRTH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, religious institutions such as Young Israel of New Rochelle (YINR) play a critical role in ensuring the voices of our community's most vulnerable residents do not go unheard, thanks to the selfless dedication of individuals like Nataly and Stephen Neuwirth. For more than a decade, the Neuwirths have worked to sustain a community built on charity, tolerance and empathy.

Nataly and Stephen are Guests of Honor at Young Israel of New Rochelle's 47th Annual Dinner, and observing their dedicated and steadfast commitment to community service, it is easy to see why as Young Israel of New Rochelle chose to honor this couple.

The Neuwirths became active members of the New Rochelle community immediately after moving to the area 11 years ago. They are the proud parents of four sons: Oren, Ely, Benny and Emmanuel. In spite of their busy family life, have found time and energy to give back to the community they love.

Law is a demanding profession, yet Stephen has found the time to serve on the Young Israel New Rochelle Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2011 and led recently a successful effort to retire YINR's mezzanine loan.

Nataly has also been a steadfast member of the YINR community. She's a generous participant of the Women's League where she prepares meals for new mothers, packs YINR's Mischloach Manot and supports the Mikvah Bake Sale.

Nataly and Stephen have also devoted themselves to the cultural growth of the New Rochelle community, supporting YINR's shul and mikvah, sponsoring and hosting scholars

in residence, and Shabbat onegs. In the past year both Nataly and Stephen dedicated the new publication, Chumash Mesoras Harav at YINR.

Their exceptional devotion, however, is not limited to the New Rochelle community. Nataly and Stephen have also given time, support and involvement in the important affairs of neighboring communities, most notably Salanter Akiba Riverdale Academy. The pair has also participated in the Jarden Westchester triathlon as members of "Skippy's team," to raise awareness for the fight against leukemia.

Nataly and Stephen are exemplary members of the New Rochelle community. Their service and dedication is not only admirable, but their boundless energy and commitment to furthering causes close to them is truly exceptional.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF DARTMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 350th anniversary of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, a scenic and vibrant coastal town in southeastern Massachusetts.

Dartmouth was originally settled in the 1650s by the Religious Society of Friends, also known as the Quakers, a group that had been banned from Plymouth Colony on account of its religious doctrines. The town's official incorporation came in 1664. The Quakers have been long known for their refusal to participate in war, their opposition to slavery, and their belief in the priesthood of all followers, and remain an important part of Dartmouth's culture today.

In its early years, Dartmouth was mostly an agricultural, whaling, and shipping settlement. Its most famous whaling ship was the HMS *Dartmouth*, which is more famously known for being the first ship targeted in the Boston Tea Party. The *Dartmouth* set sail to London in 1773 with a cargo of whale oil, returning to Boston with a ship full of tea from the East India Trading Company. Luckily for the American ship owners, only the tea was destroyed. The protestors even swept the decks clean after the protest.

Today, this South Shore town maintains its rural charm, continuing to attract vacationers to its picturesque coast. Many portions of Dartmouth have changed very little in the past hundred years, serving as important historical sites.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the town of Dartmouth and the entire Dartmouth community on the celebration of their 350th anniversary. May this beautiful Massachusetts town flourish for many years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TUCSON YMCA

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the YMCA located in my district in Tucson, Arizona.

Since 1914, the YMCA of Southern Arizona has been strengthening the Tucson community by fostering physical, mental and social development. From the original modest site at the corner of Congress and Court Streets in Downtown Tucson, the Y began developing programs for young men.

In 1948 the YMCA's Triangle Y Camp was established in the Catalina Mountains, and in the 1950s and 60s, new locations included a central branch, the Lighthouse YMCA, a south branch, the Mulcahy YMCA and the Ott Family YMCA on the east side. The YMCA Foundation was established in 1973, and today has a \$3.5 million professionally managed asset fund. New locations continued with the Lohse Family YMCA in 1992 and the Northwest Community Center in 2002. In the last decade, many of the locations have been improved and expanded to better serve community needs.

Today, the Y has five amazing branches that incorporate the tenets of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The YMCA of Southern Arizona has developed hundreds of programs. From sports, aquatics and camp activities that help kids, youth and seniors to child care, military support and family services—there is no limit to their inclusiveness for our community as they serve 200,000 participants each year.

As we look to the future, the Y will continue to provide programs and services for adults, children and families.

I am proud to honor their 100-year legacy and anticipate the great things they will provide in the next century.

HONORING DR. EDWARD W.
WRIGHT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Edward W. Wright. Known throughout the Bay Area as a physician, mentor, active community member, and devoted husband and father, Mr. Wright has left an indelible mark on our community. With his passing on May 29, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born on June 2, 1922 in Fayette, Howard County, Missouri, Dr. Edward Wright was the fourth child born to William Marion Wright and Lunie K. Cameron. When Dr. Wright was five years old, he caught scarlet fever and was hospitalized for a long period of time. At this

young age, Dr. Wright was inspired to become a doctor. He later moved to El Paso, Texas to live with his aunt and uncle after losing both of his parents in an unfortunate tragedy. In El Paso, he graduated Douglas High School with honors, and he then went on to attend Sam Houston College in Austin, Texas. In 1943, Dr. Wright graduated Magna Cum Laude as a Pre-Medical student with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

In 1945, Dr. Edward Wright attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he partook in an accelerated program in Internal Medicine. At the age of 25, he graduated with honors and went on to complete his residency at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama. He became Chief Resident and served as a full-time staff physician until 1955.

Dr. Edward Wright and his family relocated to California in 1955, where Dr. Wright served as a Medical Officer for the Armed Forces at Fort Ord. After he completed his service, they relocated to Oakland, where Dr. Wright began a private practice in December 1958. Seven years later, he established and built a medical facility to serve families throughout Oakland.

In addition to his prolific career, Dr. Wright was an active member in the community. He volunteered at the East Oakland Boys Club, providing physical exams, counseling and financial assistance for camperships and uniforms. For the next 40 years, Dr. Wright served as a physician, mentor and father-figure to more than 1,200 boys at the North and East Oakland Boys Clubs. Dr. Wright was also active with the Oakland Chapter of the Lions Club, providing countless hours of Loyal Lions Service.

In 1969, he joined the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club and then served as President of the Board from 1980 to 1982. He was presented with the Man and Boy Trophy Award for his work with the Boys and Girls Clubs in 1964. Later, he received the Boys and Girls Clubs Service Award Medallion and then was honored during a formal tribute in 2000 at the First Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

On a personal note, I have known Dr. Wright, or "Piggy" as my mother, Mildred Massey, called him, since I was a child. He and my mother attended school together and were very close. We loved "Piggy" and will miss him tremendously. He was one of my earliest supporters when I first ran for public office in 1989 and, for that, I am deeply grateful.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual, Dr. Edward W. Wright. As an Oakland resident, Dr. Wright's contributions have truly impacted so many lives throughout the Bay Area. I join all of Edward's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER WARHAWKS

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater's Warhawks, who won the NCAA Division III World Series on May 27, 2014. The Warhawks, led by pitcher Scott Plaza and Head Coach John Vodenlich, displayed a tremendous amount of grit, determination, skill, and athleticism throughout their outstanding 44-7 season, which culminated in a resounding 7-0 win over Emory University in the championship game. With this victory, the UW-Whitewater athletic program accomplished something no other NCAA team has ever done before: sweep the three major men's sports championships in one year.

The success of the UW-Whitewater baseball team has made the residents of Wisconsin proud and I salute the entire team: Daytona Bryden, Dylan Bersch, Jordan Kuczynski, Matt Langlie, Austin Jones, Colin Grove, Nick Kuhlmann, Hayden Fenner, Kyle Haen, Trey Cannon, Dylan Friend, Mike Nompoggi, Mikole Pierce, Austin Finn, Trent Diekvoss, Curtis Morgan, Donnie Manke, Steve Chamberlain, Jared Fon, Adam Gregory, Justin Mortensen, John Olejniczak, Mike Mierow, Brock Liston, Michael Gonzalez, Casey Power, Andrew Lowe, Connor Hurst, Scott Plaza, and Matt Roberts.

Winning a national championship is never easy. On behalf of my congressional office and my constituents in Wisconsin's fifth district, I commend the coaches and players at UW-Whitewater for their hard work and dedication, and wish them continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BREAD FOR THE WORLD

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Representatives JIM MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, FRANK WOLF of Virginia, XAVIER BECERRA of California, CHARLIE DENT of Pennsylvania, and MARCIA FUDGE of Ohio in recognition of Bread for the World's 40th anniversary. Bread for the World is a bipartisan Christian movement committed to ending hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world.

Founded in 1974 by the Rev. Arthur Simon, Bread for the World began as a small group of Catholics and Protestants who realized that mobilizing people of faith to influence U.S. policies can address the causes of and help to end hunger. Today, Bread for the World has grown in size and influence, with over 72,000 members, 5,500 congregations and more than 50 denominations. Bread for the World is now

the largest grassroots advocacy network on hunger issues in the United States.

Each year, Bread for the World members across the country conduct an Offering of Letters in their church. But rather than an offering of money, it is an offering of hand-written letters to Congress on one policy issue that will affect hunger in the U.S. and around the world. This successful advocacy tool has helped make tremendous progress in eradicating hunger and poverty.

Over the last 40 years, the faith community has played a significant role, which has resulted in policies that strengthened our national nutrition programs; provided debt relief to the world's poorest countries; reduced child mortality rates worldwide; extended tax credits for low-income working families; and developed a national strategy for maternal and child nutrition.

Bread for the World strongly believes that, with political will, we can end hunger within our lifetime. We applaud and support Bread for the World's goal of making hunger a national priority.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in congratulating Bread for the World for 40 years of advocacy, and urge that its members continue to be a voice for years to come for those whom Scripture calls "the least of these."

HONORING JOSE PEIXOTO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, like many who came to our shores, Jose Peixoto moved to America in search of opportunities.

Jose Peixoto was born in the City of Braga, in the northernmost region of Portugal. The youngest of five children, Jose learned to value honest work and education. He joined the Portuguese Air Force when he was 17 years old, serving honorably for 3 years.

Jose arrived in Yonkers when he was just 23 years old. His wife Celeste and his children, Joe Jr. and Aurora, later followed. Today Jose is blessed to be the proud grandfather of five grandchildren: Sophia, Sabrina, Angelica, Gabriela and Monica.

Upon settling in Yonkers in 1967, Jose immediately began serving his community, quickly becoming a member of the Portuguese-American Community Center. Throughout his association with the Community Center, Jose has held a diverse range of challenging and important positions, but perhaps none more so than guiding the Center through the difficult transition period.

His legacy is literally within the foundations of the Portuguese-American Community Center. Jose was intricately involved in selling the old building, buying the land to build a new Center and leading efforts to raise money for its construction. Jose also played an important role in developing the Center's by-laws and negotiating its tax-free status. It is clear that little would have been achieved without his leadership and drive.

Jose has also been a keen supporter of other programs within the community. Jose

and Celeste sponsor the Center's Folkloric Group, an important link to Portuguese traditions and culture. Jose has also served on the Center's Advisory Council and Scholarship Committee, along with many other ad hoc committees.

At every opportunity Jose has sought the opportunity to serve the community he cares so deeply for. He is a testament to what can be accomplished in the communities around the country when an individual puts the interests of others above themselves and works tirelessly for the betterment of our society.

It is clear that the Portuguese-American Community holds Jose Peixoto in high regard and I join them in thanking him for his steadfast commitment and enduring legacy of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL MARESCO

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the accomplishments of Michael Maresco of Marshfield, Massachusetts, who has been named Marshfield Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Maresco, a resident of Marshfield since 1994, has been a vital member of the community for a long time. For nearly twenty years, Mr. Maresco has been involved in Community Christmas, a local organization that works to deliver presents to children in need during the holiday season. He serves as Vice President of the Marshfield Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, and he also leads Boy Scout Troop 212. Additionally, Mr. Maresco is deeply involved in both state and local government, having served three terms on the Marshfield Board of Selectmen and having worked in the office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State for over thirty years. Currently, Mr. Maresco serves as Chairman of the Marshfield Democratic Town Committee. A husband and father of two, Mr. Maresco is well-known throughout his community. The town of Marshfield is fortunate to have such a dedicated citizen, and his commitment to serving others serves as a valuable example for us all.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Michael Maresco for his service in his community, and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him for all that he has done.

RECOGNIZING THE FIVE OUTSTANDING HONOREES AT THIS YEAR'S SEVENTH ANNUAL NORTH SHORE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize five outstanding women who have enriched our communities across five different sectors.

The Deerfield/Bannockburn/Riverwoods and Wilmette Chambers of Commerce joined together to host the seventh annual North Shore Women's Conference in the suburban Chicago district I represent. This year's honorees have each contributed in their unique ways to the strength and success of our communities, and each is well qualified and deserving of this recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize this year's five honorees: in the Corporate Sector, Joy Foster of Deerfields Bakery; in the Small Business category, Megan Quinlisk Van Treeck of The Irish Connoisseur; in the Entrepreneurial category, Adriane Johnson of Populus XP; in the Not For Profit category, Deb Guy of the Women's Exchange; in the Government category, Wendy Durkin, Battalion Chief of the Buffalo Grove Fire Department.

Each of these women exemplifies part of the spirit that makes the Tenth District an ideal place to start and raise a family as well as build and grow a business.

I am grateful for the dedicated work each of them does in our communities, and I am confident that this honor will mark the start of an even greater chapter of service to the community.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. MARIONNE ROBBINS

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Ms. Marianne Robbins. I join her family members and friends from the Sabathani Community Center who gather in Minneapolis on July 1, 2014 to commemorate this special day.

Marionne was born on July 4, 1914, in Sioux City, Iowa. She was seven years old when her family moved to South Minneapolis in 1921, and she has remained here for the 93 years since then. She has one daughter, two grandchildren, one great grandchild, and one great great grandchild. Marionne enjoyed a successful career at Northern States Power Company in Minneapolis until her retirement in 1979 after 34 years of service.

After her retirement, Marionne became a wonderful community volunteer and an active participant in the Senior Center at Sabathani Community Center in South Minneapolis. For many years she has served as a "sunshine lady" visiting the sick and immobile seniors, traveling with the Willie Hale Travel Club, bowling with friends, and participating in events with the U-Meet-Us Seniors and Sabathani Senior Center.

Marionne is always looking for new ways to connect senior citizens, like creating the Senior Breakfast Club and founding the Sabathani Red Hat Society chapter in Minneapolis.

Marionne Robbins has led an outstanding life, highlighted by her love of family and service to her community. I wish her many more years of health and happiness.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHY DUNSMUIR, RECIPIENT OF THE 2014 WILKES-BARRE DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor of Kathy Dunsmuir, who was awarded the 2014 Distinguished Leadership Award at the Annual Dinner and Graduation of Leadership Wilkes-Barre on June 5, 2014. The dinner honored Leadership Wilkes-Barre's graduating class of 2014, marking 33 years of developing community leaders. Leadership Wilkes-Barre's mission focuses on both developing community leaders and fostering civic engagement.

Kathy has worked for PNC Bank for 37 years, where she currently serves as the Senior Vice President and Team Director. She is a 1999 graduate of Leadership Wilkes-Barre's Core program. Kathy stays involved in her community through participation in many area organizations. Kathy serves on the Board of Directors for the Wilkes-Barre Catholic Youth Center, Wyoming Valley Children's Association, Maternal & Family Service Association, and she will soon assume the Board Chairpersonship of the Osterhout Library. She is also a very active member of several committees, directing fundraisers and events for many area organizations such as the North Branch Land Trust, The Association for the Blind, Family Service Association, American Red Cross, American Heart Association, United Way of Luzerne County, Luzerne County Historical Society, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

I am proud to recognize Kathy for receiving this important award. Her tireless dedication to volunteer work sets a shining example for the Wilkes-Barre and northeastern Pennsylvania. Through her personal leadership, I am confident that she will continue serving as a pillar of our community. I thank her for her past work and look forward to her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING SRIRAM HATHWAR

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, S-T-I-C-H-O-M-Y-T-H-I-A. Stichomythia.

Mr. Speaker, this is the word that Sriram Hathwar spelled correctly to win the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee. I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sriram on this incredible accomplishment.

Sriram, an eighth-grade student at the Alternative School for Math and Science in Corning, New York, participated in the National Spelling Bee this year for the fifth time. In his final year of eligibility, Sriram outlasted 279 other contestants and was declared co-champion after correctly spelling twelve "championship words." As he progressed through the

competition, Sriram appeared unfazed by the increasingly difficult words that were presented to him. He displayed impressive levels of composure, confidence and determination throughout the competition, which propelled him to victory.

After diligently studying the roughly 470,000 words in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Sriram successfully spelled some of the most challenging words in the English language. The amount of preparation and training Sriram completed in preparation of this competition exemplifies his unrelenting dedication to learning.

In addition to his proficiency at spelling difficult words, Sriram's display of humility and sportsmanship throughout the competition was commendable. Upon being named co-champion, Sriram recognized his fellow contestants by stating that the competition was "against the dictionary, not against each other."

Sriram Hathwar is a source of inspiration within my congressional district and across the country. I am proud of his success in the Scripps National Spelling Bee and confident that he will build upon this experience to accomplish great things in the future.

HONORING DOCTORS WILLIAM W. HAYNIE AND CURTIS LONG

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two amazing men who have served Bates County for over fifty years as medical professionals. Dr. William Haynie and Dr. Curtis Long are loved and respected by all and have made an amazing difference in the lives of thousands of families in Missouri's 4th District.

Dr. Haynie began his career at Bates County Memorial Hospital in 1964. He has been a very active member of the medical staff and many committees within the hospital. He supervised the Laboratory, Medical/Surgery, and Rehabilitation services before serving as Chief of the Medical Staff for eight years. Dr. Haynie was recognized in 2012 by the Missouri State Medical Association for his 50 years of dedicated service as a Medical Doctor in the Bates County community. His always-positive attitude and selflessness to remain faithful to service for decades is deserving of praise.

Dr. Long began his practice in Butler, Missouri in 1964 where he has been a pillar in the community for over five decades. During his distinguished career he has operating from the same medical building performing more than 10,000 surgeries, delivering over 4,000 babies, and admitting over 50,000 patients. Additionally, he has been a leader for organized medicine groups, hospitals, banks, and churches within the community. I stand to recognize Dr. Long's passion for his practice and his community.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in applauding the service and commitment of Drs. Haynie and Long. Their steadfast and enduring service is a shining example for all. We are blessed to have

such dedicated practitioners serving us, and they are certainly worthy of our recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 269, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND DOUGLAS JONES AT WELCOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Douglas Jones of Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan, as the congregation and the broader community celebrate his Twenty-fifth Pastoral Anniversary.

Throughout his tenure as the spiritual leader of the congregation at Welcome, Reverend Jones has approached his responsibilities with thoughtfulness and resolve for all of his congregation's members. From the very beginning of his tenure in 1989, Reverend Jones has focused on his congregation's future and in one of his first acts, took steps that allowed the church members to pay off Welcome's mortgage within his first three years. He also been keenly focused on the needs of Welcome's younger members and has established a number of ministries centered on catering to their needs. Furthermore, he has given special attention to members of his congregation facing moments of crisis in their lives—creating ministries that assist members with health and family emergencies.

The results of Reverend Jones' dedication are witnessed in the spiritual prosperity of the congregation at Welcome, which has grown both in membership from several hundred to more than four thousand, and in the deepening connection of its members to their faith.

In addition to the remarkable impact Reverend Jones has made at Welcome, he has engaged in endeavors that have affected the entire Pontiac community. As the founder of the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition, Reverend Jones brought together stakeholders from across the different sectors of Pontiac to make positive changes in their community. Additionally, Reverend Jones is active in many other community organizations in Pontiac and beyond, including Pontiac Youth Assistance and Pontiac's Committee of 50, a gathering of community decision-makers that drives philanthropic efforts within the city. Reverend Jones' work also includes the establishment of a scholarship fund to help youth realize their dreams of higher education and

programs that support youth during their primary education.

Because of Reverend Jones' leadership and endeavors at Welcome Missionary Baptist Church and within the Pontiac community, many residents have received support at critical moments in their lives and have seen the bonds within their neighborhoods strengthened. I know the congregation at Welcome must be proud of all Pastor Jones' accomplishments over his twenty-five year tenure as their spiritual leader. I am grateful for Reverend Jones' friendship and his leadership on many issues of importance to the Pontiac community and the Greater Detroit region. I wish Reverend Jones, First Lady JoAnn and their family continued happiness and success as they continue to serve their neighbors in Pontiac and the Greater Detroit community.

HONORING DOMINIC CECERE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, competitive sports allow youth to test their skills, while learning the importance of fair play and good sportsmanship. Dominic Cecere has spent 50 years coaching baseball at Eastchester High School. His joy for teaching and love of the game has inspired generations of youth.

Current and former athletes say he inspired them to give the game their all, which shows in the school's winning streak. Thanks to Dom's leadership, the Eastchester Eagles have won 15 league titles, six sectional titles and a regional championship. He has also traveled with players to Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Cuba.

A former rookie player for the New York Yankees, Dom also worked as a professional talent scout for the Cincinnati Reds, the Montreal Expos, and the Philadelphia Phillies.

Dom started coaching the Eastchester varsity baseball team in 1965. He was captain of the Varsity Baseball team at New York University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. He later earned a degree in Administration and a Master of Science in Physical Education from the University of Bridgeport.

Westchester County has recognized him as their coach of the year eight times and the New York Daily News has named him "New Coach of the Year" twice. Dom has also been honored by the New York State Coaches' Associations Award and the National H.S. Coaches Associations.

Dom was inducted into the Westchester County Sports Hall of Fame in 2001, the Eastchester Hall of Fame in 2006, and now the New York State Baseball Hall of Fame.

A number of his former students have gone on to coach baseball too. They will be among those honoring Dom at the inaugural Dom Cecere tournament, which raises money for graduating seniors going to college.

I am pleased to honor Dominic Cecere for his contributions to Eastchester High School, as well as to America's great pastime. I am hopeful he will inspire another generation of young players.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFELONG IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND EXERCISE (LIFE) ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reintroduce the Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise (LIFE) Act, authorizing a national initiative to attack a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Increasing rates of overweight and obesity are now found in Americans of every age, race, and major demographic group, and threaten the health of Americans like no other single disease or condition. In fact, the key to eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is to reduce overweight and obesity. The bill would provide \$25 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a coordinated national effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar.

Despite rising consciousness of this epidemic, from television shows like "The Biggest Loser" and "Extreme Weight Loss" to a steady stream of diet books, the United States has startling rates of obesity among adults and children. In 2010, the CDC National Center for Health Statistics indicated that, since 1980, the percentage of children who are overweight has more than doubled, and the percentage of adolescents has tripled. Today, the 13 million overweight children have an 80 percent chance of being overweight adults, with the health conditions that follow, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer. The CDC reports that Type 2 diabetes, considered an adult disease, is now widespread in children. The rising costs of the health care system, including insurance premiums, reflect the epidemic. The consequences for children will follow them throughout their lives if we do not act quickly and decisively. If we are serious about controlling health care costs, we must start where the most serious health conditions begin: overweight and obesity.

The bill seeks to provide the first national strategy to combat the epidemic by directing the CDC to: train health professionals to recognize the signs of obesity early and to educate people concerning healthy lifestyles, such as proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct public education campaigns about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies to be used in everyday life, such as in the workplace and in community settings. The legislation is the minimum necessary to address our most important health crisis. Today, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight and obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S. and 60 percent of U.S. health care costs. According to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity, the cost of obesity in the U.S. was more than \$117 billion in 2000. The CDC has highlighted a study that estimates the annual cost to be \$147 billion. It is estimated that between

300,000 and 400,000 deaths per year are related to obesity.

A focused national health initiative is necessary because unhealthy lifestyles have become a normal part of everyday life. Participation in high school physical education classes dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 33 percent in 2005. Changes in nutrition are equally critical because 60 percent of young people consume too much fat, a factor in the doubling of the percentage of overweight youth. Data show an increase in unhealthy eating habits for adults and no change in physical activity.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation to mobilize the country now, before entirely preventable health conditions, which often begin in childhood, overwhelm the Nation's health care system.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
BENJAMIN F. MARSH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Benjamin F. Marsh, who passed from this life at the age of 87 years. Ben was a respected attorney and longtime solicitor for the City of Maumee, Ohio. A proud patriot, Ben Marsh's life was one of service to others.

Born in Sylvania, Ohio, Ben served our nation during World War II as a member of the U.S. Navy. After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan University, he attended George Washington Law School. While at George Washington, Ben worked in federal service for the Atomic Energy Commission. Upon earning his law degree he first went to Columbus, Ohio and then returned to Northwest Ohio to practice law.

Early in Ben's law career his services were retained by local government. In 1963 he became the Maumee solicitor. Always committed to public service, Ben decided to run for Congress in 1968, though he was not successful against the incumbent. Ben went on to admirably and ably chair his county party for many years. With a compassionate world view, Ben was named a U.S. Representative to the 1972 general conference of UNESCO. He later served on the U.S. Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

Not one to let retirement end his public service, Ben remained an active and engaged citizen. In 1997 Ben was asked by the State Department to visit Bosnia and Herzegovina to help oversee local elections. He served on the Ohio Elections Commission and was a co-chairman in 2007 of a study committee on Lucas County governance. He also briefly served on the Lucas County Board of Elections.

Perhaps Ben's greatest legacy is his family. He and his wife Martha were married for 62 years and together raised a son and daughter. They shared in the joy of their five grandchildren. We know that Ben's family will find comfort in memory and the gift of his life.

Ben Marsh was an outstanding citizen, keen intellect, accomplished lawyer, and a devoted

patriot at home and abroad. He embodied the meaning of the words "enlightened citizen." His kind nature and sense of humor made him a bridge builder at every level he served. Our community has been bettered by his lifelong dedication to it. Personally, I am grateful for his advice and counsel so selflessly rendered.

HONORING NAPA VALLEY
HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Napa Valley Horsemen's Association (NVHA) for 75 years of service to the Napa community. Throughout its history, NVHA has provided education and training about horses, offered scholarships for local students, and participated in community service projects, which is both admirable and deserving of recognition.

NVHA was founded in Napa, California, in 1939 to promote interest in horses as a hobby and recreational activity. The Association has grown from its original 61 members to almost 300 members and is the oldest horsemen's association in California today.

Outside of horse shows and educational clinics, NVHA has never ceased to serve the Napa community. After a flood damaged the community in 1940, NVHA members helped to repair the Napa Fairgrounds. NVHA also hosts fundraising events to help local charities. They recently helped Ag 4 Youth, an animal husbandry program for at-risk youth, by providing land where these kids can raise their animals. In addition to helping the community, NVHA provides scholarships to graduating high school seniors who will study veterinary science, agriculture, or forestry after high school.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank NVHA not only for their commitment to equestrianism, but for their commitment to our community. NVHA's unyielding dedication to educating the community and providing community services is greatly appreciated by the Napa community and we wish them further success as an already distinguished organization.

CONGRATULATING THE DECATUR
COUNTY FAMILY YMCA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Decatur County Family YMCA on its 100th anniversary.

Across the country, YMCAs provide an invaluable service promoting youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. These facilities serve 21 million Americans nationwide by offering a variety of programs, such as affordable preschool, youth sports and fitness, Bible studies, and summer camps,

which are just a few of the many services and activities routinely offered. Countless individuals have benefited from the positive change the local YMCA has brought to their lives and communities.

The Decatur County Family YMCA has served the people of Greensburg since its incorporation in 1914. It is one of the oldest non-profit agencies in southeastern Indiana. This cornerstone of the community has been an asset for the greater Greensburg area and has provided residents with unique programs, classes and resources that many would not have had access to in its absence. As a young student, I attended the Greensburg YMCA gym regularly.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating the Decatur County Family YMCA on its 100th anniversary. I have no doubt that this extraordinary institution will be serving families in southeastern Indiana for many more years to come.

HONORING LLOYD GEORGE
BURNETT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, immigrants from around the world have come to our shores in order to seek new opportunities. Like so many others, Lloyd George Burnett has found the American dream. He has also worked hard to serve and enrich the community in which he lives.

Lloyd immigrated to the United States from Jamaica in 1969, where he lived in Connecticut for two years before moving to the Bronx. Lloyd quickly established himself professionally in his new homeland. In just four years after moving to America, Lloyd rose to become the chief mechanic for the Professional Linen Corp., where his responsibilities included managing the company's fleet of vans and trucks. But he had set even higher goals for himself.

After working for several years as a mechanic, Lloyd finally achieved his dream of becoming an entrepreneur, opening Lloyd's Auto Repair in 1981. It was not an easy start for Lloyd. He started his shop with only two bays, then he did something very brave, but also very risky: he invested all of his savings into his fledgling business, after the banks refused to lend to him. This proved to be a very savvy move. Lloyd's Auto Repair first opened its doors some 32 years ago, and continues to serve customers on the tristate region.

Lloyd has generously shared his knowledge with other aspiring small business owners. He lent his expertise to help Henry Carter, Radcliff Simpson, and Dahkia Thompson secure a location for a business they recently opened on Sandford Blvd., in Mount Vernon.

Not only should Lloyd be recognized as an example of a small business owner, but for being a good neighbor who is always looking for ways to make a positive impact to his community. Lloyd has long been a strong supporter of the All Islands Association, a local Caribbean-American civic organization, as well

as other civic groups in his community. Lloyd is the proud father of Tony, Robin and Lloyd Jr. He has also been blessed with five wonderful grandchildren. Jewel, T.J., Kyla, Triston, and Tyler.

Lloyd George Burnett has clearly worked hard to achieve his dreams, as well as lend his talents to his community. His tenacity, leadership and service to the community is truly commendable.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF PEDRO IRIARTE BORJA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Pedro Iriarte Borja, the former mayor of the municipality of Chalan Pago-Ordot in Guam. Mayor Borja passed away on May 30, 2014 at the age of 85.

Pedro Iriarte Borja was born on July 1, 1928 to Francisco Borja Borja and Ana Benavente Iriarte Borja. Affectionately known as "Pete," he married Maria Crisostomo Arceo, his wife of 62 years, on July 7, 1951 and together they had seven children.

Pedro Borja was elected mayor of Chalan Pago-Ordot in November of 2004 and served from 2005 to 2009. During his term, Mayor Borja made significant improvements in the community. He oversaw the restoration of the Jose Atoigue Park and erected monuments to honor fallen servicemembers from Chalan Pago-Ordot.

Prior to his term as mayor, Pete Borja attended the Territorial College of Guam, which subsequently became the University of Guam, where he served as Student Body President. He then joined the United States Navy and served in the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1956, and subsequently returned to Guam.

After his service in the Navy, Pete worked at the Navy Public Works Center (PWC), Ship Repair Facility (SRF), U.S. Post Office, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In 1967, he joined the Military Sealift Merchant Marines. He retired as a civil servant after 30 years.

Following his civil service, Mayor Borja remained an active member of our community. He was instrumental to developing and supporting activities for senior citizens of Ordot. His advocacy was key to developing the Ordot Community Advancement Association (OCAA) Bingo operations, which helped to raise funds for the San Juan Bautista Catholic Church. He was also the Director of Tita's Day Care, his wife's daycare business.

Mayor Borja served as the President of the Korean War Veterans Association and was recognized as Veteran of the Year in 2011. He was also an active member of the Guam Caregiver's Association and served as the organization's treasurer.

Mayor Borja was a dedicated public servant and leader who worked to help others in our community. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and I join the people of Guam in

mourning a great veteran and public servant. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. Though he will be missed, his legacy will live on in the memories of the people of Guam.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. DONNA
QUINCE-COBB FOR HER COMMIT-
MENT TO SUPPORTING ENTRE-
PRENEURSHIP IN THE PONTIAC
COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary member of our community, Mrs. Donna Quince-Cobb, for her abundant service to the community and her outstanding achievements as recognized by the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. during its 31st Finer Womanhood Scholarship Luncheon.

Mrs. Quince-Cobb has an incredible passion for serving others, which is evident in her daily life. Forty years ago, her career began as a secretary to seven insurance agents, while simultaneously attending college. She diligently pursued her interest in sales and shortly after, acquired her own agency in 1982. Mrs. Quince-Cobb finds special joy in supporting children and the elderly. She is currently involved in a variety of community organizations, which also allows her to positively impact many lives. She is a charter member of the Noon Optimist Club of Auburn Hills and the North Oakland County Women's Council of Realtors. Concurrently, she dedicates her time to the spiritual needs of others through her volunteer service with the Senior Usher Board, the Deaconess Ministry, Pastor's Care, and Travel Ministries of Welcome Missionary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Quince-Cobb also extends her support to many women's shelters and other organizations, which support less fortunate children, such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Children's Village. She has actively served on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Auburn Hills and served as a judge for an oratorical contest for college scholarships. Throughout her life, she has thoughtfully provided opportunities to many high school students through Co-Op and summer jobs. She has also helped shape the careers of many adult women in her agency by encouraging them to pursue a career in the insurance industry and other professional endeavors. She is proud to be the longest serving member of the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce and received an award for her commitment to the Auburn Hills community. Additionally, she was recognized by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as Business Woman of the Year in 2007 and by the NANBPW Clubs as the first black female business owner in the Pontiac area.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Quince-Cobb has devoted her life to helping others in need. From serving others as an aspiring career-woman in her early days to being a distinguished businesswoman and leader in her community today, she is a role model to the community

and the epitome of an excellent leader. She has changed and impacted the lives of many people through her service. I am pleased to honor Mrs. Quince-Cobb as the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority recognizes her as one of its 2014 31st Finer Womanhood Scholarship Honorees.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF COL GEORGETTE GOONAN TO
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
CONSTITUENTS OF COLORADO'S
FIFTH DISTRICT

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere gratitude for Colonel Georgette Goonan's 24 years of service to the U.S. Army and the people of Fountain, Colorado.

Before residing in Fountain, Colonel Goonan earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree from Iowa State in 1980. She then served in numerous assignments around the globe, including Veterinary Officer, Roving Sands Mission, in Fort Bliss, Texas; Veterinary Food Service Officer, Operation New Horizons, in Belize; Veterinarian in Fort Carson, Colorado; Veterinary Training Officer 993rd Medical Detachment in Denver, Colorado; and Veterinary Officer in Panama. Her most recent active duty assignment was as Commander of the 993rd Medical Detachment in Afghanistan between December 2008 and January 2010. Her Army Reserve assignments include Veterinary Surgical Team Officer in Kuwait supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and the current Team Chief for the 7305th Medical Training Support Battalion in Sacramento, California.

Colonel Goonan is a graduate of the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Officer Basic Course; AMEDD Augmentation Course; Captain Career Course, Intermediate Level Education Course; Defense Support of Civilian Authorities Course; Pre-Command Course; Sanitation Audit Cert Course; and Commanders Safety Course.

During her distinguished career, Colonel Goonan has received numerous decorations including the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Commendation Medal with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster; Meritorious Service Medal; Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster; and Unit Meritorious Service Medal.

Colonel Goonan has made sizeable civilian contributions to her community in Colorado as well, as both owner of Rocky Mountain Veterinary Service in Fountain and as a Supervisor on the El Paso County Conservation District. As she retires from the U.S. Army, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation for her commitment to defending our country and the invaluable contributions she has made to Colorado.

HONORING FAROOQ KATHWARI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the strength of our Nation is built on the positive impact that individual Americans make in the service to their country, their communities and to one another. The decisions and actions of every citizen matter because they have the power to make a difference to the lives of fellow Americans and even those abroad.

Farooq Kathwari, and his family, are examples of this notion—of individuals working to improve the lives of others—both near and abroad.

Farooq has been the Chairman, President, and CEO of Ethan Allen Interiors since 1988. His admirable success in business has afforded him the opportunity to pursue his interests in community service. Alongside his family, Farooq has been involved in a variety of nonprofit organizations. His dedication to improving the well-being of others is truly exceptional, as is his success in business, which was recognized with an induction into the American Furniture Hall of Fame.

Farooq is a member of President Obama's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, a former Chairman Emeritus and current Director of Refugees International, and a Director of the International Rescue Committee. In addition to his work to improve the lives of the most vulnerable around the world, Farooq is also well respected in America's foreign policy establishment. He is a Director of the Henry L. Stimson Center, the Founder and Chairman of the Kashmir Study Group, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and served as a member of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Advisory Board. Such distinguished recognition has allowed Farooq to pursue his passion to advocate on behalf of the voiceless, a campaign which has never ceased to be at the forefront of his concerns.

The Kathwari family has been well recognized within our community for their leadership and dedication to the protection of those less fortunate, to the advancement of humanitarianism and advocacy for religious freedom and tolerance. Farooq is a recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, which recognizes the significant contribution to society in the arts, education, citizenship and humanitarian concerns. He has also been awarded the Outstanding American by Choice Award from our government, the Anti-Defamation League's Humanitarian Award, and the National Human Relations Award from the American Jewish Committee.

Such awards symbolize the dedicated effort that individuals such as Farooq make to bridge societal divides, reduce antagonisms wherever they might arise, and implore our leaders to think locally and act globally.

Farooq and his family are exemplary citizens. Their sense of justice and commitment to the protection of vulnerable individuals and to humanitarianism is a reflection of values we most cherish as a Nation. I commend Farooq Kathwari and his family for their past work and

continued dedication. They are the deserving recipients of the Commitment to Service Award from Hope Community Services.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF MICHIGAN'S OLDEST COUNTY FAIR
HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 175th Anniversary of the Lenawee County Fair. First organized by the Agricultural Society of Lenawee County in 1839, this wonderful tradition will resume for a 175th time on July 20, 2014.

Agriculture has been a key component of the local economy since early settlers arrived in the region in the 1820's. As their reputation for agricultural expertise and skill in crop and animal production grew, the organization of a fair to showcase the best of their farms and fields was a logical outcome.

In 1879, the Agricultural Society of Lenawee County moved the fair to larger grounds on the east side of Adrian, Michigan to accommodate the large number of participants and attendees. The fair has remained in this location ever since.

That first gathering held in 1839—the first county fair in the state of Michigan—began a ritual that would endure through good years and bad. Despite immense challenges and changes to the county, the State, and our world, Lenawee County continues to be home to a number of thriving agricultural entities and a place where rural life is embraced and celebrated. In honor of that tradition, 4-H and FFA youth will join open class exhibitors in showcasing their best animals, crops, and crafts.

The Lenawee County Fair is not only a fun event to attend each summer, but it is a vital part of our community, maintaining our values and preserving our agricultural heritage. This year's theme for the 175th anniversary of the Lenawee County Fair is "The Best Is Yet To Come." Mr. Speaker, I believe that slogan captures this historic and great event which so many in Michigan have had the opportunity to enjoy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 242, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING SABRINA ANTOINETTE
HOSANG**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities rely on individuals like Sabrina Antoinette HoSang to further strengthen the ties that bond them, and prepare the next generation for success.

Sabrina, a 2001 graduate of Villanova University, worked for her family business, Caribbean Food Delights, during her school breaks. She continued working for Caribbean Food Delights after she graduated. With a keen eye for marketing, Sabrina created the Mr. & Mrs. Patty mascot, revived the Patty Eating Contest, and created the Bun and Cheese event.

In February 2006, she was promoted to her current position, Chief Operating Officer, in which she oversees production, quality assurance, customer service, food safety, and a host of other divisions. Caribbean Food Delights launched a new product line called Sabrina's Delights in September 2012.

Sabrina has received many awards during her tenure. Under her management as COO, Caribbean Food Delights received the Forbes Enterprise Award in February 2007. She was inducted as a 2007 Business Visionary from the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI).

She has earned the Women Celebrating Women Award of Excellence from the Progressive Democrats Political Association, a City Council Citation from Congresswoman YVETTE D. CLARKE, and a New York State Assembly Citation from Assemblyman Carl Heastie for community service. She has also received the Consul General's Award from the Jamaica Consulate for helping the underserved communities in both New York and Jamaica. In November 2007, the Universal Peace Federation recognized her as an Ambassador for Peace.

She has been honored for her outstanding commitment to the Caribbean community at the 6th Anniversary Celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month by Former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and Deputy Borough President Yvonne Graham. And finally, adding to her impressive public service resume, Sabrina received a Community Leadership Award from Jamaica College Old Boys Association of New York and received a "20 Under 40" Award from Caribbean Life in November 2013.

Sabrina has helped award six scholarships totaling \$150,000 for the entrepreneurial program at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, through the Vincent HoSang Family Foundation. A G.O.O.D. for Girls mentor, Sabrina, hopes to inspire young people to become leaders and entrepreneurs.

Sabrina Antoinette HoSang's many contributions to her community are admirable. She has truly made a difference in the lives of many.

RECOGNIZING COLUMBUS BONE,
SR.

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize Mr. Columbus Bone, Sr., who passed away on June 2, 2014.

Mr. Bone, who lived in Detroit, Michigan, was 100 at the time of his passing. Born in Huntsville, Alabama on October 6, 1913, Mr. Bone lived a life committed to faith, family, and our country.

Mr. Bone, the youngest of nine brothers and sisters, was the foundation of his family. In 1942, he married Pauline Harrison and lived a life devoted to loving his son Columbus Bone, Jr., six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, thirty nieces and nephews, and over 150 great-grandnieces and nephews.

Following his marriage, he cemented his dedication to our country by joining the Armed Forces in 1942. Mr. Bone served as a private in the Quarter-Master Unit of the Army during World War II until his honorable discharge on August 29, 1946. Mr. Bone was awarded a F.A.M.E. Medal for his service by the Northern African Theaters. His bravery and honor speak volumes to his true spirit of an American patriot.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my constituent, Pvt. Columbus Bone, Sr. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his legacy.

IN APPRECIATION OF STEPHANIE
Y. MOORE AND HER YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I, along with House Judiciary Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, Jr. of Michigan and former Representative Melvin Watt of North Carolina would like to thank Stephanie Y. Moore for twelve years of service to the House of Representatives. Nine of those years were spent as a dedicated counsel to the Judiciary Committee under four Chairmen, including myself and Representatives JIM SENSENBRENNER of Wisconsin, JOHN CONYERS, Jr. and LAMAR SMITH of Texas. She also served three years as General Counsel to Representative GEORGE MILLER of California and the House Education and Labor Committee.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Stephanie graduated with high honors from Oberlin College and went on to distinguish herself at Harvard Law School where she became only the second Black woman in the school's history to earn an invitation to become an editor of the venerable Harvard Law Review. After graduation, she clerked for the late Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and practiced law with the Center for Constitutional Rights. Immediately prior to joining the Judiciary Committee as

Chief Counsel to Ranking Member Watt, Stephanie worked in the Administration of President Bill Clinton as General Counsel to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and Special Counsel at the U.S. Department of Education. She also served on the faculties of the District of Columbia School of Law and the Howard University Law School.

Stephanie joined the Judiciary Committee during the August 2001 recess and sat as counsel on her first hearing on the morning of September 11. In the aftermath of the terrible terrorist attacks on that day, Stephanie served as the principal Democratic staff negotiator on measures to ensure the privacy and civil liberties of the American public in a post 9/11 world.

Throughout her tenure, Stephanie consistently identified and focused on the fundamental policies implicated by legislative proposals. During her career with the Judiciary Committee, she exhibited a wide range of interests and considerable versatility in handling subjects as complex and diverse as administrative law, tax policy, privacy and civil liberties, antitrust, online commerce and piracy, trade and intellectual property. Stephanie's tenacity, passion and no-nonsense approach won her both admirers and critics. Her intellect and determination were instrumental in committee efforts to ensure that robust standards were established to fairly compensate the victims of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010 and again the following year as she sought to balance the interests of multiple stakeholders during the drafting of and debates on the Stop Online Piracy Act. Stephanie's ability to manage and contribute to a range of significant public policy initiatives was evident in the key role she played as the lead Democratic staffer on the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 and during passage of landmark, bipartisan legislation that included the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act of 2011 and the Foreign and Economic Espionage Penalty Enhancement Act of 2012.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud Stephanie's tireless, principled and loyal public service to the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people and wish her every success in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN S.
RUSKAY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John S. Ruskay for his contributions to the American Jewish community.

Dr. Ruskay has dedicated his life to the pursuit of education and philanthropy, serving many roles within the Jewish community throughout his career. From 1980 to 1985, Dr. Ruskay was the Educational Director of the 92nd Street Y in New York. This venerable institution is renowned for its devotion to philan-

thropy and community enhancement. It is a testimony to Dr. Ruskay's talents that he ran the educational pursuits of this institution.

He has also served as a senior consultant to the Wexner Foundation and the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies. These organizations are at the forefront of fostering connections between individuals and their community. Their work has helped ensure that future generations of the Jewish community are not just aware of their cultural heritage, but that they are instilled with a desire to give back to the community as leaders.

For the past 15 years, Dr. Ruskay has served as CEO of the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of New York. In this role, he has provided strong leadership and has helped advance UJA-Federation's vision of a more interconnected Jewish community. Under his leadership, the UJA-Federation mobilized its resources to help launch the Israel Trauma Center to help Israeli victims of terror attacks during the second intifada. It was also under his leadership that the charity launched Connect to Care to help people struggling during the recession. And in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, UJA-Federation provided millions of dollars to help restore damaged communities.

Dr. Ruskay has been honored with numerous awards for his extensive work in the Jewish community in New York, the United States, and worldwide. He is a recipient of the Bernard Reisman Award for Professional Excellence from Brandeis University's Hornstein program and the Association of Jewish Communal Service's Mandelkom Distinguished Service Award. He also holds honorary doctorates from The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, Hebrew Union College, and Yeshiva University.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Dr. John S. Ruskay for his remarkable service and lifelong commitment to enriching the lives of others. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JEANETTE
M. CAMPBELL FOR HER
OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO
THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND
PONTIAC COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jeanette M. Campbell for the remarkable impact she has made on the Greater Detroit community, which has earned her recognition from the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Early in her life, Dr. Campbell demonstrated dedication to succeed and make a difference in her community. From the beginning of her journey through the higher education system, Dr. Campbell recognized the value and power that comes with knowledge. After graduation from Tennessee State University with her Bachelor's Degree, Dr. Campbell went on to obtain a Medical Doctorate from Meharry Medical College and a Master's of Business Administration from Madonna University. She

later went on to continue her studies at Children's Hospital of Michigan, Vanderbilt University and the Columbia University School of Medicine.

In her professional career, Dr. Campbell currently serves as Vice President of Medical Associates, Inc., Associate Medical Staff at both Doctors' Hospital of Michigan and St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland and a member of the teaching faculty at St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland. She has served at St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland for more than thirty-five years and is the recipient of a service award in recognition of her diligent work on her patients' behalf. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Campbell serves on the Pediatric Advisory Committee for St. Joseph, as well as on the Pediatric Executive Committee of the National Medical Association. She also serves as Treasurer for the Pediatric Section of the National Medical Association and has been recognized by her peers with the Grace James Leadership Award in Pediatrics.

Beyond her professional work, Dr. Campbell is active in the Greater Pontiac community—engaged in endeavors that are helping others to realize their dreams. As a mentor for the Upward Bound program at Oakland University, Dr. Campbell is helping students realize the value of higher education which is vital to their success. Dr. Campbell is an active lifetime member of the NAACP, a speaker for the Black College Fund and an active member of the St. John United Methodist Church in Pontiac. She has received numerous awards for her leadership in the community including: the Image Award in Medicine and Theophilous Northcross Award from the North Oakland Branch of the NAACP and the Community Service Award from the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize a strong community leader, like Dr. Jeanette Campbell, for her dedication to her profession and to the Pontiac community. Her hard work and selflessness are an inspiration to all of us that seek to serve others. I know her husband, Dr. Eugene Rogers, and their children and grandchildren must be so proud of Dr. Campbell for this great distinction and I wish Dr. Campbell well as she continues to make a difference in the Greater Detroit community.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALEXA
EFRAIMSON OF CAMAS, WASH-
INGTON

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexa Efraimson and the Camas High School girls' track and field team for their success at the Washington state track and field championships.

Two weeks ago, Alexa won the 1,600-meter race for the second year in a row and won her second 800-meter race on Saturday, May 31. She not only won the Washington state title in the 1,600-meter, but she broke the national high school record. Right now, no high school woman in this country is faster than she is at the 1,600-meter race; she is second to none.

I am also very proud to congratulate the girls' track and field team from my hometown of Camas for placing second at the state meet. Their success stands as evidence that each individual athlete has the ability, the desire, the determination, and the commitment to stay the course and excel in achieving their goals.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor Alexa and the Camas High School girls' track and field team on a job well done at Washington State's track and field state championship.

HONORING PATRICIA LANZA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the moral fabric of our neighborhoods and communities in the United States are tightly knitted together by the actions of individuals who selflessly benefit us without public spotlight. In this, Patricia Lanza is an unsung hero.

Patricia has been a dedicated benefactor to many organizations in Westchester that help women, children and families in need. Patricia has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to high school girls who dreamed of going to college but didn't have the means. She has been a generous, dedicated contributor to scholarship programs, believing that an investment in education reaps many great rewards. She is an important asset to community groups that work for peace, equality and feed the homeless.

Abroad, Patricia has found many ways to direct her caring and concern towards some of the world's most vulnerable communities. Working alongside UNICEF and the Ford Foundation, Patricia helped construct and staff three centers for children with disabilities in Vietnam. The centers focus on birth defects that are directly attributable to the residue of Agent Orange left behind from the Vietnam War.

Patricia has also funded projects in Africa that address local needs. In Swaziland, she responded to imminent famine and food shortages by building and outfitting a 400 hectare working farm in Malkerns Valley, which provided food and jobs for hundreds of area families. She has helped women in Zimbabwe who are suffering from AIDS. Recently, she funded construction for a school in Southern Sudan in one of the toughest to reach areas in that war-torn country.

These are not the actions of an ordinary individual—it shows the extraordinary achievements of a woman whose selfless dedication is fueled by the generosity of her spirit. Quite simply, Patricia brings hope wherever she goes.

Our late President John F. Kennedy once noted that, "we must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives." We as her neighbors, friends, and colleagues should be honored by her presence in our lives. Her legacy in Westchester County and around the world will have enduring value in this world.

I am proud to congratulate Patricia on receiving the Spirit of Excellence Award from Hope Community Services. Her devotion to her community, both at home in Westchester and abroad, knows few bounds.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF RAYMOND H. BOONE, SR.

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Raymond H. Boone, Sr., who passed away on June 3, 2014. Ray devoted his entire life to fighting for justice and equality, becoming one of the most trusted voices in news in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Born in Suffolk, Virginia, Ray earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Boston University and a master's degree in political science from Howard University. Ray's first foray into the newspaper business was as a reporter for the Quincy, Massachusetts Patriot-Ledger and later he worked for the Suffolk, Virginia News-Herald. He also worked as a reporter for the Norfolk, Virginia Journal and Guide. He eventually made his way to Richmond, where he became the editor of the Richmond Afro-American Planet, a position he held for 15 years.

Ray temporarily left Richmond to be the editor and vice president of the Baltimore-based Afro-American Newspaper Group. He also served as a correspondent for the National Newspaper Association where he reported from Germany, Finland, the former Soviet Union, Israel and Cuba. And for nine years, he was an associate professor of journalism at Howard University in Washington, DC.

In 1992, after returning to Richmond, Ray founded the Richmond Free Press, a progressive weekly newspaper that gave a voice to Richmond's voiceless. Under Ray's leadership as editor and publisher, the Free Press quickly emerged as an honored newspaper in the Richmond region. The Free Press has become a critical source of news and information for the Richmond community, often covering issues and stories left unnoticed by larger media organizations.

For his reporting and writing, Ray received the Oliver W. Hill Freedom Fighter Award, the DaimlerChrysler Entrepreneurial Award, a first-place Virginia Press Association editorial writing award, the International Toastmasters' Leadership Award, and the A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award. The Free Press also won eight national awards for journalist excellence from the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Throughout his life and career, Ray received numerous other awards, including the Dominion Resources Strong Men and Women Excellence in Leadership Award, the Metropolitan Business League Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian of the Year Award, and the United Negro College Fund Flame Bearer for Education Award. He was also honored by the Poynter Institute for

Media Studies in St. Petersburg, Florida for his "outstanding teaching in journalism."

Ray will be missed, not only by family and friends, but also by the many people who enjoyed his analysis on the day's news. As a reporter, correspondent, editor, newspaper executive and publisher, Ray always had a unique perspective and a thoughtful approach to disseminating the news to the African-American community and the public at large. A fixture in the Virginia Press Corps for decades, Ray was recognized numerous times, not only for his contributions to the community and the media, but also for excellence with his craft. His legacy lives on in the award-winning and influential paper he leaves behind, the Richmond Free Press. His legacy can also be found in the thriving African-American media landscape which blossomed as a result of his contributions and hard work.

On a personal note, I will always cherish Ray's friendship. Ray was a newsman first and he never allowed our friendship to prevent him from covering me in an objective manner. I will always cherish our many interviews and editorial board meetings and I will miss talking politics and policy with him. Most importantly, I will miss his thoughtful approach to presenting the news. The Virginia Press Corps and the Commonwealth of Virginia have lost a powerful and unwavering voice.

Mr. Speaker, Raymond H. Boone, Sr. will be sorely missed by his family and friends, and by the countless people he gave a voice to through his writing and reporting. My thoughts and prayers are with Ray's wife, Jean, their children, Regina and Raymond Jr., and the staff and many devoted readers of the Richmond Free Press.

RECOGNIZING MR. SANTOSH MADHAVAN

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize a Central Floridian, Mr. Santosh Madhavan, an Advanced Placement teacher at Lake Highland Preparatory School, for being selected as a member of the inaugural class of AP Advocacy Fellows.

The AP Advocacy Fellowship Program engages exceptional AP teachers who ensure that every student is provided access to opportunity. As part of the program, fellows participate in professional development training that focuses on media communication, government relations, and relevant state and federal legislation.

In this global economy, our economic prosperity depends on our ability to train a high-wage, high-tech workforce able to compete with countries around the world. In order to achieve these goals, we must build an education system that not only works to solve today's problems but also focuses on our nation's long term competitiveness.

It is a privilege to recognize Mr. Madhavan for his demonstrated excellence in education, and I thank him for his commitment to the students of Central Florida.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR PATRICIA B. OVERTON FOR HER MILITARY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OF THE JROTC PROGRAM IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary member of our community, Major Patricia Overton, for her dedicated service to our country and young people through her administration of the JROTC program. It is these outstanding qualities that have earned her recognition from the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Major Overton, a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Webster University, was on active duty from 1981 to 2001 as a U.S. Army Officer. She is a member of Lomax Temple AME Zion Church, Detroit Federation of Teachers, American Federation of Teachers and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has received the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Distinctive Silver Instructor award.

As an outstanding member of her community, Major Overton has benefited the JROTC program by serving as the Deputy Director for 17 high school JROTC programs and approximately 4,000 cadets. Her position includes coordinating formal inspections, developing standards for staff briefings, producing and editing summer camp newsletters, fostering relationships with TACOM/TARDEC for summer jobs for cadets, STEM tutoring for cadets and STEM instruction at JCLC. Major Overton also improves the lives of our youth by assisting cadets with college and scholarship applications. One of her greatest contributions has been to establish sponsored visits to West Point for her exceptional 2nd and 3rd year JROTC cadets who demonstrated interest in a military career, which has led an average of acceptance for two of her cadets to West Point each year.

Major Overton has also established a National Forensic League-style forensics program for her LET IV cadets, providing them the opportunity to enhance their research, critical thinking, and public speaking skills, as well as their ability to be informed, engaged citizens of our society.

Mr. Speaker, Major Overton has dedicated her life to serving our country through active service and management of the JROTC. From helping ensuring JROTC operates as effectively as possible to making college a reality for many teenagers, she is a role model to the community and the epitome of an excellent leader. She has immensely improved the lives of many people through her service. I am pleased to honor Major Patricia Overton for her continuing accomplishments and service to the community.

SUPPORTING NORTH STOKES TO SOFTBALL VICTORY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, in sports, a strong support system can hold the key to success and that is what helped the North Stokes softball team defeat Whiteville 10-1 on Saturday to capture the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1A state softball championship. I am proud to say that the Lady Vikings, who call the Sixth District of North Carolina home, won the title two games to one this past weekend.

Knowing the road to success can be a bumpy one, family, friends and other community members lined the streets with signs cheering on the softball team as they headed out for the championship in hopes that their spirit-filled send off would make the sailing a little smoother for the Lady Vikings.

The support of the community, however, was not the only helping hand for the team along their journey to the top. The Lady Vikings defense provided the squad with a much-needed edge. The outfield took charge by honing in on multiple drives to alleviate potential extra-base hits. "Our defense was awesome," Head Coach Jeff Frye told the Winston-Salem Journal. "I thought that played a bigger part in getting us pumped up. I think it just got momentum on our side."

"I'm just tickled," Vikings Pitcher Lindsay Brown told the Stokes News moments after the victory was secured. She had reason to be happy. Not only did she pitch the title-clinching game, she was also named the series' Most Valuable Player.

Coach Frye credits the team's success to their strong ability to face all obstacles. Besides MVP Brown, the team included Sabrina Dodson, Emily Evans, Tana Frye, Chandley Garner, Tristan Hubbard, Hannah Mabe, Hannah McBride, Emily Myers, Heather Nall, Emma Petree, Ashley Smith, and Carson Watkins. The Vikings path to victory was aided by assistant coaches Barry Dodson, Rebecca Gunter, and Randy Shelton.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Principal Nathan Rasey, Athletic Director Trey Wiggins, the faculty, staff, and students of North Stokes High for winning the 1A state softball championship. In the case of the Lady Vikings, they proved that a strong support system can lead to a championship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM "BILL" HARDACRE

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William "Bill" Hardacre of Anderson, Indiana. He passed away on May 11, 2014, at the age of 82. A man of deep faith, Bill worked for decades toward the improvement of his city and country.

He served both the United States and Anderson with integrity and honor.

A lifelong Hoosier and Anderson resident, Bill graduated from Anderson High School. He then earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Indiana University. Upon completion of his degree, Bill served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1952 through 1954.

Returning to Anderson, Bill joined the family business, Best Ever Dairy, as treasurer. During his 35-year career with the company, it grew from a local operation to a business serving central Indiana and beyond. After retiring, he continued his business ventures by developing both residential and commercial properties in Anderson and founding, E.V.I., an electric vehicle manufacturing firm now based in California.

Not only was Bill an accomplished businessman, he also played an exceptionally active role in the Anderson community. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, where he was a lay leader for more than two decades. He also held leadership positions at the Christian Center, Fine Arts Center, Evening Exchange Club, the Harter House, and was a member of the board of trustees at Anderson University for 15 years.

Yet another example of Bill's dedication to the Anderson community was his work to save and restore the historic Paramount Theatre. Built in 1929, the Paramount was a major attraction for decades. A true architectural gem, its grandeur was a source of admiration and pride for the entire Anderson community. However, by 1989 the building had fallen into severe disrepair. Along with a group of community leaders, Bill formed the Paramount Theatre Heritage Foundation, saving the historic landmark from demolition and preserving its beauty for future generations. He then went on to serve as the Foundation's first President and was a member of the board of directors until his passing.

Bill Hardacre is an irreplaceable member of the Anderson community whose legacy will live on for generations to come. Without his tireless devotion, Anderson would not be the wonderful community it is today. He worked for a lifetime toward making his hometown a more prosperous city. I will never forget my initial visit with Bill at the Toast Café or our talks at Lake Wawasee, discussing the issues facing Indiana's 5th Congressional District and beyond. I want to thank Bill's wife, Ann Hardacre, and the rest of his family for sharing Bill with myself and so many others. He touched our lives and served as a shining example for all those working to make a better life for future generations.

HONORING LISA AND ROB
PATCHEN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally recognize Lisa and Rob Patchen for their outstanding service and commitment to Beth El Synagogue in New Rochelle, New York.

Lisa is a past member of the Nursery School Board and, for several years, has led the synagogue's handprint tile fundraiser, the success of which is evident outside the Nursery School office.

Rob is in his second term as a member of the Board of Trustees, and just recently completed a two-year term as recording secretary. He has also served as the chairman of the Assistant Rabbi Search Committee, the Nominating Committee, Hazzan Search Committee, and is currently an active member of the Families Initiative Committee and the Youth Services Committee.

The pair will be honored by Beth El with the President's Ne'emanim Service Award for all they have done to support and serve their local Jewish community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lisa and Rob Patchen for their service and commitment to Beth El Synagogue.

HONORING BIRMINGHAM FIRE AND
RESCUE CHIEF IVOR J. BROOKS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Birmingham Fire and Rescue Chief Ivor J. Brooks who passed away on Wednesday May 28. As we mourn his untimely passing, I am comforted in knowing that his legacy of exemplary public service will bring peace to those affected by this tremendous loss to the State of Alabama.

Chief Brooks was sworn into the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department on May 3, 1982. His illustrious career as a first responder would span more than 30 years. Throughout his tenure, he distinguished himself as a servant leader who worked his way up the ranks of the department. He was appointed the 20th fire chief of the city of Birmingham on November 14, 2007 after 26 years on the job.

This nationally recognized first responder was trained at the National Fire Academy in Maryland and the U.S. Department of Justice Weapons of Mass Destruction Training Facility of Incident Commanders. He also attended the Alabama Fire College, completed the Personnel Standards Commission, and the Fire Chief's Executive Development Program. Prior to being named fire chief, he served as Incident Commander for the State of Alabama.

During his time at the helm of Alabama's largest fire department, city leaders often commended Chief Brooks for his dedication to building and maintaining a fire department that Birmingham residents could be proud of. His responsible and practical leadership resulted in the revitalization and construction of various new firehouses throughout the city. I have fond memories of working closely with Chief Brooks to secure funding opportunities for improvement projects. He understood that the success of the 700 men and women he ably led was dependent upon securing resources and opportunities to support them in performing their duties.

Throughout his impactful lifetime, Chief Brooks also received numerous awards for his leadership and innovation in the field. But despite his celebrated career, his greatest achievement was his family and his dedication to his faith. Before his death, Chief Brooks served as a trustee on the board of the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. He was married to Joyce E. Brooks and was the father of four children; Ivon, Nyyah, Ivor, Jr. and Matthew and one grandchild, August Rayne Howell.

On behalf of a grateful nation and state, we salute this American treasure who was committed to protecting and serving the community that he loved. As we seek comfort in the aftermath of his untimely passing, we will forever remember Chief Brooks as an energetic and personable leader that was committed to obtaining the best results for his department. We salute Chief Brooks and pray for his family and his colleagues as we mourn the loss of this American hero. We honor his life and we thank him for his noble contributions to mankind. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the passing of Birmingham Fire and Rescue Chief Ivor J. Brooks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 241, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSTON PRIDE
WEEK AND LGBT PRIDE MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate LGBT Pride Month and the remarkable progress that has been made in making our country more diverse and tolerant and embracing of differences in the 45 years since the infamous Stonewall Uprising in 1969 in New York City.

Our country made progress with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which I was proud to support. Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better. In July 2011, President Obama and his administration concluded that a critical section of the Defense of Marriage Act is no longer constitutionally defensible. The Supreme Court agreed and on June 26, 2011, handed down the landmark decision in *United States v. Windsor*, 570 U.S. 12 (2013), which struck down Section 3 of DOMA because it violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment by treating relationships that had equal status under state law differently under federal law.

That decision accelerated the movement for marriage equality and today 19 states now recognize same-sex marriages.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, brilliantly shepherded to passage by one of the greatest Texans, President Johnson, which outlawed discrimination in public accommodations, education, and employment on the grounds of race, creed, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The Civil Rights Act has made our country better.

I am pleased to report that progress is being made at the local level as well. Last month, the Houston City Council approved the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, which extends the right to seek and hold employment, obtain housing, and enjoy public accommodations free from discrimination to all individuals in Houston without regard not just to sex, race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin but also to age, familial status, marital status, military status, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity or pregnancy.

The HERO Ordinance represents another giant step forward in our nation's and my city's continuing efforts to form a more perfect union. I believe the anti-discrimination protections Houstonians now enjoy should be extended to all persons in our country, which can be done this year were Congress to pass the Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Although more remains to be done to realize the full promise of America that all are equally treated and protected by the law but it is undeniable that America is closer to realizing that promise than it was during the dark days of Stonewall.

So there is much reason for joy and optimism when my home city of Houston celebrates Houston Pride Week later this month, from June 20–29.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the 16th largest LGBT community in the nation is located in the Houston metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent. This dynamic community is culturally diverse and economically and artistically vibrant.

Houston Pride Week has been an annual event for the last 35 years, since 1979, held to promote the individuality of Houston's ever-growing LGBT community. The Pride Festival and Parade are at the center of the Celebration and are annually attended by more than 400,000 people from Houston and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, progress is made through the efforts of courageous leaders who actively engage their communities and face adversity to ensure that the rights of all are clearly defined and protected.

People like the legendary Bayard Rustin, who organized the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation which inspired the Freedom Rides of the 1960s and helped Dr. King organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and who was the driving force behind the 1963 March on Washington.

Other members of the LGBT community whose contributions have made enriched American culture and made our country better include the great poet Langston Hughes; Billy Strayhorn the musician and gifted composer

whose 30-year collaboration with Duke Ellington gave the world some of the greatest jazz music ever; and James Baldwin, one of the towering figures in the history of American literature.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless number of Americans who overcame prejudice and discrimination America be a more welcoming place for succeeding generations of LGBT community members.

HONORING BARBARA AND JOEL
RASCOFF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Barbara and Joel Rascoff have been steadfast in their commitment to the New Rochelle community. The community is truly indebted to their selfless service and the legacy that they are continuing to build.

As part of the Young Israel of New Rochelle Community (YINR), Barbara and Joel have chaired numerous dinners and dinner journals, and Joel has even helped document shul events by serving as a photographer. Both Barbara and Joel are known for their kind and giving nature, making newcomers feel exceedingly welcome in the New Rochelle Jewish community. Their efforts were crucial in bringing Rabbi Reuven Fink to YINR.

Throughout their involvement with YINR, Joel served as both a member of the Board of Trustees and as Vice President of Fundraising, finding the time to help lead the effort to raise crucial funds for YINR, whilst working as a respected nephrologist within the community.

Barbara became deeply involved in shul fundraising herself, including as an integral part of the dedicated and passionate team that successfully worked to retire the debt from the mezzanine loan on YINR's new building. Barbara was also an important voice within the committee established to investigate the shul's expansion, and was an important member of the mechitza committee for the new sanctuary.

Together Barbara and Joel have been highly active in a variety of community projects, such as the New Rochelle Meals on Wheels Program, where Barbara continues to serve as a Vice President. Barbara has also had a lifelong affiliation with AMIT, an organization that provides education and crucial social services to children in Israel. Barbara served for 22 years as a member of AMIT's board and as Chairwoman of the board of governors. AMIT works to positively impact the future of Israel, one child at a time. It is clear both Barbara and Joel have embodied this creed, working with drive and boundless energy to impact the lives of individuals both at home and abroad.

Today, Barbara and Joel cherish their role as grandparents to their five beautiful grandchildren, and parents to their three sons and daughter-in-laws: Henry and Carina, Sammy and Lauren, and Matthew and Emily.

Their passion to help others has built lasting impressions both in New Rochelle and in

Israel. Their service is an exemplary legacy, and one that has brought our community closer together. Barbara and Joel are deserving recipients of the Distinguished Leadership Award at Young Israel of New Rochelle's 47th Annual Dinner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 30, 2014, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 270 "nay" and on rollcall No. 271, "yea."

SAMMIE MOSHENBERG: AN
ACTIVIST FOR JUSTICE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deep gratitude to Sammie Moshenberg, who is retiring as Director of the Washington Operations of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW).

For more than 30 years, Sammie has represented NCJW in the halls of Congress, and she has been an influential advocate for economic and social justice. It is not just that Sammie herself is a powerful force—she is—but she also represents and coordinates NCJW's network of volunteers across the country. Through that role, Sammie is able to help NCJW members not just understand the legislative process but to show how they can mobilize to affect the outcomes and push for action on critical policy debates.

If there is a fight to improve the lives of children, eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities, end violence, or give women more control over their lives and their futures, Sammie Moshenberg is there. She is always eager to stand up what is just and what is necessary in order to end poverty, promote justice, and help women and families succeed. She embodies the Jewish creed of Tikkun Olam—repairing the world.

Sammie first came to NCJW in 1981, first working in the communications department in the New York headquarters. She came to the Washington office in 1983, where she has represented NCJW in dealing with all three branches of government and in coalitions working on judicial nominations, civil rights, reproductive rights, and economic justice issues. Sammie received her BA from Shimer College in Illinois and a master's degree from Loyola University in Baltimore, Maryland. She continues to use the skills she learned there and as a former magazine editor and teacher to train members of Jewish and other faith groups, students, and advocates.

Anyone who has the good fortune of knowing Sammie knows she is much more interested in empowering people to participate in

critical national debates and getting the job done than taking credit for her own actions. That is why she and NCJW are so committed to their "Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote" initiative. But Sammie herself has received a great deal of recognition for her efforts. Sammie has appeared on the "Forward Fifty" list of the most influential Jewish individuals three times. She has also been named one of Women's Enews "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" and received the YWCA of the National Capital Area's Racial Justice Award, the Ruth Osborn Award from the Women's Studies Program at George Washington University, and NCJW's Hannah G. Solomon Award.

As if her work at NCJW isn't enough, Sammie is an active member of her community—fighting for housing and economic justice issues in Alexandria, Virginia where she lives and working to expand access to health care and social justice in Cape Town, South Africa, where she and her husband have a second home.

As a Jewish woman, a lifetime member of NCJW, and a Member of Congress, I have relied on Sammie for her wisdom, her knowledge of the ways of Washington, her strategic sense of pushing for progress, and her friendship.

Sammie, I am so appreciative of your leadership and your passion for justice. I know that you will continue to use your many talents to improve your community, our nation and the world.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
LESLIE ARNOLD COLLINS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. COSTA, to recognize and honor the memory of Mr. Leslie Arnold Collins. As a veteran, a community leader, and philanthropist, Mr. Collins was a true pillar of the Hanford community. His presence in our community will be greatly missed, but the example by which he lived his life will not soon be forgotten.

Les was born in Danville, Illinois, on April 25, 1922. He was the fourth child born to his parents, William Howard Collins and Mable Arnold Collins. He met his wife, Alice Smith, while visiting his mother in New Mexico and soon married her on December 3, 1949. He and his wife traveled in 1960 to Hanford, California, where they raised three children. He had five grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild on the way. Les Collins passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on June 1, 2014, at the age of 92.

Les spent his life serving his country, family and his community. Les served as a combat medic in the Pacific Theater and helped liberate the Philippines during World War II. For his valor, he was awarded numerous medals, including the Bronze Star.

His service to our nation did not end when he left the military, as he worked tirelessly to support veterans in his community. As a vol-

unteer member of the Honor Flight Network, he raised funds to allow veterans to fly to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at the World War II memorial. He made the trip himself on his 91st birthday on April 25, 2013. In 2009, he was honored as the 30th Assembly District's Veteran of the Year.

As a lifetime member of the Optimist Club, Les embodied the organization's mission of "Bringing out the Best in Kids," by participating in many youth programs and being a positive role model for the young people in our area. In 1984, he was honored as the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. Throughout his years of living in Hanford, he was actively involved in various community projects, including being an avid supporter of the Boy Scouts and serving on the Eagle Scout review board. As a civic leader, he was a Hanford planning commissioner, a lifetime member of the Kings County Historical Society, and an election worker for 30 years. It is impossible to list all the contributions Mr. Collins made over his lifetime because there are simply too many to mention.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join Mr. COSTA and myself in honoring the memory of Mr. Les Collins. He was an inspiration for all, and he led a long life of serving both his country and community. We should all strive to leave such a significant imprint on our communities as Mr. Collins did during his lifetime.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEADERSHIP OSCEOLA COUNTY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Leadership Osceola County as they celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Whereas, the mission of Community Vision is to bring people and resources together to achieve the vision of Osceola County as a progressive community that provides the highest quality of life to residents and visitors;

Whereas, Community Vision has worked very hard since its inception to succeed in its mission and to identify the role of individuals and organizations in achieving its vision;

Whereas, Community Vision has focused on key issues through positive projects, programs, and collaborative activities in order to bring the public and leadership together to move together toward shared community goals and objectives;

Whereas, Leadership Osceola County is an unsurpassed Community Vision leadership development program that began in 1989 and is now celebrating its 25th anniversary with more than 700 leaders graduating from the program after learning of community challenges firsthand and gaining the tools necessary to facilitate positive change within our community; and

Whereas, today, Community Vision remains focused on a shared vision for a better and brighter Osceola County tomorrow by continuing to prepare, inspire, and support leadership for the good of the public;

Whereas, the United States Representative of Florida's Ninth Congressional District is honoring, recognizing and congratulating Leadership Osceola County on its 25th Anniversary.

Now, therefore, I, ALAN GRAYSON, U.S. Representative for Florida's Ninth Congressional District, congratulate Leadership Osceola County on its 25th Anniversary and hereby proclaim the week of June 8, 2014 as Leadership Osceola County Week in the Ninth Congressional District of Florida.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROSE "ROXY"
MARIE SANTIAGO

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Rose Marie Santiago. Originally from Old San Juan in Puerto Rico, Rose—or Roxy as she is known to her friends—has lived in Orlando for over 30 years. During this time she has been an active member of the Thornton Park community. She also recently started the popular dog sitting business, "Sit Stay Walk By Roxy," in Orlando.

From 2006 to 2009 Roxy was a Tri-Chair Federal Club Steering Committee member for Human Rights Campaign (HRC). Now she serves on the HRC's Social Media Steering Committee. When she is not campaigning and fundraising for social causes, Roxy repairs personal computers and is a keen practitioner of yoga. She also pours wine for Barefoot Wine's local events.

Earlier in her career, Roxy was employed by such prestigious companies as Disney, where she worked for ten years. Roxy undertook many high-profile responsibilities through her position as a Guest Relations Manager at Disney, and she even acted as a personal tour guide for more than one U.S. President.

Roxy was a partner with Phish Phest Entertainment for ten years. Throughout this time she was instrumental in the organization of a series of events which helped to raise over \$150,000 for various charities; the beneficiaries of these funds include Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, the HRC, and Libby's Legacy Breast Cancer Foundation. Phish Phest Entertainment also participated in various other charitable events including the Orlando Aids Walk, Smart-Ride, Come out with Pride, Headdress Ball, GayDays, Scooters 4 Hooters, and Score for Kore.

Roxy Santiago is extremely proud of what she has achieved both professionally and personally and continues to dedicate herself to these causes.

I am happy to honor Rose "Roxy" Marie Santiago, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VICKI NANTZ

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Vicki Nantz. Vicki graduated from Florida State University and began a career in broadcast television. She has produced and directed hundreds of hours of programming through her work for corporate-owned media companies and on projects with renowned talent like Michael Jackson, Tiger Woods and Cheryl Ladd. Although her projects were often rewarding and exciting, Vicki found most to be of little personal significance. Whether it was a

talk show, newscast or documentary, the subject matter never seemed to connect with her life.

In 2007, when a young man named Ryan Skipper was murdered in Central Florida simply because he was gay, Vicki felt that it was no longer acceptable to remain silent. She and her partner, Mary Meeks, began to speak publicly about anti-gay hatred. They also began making documentaries about LGBT people in order to put real faces on the issues of hate crimes, adoption, immigration and marriage. Their first documentary was about Ryan Skipper, how he was marginalized and brutalized by his community, how he was failed by his local, state and national governments, and how our anti-gay culture was complicit in his death. The documentary helped generate attention which led to national media coverage when Ryan's killers were tried, convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Acting as the Skipper family's spokesperson during the trial, Vicki was featured in numerous national television interviews which helped raise awareness about anti-gay hate crimes. After watching the documentary, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ referenced Ryan's murder on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2009 she invited Ryan's family to attend the White House signing of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Another of Vicki's documentaries highlighted Florida's anti-gay adoption ban set out in a 33-year-old law which was ruled unconstitutional in 2010. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) utilized the documentary statewide to educate Floridians about the discriminatory law.

As a married couple, Vicki and Mary have continued to produce documentaries on social justice issues, each of which has screened at multiple film festivals and college campuses across the country. Their films have raised awareness about critical issues and helped inspire a new generation of activists. Vicki and Mary have continued to speak out in county chambers and legislative committee rooms, to advocate for long-overdue equality, and to try to change the culture of hatred so that LGBT people can live authentic lives without the fear of violence and intolerance. They do this on behalf of Ryan Skipper and his family.

I am happy to honor Vicki Nantz, during LGBT Pride Month, for her inspiring work to raise awareness about LGBT issues in Central Florida and around the country.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM CLAY HARRIS, JR.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of the Central Florida community, William Clay Harris, Jr., who passed away on June 2, 2014 at the age of 67. He went peacefully in his home in Gotha, Florida.

Born in Hobart, Oklahoma on June 24, 1946, to the late William Clay Harris, Sr. and Alice Annabel Harris, William or "Bill" was the oldest of their four children. He is survived by his three siblings, James Leonard Harris, Joseph Robert Harris, and Rebecca Ann Kellogg. Bill had many fond memories of his early childhood, including the adventures of his beloved family dog, Casey. He developed a love of music in high school where learned to play the trumpet which he continued to play in col-

lege. He graduated from Hobart High in 1964 and began his studies at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. After two years, he enlisted in the United States Army where he was stationed in South Korea as part of the Army Security Agency. He served honorably in the U.S. Army for four years, after which his love of Korean culture compelled him to remain in Korea as an English teacher. He embarked on a solo backpacking trip across the country during which he mastered the Korean language and befriended many locals. He was later recruited by the Country's Ministry of Communications to teach English to a group of Korean telephone operators in Seoul. While in Seoul, he met and fell in love with his future wife of 41 years, Sang Nan Harris, who survives him. Bill would often fondly recount the story of travelling to the city of Kimhe to meet Sang's father, the late Cho Bong Young. He was humbled by his future father-in-law's hospitality and genuine kindness during their introduction.

Bill and Sang returned to Oklahoma where they were married at the First Baptist Church of Hobart on May 18, 1973. Bill continued his studies at Southwestern Oklahoma State University as part of the United States G.I. Bill. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's in Education, while Sang earned a degree from the same institution in Accounting. The newlyweds also started growing their family which includes one daughter and two sons who survive Bill: Julie Suzanne Wade, Matthew Clay Harris, and Kelly Cho Harris.

Bill Harris began a long and successful career as a high school teacher, focusing on the subjects of Economics, History and English as a Second Language. Bill had a passion for education and helping poor and at-risk students, which led him to teach exclusively in underserved schools during his career. In 1983, the family moved from Oklahoma to Houston, Texas where Bill positively impacted the lives of countless students at Stephen F. Austin High School.

His three children remember Bill as, above all, a devoted father. He never missed a Little League game, swim meet, band concert, Boy Scout camping trip or dance recital and provided unending encouragement and support for his children's endeavors. As a father, he also stressed the importance of education and was proud to see his children succeed to become two attorneys and a medical doctor. He always put his family first.

Bill and his family moved from Houston to Orlando, Florida in 1995 in order to pursue a job opportunity for his wife, Sang, as she started her own accounting business. He taught at Evans High School, but later retired in 1998 in order to assist his wife in her growing business. He affectionately described his job title as a "gopher" for Sang, referring to the wide variety and high volume of tasks that the business demanded. Bill and Sang saw their three children start careers, get married and grow families of their own. Bill seamlessly transitioned from the role of father to grandfather and was blessed by the time he was able to spend with his six grandchildren. They include Harrison Campbell Wade, McKinley Annabel Wade, Emerson Olivia Wade, Thatcher Holden Wade, William Colton Harris, and

Anderson Leigh Harris. He was very proud of his precious grandchildren and loved them all very much.

William Clay Harris leaves behind a legacy of kindness, devotion, and faith. He was a loving and devoted husband and father, a kind and thoughtful friend, and, above all, a man of deep faith. He attended the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Houston and the Faith Family Community Church of the Nazarene and the First Baptist Church of Central Florida in Orlando. During the final years of his life, Bill became increasingly proud of his service to his country and further strengthened his belief in Jesus Christ and His transforming grace.

I am saddened by the loss of such a valuable member of the Central Florida community and extend my heartfelt condolences to his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 241, "yea" and on rollcall No. 242, "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on June 9, 2014, I was unavoidably detained attending to representational activities in my congressional district, and thus unable to return in time for rollcall votes Nos. 272 through 274. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 272, I would have voted "yes". (H.R. 4412, To authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration)

2. On rollcall No. 273, I would have voted "no". (Broun Amendment to H.R. 4745, Transportation—Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, reducing funding for Amtrak by \$34 million (10% cut))

3. On rollcall No. 274, I would have voted "no". (Chabot Amendment to H.R. 4745, Transportation—Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, reduces overall funding for Section 8 housing programs by approximately \$3 billion (10% cut))

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.

This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 11

- 10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Missile Defense Agency. SD-192
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget. SD-342
- Committee on the Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security. SD-226
- Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine the security, economic and human rights dimensions of United States-Azerbaijan relations. SR-432
- 11 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stuart E. Jones, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Robert Stephen Beecroft, of California, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dana Shell Smith, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the State of Qatar, James D. Nealon, of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras, and Gentry O. Smith, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, all of the Department of State. SD-419
- 2 p.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget. SD-608
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Victor M. Mendez, of Arizona, to be Deputy Secretary, and Peter M. Rogoff, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Policy, both of the Department of Transportation, Bruce H. Andrews, of New York, to be Deputy Sec-

retary, and Marcus Dwayne Jadotte, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Industry and Analysis, International Trade Administration, both of the Department of Commerce, and Robert S. Adler, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. SR-253

Committee on Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider S. 919, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, S. 1447, to make technical corrections to certain Native American water rights settlements in the State of New Mexico, S. 1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, S. 2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and S. 2188, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on higher education for American Indian students. SD-628

4 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights
Business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 19, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections. SD-226

5:15 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing on the situation in Ukraine. SVC-217

JUNE 12

9:30 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business, S. 1799, to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, and the nominations of Andre Birotte, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Geoffrey W. Crawford, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont, John W. deGravelles, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, Randolph D. Moss, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Robin L. Rosenberg, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Ronnie L. White, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, and Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, and Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, all to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims. SD-226

10 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the importance of child nutrition programs to

our nation's health, economy and national security. SR-328A

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine regional implications of a nuclear deal with Iran. SD-419

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine securing radiological materials. SD-342

2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SH-219

3 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing on politics in Thailand. SVC-217

JUNE 17

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine conflicts of interest, investor loss of confidence, and high speed trading in the United States stock markets. SH-216

JUNE 18

2:15 p.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the reduction in face-to-face services at the Social Security Administration. SD-562

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1948, to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program, S. 1998, to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to reserve funds for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Tribal College or University adult education and literacy, and S. 2299, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages. SD-628

3 p.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine growing small business exports, growing United States Jobs. SR-428A

JUNE 19

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Laura Junor, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Gordon O. Tanner, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Miranda A. A. Ballentine, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary

June 9, 2014

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS, Vol. 160, Pt. 7

9717

of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy, all of the Department of Defense, and Monica C. Regalbuto, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management.

SH-216

JUNE 25

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine brain injuries and diseases of aging.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine economic development, focusing on encouraging investment in Indian country.

SD-628

SENATE—Tuesday, June 10, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Majestic God, forever wise, we are grateful this day and thankful for new mercies. We are invigorated by Your love, patience, and grace. We praise You even for the trials that draw us closer to You.

Help our lawmakers to remember that without You they will labor in vain. As they seek to serve You today, give them Your peace. O God, receive honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving from our mortal lips, for You are worthy. And, Lord, comfort the families of the five American soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432, the Warren college affordability legislation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if any, there will be a rollcall vote on the confirmation of Hannah Lauck, who will serve in the State of Virginia. Following that vote the time until noon will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

At noon there will be two rollcall votes on confirmations that come from

the Judiciary Committee. One is a judge who will preside in Massachusetts by the name of Sorokin, and one will preside in the State of Nevada by the name of Boulware.

Following the vote on the Boulware nomination, the Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. for our weekly caucus meetings. At 2:30 p.m. there will be three cloture votes on Federal Reserve nominations: first, cloture on the nomination of Lael Brainard to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, then cloture on the nomination of Jerome H. Powell to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and finally, cloture on the nomination of Stanley Fischer, who is already a member of the Federal Reserve but he will be elevated to be Vice Chair of the Board of Governors.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2450

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand S. 2450 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2450) to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is landmark legislation. I so compliment Senators SANDERS and MCCAIN for coming to this agreement. I hope we can move this bill expeditiously.

BOULWARE NOMINATION

Later today the Senate will vote to confirm a man by the name of Richard Boulware to be a district court trial judge for the State of Nevada. A remarkable man he is, extremely smart, and he is a very talented lawyer from Las Vegas. His father was the first neurologist to come to Las Vegas—a fine man—and his mom was very politically active in a lot of matters for so many years.

Richard F. Boulware has impeccable credentials. He grew up in Las Vegas and attended Harvard University. He went out on his own after graduating from Harvard. He had a consultancy, and he was watching the impeachment proceeding that took place of President Clinton and he said to himself: I should be involved in understanding this stuff more. So he applied to Columbia. It wasn't a walk in the park for him to go. It was extremely expensive. But he

is so smart. He got scholarships almost all the way. He graduated very high in his class at Columbia.

Upon graduation, he worked at Covington & Burling in New York, one of the premier law firms in the country. He also became a Federal public defender in New York. Since 2007 he has been a Federal public defender in Nevada. If confirmed, Richard Boulware will become the first African American man to serve on the U.S. district court in Nevada.

I had the pleasure and good fortune to put the first woman on the Federal bench in Nevada. She was a black woman. She was so good. Her name is Johnnie Rawlinson. She was so good that in a very short period of time she was elevated to become a member of the Ninth Circuit. During Obama's presidency, she has always been on the short list.

Richard Boulware will be just as good as any member of that bench we have in Nevada. I am impressed with his dedication to the State of Nevada. He has already distinguished himself as a public servant. So I look forward to his confirmation today.

STUDENT LOANS

Mr. President, we have all seen the old cowboy western movies that saw some unfortunate character getting into quicksand—either pushed or fallen—and they try everything they can to get him out. It is always the same scene in the movies. An unsuspecting person winds up in quicksand, panics, flails around, and each time he does that he gets deeper and deeper into this earthy liquid.

Fortunately, a hero always comes to the rescue. Sometimes it is with a rope or branch or something to pull him out of the quicksand to safety. That happens once in a while but not very often in real life.

In America today millions of Americans are caught in financial quicksand and looking for a helping hand to pull them to safety. About 45 million Americans have student loans. As their debt mounts, they sink deeper and deeper into financial hardship. There is more student debt today than there is credit card debt.

These Americans who have these loans are trying their best to make good on their student loans. They are working multiple jobs, pinching pennies. But even the slightest hiccup can plunge them into financial ruin.

The Bank on Student Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, introduced by Senators ELIZABETH WARREN and AL FRANKEN, is a lifeline. Just like people being stuck in the quicksand in those

movies, people are stuck in the quicksand in real life with student debt. The bill would provide graduates who are now beholden to higher interest rates with a 2-year period to refinance current student loans at 3.86 percent.

This legislation would allow more than 25 million Americans to refinance expensive student loans. In Nevada, more than 250,000 student loan borrowers would save thousands and thousands of dollars in interest rate fees by refinancing at current rates.

But the problem of mounting student loans is not limited to individual borrowers. It is a problem that threatens our entire economy. I had a call yesterday with a bunch of college students in Nevada. They can't get married, they are living with their parents, and they are struggling. Is it worth it for me to go to college? I spent time trying to convince them that it was and it is.

Student loan debt now exceeds far more than \$1 trillion—approaching \$1.3 trillion. That is more than credit card or auto loan debt. As of last September, 40 percent of student loan borrowers were in default, forbearance or deferment. Yet even as many Americans make loan payments on time, the staggering amount of those installments precludes young Americans from buying houses, beginning families or going into business. The legislation before the Senate will give borrowers a fair shot in investing in their families and their financial well-being. As young Americans are able to purchase new homes and invest in their futures, it will inject much-needed capital into our economy.

Unfortunately, not all Senators agree that allowing borrowers to refinance their student loans is a good idea. I was disappointed to learn my colleague the Republican leader doesn't support this legislation. It wasn't long ago that he referred to this proposal we are taking up here today dealing with student loan debt—\$1.2 trillion or \$1.3 trillion debt and 45 million people it affects—he called it a fake fight.

For 25 million Americans, or even more, who stand to benefit from this bill, I assure my friend there is nothing fake about helping working families pay off debt and save money.

I so admire what the President did yesterday. He said that if you are continuing to refuse to legislate—and we know there has been obstruction after filibuster after obstruction after filibuster. The President said before the American people he was going to do everything he could administratively. Yesterday he did. What he did isn't as good as what we are doing, but he did what he could to help 5 million students with their debt. So to a single mother working two jobs just to take care of her family, make a student loan payment on time, this legislation is real. But instead, the Republican leader has reaffirmed his commitment to

the status quo. Why reform today when he and his tea party-driven members said they will reform next year or maybe the next year?

We Democrats aren't standing around waiting for a new year or a new Congress to tackle the problem of student loan debt. It is real. We are anxious to extend a helping hand to the more than 40 million Americans who are fighting to keep their heads above water, trying to get out of the quicksand.

So let's come to the aid of those individuals struggling with student loan debt and keep them from sinking deeper and deeper into financial quicksand.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. President, would the Chair note the business of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF M. HANNAH LAUCK TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

NOMINATION OF LEO T. SOROKIN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

NOMINATION OF RICHARD FRANKLIN BOULWARE II TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will now report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today we vote to confirm nominees to District Courts in Virginia, Massachusetts, and Nevada.

Although I will be supporting the nominees from Virginia and Massachusetts, unfortunately I will be unable to support the nomination of Richard Boulware II when the Senate considers his nomination and wanted to explain the reasons for my vote. As an initial matter, Mr. Boulware received a partially "not qualified" rating from the American Bar Association. Some of us on this side of the aisle have raised concerns over the years with what we

view as an inconsistent application of the ABA's rating system. I have viewed the ABA's ratings with suspicion for many years. They always seemed to be harder on Republican Presidents than Democrats. Because of that, I tend to consider their ratings with a grain of salt. On the other hand, given their history, in my view, of treating Republican nominees more harshly, it gives me pause when I see a partial "not qualified" rating from the ABA for a nominee from an administration the ABA has been so aligned with on many issues.

Of course, ABA ratings are only one factor in my assessments of nominees. Unfortunately, there are other aspects of Mr. Boulware's record that concern me.

He has limited legal experience, especially in comparison to other nominees. He has only been practicing law since 2002, and that includes a clerkship. Additionally, his entire career has been in criminal law. He has no experience in any of the complex civil matters that would come before him if he is confirmed.

I am also concerned that over the course of his career he has taken very aggressive policy positions on a number of different issues in testimony before the Nevada Legislature. For example, he has spoken against updating the antiquated paper-based pool book system to a more efficient system of processing voters because he believes voter identification laws unfairly impact poor and minority communities. He has testified that solitary confinement is a reduction of due process rights for prisoners. He has opposed taking DNA samples from arrested persons. And he has joined the American Civil Liberties Union in writing letters to the legislature on several issues relating to police conduct.

If Mr. Boulware had more experience, it would be easier to give him the benefit of the doubt. But when I consider the entirety of his record, his lack of experience as an attorney and his zealous advocacy for many controversial policy positions, it is with reluctance that I will vote no on his nomination. I anticipate Mr. Boulware will be confirmed, and it is my sincere hope that he proves me wrong.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on three nominees to serve on the U.S. district courts. This includes Judge Hannah Lauck, to serve in the Eastern District of Virginia; Judge Leo Sorokin, to serve in the District of Massachusetts; and Richard Boulware, to fill an emergency vacancy in the District of Nevada. The Senate Judiciary Committee favorably reported two of these nominees unanimously to the full Senate and the third nominee with bipartisan support. All of these nominees are qualified to serve on the Federal bench, and the nominations of both Judge Lauck and Judge

Sorokin unanimously received the American Bar Association's highest rating of "well qualified."

Yesterday, the Senate was once again forced to invoke cloture on these qualified judicial nominees, all of whom have demonstrated legal excellence during their already impressive careers. With yesterday's votes, the Senate will have voted for cloture on 47 judicial nominees so far this year. During all 8 years of the Clinton administration, the Senate voted four times for cloture on circuit and district court nominees. During all 8 years of the Bush administration, the Senate voted 29 times for cloture on circuit and district court nominees. After today, we will have already voted 47 times for cloture in just the last 6 months. These votes do nothing to further what should be our collective goal of an efficient and fair justice system, accessible to all. I can only hope that Senate Republicans soon put an end to this obstruction. Today, we will vote on the confirmation of the following judicial nominees.

Judge Hannah Lauck has been nominated to fill a judicial vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. She has served since 2005 as a U.S. magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. During her judicial service, she has handled hundreds of criminal and civil cases and has presided over 150 bench trials. She has served as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Richmond from 1996 to 2006 and from 2010 to 2013. She worked in private practice as a supervising attorney at Gentworth Financial from 2004 to 2005 and previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia from 1994 to 2004, where she worked in both the Criminal and Civil Divisions. She worked as an associate at Anderson, Kill, Olick & Oshinsky from 1992 to 1994. After graduating from law school, she served as a law clerk to Judge James Spencer of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Her nomination unanimously received the American Bar Association's highest rating of "well qualified." She has the support of her home State Senators, Senator WARNER and Senator KAINE. The Judiciary Committee reported her nomination favorably by voice vote to the full Senate on March 27, 2014.

Judge Leo Sorokin has been nominated to fill a judicial vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. He has served since 2005 as a U.S. magistrate judge in the District of Massachusetts and as the chief magistrate judge since 2012. During his judicial service, he has presided over 60 criminal and civil cases that have gone to verdict or judgment and 15 cases that have gone to trial. He has served since 2013 as an adjunct professor at Boston University Law School and pre-

viously served as an assistant Federal public defender in Boston from 1997 to 2005 and as an assistant attorney general in the Office of the Attorney General of Massachusetts from 1994 to 1997. He worked in private practice as an associate at Mintz Levin from 1992 to 1994. After graduating from law school, he served as a law clerk to Judge Rya Zobel of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Judge Sorokin's nomination unanimously received the American Bar Association's highest rating of "well qualified." He has the support of his home State Senators, Senator WARREN and Senator MARKEY. The Judiciary Committee reported his nomination favorably by voice vote to the full Senate on March 27, 2014.

Richard Boulware has been nominated to fill a vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada that has been designated as a judicial emergency vacancy by the nonpartisan Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Since 2003, Mr. Boulware has served as a Federal public defender for the District of Nevada. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to Judge Denise Cote of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and as a litigation associate at Covington & Burling in New York City.

Mr. Boulware's nomination has the strong bipartisan support of both his home State Senators, the majority leader, and Senator HELLER. There is no question that the Senate should confirm Mr. Boulware. However, some in committee raised concerns about his qualifications, citing his minority "not qualified" rating by the ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary. I note he received a rating by a substantial majority of the ABA Committee of "qualified." I also note that Mr. Boulware's ABA rating is higher than or on par with 33 of President Bush's nominees who were confirmed despite partial "not qualified" ratings, including two nominees to the Eastern District of Kentucky who received majority "not qualified" ratings by the ABA's Standing Committee but were nevertheless confirmed by the Senate by voice vote.

I support Mr. Boulware's nomination without reservation and hope that Senators from both sides of the aisle will join me in voting to confirm this worthy nominee. If confirmed, he will be the first African-American man to serve as a Federal judge in the District of Nevada. I am proud to be a part of this important historic milestone and am glad that the majority leader continues to make judicial nominations a priority.

There are seven additional judicial nominees reported by the Judiciary Committee currently pending on the Senate Executive Calendar. Five of these nominees are nominated to fill judicial emergency vacancies, and I

hope the Senate will act quickly to confirm these nominations.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to speak in support of a fellow Virginian as President Obama's nominee to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Judge Hannah Lauck. When confirmed, Hannah will become the first woman judge on the Federal trial bench in Richmond, VA.

Hannah is exceptionally well qualified to carry out the duties and responsibilities of a Federal district judge.

Hannah earned her bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, in 1986 from Wellesley College, where she was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

She went on to receive her J.D. from Yale Law School in 1991. While in law school she directed the Homelessness Clinic and served on the board of the Initiative for Public Interest Law.

Hannah began her legal career in the Eastern District of Virginia serving as a clerk for Judge James Spencer. Judge Spencer—a Reagan appointee to the bench—is extremely well-regarded in Richmond for his legal acumen, honest nature, and service to the community and will be taking senior status this year.

Coming full circle, Hannah has now been selected to fill the seat of Judge Spencer, her mentor and for whom she clerked right out of law school.

From 1994 to 2004, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia where she handled both civil defense matters as well as criminal prosecutions.

Following a brief stint in the private sector, Hannah became a U.S. magistrate judge in the Eastern District of Virginia, where she has served since 2005.

As a magistrate judge, she helped begin one of the first Federal reentry courts, which is designed to reduce recidivism of individuals released from prison who have serious addictions. These reentry courts are crucial to our efforts to reduce prison overcrowding and ensure we are helping people who have made mistakes in life become productive members of society.

She is also an active member of her community where she has helped train the next generation of legal experts. For many years, she has taught at the University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law.

Hannah serves on the board of the Federal Bar Association and is an active member and former board member of the Richmond Bar Association and the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association.

She comes highly recommended by the Virginia State Bar, the Virginia Bar Association, has been recognized as one of Virginia's leaders in the Law and has received the strong support of many of her legal colleagues.

Hannah has an exemplary record as a prosecutor and a magistrate judge and

all of her peers praise her character and integrity. I am pleased to strongly support her nomination to the Federal bench and thank all of you for joining me in supporting her nomination. This body, and our Nation, will all be well served by her presence on this court.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of M. Hannah Lauck, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia?

Mr. CRAPO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 179 Ex.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Grassley	Murray
Ayotte	Hagan	Nelson
Baldwin	Harkin	Paul
Barrasso	Hatch	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Heller	Reid
Boozman	Hirono	Risch
Boxer	Hoeven	Roberts
Brown	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Burr	Isakson	Rubio
Cantwell	Johanns	Sanders
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Chambliss	Kaine	Sessions
Coats	King	Shaheen
Coburn	Kirk	Shelby
Collins	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Levin	Toomey
Cruz	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	Walsh
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Fischer	Merkley	Warren
Flake	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murkowski	Wicker
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—10

Begich	Corker	Moran
Blunt	Graham	Scott
Carper	Landrieu	
Cochran	McCaskill	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12 noon shall be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Who yields time? If neither side yields time, both sides will be equally charged.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Americans across the Nation have been truly shocked by the way our veterans have been mistreated. The fact that 18 veterans died in Phoenix alone while waiting for care is, as we all know, a national tragedy. This should be reason enough for Washington to take decisive action to reform a system that has allowed this tragedy to occur and action to hold those responsible accountable.

Yet, as we know, the scandal extends well beyond Phoenix. In the words of the government's own inspector general report, the kind of problems we saw there are systemic and extend throughout the administration's facilities.

A new internal audit released just yesterday found that the scandal has spread to 76 percent of the VA facilities that were surveyed. It also found that about 100,000 veterans continue to wait for VA appointments and that many veterans have already had to wait 3 months or more. This is a national disgrace.

I recently received a message from a disabled veteran who lives in West Liberty, KY. He said he has experienced delay after delay in the VA system, and he is understandably fed up. He said every time he thinks he is getting somewhere, he finds that some VA employee has changed a date in his file or posted a "no show" for appointments he was not aware of.

"I suppose I will become a casualty of the war with the VA," he wrote, "before I ever receive a decision on my appeal or ever receive proper treatment."

We know this is not right. That is not the promise this country made to our veterans, and there is no good reason to make veterans wait another day longer. There is no reason for the majority leader to prioritize partisan bills aimed at boosting Democratic turnout in November over bipartisan legislation that is aimed at fixing the problems at the VA.

We will have a vote tomorrow on one of these partisan bills that is going nowhere, when we know the Sanders-McCain bill is ready. It has been filed and that is what we ought to be moving to. Veterans have been made to wait long enough at these hospitals. Congress should not keep them in the wait-

ing room by putting partisan games ahead of solutions. Fixing this problem is where the Senate's focus should be right now.

As the Acting VA Secretary recently said, the extent of the problems at the VA "demand immediate actions." He is certainly right about that.

I know the majority leader is going to have us turn to another one of these political show votes tomorrow, written by people over at the campaign committee, but we will have plenty of time to consider bills designed to fail later. Instead, now is the time for the Senate to act like the Senate again—to be serious and more than just a campaign studio for one political party.

Senators BURR, COBURN, and MCCAIN have been working extremely hard on the issue, along with the chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. We all know there is no one in this Chamber better suited to tackle this crisis than JOHN MCCAIN. He understands the experience and needs of our veterans.

We should give Senator MCCAIN and the rest of this group the space and support they need to get effective and bipartisan reform through the Senate. Given that their legislation contains provisions similar to a bill that has already passed the House overwhelmingly, I think we will get there as well, but we need to give the effort the attention it deserves first, and that means putting the designed-to-fail bills off to the side for a minute because, look, this is what the American people actually sent us to do—to legislate.

I am calling on the majority leader and the President to hit the pause button on the never-ending campaign. Veterans have been denied care. Veterans have actually died. This is an issue that deserves the Senate's immediate attention.

If our colleagues are serious about getting to the bottom of the scandal, holding the perpetrators accountable, and enacting reform to fix it, then they will actually focus on helping our veterans instead of worrying about saving their own seats this November.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank the Republican leader for his comments on the veterans situation. I believe everybody in this body agrees, on a bipartisan basis, that we should move this bill forward as quickly as possible and address the real crisis. This is an issue I have been talking about for a long time. No one who serves our country should wait in line to get the health care they need when they come home.

I am delighted both sides are working very expeditiously to move this legislation forward, and I hope we can take that up as soon as possible and move it without it becoming political on either side.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

Having said that, I come to the floor to talk about a different topic; that is, about the highway trust fund. As we know, right now States across the country are working on transportation projects to repair bridges and relieve traffic on our Nation's roads and highways.

Kentucky, for example, has started to widen Interstate 65 between Bowling Green and Elizabethtown. Local officials tell us it is an important project to ease their traffic and help ambulances and firetrucks get to the scene of emergencies quickly, but earlier this year Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear said that project might be at risk because of a shortfall in our highway trust fund.

A crisis in the highway trust fund could jeopardize thousands of important transportation projects—such as the example I gave in Kentucky—around the country if Congress doesn't act. So I am on the floor again to call on our colleagues to work together to avert a crisis in the highway trust fund.

I wish to call attention to specific wasteful tax loopholes that Congress could eliminate to actually shore up the trust fund—loopholes that actually both Democrats and Republicans have in the past said we should close.

There can be no question that the highway trust fund is facing a revenue problem. The Department of Transportation has been warning us for months that it expects the trust fund to reach critically low levels as early as this summer. If that happens, the Department might have to delay reimbursements to our States.

This crisis is no longer a hypothetical. It has already caused States to plan for a construction shutdown if Congress does not act. In Georgia, more than 70 transportation projects could be delayed indefinitely, according to their State officials. In North Carolina, an engineer from the State's department of transportation says, if the trust fund runs dry, "that essentially stops our construction program."

This crisis is having a serious impact on construction jobs. If States are not able to enter into new construction contracts, as many as 700,000 jobs could be at risk, according to the Department of Transportation.

The construction industry was particularly hard hit during the economic downturn. Allowing the highway trust fund to reach critically low levels would be another blow to an industry that has already seen more than its fair share of job loss and uncertainty.

For all of these reasons, Congress must act to avoid a potential construction shutdown this summer.

In the past few weeks I have been very encouraged that Members on both sides of the aisle agree we do need to

replenish the highway trust fund with revenue. Allowing the trust fund to run dry is not an option. Putting construction jobs at risk is not an option. Failing to make much needed investments in our roads and bridges is not an option.

House Republicans have offered a proposal to cut mail delivery down to a modified 5-day delivery system to temporarily fund the highway trust fund, but I believe that is the wrong way to go. There are better ways to address both Postal Service reform and the highway trust fund shortfall.

But I do think there is now an opportunity to solve this looming crisis in a way that actually should have bipartisan support. We all know our Tax Code is riddled with wasteful tax loopholes that benefit the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations, and many of those loopholes that both Democrats and Republicans have proposed closing are available for this fund.

For example, Republican Congressman DAVE CAMP, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, Senator REED of Rhode Island, and Senator LEVIN of Michigan have all proposed eliminating the so-called stock option loophole. Right now corporations claim the largest tax breaks by compensating their executives with stock options instead of a regular paycheck. That is so the corporation can skirt a tax rule that limits deductible cash compensation to \$1 million per year for each of a handful of corporate officers. Closing that loophole alone would save us as much as \$50 billion over the next 10 years.

Another loophole allows some wealthy business owners to mischaracterize their income as business profits instead of salary to avoid paying their fair share of payroll taxes. Putting a stop to that unfair practice, as both Republican Chairman CAMP and Democrats have proposed, could save us more than \$15 billion over the next 10 years.

Those are just two wasteful and unfair tax loopholes that both Democrats and Republicans have proposed closing. The list of loopholes goes on and on. We can use that kind of revenue generated by closing just a few of them to avoid an unnecessary crisis, shore up our highway trust fund, and make the critical investments we need in our roads and bridges across the country.

I know that for many people around the country this looming highway trust fund crisis is all too familiar. For them it is just another example of Congress lurching from crisis to crisis. Just last week the director of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department said he reminds people that just last year Congress shut down the entire Federal Government. That is how he knows there is a real threat that Congress will shut down invest-

ments in our roads and bridges. So States such as Arkansas aren't taking any chances. State officials there recently delayed 10 highway projects, and they said they might have to delay even more if we—Congress—don't act.

So I believe our States need certainty in the highway trust fund. Commuters are counting on transportation projects to ease congestion. Construction workers are counting on jobs to repair roads and bridges. I believe we should build some common ground that Democrats and Republicans share to replenish the highway trust fund. Let's work together to show commuters and businesses and workers and States that Congress can come together to solve this crisis. I hope we will work together to prevent a construction shutdown this summer.

Mr. President, before I yield, I ask unanimous consent that the time during any quorum calls prior to noon be charged equally to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, life is about choices. We make them all the time, the choice about where you are going to school, what you are going to study, what you are going to do with the rest of your life, what kind of job you want, your car, a lot of other choices we make.

Tomorrow the Senate gets to make a choice. It is going to affect some people. Here is the choice: We have in this country a serious problem with college loan debt. It has grown dramatically over the last several decades. Now we estimate the total amount of college loan debt in America is over \$1.2 trillion. What does that mean? How big is that?

More college loan debt than the sum total of all credit card debt in America. More college debt than the sum total of all automobile debt in America. The only other debt larger—mortgage debt.

This is growing, the college student loan debt. Forty million families are affected by student loan debt out of a nation of 300 million. So we are dealing with somewhere in the range of 14, 15 percent of America making payments on college student loans.

The amount of debt has grown dramatically. I will not come to the floor and tell you what I borrowed to go to

school because it makes me sound ancient. But I will tell you this: When I graduated from law school, my student debt equaled one-half of my gross income the first year, just to put it in perspective. Not so anymore.

What we are finding is that most students are so deeply in debt coming out of college that they are making life decisions based on their debt. I get emails in my office from young men and women who always wanted to be teachers. They love teachers. They want to be a teacher. They tell me they cannot be a teacher, because the cost of getting an education to become a teacher is so high, that the starting pay of a teacher is so low, and so they are going to do something else. What a loss for this country, when someone who desperately wants to teach does not get that chance.

Now 25 million of the 40 million Americans with student loan debt can get a break tomorrow morning, because we have a bill coming to the floor which will allow 25 million of these student loanholders to refinance their debt. Ever own a home with a mortgage? I have. You heard there was a lower interest rate available. You called the bank and said: Hey, can I knock that interest rate down from 8 percent to 6 percent? Yes, let's do it, because a lower interest rate means a lower monthly payment, or the same monthly payment is going to pay off more principal on your debt.

So we are going to give college students tomorrow an opportunity, 25 million of them, to refinance their college student loans to lower interest rates at 3.8 percent for undergraduate education. Currently many of these students are paying 6 percent, 7 percent, 8 percent, 10 percent, and higher. Is this a good thing? You bet it is. For many of these students, this is the lifeline they have been looking for.

That is one possibility. That is one of the choices: Help 25 million in debt. But to pay for this, if we are responsible, we had to come up with a source of revenue to make up for the lost interest payments to the Federal Government when the debts are refinanced. We came up with it. It is called the Buffett rule. It is named after Warren Buffett, this seer of Berkshire Hathaway, a fellow I have come to know a little bit through his family. He came to us a few years ago and he said, something is wrong with the Tax Code. Here I am, Warren Buffett said, one of the wealthiest men in America, and my income tax rate is lower than my secretary's income tax rate. How can that be? Why would my secretary pay a higher income tax rate than me, a billionaire? So we created what we called the Buffett rule. It said: If you are one of the fortunate few in America who makes over \$1 million a year, you are going to have a minimum income tax rate of 30 percent, which at least puts

you on par with the people who work for you. You are going to pay an income tax rate at least as high as they do, 30 percent.

How many Americans are like Warren Buffett, making over \$1 million a year? How many would have to pay this new income tax rate? Twenty-two thousand Americans make over \$1 million a year in 2009 and paid less than a 15 percent effective tax rate. Okay, Senate, here is your choice: Do you help 25 million students refinance their college debt and reduce their loan payments by an average of \$2,000, or do you protect 22,000 millionaires from paying more in income tax? That is our choice tomorrow. I think it is a pretty easy choice.

I do not have anything against wealthy people. If they made their money honestly, God bless them. But I do not think it is unreasonable to say to the wealthiest people in America: Count your blessings, buddy. You are living in the greatest Nation in the world that gave you a chance to get rich. Now give something back to that country. Give something back to that next generation that wants to build this country even to a higher standard and more success for more people. That is what we face tomorrow.

I go around my State. I have had hearings at college campuses. Some of these are worth repeating. Casey Graham Barrette at North Central College up near Chicago graduated in 2010, got married, has an infant boy she is very proud of. She and her husband both have jobs. His paycheck pays living expenses, her paycheck pays student loans. She is working to pay the student loans in her household. She worries about the future of her family until she gets these loans paid off.

Joshua Schipp. I recently met him. He told me he graduated with a student loan debt of \$80,000—from a good school, do not get me wrong. But \$80,000. His interest rates on his debt range from 4¼ percent to 9¼ percent. They could come down to as low as 3.8 percent under our bill coming up tomorrow. That is the range of his current interest rates on a variety of loans he has.

Joshua, at one point, said his student loan payment was \$700 a month. Now stick with me for basic math and forgive me if I miss this a little bit but I think I have got it. Joshua has got a job making \$11 an hour—\$11 an hour, 40 hours a week, \$440 a week, 50 weeks a year. I know there are 52, but let's assume 50 weeks a year. He is making somewhere in the range of \$22,000 a year.

His gross pay of \$440 times four makes that right at \$1,800—I am rounding it off, \$1,800. Let's assume after you take the taxes and all of that out, he has about \$1,200 net that he makes each month. Do you remember what I said he paid in student loans? Seven hun-

dred dollars a month. Twelve hundred dollars net, seven hundred dollars on your student loan. How could you possibly make it? That is Joshua, who stuck it out, finished with his college diploma, did what he was told to do. Now there he sits with that debt hanging over his shoulder.

Here is a story I know well because I met this young lady several times, Hannah Moore from the city of Chicago. Hannah got off to a great start. She was not sure what she wanted to do, so she went to a community college. Affordable community colleges, I recommend them to everybody. The hours can be transferred to universities. You have a lot of different courses you can take, and it is affordable. That is where Hannah started.

Everything was going well. Then she stumbled and made a bad decision and did not even know it. She transferred from community college to a for-profit college. For-profit colleges are different than public universities. They are different than private schools. They are different than not-for-profit schools. They are out to make money. Hannah did not know it. She thought she was signing up for a real college and a real education.

She went to something called the Harrington College of Design in Chicago. Their parent company, Career Education Corporation, is under investigation by 17 different State attorneys general. They have got big problems. They create big problems for people such as Hannah.

So Hannah went to this Harrington College of Design and got her "degree." Do you know, when it was all over, how much student debt she had for her time at Harrington College of Design, the for-profit school? It was \$124,570. She cannot keep up with the payments. She has fallen behind. And the debt from the interest keeps adding up. She is now up to \$150,000, lives in her parents' basement. Her dad came out of retirement to try to help her pay off her college loans.

This for-profit college and university issue is a separate one I will save for another day. But this outrageous sector of our higher education economy accounts for 46 percent of all student loan default. They overcharge their students and provide them with diplomas and degrees which, in many cases, are worthless. But having said that, there sits Hannah. Did I mention she is 32 years old and \$150,000 in debt, with a worthless diploma from a for-profit college run by the Career Education Corporation? That is what she is up against.

This bill will help her some. It is not going to eliminate her problem, because there is one point you cannot overlook when it comes to college student loans. This is not like the mortgage on your home. This is not like the money you borrow to buy a car. It is

not like a line of credit you might take out to start a business. A college student loan is in a rare category of debt and loans in America, a rare category of debts that cannot be discharged in bankruptcy, no matter how bad things get for you, no matter how terrible your circumstances, your economic circumstances. You go into court and say: I have got to declare bankruptcy. They will help you with everything, but they cannot do anything about your college student loan. It is with you for a lifetime.

We are hearing the horror stories. Grandma decides her granddaughter needs to go to college, cannot get the money to go through. Grandma says: Let me cosign the note with you, honey. I want you to finish college. The granddaughter finishes school, defaults on the loan. They levy grandmother's Social Security check. That is the reality.

I just left a press conference where a young woman who was trying to pay off her college student loan fell behind. Then she said: Well, at least I have got my income tax refund coming back. It was claimed. She did not get any of it. That is what these loans do to you. That is what the collection agencies do to you.

So the question tomorrow morning for the Senate is: Whose side are you on? Take your pick here. Are you on the side of 22,000 or so millionaires in America? Do you want to protect them from paying a penny more in taxes, or are you on the side of 25 million college students and their families who are struggling, just like the ones I have told you about? The choice is pretty clear to me. A college diploma ought to open the door of opportunity.

It shouldn't open the door to debtors' prison, and that is what is happening to thousands of students across America right now.

The first step here is to pass this bill. There is more to do, but the first step is to pass this bill.

The President helped us yesterday. The President said he was going to give 5 million of those paying off college student loans a chance to really organize their debts and to limit the amount of money they had to pay out to 10 percent of their income. That gives some relief to 5 million, but we can do more. We can help 25 million, and that is what we ought to do tomorrow.

When you go back home and talk to people around the Senate, a lot of them start gazing at the ceiling and saying: I don't know about you politicians in the Senate. All you do is give speeches, put out press releases, and take up valuable time on television. What do you do to help us? What are you doing for working families?

Well, I have a speech—and it is pretty good—about what we try to do with minimum wage and making sure peo-

ple—women and men—are paid fairly in the workplace, but this college student loan thing haunts me. It haunts me to think that these young people, who are convinced they are doing the right thing, who are borrowing money for the right reason—higher education—are getting so trapped in debt that their lives are compromised. People make speeches about, well, it affects the economy. If you have a lot of student debt, you may not buy a new car, a new home, get married, or have children once married because of your debt. That is all true. That looks at the big picture. But I can't get away from those smaller photographs in my mind of the people I have met in Chicago and all over my State who are trying to pay off these debts.

It comes down to this: We have 55 Democrats and there are 45 Republicans in the Senate. My job is to count votes. I think we are going to get all of the Democrats. I think every one of them will vote for it. But that is not enough. Fifty-five out of one hundred is not enough. Tomorrow we need at least five Republicans to join us—five. None of them have cosponsored the bill yet to refinance college student loans, but they can get into this conversation and join us tomorrow in an effort to help. If five will cross the aisle to make this a bipartisan effort, we can get this moving.

I know the House of Representatives has been a dead end. So many things have gone over there to die—immigration reform and a long list—but I sense this is different. I sense that Members of the House of Representatives in both political parties, if they go home, wherever they live, if they have a real town meeting, if they invite real people, real families, they are going to hear about this issue. Forty million Americans are living with this issue.

Let's do our job in the Senate. Let's pass this college refinance bill. Let's give these students a break, a chance. Let's do the right thing for them. They did the right thing and went to school. Their debt should not compromise their future.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I rise this morning to discuss the very pressing challenge that too many of our young people are facing; that is, the issue of college affordability.

As I travel throughout New Hampshire, I continue to hear young people and their families express their deep concerns about the high cost of college and about their student loans.

In New Hampshire this problem is especially significant because New Hampshire ranks second highest in the Nation for the proportion of students who are graduating from college with debt and also for the average amount of debt per graduate. Seventy-four percent of students in New Hampshire graduate with debt, and that debt is an average of \$33,000 per student. I have talked to some young people who worry that they are never going to be able to get out from under that student debt burden.

We all know that obtaining a college education has been viewed as a step that can propel Americans into the middle class, allowing them to pursue goals such as starting a family, opening a business, or purchasing a home.

Unfortunately, education costs have increased at four times the rate of inflation from 1985 to 2011. This is a problem that has both short-term and long-term implications for our citizens who want to continue their education after high school. It is also a problem that has serious implications for the Nation's economy. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, approximately 40 million Americans hold more than \$1.2 trillion in student loan debt. The agency also indicates that student loan debt has exceeded credit card debt in the country and is exceeded only by home mortgages in terms of total amount of debt. So we have more student loan debt than credit card debt, and only home mortgages exceed the student loan debt.

While Americans are struggling to pay back this staggering debt, it is projected that the Federal Government will earn \$66 billion in profits from its role in student lending between 2007 and 2012. That is just not right.

Clearly it is time for Congress to take action to help individuals with student debt. It is time to help them reclaim their American dream, to help them have a chance at pursuing the goals that drove them to college in the first place.

To this end I am very pleased to join with so many of my colleagues in supporting the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. This legislation would allow eligible borrowers who took out student loans before July 1, 2013, to refinance those loans at rates currently being offered to new borrowers.

It is clear that Congress needs to come together to work to reduce the cost of college for aspiring students throughout the country, but we also need to provide relief to those who have already borrowed to pursue their education, many of whom have interest rates for their student loans that are much higher than they would be if they were purchasing a home or a car.

This action is also way overdue. The extent to which young people are feeling this pressure really came home to

me when I visited a veteran from New Hampshire named Calvin, who served in Afghanistan. I first met Calvin at Walter Reed Medical Center, where he was recovering after losing his leg from stepping on an IED. He was married, had a young child, and he was talking about the challenges he faced after he recovered from his injuries. But what impressed me the most was his No. 1 concern was how he and his wife were going to repay their student loans. That is why I think we have to do something about this problem. We have to make sure young people such as Calvin don't spend their professional lives worrying about how to pay back student loans.

I plan to file an amendment today as we take up the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act that will address the challenge young people have as they look at how to keep track of their student loans. I think they need to have a portal that gives them a one-stop shop so they can view all of their student loan information, public and private, in one central online location.

I have heard stories from young people in New Hampshire about this concern, from people like Kim, who is from Nashua. She is a 30-year-old woman, and she has student debt from obtaining her bachelor's and two master's degrees. Her student loan payments cost her more per month than a home mortgage. She recently found a job that is helping her make her loan payments, but before she got that offer she felt overwhelmed by her debt and she found it difficult to communicate and work with her lenders.

By providing a one-stop online shop for debt management, the amendment I will be offering will give people like Kim an easier way to track and understand their loans and their repayment options.

I am pleased that just yesterday the President announced a number of initiatives to help borrowers, including plans similar to the provisions in my Simplifying Access to Student Loan Information Act, so we can encourage the use of innovative methods to communicate with borrowers, but as we all know, we need to do more in this Congress to ensure that we can help borrowers who are struggling to repay their student loans.

I thank my colleague from Massachusetts, Senator WARREN, for her work on this bill. I look forward to continuing to work with her and my other colleagues to ensure that student loan borrowers finally see some relief.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as every Member of Congress knows, Americans are hurting, and after 5½ years of the Obama economy, they are getting pretty discouraged, as a recent CNN poll reported.

That "pessimism," Erin Currier, director of the Economic Mobility Project at the Pew Charitable Trusts, stated in a recent CNNMoney article, "is reflective of the financial realities a lot of families are facing. They are treading water, but their income is not translating into solid financial security."

Unfortunately, Senate Democrats have responded to the economic instability facing so many Americans by essentially doing nothing. Instead of legislation to create jobs and expand opportunity, Democrats have tied up the Senate this year with politically motivated show votes designed to go nowhere.

Back in March the New York Times reported that Democrats planned to spend the spring and summer on messaging votes "timed to coincide with campaign-style trips by President Obama."

The Times reported:

... Democrats concede that making new laws is not really the point. Rather, they are trying to force Republicans to vote against them.

Democrats have certainly been following that playbook. This week, in their latest election-year political stunt, they will take up a designed-to-fail student loan bill. According to plan, it will be accompanied by some "campaign-style" stops by President Obama.

The Democrats' bill would do nothing to make college more affordable or reduce the amount of money students have to borrow, and it would do nothing to address the real problem facing recent college graduates; that is, the lack of jobs.

The Democrats' student loan bill would provide some former students with old loans a taxpayer subsidy which, based on Congressional Research data, would be worth about \$1 a day. To provide this, their bill would raise income taxes by \$72 billion.

Meanwhile, Democrats have conveniently ignored the fact that student loan repayment plans that could lower monthly payments by more than their proposal are already available to all students with Federal loans.

Republicans have student debt solutions, such as simplifying the student loan process so more students can take advantage of the affordable repayment options that already exist in current law, but young Americans need a lot more than student debt solutions. The best thing we can do for graduates is to help create jobs.

Young people in particular are suffering in the Obama economy. The current unemployment rate for those 16 to 24 years old is 13.2 percent—more than twice the national average. Unemployment among those 16 to 34 years old is 9.2 percent—significantly higher than the overall unemployment rate of 6.3 percent. Nationally, 6.1 million 18- to

24-year-olds are living below the poverty line, and 36 percent of young adults are living at home with their parents.

It is no wonder that CNNMoney reports that "young adults, age 18 to 34, are most likely to feel the [American] dream is unattainable."

What young people need is not a government subsidy but access to jobs, good-paying, full-time jobs with the opportunity for advancement, but those jobs are few and far between in the Obama economy.

While young people may be having the hardest time finding jobs, no one in the Obama economy is doing well. Nationwide, nearly 10 million Americans are unemployed, almost one-third of them for 6 months or longer.

The unemployment rate has hovered at recession-level highs for the entire Obama Presidency. Since the President took office, the average length of unemployment has increased from 19.8 weeks to 34.5 weeks. Approximately 14 million Americans have been forced to join the Food Stamp Program since President Obama took office, bringing the total number of Americans receiving food stamps to more than 46 million.

Meanwhile, everywhere families look prices are going up. Gas prices have almost doubled during the Obama Presidency. Food prices have increased, and the President's policies are just making things worse. Chief among the President's policy disasters, of course, is ObamaCare, which has driven up the price of everything from premiums to pacemakers.

The President told the American people his health care law would drive down health care premiums by \$2,500. Instead, prices have risen by almost \$3,700, and they are still going up.

ObamaCare has meant new burdens for just about everyone: higher premiums and deductibles, more expensive medications, fewer doctors and hospitals from which to choose, lost jobs, and increased taxes on businesses both large and small. Millions of Americans were forced off their health plans—the plans they were promised they could keep—and into the health exchanges, where they were frequently forced to pay more for plans they liked less.

Not content with the high health care bills, now the President is adding insult to injury by putting in place EPA regulations that will drive up electricity bills for all American families. The President's de facto energy tax will hit low-income families and seniors on fixed incomes the hardest. It will also slash tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of jobs. Coal plants will close, leaving their workers unemployed, and manufacturers will send jobs in America overseas to countries with more affordable energy.

The worst part is that President Obama's EPA regulations will devastate family budgets and the economy

for nothing because the President's proposals will do almost nothing to reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. As long as our country is acting unilaterally, there will be no meaningful effect on global emissions, but the President is pressing on anyway and apparently Americans will have to get used to their massive new energy bills.

The President's policies are having a devastating effect on American students, families, and the middle class, but instead of trying to make things better, the Democratic leadership in the Senate has chosen to take up gimmicky legislation, not to help Americans but to get Democrats reelected.

Yesterday a bipartisan veterans bill, which would address the systemwide VA crisis, was introduced in the Senate. The failures at the VA are a national embarrassment and a betrayal of our compact with our veterans. Congress has an obligation to make sure nothing like this ever happens again.

Today we could be discussing the best ways to fix our VA system. Instead, we are going to be discussing a bill designed not to improve things for Americans but to win the Democrats a few votes. Instead of proceeding to a student loan bill that was designed to fail, we should proceed directly to the VA reform bill.

The House of Representatives acted decisively to bring greater accountability to the VA 3 weeks ago. Today they are moving forward on a VA reform bill that includes many of the provisions of the bill that was introduced in the Senate last night. Now that we have a bipartisan VA reform bill in the Senate, we should be acting with the same sense of urgency.

If Democratic leaders in the Senate truly wanted to make things better for American families, they wouldn't be focused on gimmicky show votes. Instead, they would be working with Republicans to fix the VA crisis. They would back a repeal of the ObamaCare medical device tax, which has already cost tens of thousands of jobs and will cost many more if it isn't repealed. They would support Republican efforts to repeal the ObamaCare 30-hour workweek rule, which has resulted in lost hours and decreased wages for way too many workers in this country, and they would embrace legislation to halt the devastating EPA rules the President has proposed and protect millions of American families from crippling energy bills.

They would push—they would push for job-creating measures such as the Keystone XL Pipeline and the 42,000 jobs it would support or trade promotion authority for the President to open new markets to American farmers, workers, and businesses, and create those good-paying jobs.

We throw around a lot of statistics in the Congress—1 million people this, 10

million people that. It is important for us to remember the faces behind the numbers: the parents trying to figure out how they will afford to pay both their daughters' tuition and their new ObamaCare premiums, the college graduate who can't find a job and is currently living in his parents' basement, the single mother whose working hours have suddenly been cut because her employer can't afford to pay the ObamaCare mandate, a father who has been out of a job for months and can't get an interview anywhere.

These Americans need help, and the President's policies are not helping. The good thing is it doesn't have to stay that way. We can get America working again, but it is going to take something different than the policies of the last 5½ years.

I challenge my Democratic colleagues to join us in passing real jobs legislation, the kind of legislation that will open a future of opportunity and economic security for all American families.

What college graduates don't need are political gimmicks. What college graduates need more than anything else are good-paying jobs with opportunities for advancement. That is what we should be focused on, not political show votes, not election-year sloganeering but real meaningful policies that will grow and expand our economy in this country and create the good-paying jobs our young college graduates need and that will lift more lower income families into the middle class.

That is what this Senate ought to be focused on. We can change to that focus, and we can start doing some things that will make this country stronger and provide a better and more prosperous and a more secure future for middle-income families.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The clerk will call the roll. The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON SOROKIN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Court Judge for the District of Massachusetts?

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote "aye."

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 180 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murray
Ayotte	Grassley	Nelson
Baldwin	Hagan	Paul
Barrasso	Harkin	Portman
Begich	Hatch	Pryor
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Blunt	Heller	Risch
Booker	Hirono	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Boxer	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Brown	Isakson	Rubio
Burr	Johanns	Sanders
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Carper	King	Sessions
Casey	Kirk	Shaheen
Coats	Klobuchar	Shelby
Coburn	Landrieu	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Lee	Thune
Corker	Levin	Toomey
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Crapo	Markey	Udall (NM)
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Donnelly	McConnell	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Enzi	Merkley	Whitehouse
Fischer	Mikulski	Wicker
Flake	Murkowski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—9

Chambliss	Graham	Moran
Cochran	Kaine	Scott
Feinstein	McCaskill	Warner

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BOULWARE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada?

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote “aye.”

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 181 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Ayotte	Harkin	Nelson
Baldwin	Heinrich	Paul
Begich	Heitkamp	Pryor
Bennet	Heller	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Kirk	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Walsh
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murkowski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—35

Alexander	Enzi	McConnell
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Flake	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Chambliss	Hoehn	Sessions
Coats	Inhofe	Shelby
Coburn	Isakson	Thune
Corker	Johanns	Toomey
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Vitter
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McCain	

NOT VOTING—7

Cochran	McCaskill	Warner
Graham	Moran	
Kaine	Scott	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:48 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 2:30 shall be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

BANK ON STUDENT EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise in strong support of the Bank on Stu-

dent Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. I urge my colleagues to work with us to brighten our Nation’s future by turning the tide against the student loan debt burden that threatens to hold back this generation of Americans.

Since 2003, student loan debt has quadrupled. It has surpassed credit card debt, and it is only second to mortgage debt for American households. We know that borrowers are struggling with this debt. Delinquency rates are substantially higher for student loans than for other types of debt. Default rate have risen. The Federal Reserve Bank, the National Association of Realtors, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Pew Research Center, and others have begun to sound the alarm about the broader impacts of student loan debt on our economy.

Home ownership among young people has fallen. Young households with student loan debt have accumulated seven times less wealth than their debt-free peers. The interest rate on undergraduate student loans was 3.86 percent this year, yet many borrowers are locked into loans at 6.8 percent with no way to refinance. The Government Accountability Office estimated the Federal Government would earn an estimated \$66 billion from student loans originated between 2007 and 2012.

Surely we can afford to give these borrowers a break and reduce their interest rates to at least that which was agreed to in the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act that was signed into law last year, which still sets rates too high in light of the fact that the Congressional Budget Office estimates show that student loans will still generate revenue for the government even at these lower rates.

That is the simple premise behind the Bank on Student Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. I am a proud cosponsor with Senator WARREN. I salute her for her leadership, for her insight, and for her advocacy for students and families across this country.

The other side may deny that student loan debt is an urgent problem that requires Senate action. But for the estimated 25 million Americans who could benefit from refinancing, including 88,000 in my home State of Rhode Island, that is cold comfort indeed. We can provide real relief for student loan borrowers, and let them put their hard-earned money to work for building a better life for their families and a stronger economy for our Nation.

Looking forward, we need to work together to tackle the drivers in student loan debt—rapidly rising college costs and the rollback of State investment in higher education in public colleges throughout this country. We need to renew our commitment to the core principle of the Higher Education Act, that no American should be denied the ability to go to college because their family lacks the means to pay.

We need to get back to the idea that educating Americans is fundamentally in our national interest and that we have a shared responsibility at the Federal, State, local, institutional, and individual levels for investing in our people. My generation benefited from this kind of investment. This and future generations should have similar opportunities to develop their talents and pursue their dreams in order to secure a brighter future for them and for our country.

Tomorrow, we begin voting to move forward on legislation that could provide relief to as many as 25 million Americans struggling under the weight of student loan debt. For those people, this is not a political stunt. The legislation would enable student loan borrowers to lower their interest rates, reducing their payments and ultimately reducing the amount they will have to repay overall. When rates go down, we can refinance other types of debt. Student loans should not be an exception.

This student debt relief is fully paid for by addressing an inequity in our Tax Code that allows millionaires and billionaires to pay lower rates than regular middle-class Americans. Student loans are supposed to help people finance their education so they can get ahead, not serve as a ball and chain that weighs them down for years and years and years.

I urge all my colleagues to support the Bank on Student Emergency Loan Refinancing Act.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Ron Wyden, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren, Bill Nelson, Robert Menendez.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote “yea.”

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 59, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 182 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Alexander	Hagan	Murphy
Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Hatch	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Kirk	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Corker	Markey	Walsh
Donnelly	McCain	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murkowski	

NAYS—35

Ayotte	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Flake	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Heller	Rubio
Burr	Hoeben	Sanders
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Isakson	Shelby
Coburn	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Paul	

NOT VOTING—6

Cochran	Kaine	Moran
Graham	McCaskill	Scott

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 59, the nays are 35. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Ron Wyden, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren, Bill Nelson, Robert Menendez.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote “yea.”

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 183 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Alexander	Franken	Murray
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Begich	Hagan	Pryor
Bennet	Harkin	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Rockefeller
Boxer	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Landrieu	Tester
Casey	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Coats	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Manchin	Walsh
Coons	Markey	Warner
Corker	Menendez	Warren
Donnelly	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Mikulski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murkowski	
Flake	Murphy	

NAYS—36

Ayotte	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Heller	Risch
Boozman	Hoeben	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Chambliss	Isakson	Sanders
Coburn	Johanns	Sessions
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Crapo	Kirk	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	McCain	Vitter
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NOT VOTING—6

Cochran	Kaine	Moran
Graham	McCaskill	Scott

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 58, the nays are 36. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Ron Wyden, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren, Bill Nelson, Robert Menendez.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote “yea.”

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 184 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Corker	Landrieu
Baldwin	Donnelly	Leahy
Begich	Durbin	Levin
Bennet	Feinstein	Manchin
Blumenthal	Franken	Markey
Booker	Gillibrand	Menendez
Boxer	Hagan	Merkley
Brown	Harkin	Mikulski
Cantwell	Heinrich	Murkowski
Cardin	Heitkamp	Murphy
Carper	Hirono	Murray
Casey	Johnson (SD)	Nelson
Collins	King	Pryor
Coons	Klobuchar	Reed

Reid	Stabenow	Warner
Rockefeller	Tester	Warren
Schatz	Udall (CO)	Whitehouse
Schumer	Udall (NM)	Wyden
Shaheen	Walsh	

NAYS—38

Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Burr	Hoeben	Rubio
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sanders
Coats	Isakson	Sessions
Coburn	Johanns	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Crapo	Kirk	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—6

Cochran	Kaine	Moran
Graham	McCaskill	Scott

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 56, the nays are 38. The motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now resume legislative session and proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

(The remarks of Mr. BEGICH and Mrs. MURRAY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2455 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in recent weeks it has become impossible to deny the fact that we have a full-blown humanitarian crisis along the U.S.-Mexican border. Sadly, this crisis is directly the result of President Obama's own policies, and it involves tens of thousands of young children, some reportedly as young as 3 years old, risking their lives.

Indeed, young children are traveling through extremely dangerous territory run by brutal drug cartels that prey on the weak in the form of human trafficking, rape, and even murder. This

year alone tens of thousands of unaccompanied minor children have been detained while crossing illegally into the United States. A large percentage has been found in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas.

To give the Senate an idea of what has happened and the timeline here, as recently as 2011 there were 6,560 unaccompanied minors detained at the border between the United States and Mexico. Then in 2012 the President announced he was taking administrative action to defer deportation of a certain class of minors, most of whom had come here as young children but had since grown up, sometimes called the Dreamers. But this action in 2012 sent a message, apparently, to other people who were anxious to come to the United States. So you see in 2013, there were 24,000 unaccompanied minors. It is projected, although the number is not known, that it will rise to 60,000, or the Senator from Arizona has said he has heard as high as 90,000 potentially of these unaccompanied minors.

Mr. MCCAIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CORNYN. I will.

Mr. MCCAIN. I apologize if I am being redundant here, but how does the Senator from Texas explain to the American people how we have gone from, in 2011, when we start this chart, from 6,000, to now the projection, 3 years later, of over 60,000 and some say as many as 90,000? But let's say it is 60,000. Does this not have to be some kind of orchestrated, organized effort to account for this dramatic increase? If it is, who is doing it?

Mr. CORNYN. I would say to the Senator from Arizona, he knows a lot about this topic, living in Arizona. But I think it is a combination of factors. It is, 1, the message that was sent by the unilateral deferred action the President ordered in 2012 saying that even children who come here meeting certain criteria would be low priorities for deportation. So the message was: If you can come to America, and you get here, then you are basically not going to be sent back home.

I think it is also a combination, as the Senator knows, of the violence in the failed state status, nearly, of some of the Central American countries where most of these kids come from. But it is creating, as the Senator knows, a humanitarian crisis because we do not have the facilities to take care of this many minor children.

Here again, these are just the ones who made it. The Senator knows how dangerous the trek is from Central America up through Mexico through areas controlled by the drug cartels. Many of these children, some reportedly as young as 5 or 3 years old, are obviously very vulnerable to being preyed upon by unscrupulous characters.

Mr. MCCAIN. Additionally, though, these children—when you are saying

especially the very young ones, there has to be some kind of organized effort that is bringing them. The average 5-year-old or 6-year-old does not decide to leave home one day and come across the U.S.-Mexican border.

Mr. CORNYN. The Senator is exactly right. I did not answer his question. Let me try to do a better job. As the Senator knows, in years past, the migrants who came across the border typically were people looking for work. But now with the dominance of large swaths of Mexico and Central America by drug cartels, they basically are trafficking in people, in drugs, in guns, and anything that will make them a buck. Unfortunately, they have no scruples whatsoever and no concern for these young, vulnerable children. They recognize their parents are willing to pay money to them to transport them from Central America to the United States. But the problem is they have no control over what happens to those children when they are in the hands of the drug cartels and these transnational gangs as they bring them all the way from Guatemala, for example, which is 1,200 miles away from McAllen, TX. Many of these children suffer from exposure, in addition to being preyed upon by a variety of unscrupulous characters.

Mr. MCCAIN. Could I ask again? So these children now, ones because of the numbers in overwhelming our facilities, are in terrible conditions for someone, a human being in the United States of America: no facilities, no bathing, diet, overcrowding, being put on transportation and taken to Arizona and dropped off at bus stops, and yet not only is that a terrific problem, at least once they are there, they are not prey to some of the things they are prey to on the 1,200-mile trip which are horrible in many circumstances given the nature of these people who are the drug smugglers and human smugglers at the same time. So is it true that the dimensions of this humanitarian tragedy/crisis are something that deserve the attention of all of us? I am surprised it has not gotten a lot more attention than it has up to now.

Mr. CORNYN. I would say to the Senator from Arizona that I am a little surprised it has not gotten more attention either. That is one reason that motivated me to come to the floor today to highlight this. Tomorrow, before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Secretary Jeh Johnson of the Department of Homeland Security will be testifying. I hope he can provide us some answers, because what we need is a comprehensive look at what are the incentives that would convince parents to send their unaccompanied children up through this horrific trip through Mexico, some 1,200 miles from Central America, to such an uncertain fate here in the United States, much less along the way. We need to know what

the President's plan is to deal with this.

I know the Senator has spent a lot of time in places such as Jordan and Turkey that I have had the occasion to visit. One of our colleagues pointed out, this is like having refugee camps here in the United States, something nobody ever thought we would have.

Mr. McCAIN. I would ask one more question. Does the Senator know of any plan or any idea of what our Department of Homeland Security and our Border Patrol and people have to deal with this? Do you have any idea what they have to address this issue besides transporting children from Texas to Tucson, AZ, and dropping them off at a bus stop?

Mr. CORNYN. I would say to the Senator, I know some of it entails warehousing children at places such as Lackland Air Force Base, and the last report I saw, about 1,000 of them are located there. I am not sure what the plan is going forward. I assume some of it will be to try to reunite them with family members here in the United States. But if they do not have family members, then they are going to basically become wards of the State. I am not aware of any plan.

The reason why I came to the floor today is to express the very concerns the Senator from Arizona has expressed about the causes and the effects of such a poorly thought out policy, which basically sends the message that anybody who can make it here, particularly minors, can come into the United States and we are totally unprepared, in my view, to deal with this humanitarian crisis. We need to be prepared.

Mr. McCAIN. In other words, by making the decision the President of the United States made on deferred action, if you believe those numbers and they are accurate, that triggered a mass movement into the United States of America. So it is not an accident that these numbers have gone from 13,000 up to 60,000 or 90,000, depending on who you talk to. It is not an accident. So if it is a matter of policy, then that policy needs to be reviewed. Rather than cure the symptom, which we have to do because it is a humanitarian crisis, the humanitarian crisis is not going to be over until we address the root of the problem. Is that correct?

Mr. CORNYN. I agree with the Senator from Arizona. I think this is not a coincidence. There is, in my view, very much of a cause-and-effect relationship between this poorly thought out unilateral action by the President, without much knowledge of or thought given to the consequences.

As the Senator from Arizona knows, because he has certainly fought the fight to fix our broken immigration laws, and I have been involved in many of those myself, this is a direct result of the President basically trying to go

it alone and basically trying to send a message, a political message, but one that gives very little thought to the very real-world human consequences of his political actions.

The Senator from Arizona was talking a little bit about this trip from Central America. I would show my colleagues, as we know, Mexico has had a lot of security issues that have been dealt with by the last administration, President Calderon's administration, and now are continuing to be dealt with by the current administration in Mexico. But the Zetas, some of the hardest core of the drug cartels, essentially control large portions of this region of eastern Mexico. If you look from Guatemala, from Central America right at the bottom of Mexico here, the pathway these children would have to make all of the way up through Mexico into South Texas, into the Rio Grande Valley, essentially is through territory controlled by the Zetas, the drug cartel.

One question that is horrible to contemplate is how many of the children who started this long 1,200 mile or so trek actually made it to the end of their journey, and how many fell out along the way as a result of illness, as a result of criminal activity, such as kidnapping, how many were assaulted along the way. This is a crisis that needs to be addressed.

I would point out to my colleagues, I have in my hand—and I ask unanimous consent that this document be printed in the RECORD following my remarks. I would read from it. This is a release from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection dated May 12, 2014. As of May 12, 2014, nearly 180 sex offenders were arrested in the Rio Grande Valley sector alone. That is so far in 2014. Can you imagine that amidst the 47,000 children who have been detained since October of last year coming across the border, that mixed into this pot of people were we know at least 180 convicted sex offenders.

This article continues to point out that:

Additionally, agents have arrested more than 50 members of the Mara Salvatrucha gang, or MS-13, a notorious transnational criminal gang that started in Los Angeles, and about 14 members of the 18th Street gang.

For my colleagues' information, many of them have heard about a train that goes up through Mexico that many of the migrants from Central America take in order to help them make their journey. This train is called the Beast, sometimes called the Beast of Death.

The stories, and indeed the books, that have been written about this chronicle how horrendous this trip is. We can see in this picture there are young people and older people sitting on top of this train, riding it as far as they can, helping them make their

journey up that eastern coast of Mexico from Central America, the 1,200 miles they would take to get from Guatemala City to South Texas. Many of them travel on this train known as the Beast.

The stories of what has happened here, of people who have lost their lives, people who have been decapitated when the train has gone through tunnels, people who tried to jump on a moving train only to lose limbs after a fall under the train, will chill your blood.

But the fact is the administration, and indeed the entire Federal Government, needs to deal with this crisis and needs to deal not only with the causes of it but what the effects are and particularly the humanitarian crisis involving this growing number of unaccompanied children.

Federal, State, and local authorities along the border have completely been overwhelmed by the influx. You can imagine that the Border Patrol, which is in the business of processing these children as they are detained and handing them off to Health and Human Services and other agencies, their attention has been diverted from their primary mission of border security because they have had to lend a hand to deal with the humanitarian crisis.

With so many children arriving day after day and with so many of them lacking any identification documents, it has been tremendously difficult to figure out exactly who they are, why they left home, where they have family, and where they should be sent while their case is being processed.

We don't know how many of them have been victims of human trafficking, for example, how many of them might qualify as refugees under U.S. law, how many of them are actually over the age of 18, and how many of them might have a criminal record.

Can anyone at the White House or in the administration say with certainty the children being released from U.S. custody are leaving with an actual family member?

The Senator from Arizona alluded to children being shipped from Texas to Arizona where they were left at bus stops and elsewhere, basically with a request that they reappear at a given time. But, of course, 90 percent, I am told, never show up back at their court appointment.

For that matter, can the administration say with certainty that none of these children have been handed over to an adult with a criminal record? The answer to both of these questions is no.

In short, this is a complete mess, and the use of resources available to Texas and U.S. officials are under enormous strain. The administration estimates that roughly 60,000 of these unaccompanied children will be apprehended this fiscal year. Perhaps twice that many may be apprehended next year.

We can see the trend here and, of course, all we know from this chart is what it was before the President's deferred action announcement, and we know what it is now. But the trendline is undeniable and appears to be growing at an exponential rate. The crisis we are facing now represents a tragic and painful example of the law of unintended consequences.

Two years ago when the President stood in the Rose Garden and announced a unilateral administrative change in U.S. immigration policy, he probably thought he was doing a good thing. But between that policy change and his broader failure to uphold our immigration laws—indeed his statement that he essentially will not enforce broad swaths of those laws—the President has created an extremely dangerous incentive for children and their parents to cross into the United States under these sorts of treacherous and horrific circumstances.

In other words, the policies that were supposed to be adopted for humanitarian purposes to help these children have created a genuine humanitarian disaster for these same supposed beneficiaries of this unilateral policy. While there is widespread violence and poverty in Central America, sadly, that is not something entirely new, and it is not the cause of our current crisis.

President Obama's immigration policies, primarily his policy of non-enforcement, have encouraged untold numbers of parents and children to make a shockingly dangerous journey through the interior of Mexico riding the Beast, some of whom have been subjected to unknown horrors and treatment at the hands of the very same people who were paid to transport them.

The stories I have read indicate that at stops along the way people are held up at gunpoint. If they don't turn over money to their would-be assailant, then they are threatened with being shot and even killed.

While we may have a rough idea of how many children are actually crossing into America, we will never know with certainty how many actually start that journey and never make it, how many die along the way, are kidnapped or perhaps sexually abused or otherwise mistreated because of the lawless conditions under which this takes place. But we do know the massive surge in unaccompanied minors is directly attributable to actions taken or not taken by the administration.

Therefore, I would implore President Obama to immediately do five things:

No. 1, he should immediately declare that the so-called deferred action program—which I referred to earlier that he unilaterally ordered in 2012—does not apply to the children currently arriving at the border. One aspect of enforcement is deterrence, and so deterring the children from ever starting

that long, dangerous trek has to be part of the solution.

No. 2, the President should immediately discourage people in Central America and elsewhere from sending their children on such a dangerous journey.

No. 3, the President should immediately begin to enforce all U.S. immigration laws and engage with the Congress in any changes he thinks are warranted and not simply ignore the ones he finds convenient or politically expedient.

No. 4, he should immediately take steps to ensure that Texas and other U.S. border States have the resources they need to address this ongoing humanitarian crisis.

No. 5, he should immediately start working with the Mexican Government to improve security at Mexico's southern border. This is a 500-mile border between Mexico and Guatemala that, if it were better secured, would deter many of these children and other migrants from coming through Mexico and subjecting themselves to these dangerous conditions in the first place.

If the President did all five of those, not only would it help us resolve the current crisis, but it would also help us prevent similar crises from erupting in the future.

These children are being preyed on by drug cartels and human traffickers, and they are at high risk of being kidnapped, raped or even killed while traveling this long dangerous journey to the United States. But sadly, when they arrive here, we still have no way of guaranteeing their safety because of the lack of an adequate plan to deal with this humanitarian crisis.

President Obama effectively created this problem and now he has an opportunity to work with us to fix it. I can only hope he does the right thing.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the U.S. Customs and Border Protection document I referred to earlier.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, May 12, 2014]

NEARLY 180 SEX OFFENDERS ARRESTED BY RGV SECTOR AGENTS SO FAR IN FY14

EDINBURG, TX.—U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Rio Grande Valley Sector have arrested nearly 180 illegal immigrants with prior convictions for sex offenses so far for fiscal year 2014, which began Oct. 1, 2013, and goes through Sept. 31, 2014.

The majority of the sex offenders have convictions for sexual assault crimes involving children. Some of the more heinous offenses include: sexual assault of a child; sodomy, lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14; aggravated sexual assault of a child; and aggravated indecent assault and corruption of a minor. The sex offenders have convictions for crimes that occurred in states from coast to coast as well as in the Rio Grande Valley.

In addition to the arrests of convicted sex offenders, agents apprehended three illegal

immigrants over the weekend who have arrest warrants for sex-related crimes. They include a Mexican national wanted in Fort Worth on a continuous child sex abuse charge; a Salvadoran wanted by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office in Virginia on a charge of adultery/fornication: incest with a child between 13-17 years of age; and another Mexican national wanted by the Travis County Sheriff's Office on a charge of indecency with a child/sexual contact. The three men were turned over to the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office pending extradition.

Additionally, agents have arrested more than 50 members of the Mara Salvatrucha gang, or MS-13, a notorious transnational criminal gang that started in Los Angeles, and about 14 members of the 18th Street gang.

The Rio Grande Valley Sector is part of the South Texas Campaign, which leverages federal, state and local resources to combat transnational criminal organizations. To report suspicious activity, call the sector's toll-free telephone number at 800-863-9382.

Mr. CORNYN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. As a Senator from a Western State, as is my friend from Texas, I hope the American people understand the only thing the Republicans can do for whatever happens is blame President Obama: Oh, it rained today—it is President Obama.

How about the most obvious point—that the Republican House has failed to take up an immigration bill. The Senate did it in a bipartisan way. I applaud that bipartisanship. We did it a long time ago. The fact that the Republican House refuses to do it never passes the lips of my Republican friends in the Senate.

If we want to correct our immigration system, we have to sit down and do the hard work, as we did in the Senate. There is no question that we are facing a crisis with children from Central America running away from gangs, violence, rape, and deprivation. There is no doubt about it. The fact is we can deal with that, but we have to look at the laws, and that is why we want to set the rules in a bill.

There is lawlessness because we haven't updated our laws. For example, we have to make sure these short-term holding facilities have humane conditions. We can do that by law.

I want to say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, because it is cloudy one day, don't blame the President. Because it rains the next day, don't blame the President. If you wake up with a sore throat, don't blame the President. When you have trouble at the border, look at your own party, which has held up immigration reform. If we can do it over here, they can do it over there. The whole world is watching.

It is the same way with the veterans. I am hoping and praying that this new effort by Senator SANDERS and Senator MCCAIN will bear fruit in the Senate on a VA bill. But remember that the Republicans filibustered the last BERNIE

SANDERS bill, which would have added clinics, which would have addressed the problems. They filibustered it.

Keep your ear open here. We have a chance to address so many issues.

STUDENT DEBT

Mrs. BOXER. I talked about immigration. I talked about veterans. We have a chance now to deal with the student loan crisis, and it is a crisis.

The student loan debt is \$1.2 trillion. That is more than credit card debt.

In my home State, the average amount owed by a borrower in 2012 was more than \$25,000—a 65-percent increase from 2004. In the same time period, the number of Californians with outstanding student loan debt increased by 60 percent.

In addition, in 2012 there were 641,000 Californians over the age of 50 who were still paying down their student loans and more than 6.8 million people over 50 nationwide still paying off their student loans.

This is a crisis that must be addressed. It is important to our Nation's economy. It is important to the future of our families, to our children, and our grandchildren. It is time to act.

I have to say, Senator WARREN has been a tremendous leader. We can take an important step toward addressing this dire situation by passing Senator WARREN's Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. It would help millions of Americans refinance their loans at lower interest rates, put more money in their pockets. I have to say, it is kind of a no-brainer. When you have more money in your pocket than you had before, you are going to spend it in your communities.

I am so proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Sadly, even though the Federal Government is the biggest student loan lender, and it is making billions of dollars in profits each year, it doesn't allow its borrowers to refinance their existing student loans when rates are low. That is wrong. Our middle class is hurting.

The New York Federal Reserve Bank and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau have been warning us that student loans are acting like an anchor on our economy.

When our President took office, there was a crisis. We were losing 700,000 jobs a month. He has turned it around, and now month after month we are creating over 200,000 jobs, and we have restored all those jobs we lost. But why would we keep this anchor of student loan debt on our economy?

For example, students can't buy cars because they have so much in student loan debt. They can't buy houses.

Andrea from San Francisco writes:

My boyfriend and I both have student debt. He started with \$90,000 and has finally gotten it down to \$50,000 after 10 years of paying. I

recently finished my MFA and now have \$56,000 in debt. This has kept us from saving for a house, purchasing a car, and doing things day to day that would boost the economy, like shopping and going out to eat.

Patrick from Thousand Oaks wrote to me and said:

I pay half of my monthly wages to cover the interest alone on my loan.

Worse still, many young Americans wrestling with student debt cannot save enough to start a family.

Stefanie from Pacific Grove wrote:

We are finally starting a family in our late 30s. My husband has been paying off his student loans for ten years. This loan will cost him twice as much as he borrowed—doubling the cost of his college education. That is simply not fair. If the Fed sets interest rates low for everyone else, why not for students?

As Stefanie's story illustrates, student debt is not only a drag on the American economy, it is tearing at the fabric of our American dream.

I read last week that for the first time a majority of people don't really believe the dream will be there for them as it was for us. When 40 million people in America are struggling with a combined \$1.2 trillion in student debt, it is no wonder the American dream is elusive.

I have 3.7 million Californians dealing with \$97 billion in student loans, and many of these loans are stuck at outrageously high interest rates—7, 8, 9 percent. With interest rates this high, it is hard for anyone to pay off their debt, and it is really hard for recent graduates who are just launching their careers.

In order to help the nearly 40 million Americans with student debt, Senate Democrats have introduced this plan, with the leadership of Senator WARREN. It is a simple plan. The idea is to let borrowers refinance their outstanding student loan debt.

We are at a time of record-low interest. I am asking rhetorically whether it is fair to charge 7, 8, 9 percent interest when the Federal Government lends money to banks at less than 1 percent. The people who have borrowed money to pay for college or send their children to college are trapped with these exorbitant interest rates. And the private student loans can be even worse. I have seen 10 percent and 11 percent.

The Senate Democratic proposal would allow borrowers of both Federal and private student loans to refinance from their high rates into much lower rates. The rates would be 3.86 percent for undergraduates, 5.41 percent for graduates, and 6.41 for the parents who have helped their kids. Those are the rates Democrats and Republicans agreed on last year, and those are the rates new borrowers received this past school year. But the older borrowers are stuck with these exorbitant rates, and they can't refinance. If those lower rates are good for new borrowers, why wouldn't we allow them for those who have been stuck in this vicious cycle of these high rates?

These young people are not saddled with this debt because they went to the mall and bought a lot of clothes. They worked hard to learn new skills that will benefit our Nation and help keep us strong. They deserve a fair shot at saving and building a career and having a family.

Matthew from Antelope, CA, wrote to me and said:

I have never worked harder on one single goal than to be the first in my family to gain a degree in higher education. I've been on the Dean's List every semester in college. [But] the ever-present fear of paying off the thousands of dollars of interest I have gained is overwhelming and I am struggling to see past it.

If big banks, which collapsed our financial system, are able to borrow at a rate of nearly zero percent, I don't see why students who will ultimately grow our economy and grow our nation cannot borrow at the same rates.

Matt from Newport Beach, CA, said:

I am grateful for my college education. As a son of middle-class parents, I knew [college] was an investment in my future, despite the need to take out loans. I even graduated in three years and served as a Resident Adviser to keep costs down. However, my student loan debt is now a major expense that hangs over me as a working adult. It affects my ability to achieve certain life milestones—buy a house, finance a wedding, and save for retirement.

I support efforts to refinance loans at low interest rates—rates comparable to those in the real estate market. Please take action! With more affordable student loans, my generation can grow this economy.

Matt, Matthew, and their classmates who worked so hard to achieve their dreams deserve a fair shot. Tomorrow morning we will have a chance to make achieving the American dream a little easier for Matt, Matthew, and all our struggling college students. So I stand with Matt, Matthew, Patrick, Stefanie, Andrea, and the 40 other million Americans with student loans.

What we are saying is very simple: We want to give students who are trapped in those high interest rates a chance to refinance. We pay for it by saying that those billionaires who aren't paying at least as much as their secretaries pay at least as much as that. It is called the Buffett rule. I can't imagine a better way to pay for this than that.

I urge my colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—to stand with my constituents and their own constituents by voting to let us move forward to consider the Bank on Students Act.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise to speak today on behalf of our veterans.

I am here to speak about both challenge and opportunity. The challenge is the problems we face with our Veterans' Administration, which is that we are not getting the care for our veterans that they need and that we all want them to have and that they so very much deserve.

We also have a real opportunity because we have been working on legislation. We have legislation on the Republican side in the Senate and on the Democratic side, and now we are working to bring those two pieces of legislation together. So I think this creates a real opportunity, and it is a vitally important opportunity—one that we grab and that we address on behalf of our veterans. We need to make sure we come together on bipartisan legislation that fixes the Veterans' Administration health care system, and it takes care of our veterans.

I believe the solution, the real key to solving the problem, is choice—or another way to put it might be access to health care. I think that not only solves the problems we have seen with the wait lists but also the problem of distance, which is also an issue, and it is a challenge we see in States such as my own. For example, in our State the issue truly is distance. In other places it is access to health care. We know, for example, in places such as Phoenix, veterans were put on wait lists and in that way denied access to care. That is absolutely unacceptable—absolutely unacceptable.

I think the Veterans Choice Act, which I am pleased to cosponsor with a number of my fellow colleagues, solves that problem, and it solves not only the access and the wait list problem but also, as I have said, the distance problem essentially by providing choice, meaning that if a vet can't get access to a veterans health care facility, then the veteran can go to another health care provider. I believe that works for the vet and it works for the health care provider. The veteran can go to a hospital or a clinic that has the service he or she needs if he can't get into the VA facility in a timely way, and then that hospital or clinic is reimbursed just as if it were for a Medicare patient. Clearly, our health care system has the facilities in place, the resources to handle that type of reimbursement just as they do for Medicare patients.

Now I wish to speak about the distance issue for just a minute because in North Dakota the distance issue is the one we face. For example, in North Dakota it is about 800 miles round trip from Williston to the VA health care system in Fargo. Some services, as we all know, are provided by CBOCs—community-based operating clinics—and we have those around the State. But where we don't have CBOCs or where they are not able to get the service they need from that CBOC or walk-in

clinic, then it can be an 800-mile trip to get services.

Not too long ago I held an open forum in Williston, ND, which, as many people know, is the site of an incredible energy boom, the Williston Basin. Now in North Dakota we produce about 1 million barrels of oil a day—second only to the State of Texas. So we have a tremendous number of people moving into this region. We are the fastest growing State in the Nation. We have veterans there who are driving long distances to get medical services. So this is a different challenge than we faced in some of the centers such as Phoenix where they were waiting to get patient care. In our case they are having to drive long distances—as I said, 800 miles round trip to Williston; 400 miles to Fargo and then 400 miles back.

I recently held a forum up in Williston to discuss this issue and look for solutions on behalf of our veterans. I met with our veterans, I met with veterans service officers, as well as health care providers from the region. I talked to two vets who told me their story about trying to get health care. We have a walk-in clinic, a CBOC—community-based operating clinic—in Williston. There were two cases where veterans needed some health care services. In one case, because they couldn't—the first veteran couldn't get it at the local CBOC, that individual took a day to drive to Fargo, which is 400 miles, stayed in a hotel, the next day went in and got those services, stayed in a hotel that night, and then drove back the third day. So he had to take 3 days off of work to get services. He had to drive 800 miles round trip. He had to be put up in a hotel for 2 nights. Now, all of that is reimbursed, as far as the travel in the State, by the VA. So for a relatively straightforward procedure, the VA paid a lot more and inconvenienced that veteran terribly and cost him money because that individual had to take 3 days off from work. That doesn't make any sense.

In the second case, a veteran in a similar situation wanted to get the service at the local CBOC, wasn't able to do that, but instead of driving all the way to Fargo and doing what the first veteran did, the second individual just went into the local clinic or hospital in Williston and got the service that afternoon. Unfortunately, the second veteran is still trying to get reimbursement out of the VA for that procedure.

The individual in the second case did not have to take 3 days off from work, which is smart and, frankly, saved the VA a lot of money because it was not a case where you had to drive down, get reimbursed for that stay with over two nights in a hotel, and then drive back. So it actually saved the VA money. But still they have not gotten a reimbursement for the cost of that medical

treatment because the VA does provide that service in Fargo. But again, in that situation, unless that veteran is reimbursed, you are not truly serving the veteran and, frankly, not doing the sensible thing to save the taxpayer money.

That is why the Veterans Choice Act that I am cosponsoring with others, again, is the solution because we provide choice, we provide access. If the veteran cannot get that service in a timely way in the local community, then the veteran can access another health care facility. That is why the legislation works.

So what I have offered—and, of course, now we are working on bringing two bills together: the Veterans Choice Act, but then also legislation offered by Senator BERNIE SANDERS; and that legislation is the Ensuring Veterans Access to Care Act.

I think we can bring them together, and I think we can get a good solution that serves everybody, most importantly that serves our veterans. But we need to serve all of our veterans—all of our veterans—regardless of where they live. That is why I have offered simple, clarifying language—this is a technical fix—that would clarify and ensure that if a veteran cannot get service in a CBOC, then that veteran can go to a local health care provider on the same basis as an individual who lives more than 40 miles away from the walk-in clinic.

This legislation, this clarification is important to ensure that a veteran is not in any way actually disadvantaged by having a walk-in clinic in the local community, and that all vets can access services on the same basis. Again, it is because of the way this legislation is coming together that requires that if you are within 40 miles of a walk-in clinic or you have to wait more than 14 days, then you can go to another health care provider. But if either one of those criteria apply—you are within the 40-mile radius and you can get an appointment within 14 days to see a doctor—then you have to go to the VA. That works, and that is consistent only if you applied both criteria to the same clinic, to the same health care center.

What I mean is this. Remember the example I gave just a minute ago: Williston, ND, and Fargo, ND. In Williston you have a walk-in clinic. In Fargo you have a full hospital—a full VA medical center. Take the test we are applying in this legislation: If you are within 40 miles, you have to go to the VA facility, as long as you can get in within 14 days. But that 14 days has to also apply to the facility that is within that 40-mile radius; otherwise, you get an inconsistent, unfair result and actually disadvantage somebody who is within 40 miles of a walk-in clinic versus somebody who is outside that radius.

Let me give two examples to illuminate what I am saying.

You have a vet. He lives in Williston, ND. He is within 40 miles of that facility. He goes in, and he gets his shots or whatever it is in that facility—no problem. But what happens if he cannot, if that walk-in clinic does not supply the service? What does he do? Well, if the 14-day rule applies to the Fargo VA hospital, even though he is within 40 miles of the CBOC, if the CBOC—the walk-in clinic—does not provide that service, he still has to drive 800 miles roundtrip for that shot I just talked about a minute ago or that service—the two veterans I described a minute ago. So he still has to travel 800 miles to get service.

Take another individual. He lives 41 miles from that walk-in clinic. Even if the Fargo VA can take him within 14 days, he can still go get local service in Williston, can't he? Why? Because he is 41 miles away. So ask yourself, the veteran who lives within 39 miles of that walk-in clinic, he might have to drive 800 miles roundtrip to get a service that the individual who is 41 miles from that facility can go get in the local community.

Does that make sense? That is the kind of thing we have to make sure we get right so that all veterans, regardless of where they live, get the same fair and consistent treatment. That is why I am saying, as we put this legislation together, we have to be careful to make sure we get that kind of fair and consistent result so this legislation serves all of our veterans and takes care of all of our veterans, and they truly all have that access. Whether the problem is a wait list or long distances, let's make sure this works for all of them.

Believe me, they are out there. Every one of them has put their life on the line and stepped up. All of them have done that for us. Let's make sure, as we work through and file this legislation—something I know we can do; on a bipartisan basis we can get this done—let's make sure it works for all of our veterans and it works well and it works consistently and it truly solves the problem; that is, we make sure they get the health care they deserve.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The Senator from Georgia.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for up to 3 minutes and that immediately following my remarks the Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN, be recognized for as much time as he might consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. I thank the distinguished Senator from Iowa for relin-

quishing a little time to let me step in. I am very grateful.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALL DAVISON

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, on the evening of June 8, this past Sunday, in Gainesville, GA, CAPT William Hall Davison, U.S. Navy retired, passed away.

It was a significant day in our family for many reasons. He is my wife's father. He is my children's grandfather. He is my grandchildren's great-grandfather. His wife Gay, 97 years old, survives him.

Bill Davison was 99 years old. He was a pilot in World War II in the South Pacific, tracking submarines of the Japanese Navy and cargo ships of the Japanese Navy to make sure our intelligence was the best it could be.

Like so many of America's greatest generation, he sacrificed 4½ years of his life in defense of our country. He made a career of the U.S. Navy. He never talked about it, and only rarely did he say anything about it. But when he did, he talked about how proud he was to be able to wear the uniform of the United States of America.

So while it was a tragic night for my wife, a tragic loss for our family, it is a reminder to all of us as Americans that our greatest generation is passing at a very rapid rate. Soon none will be here with us who stormed the beaches at Normandy, flew the skies of the Pacific or fought on the ground at the Battle of the Bulge.

But we are all here today—you and I, Madam President—because of the sacrifice of those people—the greatest sacrifice in the history of mankind. In fact, the most unselfish act of humanity I have ever read about or heard about or was ever taught about was by that generation that landed on Normandy Beach on June 6, 1944, and freed America and freed the rest of the world from the totalitarian government of Adolph Hitler.

So as my family pauses to mourn the loss of a father-in-law for me, a grandfather for my children, a great-grandfather for my grandchildren, and a father for my wife, we take joy in knowing that one member of our family was a part of a generation that saved all of humanity for democracy and for freedom and for liberty.

To his wife Gay, who is in morning today, at age 97, we wish her a continued, prosperous life, and we thank her for her sacrifice, because like so many women—the wives of the soldiers during World War II—she kept the home fires burning. They worked in the factories. They made sure that America worked while their husbands were off to defend us.

So while we had a tragic loss of life in our family on Sunday night, June 8, we had a positive remembrance of all

that has been done for our family by the brave men and women who fought for the United States of America.

May God bless William Hall Davison for his life and may God bless the United States of America.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I want to speak for just a few minutes in favor of the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, which is the measure before the Senate now, also referred to as the Fair Shot for College Affordability.

We have been calling this agenda a fair shot, but let's be honest about it. It is just plain common sense. I do not want to go any further without thanking the present occupant of the chair, the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts, for her dynamic and great leadership on this issue and on these kinds of issues that affect college affordability, and especially this overburdensome student debt that is hanging not only over students but over our entire country.

There are some things, as I said, that are just plain common sense. Raising the minimum wage is good for American workers. It increases aggregate demand, and it will increase GDP. It is common sense. Equal pay for equal work is the right thing to do for women. It is common sense. And this bill that lets struggling student loan borrowers refinance their loans is not only good for them but also good for our country and good for our economy.

Families across the country are struggling with student loan debt. It is not only holding them back personally, it is holding us back as a nation. It is holding them back from buying homes and starting families. It is holding back doctors from practicing primary care. It is hurting people trying to save for retirement. It is hurting rural communities that are working to attract doctors or lawyers or veterinarians or whatever.

But you need not take my word for it. Some of the Nation's most prominent economic officials have raised concerns over this student debt issue. Members of the Federal Reserve Board's Federal Open Market Committee, in March 2013—over a year ago—expressed concern that “the high level of student debt” is a risk to aggregate household spending over the next 3 years. The Treasury Department's Office of Financial Research has stated that student debt “could significantly depress demand for mortgage credit and dampen consumption”—again, a drag on our economy. New York Fed president William Dudley told reporters in November of last

year: "People can have trouble with the student loan debt burden—unable to buy cars, unable to buy homes. . . ."

So I am pleased to see that President Obama has taken action to ease the burden of Federal student loan debt for some struggling borrowers. I am also pleased to see the administration is taking critical steps to ensure that servicemembers are getting the benefits they have earned through their service to our country. But it is very clear that much more needs to be done. That is why this bill before us is so important. It will provide relief to student borrowers who took out loans several years ago only to see the rates for student loans have since gone down.

Some Senators may remember this issue presented itself last year. So as the chair of the authorizing committee, I worked with Members on both sides of the aisle and with the administration—we had meetings in the White House—to pass the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act, which lowered interest rates and also authorized the interest rates at 3.86 percent last year for undergraduates, 5.41 percent for Stafford loans for graduate students, and 6.41 percent for parent and graduate PLUS loan borrowers. We want borrowers who may have taken out loans in the past with higher rates to take advantage of these lower rates.

The Department of Education estimates that 25 million borrowers would likely refinance their existing student loans under this legislation. It will save them money. It will give them money in their pockets where they can now go out and start buying things and increase what we need to have done in our country, which is aggregate demand.

The legislation also allows student loan borrowers to refinance their private loans into the Federal program—very important.

The bill provides those who meet certain eligibility requirements and who are in good standing have the option of refinancing their high-interest private loans down to rates offered to new Federal student loan borrowers this year. Those who refinance will also have access to the benefits and protections of the Federal student loan program.

As I said, this bill is just common sense. American consumers have been able to take advantage of historically low interest rates on their homes, their cars. I have heard a number of speakers who have come out here and said: If you had a high-interest loan on your 25-year or 30-year house mortgage, and you could come in and refinance down to 5 percent, sometimes even less than that, you would be foolish not to do it. You can do it. We should not let students do the same thing? It is good for them and good for the economy.

Again, I want to say that while this issue of student debt is critically important, by no means is it the only

issue that deserves our attention in higher education policy. Right now I think maybe the most critical, simply because of the huge debt burden overhanging our students—I should say our former students and their families, but there are some other things we have to pay attention to.

In the coming days I plan to release from our committee, release from the chairman's mark, the issue we should be attacking in a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Our committee over the last several months has held more than 10 hearings on issues ranging from teacher preparation to accreditation. These hearings have been bipartisan. I want to thank Senator ALEXANDER for his partnership in making sure we had good hearings.

As we move forward, our committee is committed to remaining on a bipartisan path for us taking up a Higher Education Act reauthorization. What I plan to put forward is consistent with that bipartisan approach. It simply provides clear guidelines based on the work we have done already. The Higher Education Act we will be coming forward with in the next few weeks will cover basically four topics: 1, affordability; 2, student debt; 3, accountability; and, 4, transparency. As it relates to affordability, we hope to increase affordability and reduce college costs on the front end by entering into a partnership with States, incentivizing States that make strong investments in their systems of higher education.

The one thing that came through in our hearings on why tuition has gone up so much and college costs have gone up so much for students and their families over the last 20 to 30 years—well, there are a lot of indices of why that has happened, but the single largest factor has been over the last 20 to 30 years the decrease in States investing in higher education.

What has happened is State legislatures figured it out. They quit putting more money into higher education. The schools raised their tuition, and the students come to the Federal Government or the private sector and borrow the money to go to school. States have abdicated their responsibility in higher education. We plan to offer incentives for States that step up to the bar and then provide more vigorous funding for higher education, that they will get better support from the Federal Government.

With student debt, we plan to help student borrowers better manage their loan debt through measures such as better upfront and exit counseling on their loans. Again, I hope that tomorrow we would pass our bill, the bill Senator WARREN has worked so hard on and championed. I hope we would pass it and get it behind us. But I fully intend to take the measures in that bill

and incorporate them into our broader bill on student debt.

On accountability, we plan to hold schools more accountable to both students and taxpayers by ensuring that no Federal money that goes to students who then go to the schools is used for things such as marketing, advertising. They use it to drive up enrollments. No. If schools want to do that, under our proposal they would not do that with taxpayers' money.

On transparency, we hope to empower students and families by giving them better information from the beginning of the college process in how they select the school all the way through making sure they know all of their repayment options when they graduate and can make the right choice for their particular circumstances.

What we need is a good comparison. If a student wants to go to college A, they can go online, they can find out what the costs are for a credit hour, what the tuition is, other forms of information on what they can expect from that school—graduation rates, time to graduate, all kinds of things such as that.

They can hit the compare button, then go to college B. They can ask the same questions of college B, hit the compare button, go to college C. Then you can bring up and compare all of these schools. I think students and their families would make wiser decisions if they could compare one school to another. That is hard to do today, almost impossible to do today. But that is the kind of transparency parents and children and families need to have.

I look forward to sharing that proposal, as I said, in the next few weeks. I state publicly: Anyone who has ideas on this and would like to have them incorporated in our bill, please come to our staff or see me. We will try to work it through. As I said, I do want to approach this on a bipartisan basis and work this out. Higher education is too important to our society, to our future as a country, to be a partisan type of approach. It has to be bipartisan.

College affordability, skyrocketing student debt, accountability, transparency, all are very high-stakes issues for our students and their families and for our future as a country. Certainly in today's difficult economy, with young Americans in particular struggling to find good employment and a foothold in life, it is unacceptable to ask students, graduates, and their families to shoulder unnecessarily high student loan interest payments.

That is why this bill is so important for us to pass tomorrow. I guess, when it comes up for a vote. I hope we can pass this, and then I hope we can move on with the rest of what we need to do in higher education, as I said, on accountability, on transparency, and affordability. If we can get a good vote

and pass this student debt bill so we can start lowering interest rates, that would be the first step toward addressing the issues confronting us in higher education. I hope we can get bipartisan support for this measure tomorrow and then move on to the other issues we have to address in higher education.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, before I address the issue of college affordability, I want to send my condolences to the families in Oregon, another community ravaged by a school shooting, the 37th of 2014, the 74th school shooting since Sandy Hook. Those are pretty stunning numbers: 37 school shootings this year alone, more than 1 a week; 74 school shootings since Sandy Hook.

I will make the comment one more time, that we are becoming accomplices in these mass murders. We are becoming complicit in this murder of children all across our country. When we do nothing, when we sit on our hands idly as children are gunned down all across our country, we send a message of acceptance that we can do practical things that will lessen the chance that people will be killed in our schools and in our homes and in our neighborhoods.

I will not go through the list right now, but we also can send a message that enough is enough. That message, frankly at this point, is probably just as important as the practical effects of the laws we would change.

I thank the Presiding Officer for her great work on bringing the issue of college affordability to the point where we have reached a national debate around what we can do to try to relieve families of the crippling debt sitting on top of them today. As the youngest Member of this body, I perhaps know in as personal terms as anyone else about what this burden means for my wife and myself who continue to owe money on our student loans, and for our neighbors and friends who are in similar positions.

I want to tell you a story today of one such family, a namesake of mine, the Murphys from Killingworth—no relation. Dennis Murphy recently wrote me about his family's story. Dennis is 52 years old and has five kids. His parents emigrated here from County Kerry, Ireland, and he was born in New York. His family lived in a small apartment in the Bronx. While Dennis was still a boy, his family moved to a house in East Haven, CT, which his father called the promised land.

His father died at the age of 50, when Dennis was 14 years old. Since the family was poor and the father did not have life insurance, Dennis could not afford to go to college himself, so he went straight to work. He was lucky enough to find a job working for the

railroad, working as a locomotive engineer for Metro North. He still works at that job, Dennis does, making a good living and earning a solid upper middle-class salary.

Dennis wanted to provide a better life for his own family. So he worked as much as he could, took as many hours as he could, he took as many extra shifts as possible, he worked on holidays, and he was eventually able to make his life better, make his family's life a little bit better. They bought a house in Killingworth. He hoped his kids would get to go to college. One of his daughters has a learning disability and needs extra support, so that took up a decent amount of the family's income, but his oldest son Dennis Murphy, Jr., was a good student in high school, made the honor roll.

When Dennis junior was accepted to the University of Albany, Dennis was so proud that his son would receive the college degree that he never did. Dennis junior worked since the age of 16 to do his part to be able to afford college. He continued working all throughout college. Dennis junior seldom asked his dad for any money. Unlike many of his friends, Dennis junior actually graduated within 4 years.

But the family still had to contribute to Dennis junior's education. So without any money saved away, with money going to pay for the house and for raising five kids and for their daughter's learning disabilities, Dennis had to take out PLUS loans that ultimately totaled over \$100,000. Because the interest rate on the loans is fixed at 8.5 percent, the minimum monthly payments were around \$700 to \$800 a month. With their mortgage payments and the rest of their living expenses, Dennis cannot afford to pay this amount, even with his good salary. Frankly, like a lot of Americans, he did not realize when he first took the loans how the interest would add up over 4 years, nor did he understand how much the monthly payments would be.

The stress of wondering how they are ever going to pay back this huge debt has caused a lot of tension in the family, a lot of arguments within his formerly close family. Sometimes Dennis says he wonders whether he should have let his son go to college at all. Even though Dennis junior has a new good job earning \$20 an hour because of his degree, it is not enough for him to be able to contribute significantly to paying off these loans either.

Dennis's family came to America, got that little apartment in the Bronx for reasons that are familiar to nearly every one of us in this Chamber, this idea that if you came to the United States, you had a shot to move and move quickly, a fair shot at economic mobility. My family came from Ireland about two generations before Dennis's, but it was the same reason that brought them here to the United

States. It was education that was the vehicle for advancement.

You know, it was not a myth. It was not a story that they told in places such as Ireland and Italy and Poland. It was true that if you came here and did your work and played by the rules and saved a little bit of money you could go to college and you could do significantly better than your parents did. But the reality is that idea, that truism of America being the home of the greatest level of economic mobility in the world is becoming a myth. The odds today that a young person will go to college if their parents did not is 29 percent.

That is one of the lowest rates in the industrialized world. Think of it the other way. Seventy percent of kids whose parents didn't go to college will never go to college. Seventy percent of kids who didn't go to college will essentially be destined to live the same life and take in the same income level their parents did. That is a stunning lack of economic mobility.

The truth is that it is getting worse specifically for a particular group of Americans. For African Americans, the gap between those with a college degree in the African-American community and in the White community has gone from 13 points 20 years ago to 20 points today. The gap for Latinos was 18 points 20 years ago, and it is 25 points today. So for African Americans and Latinos, that dream of economic mobility is getting even further away than for other folks.

America used to be No. 1 in the world with respect to the amount of young adults with college degrees. We are 12th in the world today. In a very short period of time we have gone from leading the world in college graduates to becoming rather middling.

You don't, frankly, need a college degree for one thing: You don't need a college degree to figure out why fewer people have college degrees. Here it is: Since 1989 the cost of college has gone up by 307 percent and income for the average family has gone up by 72 percent. You don't need a degree in mathematics or a graduate degree in rocket science to understand that when you have this disparity between the growth in income and the growth in the cost of college, you are going to leave millions of families on the outside when it comes to accessing the apparatus of opportunity that has historically made this country the place where economic mobility was more real than anywhere else.

That is why this piece of legislation this week matters so much—because to Dennis the numbers are not going to lie. Dennis is going to go from paying 8.5 percent to about 6.4 percent. You think that is only about 2 percentage points. That is thousands of dollars in savings for the Murphys—thousands of dollars that today they don't have.

That story can be multiplied hundreds of thousands of times. We think there are about 300,000 families just in the State of Connecticut who are going to be able to access a lower rate of interest based on the legislation we are going to pass this week. These numbers are pretty stunning, but the fact is that there are stories like Dennis's all across my State and all across this country, and we can do something about it this week.

As Senator HARKIN said—and let me finish with the thought that this is the beginning of the work we have to do—the reality is that it is very important to give students access to lower cost loans, as we will hopefully do this week. It is very important to lower the borrowing burden for families who have already taken out loans, but we actually have to get serious about this number. We actually have to get serious about bending this curve so that college isn't 307 percent more expensive another 20 years from today.

So I hope that in the reauthorization bill our committee, the HELP Committee, is going to undertake, an idea that has been put forward by myself, Senator SCHATZ, Senator SANDERS, and Senator MURRAY will get a fair airing; that is, the idea that we should start expecting some accountability when it comes to these schools that are getting billions of dollars in Federal aid. We send out \$140 billion in Federal aid every year, and we really have very loose standards when it comes to affordability and outcome.

A group of schools is under the for-profit umbrella of a company called Corinthian in California. It has 50 percent of its students dropping out after 1 year and 36 percent of its students defaulting on their student loans. They charge \$41,000 for a paralegal degree, and the local community college charges \$2,500. That is a miserable set of outcomes. That is a total lack of affordability. Yet they collect \$1.6 billion every year in Federal aid—\$1.6 billion in Federal aid every year. Federal aid means you and me. Our taxpayer dollars are going to a school that is doing nothing about affordability and is delivering very bad outcomes.

So this bill is very important for the Murphys and hundreds of thousands of families like them. But our work is not done. It is time for us to agree that in addition to making it easier for students and families to afford college, it is finally time for Congress to put some real pressure on these schools to do something about the cost of tuition and the quality of degrees they provide. I am going to be very excited to cast my vote for this week's legislation, for the Murphys—no relation—and thousands of families like them in Connecticut.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. I rise today because we need a fair shot for the middle class. To join and stay in the middle class today, a college degree is more important than ever. In Hawaii, by 2018 about two of every three jobs will need some training or a degree past high school. But students are struggling to get ahead. We all know college costs have gone up way beyond inflation and students are borrowing more and more to pay for college.

Last week I joined several of the women in the Senate. We pointed out that student loan debt affects women more. Why? Because it takes longer to repay a student loan if, as a woman, you are making only 77 cents for every \$1 a man makes.

I have heard from both men and women in Hawaii who are struggling under the burden of student loan debt, people such as Dawn from Honolulu, who told me, "I've been teaching for over 3 years and can barely survive on my paycheck after paying student loans and rent," and Karen from Hilo, who said, "Two of my three kids have loans that are almost non-repayable, given their size. They have a master's and almost-completed a PhD and one is home already using her expertise on our community. The other is coming this fall. Our prices are prohibitive enough without excessively high loans hanging over their heads."

Their stories are not unique. Last year over 20,000 Hawaii undergraduates used Federal loans to pay for school. In Hawaii the average graduate with a bachelor's degree has over \$23,000 in student loan debt.

Nationwide, overall student loan debt has skyrocketed to over \$1.2 trillion. I know previous speakers have talked about that, but it bears repeating—\$1.2 trillion nationwide in student loan debt. That is more than credit card debt or auto debt. The burden of student loan debt makes it very difficult to buy a home or start a family. Older Federal student loans are stuck at high rates of interest, and there is no option to refinance. Private loans often have even fewer consumer protections and higher rates.

In 2007 I was on the House-Senate conference committee for the bill that created the income-based loan repayment program signed into law by President Bush.

This week President Obama took Executive action to help more borrowers cap their student loan payments at 10 percent of their income. The administration will also extend partnerships with private companies, departments, and nonprofits to increase consumer protections and get the word out on existing programs. These are positive steps and ones that I have urged the President to take. But the President can only do so much on his own to help with student loan debt. Congress needs to do its part.

The bill we are discussing on the floor today would allow student loans to be refinanced down to today's low rate for new borrowers. Think about it. Just as homeowners can refinance a mortgage, we should allow student loans to be refinanced. Last year there was overwhelming bipartisan support for a bill keeping the student loan rates low for new loans.

I ask my Republican colleagues to join Democrats once again in voting for today's refinancing bill.

In addition to today's bill, I wish to point out another way we can combat student loan debt. A big reason students are taking on so much debt to go to college is the decline in State and Federal grants. Fewer college grants means more reliance on loans, resulting in more student debt.

In recent years State support for higher education has dropped. From 2008 to 2012 State higher education spending per student plummeted by 28 percent. That is a cut of over \$2,000 per student on average.

At the Federal level, the Pell grant was once our main commitment to our students. Pell grants were the primary form of student aid to help low- and moderate-income students join and stay in the middle class.

Like the GI bill after World War II, which invested in our veterans, investing in low-income and moderate-income students pays off. From a strictly economic standpoint, we know these students get degrees, get better jobs, and pay taxes.

In the 1970s the Federal Pell grant covered nearly 80 percent of the cost of attendance at a 4-year instate public university. Today the Pell grant covers less than one-third.

To make matters worse, Congress chipped away at Pell grant eligibility and completely cut off the year-round Pell grant. In 2011, before this year-round program was eliminated, over 1,600 highly motivated Hawaii college students used year-round Pell grants to get a degree sooner. They are among 1.2 million students nationwide who used year-round Pell grants in that year alone.

One of those Hawaii students works in my office now—my University of Hawaii law school fellow, Janna Wehilani Ahu, who is on the floor with me. Her family is from a small fishing village in rural Hawaii Island. She graduated from Kamehameha Schools, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and now attends the university's William S. Richardson School of Law. She used a summer Pell grant in 2010, and without it she says she wouldn't have been able to attend summer school and move more quickly toward a degree.

Wehi is one of many Hawaii students who have told me how Pell grants helped them. Another student, Lehua from Waianae, wrote:

I would like to thank you for supporting the Pell Grant program. Pell Grants have allowed me to increase my education and

[have] provided me with a higher paying job. Who would ever think that a country girl from Wai'anae—who grew up with society telling me that we had the lowest reading and math scores in the state of Hawaii, the highest of everything such as welfare, crime, teen pregnancy and substance abuse in the state—can get a college degree.

Today, I . . . want to help people from Wai'anae to achieve their dreams.

Pell grants have made it possible for this Native Hawaiian, single mother, and country girl—as she calls herself—to be graduating with an associate's degree in early childhood education and transferring to the University of Hawaii West Oahu.

With ever-increasing college costs, we should be strengthening Pell grants, not cutting back on them. That is why I introduced the Pell Grant Protection Act with several my colleagues. Recognizing the importance of Pell grants, Congress has been providing discretionary funds for this program for over 40 years. It is time to put this program on the strong footing our students deserve by making this a mandatory funded program with a cost-of-living adjustment. The bill would also include an updated, clearer version of the year-round Pell grant.

The bill has the support of 25 national organizations representing students, professors, financial aid administrators, college presidents, and advocates for the middle class. The Associated Students of the University of Hawaii passed a resolution of support, and several University of Hawaii campus chancellors have also come out in support.

I also worked with my colleague, Senator MARY LANDRIEU of Louisiana, on a related Pell grant bill—her Middle Class CHANCE Act. Senator LANDRIEU's bill would restore year-round Pell grants, increase the Pell award to keep up with college costs, and let students use Pell grants for more semesters.

I look forward to working with Chairman HARKIN on these and other bills to make college more affordable. These efforts are investments in our young people and in our collective future. Today is a start, and I urge my colleagues to vote for Senator WARREN's refinancing bill.

Mahalo.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD Hawaii stories of student loan debt.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HAWAII STORIES OF STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Dawn from Honolulu wrote me to say:

"I've been teaching for over 3 years and can barely survive on my paycheck, after paying student loans and rent."

Karen from Hilo wrote me to say:

"Two of my three kids have loans that are almost non-repayable, given their size. They have a masters and almost-completed PhD and one is home already using her expertise on our community. The other is coming this

fall. Our prices are prohibitive enough without excessively high loans hanging over their heads."

Jennifer from Kailua wrote:

"My mortgage is 3.25% but my \$133,000 federal student loan . . . is stuck at 7.25%. Please . . . allow me to consolidate [or] refinance my loan.

"It is totally unfair that the federal government made more profit in 2013 off student loans than Apple made off its 2013 sales."

Janna Wehilani Ahu's family is from a small fishing village in rural Hawaii Island, and she made it to Kamehameha Schools, UH Manoa, and UN Richardson School of Law. She used a summer Pell Grant in 2010, and without it, she says she wouldn't have been able to take summer school and move quicker toward a degree. This outstanding student works in my office right now—she's our UN Law School Patsy Mink fellow.

Ariana Ursua, who just finished her sophomore year at UH Manoa wrote me to say:

"As a 19-year-old paying for her own education, it's been stressful having to take out loans to receive a higher education. Thankfully, the Pell Grant decreases the amount of money I have to borrow. I am so grateful every time I complete my FAFSA and see that my Estimated Family Contribution is zero because I know that I'm granted the full Pell Grant amount. I have received about \$10,000 from the Pell Grant for the past two years, which means less money I have to worry about paying back. If I didn't receive financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, I would be a lot more discouraged to further my education due to finances. Fortunately, the Pell Grant helps me sleep a little easier and study a little harder, and I am forever thankful."

Lehua from Wai'anae wrote me to say:

"I would like to thank you for supporting the Pell Grant program. Pell Grants have allowed me to increase my education and [have] provided me with a higher paying job. Who would ever think that a country girl from Wai'anae—who grew up with society telling me that we had the lowest reading and math scores in the state of Hawaii, the highest of everything such as welfare, crime, teen pregnancy and substance abuse in the state—can get a college degree. Today, I . . . want to help people from Wai'anae to achieve their dreams. Pell Grants have made it possible for this Native Hawaiian, single mother and country girl to be graduating with my AS in Early Childhood Education and transferring to UH West Oahu."

Tom Robinson is the former president of the Graduate Student Organization at the University of Hawaii in the meteorology department. He wrote me:

"If it wasn't for the Pell Grant, I wouldn't have gone to college. In fact, when I graduated from high school, I went to a bartending school because I didn't think my family could afford to send me to college. Now I am going for my PhD, so the Pell Grant was pretty important for my path in life.

"Between the federal Pell Grant and the state grant, my tuition, books, and transportation costs were covered so I didn't have to take out any loans at that time. It was pretty amazing and really helped my focus. I was able to graduate Cum Laude. When I transferred to The College of New Jersey, I ended up getting a job and I had to take out [over \$20,000 in] loans for the rest of my undergraduate experience. My grades were not as good when I was at TCNJ.

Cristina from Kaimuki wrote:

"I am writing because I know you are committed to education and I have a concern to bring to your attention.

I . . . have accrued over \$30,000 of student loan debt after 1998 receiving my undergraduate and graduate degrees. I teach in a critical shortage area, science. . . . Student loan debt is a major issue and taking action on my concern is a small step in the right direction."

Edwyna from Honolulu wrote:

"Even President Obama and Michele JUST finished paying off their student loans 9 years ago. I struggled with high interest rates on student loans and it was crippling."

David from Pahoa wrote:

"I'm hoping you already support Elizabeth Warren's Student Loan Plan. I made it through on the VA and a bunch of student loans that I wouldn't have taken otherwise, but I know these kids nowadays can't afford this indentured servitude, which is exactly what student loans have become."

Ms. HIRONO. I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

ARMY-McCARTHY HEARINGS ANNIVERSARY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I had the pleasure of speaking yesterday while the Presiding Officer was in the chair on the 242nd anniversary of the burning and sinking of the Gaspee by Rhode Island patriots. I am here today to mark the 60th anniversary of a different event which also occurred on the same day—June 9—60 years ago. It was a pivotal moment in the history of the Senate and, indeed, of the country. It was the 1954 Army-McCarthy hearings and the exchange between Joseph Welch and Joseph McCarthy that changed this city and the world.

Six decades ago, America's national mood was marked by anxiety over the looming threat of communism. The victory of World War II had given way to the gripping tension of the Cold War. Communist power was on the rise in Eastern Europe and in China. American forces were at war in Korea.

Here in Congress the House Committee on Un-American Activities worked to sniff out Communist subversion within our borders, including the infamous Hollywood black list. One man in the Senate set out to exploit the fears of that time, and he came to symbolize the fearmongering of that fretful era.

Joseph McCarthy was a relatively unknown junior Senator from Wisconsin when, in February of 1950, he delivered a speech accusing Secretary of State Dean Acheson of harboring 205 known members of the American Communist Party within the State Department.

The charge was questionable and ill-supported. But the brazen accusation struck a nerve with an anxious American public, and Senator McCarthy rocketed to fame. Thus began a chilling crusade to flush out Communist subversion—real or contrived—from every corner of American society.

McCarthy's anticommunist witch hunt seemingly knew no bounds, as he

launched investigations or often just allegations of disloyalty on the part of private citizens, public employees, entire government agencies, as well as the broadcasting and defense industries, universities—even the United Nations.

In 1953, the Republican Party gained a majority in the Senate, and McCarthy ascended to the chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Government Operations and its Subcommittee on Investigations. From those chairmanships, he dragged hundreds of witnesses before scores of hearings, publicly shaming and berating his targets. His fiery rhetoric and his remorseless mendacity intimidated critics and challengers. His accusations carried the power to destroy reputations, careers, and lives.

The effect of McCarthyism on 20th century American society was toxic. Prudent citizens shied from civic engagement. Meaningful political dissent withered. Criticism of American foreign policy evaporated. Even college campuses, our cradles of intellectual curiosity, were cowed by McCarthyism.

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas called it “the black silence of fear.” Intimidated colleagues in this Chamber gave Joe McCarthy broad leeway to abuse Congress’s constitutional powers of investigation and oversight. Harvard Law Dean Erwin Griswold described Chairman McCarthy’s role as “judge, jury, prosecutor, castigator, and press agent, all in one.”

This was the regime 60 years ago, in 1954, when U.S. Army officials accused McCarthy of exerting improper pressure to win preferential treatment for a subcommittee aide serving as an Army private. McCarthy countered that the Army accusation was retaliation for his investigations of them. The stage was set. The countercharges would be adjudicated, of course, in McCarthy’s Subcommittee on Investigations.

The so-called Army-McCarthy hearings, held in a packed, smoke-filled Russell caucus room, would last 36 days and be aired on live broadcast television. Twenty million Americans tuned in during gavel-to-gavel coverage of our Nation’s first great TV political spectacle—the precursor to the Watergate hearings, the Iran-Contra hearings, and the Thomas-Hill hearings.

Special counsel to the Army in those hearings was an avuncular Boston lawyer named Joseph Welch of the law firm then called Hale & Dorr. Here, in Washington, Joseph Welch was a nobody. He had no office, he had no position, he had no clout. But he was a good lawyer with a dry wit and unflappable demeanor. He also had a sense of fairness—a sense of fairness that was soon to become famously provoked by McCarthy’s bullying. And he had that greatest virtue—courage—the

virtue that makes all other virtues possible.

On June 9, 1954, Joseph Welch challenged Senator McCarthy’s aide, Roy Cohn, to actually produce McCarthy’s supposed secret list of subversives working at defense facilities. Since there likely was no such list, McCarthy needed a distraction. So he lit into an accusatory attack in a traditional McCarthyite way on a lawyer in Welch’s firm, a young lawyer—indeed, an associate within the firm, Fred Fisher, a young man who was not even in the hearing room to defend himself—accusing him of various Communist associations and inclinations.

Welch responded:

Until this moment, Senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness.

Had Senator McCarthy been a smarter man, he would have sensed the warning in those words. But he didn’t. He pressed his attack and refused to let up on young Fred Fisher. Welch angrily cut Senator McCarthy short.

Let us not assassinate the lad any further, Senator. You have done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?

Thirty words. If you count them, it is just 30 words. But with those 30 words, suddenly something happened, something changed. The emperor suddenly had no clothes.

There had been such an avalanche of words from McCarthy over the years—of lies, of accusations, of hyperbole. And these 30 words—these few short sentences—stopped all of that roughshod hypocrisy in its tracks.

Welch declared an end to McCarthy’s questioning, and the gallery of onlookers, on behalf of a nation, burst into applause. The black-and-white footage shows McCarthy asking Roy Cohn, “What happened?” What happened was that a spell was broken. The web of fear woven by McCarthy over Washington, DC, began unraveling.

Near the end of the hearing, Senator Stuart Symington of Missouri faced McCarthy down. After an angry exchange, he rose and walked out to come here to vote. As Chairman Karl Mundt of South Dakota gavelled the hearing into recess, Joe McCarthy kept on railing about Communist conspiracies. As he railed on, Senators, reporters, and members of the gathered audience steadily filed out of the room, leaving him shouting. The spell was broken.

Six months later the Senate voted 67 to 22 to censure Senator Joseph McCarthy. Four years later, he was dead at the age of 48. Historians agree he drank himself to death. His fall from grace and demise were nearly as rapid as his rise was meteoric, consistent with the ancient principle: Climb ugly; fall hard.

Very often—indeed, too often—political outcomes in Washington are deter-

mined by the political weight and the wealth of contesting forces vying for power. It is brute force against brute force. It makes us wonder, is that all there is to this? Is this just an arena of combat, where huge special interests lean against each other trying to shove each other around, each for their own greed and benefit?

This incident 60 years ago is an eternal lesson of what a difference one person can make. A regular American, a nobody in Washington, good at his craft, good in his character, and in the right place at the right time, a man who knew what was right, broke the fever of virulent political frenzy that had captured Washington; one private lawyer’s sincere, direct outrage at a cruel attack on his young associate, a few words from a Boston lawyer who had just had enough turned the tide of history. May we never forget in this world of vast and often corrupt political forces the power of one person to make a difference.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I was the first in my family to go to college. I drove an ice cream truck to work my way through Boston College as a commuter. I did the same thing to go to law school. I lived at home all the way through college and law school in order to be able to afford to go to college. As a result, I had to take out Federal loans like so many millions of American students have to do today. But here is the thing. If the owner of the ice cream truck company I worked for wanted to refinance the loan he had for the trucking fleet, he could do that. If my parents wanted to refinance the mortgage on their house, they could do that. But if I wanted to refinance my student loans as would every single student today, I was out of luck, and that is not right, that is not fair, and that needs to change.

In Massachusetts, as the Presiding Officer knows better than anyone, we recognize that education is a ladder of opportunity that allows every child to maximize their God-given abilities. It is the best path to middle class success and economic opportunity. The big dreams of college should never be thwarted by the small print of student loan agreements. The economic opportunities that students have because

they graduate should not be accompanied by the hopelessness from overwhelming debt—almost like the mythical Sisyphus with a boulder on his shoulders, trying to go up the side of a mountain. That is how students feel with their student debt as they graduate from colleges and universities across this country. So in the same way that mortgage refinancing helps mortgage holders who are underwater, students drowning in debt should benefit from refinancing their student loans at a lower rate.

Today more than 70 percent of America's students borrow money to attend college. The average student graduates from college owing nearly \$30,000. Americans today owe almost \$1.2 trillion in student loans, more than is owed on credit cards. Almost 1 million people in Massachusetts currently owe more than \$24 billion in student debt. Thirty percent of young borrowers nationwide are unable to keep up with their payments and are in default, forbearance or deferment. That kind of debt makes it difficult to start a family, buy a home or save for retirement. Reports show that high student loan debt deters our promising minds from enrolling in graduate programs. That means fewer highly skilled workers, which harms our economy now and makes us less competitive in the world economy in the future.

There is a way to make it easier for those of us who have student loan debts and to put more money in their pockets every single month. That is to listen to the wisdom of our Presiding Officer, to make sure that people here in this Chamber and across our country listen to this guiding light that you are creating for our country to be able to move from this present world where debt so saddles young people that they really cannot ever plan to realize all of their dreams, to a new vision of what might be possible in lowering this burden on young people across our country.

Last year the Congress passed legislation that lowered Federal student loan interest rates for new borrowers but did nothing for existing borrowers. So today interest rates for new borrowers are just under 4 percent while rates for older borrowers are around 7 percent for recent undergraduates and even higher for some older borrowers. The bill which you have introduced as the senior Senator from Massachusetts simply allows 25 million eligible student loan borrowers the option of refinancing down to the rates offered to new Federal student loan borrowers this year.

The bill allows eligible student loan borrowers to refinance their private loans into the Federal program. Many parents cosigned the private loans for their children and are on the hook if their children default on these loans. Your legislation will save existing stu-

dent loan borrowers thousands of dollars to help them get ahead, not fall behind. This money can be used to help pay for the downpayment on a new home, to start a new business or to start a family. This is one more way to give Americans a fair shot at the American dream. So we thank you for your leadership on this issue. We thank you for laying out a pathway to make it a slightly easier place for young people to be as they leave college, as they have this debt on their shoulders.

When I was in school the interest rate was 3 percent. Those loans were called national defense student loans. Emblazoned over the Boston Public Library it reads: "The education of its people is the best defense of a nation." That is what it says across the Boston Public Library. That is what we have to once again understand, that the first generation that was the beneficiary had 3 percent loans. This generation—in a much more wealthy country—has loans at 6, 7, 8, 9 percent and more, and that just makes it very difficult for them to maximize their God-given abilities in the same way that the Members of the Senate were able to maximize theirs.

We have a responsibility to this generation to go back to that original message, to go back to that incredible plan that was put together after World War II to finally democratize access to education for every family, for every child who wanted to work towards improving themselves. Those national defense student loans understood that the best defense of a Nation is the education of its people. That is how we preserve order and liberty within our society, and that is what your proposal does.

By using the Buffett rule, by using the offset which says to billionaires and millionaires in our country that you are just going to pay the same taxes as the middle class, well, then we finance something that is really critical. We finance the dreams and the hopes of young people in our country, so that the debt they have to shoulder after they leave college is not so burdensome that they never really can fully realize their dreams.

So I ask all my colleagues to support Senator WARREN's legislation. I think it is going to be without question at the top of the list of the most important work we do in this Chamber this year, and I call upon my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to respond in the kind of bipartisan way that the American people want, those 40 million families that need relief from this oppressive burden of student loan debt.

With that, I thank the Presiding Officer for her leadership.

I yield back the remainder of my time, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, tomorrow the Senate has a historic and magnificent opportunity to increase everybody's fair shot at the American dream—everyone's fair shot at a college education that enables and opens the American dream to people who come from families where college was an unachievable aspiration. I know about those families because I come from one of them. I am the first man in my family to have a college education, not to mention the opportunity to go to law school.

There are a couple of hard, practical facts, apart from all the rhetoric about the American dream. The fact is today college education is a major—maybe the most important determinant—of income. It is one of the major determinants of employment. The employment rate for college graduates is much higher than for those who lack it. In fact, the unemployment rates for college graduates are half or less than what they are for those who lack that education.

College education—in fact, education in general—is the single most important instrument of social mobility in this country. It is a way for people to reach the middle class or for families to stay in the middle class. Right now, the middle class is squeezed in every direction by so many different economic factors and pressures, and the cost of a college education is one of the most pressing of them.

So we have the opportunity tomorrow to enable countless people to take advantage of the American dream in a very hardheaded, practical way by enabling all college graduates or others who have student loans to reduce the charges—the interest rates—on those loans to a lower rate that is the lowest rate acceptable.

I thank the Presiding Officer for her leadership in championing this cause before it reached the Senate floor—way before it became the fashionable and popular issue it has become. I thank also the President of the United States who, by Executive action, has helped to ease the burden of those college loans to thousands of current student debt-holders. He has recognized the importance of reducing that burden by expanding a program that was passed by Congress in 2010, tying monthly student debt payments to a portion of the debtholder's discretionary income. He has expanded that program to include many of those debtholders before the date that it is currently operative, and I thank him for that step, but it is a minor step compared to what we have the opportunity to do tomorrow in realizing an opening to the American

dream for many students who have already been through education and now carry interest rates on their debt of 8, 10, 11 percent. It is an opportunity not only for them to reduce that interest rate but also for the economy to take advantage of their purchasing power that will be unleashed—consumer demands that will be enlarged—because people are more likely to buy homes, start families, begin businesses, become entrepreneurs, be innovators and inventors, who right now are making career choices because they are saddled with debt that forces them to pay interest rates much higher than current students do.

It is not a forgiveness program. They will continue to pay the principal on that debt. It is not a free ride or a handout. They simply get the benefit of the interest rates that our friends across the aisle thought was absolutely right, just months ago, when applied to the existing program.

So this opportunity is a common-sense, simple measure to provide some relief to people struggling under a debt load that is suffocating to them, their futures, their families, and our economy's future.

I believe sincerely there are equally important measures that eventually we need to take in this body, in this Congress, in this Nation, to make college more affordable. The costs of tuition and college expenses need to be brought down. The grants we provide—so-called Pell grants—and scholarships that come from other sources need to be expanded and increased. The opportunities for people who incur debt to work down or work off that debt through public service can be dramatically and drastically enhanced for their benefit and for the benefit of our communities and country that will stand to be forthcoming by their policing, their teaching, their firefighting, their public service that can be, in effect, rewarded and incentivized by enabling them to work down or work off those debts.

These programs are a moral imperative, as is affording the opportunity of students to discharge in bankruptcy those debts when they simply cannot fulfill them, but this idea of giving everybody the benefit of the lowest possible interest rates that will be part of the bill we vote on tomorrow is a solid and sound and vitally important beginning.

We enable homeowners to refinance and car buyers to refinance and many other kinds of debtholders to refinance but not student loans. That is a discrimination, maybe not unlawful but still a distinction that makes no sense either from the standpoint of our economy or the interests of the debtors. So I hope we will give them a fair shot but also impose a basic and fundamental tenet, an ethos of fairness: If it is good enough for home loans and car loans, why not for student loans?

We should not be adopting policies that encourage people to give up on their dreams. In fact, we ought to be doing just the opposite, making young people feel their dreams are within reach.

I will close by saying to my colleagues that in the last months I have been listening around the State of Connecticut—at roundtables and meetings—to both high school students and college students about this issue of college affordability. What is so inspiring to me, in the meetings I have had—in places such as Ansonia, Windham, and Bridgeport—is the drive and determination of our students to embark on a college education. They know its value, its realistic value, its cost, and they want to do it because they know it is a way up. They are gaining and they are giving back.

But many of them have to make compromises. They have been admitted to schools. Their first choice is a first-rate school, but they cannot put together the package financially that will enable them to go. It is beyond reach financially, even as it is within their grasp intellectually. So they may compromise—maybe the first of other compromises that they will make throughout their lives, as they pursue careers, as they have to make hard choices. But at that age, those compromises should not be driven simply by financial imperatives. They should have the best education that is possible for them, and this country should make it available, not just for their sake but for all of ours.

I have been listening to college students who are leaving—at the commencement addresses I have given at law schools, as well as colleges—listening to students talk about their futures as well, futures that will be compromised because of the debt they have, an average of \$27,000 to \$30,000 in the State of Connecticut alone, and it is similar in many States around the country and the reason we have \$1.2 trillion in debt overall today.

They will compromise in doing a job that may be more lucrative but less rewarding, less so to them and less so to our economy, less so to our society—a lesser way of earning a living in terms of its impact in contributing to our social fabric, quality of life. They may not be teaching, they may not be policing, they may not be doing things that give back to our society because they need the income, the higher income to pay back that debt.

So those compromises affect all of us as well. They are done because they simply cannot afford either to go to the school of their first choice or the career of their first choice, but the government can afford to give them a lower interest rate. We know the government can do so because right now it is profiting off the backs of students in billions and billions of dollars. The es-

timates range, over a 5-year period, from \$66 billion to other amounts. We know the government will continue to profit even at lower interest rates from the Student Loan Program.

So let's have less profit to the government, better well-being in our communities, and fairer treatment for our students—a fair shot for them and their families and for all who have as their objective simply to better their lives and gain a fair shot at the American dream.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise to speak about a challenge that is confronting our middle-class families all across my home State of Pennsylvania and across the country. The Presiding Officer knows this issue well and has worked tirelessly to enact measures of public policy to confront this problem. We have an opportunity now with her leadership, as well as other leaders in the Senate, to work together on what I think is the kind of legislation that will help those middle-income families.

The Bank on Students Emergency Refinancing Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor, is an opportunity for the Senate, folks in both parties who hear from middle-class families all the time about a range of issues. I doubt there is any issue we hear about more often than the cost of higher education. So I wish—as I am sure many other Members of this body do—to ensure that every student in our States, and for me every student in Pennsylvania, gets something very fundamental, a fair shot to attend college and reach their full potential.

The bill we are considering would help students who have private and public loans in good standing from before July 1 of 2013. It allows them the chance to refinance those loans at a 3.6 percent interest level, the level that was agreed to in last summer's bipartisan student loan compromise. This compromise, as we might remember, passed the Senate overwhelmingly, 81 to 18.

With interest rates near record lows, homeowners, businesses, and even local governments with good credit regularly can refinance their debts, but few if any students have that same option. Why should more Americans not be helped by the opportunity to pay a lower interest rate?

That is a question I think we all ask tonight and in the days we are debating this issue. More than 40 million

Americans owe almost \$1.2 trillion in student loan debt, much more than is owed, for example, on credit cards. According to the Institute for College Access & Success, as of the year 2012 Pennsylvania ranked third in the Nation in the highest average student debt indicated—nearly \$32,000 per student is the number in Pennsylvania—and 70 percent of graduates in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania leave college with debt, the fourth highest of any State in the Union. Too many young Americans cannot get ahead because they cannot get out from under the burden of student debt.

Because of their debt, many Americans are unable to buy a home, save for retirement, start a business or even start a family. This hurts the economy terribly and it makes the American dream so much harder for young Americans to reach. At an 18-year low, the rate of home ownership among young people has been cut in half since 2001. A recordbreaking number of young adults are still living in their parents' homes.

This high level of student debt makes it harder for entrepreneurs to start new businesses and create jobs. Entrepreneurial activity among 20- to 34-year-olds is at the lowest level in 20 years. We know this bill can help at least 1.2 million Pennsylvanians and more than 25 million across the Nation, according to the Department of Education.

Based on calculations from the Congressional Research Service, a typical Pennsylvanian who owed the State average, nearly \$32,000 in student debt, would be able to save more than \$4,000 over the life of their loan. This bill would not only save millions for Americans, but the bill itself would save the Federal Government more than \$14 billion over 10 years, based on figures from the Congressional Budget Office.

A college education, we all know, is the surest path to middle-class success and is still the best investment a student can make. Getting a college degree opens the door to job opportunities for the average worker. That means \$1 million more in earnings over a lifetime compared to those who only go as high as a high school diploma.

So college education is indeed tied directly to the economic success of young people across the country. This bill is a step in the right direction and would do much to tackle the problem of student loan debt. However, Congress and the Nation still have a lot of work to do to make college affordable for all of our children. What we are talking about is something very fundamental. All we are asking is that the House and the Senate, both parties, come together to give students and their families just a fair shot.

That is all they are asking for. They are basically saying to us, especially middle-class families are saying to us: You folks in Washington talk all the

time about the middle class, but you need to act on our behalf. Unfortunately, they do not see enough action coming out of Washington that directly impacts their lives, that directly has an impact on their economic fortune, their economic future.

This is one of those rare opportunities with one vote, with one bill we can have a substantial positive impact on the lives of literally millions of Americans as soon as the bill is enacted into law.

I would venture to say that when you talk to any middle-class family, if student loans and the cost of college is not the No. 1 issue they mention, it is certainly in the top two or three. For most middle-class families it is No. 1. Yet they have not seen much in the way of direct action that we can take in Washington to provide a measure of relief—not a magic wand, not eliminating all the pressure and all the worries that people have when it comes to affording college.

This is one bill that can provide some relief, some needed relief, especially when young people are trying to buy a home, invest in their families, start a business, and begin their life after higher education. I ask that we all come together on this legislation and provide a measure of relief to middle-class families and, by virtue of doing that, a badly needed injection into our economy.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, tomorrow, the Senate will vote to proceed to a bill that I am proud to co-sponsor, to allow students to refinance their student loans at lower interest rates. We must take this commonsense approach to allow those with student loans to take advantage of historically low interest rates.

It should go without saying that student loan costs should not rise so high that students cannot repay. Yet in recent years, average college tuition rates have climbed faster than inflation, far outpacing student financial aid. Since 1985, the cost of attending college has risen by 559 percent, and last school year alone, in-state tuition and fees at public 4-year institutions were on average 8.3 percent higher than in the previous year.

Debt caused by student loans has surpassed the level of credit card debt in the United States. In Vermont, there are 99,000 people with Federal student loans representing more than \$2 billion in debt. This not only affects those borrowers and their families, but it has a devastating effect on the economy as a whole—particularly in the housing market. Student loan debt is preventing many would-be first-time home buyers from saving enough to afford a down payment. High student loan debt, combined with the housing lending climate, has left many unable to secure a mortgage. Experts are wor-

ried that the high level of student loan debt is one of the reasons the housing market has been slow to recover.

This bill would help those suffering with the burden of student loan debt by offering them the opportunity to refinance at lower interest rates. We offer refinancing options to businesses, homeowners, and even local governments. These options should be available to students, too. The legislation would help roughly 25 million borrowers keep up with their student loan payments by allowing them to refinance at the same rates that new borrowers receive. Combined with the Executive action announced this week by President Obama to give more students the ability to cap monthly payments, this bill is an important step toward relieving the student debt burden so many Americans face.

I regularly hear from Vermonters about their struggles to afford a college education, and their concerns about student loan debt after they graduate. Many students are forced to take on significant debt, and too often are not able to complete college because of soaring costs. For those students who do go on to graduate, record student loan debt has made getting ahead in today's job market an insurmountable challenge for some students. Students who might otherwise choose to work in the public sector or other historically lower paying jobs like primary health care or teaching professions must make professional choices based solely on their level of debt. Unfortunately, along with the pressure from student loan debt has come an increase in default rates among borrowers, which will affect a student's financial stability for decades.

I have always firmly believed in the importance of a college education. I was the first Leahy in my family to graduate from college. Every young person should have the chance to pursue higher education. Education is a path out of poverty, a road to personal growth, and an access ramp to professional accomplishment and economic security. Everyone wins when access to education expands.

Each opportunity for a young American to earn a college education is also an opportunity for the Nation's future. Our country's ability to compete in the global marketplace in the future depends on our children's ability to finance their education. This does not need to be a partisan issue and should be one where we can find widespread agreement.

I urge every Senator to help us move ahead to support our students, their futures, and our country's future. This issue deserves to be debated in the Senate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO GREGORY SANFORD

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, when Vermonters contemplate the history of our great State, many think fondly of our former State archivist, Gregory Sanford. With his flowing gray beard and quick wit, Gregory is a noted scholar on all things relating to Vermont's history and culture. Gregory retired from his post as the Vermont State archivist in 2012. The appreciation of the extent of Gregory's intellect and influence is not limited to Vermonters. His impressive career was recently chronicled in *Archival Outlook*, a publication of the Society of American Archivists.

Throughout his career, Gregory Sanford served as a critical resource for journalists, legislators, town moderators, and anyone else searching to put today's events into historical context. He brought excitement to the daunting but essential task of preserving State records. It was his vision, passion, and ability to anticipate the myriad of ways that technology would alter the job of State archivist that set Gregory Sanford apart. As the *Archival Outlook* piece notes, Gregory spent his career imagining innovative solutions to difficult problems with limited resources.

During his years as State archivist, Gregory was also an ambitious author who worked to explain how our laws affect the lives of everyday Vermonters, often invoking colorful analogies to do so. His regular column, "Voices from the Vault," never lacked for detail or readership. In short, Gregory brought history to life, and worked tirelessly to preserve it, which is precisely why this profile of Gregory Sanford is entitled, "The Sense of Wonder." My State of Vermont is so fortunate for his many contributions, and I ask unanimous consent that the *Archival Outlook* article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From *Archival Outlook*]

THE SENSE OF WONDER

VERMONT STATE ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING NAMED FOR GREGORY SANFORD

(By Terry Cook and Helen Samuels)

Most archivists work in buildings devoted, in whole or part, to preserving historical archives or managing dormant institutional records. Over the course of their careers, some get the opportunity to participate in the design of new buildings for these purposes. A mere handful are privileged to lead teams to conceptualize, design, build, and occupy a combined historical archives and records center. But only rare—and very special—archivists do all that and then have such multipurpose buildings named in their honor—in fact, only one to our knowledge in the United States. Our colleague and friend, Gregory Sanford, is that rarest of archivists. This is his story, or at least the story of why he achieved this signal and singular honor.¹

Professional innovator and leader on many fronts, our Gregory is modest to a fault. Part of this is his genuine belief that he is just working away, trying the best he could to make a difference, in a small state in a far corner of the country, neither looking for nor expecting recognition from practicing a profession that he loves so well. Many people in life who are modest have much to be modest about, but not Gregory, for he has envisioned, thought, and accomplished much, and in so doing set some valuable models for our profession.

One marvels over the scope of his publications, both formal and scholarly, and much more pervasively and influential, his hundreds of newspaper columns and lively speeches given all across his state, in schools, before local societies, in the broader New England region, and beyond, as well as before hundreds of meetings of legislative committees, all extolling the merits of archives and good records management, demonstrating through story and character, wild analogies and moving metaphors (more on that later!) The power of archives to inform, educate, transform, and amuse—and (as the official building plaque notes) create a "sense of wonder" about the past and its impact on all Vermont citizens.

He transformed a state papers office of one person located in a tiny office, with shared records storage in the basement of the executive office building, into a dynamic institution, the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA), currently with fourteen staff members, an updated archives and records law (that he authored), and a newly renovated and expanded archival and records center building. In accomplishing this, Gregory has worked tirelessly with legislators, bureaucrats, educators, media, and anyone who would listen, to give records management, and especially for digital records, both visibility and strategic direction for his state in the information world. The result is a resuscitated records management service now exists under the control of the state archivist, rather than languishing in the state's general services department.

His highly innovative use of the archives and its collections to frame and give context to current issues of debate in the state, so citizens and legislators do not ignore the wisdom of past, is especially admirable. This "continuing issues" approach to archival public programming makes the relevance of archives very apparent to citizens and sponsors, legislators and media personnel, beyond

the well-known uses of archives for history, genealogy, and general support to government. In effect, and not without some political risk to himself, Gregory has championed the fundamental principle of archives being arsenals for democracy through an informed citizenry. For controversial issues facing the state and its legislators, he repeatedly uncovered past precedents where denials flourished that such existed; outlined forgotten past examples of workable government processes where chaos now reigned until his intervention; showed that sacred cows of state policy assumed to be sacrosanct since time immemorial had in fact changed many times, and could thus be readily changed again. In his column, *Voices from the Vault*, appearing in the Secretary of State's monthly publication, as well as on the VSARA web site, Gregory applied his vast knowledge of state records and Vermont history, its constitution and laws, and his own wide reading and sense of wonder. Gregory thus for many years kept "continuing issues" burning, showing the relevance of archives and records to living life now. So much so that legislators and media turned to him for "backgrounders" on many public issues, and those he gave them in his interviews and in his *Voices from the Vault* columns—always with flare, good humor, and self-deprecation, but also with dedication, passion, and keen intelligence.

Despite his tiny resource base in the state archives and many pressing home and family responsibilities, Gregory has, as a committed professional, applied for and received several NHPRC grants. He wanted to push the frontiers of archival and records management research, strategy, and best practice, to try to understand, codify, and share more widely the lessons he was learning in Vermont with his wider profession. The most noted of these, in our opinion, was the Vermont State Information Strategy Plan (VISP), in which we both had marginal roles as consultants, but enough to observe the project first hand.

VISP was a gubernatorial initiative embracing executive agencies. Though the archives was not originally envisioned as a VISP participant, Gregory succeeded in getting it a place at the table. He had been impressed by some of the appraisal thinking occurring in the archival profession in the late 1980s centered around functional analysis and macroappraisal. Instead of appraising records by their subject and informational-value content, which is impossible for modern records given their huge extent in paper, their interconnectedness across many creating institutions in our complex world, and their transient digital formats, archival theorists like Hans Booms in Germany, Helen Samuels in the United States, and Terry Cook in Canada shifted the focus for appraisal to the functional context of creation: which functions, programs, and activities within which structural entities would be most likely to produce the best records, including evidence of citizen's interaction with the state, rather than which of the billions of modern records themselves might have potential research value.

Gregory was impressed by these ideas, but he took functional analysis a step further, and built it back into the information system planning of the state. Based on research into the mandates, structures, and especially functions, programs, and activities of every state agency, he automated the results to produce a grid that matched functional activity with the several (sometimes many) offices performing aspects of that activity. He demonstrated that promotion and control of

tourism, for example, was spread around nine separate agencies that did not talk to each other, or that a single mother with dependent children at school, when seeking benefits, would have to contact and then fill in similar information on application forms for each of the twelve agencies. By revealing this overlap and duplication, VISP permitted consolidation, in a virtual sense, of these programs through information systems that talked to each other for greater effectiveness, reduced duplication and inefficiency, made things easier for clients of the government to get service (applying once, not twelve times), helped the state promote itself (tourists now got one effective consolidated message when they wrote, rather than perhaps a few of nine partial ones). And of course archival appraisal could now be focused functionally on the location of the best records in the VISP matrix to document the state's activities with its citizens, because the state's functions had finally been mapped and understood.

Though support for VISP waned with changing gubernatorial administrations, the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, through the collaborative work of Gregory and his deputy (and now successor) Tanya Marshall, used VISP insights to model and then encourage state agencies to move to a functions-based, multiple-access-point, facet-designed file-classification system for its records management programs.

Our Gregory achieved innovative results with minimal resources and much imagination. He is one of those effective facilitators working with "power" behind the scenes, as well as frequently and openly in the public and media, to make things happen. He is not just a dreamer and thinker, orator and writer, thorough researcher and master storyteller, though he does all that with considerable aplomb. He is also a roll-up-the-sleeves practical archival administrator who builds buildings, writes laws, plans and carries out ambitious programs, and lobbies effectively for his profession with panache and passion.

But what of "the sense of wonder"? While the dedication plaque on Gregory's building recognizes his "devoted service" to archives and public records, which we trust the foregoing account justifies, what state formally memorializes "the sense of wonder" of any of its public servants? Indeed, what government anywhere celebrates "the sense of wonder" through a building dedication? To understand that, we need to turn from what he did for historical archives and managing public records to how he did it, to that sense of panache and passion just mentioned, to "the sense of wonder" he so often felt himself and shared so effectively with others.

While the sense of wonder most especially describes Gregory's endless curiosity and voracious reading, to say nothing of his being a mountain of a man with a huge improbable beard, what made that sense of wonder as state archivist so special was his endless commitment to inform Vermont citizens about the value and relevance of public records, but always in the most engaging fashion. In this way he passed on to those readers his own sense of wonder.

During Vermont's bicentennial celebration in 1991, for example, Gregory organized a series of debates to engage Vermont citizens around issues of current importance, such as the death penalty and term limits. These debates were held in each of the several cities that served over time as the state's capital. While Gregory explored current issues, he was always able to provide historical context, through stories and examples drawn

from his deep historical understanding of the records. Citizens were empowered to feel at the center of their government, working through contemporary issues themselves with rich historical context to temper and inform debate.

Gregory used his many speaking engagements to offer wry perspectives on record and information management. Regularly invited to address freshmen legislators as part of their orientation, Gregory once introduced the importance of the "big picture" of records management through an analysis of the impact of dog urine on trees in New York City! Two dogs at one fire hydrant that you see at brief glance, is one thing; almost seven million gallons of urine squirted annually on expensive (and now dying) city trees is quite another picture. Similarly, one shelving bay of records in the corner office is one thing; millions of documents across scores of agencies, if not well managed in a statewide integrated recordskeeping system, is quite another. We suspect those legislators went home and never quite forgot that image, records management, or Gregory. Nor would they have forgotten the man who appeared before them, based on a daughter's dare, with his huge beard newly dyed a bright fuchsia color!

But *Voices from the Vault* was his regular forum to demonstrate the relevance of records to current debates, but always incorporating that special touch of Gregory's humor and his own sense of wonder. Here is a fine example from his January 2011 *Voices from the Vault* column that, additionally, provides insight into his goal for his columns:

"Most people, alas, don't find records/archival management a particularly titillating topic. Therefore I usually start my column with some misdirection, attempting to ensnare readers before they realize they are reading about records. This month I appeal to the reader's prurient interests and offer a sex column. Female dragonflies, according to those who study such things, possess 'sperm storage organs.' These are special sites which incubate sperm, keeping it alive for months until the female is ready for fertilization. Male dragonflies, however, are only concerned with passing along their own genes. To them, the thought of the females cheerfully flying about, slowly incubating the genes of rivals is not a happy one. So, over time, the sexual organ of the male dragonfly evolved to include a little scoop. This allows the male to empty out the female's storage organ before filling it with his own seed.

"Government is like that. New administrations, secretaries, and commissioners arrive in Montpelier and immediately clear out the records of the previous occupants. They then refill the various storage organs of government with records of their own programs and initiatives. I confess that the analogy is not exact since in many cases those leaving government clean out their own record storage units before departing.

"The news media comment on these transitions often speculating on the legacy of the departing administration. This impulse to quickly define a particular administration's legacy raises numerous interesting issues, notably the tension between continuity and change inherent to our democratic system of government. In other words, to what degree are we documenting the continuities of government and to what degree are we documenting the initiatives and actions of specific administrations or state officers? Obviously these are not mutually exclusive ef-

forts, but they require decisions over what files should be left in situ for continuity of operations; what records should be sent to the state archives to ensure long term access; and what records can be disposed of without violence to statute or administrative need?"

In 2009 Gregory introduced a column dealing with the history of Vermont Special Session in the following way: "Traditional marriage is at risk in Vermont. No, no not that one; it appears to be doing fine. I am talking about the long standing union between car fenders and duct tape. Duct tape is no longer good enough to get your car inspected. I am currently organizing a Tape Back Vermont campaign. I thought of imploring the governor to convene a special session of the general assembly to address this unprecedented attack upon the customs and usage of home auto body repair. This required some preliminary investigation on the history of special sessions," which Gregory then traces from 1777 forward.

One of Gregory's 2012 columns was entitled "Sexing Chicks and the Appraisal of Public Records." The column begins with a brief introduction about how in the 1920s the Japanese discovered "that by squeezing a day-old chick's intestines it was possible to see slight anatomical differences . . . and thus males could quickly be culled and feed expenses reduced." After this anatomical lesson, Gregory admits that though the analogy is not precise, "Sexing chicks is not unlike appraising public records. [Archivists] don't want to pay upkeep for records that don't have value. We need ways to recognize the variations in public records so we can correctly determine their "gender" with high accuracy. Good records analysts, like good chick sexers, handle large volumes, quickly, and have sufficient training and experience to develop contexts for accurately interpreting what they see."

His gift to inform, amuse, and educate while promoting the archives was truly amazing. To further appreciate his delightful skill in writing about archives and documents, readers are encouraged to discover more of these wonderful columns at <http://vermont-archives.org/publications/voice/>.²

That we all who feel the wonder of archives could so imaginatively translate that into workplace reality as did Gregory, and could have such enlightened employers as the State of Vermont to recognize the merit of "wonder" so publicly!

NOTES

¹One of the buildings of the Illinois State Archives, but not its records center, is named for long-time State Archivist and pioneering records theorist, Margaret Cross Norton. And a new wing of the Alabama Department of History and Archives (the state archives) has recently been named for that institution's long-time director, Edwin C. Bridges. A few archives may have reading rooms or public areas named after famous archivists, but these are hard to verify. Examples (with stories) would, we are sure, be welcome for mention in future issues of *Archival Outlook*. We thank Teresa Brinati and Richard J. Cox for their helpful advice. In Canada, one Dominion Archivist (Sir Arthur Doughty) has an official historic plaque, and even a statue, raised in his honor, and all the Dominion and National Archivists are recognized by a sculpture inside LAC's Gatineau Preservation Centre, but none have their "own" buildings!

²Sanford's final article for this publication was printed in the July/August 2012 issue. Since then, Sanford's successor, Tanya Marshall, has continued contributing to the publication.

TRIBUTE TO THE BORINQUENEERS

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to recognize the remarkable service of the 65th Infantry Regiment, also known as the Borinqueneers, a unit composed primarily of soldiers from the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico and recruits from other Latino backgrounds.

Today, President Obama has signed into law a bill honoring the Borinqueneers with a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor our Nation can bestow. The Gold Medal is awarded as a national expression of gratitude to men and women who perform outstanding acts of service that advance the security, prosperity, and national interest of the United States of America.

American minorities have a proud history of serving their country with honor and distinction even in the face of racism and exclusion. As the largest and longest standing segregated unit in our military's history, the 65th Infantry Regiment is no different. In the face of segregation and discrimination, the Borinqueneers demonstrated valiant service to our Nation. From World War I to Korea, the Borinqueneers represented the United States and Puerto Rico proudly. They were often among the first into battle and have been the recipients of numerous awards and commendations.

The 65th Infantry Regiment was originally formed as a battalion of volunteer infantry in Puerto Rico in 1899 and first saw combat in World War I. The unit fired the first shot of the war by U.S. regular Armed Forces while defending the harbor of San Juan against a ship flying the colors of the Central Powers. Members of the Regiment also served in World War II and, with particular distinction, in the Korean war, where they earned 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, 256 Silver Stars, 606 Bronze Stars, and 2,771 Purple Hearts by war's end.

The Borinqueneers now join the ranks of the Tuskegee Airmen, the Navajo Code Talkers and other distinguished minority units who have received the prestigious Gold Medal. This day is long overdue but well deserved.

I congratulate the Borinqueneers on their honor. These brave men deserve recognition befitting their contributions to our Armed Forces. The unit's story is one of service and honor beyond even the usual highest standards to which we hold our men and women in uniform.

Of the surviving Borinqueneers I would like to recognize and give special thanks to those who have made their home in Illinois: Raul Cardona-Sanabria, Jose Cuebas-Martinez, Diego A. Figueroa Reyes, Tomas Lozada, BG Ivan Maras, Walter McCostlin, Oswaldo Miranda, Santiago Perez-Garcia, David Ramirez-Granado, Ramon Rodriguez, Felio Sanchez-Agosto, Juan Vasquez, and Onil G. Velez. I commend you and

all of the Borinqueneers for your steadfast service to our country and wish you and your families all the best.

SENIOR SAFETY INITIATIVE

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the need to protect the safety and health of older Americans from hazards posed by consumer products. Since its inception in 1972, the Consumer Product Safety Commission CPSC has been tasked with protecting the public from unreasonable hazards posed by consumer products. Historically, the CPSC has not focused explicitly on seniors despite the aging population's vulnerability to these hazards. For example, a 2012 CPSC report found that Americans age 65 and older are nearly three times more likely to suffer a product-related injury that results in a visit to the emergency room than Americans between the ages of 25 and 64.

On May 19, 2014, the CPSC introduced the Senior Safety Initiative. I commend the CPSC for taking on this important and timely project. The Senior Safety Initiative aims to reduce both the incidences of product-related deaths, nearly 65 percent of which are suffered by seniors and the estimated 5 million injuries suffered by older adults. This initiative includes the creation of a mechanical and senior hazards team to monitor hazards associated with products intended for seniors, publication of a hazard screening report focused exclusively on seniors, and continues the CPSC's partnership with other agencies to reduce the death and injury associated with consumer products. In addition, the CPSC will join the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics to work with other Federal agencies to improve the availability of aging-related data.

In particular, the initiative aims to reduce hazards associated with adult portable bed rails. Between 2003 and 2012, the CPSC received reports of 174 deaths, 80 percent of which involved seniors over age 60, and nearly 110,000 medically attended injuries involving adult portable bed rails. The collective costs associated with these injuries totaled around \$250 million annually. The CPSC recently partnered with manufacturers, the Food and Drug Administration, and the voluntary standards community to develop the first-ever standard for adult portable bed rails. As the senior Senator of the State with the largest proportion of people above the age of 65, I welcome the CPSC's efforts to reduce injuries and deaths involving consumer products, particularly adult portable bed rails.

Last month, in conjunction with the publication of the Senior Safety Initiative, the CPSC participated in Older Americans Month by partnering with the Administration for Community Living and other participating organi-

zations to promote educational resources for seniors and their families about preventing hazards associated with household products often used by seniors and their caregivers.

As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I know how important it is to protect the well-being of older Americans from unreasonable risks in their retirement years. As our aging population grows exponentially over the coming decades, it is imperative that we support initiatives like the CPSC's to enhance the safety, independence, and well-being of our older Americans.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, during today's session of the Senate, six rollcall votes were taken. I was necessarily absent and missed five of these votes, due to attending funeral services in Richmond for Ray Boone.

While I missed votes on the confirmation of Leo T. Sorokin, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts and Richard Franklin Boulware II, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, I did vote to invoke cloture on these two nominees on Monday, June 9, 2014.

I also missed three cloture votes on nominations for the Federal Reserve: Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors. However, I do intend to vote to confirm these three Fed nominees on Thursday, June 12, 2014.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the outstanding military service of a group of incredible Coloradans. At a critical time in our Nation's history, these veterans each played a role in defending the world from tyranny, truly earning their reputation as guardians of peace and democracy through their service and sacrifice. Now, thanks to Honor Flight, these combat veterans came to Washington, DC, to visit the national memorials built to honor those who served and those who fell. They have also come to share their experiences with later generations and to pay tribute to those who gave their lives. I am proud to welcome them here, and I join with all Coloradans in thanking them for all they have done for us.

I also want to thank the volunteers from Honor Flight of Southern Colorado who made this trip possible. These volunteers are great Coloradans in their own right, and their mission to

bring our veterans to Washington, DC, is truly commendable.

I wish to publicly recognize the veterans who visited our Nation's capital, many seeing for the first time the memorials built as a tribute to their selfless service. Today, I honor these Colorado veterans on their visit to Washington, DC, and I join them in paying tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of liberty.

These veterans from World War II include Charles Barnett, James Hubbard, John Lee, Donald Joiner, John Cotton, Anthon Aragon, Sedley Hall, Fred Radestock, Carl Davidson, Clarence Norris, Gordon Ashwood, Gerald McCann, Charles Tomsick, Timothy Churchill, John Ross, Richard Gottlieb, Gene Noel, Clifford Hibpshman, Eldon Price, Lester McLaughlin, Samuel Stephens, Albert Cordova, and Barlow Westcott.

Our Nation asked a great deal of these individuals—to leave their families to fight in unknown lands and put their lives on the line. Each one of these brave Coloradans bravely answered the call. They served our country with courage, and in return, let us ensure they are shown the honor and appreciation they deserve. Please join me in thanking these Colorado veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Southern Colorado for their tremendous service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING THE ARKANSAS TORNADO VICTIMS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to offer my thoughts and prayers to the victims of the April 27, 2014, tornadoes that devastated a number of communities in central Arkansas.

The tornadoes that spawned from the storm system that left a trail of destruction across the south took the lives of 16 Arkansans in Pulaski, White and Faulkner Counties.

The Arkansas victims include an Iraq veteran who died while protecting his 5-year-old daughter, two children who had just started school in Vilonia, and an unborn child who died as a result of the injuries to the baby's mother.

While others escaped the tornadoes with their lives, many lost everything else they had. From homes to businesses, entire communities were wiped out leaving many residents homeless and without livelihood.

However, our actions in a time of crisis are a reflection of us as a society and despite the tragic stories we saw many uplifting acts before, during, and after the tornadoes hit. As the storm approached, Christian Gunther acted to save ten disabled veterans from a long-term care facility by making sure they reached safety before the tornado hit. During the storm, MSG Daniel

Wassom, gave his life using his body to shield his daughter from a falling beam. And, in the immediate aftermath of the storm, Arkansas's first responders rushed to the hardest hit communities, saving lives in the aftermath of the tornadoes.

During this time where many have to sift through the rubble and rebuild their lives, we are grateful for those who have reached out to their neighbors and provided assistance. Volunteers from all across the State have come to ravaged areas to help. This disaster serves as a testament to the compassionate character of the people of Arkansas. Rebuilding is never easy, but I know that Arkansans do not give up.

I am pleased the President quickly responded to the situation by designating four Arkansas counties as major disaster areas, making Federal funding available to people in these counties impacted by the storm. However, more work remains to be done. I am committed to ensuring that relief comes to the families and communities affected by this disaster.

Again, our thoughts and prayers go out to those who endured the storms, who need to rebuild, and especially to those who have lost relatives and loved ones. I ask that my colleagues continue to keep them in their thoughts and prayers.●

RECOGNIZING THOMAS HOLLAND

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the life and career of Dr. Thomas Holland who has spent the past 22 years finding and identifying the remains of American servicemen. His efforts have helped bring peace and closure to the families of our fallen soldiers.

With over 83,000 American servicemen who have been listed as missing in action, Dr. Holland's vision and insights have helped find and identify the remains of soldiers who would otherwise be unaccounted for and unknown. He has led recovery missions to numerous countries such as North and South Korea, China, Iraq, and Cambodia. Most notably in 1995, Dr. Holland led the classified mission in Iraq to recover the only serviceman missing from the First Gulf War.

Originally from Fort Smith, AR, Dr. Holland received his bachelor's degree in fine art from the University of Missouri-Columbia where he continued his post graduate studies and earned his master's degree and his doctorate degree in anthropology. Currently, Dr. Holland serves on the graduate faculty at the University of Hawaii. As a world renowned expert, he has been published in many journals and has presented papers at numerous national and international meetings. During his tenure at the Central Identification Laboratory and Joint POW/MIA Accounting

Command, he held positions as an anthropologist, senior anthropologist, and scientific director.

While his academic and professional achievements are outstanding, his most admirable accomplishment has been his great service that honors American prisoners of war and those missing in action. Since 1992, Dr. Holland has diligently performed the solemn task of finding and identifying lost soldiers, sailors, and airmen using the science of human identification.

Dr. Holland has displayed dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence. I am grateful for his years of service and efforts devoted to those who fought and died for our freedom.●

RECOGNIZING FRANK BROYLES

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a friend to all Arkansans, Frank Broyles, an icon in Arkansas athletics, the former head coach of the Arkansas Razorbacks football team and former Athletic Director who is retiring from the University of Arkansas at the end of June.

This legendary football coach spent his life serving Arkansas and laying the foundation and building the dynamic athletic department at the University of Arkansas. His hard work, dedication and commitment to Arkansas and its athletes is clear. As an offensive tackle for the Razorbacks in the late 1960s, I played under Coach Broyles. He had a great influence on my life and I know that to be true for many other Arkansas athletes.

Coach Broyles' influence extends well beyond Arkansas into college athletics. The Broyles Award was established in 1996 to honor the work of assistant football coaches. Honoring Coach Broyles, the award recognizes his history of producing some of the most successful assistant coaches in college football.

He has been successful on and off the field. After his wife Barbara lost her battle with Alzheimer's, Coach Broyles made it his life's mission to advocate for a cure and educate Americans on caring for loved ones suffering with Alzheimer's. He wrote the Alzheimer's Playbook based on his family's experience caring for Barbara which is a great resource for all caregivers.

Despite retiring as the Arkansas Athletic Director in 2007 he continued his service to Arkansas on the Razorback Foundation. This will truly be the end of an era when he leaves at the end of the month.

The Arkansas Razorbacks are blessed to have the leadership of Coach Broyles in the many roles he assumed for the university. His vision for the Razorbacks is what we recognize today and support today. I am honored to have had the opportunity to play for Coach Broyles and call him a friend and wish him the best of luck in retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO JIM ANDERSON

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to honor Jim Anderson, who has been the president of the Springfield, Missouri, Area Chamber of Commerce since 1988. Later this month, Jim will leave that position to pursue other opportunities. Jim has played a role in nearly every major development that has shaped Springfield over the last 25-plus years. Over that time he has been a great friend and an important advisor on all things Springfield—my hometown and Missouri's third largest city.

Jim Anderson was lured back to Springfield from Jefferson City, MO, to run Springfield's Chamber of Commerce, a role he had already played in Jefferson City for nearly a decade. With his background as teacher and administrator, his quick smile and sharp mind for details, and a wealth of contacts and government know-how, Anderson has been a spirited leader at the Springfield Chamber. His knowledge and experience have helped as he has devoted his efforts to economic development, job creation, civic involvement, and advocacy efforts at both the local and state levels.

Jim Anderson is a leader who knows what it takes to make his community an attractive place for businesses and consumers. From 2001 until 2009 Anderson served on the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission and rose to the chairmanship in 2007 and was vice chairman the following year. During that period Jim became a supporter of infrastructure programs to fix bridges, expand capacities, and grow a safer transportation network to promote economic development. Jim's keen intellect on economic development issues earned him an appointment in 1993 by Gov. Mel Carnahan to the Missouri Business Council and to the Total Transportation Commission in 1996.

In 2005 Jim's peers honored him with the Springfieldian Award, a recognition given to the person whose contributions leave a lasting mark on Springfield. Jim has certainly left his mark. That same year Anderson was a recipient of the Missourian Award. In 2007 he was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement in Business Award from the Springfield Business Journal. And last year Anderson received the Career Service in Economic Development Award at the Governor's Conference on Economic Development. These awards only scratch the surface of Jim's impact on the region.

Jim has amassed many awards and accolades from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. But Jim is also grounded in his local community—Springfield. He served as chairman of United Way of the Ozarks and president of Urban Districts Alliance. He is a member of the Springfield Rotary Club and has been recognized for his work with the Boy Scouts. Jim is a past chairman of the

board of directors of Springfield Innovation, Inc., at the Roy Blunt Jordan Valley Innovation Center. Anderson is an active member of First & Calvary Presbyterian Church.

Jim's contributions to the Springfield area have strengthened the fabric of the community. I know he will be glad to have more time with his wife Janet and their daughters Rachel and Rebecca. I wish him well in his next opportunity and thank him for his years of service in Springfield. •

BENTON COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Benton County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$56 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together has been working to designate Vinton as the site for the Americorps National Civilian Community Corps, NCCC, facility, and securing \$2.5 million to create the residential campus. I have also appreciated working with Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired on one of my biggest priorities—eliminating barriers in our society for people with disabilities. Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf, but I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with

disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly one-quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Benton County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Benton County has received \$600,000 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Benton County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$142,900.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted

by the devastating floods of 2008. Benton County has received over \$14.2 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a Member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Benton County has received more than \$25 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Benton County's fire departments have received over \$1.9 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Benton County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Benton County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives, and, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

LEE COUNTY, IOWA

● **Mr. HARKIN.** Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades rep-

resenting Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Lee County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Lee County worth over \$28.8 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$35.3 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together include the terrific work that Keokuk and Fort Madison have done to improve their downtowns through Main Street Iowa, my long standing support work to make sure the Avenue of the Saints construction benefits the area and is funded, and working to improve river navigation on the Mississippi River, in part through funding reconstruction of Lock and Dam 19 at Keokuk.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Southeast Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Lee County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Lee County, I have fought for more than \$23 million for the restoration of Lock and Dam 19 as well as overall navigation and environmental improvements on the Mississippi River, as well as more than \$118 million for work on the Avenue of the Saints, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities in the region.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Fort Madison and Keokuk to use that

money to leverage other investments to jump-start change and renewal. I am so pleased that Lee County has earned \$78,500 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Lee County has received more than \$4.1 million in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Lee County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$288,457.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Lee County has received over \$5.1 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Lee County's fire departments have received over \$1.4 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment, and more than \$564,187 in Byrne justice assistance grants.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Lee County has recognized this important issue by securing \$389,563 for community wellness activities.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf but I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly one quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Lee County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Lee County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Lee County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiative and, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT MILLER III

● Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I speak in memory of the life of Robert Jackson Miller III, an accomplished architect and a man who, above all else, was a devoted husband and a loving, generous father. Bob passed away on March 10, 2014, at the age of 48, leaving behind a wife and four daughters who loved him dearly.

Bob held within him a brilliant capacity to design buildings that drew out the full potential and imagination of those who entered their doors. Throughout his career—from his early years at Robert A.M. Stern Architects and his role as partner-in-charge at Michael Graves and Associates in New York, to his co-founding of Miller & Wright Architects in New York City—he was a diligent designer who cherished the ability he had to provide unique shared space for individuals across the United States. He often spoke of his proudest work, the St. Coletta School in Washington, DC, a place where children and adults with intellectual disabilities were afforded the opportunity to learn and grow as a community.

Yet all of Bob's architectural accomplishments pale in comparison to the passion that defined his life: the love he felt for his wife Grace and his daughters Eve, Margot, Lily B. and Poppy. To say that Bob was an utterly devoted family man would merely scratch the surface of his complete dedication to the lives of his wife and daughters. If you were to ask Bob, he would prefer nothing in the world more than simply sharing a Friday night at home with his family, watching movies or relaxing on the beach in their company. He was content to spend as much time as he possibly could with them; nothing brought him more joy. If you were ever to go to the Miller household, you would invariably find Bob hard at work teaching the girls new lacrosse techniques, helping them practice for their plays, or helping construct an elaborate Halloween costume. His faithfulness as a father and a husband were characteristic of the kind soul Bob possessed. When he was diagnosed with melanoma, Bob placed even more emphasis on profoundly treasuring each moment he was allowed with Grace, Eve, Margot, Lily B. and Poppy. He never lost sight of the gift he had been given to spend his life with them.

This will be the first Father's Day the girls spend without their father. To lose a valuable, vibrant, compassionate spirit like their father's at such a tender age is an incomprehensible tragedy. There are moments of pain in this life when we can see the sadness of others and desire only to lessen their hurt, knowing full well that our words and our sympathies are insufficient. This is such a moment.

I hope that Grace and the girls understand the bright loveliness their father brought into the world, and will continue to carry that light forward in his absence. The world is a better place for Bob having traveled through it. He is continuing his journey now, but we will remember him here, and his family will remember him for the rest of their lives. His memory will serve as an example of how to love completely, how to dedicate yourself to your family entirely, and how to treasure the moments you are given in the brief time we have.●

SIDNEY, MONTANA

● Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a town in eastern Montana with a story that reflects the American dream. In the 19th century, pioneers settled in Sidney, MT, chasing prosperity along the banks of the Yellowstone River.

Throughout the years Sidney has seen booms in agriculture and energy development, but through it all one thing has remained constant; the people who call Sidney home share the core values of service, honesty, and the willingness to help a neighbor in need.

Today, Sidney, Montana celebrates its 100th anniversary—100 years of ingenuity, 100 years of prosperity, and 100 years of history.

When pioneers first settled in eastern Montana they were not guaranteed prosperity, but they brought with them a strong work ethic. Before Sidney was even incorporated, the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project canal was dug and with their new access to water, the dry land farmers were given a lifeline to irrigate crops and develop the plains. The pioneer farmers were taming an area of the country many thought couldn't be tamed.

Today, agriculture producers from Richland County continue to grow the crops and raise the cattle that feed the world—working the land the same way those before them did.

In the 1970s Sidney went through period of change. The world was now hungry for oil and Sidney, MT, was there to answer that call. Through the decade to follow Sidney boomed with energy through a period of prosperity.

With the recent increase in hydraulic fracturing, Sidney once again is at the center of an unmatched energy boom. With the development of the Bakken Formation, Sidney enters the newest chapter of its story.

Agriculture and energy has affected many families in Sidney, but one thing has remained the same. The people of Sidney remain good neighbors and they continue to stabilize a region that has grown accustomed to change.

I congratulate Sidney for its contributions to our State, our Nation, and the world. We look forward to the next century being as exciting as the last.●

MANAGEMENT EDUCATION
ANNIVERSARY

• Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I want to recognize the 100th anniversary of management education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Management education began at MIT in 1914 with the introduction of Course XV, then known as "Engineering Administration." Over the past century, MIT's business program has grown from a single course to a world-class school that provides our Nation's leaders and entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge they need for success, while also producing cutting-edge research.

Today, the MIT Sloan School of Management stands as one of the world leaders in management education. MIT Sloan has jump started the careers of some of our foremost innovators, thinkers and business leaders. From launching successful Massachusetts-based companies like Zipcar and HubSpot to making revolutionary intellectual contributions to the fields of organizational behavior and system dynamics, Sloan alumni have made a huge positive difference in the world. According to a Sloan study, in 2006, there were 25,800 active companies founded by MIT alumni, which combined to employ 3.3 million workers.

MIT's motto is "mens et manus," which translates to "mind and hand," and its school seal displays two men—one with a book, and another with an anvil. This connection between thought and action, between intellectual pursuits and practical applications, has helped define MIT's mission and has made the school the unique institution that it is today. For 100 years, MIT's management education programs have perfectly embodied this spirit.

I am proud to join with the MIT community in recognizing the enduring contributions that a century of management education programs at MIT have given us, and we all look forward to MIT Sloan's leadership in the next century of its work. •

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION
OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY
THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DE-
CLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER
13405 OF JUNE 16, 2006, WITH RE-
SPECT TO BELARUS—PM 43

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2014.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 10, 2014.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1254. An act to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1679. An act to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

H.R. 2072. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the

Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 3211. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction.

H.R. 4228. An act to require the Department of Homeland Security to improve discipline, accountability, and transparency in acquisition program management.

H.R. 4412. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 100. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SLAUGHTER of New York, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. DEFazio of Oregon.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4(b) of the World War I Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 112-272), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the World War I Centennial Commission to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Ms. Monique Seefried of Atlanta, Georgia.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1679. An act to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4228. An act to require the Department of Homeland Security to improve discipline, accountability, and transparency in acquisition program management; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4412. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2450. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4660. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6039. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Implementation of Tier 1/Tier 2 Framework" (RIN3052-AC81) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6040. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Cemeteries, Demonstration, Special Event" (RIN1024-AE01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-6041. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Azerbaijan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6042. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense assigning women to previously closed positions in the Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6043. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6044. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; SOCATA Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0031)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6045. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-

AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0864)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6046. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2008-0616)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6047. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2010-1160)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6048. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Eagle Grove, IA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0589)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6049. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Amery, WI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0591)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6050. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Kuparuk, AK" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0996)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6051. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Dalhart, TX" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0918)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6052. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Albion, NE" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0595)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6053. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (296); Amdt. No. 3590" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6054. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (80); Amdt. No. 3589" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6055. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Agusta Westland S.p.A Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0943)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6056. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D Airspace; St. Paul, MN" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0954)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6057. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Grand Forks, ND" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-201-0135)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6058. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Bois Blanc Island, MI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0986)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6059. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Blairsville, GA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0731)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6060. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Akutan, AK" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket

No. FAA-2014-0032)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6061. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Grand Forks, ND" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0806)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6062. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Areas R-5001A and R-5001B, Fort Dix, NJ" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0260)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6063. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Areas R-5304C; Camp Lejeune, NC" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0272)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6064. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification and Establishment of Restricted Areas; Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0729)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6065. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act" ((MB Docket No. 11-93) (FCC 14-71)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6066. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; North Central United States" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-1062)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6067. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of the Philadelphia, PA, Class B Airspace Area" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0922)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6068. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2008-0618)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6069. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-1103)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6070. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate previously held by Eurocopter France) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0306)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6071. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Vulcanair S.p.A Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0602)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6072. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0869)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6073. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0686)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6074. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; PIAGGIO AERO INDUSTRIES S.p.A Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0967)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6075. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; GROB-WERKE Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0092)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of

the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6076. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Regulations, Definition of Indian Tribe" (RIN1024-AD98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6077. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6078. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Limitations on Guaranteed Benefits; Shutdown and Similar Benefits" ((RIN2121-AB18) (29 CFR Part 4022)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6079. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Maximum Civil Money Penalty Amounts; Civil Money Penalty Complaints; Confirmation of Effective Date" (Docket No. FDA-2014-N-0113) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6080. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishing a List of Qualifying Pathogens Under the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act" (Docket No. FDA-2012-N-1037) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6081. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Agency Drug-Free Workplace Programs"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6082. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6083. A communication from the Inspector General, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6084. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election

Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6085. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Transportation's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 2452. An original bill to support early learning.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2451. A bill to support the local decision-making functions of local educational agencies by limiting the authority of the Secretary of Education to issue regulations, rules, grant conditions, and guidance materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2452. An original bill to support early learning; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2453. A bill to reinstate the 10-year statute of limitations period applicable to collection of amounts paid to Social Security beneficiaries by administrative offset, and prevent recovery of overpayments from individuals under 18 years of age; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2454. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2455. A bill to enhance Social Security benefits for children, divorced spouses, and widows and widowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2456. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide protections for active duty military consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 2457. A bill to require States to establish highway stormwater management programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WALSH:

S. 2458. A bill to provide student loan forgiveness for American Indian educators

teaching in local educational agencies with a high percentage of American Indian students; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2459. A bill to revise counseling requirements for certain borrowers of student loans and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2460. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional disclosures and protections for students and cosigners with respect to student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 822

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 822, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2076

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes.

S. 2182

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2182, a bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2324

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2324, a bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to prohibit certain waivers and exemptions from emergency preparedness and response and security regulations.

S. 2328

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2328, a bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to preclude law firms and licensed attorneys from the definition of a debt collector when taking certain actions, and for other purposes.

S. 2340

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary to provide for the use of data from the second preceding tax year to carry out the simplification of applications for the estimation and determination of financial aid eligibility, to increase the income threshold to qualify for zero expected family contribution, and for other purposes.

S. 2359

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2359, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2363

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2395, a bill to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.

S. 2430

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2430, a bill to establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for Monitoring the Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2432

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S. 2435

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2435, a bill to amend section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that any hours worked by Federal firefighters under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement shall be excluded for purposes of determinations relating to overtime pay.

S. 2440

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2440, a bill to expand and extend the program to improve permit coordination by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

S. 2441

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2441, a bill to extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education and rail carriers that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government.

S. 2450

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2450, a bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2450, *supra*.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2451. A bill to support the local decisionmaking functions of local educational agencies by limiting the authority of the Secretary of Education to issue regulations, rules, grant conditions, and guidance materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, with 20 kids and grandkids, I understand the importance and value of quality education. For many years my wife dedicated her life to teaching and mentoring young students, never knowing that in the years to come, two of our children would follow in their mother's footsteps, building classrooms of their own and impacting the lives of so many young people.

Through my family's unique educational experiences, and my time in State and local government, I have learned that with teaching comes the great responsibility of not only working with students, but also parents, employers and many in the local community to ensure our children are well equipped for the road ahead.

Nationwide, 96 percent of local school board members are elected, making those members accountable to the many students, parents, and taxpayers they represent. But in recent years, the voice of this local authority is being eroded through inhibitive policies and requirements established by Federal agencies, like the Department of Education.

Education has historically been a State and local issue. By strengthening the process for meaningful input by impacted stakeholders, our local communities can remain active in the education policy decision-making process.

This is why I have introduced the Local School Board Governance and Flexibility Act. With this legislation, the goal is to bring control of our education policy back to where it belongs—with our local communities—giving State and local school boards the necessary flexibility to achieve their educational goals. S. 2451 would wrestle away control from the Department of Education by prohibiting the agency from issuing any regulations, rules, guidance materials, or grant conditions that would result in a conflict of authority with any State or local educational agencies.

This bill would also streamline reporting requirements and would require the Department to provide Congress with an annual report on how the agency's policies impact local school districts. As we have seen, many of the overreaching education policy changes declared by Washington bureaucrats have resulted in negative effects on local schools, not only in terms of policy, but also financially. This bill re-

quires the Department of Education to seek input on costs and assistance needs from State and local school agencies before issuing or implementing regulations, rules, guidance materials, or grant conditions.

The Local School Board Governance and Flexibility Act will give State and local school boards a voice in how the Federal Government issues regulations and guidelines for education. It is time for the Department of Education to be accountable to the parents, teachers, and local elected officials who work first-hand with our Nation's children. Education needs are unique to each community, and in order to give the next generation of Americans a better future and wealth of opportunities, my legislation will give State and local school boards the authority they need to carry out the education goals that are best suited for their children.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2454. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I join today with Senator GRASSLEY to introduce legislation to reauthorize for another 5 years expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act, STELA. This law provides satellite television carriers with the necessary rights to retransmit distant broadcast television programming to households that are otherwise unable to receive local signal over-the-air. If Congress does not act by the end of the year to reauthorize the distant signal license, approximately 1.5 million consumers will lose access to the broadcast television programming that they are currently receiving.

The compulsory copyright license system for satellite television has been successful in promoting competition in the video marketplace. Consumers across the country benefit from having nationwide competitors to cable. Rural consumers, including many in Vermont, rely on a healthy satellite industry that is able to provide service to customers where cable is unable to reach. Congress has helped to facilitate the growth of the satellite industry by providing it with a mechanism to clear the rights to broadcast television content, which remains among the most popular.

Senator GRASSLEY and I are continuing what has always been a bipartisan partnership on satellite television legislation. I worked with Senator HATCH in 1999 to establish a permanent license allowing satellite carriers to retransmit local television content to consumers. That license has had an important impact on competition in the video market. In 2010, I worked with Senator SESSIONS on

STELA. Satellite television legislation should never be partisan—it should be an opportunity for Democrats and Republicans to come together and demonstrate to the American people that we can act responsibly and prevent serious disruption to consumers.

The bill we are introducing today is a narrow approach. We are extending the current system for another 5 years, while also making some minor technical corrections to the existing statutes. This bill may not please all stakeholders. Some would like Congress to use this legislation as a vehicle to enact significant changes to the current system that governs the relationship between broadcast television stations and distributors. Others would prefer that Congress not act at all and simply allow this license to expire. My focus is on the consumers who stand to lose access to broadcast television content in the event that Congress is unable to pass a bill by the end of the year. This bill will ensure that they are not left in the dark come December 31.

Our legislation is one half of what the Senate will have to do in order to ensure that 1.5 million consumers are able to maintain the broadcast television signals that they are currently receiving. I look forward to working with Chairman ROCKEFELLER as we work to fit the necessary Copyright and Communications Act provisions of this bill together. I also look forward to working with our counterparts in the House in order to protect the consumers relying on this license.

I urge the Senate to support extending STELA for another 5 years.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2454

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Satellite Television Access Reauthorization Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Chapter 1 of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 111(d)(3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “clause” and inserting “paragraph”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “clause” and inserting “paragraph”; and

(2) in section 119—

(A) in subsection (a)(6)(E), in the undesignated matter following clause (iii), by striking “clause (1)” and inserting “subparagraph (B)(i)”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1)(E), by striking “2014” and inserting “2019”;

(C) in subsection (e), by striking “2014” and inserting “2019”; and

(D) in subsection (g)(7)(C), by inserting “the” before “Communications”.

SEC. 3. TERMINATION OF LICENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 119 of title 17, United States Code, as amended in section 2,

is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) TERMINATION OF LICENSE.—This section shall cease to be effective on December 31, 2019.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 107(a) of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (17 U.S.C. 119 note) is repealed.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2455. A bill to enhance Social Security benefits for children, divorced spouses, and widows and widowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I am pleased to be here today with my friend and colleague, Senator MURRAY, to talk about Social Security. I am going to spend a few moments discussing a bill we are introducing today and then turn it over to Senator MURRAY.

As you know, Social Security is one of the most important programs ever established in this country. After 75 years, Social Security continues to deliver as intended. It is a promise to Americans. The promise is simple. If you work hard all your life and contribute to the system, then Social Security will be there to help make ends meet when you retire or help out the family if a worker dies or is disabled.

Let me be clear. Despite the naysayers, Social Security is not a handout. Social Security benefits are linked directly to the amount that retirees pay into the system through a lifetime of hard work. But times have changed and we need to make sure the promise of Social Security continues in a meaningful way. That is why Senator MURRAY and I introduced the Retirement and Income Security Act yesterday, which we like to call the RAISE Act. It is a commonsense bill to update, enhance, and protect Social Security in a fiscally responsible way.

When it comes to fairness, this bill is a small but important step for seniors, for older women, and for the families of deceased or disabled workers. It makes sure that the modest benefits of Social Security will go to everyone who deserves them.

The RAISE Act has three major components.

It will, first, improve Social Security benefits for divorced spouses. Under current law, the divorced spouse only gets benefits from a former spouse's earnings if they were married for at least 10 years. Under our bill, eligibility rules would be phased in beginning at 5 years of marriage. The spouse would be entitled to 60 percent of the benefits after 6 years of marriage, 70 percent after 7 years, and so on.

Second, our bill will enhance benefits for widows and widowers. It establishes a new enhanced benefit for widows and widowers where both spouses have retired. An alternative calculation in the bill will use both spouses' benefits—de-

ceased and surviving—rather than just the survivor's benefit. The surviving spouse will receive either their current benefit or the new alternative, whichever is greater.

The third component of the RAISE Act extends eligibility for children of retired, disabled or deceased workers. This provision would apply if the child is still in high school, college or vocational or career school. Under current law, minors and high school students under the age of 19 can get Social Security benefits if their parent is a retired, disabled or deceased worker. Beginning in 2016, this provision extends benefits for full-time students up to the age of 23.

Even though Social Security continues to fully pay for itself and has never added a dime to the deficit, I know some of our colleagues will complain that we cannot afford these small enhancements. That is why our bill asks those Americans who can most afford it to pay their fair share towards the strengthening of the Social Security trust fund.

Beginning in 2015, the RAISE Act would apply a 2-percent payroll tax on annual earnings over \$400,000. This means that, for future generations, Social Security will continue to be fully funded. In future years, that threshold will increase under an indexing formula built into the bill.

I am a proud sponsor of this bill with Senator MURRAY. It was an easy decision for me, since my commitment to bolstering Social Security started from day one in the Senate. I have already introduced two other bills on Social Security, and I want to just mention them briefly before I turn it over to Senator MURRAY.

The first bill is my Protecting and Preserving Social Security Act. It would extend the solvency of Social Security by lifting the cap on high-income contributions, which this year is \$117,000. Not everyone knows this, but once your annual income hits that threshold, you no longer have to contribute to Social Security for the rest of the calendar year. This seems unfair to me. My bill would lift the cap and phase out what effectively has become a tax loophole. Higher income Americans would pay into Social Security all year long—just like everyone else. This provision would add generations of financial certainty to Social Security.

The bill would also improve benefits for seniors and others by establishing new cost-of-living adjustments based on reality. The formula would better reflect seniors' financial needs by basing the adjustments on items such as prescription drugs and housing, which seniors pay for, instead of electronics and new cars.

My second bill is the Social Security Fairness Act. It would repeal unfair reductions to Social Security benefits for people who have worked part of their

career in noncovered jobs—often State or local government or other civil service jobs.

Congress passed the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset in the 1980s because of fears workers who retire under other pensions would be double covered and Social Security could not afford it. But in effect those old laws are punishing people by reducing benefits they rightfully have earned.

Today, these provisions affect more than 2 million people nationwide, and the number is growing. It is not just about getting back what you paid into the system. Removing these penalties would also encourage people willing to work in public service as a second career—such as police officers or teachers. If you are considering such a move today but know your Social Security benefit would be reduced or penalized because you had stepped forward and worked in public service, why would you do it?

Let's remember one thing about all of these bills—the two I introduced earlier and the RAISE Act we are discussing today. Social Security benefits are vitally important but also are very modest. Nationally, they average \$13,500 a year for recipients. It is very important to my State. More than 71,000 people in my State of Alaska rely on Social Security. That is roughly 1 out of 10 Alaskans. Social Security lifts tens of thousands of Alaskans out of poverty—the elderly and especially elderly women—and it pumps more than \$1 billion into our economy every single year.

No one is getting rich off of Social Security, but it does provide an important foundation, and it does so in a truly American way: You work, you contribute, and you get something back. As long as I am in Congress, I will fight to make sure Social Security is solvent and there for not only this generation but for generations to come.

Senator MURRAY has been a longtime champion for Social Security, and I am proud to stand with her on the floor today. Our RAISE Act is another modest improvement. I hope our colleagues will join us in standing up for this critically important program.

Our Social Security system reflects the best of America: hard work, personal responsibility, human dignity, and caring for our parents, our children, our spouses, and our neighbors and ourselves.

Let's come together in this Chamber and do all we can to make sure Social Security is working for all Americans.

With that, I yield the floor for my colleague, Senator MURRAY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Alaska, Mr. BEGICH, for coming and joining me

today because I know he is deeply committed to strengthening and protecting Social Security for current and future seniors. So I am very pleased to join him today in introducing the RAISE Act, which will be a very critical step forward in this effort.

Over the last several decades, middle class families have been increasingly squeezed by rising prices for everything from college tuition to health care. Wages have stayed flat—or even declined for some people—and fewer companies today are offering the kinds of generous pension plans that used to help so many workers stay financially secure.

With all that in mind, it is not surprising that, as families have struggled to stretch their dollars further and further in order to get the bills paid and raise their children, it has become harder and harder to save for retirement.

In fact, a recent study showed that more than a third of today's workers have been unable to save even a dollar for retirement, and even those who do have savings do not have very much. The same study found that 60 percent of respondents had less than \$25,000 in total assets and investments, excluding their home.

The numbers are even more pronounced when you look at women in the workforce. Because women, on average, earn less than men, they accumulate less in savings, they receive smaller pensions, and nearly 3 in 10 women over 65 depend only on Social Security for income in their later years.

It is clear that now more than ever Social Security is a lifeline for millions of seniors. So it is especially important for us to make sure this critical system is meeting the needs of today's beneficiaries.

For 75 years our Social Security system has offered millions of seniors and their families a foundation of financial security. But a lot has changed in those 75 years. Today, most families have two earners. Because Social Security was actually designed for single-earner families, surviving spouses in families where both adults worked may receive less in benefits than they deserve.

Social Security also supports children whose parents retired, became disabled or passed away—but those benefits end at the age 18 or 19. That is right. When young adults should be thinking about continuing their education—a necessity in today's economy—they are worried about having nowhere to go.

At a time when Social Security is an increasingly critical source of support for so many, the RAISE Act would make some commonsense updates to ensure our Social Security system is doing everything possible to help today's seniors and their families.

As the Senator from Alaska described, the RAISE Act would establish a new alternative benefit to make sure widows and widowers from two-earner families do not receive less in survivor benefits than those from single-earner families.

The RAISE Act would enable spouses who were married for less than 10 years to receive spousal and survivor benefits. It would extend benefits for young adults under 23 who are enrolled in school full time.

Crucially, to help ensure Social Security is there for future generations, the RAISE Act would shore up the Social Security trust fund in a fiscally responsible way that protects middle-class families. I believe strengthening and protecting Social Security benefits through the RAISE Act would do an enormous amount of help to our workers and families and their ability to stay financially secure.

But I also want to note there is a much broader challenge. There is not just one solution. We should absolutely make these critical changes to help make sure our Social Security system is meeting the needs of today's workers and families, but we also have to look at ways for workers to save for retirement and encourage companies to offer higher retirement plans.

That is not all. We need to make sure women get equal pay for equal work so they will have the same shot at a secure retirement as their male coworkers.

We do need to invest in education and training and get college costs down so our workers are prepared to compete for high-wage, high-skilled jobs.

We need to continue to fight to strengthen and protect programs such as Medicare which senior women and men rely on.

Democrats care deeply about taking these steps and many others to make sure our workers have the secure, dignified retirement they deserve. There is absolutely no reason why, after working hard all of her life, a retiree should have to worry about how she and her family will make ends meet.

I believe we can do better. I know Senator BEGICH does as well. I urge our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take a close look at our RAISE Act. I hope we can pass it to offer seniors and their families some additional relief. Then I hope we can build on this with other policies to create more opportunity and more financial security for our workers.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 2457. A bill to require States to establish highway stormwater management programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I come to the floor to discuss the introduction of my latest legislative proposal to better control the harmful and

volumes of polluted stormwater that is generated from our Nation's Federal aid highways. Highway stormwater is a growing threat to water quality, aquatic ecosystems and the fish and wildlife that depend on the health of these ecosystems. Moreover, the high volumes and rapid flow of stormwater runoff from highways and roads poses a very serious threat to the condition of our Nation's water and transportation infrastructure as well as personal property particularly in urban and suburban communities.

The Environmental Protection Agency has recognized that pollution from point-sources have been steadily declining since the enactment of the Clean Water Act. Likewise, we have seen reductions in pollution from certain non-point sources like agriculture which are attributable in part to the success of a wide variety of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Programs and farming innovations in soil conservation and nutrient pollution management.

One non-point source sector where we are unfortunately seeing an increasing impact on water quality is from impervious surface that create rapidly moving high volumes of untreated polluted stormwater that rush off of road surfaces, erode unnatural channels next to and ultimately underneath roadways comprising the integrity of roadway infrastructure, and increases the stress on storm sewer systems shortening the useful life of this infrastructure and ultimately lead to the discharge of untreated pollution that is carried off roadways and into our lakes, rivers, streams, and coastal waters.

Impervious surfaces include most buildings and structures, parking lots and of course the nearly 9 million lane miles of roads across our country. The total coverage of impervious surfaces in an area is usually expressed as a percentage of the total land area.

The coverage increases with rising urbanization. In rural areas, impervious cover may only be 1 percent or 2 percent, however road surfaces comprise 80 percent to 90 percent of a rural area's total impervious surfaces. In residential areas, impervious surface coverage ranges between 10 percent in low-density subdivisions to over 50 percent in more densely developed communities, where the composition of the impervious surface area coverage works out to be 50 percent roads. In dense urban areas, the impervious surface area is often over 90 percent of the total land area, with roads comprising 60 percent to 70 percent of that coverage.

According to EPA, urban impervious cover, not just roads, in the lower 48 adds up to 43,000 square miles—an area roughly the size of Ohio. Continuing development adds another quarter of a million acres each year. Typically two-thirds of the cover is pavement, roads and parking lots, and 1/3 is buildings.

According to the Chesapeake Bay Program, impervious surfaces compose roughly 17 percent of all urban and suburban lands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The greatest concentration of impervious surfaces in the Bay watershed is in the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Areas of DC, Maryland and Virginia. The Virginia Tidewater area, Philadelphia's western suburbs, and Lancaster, PA, are also regions in the watershed where impervious surfaces are greater than 10 percent of the total land area.

Rainfall on hard surfaces like roads and highways has a very destructive and turbulent affect on nearby waterways and infrastructure. For example, the rain events that occur over a week long period at the end of April brought nearly 8.8 inches of rain to the Baltimore-Washington region. The urban runoff from roads in Baltimore caused an embankment above the CSX railroad track along East 26th Street, between St. Paul and Charles Street, to collapse. Fortunately no one was injured though homes had to be evacuated for more than a month, nearly a dozen parked cars were destroyed and moreover movement of freight along CSX railroad was disrupted for more than a week. This event shows just how destructive and disruptive poorly managed stormwater from transportation infrastructure can be.

Some may chalk this up to a freak storm of unusually large proportion. It's true this storm was unusual, but so were the polar vortexes and all of the snow we had in the mid-Atlantic and Southeast, and last year's 3-mile wide tornado in Alabama, and the California drought and wildfires, and baseball sized hail in Nebraska just last week. "Unusual" weather seems to be becoming a lot more usual. As extreme weather events triggered by our changing climate become more frequent it is imperative that we incorporate better designs into our infrastructure to better handle these types of events.

Under the Clean Water Act, stormwater is considered a non-point source and there are no requirements that stormwater be collected or treated. The exception being for localities where in order to meet the standards set in an MS4, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, permit a region may include its transportation infrastructure in its MS4 permit.

However, in most cases stormwater that falls on roadways washes oil, grease, asbestos brake-dust, nitrogen deposits from tailpipe emissions, trash, road salt and de-icing agents, and sediment into nearby waterways. Highway stormwater runoff is most often not treated or adequately managed.

While these organic and inorganic contaminants are legitimate threats to water quality, the greater concern with roadway runoff is the sheer volume and rapid flow rate in which stormwater

leaves these hard surfaces and enters our waterways. Flows and volumes that cause roads to collapse in Baltimore.

Roads are designed for stormwater to flow off of the driving surface quickly, for safety reasons. When stormwater rushes off of road surfaces into storm drains it is usually piped straight into the nearest river or stream without removing contaminants, detaining any of the volume, or slowing down the flow. This creates an enormously destructive set of circumstances for our waterways.

Another example of the destructive force that persistent unmitigated and poorly managed highway runoff can have on the condition and safety of highway infrastructure is in Mobile Alabama along Highway 131 in the Joe's Branch Watershed. The Mobile Bay Estuary Program, part of the National Estuaries Program, in coordination with Alabama Department of Transportation is having to spend millions of dollars to reinforce a highway embankment to keep the highway from slipping down a hill and into the Joe's Branch Creek, restore the hydrology of the river, and help protect private property from the dangerous erosion that's been caused by poorly managed stormwater from Highway 131.

The Mobile Bay Estuary Program described the problem this way: "In the Joe's Branch watershed, on the property of Westminster Village adjacent and parallel to Highway 131, a head cut stream is eroding at an accelerating rate, an ominous condition as ALDOT prepares to undertake improvements to the highway. Identified as a high priority stabilization area in the D'Olive Creek, Tiawasee Creek and Joe's Branch Watershed Management Plan, MBNEP has submitted a funding request to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management on behalf of its partners in Spanish Fort, Daphne, ALDOT and Westminster Village to undertake restoration of the stream using a cutting-edge technology called Regenerative Step Pool Storm Conveyance."

The four entities involved are spending large amount money to repair a problem caused by stormwater damage that could have been prevented at a lower cost by incorporating better stormwater mitigation facilities into the design of the highway.

These high-volume/high-speed flows also hasten the deterioration of water infrastructure. A 2001 study on the erosive power of urban stormwater flows examined how excessive stormwater volumes and flow rates off of urban surface infrastructure caused more than \$1 million in roadway and water infrastructure damage in the Cincinnati metropolitan areas in Ohio and Kentucky in a single year.

While there are serious water quality concerns with not adequately controlling roadway infrastructure runoff,

there are serious infrastructure costs, that are ultimately passed on to taxpayers and ratepayers, that can be avoided if transportation authorities do more to control and manage stormwater runoff with the infrastructure assets they manage and build.

The increased incidence of flash flooding events that occur even during seemingly mild and routine storm events is a direct result of the growing percentage of impervious land cover in urban and suburban communities. Replacement of the “greenscapes” that are lost to pavement is essential to restoring hydrological balance to our urban and suburban communities and impaired watersheds.

According to USGS: an inch of rain on one square foot of pavement produces 1.87 gallons of stormwater. Scaled up, 1 inch of rain on one acre would produce 27,150 gallons of stormwater. Using FHWA design standards for interstate highway lane and shoulder widths, 12 feet per lane, 10 foot right shoulder, 4 foot left shoulder, 10 miles of a four lane interstate highway generates nearly 2.5 million gallons of polluted stormwater for every inch of rain. To put that into perspective for the Potomac and Anacostia River Watersheds: The Capital Beltway, not including its 48 interchanges, generates nearly 30 million gallons of polluted stormwater for every inch of rain that falls on the 64 mile 8 to 12 lane interstate highway loop. It is volumes of stormwater like that which cause dangerous streambank erosion.

Gillies Creek is an urban waterway located East of Downtown Richmond. It is a tributary of the James River which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Gillies Creek is surrounded by industrial and residential development and also receives stormwater from State highway 33, Interstate 64, US 60, and hundreds of city streets including Stony Run Parkway which directly adjacent to the creek for several miles. The banks and bed of this creek have eroded so badly as urban development around the creek has added more impervious surfaces to the watershed that streambed sheering has created cliffs more than ten feet tall at spots along the creek. Trees supporting the bank continually fall into the creek and nearby roadways and other infrastructure as well as homes and business are at risk. Reducing the impacts of the storms by mitigating the flow and volume of stormwater in this watershed will protect against further erosion and save the cost of repair and eventual replacement of the assets located along this endangered creek.

The aim of this legislation is to improve highway designs to better manage stormwater to avoid the costly damage that poorly managed stormwater causes to infrastructure and nearby streams, rivers and coastal waters.

I held a hearing on this issue in the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee on May 13. I heard many ideas from both the minority and majority witnesses that were invited to present testimony at this hearing. I listened to the concerns of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and I have incorporated provisions into this bill that should alleviate concerns they may have had with previous attempts to better control highway stormwater.

My bill’s approach to highway runoff management is one that I hope my colleagues of both parties can support. First of all it puts states in the driver’s seat for developing hydrological analysis and implementation of best management practices to control highway runoff. The objective of the legislation is to control and manage flow and volume of stormwater from highways not to treat runoff in order to meet water quality standards. By taking this sort of approach we avoid EPA’s involvement in the process. Lastly, States would only need to apply these procedures to new construction on major reconfiguration projects that significantly increases the amount of impervious surface in the project area.

Title 23 of the U.S. Code states: “transportation should play a significant role in promoting economic growth, improving the environment, and sustaining the quality of life” through the use of “context sensitive solutions.” In 2008, the Government Accountability Office issued a report examining key issues and challenges that needed to be addressed in the next reauthorization of the transportation bill. That report highlighted the clear link between transportation policy and the environment. With 985,139 miles of Federal aid highways stretching from every corner of the US, polluted highway runoff is no small problem facing our Nation’s waters. I would urge my colleagues to join me trying to address this problem facing America’s waterways and infrastructure.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2457

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Highway Runoff Management Act”.

SEC. 2. FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY RUNOFF MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 330. Federal-aid highway runoff management program

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

“(1) COVERED PROJECT.—The term ‘covered project’ means a reconstruction, rehabilita-

tion, reconfiguration, renovation, major resurfacing, or new construction project on a Federal-aid highway carried out under this title that results in—

“(A) a 10-percent or greater increase in impervious surface of the aerial extent within the right-of-way of the project limit on a Federal-aid highway or associated facility; or

“(B) an increase of 1 acre or more in impervious surface coverage.

“(2) EROSION FORCE.—The term ‘erosive force’ means the flowrate within a stream or channel in which channel bed or bank material becomes detached, which in most cases is less than or equal to the flowrate produced by the 2-year storm event.

“(3) HIGHWAY RUNOFF.—The term ‘highway runoff’, with respect to a Federal-aid highway, associated facility, or management measure retrofit project, means a discharge of peak flow rate or volume of runoff that exceeds flows generated under preproject conditions.

“(4) IMPACTED HYDROLOGY.—The term ‘impacted hydrology’ means stormwater runoff generated from all areas within the site limits of a covered project.

“(5) MANAGEMENT MEASURE.—The term ‘management measure’ means a program, structural or nonstructural management practice, operational procedure, or policy on or off the project site that is intended to prevent, reduce, or control highway runoff.

“(b) STATE HIGHWAY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, each State shall—

“(A) develop a process for analyzing the erosive force of highway runoff generated from covered projects; and

“(B) apply management measures to maintain or restore impacted hydrology associated with highway runoff from covered projects.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The management measures established under paragraph (1) may include, as the State determines to be appropriate, management measures that—

“(A) minimize the erosive force of highway runoff from a covered project on a channel bed or bank of receiving water by managing highway runoff within the area of the covered project;

“(B) manage impacted hydrology in such a manner that the highway runoff generated by a covered project is below the erosive force flow and volume;

“(C) to the maximum extent practicable, seek to address the impact of the erosive force of hydrologic events that have the potential to create or exacerbate downstream channel erosion, including excess pier and abutment scour at bridges and channel downcutting and bank failure of streams adjacent to highway embankments;

“(D) ensure that the highway runoff from the post-construction condition does not increase the risk of channel erosion relative to the preproject condition; and

“(E) employ simplified approaches to determining the erosive force of highway runoff generated from covered projects, such as a regionalized analysis of streams within a State.

“(c) GUIDANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall publish guidance to assist States in carrying out this section.

“(2) CONTENTS OF GUIDANCE.—The guidance shall include guidelines and technical assistance for the establishment of State management measures that will be used to assist in avoiding, minimizing, and managing highway runoff from covered projects, including guidelines to help States integrate the planning, selection, design, and long-term operation and maintenance of management measures consistent with the design standards in the overall project planning process.

“(3) APPROVAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall—

“(A) review the management measures program of each State; and

“(B) approve such a program, if the program meets the requirements of subsection (b).

“(4) UPDATES.—Not later than 5 years after the date of publication of the guidance under this subsection, and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter—

“(A) the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall update the guidance, as applicable; and

“(B) each State, as applicable, shall update the management measures program of the State in accordance with the updated guidance.

“(d) REPORTING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2)(A), each State shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that describes the activities carried out under the highway stormwater management program of the State, including a description of any reductions of stormwater runoff achieved as a result of covered projects carried out by the State after the date of enactment of this section.

“(2) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER PERMIT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State shall not be required to submit an annual report described in paragraph (1) if the State—

“(i) is operating Federal-aid highways in the State in a post-construction condition in accordance with a permit issued under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

“(ii) is subject to an annual reporting requirement under such a permit (regardless of whether the permitting authority is a Federal or State agency); and

“(iii) carries out a covered project with respect to a Federal-aid highway in the State described in clause (i).

“(B) TRANSMISSION OF REPORT.—A Federal or State permitting authority that receives an annual report described in subparagraph (A)(i) shall, on receipt of such a report, transmit a copy of the report to the Secretary.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“330. Federal-aid highway runoff management program.”

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3232. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2432, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3232. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2432, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE IV—NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN DATA SYSTEM

SEC. 401. NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN DATA SYSTEM.

(a) AMENDMENT TO THE TRUTH IN LENDING ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 128(e) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(12) NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN DATA SYSTEM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each private educational lender shall—

“(i) submit to the Secretary of Education for inclusion in the National Student Loan Data System established under section 485B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092b) information regarding each private education loan made by such lender that will allow for the electronic exchange of data between borrowers of private education loans and the System; and

“(ii) in carrying out clause (i), ensure the privacy of private education loan borrowers.

“(B) INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED.—The information regarding private education loans required under subparagraph (A) to be included in the National Student Loan Data System shall include the following if determined appropriate by the Secretary of Education:

“(i) The total amount and type of each such loan made, including outstanding interest and outstanding principal on such loan.

“(ii) The interest rate of each such loan made.

“(iii) Information regarding the borrower that the Secretary of Education determines is necessary to ensure the electronic exchange of data between borrowers of private education loans and the System.

“(iv) Information, including contact information, regarding the lender that owns the loan.

“(v) Information, including contact information, regarding the servicer that is handling the loan.

“(vi) Information concerning the date of any default on the loan and the collection of the loan, including any information concerning the repayment status of any defaulted loan.

“(vii) Information regarding any deferment or forbearance granted on the loan.

“(viii) The date of the completion of repayment by the borrower of the loan.

“(ix) Any other information determined by the Secretary of Education to be necessary for the operation of the National Student Loan Data System.

“(C) UPDATE.—Each private educational lender shall update the information regarding private education loans required under subparagraph (A) to be included in the National Student Loan Data System on the same schedule as information is updated under the System under section 485B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092b).”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to private

education loans that were made for the 2011–2012 academic year or later.

(b) AMENDMENT TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.—Section 485B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Student Loan Data System established pursuant to subsection (a) shall contain the information required to be included under section 128(e)(12) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638(e)(12)).

“(2) COSIGNER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall ensure that any cosigner of a private education loan for which information is included in the National Student Loan Data System—

“(A) is able to access the information in such System with respect to such private education loan; and

“(B) does not have access to any information in such System with respect to any loan for which the cosigner has not cosigned.

“(3) PRIVACY.—The Secretary shall ensure that a private educational lender—

“(A) has access to the National Student Loan Data System only to submit information for such System regarding the private education loans of such lender; and

“(B) may not see information in the System regarding the loans of any other lender.

“(j) REPAYMENT OPTIONS.—The Secretary shall establish a functionality within the National Student Loan Data System established pursuant to subsection (a) that enables a student borrower of a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under this title to input information necessary for the estimation of repayment amounts under the various repayment plans available to the borrower of such loan to compare such repayment plans.”

NOTICE OF HEARING

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has scheduled a hearing entitled, “Conflicts of Interest, Investor Loss of Confidence, and High Speed Trading in U.S. Stock Markets.” The Subcommittee hearing will examine conflicts of interest in the U.S. stock markets and the impact of such conflicts on consumer confidence, including in the context of high frequency trading. In particular, the hearing will focus on the conflicts of interest that arise between the obligation of brokers to provide their customers with best execution of their orders to buy or sell securities, and the brokers’ receipt of payments from other brokers for order flow and rebates from some trading venues for placing those orders directly. Witnesses will include representatives of stock exchanges, brokerage firms, and institutional investors, as well as a securities market expert. A witness list will be available Friday, June 13, 2014.

The Subcommittee hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of

the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at 224-9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 10, 2014, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 10, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Semi-Annual Report to Congress."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "A More Efficient and Effective Government: Examining Federal IT Initiatives and the IT Workforce."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oversight of the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Protecting Taxpayers and Ensuring Accountability: Faster Superfund Cleanups for Healthier Communities."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ray Li, Jacklyn Vasquez, and James Gulbranson, interns with my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff, Janna Wehilani Ahu, during the pendency of the 113th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE ROTUNDA

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 100, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 100) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 100) was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2014

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, we resume consideration of the

motion to proceed to S. 2432, the college affordability bill, and the time until 10 a.m. be divided as follows: Senator ALEXANDER controlling up to 15 minutes and the remaining time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees prior to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, there will be a rollcall vote at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:15 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 11, 2014, at 9:15 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

ROBERT H. MCCARTHY III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

BURTON C. GLOVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

CLARENCE E. DINGMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

PAUL A. THOMAS

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 10, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

M. HANNAH LAUCK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA.

LEO T. SOROKIN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS.

RICHARD FRANKLIN BOULWARE II, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, June 10, 2014

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 10, 2014.

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

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

REBUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I am moved to rise today because this House, starting yesterday and continuing into today, is considering a complicated bill called the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Mr. Speaker, that is a complicated set of words. This is the bill, of course, in which we fund the Nation's transportation infrastructure.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, because this bill is not just bad policy, but it is a danger to the safety and economic health of my constituents and to all Americans.

What is it that we are talking about here? We are talking about the money that the Congress appropriates to build and improve our highways, our bridges, and our railways. I wonder who in this House doesn't have bridges or highways or railways in their district? This is the bone, it is the arteries on which we build our economic growth and on which the jobs that we spend so much

time talking about are created. Without good highways, without the ability to move people, goods, and services around this country, we are nothing. We will not be serious about creating jobs.

Now, let's take a little tour on how we are doing on our highways, our bridges, and our railways. Just last Friday, I got caught on a Metro-North train in my district because a 100-year-old bridge in Norwalk got stuck in the open position. Thousands of my constituents sitting on trains and in train stations at Grand Central, at Norwalk, and at Stanford were unable to get home.

There have been derailments on this rail line, including some that have been fatal. I live about a mile upstream of a bridge on Interstate 95, the single biggest artery in the Northeast of the United States, that just shy of 20 years ago fell down, killing a bunch of people and creating huge economic havoc.

This is true nationally. The stats are out there. The amount of investment that we need to make in this country to be competitive with the Chinese, with the Europeans, who are spending far more on the bones and sinew of their economies, is huge numbers.

So, what are we doing about it? What are we doing about it right now in this House? Well, the bill I mentioned proposes to spend \$70 billion on transportation. That sounds like a big number—a lot of zeros. But let's put that into context. A couple of weeks ago, this House decided to spend about \$600 billion on our military, which is fine. It is an incredible military that we have. Add in security and intelligence, and you get a number of about \$700 billion that this House chose to spend on our national security. That is 10 times what we are now choosing to spend on transportation. We are spending 10 times protecting this Nation than we are on actually building this Nation and providing the economic infrastructure that will create the economic growth and jobs that we all say we need—\$70 billion. By the way, that is 1 percent less than we spent last year, and \$20 billion less than the President's request.

Amtrak—now I understand that many of my colleagues don't rely on Amtrak. I rely on it every single week, and, by the way, an awful lot of my colleagues do. I see them on my way down here. Amtrak is proposed to be reduced in funding by 15 percent—half of what the President thinks is necessary in his budget. Who thinks that

this is a good idea, Mr. Speaker? Who thinks that it is a good idea in a country where we are supposedly serious about creating jobs to underinvest in the artery, the bone, and the sinew that allows us to grow jobs in this country? That is not a good idea. And, yet, we are fending off amendments to cut investment even more in our transportation infrastructure.

Are there people in this country who don't sit in traffic wasting time that they could be spending with their family, taking away their focus on their businesses that they would like to grow? There aren't many of them, and yet this House chooses to reduce the investment in the country that we supposedly hold dear.

I am tired of it, Mr. Speaker. I am tired of my constituents having their lives damaged, having their safety put at risk, and having their businesses jeopardized because we have not invested enough in our infrastructure. Is there a State out there, by the way, that has an extra billion or two dollars lying around? Because some of my colleagues think that maybe the States should be investing. But I am curious. Is there a State out there that has an extra \$5 billion in their budget to step in where the Federal Government should be active? I don't think so. I don't hear that. And yet this House is about to reduce the spending on transportation.

Mr. Speaker, this cannot stand.

GE EXPANSION IN WEST JEFFERSON

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week, it was my great pleasure to participate in a groundbreaking at a plant expansion at the GE manufacturing facility in West Jefferson, North Carolina. The expansion will allow GE to produce more of the company's incredibly popular LEAP engine, which will power next-generation aircraft from around the globe. The 80,000-square-foot factory expansion will provide for additional machining capacity and represents a \$65 million investment by GE in West Jefferson.

The LEAP jet engine has proven to be incredibly popular, with commitments or orders for more than 6,000 LEAP engines to date. This is especially remarkable because the LEAP does not enter service until 2016. Once

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

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

it does enter service, it will power planes such as the Boeing 737 MAX and the Airbus A320neo.

GE is familiar with the fact that high quality workers can be found in North Carolina, since the company already has more than 1,300 employees at locations in West Jefferson, Durham, Wilmington, and Asheville. The current expansion is expected to add 105 new jobs over the next 2½ years.

I am exceptionally pleased that GE is partnering with Wilkes Community College to give local workers the skills needed to compete for the new jobs this expansion will bring to West Jefferson. This innovative worker education program will allow current and prospective employees to learn in a hands-on environment with state-of-the-art machinery.

Mr. Speaker, this is just the type of program that we need to close the skills gap and give hardworking Americans the opportunity to compete for the 4 million jobs that are available now.

This expansion will demonstrate, yet again, that American manufacturing and American workers can compete in the global economy. There is no more fulfilling aspect of our jobs here than to be invited to be present for the announcement of more jobs in our districts. Everyone in the area is excited for the community of West Jefferson, and I look forward to a very successful future for the innovative education partnership between GE and Wilkes Community College. Thanks to GE for making this investment, and thanks to the employees at GE West Jefferson for your great effort and commitment to excellence.

DR. PEPPER BOTTLING COMPANY

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week, I was energized and inspired by the opportunity to tour the Dr. Pepper Bottling Company in West Jefferson, North Carolina. This plant has been recognized for the high quality of its products and was a recipient of the 2013 Caleb Bradham President's Award.

This award is named after North Carolina native and Pepsi founder, Caleb Bradham. This year, only 19 plants across the country received the award out of hundreds of bottlers across this country. According to *The Jefferson Post*:

The company received the award for the production of its 12-ounce glass bottle sodas, which are bottled in downtown West Jefferson. West Jefferson Dr. Pepper glass bottle products are wildly popular among soda enthusiasts.

The Dr. Pepper Bottling Company has been making drinks in West Jefferson since 1940, when it was founded by H.R. Vannoy. Among the employees are three generations of the Vannoy family, whose patriarch began the company. I wish the company and all of its employees many more years of success.

SERGEANT LUKE PORTER—OLD GUARD COMMISSIONING

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Sergeant Luke Porter of State College, Pennsylvania, serving within the United States Army's 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment—better known as The Old Guard.

On June 9, Sergeant Porter was formally inducted into the ultra-selective unit which stands guard as a Sentinel for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Since 1958, only 622 other individuals have been selected to share in Sergeant Porter's distinct honor and responsibility. He now will become number 623.

The Sentinels at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier stand guard over their fallen brothers-in-arms 365 days a year in squelching heat, rain, hurricanes, and blizzards.

Sergeant Porter could not have made it this far in his military services without the life lessons and guidance of his parents and family, who were present during the ceremony, and during his first changing of the guard.

Congratulations, Sergeant Porter, on this outstanding distinction. You have joined a highly motivated regiment that proudly honors all American servicemembers who are "known but to God." May you remain resolute in your convictions and serve as an example for the countless others selflessly serving in our Armed Forces.

70TH COMMEMORATION OF D-DAY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I had the privilege of joining the President of the United States in the official delegation to the 70th commemoration of D-Day.

It was not a normal experience of an international codel, the opportunity to interact with our colleagues and allies in Europe, but it was a testament and a testimony to the continuing strength, determination, and value of the United States of America. It was a moving experience. It was an experience based in reality.

We listened to the recounting of the deliberations of General Montgomery, General Eisenhower, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and many others. We listened to the stories of young men, many of whom signed up at the age of 15 or 16, 17, wanting to serve their country, not knowing where they would go, now in their late 80s and early 90s, and some would say the sweetest men that you had ever seen, showing pictures, telling stories, and shedding a tear about the comrades that were left on Omaha Beach or

Sword Beach, soldiers that didn't speak the same language but understood the words of liberation and freedom.

I would only say that I hope this challenges this body called the House of Representatives, that they didn't wear the armor of Republicans or Green Party or Tea Party or Independent Party or Democratic Party; they wore the armor of an American.

What wonderful words of General Eisenhower, who said that he needed the unity, the strength of all, or the sadness of those who ploughed their way onto the beach, seasick and nauseous as they were, losing tons of equipment, and, unfortunately, at times coming and falling over bodies of bleeding soldiers, losing some 10,000 in the first day.

Where is the America of that time, prepared to take up comprehensive immigration reform or prepared to take up serious gun regulations to stop this unending violence in America, even the shooting of two law enforcement officers? What has America come to?

□ 1015

Where is its greatness? Where is the reality that we are the generations that have inherited those young men's lives—and young women's, the Rosie Riveters—who left their homes, sacrificing? Where is the placement of the Voting Rights Act reauthorization, which is a bipartisan bill? Why haven't we passed that to show that liberty is real in the United States of America?

I had moments where tears fell—of joy—and the privilege of talking to and meeting these men, watching them receive the honor from the French people, and as we walked through the streets even today, the people of France were saying thank you with a degree of emotion that knew that they would not be free, they would not be liberated, they would not be France if it had not been for those boys who left the soil of this United States; or those who came from Guadeloupe and Martinique, men of color who came and were trained from Fort Dix and then fought on the shores; or my uncle, who fought in Tunis and Ethiopia; and others who left my widowed grandmother, her three sons, leaving one behind—all of us have been touched.

So it is important that, even as we look to the status of Sergeant Bergdahl, that we look at it in a spirit of fairness, not grandstanding, not partisan politics, but finding out the facts and realizing that America is greater than divisive politics when you look to the Greatest Generation of which we have now been given the gift of their life, their sacrifice.

No one will be the same after they have walked amongst the white crosses that represent the blood shed by America, not to conquer Europe, but to free Europe. That is our mantra, and that is what we should do for the American

people, not to conquer them, but to free them from violence, from inconsistent policies, and certainly from the inability to vote.

I pay tribute to the 70th commemoration of the brilliance of America and the spirit of her youth, and I tell everyone that that brilliance and that spirit is not lost upon us today.

I am happy because I know that embedded in all of those who walk the streets of this Nation and call themselves an American have that same spirit, and we can make a difference in this country for all of those who need us.

AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, along with other Members of Congress, I attended a classified briefing on the swap of our soldier for the five Taliban leaders. I won't go into that, but I did have an opportunity to make a comment to the presenters.

I made a comment regarding my concern about the bilateral strategic agreement, known as BSA, and the fact that we continue to spend money in Afghanistan that we borrow from foreign nations.

Mr. Speaker, beside me today, I have a cartoon that was created by Mr. Milt Priggee, and it makes a point very well. It has Uncle Sam pointing out saying:

I want you.

Then the language beside it says:

To understand that if you can't afford to take care of your veterans, you can't afford to go to war.

Well, that makes my point very well because we seem to find all the money we need for Afghanistan to waste, and we know that waste, fraud, and abuse is worse today than it has ever been in the 12 years we have been in Afghanistan.

I would like to quote from the Daily Journal Online. The title is, "No end for Afghanistan's war on the U.S. taxpayer." I want to read two paragraphs from this online article:

John Sopko, the inspector general for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), may have taken Uncle Sam and shaken him by the lapels last month, but the media missed it. In short, Afghanistan is on life support, and Joe Citizen is its permanent IV. From your pockets, Uncle Sam has taken \$103 billion to build Afghanistan so far.

By the way, that figure doesn't include the cost of war-making. That is more money than we have spent on reconstruction for any one country in the history of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I just heard the Congressman from Connecticut talking about the infrastructure of his State, as well as America, and the poor shape

it is in, but yet we find all the money we need for Afghanistan, so we can build their roads, so that the Taliban can blow up the roads. It makes no sense.

Mr. Speaker, SIGAR, on the job since 2008, has produced 118 audits and inspection reports and made 23 quarterly reports to Congress. I have read a few of these, certainly not all, but all you have to do is hear Mr. Sopko speak or read some of the reports from his organization, and you will be disgusted, as I am disgusted, with the stupidity of continuing to find money for Afghanistan while we cut programs right here in America.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, I went to Walter Reed Hospital. I knew there were two marines who had been injured in Afghanistan from my district, Camp Lejeune, which is in the Third District of North Carolina.

I happened, while being there, to meet four soldiers, one a colonel from Fort Bragg, which is not in my district, but in North Carolina. All four had lost at least one leg. Then when I met this young man from Louisiana, who is a marine from Camp Lejeune, his father was standing beside him.

He had lost both legs and an arm, and he is 23 years of age. I looked in the eyes of the father, who could not have been more than 50. I saw pain. I saw hurt. I saw worry about the future of his son's life, missing two legs and an arm.

Why are we still sending troops to Afghanistan? Yes, we are going to cut the troops, but we are going to keep 9,000 to 10,000 there. The Taliban will still go after them and try to blow off their legs and kill them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to quote Pat Buchanan, who I have great respect for, particularly on foreign policy, because he and I agree:

Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?

Let me repeat that:

Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?

Mr. Speaker, I would put one word in there. I would change "senility" to "stupidity," and I will read it now: Is it not a symptom of stupidity to be borrowing from the world, so we defend the world?

Mr. Speaker, again, Uncle Sam is saying, Don't spend money overseas when you have got problems right here in America and our veterans are not being adequately cared for.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end the spending in Afghanistan. It is time to stop sending our troops over there to be killed and have their legs and arms blown off.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask God to continue to bless America and bless our men and women in uniform.

INDIA'S SANITATION CRISIS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the recent news account of a horrific murder and rape of two young girls in India shocked our consciousness, but one of the items that was interesting is that few of the news accounts actually detailed what put those young women at risk.

Julie McCarthy of NPR had a story which highlighted one of the greatest human global health challenges that created this situation. They were indeed attacked, raped, and hung from a tree after they were caught in a field.

These two young women didn't have access to a toilet, and like so many women around the world, but particularly in India, they went out in the fields at night to relieve themselves, and they went in a pair to minimize the likelihood that they would be isolated.

This is offensive on so many levels. It is emblematic of violence against women, the vicious attitudes by people towards lower castes, and the complicated dynamic of castes in rural India.

It is also testimony to the need to be able to have these young women—and others around the globe—have access to adequate sanitation facilities, so they don't have to sneak out at night or early in the morning, cloaked in darkness to disguise their embarrassment, to use a nearby field as their restroom.

One-half of India's population uses open fields for defecation. Fewer than half of Indian households have a toilet. The women and girls perform a ritual to deal with this most basic bodily function, often in fear and trepidation.

This is one more piece of evidence as to why the American effort to increase our help for access to basic sanitation and safe drinking water is a moral imperative, as well as being critical for global health, security, education, and stable economic development.

Globally, 2.5 billion men, women, and children do not have access to adequate sanitation. This means that there are more people on Earth with a cell phone than with a toilet. Countries where open defecation is more prevalent also have the highest numbers of deaths for children under five, high levels of undernutrition and poverty, and huge disparities between rich and poor.

The lack of adequate sanitation is a huge drag on economies at a national level. The total global economic losses associated with inadequate water supply and sanitation are estimated to be \$260 billion annually.

According to the World Bank for India alone, inadequate sanitation costs the country the equivalent of 6.4 percent of their gross domestic product, over \$50 billion a year.

Not only do women have to plan their day around performing this most basic bodily function, they are also most likely to be the family members tasked with collecting drinking water—often dirty and polluted—for their families.

In fact, in just one day, it is estimated that more than 152 million hours of women and girls' time is consumed for another most basic of human need—collecting water, often from distant, polluted sources. This is time not spent working on income-generating jobs, caring for family members, or securing an education. The average distance for many of these women and girls is 10 miles a day.

Like a woman's search for a safe place to relieve herself, the search for drinking water, particularly when they must walk alone before or after daylight hours, leaves her vulnerable to rape and other violent attacks.

The most acutely impacted, however, are children. Over 1,400 children die every day from diarrhea caused from dirty water and poor sanitation. The lack of access to safe drinking water means a child dies needlessly every minute.

These are heartbreaking stories and jarring facts, but there are solutions. That is why I am hopeful we will be able to work with our friends on the House Foreign Affairs Committee to move the bipartisan bill that I am working with Judge POE, Water for the World Act, H.R. 2901, to make American efforts more effective to deal with preventing the needless loss of a child's life every minute and the threat to young women and girls.

If we needed more evidence, consider the lynching of these two teenage rape victims in India. How could we not do all we can?

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, SHANNON

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in 19 years, I was unable to wake up and wish my wife, Shannon, a happy anniversary in person; so, Mr. Speaker, I stand here on the floor of the House today to do just that.

Shannon, you are not only my best friend, my rock, and my biggest supporter, you are the reason why I have this privilege of standing here in this great institution to serve the 13th District of Illinois. It is what you have shown us as not only a nurse, a mother, and as my best friend, it is a strength that only comes from being you.

Fifteen years ago, you stared at a battlefield of colon cancer in front of you. You stared down that battlefield, and you beat it.

What you may not know is that strength that you showed at that time

is a strength that is an inspiration to not only me, but to our three children and to so many of us that know you.

Shannon, today, on our 19th anniversary, I stand here today to wish you the happiest of happy anniversaries, and I hope to be home soon this weekend to celebrate in person with you.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't say, "I love you, Shannon," before I yielded back.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

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

We thank You once again that we, Your creatures, can come before You and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House.

Send Your spirit of wisdom as they face this day with difficult decisions to be made, determining among competing interests to appropriate funds for the programs required to serve the needs of our Nation. Might they work together with charity, and join their efforts to accomplish what our Nation needs to live into a prosperous and secure future.

Please keep all the Members of this Congress, and all who work for the people's House, in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them by the people of this great Nation.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Ms. CHU) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CHU led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

OPERATION CHOKE POINT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, one of the most abusive government overreaches in our Nation's history is happening right now under our watch. Operation Choke Point began quietly last year as a way for President Obama and the Justice Department to intimidate and strangle businesses they no longer support.

By forcing banks to cut ties with law-abiding businesses like sporting goods stores, licensed gun dealers, and thousands of others, these business owners have no recourse.

Once again, President Obama is circumventing the legal and legislative process that was set in place to protect the free market, personal choice, and individual freedom. When did it become okay for the Federal Government of the United States of America to tell business owners that their business is no longer wanted in America? That is socialism in its purest form.

Owning the banks and owning the market is the goal of this administration, and I urge my colleagues in Congress, as well as anyone who has ever owned or dreamed about owning their own business, to end the abuse. Operation Choke Point is an affront to the freedoms and liberty that millions of Americans have died to protect.

In God we trust.

RECOGNIZING BRAD KEARNS ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brad Kearns, chief of inspectors with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, who is retiring at the end of June after 38 years of law enforcement experience.

Before serving as chief of inspectors, Brad worked for 24 years at the Oakland Police Department and also served as chief of police to the town of Moraga.

For 7 years as a deputy district attorney, I had the opportunity to work with Brad at the District Attorney's Office and appreciated his commitment to ensuring crime victims received the justice they deserved and also his openness to embracing new technologies to better prosecute cases.

It is fitting that I am honoring Brad in Washington, D.C., as just 2 years ago, he and I were here with District Attorney Nancy O'Malley for Federal advocacy to bring more Federal grant money back to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

Brad plans to take a well-earned retirement and spend it with his wife of 39 years, Diane, and his children and grandchildren, all of whom live nearby in the Bay Area.

On behalf of the residents of the East Bay, I want to thank Brad for his years of hard work and dedication to keeping our community safe. And I want to wish him well as he begins this new, exciting chapter in his life.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES OF SERGEANT RACHEL CAREY AND ILLINOIS VETERANS

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sergeant Rachel Carey, a courageous veteran, mother, and leader. Originally from Aurora, Sergeant Carey proudly served in the U.S. Army from 2003 until her passing on May 24, 2009, including tours in Afghanistan and Germany.

Rachel was only 24 years old when she lost her battle to cancer and left behind a loving daughter, Madison. I was privileged to honor Rachel as her name was added to the Kane County Veterans Memorial this past Memorial Day. Those present who were touched by her life spoke volumes about Rachel's impeccable character and honorable service.

This past week, I had the privilege to visit Normandy during the 70th anniversary of D-day during World War II. 553 Illinois soldiers were laid to rest in the Normandy American Cemetery, including Irvin Hinman, whose grave site I visited.

These servicemembers exemplify bravery on those French beaches, and we will remain ever indebted to their sacrifice.

WARREN WEINSTEIN, CAPTIVE OF AL QAEDA

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

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of my constituent, Warren Weinstein, who has been held cap-

tive by al Qaeda for over 1,000 days. This past week, the headlines have been dominated by the release of Bowe Bergdahl. But these headlines should also remind us that there are other Americans held as prisoners overseas.

Warren is a loving husband, a father, and a grandfather. He is 72 years old. Recent videos released by al Qaeda show him in bad and deteriorating health. This is a man of peace and of love. He has dedicated his life to public service, starting with the Peace Corps up until his service with USAID, which is what he was doing in Pakistan when he was captured 4 days before his scheduled return.

I have written the administration and encouraged them to use all means available to bring Warren home. This week, I will be introducing a resolution in the House encouraging them to do the same for Warren and for every American held overseas. We must not forget these Americans. We must bring them home.

Warren, today you are not forgotten by this Congress or this country.

RURAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, in Montana, transportation services like Amtrak and Essential Air Service are critical for the strength of our economy. Montanans rely on rural air service every day, and thousands of tourists ride Amtrak every year to visit Glacier National Park, an important economic driver in northwestern Montana. But proposed changes to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill place these programs in danger.

We need to get our fiscal house in order, but we must do it responsibly, ensuring our rural communities aren't forced to bear the brunt of cuts that will harm their local economies.

I will remain a strong advocate for these programs and encourage my colleagues to support and protect the critical services on which rural Americans rely.

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, the San Gabriel Mountains are a defining feature of my district, and their peaks form a beautiful crown for the Los Angeles region. But they are deteriorating as forest rangers grapple with more than 3 million visitors annually.

Trails are marked by graffiti instead of signs, trash litters the ground as re-

ceptacles overflow, and blatant safety hazards leave the public at risk and threaten our water supply.

That is why I am introducing legislation to designate this area as a National Recreation Area. It would allow the National Park Service to work with the Forest Service and local partners on community-based, community-driven protection and restoration projects. It could mean more small parks in underserved communities, better access and connectivity to trails and bike paths from within our urban cities, new signs in the mountains, more bathrooms, more picnic areas, educational programs for a sustainable future, and more visitor services.

Our community deserves to see these mountains protected permanently. I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS SEASON

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the 2014 Atlantic hurricane season began on June 1, and as the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I urge citizens in hurricane-prone areas to prepare themselves and their families. Preparation saves lives.

Heavy winds, storm surge, and flooding are some of the hazards that must be considered when preparing for hurricanes, and I urge families and individuals to develop emergency plans. I also urge families and individuals to build an emergency kit that includes important supplies such as basic medicines. Previous disasters have shown that survivors can be on their own for many days before assistance arrives.

Information on how to prepare for emergencies, including how to build these kits, can be found at the Department of Homeland Security's ready.gov Web site or at fema.gov. I urge citizens to find their local emergency management agencies and Red Cross chapters on Facebook and Twitter to receive updates before and during storms. Please take these simple steps to prepare yourselves and your family should disaster strike, because preparation saves lives.

HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I watched as President Obama signed the long overdue Water Resources Reform and Development Act into law.

This new law is good news, particularly for the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which stand to gain tens of millions of dollars that they have collected in their harbor maintenance tax. It will help create good-paying jobs and keep our ports globally competitive.

As a representative of the Nation's busiest port complex, I believe it is about time that our Nation's ports finally get the critical investments that they need to remain strong. It has been a long haul, but after months of meetings and hearings, the ideas to fully spend this harbor maintenance tax and to increase the flexibility of the funds for these ports were included in the final water bill that was signed by the President.

President Obama and Congress recognize the critical importance of our ports to our Nation's economic growth and sustainability. Today's action is a victory not only for those ports in my community, but for all of our Nation's ports.

POLL FINDS MEDIA BIAS MAJOR PROBLEM

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans know that liberal media bias is a major problem in our country. They realize that our democracy rests on fair and balanced news coverage. Instead of reporting the facts, though, the national liberal media pushes the agenda of the administration.

A recent Rasmussen poll found that Americans now believe media bias is a bigger problem than large campaign contributions. It also found that a majority of Americans believe the news media has too much power and influence over government decisions. This is largely because many Americans believe that the media goes easy on this administration.

Americans will continue to view the media as a problem until it provides fair and balanced coverage. The media should give the American people the facts, not tell them what to think.

□ 1215

YOUNG WOMEN UNDER ATTACK

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Boko Haram kidnapped hundreds of girls in Nigeria, and I am outraged. These girls were determined to get an education, to build a better life for themselves, for their families and for their nation. For this, they were abducted.

As a school principal, I know the benefits of an education. Tragedies such as

these are not limited to Nigeria. The pursuit of education for our girls is under attack globally. Young girls have had acid thrown in their faces in Afghanistan and Pakistan, been murdered in Somalia, have been abducted in Libya and Nigeria; and these are just a few examples.

We all know the story of Malala, the brave young girl from Pakistan who spoke about her passion for education. In return, Taliban gunmen boarded her school bus and shot her in the head.

Now, we have the Nigerian girls, and I am concerned. Are they hungry? Are they sheltered? Can they shower? Can they take care of their womanly needs? Have they been raped? Have they been beaten? Have they been sold? Are they still even alive?

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe we must continue to do everything we can to bring back these young girls.

JUSTICE FOR DR. MEHDI ALI QAMAR

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

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar was gunned down and killed in front of his two-year-old son and his wife in Pakistan.

He was from Pickerington, Ohio, and was a cardiologist and humanitarian who was volunteering his time to care for folks at the Tahir Heart Institute in Pakistan.

He was also an Ahmadi Muslim, a peaceful reformist movement within Islam, which opposes jihad and radical Islam. I offer my condolences to his family and his loved ones. Sadly, he may have been targeted because he was an Ahmadi Muslim.

Today, I am calling on the Government of Pakistan to officially condemn this act and to seek an investigation to bring his murderers to justice. I am also calling on the State Department to institute a formal investigation looking into the killing of Dr. Qamar, as well as look into the increasing violence against Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan.

I urge my colleagues to sign a letter to the U.S. State Department regarding these issues. It is important to bring Dr. Qamar's murderers to justice and ensure the Government of Pakistan protects its religious minorities.

MAKING STUDENT LOANS MORE AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last August, in a rare flash of bipartisan togetherness, we passed a measure that protected new student loans from dou-

bling to 6.8 percent, but there is still much work left to be done. The \$1.2 trillion of student loan overhang still haunts many who have graduated from university in prior years.

Yesterday, President Obama, with the stroke of a pen, extended the income-based repayment protections, capping at 10 percent of income the debt requirements for students who took out Stafford loans in the past, but there is still more work to be done.

Again, for many who have private student loan debts at 8 percent, 10 percent, 12 percent interest, they are still not getting any relief.

A few days ago, we introduced in the House the Bank on Students Emergency Refinancing Act, which will allow students with those loans to refinance down those high rates to 3.8 percent, something which middle class families do with home mortgages and credit cards.

We need to provide that assistance, particularly for young Americans who are starting out in their professional employment careers.

Let's come together as we did last August. Let's support the Bank on Students Emergency Refinancing Act. Let's pass this measure, which is a critical problem for middle class Americans.

JUSTICE FOR JOHN GRANVILLE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, 2008, Buffalo native John Granville was tragically murdered by Islamic extremists in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum.

John Granville was a kid from my own south Buffalo neighborhood, who was committed to helping those in the developing world. He was a former Peace Corps volunteer turned career diplomat. At the time of his death, Granville was working in South Sudan to assist in their efforts to hold free and fair elections after 20 years of brutal civil war.

While John's killers were captured and convicted, they later escaped from prison under suspicious circumstances exactly 4 years ago. Two still remain at large. Meanwhile, the man who helped these killers escape was pardoned by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

The State Department has issued a \$5 million reward for information leading to the capture of these criminals through the Rewards for Justice program. It has classified the killers as global terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues, if you share my outrage, to please seek justice for John Granville by cosponsoring my resolution, H. Res. 171, calling on the State Department to maintain Sudan on the state sponsors of terrorism list.

CRISIS PLAGUING NEXT GENERATION

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis plaguing our country's next generation. Today, the unemployment rate for 18- to 29-year-olds is nearly 16 percent, more than double the general rate.

Furthermore, the increasing cost and skyrocketing tuition rates for those wanting to get a higher education is placing a crushing burden on young Americans. Student debt has nearly doubled since 2007, topping \$1 trillion, and a recent study from the University of Michigan says tuition for all universities, public and private, increased at an annual rate of 7.5 percent from 1978 to 2011.

On average, when a student graduates college, they owe nearly \$30,000, and if they attend a private or out-of-State school, that number is even higher.

As someone who is still paying off my student loans, I sympathize for our college graduates who are weighed down with debt in an economy that is proving to be very difficult for young, educated jobseekers.

Mr. Speaker, our obligation is to help build an economy rich with job opportunities, to contain the costs of higher education, and to support the young, bright minds in our Nation yearning to realize their dreams.

PROVIDING VETERAN HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, if your son or daughter, your brother or sister was sick and needed care, but couldn't see a doctor for 3 months or 6 months or maybe over a year, wouldn't you take immediate action, do whatever it took to make sure that they were cared for?

As we stand here today, over 100,000 veterans—our sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters in Hawaii and across the country—have been waiting months just to see a doctor.

In Honolulu, veterans wait an average of 145 days, sometimes longer, just to see a primary care physician for the very first time. This is infuriating to me, and it is unconscionable that our veterans are treated this way when they come home.

Last week, I heard from veterans from across the State of Hawaii, from every generation, about their struggles and frustrations in trying to receive care from the VA, some coming to me with tears streaming down their face as they begged for help.

These are my brothers and sisters. They are our family, and they need help. Immediate action must be taken.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY INVASION

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, last week, on June 6, I had the honor of attending the 70th anniversary of the D-day invasion in France. What a humbling experience it was to be there. Countless graves marked the landscape where over 6,000 U.S. soldiers fought and died at the site of one of the most significant military operations in modern history.

Looking back, it is incredible—incredible that an operation as vast and as complex as the Allied invasion of Normandy could ever succeed. Just about everything that could go wrong did. We faced setbacks at every turn, yet against all odds, our brave young men persevered.

Speaking with D-day veterans from San Diego like Jack Port, Joe Reilly, Victor Kramer, and James Federhart, I was reminded that they were just kids in 1944, many of them still teenagers.

I wish I could have shared it with my dad who served as a medic throughout the war, but like so many of his brothers in arms, he did not speak about his experience, and it is not hard to imagine why.

Many of their comrades never made it home. Thousands of U.S. soldiers fought and died, so that the world might live in freedom and inherit peace.

51ST ANNIVERSARY OF EQUAL PAY ACT

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, over the last 50 years, women have broken barriers in business, science, education, and government; yet in Nevada, the average woman still makes only 85 cents for every dollar a man earns, so that leads to a pay gap of more than \$6,300 every year.

This not only harms individual women, it hurts their families, our communities, and the national economy. In a country where we strive for equal opportunity for all, this inequity is simply unacceptable.

That is why I am calling on my Republican colleagues to bring the Pay-check Fairness Act to the floor for a vote. How can they say to their wives, "You deserve less pay than I do?" How can they say to their daughters, "You are worth less than my sons?" How can they tell their staff that the women aren't as valuable as the men? It is just unconscionable.

So I say pass this bill now because when women succeed, Nevada succeeds, and America succeeds.

HONORING KAREN DECROW

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

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Karen DeCrow, a constituent of mine who passed away last Friday at the age of 76. Karen DeCrow was a trailblazer who fought tirelessly for women's equality and justice for all.

Among her many accomplishments, Karen was a civil rights lawyer, a columnist for the Syracuse Post Standard, and a founder and president of the National Organization for Women, also known as NOW. She was the first woman to run for mayor in a major city in New York and was the only woman in her graduating class at Syracuse University College of Law.

Karen championed the Equal Rights Amendment, which would have made discrimination against women unconstitutional; and she led the fight against gender discrimination in workplaces, educational institutions, and sports.

I had the privilege of working with Karen as she remained active in NOW, serving as the vice president of the Greater Syracuse chapter up until her passing.

Mr. Speaker, Eleanor Roosevelt was remembered as having lived by the phrase:

It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

For those of us who strive for women's equality, Karen DeCrow lit a bonfire.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last month, this body passed H.R. 863, a bill I authored along with the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN). This bill would create a national commission to develop a plan for a national women's history museum on or near the Mall in Washington, D.C.

This would be the first national women's history museum in our country and, I believe, in the world. It passed this body with a huge bipartisan support and vote.

My friends and colleagues in the other body, Senators SUSAN COLLINS and BARBARA MIKULSKI, are working hard to pass this bill, and I hope their colleagues in the Senate will move quickly and allow an up-or-down vote.

Passing this bill won't cost taxpayers a single dime, but it will be a valuable

first step in honoring our Nation's foremothers and inspiring future generations of women.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

**VETERAN ACCESS TO CARE ACT
OF 2014**

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4810) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for Department of Veterans Affairs patients with extended waiting times for appointments at Department facilities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4810

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. PROVISION OF HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES AT NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PATIENTS WITH EXTENDED WAITING TIMES FOR APPOINTMENTS AT DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As authorized by section 1710 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall enter into contracts with such non-Department facilities as may be necessary in order to furnish hospital care and medical services to covered veterans who are eligible for such care and services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code. To the greatest extent possible, the Secretary shall carry out this section using contracts entered into before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **COVERED VETERANS.**—For purposes of this section, the term "covered veteran" means a veteran—

(1) who is enrolled in the patient enrollment system under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code;

(2) who—

(A) has waited longer than the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration (as of June 1, 2014) for an appointment for hospital care or medical services in a facility of the Department;

(B) has been notified by a facility of the Department that an appointment for hospital care or medical services is not available within such wait-time goals; or

(C) resides more than 40 miles from the medical facility of the Department of Vet-

erans Affairs, including a community-based outpatient clinic, that is closest to the residence of the veteran; and

(3) who makes an election to receive such care or services in a non-Department facility.

(c) **FOLLOW-UP CARE.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that, at the election of a covered veteran who receives hospital care or medical services at a non-Department facility in an episode of care under this section, the veteran receives such hospital care and medical services at such non-Department facility through the completion of the episode of care (but for a period not exceeding 60 days), including all specialty and ancillary services deemed necessary as part of the treatment recommended in the course of such hospital care or medical services.

(d) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall submit to Congress a quarterly report on hospital care and medical services furnished pursuant to this section. Such report shall include information, for the quarter covered by the report, regarding—

(1) the number of veterans who received care or services at non-Department facilities pursuant to this section;

(2) the number of veterans who were eligible to receive care or services pursuant to this section but who elected to continue waiting for an appointment at a Department facility;

(3) the purchase methods used to provide the care and services at non-Department facilities, including the rate of payment for individual authorizations for such care and services; and

(4) any other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section, the terms "facilities of the Department", "non-Department facilities", "hospital care", and "medical services" have the meanings given such terms in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

(f) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Secretary shall begin implementing this section on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(g) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize payment for care or services not otherwise covered under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code.

(h) **TERMINATION.**—The authority of the Secretary under this section shall terminate with respect to any hospital care or medical services furnished after the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, except that in the case of an episode of care for which hospital care or medical services is furnished in a non-Department facility pursuant to this section before the end of such period, such termination shall not apply to such care and services furnished during the remainder of such episode of care but not to exceed a period of 60 days.

SEC. 3. EXPANDED ACCESS TO HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—To the extent that appropriations are available for the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs for medical services, to the extent that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is unable to provide access, within the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration (as of June 1, 2014), to hospital care or medical services to a covered veteran who is eligible for such care or services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, under contracts described in section 2, the Secretary shall reimburse any non-Department facility with which the Secretary has

not entered into a contract to furnish hospital care or medical services for furnishing such hospital care or medical services to such veteran, if the veteran elects to receive such care or services from the non-Department facility. The Secretary shall reimburse the facility for the care or services furnished to the veteran at the greatest of the following rates:

(1) **VA PAYMENT RATE.**—The rate of reimbursement for such care or services established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(2) **MEDICARE PAYMENT RATE.**—The payment rate for such care or services or comparable care or services under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

(3) **TRICARE PAYMENT RATE.**—The reimbursement rate for such care or services furnished to a member of the Armed Forces under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) **COVERED VETERANS.**—For purposes of this section, the term "covered veteran" means a veteran—

(1) who is enrolled in the patient enrollment system under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code; and

(2) who—

(A) has waited longer than the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration (as of June 1, 2014) for an appointment for hospital care or medical services in a facility of the Department;

(B) has been notified by a facility of the Department that an appointment for hospital care or medical services is not available within such wait-time goals after the date for which the veteran requests the appointment; or

(C) who resides more than 40 miles from the medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including a community-based outpatient clinic, that is closest to the residence of the veteran.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section, the terms "facilities of the Department", "non-Department facilities", "hospital care", and "medical services" have the meanings given such terms in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

(d) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Secretary shall begin implementing this section on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize payment for care or services not otherwise covered under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code.

(f) **TERMINATION.**—The authority of the Secretary under this section shall terminate with respect to care or services furnished after the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PERFORMANCE.

(a) **INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract or contracts with a private sector entity or entities with experience in the delivery systems of the Veterans Health Administration and the private sector and in health care management to conduct an independent assessment of hospital care and medical services furnished in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such assessment shall address each of the following:

(1) The current and projected demographics and unique care needs of the patient population served by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) The current and projected health care capabilities and resources of the Department, including hospital care and medical

services furnished by non-Department facilities under contract with the Department, to provide timely and accessible care to eligible veterans.

(3) The authorities and mechanisms under which the Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services at non-Department facilities, including an assessment of whether the Secretary should have the authority to furnish such care and services at such facilities through the completion of episodes of care.

(4) The appropriate system-wide access standard applicable to hospital care and medical services furnished by and through the Department of Veterans Affairs and recommendations relating to access standards specific to individual specialties and standards for post-care rehabilitation.

(5) The current organization, processes, and tools used to support clinical staffing and documentation.

(6) The staffing levels and productivity standards, including a comparison with industry performance percentiles.

(7) Information technology strategies of the Veterans Health Administration, including an identification of technology weaknesses and opportunities, especially as they apply to clinical documentation of hospital care and medical services provided in non-Department facilities.

(8) Business processes of the Veterans Health Administration, including non-Department care, insurance identification, third-party revenue collection, and vendor reimbursement.

(b) **ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES.**—The assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of improvement areas outlined both qualitatively and quantitatively, taking into consideration Department of Veterans Affairs directives and industry benchmarks from outside the Federal Government.

(2) Recommendations for how to address the improvement areas identified under paragraph (1) relating to structure, accountability, process changes, technology, and other relevant drivers of performance.

(3) The business case associated with making the improvements and recommendations identified in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) Findings and supporting analysis on how credible conclusions were established.

(c) **PROGRAM INTEGRATOR.**—If the Secretary enters into contracts with more than one private sector entity under subsection (a), the Secretary shall designate one such entity as the program integrator. The program integrator shall be responsible for coordinating the outcomes of the assessments conducted by the private entities pursuant to such contracts.

(d) **SUBMITTAL OF REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **REPORT ON INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.**—Not later than 10 months after entering into the contract under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives the findings and recommendations of the independent assessment required by such subsection.

(2) **REPORT ON VA ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN ASSESSMENT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of submission of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to such Committees on the Secretary's response to the findings of the assessment and shall include an action plan, including a timeline, for fully implementing the recommendations of the assessment.

SEC. 5. LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES TO EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

For each of fiscal years 2014 through 2016, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not pay awards or bonuses under chapter 45 or 53 of title 5, United States Code, or any other awards or bonuses authorized under such title.

SEC. 6. OMB ESTIMATE OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS AND NEEDED TRANSFER AUTHORITY.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall transmit to the Committees on Appropriations, the Budget, and Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and of the Senate—

(1) an estimate of the budgetary effects of sections 2 and 3;

(2) any transfer authority needed to utilize the savings from section 5 to satisfy such budgetary effects; and

(3) if necessary, a request for any additional budgetary resources, or transfers or reprogramming of existing budgetary resources, necessary to provide funding for sections 2 and 3.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. **MILLER**) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. **MICHAUD**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **MILLER** of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4810.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. **MILLER** of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, I rise today amidst a growing crisis amongst America's veterans. Just over 2 months ago, at a committee oversight hearing, we disclosed that the committee investigation had in fact uncovered evidence suggesting that at least 40 veterans had died while waiting for care at the Phoenix Department of Veterans Affairs health care system. We now know, and VA has in fact confirmed, that almost 60 veterans have died while facing delays in care at Phoenix and other locations, and that the data manipulation efforts that the committee has uncovered are in fact systemic throughout the entire Department.

I cannot state it strongly enough, Mr. Speaker, this is a national disgrace. For our veterans, it is something more. It is a national emergency.

An internal audit that was released just yesterday found that more than 57,000 veterans had been waiting for care, for their first medical appointment, and an additional 64,000 veterans who have enrolled in the health care

system over the last 10 years never received the appointment that they requested.

Now, correcting the many failures of the VA health care system is going to take diligent and focused work for a long time to come. This committee, both Republicans and Democrats, is committed to seeing this through. However, our first priority must be making sure that those 121,000 veterans—and the thousands more I fear that are out there that have yet to be identified—receive the long overdue care that they need without any further delay.

This is why we have introduced H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act. This bill would require VA to provide non-VA care authorization to any enrolled veteran who resides more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility and has waited longer than VA's stated wait time goals for a medical appointment, or has been notified by the Department of Veterans Affairs that an appointment is not available within the stated wait time goals.

Now, to ensure continuity of care, the bill would require VA to utilize existing contracts to the greatest extent possible. It would also ensure that the non-VA care authorization encompasses the entire episode of care needed by the veteran during a 60-day period.

To ensure providers are willing to accept veteran patients, the bill requires the Department to reimburse non-VA providers at the greater of the following rates: the rate of reimbursement under VA, the rate of reimbursement under Medicare, or the rate of reimbursement under TRICARE. These authorities would remain in place for 2 years.

To ensure that we are addressing both the short-term access challenges facing our veterans as well as the long-term need for a proactive solution, H.R. 4810 would further require the VA to enter into a contract with an independent entity or entities to conduct an assessment of the health care provided by the VA medical facilities and to submit its findings and recommendations of the assessment as well as an action plan and a timeline for full implementation to the Congress.

Importantly, the bill would also eliminate bonuses and performance awards for all VA employees for fiscal years 2014 through 2016 and require the Office of Management and Budget to transmit to Congress an estimate of the authority's budgetary effects, to include any transfer authority needed to utilize savings and, if necessary, a request for additional budgetary resources. Our latest estimate suggests that a temporary elimination of bonuses and other incentives will free up roughly \$400 million per year that can be immediately utilized for the expanded patient choice options under this bill.

VA has a well-established authority to send veterans outside of the VA health care system to receive care through non-VA providers. However, right now, the decision of if and when a veteran is sent to non-VA care lies with a VA bureaucrat.

H.R. 4810 would require that the VA use the authority the Department has been given to assure that veterans waiting for an appointment or residing far from VA medical facilities are left in the control of their own care and able to choose for themselves where, when, and how they receive the care that the veteran themselves need. This authority would ensure that no veteran waiting for an appointment today would receive what one veteran, during a recent committee hearing, determined “a death sentence.”

Mr. Barry Coates is a gulf war era veteran who waited almost a year in increasing pain to receive a colonoscopy from the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, South Carolina. That colonoscopy revealed that Mr. Coates had stage IV colon cancer that had metastasized to his lungs and his liver. Members, he is terminally ill today. Mr. Coates called his experience attempting to access care through the Department long, painful, emotional, and unnecessary. He testified:

I am here to speak for those to come so that they might be spared the pain I have already endured and know that I have yet to face.

Mr. Speaker, the problems the Department of Veterans Affairs is now facing represents failure on at least two fronts: failure of accountability and failure of access. Over the last several weeks, the House has addressed VA's lack of accountability through the passage of two pieces of legislation: H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act, and H.R. 2072, the Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act.

Today, with the passage of H.R. 4810, we will address the Department's access failures for Barry Coates and, as he so eloquently said, for all those veterans still yet to come.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014. I want to thank the chairman for bringing this bill forward. I also want to thank the chairman and the staff on both the majority and minority side for all the work that they have been doing to get to the bottom of this crisis within the Department.

Access to timely, quality health care for veterans is a top priority for the Veterans' Affairs Committee. We often hear that the care that veterans re-

ceive at the VA facilities is second to none—that is, if you can get in. As we have recently learned, tens of thousands of veterans are not getting in, having to wait weeks and even months to access VA medical centers throughout the country.

The gravity of the delay in care that veterans from all areas are experiencing cannot be overstated and is totally unacceptable. This legislation would help to alleviate the backlog of veteran patients waiting to be seen at VA medical facilities both for specialty care and primary care appointments.

Specifically, it requires the VA to provide access to non-VA care to any enrolled veteran who lives more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility, has waited longer than the wait time goals for a medical appointment, or has been notified by the VA that an appointment is not available within the wait time goals. More importantly, it gives the veteran the option to elect to receive care at a non-VA facility or, if the veteran chooses, to wait to be seen at the VA medical center.

When our young men and women sign up to serve their country, we promise them quality, accessible health care. Thanks to many caring frontline clinicians, we have achieved the first, high-quality medical care. Now we must work on the second timely, and that is access issues. I encourage my colleagues to support this very important piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), who has been at the forefront of the investigation on this scandal.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the chairman's H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act.

Recent reports from within the VA have confirmed that the manipulation of scheduling data and unacceptable wait times first highlighted in Phoenix are systemic throughout the VA system. Unfortunately, we have seen some of this in Colorado—at Colorado Springs, in particular. I am really upset about that.

These findings prompted me to author a letter last week that was signed by 35 of my colleagues urging Acting Secretary of the VA Gibson to expand the use of fee-based care in order to clear the current backlog and address any capacity shortfalls.

H.R. 4810 takes the next steps in addressing these shortfalls by mandating that the VA expand access to fee-based care and defines the parameters under which this care will be administered.

“Fee-based” means that the veteran can get private health care providers to step in and take care of his health care needs when the VA doesn't have the capacity at that time to take care of him or her.

In order to ensure this timely delivery of quality care, H.R. 4810 also re-

quires the VA to have an independent assessment conducted on the Veterans Health Administration to evaluate the Department's performance and to provide recommendations for improvement. Also, I would like to mention, bonuses will not be available to VA bureaucrats until 2016 under this bill, until this problem gets solved.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support H.R. 4810. I appreciate the chairman's leadership on this issue, and I ask my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation as well.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY).

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding, and I thank the chairman for introducing this bill.

I chose to join the House Veterans' Affairs Committee even knowing the many challenges that have plagued the VA for decades because I want to do all I can to make sure our veterans receive the care they have earned and deserve for the sacrifices they have made for our great Nation.

If the VA cannot see a veteran in a timely manner, then that veteran should be able to seek care outside of the VA. That is why I have cosponsored this bill and I intend to vote for it today.

This bill will not fix everything, but it will absolutely help and it is an important step forward. However, for those of us who represent urban areas like southern California, we all know that 40 miles can take the better part of a day to traverse back and forth. That is why I believe that we must take into account not only the distance traveled, but also the amount of time that it takes for veterans to travel to the VA so that the intention of this bill reaches all of our veterans. As a consequence, I ask the chairman and the ranking member to work with me to improve this bill and include time traveled as a factor as the bill continues to move forward.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill. I ask them to continue our work until we live up to the promise this country has made to our veterans and their families.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I understand Ms. BROWNLEY's concern, and I have heard that from Members on our side of the aisle as well.

At this point, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the vice chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, a stalwart supporter of our veterans.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership on behalf of our true American heroes, and thank you for filing this bill. I also want to thank the ranking member. He does an outstanding job, as well, on behalf of our heroes.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud original cosponsor, I rise in strong support for H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act. In upholding our promise to our Nation's heroes, this legislation will provide necessary relief for thousands of veterans who have waited far too long within the VA health system. Many of these veterans are forced to wait months, even years.

□ 1245

This is beyond unacceptable and represents a disservice for their sacrifice and service.

H.R. 4810 empowers the veterans with choice. It will address an immediate problem, allowing veterans to access non-VA care or stay within the VA system if they desire.

Our colleagues in the Senate have introduced similar legislation, which includes, again, a very similar provision. Mr. Speaker, I hope that this needed solution to care for our veterans will move quickly and be presented before the President without delay.

Long term, the VA's systemic failures that promote a culture of mediocrity and discourage transparency and accountability must be addressed.

However, our first priority is to ensure veterans are receiving timely quality care, but we must also continue our oversight to root out this culture of corruption.

I want to thank again the chairman for filing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding to me.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 4810. This important legislation will allow our Nation's heroes to access health care outside the VA for the next 2 years.

If even one veteran who has been waiting a long time for an appointment through the VA is able to receive care more quickly in the private sector, then we should give him or her that opportunity.

But this alone won't solve the problem. More must be done. We have known for a while that the VA facilities across the United States do not have enough doctors and nurses on staff to meet the growing demand for care. This is not a problem that is just isolated to the VA.

As I discussed in our hearing last night, allowing veterans to access care in the private sector will help in some areas of the United States, but in many cities and rural areas across the country there is also a shortage of care in the private sector.

In Nevada, for example, we have for a long time had a chronic shortage of doctors, both in primary care and among specialists. When comparing the

number of health care workers relative to State population, Nevada ranks 46th in the Nation for general and family practitioners, 50th for psychiatrists, and 51st for general surgeons. So, as a result, veterans aren't the only ones who are waiting for health care. Everyone is affected.

Adding more patients to an already burdened system will not be a panacea.

That is why I am working with members of the committee on legislation that will shore up our VA health care system by increasing the number of medical residency programs at VA hospitals in areas that are facing a physician shortage. By increasing our investment in physician training, we will not only help our veterans in the short run, but we will be taking a step toward addressing the long-term nationwide physician shortage.

I hope that I will find support for that as we move forward, and I thank the chairman for his work on this important issue.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the First District of Tennessee, Dr. ROE, a veteran himself.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker I thank the chairman.

I rise in support of H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act.

As a physician, veteran, and member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, words cannot express my outrage over the VA's blatant disregard for the lives of those who served their country honorably and earned timely access to quality care.

I have helped run a hospital and am fully aware of how wait times and performance goals work. When the VA set a 14-day goal for scheduling appointments, it should have become immediately apparent that this was unattainable and could only be realized by cooking the books. Even in the private sector, a 14-day wait time is quite ambitious.

This bipartisan legislation offers a simple solution to a deadly problem. The needs of the vast majority of VA patients across the country can and will continue to be met through the existing VA system. But it is outrageous that veterans could die awaiting care that is readily available in the private sector, so this is a commonsense solution and, frankly, the least we should do to help our veterans.

As I said last night in the committee hearing, there is something the VA could do today to change the culture of the VA. If you asked someone who works on a VA campus where do they work, Mr. Speaker, they will say I work for the VA. They should say, the answer to that question should be, I work and serve veterans.

I applaud the work that Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, and the committee staff have undertaken to hold the VA accountable.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW), a former member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his leadership on this issue.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill because it offers a way out for so many veterans who are stuck in the VA bureaucracy.

Over a year ago, I joined Chairman MILLER at the VA in Atlanta when this problem first arose. Just this year, he was gracious enough to come to my district in Georgia, where we are encountering similar problems. The audit released yesterday underscores the necessity of this legislation.

In my district alone, 130 veterans who requested appointments have never been seen. Sadly, they are only a small portion of the 57,000 who have waited more than 90 days to see a physician. We can do better.

This bill addresses the immediate critical needs of our veterans, but for too long veterans have been denied access to the care we promised them, too often because of simple inefficiency and incompetence at the VA.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I look forward to continuing to work together toward comprehensive reform of the VA services that our veterans have earned.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, many Members have been very involved in this issue. Certainly the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health has been at the forefront. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan, Dr. BENISHEK.

Mr. BENISHEK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act.

This bill simply says to our veterans, you will receive the care you earned in a timely manner, whether it is at a VA facility or at your local hospital. I am proud to be an original cosponsor.

By passing this legislation, we give a helping hand to those veterans stuck in a broken bureaucracy. We will not allow them to sit and wait for an appointment that they should have gotten immediately. They fought to defend our right to freedom. Today we defend their right to the care they were promised.

The 2-year authorization for private care in this bill will give Congress time to work with the VA to overhaul the system. As a former VA doctor, I pledge to you that the VA that emerges from this process will be leaner, smarter, and far more responsive to the needs of our veterans.

We know 35 veterans have died while awaiting care in the Phoenix area alone. We know the recent deaths of at least 23 veterans have been linked to

delayed VA medical care. The time for excuses is over. The time for action is now.

I support, and I urge all my colleagues to support, H.R. 4810.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, Dr. CUELLAR.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank my good friend, the chairman, for the great work that he and his staff have been doing, and certainly the ranking member and his staff, who have worked so hard, along with the Members, to get this piece of legislation.

I have always said, as my fellow colleagues have said, that when one of our men and women go out and fight on a foreign battlefield, they should not come back and fight the bureaucracy of the VA. This is why this legislation is very, very important, that we address some of the issues.

As one of the original cosponsors, I think providing an alternative with this emergency bill, H.R. 4810, which is at the top of an emergency, will provide an alternative to those veterans.

I represent part of San Antonio, go through a lot of rural areas, go down to Laredo, then go through a lot of rural areas, and then go into the McAllen area, the Valley area. In that area, I think this legislation will be very, very useful in the sense that if somebody has to wait or somebody lives more than 40 miles away from the VA facility, then they should be able to go to one of the local providers in their home area to get that assistance. I think this will save the veterans a lot of trouble, time, and provide them care in their home area.

I believe also when they are provided services at a non-VA facility where they can be reimbursed at the rate of the VA, TRICARE, Medicare, whatever is greater, that is, again, another good alternative. The only thing I would caution my friends on is, let's be careful, because I have been pushing the alternative to work with the local providers, and there has been a problem with the VA where they don't provide the reimbursement to those providers on a timely basis, and we have got to make sure that we provide the oversight that if a provider comes in, a private provider, that they are reimbursed and paid promptly. Otherwise we are going to lose those providers.

Again, I certainly want to thank the chairman for the great work that he has been doing, the ranking member, the staff, and the other Members. This is a good piece of legislation, a good step forward, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4810.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. HUELSKAMP).

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014.

I want to thank the chairman for his leadership not only on this bill, but investigating the current situation at the VA. This is a long overdue, proactive, multipronged solution I have been advocating for since coming to Congress.

On the committee in the last 3 years, we have been investigating lavish conference spending at the VA, millions of dollars of outrageous bonuses, billions of dollars of cost overruns. These are all significant scandals in and of themselves.

But what we are discussing here today is much bigger. It is about life and death. It is about dozens of veterans who lost their lives because of what happened at the VA; a systemic, nationwide problem, along with cover-ups, corruption, and, yes, criminality. It is shameful.

Instead of fighting to preserve the status quo, it is time to ensure that veterans receive quality health care closer to home. H.R. 4810 is a proactive solution. It involves veterans choice, independent review of VA performance, eliminating those outrageous bonuses, and holding the administration and holding the VA accountable.

Whether it is the veteran I met in Syracuse, Kansas, who was told he had to drive 10 hours round-trip three times in 10 days for care he could have gotten down the street at his local hospital, and he was told to drive to a facility that had a secret waiting list in Wichita, or the veteran Jack in Liberal, Kansas, who has waited 2 years for a doctor that was promised by the VA, or Larry in Oberlin, who I just learned a few weeks ago was told again to drive 10 hours to get a shingles vaccination that was just down the road, these are veterans who have been denied access to quality care.

H.R. 4810 deserves to be passed. These veterans deserve quality care close to home. The answer is pretty simple, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe there will be a rush to the exits of VA, but it will meet the needs of Larry, it will meet the needs of Jack, it will meet the needs of Joe, and hopefully millions of other veterans that deserve quality access to care.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers at this time so we are prepared to close.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of speakers, but they are not here so I will close.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014.

I want to thank the chairman once again for bringing this bill before the Chamber so we can vote on it.

Good quality health care is important for our veterans, but it doesn't do any good unless they can have access to that quality care. This legislation will definitely provide that access through non-VA care that our veterans need in certain areas.

I encourage my colleagues to support it. I once again want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for working in a bipartisan manner to bring this bill before us today for a vote.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, without a doubt there are thousands of veterans across this country that are waiting for care that VA should be providing for them today. That is a national disgrace.

It is a national crisis when veterans die, as VA has already admitted: 23 preventable deaths due to delayed care, and maybe more on the way.

Let me assure the Members of this body, this will not end here. There are problems, systemic problems, throughout the entire Department of Veterans Affairs. We will work day and night, as we did last night, going until 11:30 p.m., making sure that VA tells this Congress, a coequal branch of this Federal Government, the truth.

With that, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 4810, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014 is critical to ensuring that our nation's veterans have timely access to quality health care. Recent reports from the VA's internal audits have revealed that thousands of veterans are still waiting for their first medical appointments at VA medical centers after waiting for at least 90 days. This is much longer than the agency's wait-time policy of 14 days or less. And it is simply unacceptable.

Further, the VA inspector general has confirmed that VA medical centers were deliberately hiding treatment delays and waiting times to make it seem that they were meeting the agency's wait-time goals. The Veteran Access to Care Act would address the wait-time issue by allowing veterans to receive private-sector health care if they have waited longer than the Veterans Health Administration's wait-time targets or if they reside more than 40 miles from the nearest VA medical facility or community-based outpatient clinic. The Access to Care Act gives the secretary authority to enter into contracts with non-Department medical facilities to provide health care to veterans and, if the secretary is unable to provide timely health-care access using contracted care, the act provides authority for the secretary to reimburse any non-Department medical facility for health care provided to a veteran.

Funding for implementing this act will come from funds that have already been appropriated, or will in the future be appropriated, to the Veterans Health Administration for medical services in the normal course of the discretionary appropriations process. This bill provides no new budget authority to the Department of Veterans Affairs and does not violate the budget enforcement regime.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act. This common-sense bill will help the veterans in my district get access to the care they deserve.

As many of you may know, my district is mostly rural. Many of the veterans in Arizona's district one wait too long to receive care, and they drive over 200 miles one way for an appointment.

This is difficult not only for the veterans, but for their families—and it's unrealistic for veterans requiring frequent treatment for things like mental health services or post-traumatic stress.

This bill helps our rural veterans by giving them a choice. Veterans will now be able to see a healthcare provider outside of the VA system if they live at least 40 miles from the closest VA medical facility and cannot get an appointment with a VA provider within a reasonable period of time.

This choice works for the veterans in my district. On the Navajo Nation, we realized that it was too difficult for our veterans to travel great distances to VA providers—and we pushed for a partnership with the Indian Health Service.

Now veterans on the Navajo Nation have the option of seeing a provider at the Indian Health Service without having to wait an unreasonable amount of time or travel great distances.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4810 so that veterans in rural communities in Arizona and across the country can go to a local doctor, clinic or hospital when the VA wait time is just too long.

Our veterans deserve timely care, and this will address one part of the VA access problem.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4810.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1300

CONDEMNING THE MASS SHOOTING IN ISLA VISTA, CALIFORNIA

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 608) condemning the senseless rampage and mass shooting that took place in Isla Vista, California, on Friday, May 23, 2014, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 608

Whereas on May 23, 2014, a rampage and mass shooting took place in Isla Vista, California, a community adjacent to the University of California at Santa Barbara;

Whereas the people of the United States mourn the 6 innocent lives lost in this sense-

less tragedy, George Chen, 19, Katherine Breann Cooper, 22, Cheng "James" Yuan Hong, 20, Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez, 20, Weihan "David" Wang, 20, Veronika Weiss, 19, all of whom were students at the University of California, Santa Barbara;

Whereas the people of the United States offer support to all the victims and their families, and wish the 13 injured full and speedy recoveries;

Whereas the brave response of law enforcement officials and other first responders prevented additional losses of life and further injury; and

Whereas the people of the United States call for a reduction of violence, deplore mass shootings and stand with the survivors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the senseless rampage and mass shooting that took place in Isla Vista, California, on May 23, 2014;

(2) offers condolences to the entire Isla Vista community and the University of California, Santa Barbara community, as well as their families;

(3) recognizes that the healing process will be long and difficult for the Isla Vista and Santa Barbara communities;

(4) encourages a productive and thoughtful dialogue on all aspects of this senseless tragedy;

(5) honors the selfless, dedicated service of the law enforcement officials and emergency response personnel who responded to the attack, preventing further loss of life and injury, and who continue to investigate the attack; and

(6) remains committed to working to help prevent tragedies like this from happening again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

As many of us know, on May 23, 2014, a mass shooting took place in Isla Vista, California, a community adjacent to the University of California, Santa Barbara campus.

The people of the United States will continue to mourn the loss of six innocent victims and students of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Each of these students excelled in school and were looking forward to bright futures.

We will continue to remember the victims: George Chen, 19; Katherine Breann Cooper, 22; Cheng "James" Yuan Hong, 20; Christopher Ross Mi-

chaels-Martinez, 20; Weihan "David" Wang, 20; and Veronika Weiss, 19.

Americans everywhere continue to extend their support and sympathy to the victims, their families, and loved ones, and we wish each of the 13 people injured in the shooting a full and speedy recovery.

I would also like to commend the law enforcement officers and other first responders for their courage, bravery, and dedication to service. Their efforts helped to prevent further fatalities and injuries, and we remain extremely grateful to each of them.

I urge support of this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 608, introduced by Congresswoman LOIS CAPPAS, which is a bipartisan resolution to offer condolences to the Isla Vista and University of California, Santa Barbara communities, to mourn the victims and offer support to their families.

It condemns the senseless rampage and urges a dialogue on "the Nation's mental health care system, anger, firearms laws, harmful attitudes towards women."

The resolution honors law enforcement and emergency personnel for their response to the attack and continues the commitment of "working to help prevent tragedies like this from happening again."

The rampage and mass shooting that left six UC Santa Barbara students dead and 13 others injured in Isla Vista on May 23 was perpetrated by a deeply troubled man, with violent tendencies, who planned for months to kill as many as he could before the tragic day unfolded.

Despite warnings from his parents to police and a subsequent law enforcement check a few weeks before the murders, Elliot Rodger was able to cleverly ward off police by passing off the warnings as a "misunderstanding."

Police said, later, that Rodger did not meet the criteria for an involuntary hold. He legally purchased more than 400 rounds of ammunition and three semiautomatic pistols over the course of months before his rampage.

In the months leading up to the shooting, Elliot Rodger posted numerous videos and comments on social media sites detailing his frustrations with women and his hatred of them.

He made such comments as:

My orchestration of the day of retribution is my attempt to do everything in my power to destroy everything I cannot have. All of those beautiful girls I've desired so much in my life, but can never have because they despise and loathe me, I will destroy.

He said he would also eliminate the men who had better luck with women than he did.

Rodger, distressingly, joins a long list of mass killers that have haunted this country in recent years at grim

scenes, including Sandy Hook, Virginia Tech, Aurora, Tucson, a Walmart in Las Vegas, and now in Oregon, just minutes ago.

Rodger shares three common denominators with these other mass murderers: easy access to guns, a history of mental illness, and clear warning signs that he wanted to carry out violent acts. Together, the five lone killers left a staggering 82 people dead and 114 others injured and scarred.

The Sandy Hook killer had serious mental health issues. The man who shot Representative Gabby Giffords had dropped out of school after his college required a mental health evaluation.

The Virginia Tech killer had been investigated by the university for stalking and had been declared mentally ill by a Virginia special justice. The Isla Vista shooter also had a long history of mental illness.

What is it going to take, colleagues?

Like many other mass shooters, he showed clear signs that he was extremely dangerous and planned to kill, but these five massacres are only a fraction of the mass shootings Americans have endured in a short span.

Between January 2009 and September 2013, there were 93 mass shootings—almost two per month—that occurred in 35 States, in a nearly 5-year period.

Is the problem too many guns? Is it mental health? Is it guns in the wrong hands?

The answer to all these questions is yes. We know what needs to be done. We may not agree on every solution to reduce gun violence, but Americans, outraged by our inability to get anything done on this issue, are waiting for us to come to our senses and to act.

The threshold for taking someone against their will for psychiatric evaluation needs to be reviewed. Police need better mental health training. It must become easier to intervene when there are risks.

The prevailing majority of individuals with a mental health problem aren't violent, but we should have the tools to respond to the smaller number who show clear violent tendencies and evidence that they are preparing to act on it.

Richard Martinez, the father of slain 20-year-old Christopher Michaels-Martinez, tearfully pleaded for people to stop feeling sorry for him after the massacre. His words ring in my ear all the time:

I don't care about your sympathy. I'm going to ask every person I can find to send a postcard to every politician they think of with 3 words on it: not one more.

People are looking for something to do. I'm asking people to stand up for something. Enough is enough.

One more mass killing is too many, and Congress is culpable for not taking action. We say never again, but it sounds like an empty promise because we do nothing.

I thank Congresswoman CAPPs for offering this thoughtful and important resolution. We need to do so much more, and her bringing this resolution to our attention gives us the opportunity to draw together and, hopefully, to come up with something to do.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Mrs. CAPPs), my colleague and the author of the bill.

Mrs. CAPPs. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution to remember those who lost their lives and to recognize those who were injured on May 23 in my district in California. The rampage and mass shooting in Isla Vista rocked this small beachside community.

Again, we mourn those lost—George Chen, “James” Yuan Hong, Weihan “David” Wang, Katherine Breann Cooper, Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez, and Veronika Weiss—and we support the injured as they heal.

Our community grieves, but Isla Vista is a special place and one that has come together since the tragedy to emerge stronger. We can learn from their strength.

Unfortunately, Isla Vista joins a long list of those who have grieved because of mass shootings. Even in the 18 days since this incident, more communities have joined the list of those who mourn: Seattle, Chicago, Norfolk, and Las Vegas.

As the father of one of the victims implored:

Enough is enough. Not one more.

That is on my wristband. We must not let the attention fade. We must not let the drumbeat fall silent. Congress has the power to act, and we must.

The rampage and shooting that rocked my hometown was, sadly, just one of many incidents that occur across the Nation.

It is wrong to think we can do nothing to stop this carnage. It is factually wrong, and it is morally wrong. It is simply not a reflection of who we are—who Americans are—as a people.

Americans do not simply give up on hard problems. We work together to find consensus, even though these are thorny, difficult issues.

Greater gun safety and the Second Amendment are not mutually exclusive. Law-abiding, responsible Americans have the right to own guns; but each of us should also feel safe in our homes, in our parks, and in our communities.

The Isla Vista tragedy has shown us that, when warning signs of violence are seen, we must act, but our communities need the tools to do so. While we may never be able to prevent each and every single violent act, it doesn't mean we should do nothing. Our communities demand that we try.

I share with you my constituent's heartbreaking questions:

They talk about gun rights. What about Chris' right to live?

So I join the chorus of those who are so rightly frustrated with the status quo and with this Congress. They have said to our Congress: not one more.

Today's resolution is an important step in that direction. We must condemn the violence. We must remember the victims. We must support the living.

On behalf of my community, thank you, my colleagues and the communities that you represent, for your prayers. Thank you for your support during this difficult time. It means a great deal to all of us on the central coast of California, but let this not be the end of the conversation.

I am looking forward to working with each of you to do all we can so that there is not one more. We can act, and we must.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend, Mrs. CAPPs, for her strong message.

I yield 5 minutes to my good friend and colleague from California (Mr. HONDA).

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the words that have been expressed this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness. My heart goes out to the families and friends of all the victims killed in the tragic events of May 23 in Isla Vista, California.

Three of the victims were from my California Congressional District 17. I want to express my deepest condolences to the families of Cheng “James” Yuan Hong, George Chen, and Weihan “David” Wang. The lives of these young men were cut short in the senseless tragedy that happened this past Memorial Day weekend.

“James” Hong and George Chen—from San Jose—and “David” Wang—from Fremont—were all from immigrant Chinese families. They were all studying engineering at UC Santa Barbara. I ask everyone to please keep in your thoughts and prayers these young men and their families.

As we struggle to make sense of what happened, we must seriously examine our gun laws and ask why people who are mentally disturbed can continue to possess and obtain firearms.

These acts of violence cannot be allowed to continue. How many more tragedies must our Nation suffer before Congress acts?

We in Congress promised our Nation we would do better after the shootings at Sandy Hook, but we have not made good on that promise.

□ 1315

Instead, the shootings have continued. Just since the Isla Vista killings on May 23, there have been two more mass shootings.

I am outraged that we have not done more to protect the public from gun violence. Congress has failed to act. Congress has failed the American people. It is up to us to pass comprehensive, commonsense gun laws to prevent these tragic deaths from occurring.

The brutal violence exacted on the victims in Isla Vista, California, was horrific. What was particularly horrific was the nature in which those three young men were killed. They were stabbed to death before the perpetrator went on a shooting spree that claimed the lives of more victims.

We will always remember those who are no longer with us, but we must also honor them. We must enact real change to our gun laws to protect not only the young people but all of our citizens. It is our moral obligation.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and subject to close, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

I would hate to think that we will have one of these resolutions on the House floor week after week because we choose to do nothing. There are 32 people who will die today due to gunshot wounds, and there are 32 who will die tomorrow and 32 the next day. We seem to somehow be inured to what is going on around us. Let us respect those who have died and those who have been injured, and let us take steps to do something this year.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The mentally ill have for too long been able to get guns. Individuals who have been seen and exposed as being violent or incarcerated for their mental illnesses have too often become their own victims because we haven't paid enough attention to their possession of deadly weapons. This case is different than some because this violent individual also used knives.

No matter what, I join on a bipartisan basis, urging that, as we look at a national mental health policy, we include the recognition that it is in other people's best interests. Of course, there are victims of these crimes, but too often, the mentally ill kill themselves with a gun. The mentally ill take their lives. As we look at a terrible tragedy of murder, let's bear in mind that the real reform that we have to get to the root of is that of dealing with the mentally ill better in this country, dealing with the need to take weapons out of their hands and also the need to provide them real opportunity for care.

A number of Members of Congress have pieces of legislation that deal with mental health, and although there has been much discussion about gun control, this was really a mental health control question before it was a gun control question.

I urge the passage by all of our Members of this balanced bill that was authored by my friend, the gentlelady from Santa Barbara (Mrs. CAPPS), because it does speak to both problems: the gun problem, of course—the murder of innocent people—but also the mental health question.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my colleague from Santa Barbara and of this resolution.

My heart goes out to the community of Isla Vista, the victims and their families.

As a father and grandfather, my heart breaks for the families of the young lives that ended too soon: Christopher Michaels-Martinez, Veronika Weiss, Katie Cooper, Cheng-Yuan Hong, George Chen, Weihan Wang.

And I am angry that we're in this situation yet again.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution states that the House of Representatives remains committed to working to help prevent tragedies like this from happening ever again.

Some may say that today is not the day to talk about guns, or violence.

Others may say that weapons are not the problem, and we should focus our efforts on mental health care.

I say we need to talk about both. The shooter was a mentally ill young man who had better access to firearms than he did sufficient mental health care.

We also need to talk about misogyny and its impact on domestic violence.

These are hard conversations, with no easy answers. But we owe it to the victims and their families of this and other tragedies to have these important conversations.

We must speak on behalf of those who can no longer speak. We must not be afraid to take action.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sorrow over the tragedy that occurred on May 23rd in Isla Vista, a community adjoining the University of California at Santa Barbara, and to add my voice to the chorus of Americans demanding, "Not one more."

My heart goes out to the families of the victims of this senseless tragedy. The lives of UCSB students George Chen and Cheng 'James' Yuan Hong of San Jose, Weihan 'David' Wang, Katherine Breann Cooper, Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez, and Veronika Elizabeth Weiss were cut far too short. This terrible event has touched not only my community of San Jose, but my office in DC, which is home to several Gauchos.

We owe it to these families to act immediately to address gun violence in our country. Incidents like the one that occurred in Isla Vista are becoming far too common. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 608 and to commit to action on preventing gun violence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 608, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERAN ACCESS TO CARE ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on the motion to suspend the rules previously postponed.

The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4810), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and a result was announced. The vote was subsequently vacated by order of the House, and the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill was disposed of by rollcall No. 275.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 275, I was detained at a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 275, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

□ 1345

THE CONGRESSIONAL CUP

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I think most of the Members all know that, for the past 13 years, a competition takes place between the House Republicans and the House Democrats in a golf match known as the Congressional Cup.

This year, the competition took place about 2 weeks ago, and I just wanted to announce to the Members of the House that the Republican team, by a score of 14-6, defeated the Democratic team, and the Congressional Cup will now stay in the possession of the Republicans for the third straight year.

I also want to say, Mr. Speaker, that this event is used to raise money for an organization called The First Tee, which uses the game of golf to teach kids—a lot of kids from the inner city—about self-esteem, about building character, about honesty, integrity, hard work, and dedication.

This event, over the years, has raised over \$2 million for The First Tee. The organization is operating in all 50 States. They have reached 9 million kids over the last 10 years, and they have 17,000 volunteers that are involved.

I just wanted to thank The First Tee, thank the sponsors, and thank the participants, and in particular, I want to

thank my fellow teammates for their hard work and dedication for this stunning victory.

Now, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH), the captain of the Democratic team.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and fellow captain for yielding.

I want to congratulate the Republican team on their victory. It was well earned. It was a thumping. As Rahm Emanuel once said of the 2006 election: we got thumped. Elections have consequences, and I hope that we can use this public embarrassment to shame some of my colleagues, who do play golf, into participating next year because we have some talent on the sidelines that we would like to get in the fray.

The victory was well earned, and as my colleague said, the true winners are the children of America who benefit from this great program. There are more than 200 chapters of The First Tee around the country, so virtually every Member has a First Tee chapter in their district.

I hope that they will continue to support The First Tee program for the values it instills in our young people.

With that, once again, congratulations to the Republican team.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 604 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4745.

Will the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) kindly take the chair.

□ 1355

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. BISHOP of Utah (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Monday, June 9, 2014, an amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 156, line 16.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mr. GOHMERT of Texas.

An amendment by Mr. NADLER of New York.

An amendment by Mrs. CAPITO of West Virginia.

An amendment by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

An amendment by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

An amendment by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

An amendment by Mrs. HARTZLER of Missouri.

An amendment by Mr. DAINES of Montana.

An amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

An amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

An amendment by Mr. FLEMING of Louisiana.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 160, noes 266, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 276]

AYES—160

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Amash | Daines | Hultgren |
| Amodei | DeSantis | Hunter |
| Bachmann | DesJarlais | Hurt |
| Barletta | Duffy | Issa |
| Barrow (GA) | Duncan (SC) | Jenkins |
| Barton | Duncan (TN) | Johnson, Sam |
| Benishek | Farenthold | Jones |
| Benivolio | Fincher | Jordan |
| Bilirakis | Fleischmann | Kelly (PA) |
| Bishop (UT) | Fleming | King (IA) |
| Black | Flores | Kingston |
| Blackburn | Foxx | Kline |
| Boustany | Franks (AZ) | Labrador |
| Brady (TX) | Garrett | LaMalfa |
| Bridenstine | Gibbs | Lamborn |
| Brooks (AL) | Gingrey (GA) | Lance |
| Brooks (IN) | Gohmert | Lankford |
| Broun (GA) | Goodlatte | Latta |
| Buchanan | Gosar | Long |
| Burgess | Gowdy | Luetkemeyer |
| Byrne | Granger | Lummis |
| Camp | Graves (GA) | Marchant |
| Campbell | Graves (MO) | Marino |
| Carter | Griffith (VA) | Masse |
| Chabot | Guthrie | McAllister |
| Chaffetz | Harris | McCarthy (CA) |
| Coble | Hartzler | McCaul |
| Collins (GA) | Hastings (FL) | McClintock |
| Collins (NY) | Hensarling | McHenry |
| Conaway | Holding | McMorris |
| Cook | Hudson | Rodgers |
| Cotton | Huelskamp | Meadows |
| Culberson | Huizenga (MI) | Mica |

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Miller (FL) | Rigell | Smith (TX) |
| Miller (MI) | Roe (TN) | Stewart |
| Mullin | Rogers (AL) | Stivers |
| Mulvaney | Rohrabacher | Stockman |
| Neugebauer | Rokita | Stutzman |
| Noem | Rooney | Terry |
| Nugent | Roskam | Thornberry |
| Olson | Ross | Tipton |
| Palazzo | Royce | Upton |
| Paulsen | Ryan (WI) | Wagner |
| Perry | Salmon | Walberg |
| Petri | Sanford | Walden |
| Pittenger | Scalise | Weber (TX) |
| Pitts | Schweikert | Wenstrup |
| Poe (TX) | Scott, Austin | Westmoreland |
| Pompeo | Sensenbrenner | Williams |
| Posey | Sessions | Wittman |
| Price (GA) | Shimkus | Woodall |
| Reed | Shuster | Yoder |
| Ribble | Smith (MO) | Yoho |
| Rice (SC) | Smith (NE) | |

NOES—266

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Aderholt | Enyart | Lowenthal |
| Bachus | Eshoo | Lowey |
| Barber | Esty | Lucas |
| Barr | Farr | Lujan Grisham |
| Bass | Fattah | (NM) |
| Beatty | Fitzpatrick | Lujan, Ben Ray |
| Becerra | Forbes | (NM) |
| Bera (CA) | Fortenberry | Lynch |
| Bishop (GA) | Foster | Maffei |
| Bishop (NY) | Frankel (FL) | Maloney, |
| Blumenauer | Frelinghuysen | Carolyn |
| Bonamici | Fudge | Maloney, Sean |
| Brady (PA) | Gabbard | Matheson |
| Braley (IA) | Gallego | Matsui |
| Brown (FL) | Garamendi | McCarthy (NY) |
| Brownley (CA) | Garcia | McCollum |
| Bucshon | Gardner | McDermott |
| Bustos | Gerlach | McGovern |
| Butterfield | Gibson | McIntyre |
| Calvert | Grayson | McKeon |
| Cantor | Green, Al | McKinley |
| Capito | Green, Gene | McNerney |
| Capps | Griffin (AR) | Meehan |
| Capuano | Grijalva | Meeks |
| Cárdenas | Grimm | Meng |
| Carney | Gutiérrez | Messer |
| Carson (IN) | Hahn | Michaud |
| Cartwright | Hanabusa | Miller, George |
| Cassidy | Hanna | Moore |
| Castor (FL) | Harper | Moran |
| Castro (TX) | Hastings (WA) | Murphy (FL) |
| Chu | Heck (NV) | Murphy (PA) |
| Ciulline | Heck (WA) | Nadler |
| Clark (MA) | Herrera Beutler | Napolitano |
| Clarke (NY) | Higgins | Neal |
| Clay | Himes | Nolan |
| Cleaver | Hinojosa | Nunes |
| Clyburn | Holt | O'Rourke |
| Coffman | Honda | Owens |
| Cohen | Horsford | Pallone |
| Cole | Hoyer | Pascarell |
| Connolly | Huffman | Pastor (AZ) |
| Conyers | Israel | Payne |
| Cooper | Jackson Lee | Pearce |
| Costa | Jeffries | Pelosi |
| Courtney | Johnson (GA) | Perlmutter |
| Cramer | Johnson (OH) | Peters (CA) |
| Crawford | Johnson, E. B. | Peters (MI) |
| Crenshaw | Jolly | Peterson |
| Crowley | Joyce | Pingree (ME) |
| Cuellar | Kaptur | Pocan |
| Cummings | Keating | Polis |
| Davis (CA) | Kelly (IL) | Price (NC) |
| Davis, Danny | Kennedy | Quigley |
| Davis, Rodney | Kildee | Rahall |
| DeFazio | Kilmer | Rangel |
| DeGette | Kind | Reichert |
| Delaney | King (NY) | Renacci |
| DeLauro | Kinzinger (IL) | Richmond |
| DelBene | Kirkpatrick | Roby |
| Denham | Kuster | Rogers (KY) |
| Dent | Langevin | Rogers (MI) |
| Deutch | Larsen (WA) | Ros-Lehtinen |
| Diaz-Balart | Larson (CT) | Rothfus |
| Dingell | Latham | Royal-Allard |
| Doggett | Lee (CA) | Ruiz |
| Doyle | Levin | Runyan |
| Duckworth | Lewis | Ruppersberger |
| Edwards | Lipinski | Rush |
| Ellison | LoBiondo | Ryan (OH) |
| Ellmers | Loeb sack | Sánchez, Linda |
| Engel | Lofgren | T. |

Sanchez, Loretta	Smith (WA)	Velázquez	Honda	McCarthy (NY)	Sánchez, Linda	Pompeo	Salmon	Tiberi
Sarbanes	Southernland	Visclosky	Horsford	McCollum	T.	Price (GA)	Sanford	Tipton
Schakowsky	Spelier	Walorski	Hoyer	McDermott	Sanchez, Loretta	Price (NC)	Scalise	Turner
Schiff	Swalwell (CA)	Walz	Huffman	McGovern	Sarbanes	Rangel	Schock	Upton
Schneider	Takano	Wasserman	Israel	McIntyre	Schakowsky	Reichert	Schweikert	Valadao
Schock	Thompson (CA)	Schultz	Jackson Lee	McNerney	Schiff	Renacci	Scott, Austin	Wagner
Schrader	Thompson (MS)	Waters	Jeffries	Meeks	Schneider	Ribble	Sensenbrenner	Walberg
Schwartz	Thompson (PA)	Waxman	Johnson (GA)	Meng	Schrader	Rice (SC)	Sessions	Walden
Scott (VA)	Tiberi	Webster (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Michaud	Schwartz	Rigell	Shimkus	Walorski
Scott, David	Tierney	Welch	Kaptur	Miller, George	Scott (VA)	Roby	Shuster	Weber (TX)
Serrano	Titus	Whitfield	Keating	Moore	Scott, David	Roe (TN)	Simpson	Webster (FL)
Sewell (AL)	Tonko	Wilson (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Moran	Serrano	Rogers (AL)	Smith (MO)	Welch
Shea-Porter	Tsongas	Wolf	Kennedy	Murphy (FL)	Sewell (AL)	Rogers (KY)	Smith (NJ)	Wenstrup
Sherman	Turner	Womack	Kildee	Nadler	Shea-Porter	Rogers (MI)	Smith (TX)	Westmoreland
Simpson	Valadao	Yarmuth	Kilmer	Neal	Sherman	Rohrabacher	Smith (TX)	Whitfield
Sinema	Van Hollen	Young (AK)	Kind	Nolan	Sinema	Rokita	Southernland	Williams
Sires	Vargas	Young (IN)	Kirkpatrick	O'Rourke	Sires	Rooney	Stewart	Wittman
Slaughter	Veasey		Kuster	Owens	Slaughter	Roskam	Stivers	Wolf
Smith (NJ)	Vela		Langevin	Fallone	Smith (WA)	Ross	Stockman	Womack
			Larsen (WA)	Pascrell	Speier	Rothfus	Stutzman	Woodall
			Larson (CT)	Pastor (AZ)	Swalwell (CA)	Royce	Terry	Yoder
			Lee (CA)	Payne	Takano	Runyan	Thompson (PA)	Yoho
			Levin	Pelosi	Thompson (CA)	Ryan (WI)	Thornberry	Young (AK)
			Lewis	Perlmutter	Thompson (MS)			
			Lipinski	Peters (CA)	Tierney			
			LoBiondo	Peters (MI)	Titus			
			Loebsack	Peterson	Tonko			
			Lofgren	Pingree (ME)	Tsongas			
			Lowenthal	Pittenger	Van Hollen			
			Lowey	Pocan	Vargas			
			Lujan Grisham	Polis	Veasey			
			(NM)	Posey	Vela			
			Luján, Ben Ray	Quigley	Velázquez			
			(NM)	Rahall	Rahall			
			Lynch	Reed	Walz			
			Maffei	Richmond	Wasserman			
			Maloney,	Ros-Lehtinen	Schultz			
			Carolyn	Roybal-Allard	Waters			
			Maloney, Sean	Ruiz	Waxman			
			Matheson	Ruppersberger	Wilson (FL)			
			Matsui	Rush	Yarmuth			
			McAllister	Ryan (OH)	Young (IN)			

NOT VOTING—5

Hall	Negrete McLeod	Wilson (SC)
Miller, Gary	Nunnelee	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1401

Mr. BUCSHON changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 205, noes 221, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 277]

AYES—205

Barber	Cleaver	Enyart
Barrow (GA)	Clyburn	Eshoo
Bass	Cohen	Esty
Becerra	Connolly	Farr
Bera (CA)	Conyers	Fattah
Bishop (GA)	Cooper	Fitzpatrick
Bishop (NY)	Costa	Poster
Blumenauer	Courtney	Frankel (FL)
Bonamici	Crowley	Fudge
Brady (PA)	Cuellar	Gabbard
Braley (IA)	Cummings	Gallego
Brown (FL)	Davis (CA)	Garamendi
Brownley (CA)	Davis, Danny	Garcia
Bustos	DeFazio	Gardner
Butterfield	DeGette	Gibson
Byrne	Delaney	Grayson
Capps	DeLauro	Green, Al
Capuano	DelBene	Green, Gene
Cárdenas	Dent	Grijalva
Carney	Deutch	Gutiérrez
Cartwright	Diaz-Balart	Hahn
Castor (FL)	Dingell	Hanabusa
Castro (TX)	Doggett	Hanna
Chu	Doyle	Hastings (FL)
Ciçilline	Duckworth	Heck (WA)
Clark (MA)	Edwards	Higgins
Clarke (NY)	Ellison	Himes
Clay	Engel	Holt

NOES—221

Aderholt	Duffy	Joyce
Amash	Duncan (SC)	Kelly (PA)
Amodei	Duncan (TN)	King (IA)
Bachmann	Ellmers	King (NY)
Bachus	Farenthold	Kingston
Barletta	Fincher	Kinzinger (IL)
Barr	Fleischmann	Kline
Barton	Fleming	Labrador
Beatty	Flores	LaMalfa
Benishek	Forbes	Lamborn
Bentivolio	Fortenberry	Lance
Bilirakis	Foxo	Lankford
Bishop (UT)	Franks (AZ)	Latham
Black	Frelinghuysen	Latta
Blackburn	Garrett	Long
Boustany	Gerlach	Lucas
Brady (TX)	Gibbs	Luetkemeyer
Bridenstine	Gingrey (GA)	Lummis
Brooks (AL)	Gohmert	Marchant
Brooks (IN)	Goodlatte	Marino
Broun (GA)	Gosar	Massie
Buchanan	Gowdy	McCarthy (CA)
Bucshon	Granger	McCaul
Burgess	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Calvert	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Camp	Griffith (AR)	McKeon
Campbell	Griffith (VA)	McKinley
Cantor	Grimm	McMorris
Capito	Guthrie	Rodgers
Carson (IN)	Harper	
Carter	Harris	Meadows
Cassidy	Hartzer	Meehan
Chabot	Hastings (WA)	Messer
Chaffetz	Heck (NV)	Mica
Coble	Hensarling	Miller (FL)
Coffman	Herrera Beutler	Miller (MI)
Cole	Hinojosa	Mullin
Collins (GA)	Holding	Mulvaney
Collins (NY)	Hudson	Murphy (PA)
Conaway	Huelskamp	Napolitano
Cook	Huizenga (MI)	Neugebauer
Cotton	Hultgren	Noem
Cramer	Hunter	Nugent
Crawford	Hurt	Nunes
Crenshaw	Issa	Olson
Culberson	Jenkins	Palazzo
Daines	Johnson (OH)	Paulsen
Davis, Rodney	Johnson, Sam	Pearce
Denham	Jolly	Perry
DeSantis	Jones	Petri
DesJarlais	Jordan	Pitts
		Poe (TX)

Salmon	Sanford	Scalise	Schock	Schweikert	Scott, Austin	Sensenbrenner	Sessions	Shimkus	Shuster	Simpson	Smith (MO)	Smith (NJ)	Smith (TX)	Southernland	Stewart	Stivers	Stockman	Stutzman	Terry	Thompson (PA)	Thornberry	Young (AK)
--------	---------	---------	--------	------------	---------------	---------------	----------	---------	---------	---------	------------	------------	------------	--------------	---------	---------	----------	----------	-------	---------------	------------	------------

NOT VOTING—5

Hall	Negrete McLeod	Wilson (SC)
Miller, Gary	Nunnelee	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1405

Mr. YARMUTH changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I submit a clarification of my vote during consideration of H.R. 4745, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. I fully intended to continue my strong support of the Housing for Persons with AIDS program and mistakenly voted “no” on rollcall vote 277, the Nadler Amendment. I intended to vote “aye.”

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. CAPITO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 114, noes 311, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 278]

AYES—114

Amash	Brooks (IN)	Daines
Bachus	Brown (FL)	Davis, Rodney
Barletta	Burgess	Denham
Barr	Capito	Dent
Barton	Capuano	Diaz-Balart
Bentivolio	Carter	Duncan (SC)
Bishop (UT)	Cassidy	Ellmers
Blackburn	Coble	Farenthold
Blumenauer	Collins (NY)	Fincher
Boustany	Conaway	Fitzpatrick
	Cook	Flores

Fortenberry
Gabbard
Gallego
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
McCauley
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Hudson
Hultgren
Hurt
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kuster
Lipinski
Lucas

NOES—311

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buchson
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny

Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Massie
McAllister
McCauley
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulyaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Petri
Pittenger
Poe (TX)

Rahall
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Neal
Noem
Nolan
Nunes
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher

Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)

Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McKeon
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Michaud
Miller, George

Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nolan
Nunes
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher

Hall
McDermott

Rokita
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier

NOT VOTING—6

Hall
McDermott

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1409

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF

GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN)
on which further proceedings were
postponed and on which the noes pre-
vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 134, noes 288,
not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 279]

AYES—134

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bentivolio
Bilirakis

Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Burgess

Stewart
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Aderholt
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buchson
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson

Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hastings (WA)

Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
Long
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McCauley
McClintock
Garrett
McHenry
McMorris
Rodgers
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Mulyaney
Neugebauer
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Petri
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)

NOES—288

Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)

Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Olson
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean

Marino	Peters (CA)	Shuster	Brady (TX)	Herrera Beutler	Petri	Latham	O'Rourke	Serrano
Matheson	Peters (MI)	Simpson	Bridenstine	Holding	Pittenger	Lee (CA)	Owens	Sewell (AL)
Matsui	Peterson	Sinema	Brooks (AL)	Hudson	Pitts	Levin	Pallone	Shea-Porter
McAllister	Pingree (ME)	Sires	Broun (GA)	Huelskamp	Poe (TX)	Lewis	Pascrell	Sherman
McCarthy (CA)	Pittenger	Slaughter	Buchanan	Huizenga (MI)	Pompeo	Lipinski	Pastor (AZ)	Shimkus
McCarthy (NY)	Pocan	Smith (NJ)	Burgess	Hultgren	Posey	LoBiondo	Payne	Shuster
McCollum	Polis	Smith (WA)	Byrne	Hunter	Price (GA)	Loeb sack	Pearce	Simpson
McDermott	Price (NC)	Southerland	Campbell	Hurt	Ribble	Lofgren	Pelosi	Sinema
McGovern	Quigley	Speier	Capps	Issa	Rice (SC)	Lowenthal	Perlmutter	Sires
McIntyre	Rahall	Stivers	Carter	Jenkins	Rigell	Lowey	Peters (CA)	Slaughter
McKeon	Rangel	Swalwell (CA)	Cassidy	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (AL)	Lucas	Peters (MI)	Smith (NJ)
McKinley	Reed	Takano	Chabot	Jones	Rohrabacher	Luetkemeyer	Peterson	Smith (WA)
McNerney	Reichert	Thompson (CA)	Chaffetz	Jordan	Rokita	Lujan Grisham	Pingree (ME)	Speier
Meadows	Renacci	Thompson (MS)	Coble	King (IA)	Rooney	(NM)	Pocan	Stivers
Meehan	Richmond	Thompson (PA)	Collins (GA)	Kingston	Ross	Lujan, Ben Ray	Polis	Swalwell (CA)
Meeks	Roby	Tierney	Collins (NY)	Kline	Royce	(NM)	Price (NC)	Takano
Meng	Rogers (KY)	Titus	Conaway	Labrador	Ryan (WI)	Lynch	Quigley	Thompson (CA)
Michaud	Ros-Lehtinen	Tonko	Cook	LaMalfa	Salmon	Maffei	Rahall	Thompson (MS)
Miller (MI)	Roskam	Tsongas	Cotton	Lamborn	Sanford	Maloney,	Rangel	Thompson (PA)
Miller, George	Rothfus	Turner	Daines	Lance	Scalise	Carolyn	Reed	Tierney
Moore	Roybal-Allard	Upton	DeSantis	Lankford	Schweikert	Maloney, Sean	Reichert	Titus
Moran	Ruiz	Van Hollen	DesJarlais	Latta	Scott, Austin	Marino	Renacci	Tonko
Mullin	Runyan	Vargas	Duffy	Long	Sensenbrenner	Matheson	Richmond	Tsongas
Murphy (FL)	Ruppersberger	Veasey	Duncan (SC)	Lummis	Sessions	Matsui	Roby	Turner
Murphy (PA)	Rush	Vela	Duncan (TN)	Marchant	Smith (MO)	McAllister	Roe (TN)	Upton
Nadler	Ryan (OH)	Velázquez	Farenthold	Massie	Smith (NE)	McCarthy (NY)	Rogers (KY)	Valadao
Napolitano	Sánchez, Linda	Visclosky	Fincher	McCarthy (CA)	Smith (TX)	McCollum	Rogers (MI)	Van Hollen
Neal	T.	Walden	Fleischmann	McCauley	Southerland	McDermott	Ros-Lehtinen	Vargas
Noem	Sanchez, Loretta	Walorski	Fleming	McClintock	Stewart	McGovern	Roskam	Veasey
Nolan	Sarbanes	Walz	Flores	McHenry	Stockman	McKeon	Rothfus	Vela
Nugent	Schakowsky	Wasserman	Foxx	McIntyre	Stutzman	McNerney	Roybal-Allard	Velázquez
Nunes	Schiff	Schultz	Franks (AZ)	McKinley	Terry	Meehan	Ruiz	Visclosky
O'Rourke	Schneider	Waters	Garrett	McMorris	Thornberry	Meeks	Runyan	Walden
Owens	Schrader	Waxman	Greigey (GA)	Rodgers	Tiberi	Meng	Ruppersberger	Walorski
Pallone	Schwartz	Welch	Gohmert	Meadows	Tipton	Messer	Rush	Walz
Pascrell	Scott (VA)	Whitfield	Goodlatte	Mica	Wagner	Michaud	Ryan (OH)	Wasserman
Pastor (AZ)	Scott, David	Wilson (FL)	Gosar	Miller (FL)	Walberg	Miller, George	Sánchez, Linda	Schultz
Payne	Serrano	Wolf	Gowdy	Miller (MI)	Weber (TX)	Moore	T.	Waters
Pearce	Sewell (AL)	Womack	Granger	Mullin	Wenstrup	Moran	Sanchez, Loretta	Waxman
Pelosi	Shea-Porter	Yarmuth	Graves (GA)	Mulvaney	Westmoreland	Murphy (FL)	Sarbanes	Webster (FL)
Perlmutter	Sherman	Young (AK)	Graves (MO)	Neugebauer	Williams	Murphy (PA)	Schakowsky	Welch
Perry	Shimkus		Griffith (VA)	Olson	Wittman	Nadler	Schiff	Whitfield
			Harris	Palazzo	Woodall	Napolitano	Schneider	Wilson (FL)
			Hartzler	Paulsen	Yoder	Neal	Schock	Wolf
			Hensarling	Perry	Yoho	Noem	Schrader	Womack
						Nolan	Schwartz	Yarmuth
						Nugent	Scott (VA)	Young (AK)
						Nunes	Scott, David	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—9

Camp	Miller, Gary	Schock
Frelinghuysen	Negrete McLeod	Valadao
Hall	Nunnelee	Wilson (SC)

NOES—283

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1413

Mr. BARR changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”
So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 143, noes 283, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 280]

AYES—143

Amash	Benishek	Bishop (UT)
Barrow (GA)	Bentivolio	Black
Barton	Bilirakis	Blackburn

Aderholt	Costa	Gibson
Amodei	Courtney	Grayson
Bachmann	Cramer	Green, Al
Bachus	Crawford	Green, Gene
Barber	Crenshaw	Griffin (AR)
Barletta	Crowley	Grijalva
Barr	Cuellar	Grimm
Bass	Culberson	Guthrie
Beatty	Cummings	Gutiérrez
Becerra	Davis (CA)	Hahn
Bera (CA)	Davis, Danny	Hanabusa
Bishop (GA)	Davis, Rodney	Hanna
Bishop (NY)	DeFazio	Harper
Blumenauer	DeGette	Hastings (FL)
Bonamici	Delaney	Hastings (WA)
Boustany	DeLauro	Heck (NV)
Brady (PA)	DelBene	Heck (WA)
Bralley (IA)	Denham	Higgins
Brooks (IN)	Dent	Himes
Brown (FL)	Deutch	Hinojosa
Brownley (CA)	Diaz-Balart	Holt
Bucshon	Dingell	Honda
Bustos	Doggett	Horsford
Butterfield	Doyle	Hoyer
Calvert	Duckworth	Huffman
Camp	Edwards	Israel
Cantor	Ellison	Jackson Lee
Capito	Ellmers	Jeffries
Capuano	Engel	Johnson (GA)
Cárdenas	Enyart	Johnson (OH)
Carney	Eshoo	Johnson, E. B.
Carson (IN)	Esty	Jolly
Cartwright	Farr	Joyce
Castor (FL)	Fattah	Kaptur
Castro (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Keating
Chu	Forbes	Kelly (IL)
Cicilline	Fortenberry	Kelly (PA)
Clark (MA)	Foster	Kennedy
Clarke (NY)	Frankel (FL)	Kildee
Clay	Frelinghuysen	Kilmer
Cleaver	Fudge	Kind
Clyburn	Gabbard	King (NY)
Coffman	Gallego	Kinzinger (IL)
Cohen	Garamendi	Kirkpatrick
Cole	Garcia	Kuster
Connolly	Gardner	Langevin
Conyers	Gerlach	Larsen (WA)
Cooper	Gibbs	Larson (CT)

NOT VOTING—5

Hall	Negrete McLeod	Wilson (SC)
Miller, Gary	Nunnelee	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1417

Mr. PITTENGER changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”
So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 130, noes 295, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 281]

AYES—130

Amash
Bachmann
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Byrne
Cantor
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Coble
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Guthrie

Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Jenkins
Rice (SC)
Roe (TN)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Neom
Olson

Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Petri
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reichert
Rice (SC)
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Lujan Grisham
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tipton
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Weber (TX)
Westmoreland
Williams
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho

NOES—295

Aderholt
Amodi
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole

Collins (GA)
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)

Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallo
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)

Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)

Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Robby
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz

Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Roskam
Wagner
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—6

Diaz-Balart
Hall

Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Negrete McLeod
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1421

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. HARTZLER
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs.
HARTZLER) on which further pro-
ceedings were postponed and on which
the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.
The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 188, noes 237,
not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 282]

AYES—188

Amash
Amodi
Bachmann
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crenshaw
Daines
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)

Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Latta
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Miller (FL)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo

Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Smith (TX)
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—237

Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crawford
Crawford
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette

Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallo
Garamendi
Garcia

Gerlach Lynch
 Gibson Maffei
 Grayson Maloney,
 Green, Al Carolyn
 Green, Gene Maloney, Sean
 Grijalva Matheson
 Grimm Matsui
 Gutiérrez McCarthy (NY)
 Hahn McCollum
 Hanabusa McDermott
 Hanna McGovern
 Harper McIntyre
 Hastings (FL) McKinley
 Heck (WA) McNeerney
 Higgins Meeks
 Himes Meng
 Hinojosa Mica
 Holt Michaud
 Honda Miller (MI)
 Horsford Miller, George
 Hoyer Moore
 Huffman Moran
 Israel Murphy (FL)
 Jackson Lee Nadler
 Jeffries Napolitano
 Johnson (GA) Neal
 Johnson, E. B. Nolan
 Jolly O'Rourke
 Kaptur Owens
 Keating Pallone
 Kelly (IL) Pascrell
 Kennedy Pastor (AZ)
 Kildee Payne
 Kilmer Pelosi
 Kind Perlmutter
 Kirkpatrick Peters (CA)
 Kuster Peters (MI)
 Lance Peterson
 Langevin Petri
 Larsen (WA) Pingree (ME)
 Larson (CT) Pocan
 Latham Poe (TX)
 Lee (CA) Polis
 Levin Price (NC)
 Lewis Quigley
 Lipinski Rahall
 Loeb sack Rangel
 Lofgren Richmond
 Lowenthal Roby
 Lowey Rogers (KY)
 Lujan Grisham Roybal-Allard
 (NM) Runyan
 Luján, Ben Ray Ruppertsberger
 (NM) Rush

NOT VOTING—6

Brady (TX) Miller, Gary Nunnelee
 Hall Negrete McLeod Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
 The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1425

So the amendment was rejected.
 The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DAINES

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
 business is the demand for a recorded
 vote on the amendment offered by the
 gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES)
 on which further proceedings were
 postponed and on which the ayes pre-
 vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
 ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
 has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-
 minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
 vice, and there were—ayes 214, noes 212,
 not voting 5, as follows:

Ryan (OH)
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Barr
 Barton
 Benishek
 Bentivolio
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (UT)
 Sherman
 Black
 Blackburn
 Boustany
 Brady (TX)
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Broun (GA)
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Burgess
 Hurt
 Issa
 Byrne
 Calvert
 Camp
 Campbell
 Cantor
 Capito
 Carter
 Cassidy
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Coble
 Vela
 Coffman
 Velázquez
 Cole
 Visclosky
 Walden
 Collins (GA)
 Collins (NY)
 Conaway
 Cook
 Cotton
 Cramer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Cuellar
 Culberson
 Daines
 Davis, Rodney
 Denham
 Dent
 DeSantis
 DesJarlais
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Duncan (TN)
 Ellmers
 Farenthold
 Fincher
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foy
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Gardner
 Garrett
 Gerlach
 Gibbs
 Gingrey (GA)
 Gohmert

[Roll No. 283]

AYES—214

Goodlatte Paulsen
 Gosar Pearce
 Gowdy Perry
 Granger Peterson
 Graves (GA) Petri
 Graves (MO) Pittenger
 Griffin (AR) Pitts
 Guthrie Poe (TX)
 Hanna Pompeo
 Harper Posey
 Harris Reed
 Hartzler Reichert
 Hastings (WA) Renacci
 Heck (NV) Ribble
 Hensarling Rice (SC)
 Herrera Beutler Rigell
 Holding Roby
 Hudson Roe (TN)
 Huelskamp Rogers (AL)
 Huizenga (MI) Rogers (MI)
 Hultgren Rohrabacher
 Hunter Rokita
 Hurt Rooney
 Issa Ros-Lehtinen
 Jenkins Roskam
 Johnson (OH) Ross
 Johnson, Sam Rothfus
 Jolly Royce
 Jones Ryan (WI)
 Jordan Salmon
 Kelly (PA) Sanford
 King (IA) Scalise
 Kingston Schock
 Coble Schweikert
 Kinzinger (IL) Scott, Austin
 Kline Labrador
 LaMalfa LaMalfa
 Lamborn Sessions
 Lamber Shimkus
 Lankford Shuster
 Latham Simpson
 Smith (MO) Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE) Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ) Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX) Smith (TX)
 Southerland Stewart
 Stivers Stivers
 Stockman Stockman
 Stutzman Stutzman
 Thompson (PA) Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry Thornberry
 Tipton Tipton
 Turner Turner
 Valadao Valadao
 Wagner Wagner
 Walberg Walberg
 Walden Walden
 Walorski Walorski
 Walz Walz
 Weber (TX) Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL) Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup Wenstrup
 Westmoreland Westmoreland
 Williams Williams
 Wittman Wittman
 Womack Womack
 Woodall Woodall
 Yoder Yoder
 Yoho Yoho
 Young (AK) Young (AK)
 Young (IN) Young (IN)

NOES—212

Barber Cárdenas
 Barrow (GA) Carney
 Bass Carson (IN)
 Beatty Cartwright
 Becerra Castor (FL)
 Bera (CA) Castro (TX)
 Bishop (GA) Chu
 Bishop (NY) Cicilline
 Blumenauer Clark (MA)
 Bonamici Clarke (NY)
 Brady (PA) Clay
 Braley (IA) Cleaver
 Brown (FL) Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA) Brownley (CA)
 Bustos Cohen
 Butterfield Connolly
 Capps Conyers
 Capuano Cooper
 Costa Costa
 Courtney
 Crowley
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Deutch
 Diaz-Balart
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle
 Duckworth
 Edwards
 Ellison

Engel Lewis
 Enyart Lipinski
 Eshoo LoBiondo
 Esty Loeb sack
 Farr Lofgren
 Fattah Lowenthal
 Fitzpatrick Lowey
 Foster Lujan Grisham
 Frankel (FL) (NM)
 Fudge Luján, Ben Ray
 Gabbard (NM)
 Gallego Lynch
 Garamendi Maffei
 Garcia Maloney,
 Gibson Carolyn
 Grayson Maloney, Sean
 Green, Al Matsui
 Green, Gene McCarthy (NY)
 Griffith (VA) McCollum
 Grijalva McDermott
 Grimm McGovern
 Gutierrez McIntyre
 Hahn McKinley
 Hanabusa McNeerney
 Hastings (FL) Meeks
 Heck (WA) Meng
 Higgins Michaud
 Himes Miller, George
 Hinojosa Moore
 Holt Moran
 Honda Murphy (FL)
 Horsford Murphy (PA)
 Hoyer Nadler
 Huffman Napolitano
 Israel Neal
 Jackson Lee Nolan
 Jeffries O'Rourke
 Johnson (GA) Owens
 Johnson, E. B. Pallone
 Joyce Pascrell
 Kaptur Pastor (AZ)
 Keating Payne
 Kelly (IL) Pelosi
 Kennedy Perlmutter
 Kildee Peters (CA)
 Kilmer Peters (MI)
 Kind Pingree (ME)
 King (NY) Pocan
 Kirkpatrick Polis
 Kuster Price (GA)
 Langevin Price (NC)
 Larsen (WA) Quigley
 Larson (CT) Rahall
 Lee (CA) Rangel
 Levin Richmond

NOT VOTING—5

Hall Negrete McLeod
 Miller, Gary Nunnelee

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
 The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1429

Mr. CICILLINE changed his vote
 from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN changed his
 vote from “no” to “aye.”

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
 business is the demand for a recorded
 vote on the amendment offered by the
 gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR)
 on which further proceedings were
 postponed and on which the noes pre-
 vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
 ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
 has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 177, noes 249, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 284]

AYES—177

Amodei	Graves (GA)	Paulsen
Bachmann	Graves (MO)	Perry
Barton	Griffin (AR)	Petri
Benishek	Griffith (VA)	Pittenger
Bentivolio	Guthrie	Pitts
Bilirakis	Hanna	Poe (TX)
Bishop (UT)	Harris	Pompeo
Black	Hartzler	Posey
Blackburn	Heck (NV)	Price (GA)
Boustany	Hensarling	Renacci
Brady (TX)	Holding	Ribble
Bridenstine	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Brooks (AL)	Huelskamp	Rigell
Brooks (IN)	Huizenga (MI)	Roe (TN)
Broun (GA)	Hultgren	Rohrabacher
Buchanan	Hunter	Rokita
Burgess	Hurt	Rooney
Byrne	Issa	Ros-Lehtinen
Camp	Jenkins	Roskam
Campbell	Johnson (OH)	Ross
Capito	Johnson, Sam	Royce
Carter	Jones	Ryan (WI)
Cassidy	Jordan	Salmon
Chabot	King (IA)	Sanford
Chaffetz	King (NY)	Scalise
Coble	Kingston	Schock
Coffman	Kline	Schweikert
Collins (GA)	Labrador	Scott, Austin
Collins (NY)	LaMalfa	Sensenbrenner
Conaway	Lamborn	Sessions
Cook	Lance	Shimkus
Cotton	Lankford	Shuster
Cramer	Latta	Smith (MO)
Crawford	LoBiondo	Smith (NE)
Culberson	Long	Smith (TX)
Daines	Lucas	Southerland
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Stewart
DeSantis	Lummis	Stivers
DesJarlais	Marchant	Stockman
Duffy	Massie	Stutzman
Duncan (SC)	McAllister	Terry
Duncan (TN)	McCarthy (CA)	Thornberry
Ellmers	McCaul	Tiberi
Farenthold	McClintock	Tipton
Fincher	McHenry	Upton
Fleischmann	McKinley	Valadao
Fleming	McMorris	Walberg
Flores	Rodgers	Weber (TX)
Forbes	Meadows	Wenstrup
Fortenberry	Messer	Westmoreland
Franks (AZ)	Mica	Whitfield
Gardner	Miller (FL)	Williams
Garrett	Miller (MI)	Wittman
Gibbs	Mullin	Womack
Gingrey (GA)	Mulvaney	Woodall
Gohmert	Neugebauer	Yoder
Goodlatte	Noem	Yoho
Gosar	Nunes	
Gowdy	Olson	
Granger	Palazzo	

NOES—249

Aderholt	Capps	Cuellar
Amash	Capuano	Cummings
Bachus	Cárdenas	Davis (CA)
Barber	Carney	Davis, Danny
Barletta	Carson (IN)	DeFazio
Barr	Cartwright	DeGette
Barrow (GA)	Castor (FL)	Delaney
Bass	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Beatty	Chu	DeBene
Becerra	Cicilline	Denham
Bera (CA)	Clark (MA)	Dent
Bishop (GA)	Clarke (NY)	Deutch
Bishop (NY)	Clay	Diaz-Balart
Blumenauer	Cleaver	Dingell
Bonamici	Clyburn	Doggett
Brady (PA)	Cohen	Doyle
Braley (IA)	Cole	Duckworth
Brown (FL)	Connolly	Edwards
Brownley (CA)	Conyers	Ellison
Bucshon	Cooper	Engel
Bustos	Costa	Enyart
Butterfield	Courtney	Eshoo
Calvert	Crenshaw	Esty
Cantor	Crowley	Farr

Fattah	Lofgren	Rogers (MI)
Fitzpatrick	Lowenthal	Rothfus
Foster	Lowey	Roybal-Allard
Fox	Lujan Grisham	Ruiz
Frankel (FL)	(NM)	Runyan
Frelinghuysen	Lujan, Ben Ray	Ruppersberger
Fudge	(NM)	Rush
Gabbard	Lynch	Ryan (OH)
Gallego	Maffei	Sánchez, Linda
Garamendi	Maloney,	T.
García	Carolyn	Sanchez, Loretta
Gerlach	Maloney, Sean	Sarbanes
Gibson	Marino	Schakowsky
Grayson	Matheson	Schiff
Green, Al	Matsui	Schneider
Green, Gene	McCarthy (NY)	Schrader
Grijalva	McCollum	Schwartz
Grimm	McDermott	Scott (VA)
Gutiérrez	McGovern	Scott, David
Hahn	McIntyre	Serrano
Hanabusa	McKeon	Sewell (AL)
Harper	McNerney	Shea-Porter
Hastings (FL)	Meehan	Sherman
Hastings (WA)	Meeks	Simpson
Heck (WA)	Meng	Sinema
Herrera Beutler	Michaud	Sires
Rokita	Miller, George	Slaughter
Higgins	Moore	Smith (NJ)
Himes	Moran	Smith (WA)
Hinojosa	Murphy (FL)	Speier
Holt	Murphy (PA)	Swalwell (CA)
Honda	Nadler	Takano
Horsford	Napolitano	Thompson (CA)
Hoyer	Neal	Thompson (MS)
Huffman	Neal	Thompson (PA)
Israel	Nolan	Tierney
Jackson Lee	Nugent	Titus
Jeffries	O'Rourke	Tonko
Johnson (GA)	Owens	Tsongas
Johnson, E. B.	Pallone	Turner
Jolly	Pascrell	Van Hollen
Joyce	Pastor (AZ)	Vargas
Kaptur	Payne	Veasey
Keating	Pearce	Vela
Kelly (IL)	Pelosi	Velázquez
Kelly (PA)	Perlmutter	Visclosky
Kennedy	Peters (CA)	Walden
Kildee	Peters (MI)	Walorski
Kilmer	Peterson	Walz
Kind	Pingree (ME)	Wasserman
Kinzinger (IL)	Pocan	Schultz
Kirkpatrick	Polis	Waters
Kuster	Price (NC)	Waxman
Langevin	Quigley	Webster (FL)
Larsen (WA)	Rahall	Welch
Larson (CT)	Rangel	Wilson (FL)
Latham	Reed	Wolf
Lee (CA)	Reichert	Yarmuth
Levin	Richmond	Young (AK)
Lewis	Roby	Young (IN)
Lipinski	Rogers (AL)	
Loeb sack	Rogers (KY)	

NOT VOTING—5

Hall	Negrete McLeod	Wilson (SC)
Miller, Gary	Nunnelee	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1433

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.
The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.
A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 219, noes 207, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 285]

AYES—219

Aderholt	Granger	Perry
Amash	Graves (GA)	Petri
Amodei	Graves (MO)	Pittenger
Bachmann	Griffin (AR)	Pitts
Bachus	Griffith (VA)	Poe (TX)
Barletta	Grimm	Pompeo
Barr	Hanna	Posey
Barton	Harper	Price (GA)
Benishek	Harris	Reed
Bentivolio	Hartzler	Reichert
Bilirakis	Hastings (WA)	Renacci
Bishop (UT)	Heck (NV)	Ribble
Black	Hensarling	Rice (SC)
Blackburn	Herrera Beutler	Rigell
Boustany	Holding	Roby
Brady (TX)	Hudson	Roe (TN)
Bridenstine	Huelskamp	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (AL)	Huizenga (MI)	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (IN)	Hultgren	Rogers (MI)
Broun (GA)	Hunter	Rohrabacher
Buchanan	Hurt	Rokita
Bucshon	Issa	Rooney
Burgess	Jenkins	Ros-Lehtinen
Byrne	Johnson (OH)	Roskam
Calvert	Johnson, Sam	Ross
Camp	Jolly	Rothfus
Campbell	Jones	Royce
Capito	Jordan	Ryan (WI)
Carter	Joyce	Salmon
Cassidy	Kelly (PA)	Sanford
Chabot	King (IA)	Scalise
Chaffetz	King (NY)	Schock
Coble	Kingston	Schweikert
Coffman	Kinzinger (IL)	Scott, Austin
Cole	Kline	Sensenbrenner
Collins (GA)	Labrador	Sessions
Collins (NY)	LaMalfa	Shimkus
Conaway	Lamborn	Shuster
Cook	Lance	Simpson
Cotton	Lankford	Smith (MO)
Cramer	Latta	Smith (NE)
Crawford	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
Crenshaw	Long	Smith (TX)
Daines	Lucas	Southerland
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Stewart
DeSantis	Lummis	Stivers
DesJarlais	Marchant	Stockman
Duffy	Massie	Stutzman
Duncan (SC)	McAllister	Terry
Duncan (TN)	McCarthy (CA)	Thornberry
Ellmers	McCaul	Tiberi
Farenthold	McClintock	Tipton
Fincher	McHenry	Turner
Fleischmann	McKinley	Upton
Fleming	McMorris	Valadao
Flores	Rodgers	Wagner
Forbes	Meadows	Walberg
Fortenberry	Messer	Walden
Fox	Mica	Walorski
Franks (AZ)	Miller (FL)	Weber (TX)
Frelinghuysen	Miller (MI)	Webster (FL)
Garrett	Mullin	Wenstrup
Gerlach	Mulvaney	Westmoreland
Gibbs	Murphy (PA)	Whitfield
Gibson	Neugebauer	Williams
Gingrey (GA)	Noem	Wittman
Gohmert	Nugent	Wolf
Goodlatte	Nunes	Womack
Gosar	Olson	Woodall
Gowdy	Palazzo	Yoder
	Paulsen	Yoho
	Pearce	Young (IN)

NOES—207

Barber	Brady (PA)	Carson (IN)
Barrow (GA)	Braley (IA)	Cartwright
Bass	Brown (FL)	Castor (FL)
Beatty	Brownley (CA)	Castro (TX)
Becerra	Bustos	Chu
Bera (CA)	Butterfield	Cicilline
Bishop (GA)	Capps	Clark (MA)
Bishop (NY)	Capuano	Clarke (NY)
Blumenauer	Cárdenas	Clay
Bonamici	Carney	Cleaver

Clyburn Johnson (GA)
 Cohen Johnson, E. B.
 Connolly Kaptur
 Conyers Keating
 Cooper Kelly (IL)
 Costa Kennedy
 Courtney Kildee
 Crowley Kilmer
 Cuellar Kind
 Culberson Kirkpatrick
 Cummings Kuster
 Davis (CA) Langevin
 Davis, Danny Larsen (WA)
 Davis, Rodney Larson (CT)
 DeFazio Latham
 DeGette Lee (CA)
 Delaney Levin
 DeLauro Lewis
 DelBene Lipinski
 Deutch Loeb sack
 Dingell Kirkpatrick
 Doggett Lofgren
 Doyle Lowenthal
 Duckworth Lowey
 Edwards Lujan Grisham
 Ellison (NM)
 Engel Luján, Ben Ray
 Enyart (NM)
 Eshoo Lynch
 Esty Maffei
 Farr Maloney
 Fattah Caroly n
 Foster Maloney, Sean
 Frankel (FL) Matheson
 Fudge Matsui
 Gabbard McCarthy (NY)
 Gallego McCollum
 Garamendi McDermott
 Garcia McGovern
 Gardner McIntyre
 Grayson McKeon
 Green, Al McNe rney
 Green, Gene Meeks
 Grijalva Meng
 Guthrie Michaud
 Gutiérrez Miller, George
 Hahn Moore
 Hanabusa Moran
 Hastings (FL) Murphy (FL)
 Heck (WA) Nadler
 Higgins Napolitano
 Himes Neal
 Hinojosa Nolan
 Holt O'Rourke
 Honda Owens
 Horsford Pallone
 Hoyer Pascrell
 Huffman Pastor (AZ)
 Israel Payne
 Jackson Lee Pelosi
 Jeffries Perlmutter
 Peters (CA) Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—5

Hall Negrete McLeod Wilson (SC)
 Miller, Gary Nunnelee

□ 1439

So the amendment was rejected.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
 (By unanimous consent, Mr. CANTOR was allowed to speak out of order.)

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Chairman, I would advise Members that following this vote on Representative FLEMING's amendment, the House will revoke H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014.

The vote will be the same as the first vote earlier in this series on the same piece of legislation.

Again, the House will revoke H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014, following this last amendment vote.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLEMING

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.
 The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.
 The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.
 The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 255, noes 171, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 286]

AYES—255

Aderholt Ellison LaMalfa
 Amash Ellmers Lamborn
 Amodei Engel Lance
 Bachmann Enyart Lankford
 Bachus Farenthold Larson (CT)
 Barber Fattah Latta
 Barr Fincher Lee (CA)
 Barton Fleischmann Lewis
 Benishek Fleming LoBiondo
 Benivolio Flores Loeb sack
 Bilirakis Forbes Lofgren
 Bishop (UT) Fortenberry Long
 Black Foyx Lowenthal
 Blackburn Franks (AZ) Lucas
 Boustany Gallego Luetkemeyer
 Brady (PA) Gardner Lummis
 Brady (TX) Garrett Marchant
 Braley (IA) Gibbs Marino
 Bridenstine Gibson Massie
 Brooks (AL) Gingrey (GA) McAllister
 Broun (GA) Gohmert McCaul
 Brown (CA) Brownley (CA) McClintock
 Buchanan Gowdy McGovern
 Bunchon Granger McHenry
 Burgess Graves (GA) McKinley
 Bustos Graves (MO) McMorris
 Byrne Grayson Rodgers
 Calvert Green, Al Mead ows
 Camp Green, Gene Messer
 Campbell Griffith (AR) Mica
 Cantor Griffith (VA) Michaud
 Capito Grijalva Miller (FL)
 Capuano Guthrie Miller (MI)
 Carter Hanna Mullin
 Cartwright Harper Mulvaney
 Cassidy Harris Murphy (PA)
 Chabot Hartzler Neal
 Clark (MA) Hastings (WA) Neugebauer
 Coble Heck (WA) Noem
 Coffman Hensarling Nolan
 Cohen Herrera Beutler Nugent
 Cole Himes Nunes
 Collins (GA) Holding O'Rourke
 Collins (NY) Hudson Olson
 Conaway Huelskamp Palazzo
 Connolly Paulsen Paulsen
 Cook Hultgren Pearce
 Costa Hunter Perry
 Cotton Hurt Peterson
 Courtney Issa Petri
 Cramer Jackson Lee Pittenger
 Crenshaw Jenkins Pitts
 Culberson Johnson (GA) Poe (TX)
 Daines Johnson (OH) Polis
 Davis, Rodney Johnson, Sam Pompeo
 DeLauro Jones Posey
 DelBene Jordan Price (GA)
 Denham Joyce Rahall
 Dent Kelly (PA) Reed
 DeSantis King (IA) Renacci
 DesJarlais Kingston Ribble
 Doyle Kinzinger (IL) Rice (SC)
 Duffy Kline Rigell
 Duncan (SC) Kuster Roe (TN)
 Duncan (TN) Labrador Rogers (MI)

Rokita Serrano Valadao
 Rooney Sessions Wagner
 Ros-Lehtinen Shimkus Walberg
 Roskam Shuster Walden
 Ross Simpson Walz
 Rothfus Smith (MO) Weber (TX)
 Royce Smith (NE) Smith (FL)
 Ryan (WI) Smith (NJ) Webster (FL)
 Salmon Smith (TX) Welch
 Sánchez, Linda Southerland Wenstrup
 T. Stivers Westmoreland
 Sanford Stockman Whitfield
 Scalise Stutzman Williams
 Schneider Terry Wittman
 Schock Thompson (PA) Wolf
 Schrader Thornberry Womack
 Schwartz Tiberi Woodall
 Schweikert Tierney Yoder
 Scott (VA) Tipton Yoho
 Scott, Austin Titus Young (AK)
 Sensenbrenner Turner Young (IN)

NOES—171

Barletta Hanabusa Pastor (AZ)
 Barrow (GA) Hastings (FL) Payne
 Bass Heck (NV) Pelosi
 Beatty Higgins Perlmutter
 Becerra Hinojosa Peters (CA)
 Bera (CA) Holt Peters (MI)
 Bishop (NY) Honda Pingree (ME)
 Bishop (NY) Horsford Pocan
 Blumenauer Hoyer Price (NC)
 Bonamici Huffman Quigley
 Brooks (IN) Israel Rangel
 Brown (FL) Jeffries Reichert
 Butterfield Johnson, E. B. Richmond
 Capps Jolly Roby
 Cárdenas Kaptur Rogers (AL)
 Carney Carney Keating
 Carson (IN) Kelly (IL) Rogers (KY)
 Castor (FL) Kennedy Rohrabacher
 Castro (TX) Kildee Roybal-Allard
 Chaffetz Ruiz
 Chu Kind Runyan
 Cicilline King (NY) Ruppertsberger
 Clarke (NY) Kirkpatrick Rush
 Clay Langevin Ryan (OH)
 Cleaver Larsen (WA) Sanchez, Loretta
 Clyburn Latham Sarbanes
 Conyers Levin Schakowsky
 Cooper Lipinski Schiff
 Crawford Lowey Scott, David
 Crowley Lujan Grisham Luján, Ben Ray
 Cuellar (NM) Shea-Porter
 Cummings Luján, Ben Ray Sherman
 Davis (CA) (NM) Sinema
 Davis, Danny Lynch Sires
 DeFazio Maffei Slaughter
 DeGette Maloney, Sean Smith (WA)
 Delaney Caroly n Speier
 Deutch Maloney, Sean Stewart
 Diaz-Balart Matheson Swalwell (CA)
 Dingell Matsui Takano
 Doggett McCarthy (CA) Thompson (CA)
 Duckworth McCarthy (NY) Thompson (MS)
 Edwards McCollum Thompson (MS)
 Eshoo McDermott Tonko
 Esty McIntyre Tsongas
 Farr McKeon Upton
 Fitzpatrick McNe rney Van Hollen
 Foster Meehan Vargas
 Frankel (FL) Meeks Veasey
 Frelinghuysen Meng Vela
 Fudge Miller, George Velázquez
 Gabbard Moore Visclosky
 Garamendi Moran Walorski
 Garcia Murphy (FL) Wasserman
 Gerlach Nadler Schultz
 Goodlatte Napolitano Waters
 Grimm Owens Waxman
 Gutiérrez Pallone Wilson (FL)
 Hahn Pascrell Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—5

Hall Negrete McLeod Wilson (SC)
 Miller, Gary Nunnelee

□ 1446

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to. Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) having assumed the chair, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

VETERAN ACCESS TO CARE ACT OF 2014

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings on rollcall vote No. 275, the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4810) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for Department of Veterans Affairs patients with extended waiting times for appointments at Department facilities, and for other purposes, be vacated, to the end that the Chair put the question de novo.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4810.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 426, noes 0, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 287]

AYES—426

Aderholt Black Calvert
 Amash Blackburn Camp
 Amodei Blumenaer Campbell
 Bachmann Bonamici Cantor
 Bachus Boustany Capito
 Barber Brady (PA) Capps
 Barletta Brady (TX) Capuano
 Barr Braley (IA) Cárdenas
 Barrow (GA) Bridenstine Carney
 Barton Brooks (AL) Carson (IN)
 Bass Brooks (IN) Carter
 Beatty Broun (GA) Cartwright
 Becerra Brown (FL) Cassidy
 Benishek Brownley (CA) Castor (FL)
 Bentivolio Buchanan Castro (TX)
 Bera (CA) Bucshon Chabot
 Billrakis Burgess Chaffetz
 Bishop (GA) Bustos Chu
 Bishop (NY) Butterfield Cicilline
 Bishop (UT) Byrne Clark (MA)

Clarke (NY) Hahn
 Clay Hanabusa
 Cleaver Hanna
 Clyburn Harper
 Coble Harris
 Coffman Hartzler
 Cohen Hastings (FL)
 Cole Hastings (WA)
 Collins (GA) Heck (NV)
 Collins (NY) Heck (WA)
 Conaway Hensarling
 Connolly Herrera Beutler
 Conyers Higgins
 Cook Himes
 Cooper Hinojosa
 Costa Holding
 Cotton Holt
 Courtney Honda
 Cramer Horsford
 Crawford Hoyer
 Crenshaw Hudson
 Crowley Huelskamp
 Cuellar Huffman
 Culberson Huizenga (MI)
 Cummings Hultgren
 Daines Hunter
 Davis (CA) Hurt
 Davis, Danny Israel
 Davis, Rodney Issa
 DeFazio Jackson Lee
 DeGette Jeffries
 Delaney Jenkins
 DeLauro Johnson (GA)
 DelBene Johnson (OH)
 Denham Johnson, E. B.
 Dent Johnson, Sam
 DeSantis Jolly
 DesJarlais Jones
 Deutch Jordan
 Diaz-Balart Joyce
 Dingell Kaptur
 Doggett Keating
 Doyle Kelly (IL)
 Duckworth Kelly (PA)
 Duffy Kennedy
 Duncan (SC) Kildee
 Duncan (TN) Kilmer
 Edwards Kind
 Ellison King (IA)
 Ellmers King (NY)
 Engel Kingston
 Enyart Kinzinger (IL)
 Eshoo Kirkpatrick
 Esty Kline
 Farenthold Kuster
 Farr Labrador
 Fattah LaMalfa
 Fincher Lamborn
 Fitzpatrick Lance
 Fleischmann Langevin
 Fleming Lankford
 Flores Larsen (WA)
 Forbes Larson (CT)
 Fortenberry Latham
 Foster Latta
 Foxx Lee (CA)
 Frankel (FL) Levin
 Franks (AZ) Lewis
 Frelinghuysen Lipinski
 Fudge LoBiondo
 Gabbard Loeb sack
 Gallego Lofgren
 Garamendi Long
 Garcia Lowenthal
 Gardner Lowey
 Garrett Lucas
 Gerlach Luetkemeyer
 Gibbs Lujan Grisham
 Gibson (NM)
 Gingrey (GA) Luján, Ben Ray
 Gohmert (NM)
 Goodlatte Lummis
 Gosar Lynch
 Gowdy Maffei
 Granger Maloney,
 Graves (GA) Carolyn
 Graves (MO) Maloney, Sean
 Grayson Marchant
 Green, Al Marino
 Green, Gene Massie
 Griffin (AR) Matheson
 Griffith (VA) Matsui
 Grijalva McAllister
 Grijalva McCarthy (CA)
 Hahn McCarthy (NY)
 Hahn McCaul

McClintock Sanford Smith (TX)
 McCollum Sarbanes Smith (WA)
 McDermott Scalise Southerland
 McGovern Schakowsky Speier
 McHenry Schiff Stewart
 McIntyre Schneider Stivers
 McKeon Schock Stockman
 McKinley Schrader Stutzman
 McMorris Schwartz Swalwell (CA)
 Rodgers Schweikert Takano
 McNeerney Scott (VA) Terry
 Meadows Scott, Austin Thompson (CA)
 Meehan Scott, David Thompson (MS)
 Meeks Sensenbrenner Thompson (PA)
 Meng Serrano Thornberry
 Messer Sessions Tiberi
 Mica Sewell (AL) Tierney
 Michaud Shea-Porter Tipton
 Miller (FL) Shorman Titus
 Miller (MI) Shimkus Tonko
 Miller, George Shuster Tsongas
 Moore Simpson Turner
 Moran Sinema Upton
 Mullin Sires Valadao
 Mulvaney Slaughter Van Hollen
 Murphy (FL) Smith (MO)
 Murphy (PA) Smith (NE)
 Nadler Smith (NJ)
 Napolitano Vela

NOT VOTING—5
 Hall Negrete McLeod Wilson (SC)
 Miller, Gary Nunnelee

□ 1504

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to House Resolution 604 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4745.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) kindly take the chair.

□ 1506

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. MARCHANT (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, an amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING)

had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 156, line 16.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568).

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise, yet again, to raise the alarm over taxpayer-funded housing policy.

This straightforward amendment that you have before you would prohibit Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from using funds to pay housing advocacy groups or others through the housing trust fund at a time when they continue to owe money to the American people.

Beginning in 2008, the U.S. taxpayers bailed out the GSEs to the tune of \$189 billion. That number is expected to grow to over \$200 billion by 2015; but as the housing market has begun to recover, so, too, have Fannie's and Freddie's profits.

At the first sign of money rolling in, some housing advocates are pressuring the Federal Housing Finance Agency to get a piece of the taxpayer-funded pie. They have gone to extraordinary lengths, even filing a lawsuit last summer to try to force contributions to the trust fund.

Originally slated to receive funds siphoned off from the GSEs, the trust fund was never capitalized due, of course, to the fact that the GSEs went into conservatorship. Without passage of this amendment, the director of the FHFA could turn on that spigot at any moment.

Contrary to what Fannie and Freddie apologists may claim, the GSEs have yet to repay any of the taxpayer-funded bailout. The cash injection into the GSEs was made in the form of a draw from the U.S. Treasury, not a loan to be repaid. No so-called repayment can be made as long as American taxpayers are on the hook for future losses.

Let us also not overlook the fact that the failure of this public-private housing scheme was at the center of the financial crisis, a collapse that destroyed trillions of dollars in household wealth and left millions unemployed. How much money would it take to repay those losses?

It is clear to any observer that the money that is now coming in from the GSEs is a small pittance for what they have cost the American economy. Any

profits remain directly attributable to extensive and continued taxpayer support. That is the point, hence the need for this amendment.

I would urge an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The underlying bill contains no funds for the housing trust fund, yet the gentleman's amendment would create a prohibition on using funds that don't exist in the bill. This is simply a messaging amendment that has no practical purpose.

I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

The amendment was agreed to.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, as cochair of the Native American Caucus, I am standing with my colleagues here today to support investing in Native American housing.

The United States cannot fulfill its Federal trust obligation to Indian Country without increasing investments in Native American housing.

Here are two facts about Indian country: almost 9 percent of the homes in Indian country still lack complete plumbing facilities and 30 percent of the homes in Indian Country rely on wood for heating.

Another fact is that Native Hawaiian grants have been completely zeroed out of this bill. The Native American Housing Block Grant is a primary Federal source to address housing backlogs and provide sufficient maintenance throughout Indian Country, but this bill flat-funds this account from 2014 at \$650 dollars.

While level funding is better than a cut, my colleagues should know that this is the same level of funding provided in fiscal year 2004. We can and we must do better.

Again, to meet its treaty obligations, the United States must increase this investment for Indian housing.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I agree with the gentlelady. Housing is important for the American Indian community. It should be funded. This bill is a decent bill, but flatlining this funding back to the 2004 level is not acceptable.

We need this housing in rural areas, as the gentlelady mentioned. I represent approximately 400 small villages. Most do not have running water and the facilities that you are used to every day when you get up. They have the problem of many diseases because of the lack of good facilities. We need new housing. We need the money to be spent.

My argument is, if we are putting money in Afghanistan like we have done in the last few years, we ought to be able to put the money into our own Nation and States to have the housing for the native communities.

This is an important piece of legislation, but we ought to fund it to the full extent. It is time that we recognize that we have to help those who do not have, especially our first citizens of the United States.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, in order to keep a new, healthy housing market, we must be committed to affordable housing. All citizens should have access to it.

For 16 years, NAHASDA has provided funding for tribes to implement their own strategies to address housing needs that are, quite frankly, unique to their own communities.

Under the program, they can use funds to address their housing needs through a variety of activities, including construction, rehabilitation, modernization, rental assistance, lending programs, crime prevention, and a host of other strategies.

The Puyallup Tribe in my own home State and district recently used NAHASDA funds to construct housing that reflects their culture with a traditional longhouse design and structure.

It is a 10-unit building that is environmentally friendly and features energy-efficient systems that keep costs out. It is beautiful. It is cost effective. It is economical. Most importantly, it meets a basic need.

□ 1515

In fiscal year 2012 alone, the 369 tribal recipients of grants used that funding to build or acquire more than 1,450 affordable homes and rehabilitate another 4,700. Since the inception of the program, recipients have built, acquired, or rehabilitated more than 110,000 homes; but as has been suggested, the funding has failed to keep up with inflation, and it has not met the demonstrated need for the program. In fact, a lot of the funds end up being used for maintenance and operation because it has been flatlined. Meanwhile, the need for the program grows as the money, in relative terms, shrinks. In the 10 years between 2002 to 2012, the number of overcrowded households increased by 14 percent, and 10

percent of all homes in Indian Country are overcrowded. It is notably higher than the national average.

The Federal Government has a trust obligation to promote the wellbeing of Native Americans. It is a trust obligation. It is a legal obligation. Frankly, it is a sacred obligation. Ensuring the proper funding of NAHASDA is a critical component towards meeting those obligations.

As you consider the 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill, I ask all of you to please support the robust funding for NAHASDA.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to join my colleagues in support of this important NAHASDA program within this appropriations bill.

As has been stated, our country—this Nation, this government—has an important trust responsibility that it is obligated to live up to, and the full funding of NAHASDA is an important way to manifest that obligation.

Just as in any community, housing is an essential component of a civil society. What NAHASDA provides is to not only deal with the backlog of housing needs, which are many—certainly, the dollars that are presently available are not keeping up with the need that is out there in these tribal communities, for sure—but to also allow for the maintenance of the housing that is currently in place.

The difficulty, of course, with a funding level which is the same as it was a decade ago and with a backlog of housing needs is that, as the housing that has been developed ages, more and more of the dollars are necessarily placed into maintaining and improving existing housing, which further increases the backlog of available housing.

I would just suggest to my colleagues—and I know many of my colleagues have done this—to visit the communities. Talk to them about their housing needs, and take a look at the conditions that many are left to live in. You will find that, while this program has been quite successful, as has been said, in providing 110,000 housing units since its inception, there is so much more that needs to be done. We have an obligation as Members of Congress to make sure that we live up to the commitments that we have made, to the trust obligation that we have. It is more than words. In this case, it actually means putting our money where our mouth is and putting the resources behind this program as it should be.

This is an important program. It is one that we are obligated to fund. Obviously, I would prefer that we meet

the full obligation that we have committed to. This appropriation does not go as far as it should in doing that. We really need to make sure that, in the future, we do.

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Chairman, the speakers before me have all said the fundamental issue that we are looking at here, which is of the trust and treaty obligations that this great Nation has created with the native people—the indigenous people and the first people—of this Nation. Yet, for now and for many years, the Appropriations Committee has seen fit to remove any and all funding from a critical program that greatly benefits my home State of Hawaii, and that is the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant.

This program is an essential source of funding because it not only helps the native people on their own land, but it fulfills a trust obligation created by Congress in 1920 by way of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. The act recognized the importance of returning Native Hawaiians to the land to preserve their culture, their traditions, and their values, and the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant has helped to facilitate that.

Similar to what NAHASDA has done for American Indians and Alaska Natives, the Native Hawaiian title of NAHASDA has opened the door to increased partnerships with financial institutions and has enabled the Federal policy of self-determination to be extended to all native populations across this great Nation.

Through the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has been able to assist over 400 low-income families through infrastructure development, down payment assistance, and direct loans for first-time home buyers, construction programs, and the development of renewable energy projects. There are Native Hawaiian housing lots on each of the Hawaiian Islands. These funds have also been able to address the growing issue of homelessness by rehabilitating older units to make them safe and sanitary.

As we all know, the foundation for the success of millions of American families is a secure home. The Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant has given hundreds of Native Hawaiian families that same foundation to succeed by assisting them with affordable homeownership opportunities in Hawaii, which serve as the groundwork for self-sufficiency and future prosperity.

A disruption to the stream of funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block

Grant would have a dire impact on dozens of ongoing development projects, including alternative energy resources for homes, investments in infrastructure, and low interest rate loans that seek to benefit the thousands of families living on Hawaiian homelands.

I ask the committee to reconsider its decision to remove this vital program from the bill every year, and I pledge to work with the committee to see that it is restored.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my concern about the need for fully supporting Native American housing programs.

I recognize that my colleagues faced a number of difficult choices when crafting this bill, and I specifically want to thank the chairman and ranking member for their work in fully funding the President's request for Native American Housing Block Grants at \$650 million. I am pleased to stand here today along with such strong advocates for Indian housing programs, and I am grateful for the leadership that each of the speakers today has shown.

I do share my colleagues' concerns over the adequate funding for our Native Hawaiian housing needs, and I am hopeful that, as this legislation moves forward, Congress can work to address this need as well as to resolve some serious issues with other parts of the bill.

Now, as the members of this committee well know, the challenges facing adequate housing for Indian Country are profound. The district that I represent is home to nine tribes. I have seen firsthand what a difference these housing programs make to individual families and to their communities, and the statistics bear out just how substantial the need is here.

In 2012, the Department of Housing and Urban Development found that more than 25 percent of Indian housing units lack basic facilities, are overcrowded, or cost more than 50 percent of residents' incomes. There is a need today for 200,000 more housing units in Indian Country. That is why I am hoping that this body will soon hold a hearing on the reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, or NAHASDA.

I know that there has been bipartisan work both in the House and in the Senate on identifying ways to increase the effectiveness of these programs and to reduce duplicative bureaucratic requirements; but there is another element of NAHASDA that I think is absolutely important not only to Indian Country but also to those who have worn the uniform in service to our country. That element is homelessness among our tribal veterans.

In December 2012, the U.S. Inter-agency Council on Homelessness found that, while Native Americans make up 0.7 percent of the total population of veterans, they represent 2½ percent of veterans experiencing homelessness. In other words, homelessness disproportionately affects our tribal veterans.

Unfortunately, as I stand here today, we don't have the tools we need to help fight homelessness among our tribal veterans. The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, which has made real and significant progress in tackling veterans' homelessness, does not have the authorities and flexibilities to provide support to the native veterans who are facing homelessness.

That is why I was pleased to join with Representative COLE—a true champion for Indian Country—in introducing H.R. 3418, the Housing Native Heroes Act. Our legislation doesn't cost any new money, but it would, instead, authorize existing funds to support a demonstration project that would allow tribes to manage this voucher program directly. In both the House and the Senate, the proposed reauthorization bills advance this proposal, making critical progress in the fight to reduce homelessness among tribal veterans.

We have an obligation—a trust obligation—to our tribes but also a sacred obligation to all of our veterans, which is to take care of them when they return home. We simply cannot turn a blind eye to the needs of our native veterans. If this Chamber can make progress in advancing the NAHASDA reauthorization, I am confident that we can end this anomaly that leaves our tribal veterans without the support they need.

I would like to conclude by noting that the underlying bill before us today provides \$75 million for the HUD-VASH program, which is in line with the President's budget request.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their continued support for this program.

I ask, as this committee continues its work of combating homelessness among our veterans, that the challenges facing our tribal veterans not be forgotten.

I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DENHAM

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for high-speed rail in the State of California or for the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Chairman, this is a very simple amendment. Again, it

reads: "None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for high-speed rail in the State of California or for the California High-Speed Rail Authority."

As chair of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, I am a big supporter of high-speed rail. I have seen some of the greatest high-speed rail in other countries, and here, even in the United States, we are going to see the first high-speed rail in Texas and then in Florida—two projects that are moving forward with private dollars.

Yet, in California, in 2008, we passed Proposition 1A, which was a guarantee to the voters that a \$33 billion project would not only be built but would be built on time, with equal parts of funding from the State voters, from the Federal Government, hopefully, and then from the private investors. Today, 5 years later, after \$3.8 billion in stimulus funds for shovel-ready projects were dedicated to this, still not one shovel is in the ground. It is a project that has been held up in court. The \$9.95 billion cannot be used, and there are no private investors.

So the question is: Why should the Federal Government be putting more money into a project that is non-existent today?

It is a project that, even by its own definition, is \$32 billion short, not in the project, but in the initial operating segment, which is guaranteed to the voters to be completed. This is a project that has grown out of control. When they found out that they were in default in April, rather than fixing the problem, they committed to next year's budget, utilizing \$250 million in cap-and-trade funding.

There is a reason the judges have struck this down to this point, and there is a reason that voters wanted to have this go back before them: it is a project that has no end in sight. Again, no shovels have been put into the ground even though the Federal Government has obligated \$3.8 billion—money that could be used for other priorities. Today, we are in a situation. With a \$32 billion shortfall, there is no proposal from the President to fill that gap, and there is no proposal from the Governor to fill that gap. Yet there is the hope that the Federal Government will continue to find new money to throw at something that is non-existent.

This doesn't meet the Prop 1A guarantee. There is no State match, and the cost has more than doubled. Again, the jobs that have continued to be talked about for the last 5 years are nonexistent.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge an "aye" vote on this amendment. We have got to stop this train wreck.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the California Democratic congressional delegation, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

This misguided amendment would prohibit additional Federal investment in California's high-speed rail project. As we know, California is in the midst of constructing the Nation's first truly high-speed rail system.

The project was approved by a strong majority of California voters in 2008 because we Californians know that high-speed rail is the most effective and environmentally sustainable way to increase mobility across the State.

Now, the project is already creating jobs for Californians. In fact, more than 70 firms that have committed to performing work on this project have offices in the Central Valley, and many of these firms, happily, are veteran-owned.

In San Jose, the California high-speed rail project is already providing immediate benefits by investing \$1.5 billion in the Caltrain Modernization Program. This program will create over 9,500 jobs, over 90 percent in the San Francisco Bay area.

Now, the government's independent watchdog, the GAO, conducted an extensive audit of the project. And you know what? They gave high marks to the authority's business plan for high-speed rail.

Members of Congress are right to conduct proper oversight of infrastructure projects across the country. However, regardless of your views on the merits of this project, I think most of us would agree that attempting to kill a single project through the appropriations process is bad public policy and sets a horrible precedent.

I would note that electrified trains are really part of the future. China already has 5,000 miles of high-speed rail, and they intend to double that. Spain has 1,600 miles of high-speed rail, and they are building more. More than a dozen other countries have their own successful high-speed rail systems. Even Morocco is building a high-speed rail system. But we don't have anything in the United States except for what California is doing.

I would note that California is almost always on the leading edge of progress for our country. We are leading in energy conservation. We are leading in alternative energy, and we have the best public university, the University of California, in the entire United States. We always lead.

Now, it is important that the State of California has identified an ongoing source of funds to support high-speed rail, and that is the cap-and-trade funds. Is that appropriate?

Yes, it is, because the cap-and-trade funds are generated through energy

conservation, and the high-speed rail system is going to help move Californians in an environmentally suitable way.

It is important to be visionary here. You know, when we started building the interstate highway system, when the first mile of highway was built, we didn't know that 50 years later we would still be identifying interstates to build.

We need to begin with high-speed rail in California. California is behind this project. The California Democratic delegation is behind this project.

I urge my colleagues to reject the amendment, put our neighbors back to work, and allow California to continue building the Nation's first true high-speed rail project. We will all be proud of that project as it nears completion.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of Mr. DENHAM's amendment.

High-speed rail has been a boondoggle in California pretty much since day one. The voters, when they had it presented in front of them as Prop 1A in the 2008 election, they were shown a \$33 billion project that would connect San Francisco to Los Angeles with a continuous high-speed rail project.

What we found out, within 3 years, was after the price went up initially \$45 billion, that a true audit turned out it would be \$98.5 billion. After that, the Governor real quick decided to change the project and use the connectivity of the Bay Area and Los Angeles, their local systems, to make up for it, which is illegal under Prop 1A. It has to be continuing from San Francisco to LA. You can't use local transit systems under Prop 1A.

So now what we see is that they were able to downsize the cost to only \$68 billion over what the voters, by a 52 percent, not an overwhelming margin, merely 52 percent, approved.

They were sold a bill of goods. That is why we shouldn't spend another Federal dollar or State dollar which enables—the Federal dollars enable the State dollars to be spent. We need to stop that here until they come up with a real plan that shows the financing.

They haven't shown the financing yet. We can identify \$3 billion worth of Federal money, \$9.95 billion worth of State money, approximately \$13 billion for a project in the downsized illegal form that is only \$68 billion, they say.

Where does the other \$55 billion come from?

They have no idea. There is no private sector money. There is no more Federal money that is going to happen, other than the \$3 billion that has been

captured from the stimulus package of a couple of years ago.

We need to take that money and channel that into something else that we need to do desperately, such as our transportation infrastructure which we are speaking about here this week. Or in California we have a desperate need for water supply during our drought, instead of a boondoggle which is going to pave through a bunch of our ag land in California, as well as important other infrastructure.

What do we hear about it?

Oh, it is going to save CO₂. It is going to be a panacea for global warming. You know, for 30 years it won't even help toward this project of global warming. Instead, part of their plan is they are going to have to plant trees to offset the construction of high-speed rail because it is going to have a higher CO₂ footprint than what we already have.

It is boondoggle after boondoggle. We talk about jobs. These aren't real jobs. The numbers have been inflated since day one. They tried to tell us 3 years ago that it was going to cause a million new jobs for California.

When we finally pinned them down in a State committee, they said, well, that means a million job years. It turns out to be it might be 5,000, 10,000 jobs under construction, not a million jobs. It is deceit after deceit.

We need to plow this money that we have federally back into something that would help our transportation infrastructure in California or in the Nation, help build water supply, anything but this project here, which is full of deceit and empty promise after empty promise.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, and I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

I just wanted to make a couple of quick points. First, it is easy to be a critic and it is hard to be a builder. The high-speed rail project is a big project, it is difficult to do, but we are going to get it done.

Sometimes I wonder, when people say don't do high-speed rail, how they plan to deal with the millions of additional Californians that are anticipated to clog our roads and need transportation infrastructure.

It has been suggested by dispassionate engineers that we would need at least two or three additional airports in California. We would need several, as many as five, additional lanes, north-south, in the middle of California to match the capacity of high-speed rail.

How are we going to do that?

Do we think that that is not going to be expensive?

The alternative to high-speed rail is not nothing. That is impossible for a State as vibrant as California, with an economy as booming as it is, and a future as bright as we have.

I would note also that the idea that it is inappropriate to use cap-and-trade funds, I just simply disagree with. California is among the first in the Nation, I would say, and it has got wide approval in the State, to do this cap-and-trade system, to bring down carbon emissions.

Funds will be generated through that project. Some of those funds will go to this very worthy project.

So I disagree very much with this amendment. I don't believe that we will be successful—my God, I hope we are not—in stopping this visionary project that is going to allow the State of California to continue to prosper and for transportation north-south needs to be met into the future.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

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

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

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to highlight the tragic shortage of suitable housing on tribal lands, and to call for increasing funding for the highly successful Native American Housing and Self Determination Act.

Now, in 1996, Congress reorganized native housing programs into NAHASDA, a block grant system administered by tribes in cooperation with HUD. NAHASDA has proven to be an extremely effective tool for tribes to help tribal members increase the quality and quantity of housing.

NAHASDA not only works, but fosters tribal self-determination and affirms the trust relationship that exists between Congress and tribal nations.

Mr. Chairman, a bipartisan coalition of Members, Representatives COLE, HANABUSA, HECK, KILDEE, and Representative YOUNG and I, have introduced a bipartisan reauthorization NAHASDA, which is extremely similar to a draft that Representative PEARCE has introduced.

Now, both bills, Mr. Chairman, make prudent changes to increase the efficiency of the delivery of the program

dollars, and I strongly believe that the changes will have a very positive impact.

But, Mr. Chairman, increased efficiency will not replace the need for more money. The top three poorest counties in the United States of America are primarily populated by Native Americans.

However, despite overwhelming need, we are not increasing funding for the program, and the current appropriation bill does not include funding for all Native peoples. The program funding has been flat for years and, at current level funding levels, we are falling way behind.

Mr. Chairman, opponents of NAHASDA reauthorization point to the slow spend-down rate of a single tribe, giving the false sense that there is a surplus. However, the overall spend-down rate in NAHASDA exceeds that of other HUD programs, indicative of the dire housing needs.

The first people of this Nation suffer in crushing poverty on remote reservations, outside of the view of most Americans. The National Congress of American Indians finds that 40 percent of on-reservation housing is substandard, compared to 6 percent outside of Indian Country.

The homes are overcrowded, and too many basic utilities like access to the sewer system or even indoor plumbing is missing.

I call on Congress to put these first Americans in their hearts and to consider helping these communities by supporting both NAHASDA reauthorization and increased funding for this extremely successful Native housing program.

By supporting funding for the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act, we are working towards increasing the quality of housing for Native Americans, and that is good for all of our districts.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MRS.
BLACKBURN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . Each amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman of the committee for the diligent work that they have done to do their part to get this funding bill, this appropriations bill, to begin to bring the costs down. I think that it truly shows how dedicated many of us on this side of the

aisle are to having government get its spending under control.

□ 1545

We all know Washington does not have a revenue problem. It has an acute spending and priority problem. We see it every single day. My constituents in Tennessee see it, and they talk about it a lot.

Last week, I heard a lot about the outside spending that takes place in this town, and the thing that really offends my constituents is that Congress spends, D.C. spends money that they don't have. All of it is taxpayer money, and it is so inappropriate that the spending continues to grow year by year, and the taxpayer has to pay more.

Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, I think that there is something immoral about citizens and taxpayers struggling to live within their means, so they can pay taxes to a government that refuses to live within its means.

That is why, every year, I come to the floor and offer bills for 1, 2, and 5 percent across-the-board cuts, and then during appropriations season, I know I kind of wear a path in the carpet here, offering amendments that would cut a penny on the dollar, 1 percent across the board, and that is the nature of this amendment that I offer today.

I do it because my constituents know that Washington spends too much money, that we borrow too much money and, therefore, what we are doing is capping and trading our children's future to the people that own our debt because we couldn't be spending it if we weren't borrowing it.

Go talk to China, Japan, OPEC, the top holders of our debt, and they own a lot of it right now. They are the ones who will be making the decisions—probably decisions we won't like—and at some point, they may call that bill due.

Now, across-the-board spending cuts are not a partisan issue. In 2010, Peter Orszag, who was the President's pick for Director of the Office of Management and Budget, turned to the executive departments and agencies and said: I want you just to go in and cut 5 percent across the board.

Governor Christie of New Jersey is well known for turning around that State. It was a 9 percent across-the-board cut; Governor Cuomo of New York, a 10 percent across-the-board cut; Governor Perry of Texas, a 10 percent across-the-board cut.

States do it because it works. What it does is it engages the rank-and-file employees who know where you can make these cuts, so I think it is time for the Federal Government to begin to do this.

In our history, we have had six across-the-board cuts. They have ranged from 0.22 percent to 1 percent of covered appropriations. At those times,

it saved us from \$1.1 billion to \$8.5 billion.

For this bill, we need to be doing the same thing; and yes, we are below the funding levels, to the credit of the appropriators who have worked on this. We are below the 2014 funding levels. That is a good thing, but we need to do a little bit more because we are borrowing way too much.

It is time to get our spending under control. I encourage my colleagues to support the 1 percent across-the-board spending reduction to this bill, and let's take one more step to bring this spending problem under control and move to a balanced budget.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, we have already crafted this bill to our 302(b) allocation, which is in compliance with the Ryan-Murray budget agreement.

While I agree with the gentlewoman's desire to reduce spending, the proper time to consider reductions to overall spending is when the budget is being crafted, not on individual appropriations bills.

This bill continues the investment in our Nation's transportation infrastructure, as well as serving as a critical safety net for some of our most vulnerable populations by trying to make sure all Americans have a roof over their head.

This amendment would cut the FAA air traffic controllers, cut infrastructure, highway spending, transit grants, section 8 vouchers, VASH vouchers for our homeless veterans, safety inspectors for all modes of transportation, and also homeless grants.

We have done our cutting based on hearings, meetings with the departments and the stakeholders, and analyzing the budget justifications, rather than just an arbitrary across-the-board cut.

For those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I would urge a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, just to remind my colleagues, this bill is \$1.8 billion below the 2014 bill in spending.

We had a number of our colleagues speak about the lack of funding for their particular programs, and throughout this evening, we are going to have other speakers talk about the lack of funding and programs.

This amendment would cut programs in transportation and housing, without any thought to the relative merit of

the programs contained in the bill, so for that reason, I would oppose this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following new section:

SEC. 417.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of this section or the amendments made by this section.

(b) BUY-AMERICAN PREFERENCES.—Chapter 501 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking the chapter heading and inserting “BUY AMERICA”.

(c) ENHANCEMENTS TO BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS.—Section 50101 of such title is amended to read as follows:

“§ 50101. Buy America

“(a) DOMESTIC SOURCE REQUIREMENT FOR STEEL, IRON, AND MANUFACTURED GOODS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in paragraph (2), funds made available to carry out section 106(k), 44502(a)(2), or 44509, subchapter I of chapter 471 (except section 47127), or chapter 481 (except sections 48102(e), 48106, 48107, and 48110) of this title may not be obligated for a project unless the steel, iron, and manufactured goods used for the project are produced in the United States.

“(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.—With respect to a project for the procurement of a facility or equipment, funds made available to carry out the provisions specified in paragraph (1) may not be obligated for the project unless—

“(A) the cost of components and subcomponents produced in the United States—

“(i) for fiscal year 2015 is more than 60 percent of the cost of all components of the facility or equipment;

“(ii) for fiscal year 2016 is more than 70 percent of the cost of all components of the facility or equipment;

“(iii) for fiscal year 2017 is more than 80 percent of the cost of all components of the facility or equipment;

“(iv) for fiscal year 2018 is more than 90 percent of the cost of all components of the facility or equipment; and

“(v) for fiscal year 2019, and each fiscal year thereafter, is 100 percent of the cost of all components of the facility or equipment; and

“(B) final assembly of the facility or equipment occurs in the United States.

“(3) SCOPE.—The requirements of this section apply to all contracts for a project car-

ried out within the scope of the applicable finding, determination, or decision under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), regardless of the funding source of such contracts, if at least one contract for the project is funded with amounts made available to carry out a provision specified in paragraph (1).

“(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(1) ISSUANCE OF WAIVERS.—The Secretary of Transportation may waive the requirements of subsection (a) only if the Secretary finds that—

“(A) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest, as determined in accordance with the regulations required under paragraph (2);

“(B) the steel, iron, or manufactured goods required for a project are not produced in the United States—

“(i) in sufficient and reasonably available quantities; or

“(ii) to a satisfactory quality; or

“(C) the use of steel, iron, and manufactured goods produced in the United States for a project will increase the total cost of the project by more than 25 percent.

“(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than October 1, 2015, the Secretary shall issue regulations establishing the criteria that the Secretary shall use to determine whether the application of subsection (a) is inconsistent with the public interest for purposes of paragraph (1)(A).

“(3) LABOR COSTS.—For purposes of this section, labor costs involved in final assembly are not included in calculating the cost of components.

“(4) REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS.—An entity seeking a waiver under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Secretary a request for the waiver in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(5) PREFERENCE FOR AMERICAN-ASSEMBLED FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.—In the procurement of a facility or equipment subject to a waiver issued under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give preference to a facility or equipment for which final assembly occurred in the United States.

“(6) LIMITATION ON WAIVER AUTHORITY.—In the procurement of a facility or equipment, if the Secretary finds that a component of the facility or equipment is not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or to a satisfactory quality, the Secretary may issue a waiver under paragraph (1) with respect to such component.

“(c) WAIVER REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT ON REQUEST FOR A WAIVER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary receives a request for a waiver under subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide notice of and an opportunity for public comment on the request at least 30 days before making a finding based on the request.

“(B) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—A notice provided under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) include the information available to the Secretary concerning the request, including whether the request is being made under subsection (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B), or (b)(1)(C); and

“(ii) be provided by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Department of Transportation.

“(2) DETAILED JUSTIFICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—If the Secretary issues a waiver under subsection (b), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a detailed justification for the waiver that—

“(A) addresses the public comments received under paragraph (1)(A); and

“(B) is published before the waiver takes effect.

“(d) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not impose a limitation or condition on assistance provided with funds made available to carry out a provision specified in subsection (a)(1) that restricts—

“(1) a State from imposing requirements that are more stringent than those imposed under this section with respect to limiting the use of articles, materials, or supplies mined, produced, or manufactured in foreign countries for projects carried out with such assistance; or

“(2) any recipient of such assistance from complying with such State requirements.

“(e) CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall be applied in a manner that is consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

“(2) TREATMENT OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall prohibit the use of steel, iron, and manufactured goods produced in a foreign country in a project funded with funds made available to carry out a provision specified in subsection (a)(1), including any project for which the Secretary has issued a waiver under subsection (b), if the Secretary, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, determines that the foreign country is in violation of the terms of an agreement with the United States by discriminating against steel, iron, or manufactured goods that are produced in the United States and covered by the agreement.”

(d) PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING UPON FALSIFICATION OF LABEL.—Section 50105 of such title is amended by inserting “steel, iron, or manufactured” before “goods”.

(e) REVIEW OF NATIONWIDE WAIVERS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and at least every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall review each standing nationwide waiver issued under section 50101 of title 49, United States Code, to determine whether continuing such waiver is necessary.

Mr. GARAMENDI (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, the gentlelady from Tennessee spoke about the American taxpayer and the money that is being spent by Congress, and I would like to pick up on that subject because I am deeply concerned about where and how we spend our taxpayer money. It is not our money. It is the American public's money, and it ought to be spent wisely, and it ought to be spent on American-made goods and services.

This amendment would build off of the current law dating back to 1933, the

Buy American laws. This amendment is necessary, and I will tell you why it is necessary.

This is a picture of the new San Francisco Bay Bridge, built by the Chinese Government—several billion dollars of American taxpayer money, California bridge tolls, and Federal taxpayer dollars spent to buy steel products to build this bridge from the Chinese Government. It was a steel company in Shanghai, owned by the Chinese Government—actually, by the Chinese military—that built this bridge.

This bridge should have been built by Americans—American steel companies, American workers. It should not have been built by the Chinese Government. Three thousand jobs in Shanghai, zero jobs in America—and a very shoddy job done on the bridge, thousands upon thousands of faulty welds, over budget, and it went over on time.

We need to strengthen the Buy American laws. We need to bring it home. We need to Make It In America, and this amendment would strengthen the Buy American laws in the transportation portion of this bill.

It would simply say that 60 percent is good, 70, 80, 90, and 100 percent is where we ought to be. We ought not any longer contract out to foreign companies and specifically not to the Chinese Government to build American bridges.

We are going to spend \$50 billion in this bill. Is that money going to be spent here in America on American-made goods and services? Or is it going to be spent somewhere overseas, perhaps China?

No more, I say. Build it in America. Use American taxpayer dollars to buy American goods and services. This ought to be the mantra of this Congress: Buy America. Employ Americans. Give American companies here in the United States the opportunity to bid on these jobs.

It is not going to be more expensive, and this is the proof, way over budget, way beyond the timeframes, and way beyond what is reasonable.

Build it in America, American jobs, spend American taxpayer money on American-made equipment, goods, and services. That is what this amendment does.

It also eliminates one of the problems that led to the segmentation, but we will not go there. We will simply say it is going to be made in America. That is what this amendment is all about.

I know we are going to get a point of order, but really, we ought to waive that point of order and put on the floor the issue: Is this House willing to Make It In America, to bring the American jobs back home? Is this House willing to allow American taxpayer money to be spent on American-made goods and services? Or are we simply going to do a point of order and avoid the funda-

mental question that was raised by my colleague in her previous discussion, how are we to spend the American taxpayer money? I say spend it on American-made goods and services.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

“An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.”

The amendment directly amends existing law.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, we could use the rules of this House to promote policies that are beneficial to the American Government, beneficial to the American taxpayer, and, most importantly, beneficial to the American workers, whether they are employed in the steel industry or the construction industry, or we could use the rules of the House to deny American workers the opportunity for jobs.

We are spending \$50 billion in this legislation, and we ought not use the rules of this House to deny American workers, to deny American companies the opportunity to use the American taxpayer dollars to build America. The rules of this House are flexible. They can be used to benefit America and American workers or they can be used to the detriment.

The question the Chair has before it is, How will we use those rules? Will we, in this House, strengthen the American economy by requiring that the American taxpayer dollars be used here in America? Or will we use the rule in the opposite way, to the harm of American workers?

I suggest, Mr. Chairman, you rule in favor of American workers and override the request.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment directly amends existing law.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I would ask the chairman of the T-HUD Subcommittee to rise and engage in a colloquy.

First of all, I have to commend Chairman LATHAM, Ranking Member PASTOR, and the Appropriations Committee staff for their great efforts in bringing this measure to the floor.

□ 1600

I would like to take just a moment at this opportunity to share with the committee and my colleagues a concern that I have regarding the recommendation in report language that is contained in this bill that provides funding for capital investment grants that have signed a full funding grant agreement, FFGA, by the start of the 2015 fiscal year on September 30, 2014.

Unfortunately, some delays and miscommunications with the Department of Transportation on several projects, including an important Florida project, has caused the signing of a FFGA, full funding grant agreement, to be delayed several months beyond the date in the report language. And, again, without congressional action, Florida's project and other national projects could be impacted.

I have received assurances that this issue can be resolved in the final legislation.

Mr. Chairman, would you join us in our effort to ensure that these critical national infrastructure projects continue to move forward?

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MICA. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. I thank the gentleman. As we move forward to conference, we will work with the gentleman to ensure that any project ready for full funding grant agreements will receive funds under our conference allocation.

Mr. MICA. I thank the chairman and look forward to working with him to maintain and expand our national infrastructure. I am pleased to yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mrs. BLACK). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code, in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term “Fair Labor Standards Act.”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, no hardworking American should ever have to worry that her employer will refuse to pay her when she works overtime or take money out of her paycheck, especially if she works for a

Federal contractor. The practice is known as wage theft.

Right now, Federal contractors who violate the Fair Labor Standards Act are still allowed to apply for Federal contracts. My amendment would deny Federal contracts to those who violate the Fair Labor Standards Act to deny workers the pay that they have earned.

The amendment ensures that those in violation of the law do not get taxpayer support. We should be in the business of rewarding good actors and not rewarding cheaters.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. We would accept the amendment.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I thank the gentleman.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCHOCK

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce paragraph (c)(3) of section 982.503, Code of Federal Regulations.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to the T-HUD appropriation bill really to address a problem that we have identified in our State of Illinois. Many of us are familiar with the Housing Choice Voucher program, often known as section 8. Throughout our communities, over 2 million households in America receive some form of benefit through section 8 vouchers. In many localities around the country, and particularly in my home State of Illinois, there are long wait lists of people who would qualify for and desperately need access to affordable housing and particularly the assistance they get under section 8 vouchers through the T-HUD appropriations bill.

Unfortunately, there have been some abuses and stretching of permission that Congress has given specifically to the Housing and Urban Development Secretary. I am speaking about a program commonly referred to as super vouchers, where the agency has basically used Congress' latitude it has given it to allow it to go up to 125 percent of what is deemed to be the cost of affordable housing in a particular community.

Obviously, from community to community, the cost of affordable housing

differs, and the value of a voucher differs for a family member. But we have seen in the city of Chicago, for example, in my home State, of vouchers now going up to over 300 percent of the average cost of affordable housing and a voucher value approaching over \$4,000 a month for a single voucher recipient.

Now, I know that each State's real estate values are different, each State's rental costs are different, and certainly Illinois may be more expensive than other States, but I would submit to my colleagues that for every one of these super vouchers that we give out, for every family that is given over 300 percent of what they should be given, there are tens of thousands of families waiting in line patiently and desperately needing some assistance, and there is only so much money in the pot that Congress appropriates.

So what my limited amendment really does is instruct the Secretary to go up to that 125 percent limit, but really to allow that those dollars of money that Congress appropriates in a bipartisan way for section 8 housing ensure that we help as many families as possible, and that we don't allow some families to, in essence, hit the lottery and get over \$4,000 a month when others—for example, in the city of Chicago, we have over 40,000 people on a waiting list who meet the qualifications for section 8 housing.

It is time that they get the assistance that they need and their families need. It is time that they get into and have access to affordable housing, and it is time that we eliminate these super vouchers, which, really, reward a few at the expense of so many.

So, with that, I would urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, reluctantly I must rise in opposition to the amendment. I share the gentleman's concern, and that is why we have included language in our committee report directing HUD to review instances of payments for housing that exceed 120 percent of fair market rates.

The big problem is I have concerns about the potential unintended consequences of this funding prohibition, in particular, the elderly and disabled populations which could be displaced with an amendment such as this.

I really appreciate the gentleman's attention to this issue and will continue to work with HUD to address any excessive, unwarranted overpayments for assistance to our most vulnerable citizens.

I reluctantly must urge a "no" vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairman, we rise also in opposition to this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK).

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

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to terminate the status of a unit of general local government as a metropolitan city (as defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302)) with respect to grants under section 106 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5306).

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Chair, since the creation of the Community Development Block Grant in 1974—

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HIGGINS. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. We will accept the amendment.

Mr. HIGGINS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Chairman, I rise to engage the gentleman from Iowa, Chairman LATHAM, in a colloquy.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GERLACH. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. I would be happy to enter into a colloquy with the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. GERLACH. I thank the chairman. First of all, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your hard work on this legislation, but I do have a concern about funding for the Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety, or DADSS, program that supports research of advanced alcohol detection technology.

MAP-21 authorized and Congress provided \$5.44 million for this program in fiscal year 2014. For fiscal year 2015, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration requested \$5.72 million. Unfortunately, the report attached to the T-HUD bill specifies only \$2.72 million for this program.

The DADSS program supports a cooperative agreement between the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to work together to create a passive, in-vehicle technology that can determine the driver's—and only the driver's—blood alcohol content. If the driver is at or above 0.08, the illegal limit in all 50 States, the car would be inoperable.

The current operating plan for the program runs through 2018, and the goal at this time would be to have ready a commercially viable technology by then. While great progress has been made, more research must take place. Full funding for this research should be a priority for this Congress because each year, over 10,000 Americans are killed due to drunk driving—nearly one-third of all traffic fatalities.

Madam Chairman, Mothers Against Drunk Driving has called the DADSS program its highest legislative priority. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has looked at the potential of this technology and said it could save over 7,000 lives per year. Every major traffic safety group in this country supports this, including the National Transportation Safety Board. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has identified this project as one of its highest priorities.

The authorized funding level is not a tremendous sum when you consider the fact that drunk driving costs Americans over \$132 billion each year, and I believe that fully funding this project and including the administration's request of \$5.72 million—which is already included in the Senate fiscal year 2015 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill—is a small price to pay for a project with this much potential.

I would respectfully ask the chairman that we work together to restore this critical funding.

Mr. LATHAM. I appreciate the gentleman's attention to this important safety issue and for highlighting the promise of this research initiative. I look forward to working with you as our bill moves through the legislative process to make certain DADSS research is adequately funded.

Mr. GERLACH. I thank the gentleman.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to make incentive payments pursuant to 48 CFR 16.4 to contractors for contracts that are behind schedule under the terms of the contract as prescribed by 48 CFR 52.211 or over the contract amount indicated in Standard Form 33, box 20.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1615

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, this is simply a good government amendment that is reflected in a different form in the Senate Transportation-Housing bill. I am seeking to provide a similar provision in the House bill.

This was offered in a different form yesterday. There were objections to it that were sustained. We have worked with the Parliamentarian to overcome those objections.

This provision refers to none of the funds available in this act may be used for incentive payments pursuant to a particular regulatory provision to contractors for contracts that are behind schedule under the terms of another regulatory provision or over the contract amount as indicated in a standard form used in contracting.

That is standard form 33, box 20, subject to modification in standard form 30, box 14—sorry, box 12. This will rein in contractors who are late and working over budget and prevent them from getting extra payments.

We are simply speaking about extra payments here, payments they would not normally be receiving, except for the fact that they are asking for them and claim some entitlement to them. Too often, the government engages in waste, fraud, and abuse with contracting. This will help to rein that in.

I respectfully ask for the support of my colleagues on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ The amount otherwise made available by this Act for "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Executive Offices" is hereby reduced by \$2,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to save taxpayers money and to hold a disorganized and wasteful department accountable for its actions and inactions.

My amendment is very simple. It reduces the funding to the executive offices at the Department of Housing and Urban Development by \$2 million, which brings their funding levels back to fiscal year 2014 levels.

As always, I appreciate the work the committee does to put these bills and committee reports together. It is not an easy job, but I am also glad that Members are able to read their work and offer further input here on the House floor.

Since Republicans took the House majority in 2012, we have done our best to bring regular order and an open process to the House proceedings. I am happy to see a return to regular order, and I am further grateful that I and my colleagues are able to participate in the appropriations process.

For the second year in a row, I have read the committee's report on the administrative offices at HUD and was stunned to see that, yet again, HUD is running in an inefficient manner and has, again, likely violated the Antideficiency Act.

Further, HUD did not notify or request permission from Congress for certain budget reprogramming activities and hired more people than they could afford to pay.

I would like to quickly cite excerpts from the committee report on this issue:

HUD must have systems in place to track fundamental budgetary resource data, including budget authority and FTE levels.

A lack of essential information at HUD has, in the past, led to Antideficiency Act violations in which HUD hired more people than it had resources to pay.

While the committee recognizes deficiencies caused by antiquated enterprise systems and acknowledges HUD's effort to address these deficiencies, proper management of agency resources is a fundamental responsibility and antiquated systems are no excuse for the violation of Federal law.

The committee also directs HUD to clearly identify in its budget justifications the movement or transfer of budgetary resources from one account to another account, so that year-over-year comparisons are possible.

The fact that the committee must specifically spell out and direct an executive department or agency to conduct its affairs properly is, quite frankly, embarrassing and deplorable.

Then again, I suppose government inefficiency is the status quo these days. These same inefficiencies have been identified year after year now. HUD cannot get its affairs in order. As such, Congress should not be increasing funding for paper pushers and other bureaucrats.

I would also demand that HUD stop hiring more people than they can pay, stop reprogramming money within their accounts to fix self-imposed mistakes and then withhold that information from Congress, and finally, stop breaking Federal law. Congress must not reward bad behavior with increased funding levels.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office stated this amendment reduces both the budget authority in the bill and the 2015 outlays by \$2 million. With a Federal debt surpassing \$18 trillion, it is irresponsible to throw more money at a department that cannot manage its own affairs.

I ask my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment. I thank the chairman and ranking member for their continued work on the committee.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment. While I appreciate the gentleman's effort to further reduce spending, this account is already below the enacted funding level, and further cuts in this account are unwarranted.

This account primarily funds employee salaries and benefits, and an additional 14 percent reduction would result in the furlough or layoff of key HUD employees. Disruption of the leadership offices at HUD would jeopardize the welfare of millions of vulnerable families and billions of dollars in taxpayer investments. Therefore, I cannot support the gentleman's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I oppose the amendment.

The levels provided for salaries and expenses at HUD in the base bill are insufficient. Many offices will need to furlough or terminate employees to make these levels work, and this amendment would aggravate this problem further.

As it is, the funding level in this bill will require HUD to furlough its personnel in this office for 12 days. This amendment would increase the number of furlough days required. At these levels, HUD's ability to carry out their mission would be jeopardized. I oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

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

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. Each amount otherwise made available by this Act for "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Administrative Support Offices" is hereby reduced by 4.2 percent.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer one last amendment to save taxpayers money and hold a disorganized and wasteful department accountable for its actions and inactions.

Following to the heels of my previous amendment, this amendment reduces funding for ineffective bureaucrats at HUD by \$21 million, bringing their funding levels to the level recommended by the House Appropriations Committee in fiscal year 2014.

The current bill funds these HUD bureaucrats through the administrative support offices at a staggering \$500 million. My amendment reduces each subaccount by 4.2 percent, so that the sum of each reduction to each subaccount equals the \$21 million reduction to the overall account. Again, this is the amount recommended by this committee for the overall account in fiscal year 2014.

As I mentioned, I appreciate the work that the committee does to put these bills and committee reports together, but the committee report associated with the appropriations bill, once again, for the second year in a row, highlighted major deficiencies in the Housing and Urban Development management Offices.

At minimum, this mismanaged agency should at least include those reprogramming efforts in their budget justifications. They failed to do so and are far from being considered a model of transparency.

HUD's bureaucracy is not only massive, it is extremely wasteful and inefficient. The associated committee report—which I cited in my comments on my previous amendment a moment ago—is quite harsh to HUD and rightfully so.

These same inefficiencies within the agency have been identified year after year after year. Again, Congress must not reward bad behavior with increased finding levels.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office stated this amendment reduced budget authority in the bill by \$21 million and reduces the 2015 outlays by \$16 million. With an \$18 trillion debt that continues to grow, it is irresponsible to throw more money at a department that cannot manage its own affairs.

I ask my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their continued work on the committee.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I must rise in opposition to this amendment also. While I appreciate the gentleman's efforts to further reduce spending, this account is already \$6 million below the enacted level from last year and over \$30 million below the President's request.

Additional cuts would require HUD to furlough or lay off employees which undermines the Department's ability to adequately serve millions of low-income, elderly, and disabled households and puts billions of taxpayer dollars at risk.

Unfortunately, the way the amendment is written, it would not reduce the deficit at all. It doesn't go to the deficit reduction account. It would basically just stay in the bill, to be spent by someone else, somewhere else; so it doesn't really save the taxpayers any money in the end. I urge a "no" vote on the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I oppose this amendment. Again, the levels provided for salaries and expenses at HUD in the base bill are insufficient. As it is, the funding level in this bill will require HUD to furlough its personnel in these offices for up to 90 days. Nearly all will be under a hiring freeze.

This amendment would increase the number of furlough days required and would lead to reductions in force. At these levels, HUD's ability to carry out its mission would be jeopardized. I oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

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

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to enforce section 47524 of title 49, United States Code, or part 161 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations,

with regard to noise or access restrictions or to enforce section 47107 of title 49, United States Code, with regard to access restriction on the operation of aircraft by the operator of Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, California.

Mr. SCHIFF (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the amendment I am offering, along with my southern California colleagues, Mr. BRAD SHERMAN and Mr. HENRY WAXMAN. The amendment would allow the Burbank Bob Hope Airport to implement a nighttime curfew between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Thousands of residents of southern California's San Fernando Valley, who live under the flight paths or near the terminals at Bob Hope Airport, endure the house-shaking noise of air traffic during the day and suffer the jarring interruption of their sleep caused by roaring jets, sometimes late at night.

To address the concerns of those affected by airport noise across the Nation, the FAA established a process to consider an individual community's request for a curfew. However, the process was designed to be difficult, so difficult that, in the decades since it was established by the FAA, only one airport in the Nation has successfully completed an application—Bob Hope Airport—and then it was summarily turned down.

When Congress enacted the 1990 Airport Noise and Capacity Act, ANCA, it intended for ANCA to permit airports to obtain noise restrictions if they met certain requirements.

At that time, Congress exempted several airports from the law's requirements for FAA approval of new noise rules, if they had preexisting noise rules in effect to address local noise problems.

Bob Hope Airport, located in Burbank, California, was one of the first airports in the country to impose a curfew and has a long history of curfews, but was unfortunately not given the protection of the grandfather provision of ANCA that several other similar airports received.

My amendment would correct this inequity and put Bob Hope on the same footing as several other airports across the country that had curfews before ANCA's passage by correcting the omission of not allowing Bob Hope Airport to implement, on a permanent and mandatory basis, the curfew which it had in effect informally since the 1980s.

□ 1630

After spending \$7 million and 9 years of effort, the FAA rejected Bob Hope's request for a curfew, erroneously contending that the small number of flights impacted by the curfew would impose too great a strain on the country's aviation system and impose too great a cost on users. In reality, the FAA approached the process in reverse, beginning with its conclusion, the one it wanted to reach, and working backwards to try to justify its intended and desired result.

It is important that my colleagues understand the impact of this amendment on aviation in southern California. There will be no impact on commercial flights. Almost all commercial airlines already voluntarily abide by the voluntary nighttime curfew of Bob Hope; and the impact on general aviation will be limited to 2 nighttime landings, 4 days a week by large jet aircraft, and a handful of nighttime turboprop takeoffs.

Because of the FAA's dismissive attitude toward legitimate local concerns, it is clear to us the only way to provide relief to our residents is through this legislative action. Madam Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment to correct an omission in ANCA. Local problems require local solutions, not solutions imposed by a Federal agency with a predetermined agenda.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I withdraw my reservation, and I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment. Unfortunately, I wish the gentleman would have brought it up maybe in full committee as a member of the committee to address it then. I don't believe that this bill is really the venue to address what is a local issue.

The affected airport serves the Greater Los Angeles area. I simply don't know the impact of this action that it would have on trans-Pacific flights, trade, or commerce throughout the area. So, for those reasons, I would urge a "no" vote on the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I rise in support of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. CASSIDY

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Chair, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to promulgate or enforce rules, orders, or consent agreements or to fund approved projects under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program unless the Department of Transportation implements the recommendations provided in the preliminary report of the Government Accountability Office numbered GAO-14-628R TIGER Grants.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Chair, the point of this amendment is to bring transparency and accountability to the process of awarding TIGER grants. Now, TIGER grants were created in 2009 with money from the stimulus bill to provide competitive grants that were to fund infrastructure projects and supposedly on a merit-based criteria.

There has been about \$3.6 billion in TIGER grants awarded since 2009 going to States, local governments, and other entities for highway, transit, rail, and port authorities. DOT is currently reviewing grant applications to award \$600 million for a sixth round of TIGER grant funding, applications due April 28, 2014.

Last month, the GAO reported numerous problems with the awarding of TIGER grants. The findings found in the report that DOT continued to accept specific applications for 30 days after the notice of funding availability deadline and did not notify the public. The DOT policy office did not follow its own guidelines and advanced projects with lower technical ratings instead of more highly-rated projects, providing no documentation or evidence of the factors that led to these decisions.

This leads me to why we are offering this amendment, again to bring transparency and accountability to the process of awarding TIGER grants.

In 2011, GAO recommended that DOT should develop a strategy to document decisions and work with Congress to disclose how it makes its decisions. The Government Accountability Office further recommended that the DOT limit the influence of geographic considerations and instead have a merit-

based process. In their most recent report, the Government Accountability Office again made similar recommendations to provide transparency to the process.

Now, my amendment does not do away with TIGER grants. Private sector partners, State and local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, transit agencies in Louisiana and elsewhere have applied for these. This amendment will not prevent them from the opportunity to receive funding, nor do I wish to prevent consideration of the hundreds of applications that have been offered for this current cycle. However, this amendment requires that the Department of Transportation follow the Government Accountability Office recommendations to be transparent and objective in the management and decisionmaking process when selecting applications for funding under the TIGER grant program.

We cannot have DOT have a process which is suspected to be political and not merit-based when there are Federal tax dollars at stake and when communities in Louisiana and elsewhere with meritorious projects are having theirs not considered when those with less merit are receiving prioritization. That is wrong. It is not what we should be pushing. Again, I push this amendment to bring transparency and accountability to the awarding of TIGER grants.

With that, Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I have great appreciation for the gentleman's point. The report was very shocking as far as the transparency and how some of these grants have been given. I am in a position where I must insist on being consistent in opposing all legislation on the appropriation bill.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment imposes additional duties.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order? If not, the Chair is prepared to rule on the point of order.

The amendment imposes new duties on the Department of Transportation to implement a Government Accountability Office report.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. TITUS

Ms. TITUS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to issue rules or regulations to allow an individual on an aircraft to engage in voice communications using a mobile communications device during a flight of that aircraft in scheduled passenger interstate or intrastate air transportation except for use by a member of the flight crew on duty on an aircraft, flight attendant on duty on an aircraft, or Federal law enforcement officer acting in an official capacity.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Nevada is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Chair, after speaking with the committee, I plan to withdraw my amendment, but I want to take a moment to speak on the underlying issue because I think it is very important.

Madam Chair, my amendment would prohibit the Department from engaging in rulemaking to allow the use of voice communication devices in flight, in other words, cell phones.

When the Federal Communications Commission first floated the idea of allowing cell phone usage on airplanes, the response from the American people was so clear you could hear a pin drop, something that would not be possible if you were surrounded by people chatting on their phones on an airplane. Polling has consistently shown 2-1 opposition to allowing passengers to make voice calls in flight.

In February of this past year, I, along with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, voted unanimously to approve H.R. 3676, which was introduced by Chairman SHUSTER, that has the same goal of the amendment I put forward today.

At a time when we document every moment of our lives over Twitter and Facebook and Instagram, the last thing the traveling public needs is to sit next to someone having a loud, one-sided conversation on a cross-country flight.

Now, this isn't just a matter of comfort and good manners; it is also a matter of safety. For our flight attendants who are charged with the safety and security of travelers in-flight, cell phone use will exacerbate potential conflict among passengers and will create distractions from crew instructions both prior to takeoff and during flights, so it would be dangerous for all on board.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for this opportunity to speak on this important issue, and I hope that although this amendment doesn't move forward, H.R. 3676 will receive floor consideration in due time.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. TITUS. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. I really appreciate the gentlewoman bringing this issue to our attention. I know the authorizing committee has looked into the issue of voice communications on flights and unanimously voted out a bill out of the committee addressing the same concerns. I look forward to working with the gentlewoman and the authorizers as we move forward on this very, very important issue as far as you and I and all travelers are concerned.

So, thank you very much.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. YOHO

Mr. YOHO. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to promulgate, implement, or enforce any regulations that would mandate Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking or event data recorders in light-duty noncommercial passenger motor vehicles.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOHO. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. I would gladly accept your amendment.

Mr. YOHO. I thank the chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

My amendment would prohibit any funds made available under this act to be used to implement any Administration mandate for GPS or event data recording devices in "light-duty, non-commercial" passenger motor vehicles.

In the recent past, the Department of Transportation and the President have both indicated their support of a mandate, a mandate which would require every car to have a recording device installed. These recording devices are more commonly referred to as "black boxes." Within the past year, our nation has been rocked by evidence of surveillance techniques that have been used, unconstitutionally, by government agencies to collect information on law-abiding Americans. It is understandable then, that the revelation that a black box installed in a vehicle, often times without consumer knowledge, is concerning.

Additionally, there is a need to provide clarity to the confusion surrounding who is the owner of the data collected by these event data recorders. I believe that ownership resides with the owner of the vehicle. However,

until such time as this issue is resolved, I must defer to my constituents back home who are adamantly opposed to these black boxes. I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting my amendment to protect the personal liberties of a public that is increasingly weary of government surveillance and privacy intrusions.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 156, after line 16, insert the following new section:

PROVIDING FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING FOR EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME FAMILIES BY IMPROVING TARGETING OF MORTGAGE INTEREST DEDUCTION

SEC. 417. (a) REPLACEMENT OF MORTGAGE INTEREST DEDUCTION WITH MORTGAGE INTEREST CREDIT.—

(1) NONREFUNDABLE CREDIT.—Subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to nonrefundable personal credits) is amended by inserting after section 25D the following new section:

“SEC. 25E. INTEREST ON INDEBTEDNESS SECURED BY QUALIFIED RESIDENCE.

“(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of an individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to 15 percent of the qualified residence interest paid or accrued during the taxable year.

“(b) QUALIFIED RESIDENCE INTEREST.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified residence interest’ means interest which is paid or accrued during the taxable year on—

“(A) acquisition indebtedness with respect to any qualified residence of the taxpayer, or

“(B) home equity indebtedness with respect to any qualified residence of the taxpayer.

For purposes of the preceding sentence, the determination of whether any property is a qualified residence of the taxpayer shall be made as of the time the interest is accrued.

“(2) OVERALL LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of indebtedness taken into account for any period for purposes of this section shall not exceed \$500,000 (\$250,000 in the case of a married individual filing a separate return).

“(3) ACQUISITION INDEBTEDNESS.—The term ‘acquisition indebtedness’ means any indebtedness which—

“(A) is incurred in acquiring, constructing, or substantially improving any qualified residence of the taxpayer, and

“(B) is secured by such residence.

Such term also includes any indebtedness secured by such residence resulting from the refinancing of indebtedness meeting the requirements of the preceding sentence (or this sentence), but only to the extent the amount of the indebtedness resulting from such refinancing does not exceed the amount of the refinanced indebtedness.

“(4) HOME EQUITY INDEBTEDNESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘home equity indebtedness’ means any indebtedness (other than acquisition indebtedness) secured by a qualified residence to the extent the aggregate amount of such indebtedness does not exceed—

“(i) the fair market value of such qualified residence, reduced by

“(ii) the amount of acquisition indebtedness with respect to such residence.

“(B) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount treated as home equity indebtedness for any period shall not exceed \$100,000 (\$50,000 in the case of a married individual filing a separate return).

“(c) SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) QUALIFIED RESIDENCE.—The term ‘qualified residence’ means—

“(A) the principal residence (within the meaning of section 121) of the taxpayer, and

“(B) 1 other residence of the taxpayer which is selected by the taxpayer for purposes of this subsection for the taxable year and which is used by the taxpayer as a residence (within the meaning of section 280A(d)(1)).

“(2) MARRIED INDIVIDUALS FILING SEPARATE RETURNS.—If a married couple does not file a joint return for the taxable year—

“(A) such couple shall be treated as 1 taxpayer for purposes of paragraph (1), and

“(B) each individual shall be entitled to take into account 1 residence unless both individuals consent in writing to 1 individual taking into account the principal residence and 1 other residence.

“(3) RESIDENCE NOT RENTED.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), notwithstanding section 280A(d)(1), if the taxpayer does not rent a dwelling unit at any time during a taxable year, such unit may be treated as a residence for such taxable year.

“(4) UNENFORCEABLE SECURITY INTERESTS.—Indebtedness shall not fail to be treated as secured by any property solely because, under any applicable State or local home-stand or other debtor protection law in effect on August 16, 1986, the security interest is ineffective or the enforceability of the security interest is restricted.

“(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR ESTATES AND TRUSTS.—For purposes of determining whether any interest paid or accrued by an estate or trust is qualified residence interest, any residence held by such estate or trust shall be treated as a qualified residence of such estate or trust if such estate or trust establishes that such residence is a qualified residence of a beneficiary who has a present interest in such estate or trust or an interest in the residuary of such estate or trust.

“(d) COORDINATION WITH DEDUCTION.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in calendar years 2014 through 2018, the taxpayer may elect to apply this section in lieu of the deduction under section 163 for qualified residence interest.”

(2) PHASEOUT OF DEDUCTION.—Section 163(h) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) PHASEOUT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2013, the amount otherwise allowable as a deduction by reason of paragraph (2)(D) shall be the applicable percentage of such amount.

“(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the applicable percentage shall be determined in accordance with the following table:

“For taxable years beginning in calendar year:	The applicable percentage is:
2014	100%
2015	80%
2016	60%
2017	40%
2018	20%

“For taxable years beginning in calendar year:	The applicable percentage is:
2019 and thereafter	0%.”

(3) PHASEDOWN OF MORTGAGE LIMIT.—Subparagraph (B) of section 163(h)(3) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) PHASEDOWN.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in calendar years 2014 through 2018, clause (ii) shall be applied by substituting the amounts specified in the table in subclause (II) of this clause for ‘\$1,000,000’ and ‘\$500,000’, respectively.

“(II) PHASEDOWN AMOUNTS.—For purposes of subclause (I), the amounts specified in this subclause for a taxable year shall be the amounts specified in the following table:

“For taxable years beginning in calendar year:	Amount substituted for \$1,000,000:	Amount substituted for \$500,000:
2014	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
2015	\$900,000	\$450,000
2016	\$800,000	\$400,000
2017	\$700,000	\$350,000
2018	\$600,000	\$300,000

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by inserting after section 25D the following new item:

“Sec. 25E. Interest on indebtedness secured by qualified residence.”

(5) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to interest paid or accrued after December 31, 2013.

(b) USE OF MORTGAGE INTEREST SAVINGS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS.—

(1) USE OF SAVINGS.—For each year, the Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the amount of revenues accruing to the general fund of the Treasury by reason of the enactment of subsection (a) of this section and shall credit an amount equal to such remaining revenues as follows:

(A) HOUSING TRUST FUND.—The Secretary shall credit the Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568) with an amount equal to 40 percent revenues.

(B) SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall credit an amount equal to 40 percent of the amount of such remaining revenues to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for use only for providing tenant- and project-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(C) PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND.—The Secretary shall credit an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of such remaining revenues to the Public Housing Capital Fund under section 9(d) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d)).

(2) CHANGES TO HOUSING TRUST FUND.—Not later than the expiration of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall revise the regulations relating to the Housing Trust Fund established under section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568) to provide that such section is carried out with the maximum amount of flexibility possible while complying with such section, which shall include revising such regulations—

(A) to increase the limitation on amounts from the Fund that are available for use for operating assistance for housing;

(B) to allow public housing agencies and tribally designated housing entities to be recipient of grants amounts from the Fund that are allocated to a State or State designated entity; and

(C) to eliminate the applicability of rules for the Fund that are based on the HOME Investment Partnerships Act (42 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.).

(3) EXPANSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION.—The fourth proviso in the heading “Rental Assistance Demonstration” in title II of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division C of Public Law 112-55; 125 Stat. 673) is amended by striking “60,000” and inserting “250,000”.

Mr. ELLISON (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask that the amendment be considered read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1645

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Chair, the budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development we consider today does not meet our Nation's affordable housing problems.

If this budget passes, more than half of the renters will still pay more than one-third of their income for housing. If this budget passes, fewer than four in 10 low-income elderly will receive the housing assistance they are entitled to. If this budget passes, we will still only provide housing assistance to one in four families who are eligible—tens of thousands will continue to linger on waiting lists for an affordable rental apartment that will never arrive. If this budget passes, there will still be more than 11 million families, Madam Chairman, paying more than half of their income for rent and utilities. There will still be a significant gap between incomes and housing costs.

The HUD budget is tens of billions short in order to meet American families' housing needs. That is why my amendment replaces the mortgage interest deduction with a flat-rate 15 percent tax credit.

My amendment lowers the maximum amount of mortgage interest that can receive a tax offset from \$1 million to \$500,000. About 4 percent of homes in this country sell for more than \$500,000.

My amendment dedicates the revenue generated from these changes to increasing our investments in affordable rental housing for extremely low-income families.

My amendment provides for housing for veterans who find themselves home-

less. It provides housing for people who are elderly and people with disabilities who cannot find affordable appropriate housing. It provides money to repair public housing facilities to provide homes to low-income families with children, seniors, and people with disabilities. It funds the national housing trust fund, repairs public housing, provides thousands of new vouchers, and raises the rental assistance demonstration cap.

Unfortunately, my amendment will likely be ruled out of order today. Why? Because the rules set by the majority in the House refuse to allow any tax changes to pay for a change in the appropriated budget.

This technical decision made by the majority in this Congress is inconsistent with previous Congresses, which realized that money is fungible.

By refusing to allow tax changes to offset the cost of needed programs, Congress stacks the deck.

Congress preserves the generous tax benefits for most financially successful households while ensuring that there is never anywhere close to the level of affordable rental housing we need.

For every dollar we spend on housing programs through the appropriations side of the budget, we spend more than \$3 on the tax side.

The mortgage interest deduction itself is more than twice as large as the entire HUD budget we consider today. Yet, the vast majority of the mortgage interest deduction benefit the top income quintile—about 80 percent of the benefit goes to 20 percent of the households.

I want to keep a tax benefit for homeownership. I want one that is more accessible and more generous to working families. Nearly half the homeowners with a mortgage do not benefit from the deduction. That is because almost half of the people who pay mortgage interest do not itemize. Only 5 percent of the homeowners with incomes of \$50,000 take a deduction. Contrast the 5 percent of homeowners with incomes beneath \$50,000 and the two-thirds of households with incomes above \$125,000 who get a tax benefit. The flat rate credit will benefit about 16 million current homeowners who do not currently benefit from a deduction but who will benefit from a flat tax credit.

I know that my amendment will be ruled out of order today.

Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, No. 28.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide mortgage insurance under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) for any mortgage on a 1- to 4-family dwelling to be used as the principal residence of a mortgagor who provides only an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) for identification.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment that will prohibit funds in the underlying bill from being used to provide mortgage insurance under title II of the National Housing Act for any mortgage on a single-family dwelling—to be used as a principal residence—to a potential borrower who provides only an individual taxpayer identification number—called ITIN—for identification.

This includes usage for mortgage loans available under the FHA to ensure that an individual must use a Social Security number rather than an ITIN—individual taxpayer identification number—in order to secure government-backed mortgage insurance.

The ITIN was first implemented by the IRS and is a 9-digit tax processing number. The IRS issues the ITIN to individuals who are required to have a taxpayer identification number but who do not have—and are not eligible to obtain—a Social Security number. The IRS has indicated that the ITIN's only purpose should be Federal tax reporting. However, that has not always been the case.

Unfortunately, Madam Chairman, it is relatively easy for illegal immigrants to attain an ITIN because proof of legal residency in the United States is not a requirement. Due to this practice, illegal immigrants have the incentive to obtain an ITIN as a means to become permanent residents by showing the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services that they have been paying taxes while residing illegally in the country.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Of course I will yield to the chair.

Mr. LATHAM. We will gladly accept your amendment.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I thank the chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

This amendment solves a problem that does not exist.

Currently, the FHA requires a Social Security number and legal citizenship for all insured loans. FHA does not allow for individual taxpayer identification numbers to be used for mortgages.

What this amendment does is create uncertainty in the FHA underwriting process. It would allow FHA to use individual taxpayer identification numbers only with loans on investment properties.

The FHA has already addressed this issue, and this amendment would create unintended consequences.

I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay any FHA mortgage insurance claim or in connection with the sale of any mortgage insured by the FHA before compliance with existing FHA loss mitigation requirements, documentation of such compliance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and provision of such documentation to the mortgagor.

Mr. CONYERS (during the reading). Madam Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONYERS. Ladies and gentlemen, this amendment fights foreclosures by limiting payment of the FHA insurance claims in cases in which borrowers have not been through the full FHA loss mitigation process.

Our Nation's foreclosure crisis is not only an economic calamity, but it is also a social and public health calamity as well.

While we all know that foreclosures cause downward spirals in property values and tax revenue, new research has shined a light on foreclosures as a cause of massive and debilitating anxiety and illness.

According to a recent study in the American Journal of Public Health, foreclosures have even been a likely cause of an increase in suicides in

America. I offer this amendment today to help end the terrible scourge of foreclosures.

When the Nation's largest banks—Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and Chase—sell delinquent FHA-insured loans into the Distressed Asset Stabilization Program, HUD pays them the outstanding balance of the loan. Only the loans that have fully complied with HUD's foreclosure provision and loss mitigation requirements are supposed to be sold through the Distressed Asset Stabilization Program. Yet, many of the loans banks are selling through the program have not met this standard.

I with great pleasure yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Chairman, I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding.

I rise to ask for support for our amendment to stop unnecessary foreclosures and ensure oversight of HUD's Distressed Asset Stabilization Program, the DASP.

When the Nation's largest banks sell delinquent FHA-insured loans into DASP the taxpayers have to pay the outstanding balance on the loan. HUD turns around and sells the loans at deep discounts to private investors. Many times banks don't comply with the law, and FHA inappropriately pays out claims. This is not an insignificant issue.

HUD has sold more than 70,000 of these mortgages in the past 3 years. Despite ongoing efforts to improve the program, HUD has not exercised sufficient oversight in this matter.

Our amendment would help ensure more rigorous oversight of the DASP so that only loans that have met all of HUD's loss mitigation requirements are sold through this DASP program.

Mr. CONYERS. Ladies and gentlemen, this amendment would help ensure prudent oversight over the program so that only loans that have truly met all of HUD's loss mitigation requirements are sold through the Distressed Asset Stabilization Program.

I hope my colleagues on the other side will join us in supporting this very commonsense amendment.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chair, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part: "An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment imposes additional duties.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair. The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chairman, I wish to speak on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chairman, my initial response to the point of order made by the distinguished gentleman is that this is already in the law. To argue now that a modification of it is inappropriate I do not think should allow this point of order to be sustained.

The amendment is a straightforward attempt to ensure that our Federal agencies are in full compliance with their own codes of conduct related to foreclosure prevention. These foreclosures and evictions are not only responsible for massive anxiety, but also for downward spirals in property values.

My response to the point of order is that this provision is totally in order and that the point of order should not be sustained.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order? If not, the Chair is prepared to rule on the point of order.

The Chair finds that this amendment imposes new duties to provide documentation of certain activities to mortgagors.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, No. 29.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay a Federal employee for any period of time during which such employee is using official time under section 7131 of title 5, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I rise today to offer a commonsense amendment to H.R. 4745.

The Gingrey-Bridenstine amendment would prohibit funds in the underlying bill from being used to pay a Federal employee for any period of time that such an employee is using official time.

□ 1700

As the author of H.R. 107, the Federal Employee Accountability Act, this amendment is a continuation of the work I have done over the last three Congresses to repeal the government-wide use of official time.

Under current law, Federal employees can use official, taxpayer-funded

time to perform union functions or to participate in union activities when they would otherwise be on official duty status.

Madam Chair, according to a FOIA request by the Americans for Limited Government, there are 35 employees at the Department of Transportation alone—making an average, by the way, of almost \$140,000 a year—who spend 100 percent of their workday working on behalf of a union.

These employees were hired to perform duties on behalf of the taxpayer—several are engineers or air traffic controllers—yet they are working exclusively for the union at the taxpayers' expense.

In fiscal year 2011, the most recent year for which we have official time data, the Department of Transportation spent more than \$17 million on official time.

In the same year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development spent more than \$2 million on official time.

Across the entire Federal Government, more than 3 million official time hours were used in collective bargaining or arbitration of grievances against an employer—who, by the way, is us—in fiscal year 2011. These union activities were performed at taxpayer expense to the tune of \$155 million for the same time period.

While we are not voting on veterans funding today, it is timely, given recent events, to mention the impact that the use of official time has on the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA is one of the largest abusers of official time, spending more than \$42.5 million on this cost in fiscal year 2011.

In 2012, more than 250 VA employees worked 100 percent of their day for the union, rather than working on behalf of our Nation's heroes. Over 100 of those same employees were health care professionals, including nurses, technicians, and mental health therapists.

In the wake of the nationwide scandal of the VA, it is unthinkable that employees there are allowed to work on behalf of the union, rather than focusing on serving our veterans.

It is particularly shocking that the use of official time by medical professionals and others at the VA continues, when the VA claims a shortage of health care professionals is what is contributing to the problems like the long waiting lists for people that are suicidal because of traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress syndrome.

Madam Chair, we must demand accountability at the VA and across government to be sure civil servants are focusing on their positions of record, not serving unions at taxpayer expense.

That is why stand-alone legislation I have introduced, H.R. 107, would repeal the governmentwide use of official time, saving over \$1.5 billion over 10 years.

While we are not considering my stand-alone legislation on the floor today, I am proud to offer this amendment as a small step toward reining in the use and abuse of official time.

Simply put, a Federal employee hired to work as an air traffic controller should spend his or her time at work performing his or her duties as an air traffic controller, not serving as a taxpayer-funded union official.

Madam Chair, I want to make it very clear that I am not proposing to do away with unions. However, I am working diligently to increase the efficiency of the Federal workforce. This amendment limits Federal activity during normal business hours to simply working, not carrying out union activities.

We should not be forcing taxpayers to support private and often very politically active organizations. At \$140,000 a year, Federal employees should spend their days performing the duties for which taxpayers hired them.

While families all over the Nation are tightening their belts and cutting their own spending, it should not be the practice of the Federal Government to allow expensive, special interest handouts; rather the Federal Government should be reining in its spending and looking for ways to save money and function more efficiently. This amendment is an important first step.

I urge my colleagues to support the Gingrey-Bridenstine amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this purely ideological amendment by my colleague from Georgia, which aims to eliminate the use of official time for representational activities for employees covered by the T-HUD bill before us.

This is yet another attempt to accelerate a race to the bottom and to deny workers their fundamental right to bargain collectively. Specifically, this amendment aims to prevent effective union representation by attacking the use of official time by employees.

Use of reasonable amounts of official time has been supported by government officials of both parties for 50 years.

In exchange for the legal obligation to provide the same services to those who pay as those who choose not to pay, the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 allowed Federal employee unions to bargain with agencies over official time.

Under this law, Federal employees who volunteered to serve as union representatives are permitted to use official time to engage in negotiation and perform representational activities while on duty status.

Using official time increases efficiency and is beneficial to both Federal employees and the Federal Government. These types of informal meetings save the government money by allowing the parties to avoid costly arbitration and other less efficient means of dispute resolution.

At the FAA, for example, official time is essential for the collaborative process between employees and management. At a time when we are overhauling our Nation's air traffic control system, eliminating official time is inappropriate, fiscally irresponsible, and an unnecessary violation of workers' basic rights.

At a time when we face so many challenges, when we are in massive need of infrastructure improvements, I wish that the majority would find something more constructive to do than attack the fundamental right to bargain collectively.

I urge a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairwoman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairwoman, I also rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

First of all, this amendment violates a collective bargaining agreement that has been negotiated by the Federal Aviation Administration and other agencies within the Department of Transportation and HUD.

For example, there are three groups at FAA that utilize official time: air traffic controllers, the inspectors, and the technicians that repair the air traffic control system.

Official time has been helpful in allowing controllers and technicians to participate in workgroups with the FAA management team to advance NextGen technologies, which all of us are supportive of. It is critical to modernize our air traffic control system.

I oppose this amendment because it would violate collective bargaining contracts, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into any contract with an incorporated entity if such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity is incorporated or chartered in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands, and such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity was

previously incorporated in the United States.

Ms. DELAURO (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, my amendment would prohibit Federal contracts issued by the agencies under the jurisdiction of this bill—namely, the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development—from going to entities that were incorporated in the United States, but re-incorporated in the most notorious tax havens—Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

According to a joint study issued last week by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group and Citizens for Tax Justice, 70 percent of the companies in the Fortune 500 used tax havens last year. These companies stashed nearly \$2 trillion offshore for tax purposes, with almost two-thirds of that total—62 percent—being hidden away by just 30 companies.

According to that same study, approximately 64 percent of U.S. companies with subsidiaries in tax havens registered at least one in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands.

The profits these companies claimed were earned in these two island nations in 2010 totaled over 1,600 percent of these countries' entire yearly economic output.

Of course, it defies logic and credibility to believe these companies conducted such a large amount of business there. What these companies are really doing is avoiding U.S. taxes by stashing profits in these tax havens.

According to a 2009 GAO report, 63 of the 100 largest publicly traded U.S. Federal contractors reported having subsidiaries in tax havens in 2007. I and others have long fought for—and succeeded in passing through the appropriations process—a ban on Federal contracts for inverted corporations.

These are U.S. companies that acquire a business in a lower tax jurisdiction and claim their headquarters there, despite still being a U.S. company, yet U.S. companies can still simply claim to the IRS that their profits were made in places like Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, and companies incorporated in these and other tax havens still find ways to receive Federal contracts.

We need to stop allowing companies to game our system. They take advantage of our education system, our research and development incentives, our skilled workforce, and our infrastructure—all supported by U.S. taxpayers—to build their businesses and then turn

around and invert or otherwise avoid paying taxes by abusing these tax havens.

These companies should not be allowed to pretend that they are an American company when it is time to get contracts, then claim to be an offshore company when the tax bill comes.

We can start putting an end to this right here, right now, with this amendment. It will ensure that future contracts are not awarded to U.S. companies that incorporate in the most egregious tax havens—Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

Madam Chairman, in 2010, U.S. companies earned \$129 billion on three tiny island nations—Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, and the British Virgin Islands.

As The New York Times recently pointed out, these islands have a total population of 147,400 individuals. That means, if you believe U.S. companies really earned that much in these locations, their profits worked out to be \$873,000 per person. This is, of course, nonsense.

Some of my colleagues may echo the cries of these tax-avoiding companies and say the real need here is for corporate tax reform, but many of these companies are currently paying a tax rate of zero percent—zero percent—so unless you believe corporate tax reform should eliminate taxes for U.S. companies, the argument simply does not hold water.

Again, the amendment simply bans corporations, once incorporated in the United States, but have since incorporated in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands—a maneuver that is undertaken to avoid taxes—from receiving Federal contracts.

We need to send a clear message that, if a company is going to abuse tax loopholes at the expense of businesses that are paying their fair share, they will not be rewarded with government contracts.

I urge my colleagues to make a stand with me and pass this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Chair, I am in favor of the amendment. Hopefully, from the silence that we have heard, there is bipartisan support for this amendment because I know there is a bipartisan commitment here that competition is very much the American way.

If you have two companies, as happens all over America, competing on different government contracts, we usually come out with the best result from that competition. But the question with this amendment, which I am pleased to join the gentlelady from Connecticut in offering today, is whether we ought to advantage compa-

nies that renounce their American citizenship in favor of finding an office on the beach in Bermuda or in Ugland House in the Cayman Islands.

□ 1715

The other company is an American company, not only when it comes time to put its hand out for a government contract but also when it comes time to put its hand out to pay the taxes that it earned on its American business.

Which one of these companies should have a competitive advantage?

I think it is the one that stayed home and was an American, patriotic company and did not dodge its part of the responsibility for paying for our national security, which is so important to international commerce, and for other vital services.

American companies that stay and contribute to building America and that keep her secure at home and abroad deserve a level playing field, and that is all that this amendment does. If a Cayman company doesn't have to pay taxes on some of its income, of course it can underbid the company that stayed in America, that made it in America, that paid its taxes, and then asked to have a level playing field to compete for American business.

The history in this Congress, unfortunately, is that many very large companies pay their lobbyists more to lobby this Congress than they pay to the Treasury in taxes, and it has been a very wise investment because they have been able to have one loophole, one special preference, one advantage, one exception—one more bit of complexity to our Tax Code—in order to avoid paying their fair share.

The companies that are operating in the Cayman Islands and in Bermuda are reporting huge amounts of income earned in those countries, largely from stripping off earnings that they have here in America and shifting them there through interest gimmicks, through dividend gimmicks, through intellectual property gimmicks. They avoid paying taxes not only on the tiny amount that they might have earned from an occasional sale in the Cayman Islands but from all of the sales from which they are able to strip off earnings and shift them to this island paradise.

They are looking for, basically, a shell game. I am not talking about seashells on the beach in the Cayman Islands. I am talking about the shell game that exists when these companies come in, renounce their American citizenship, keep the form and operation of their business here in America, but claim that they are suddenly no longer citizens under the American flag that we honor but are under the flag of some foreign nation. They basically are sending Uncle Sam a postcard that reads: "Sorry. You can find me on the

beach. Glad you are not here." That is the answer that they give when it comes time to pay their taxes, but then they have the audacity to come and ask other taxpayers—other taxpaying businesses and individuals who have done their fair share, and then some, for American security—they ask for government business at taxpayer expense.

This amendment is set to send the executives a message: they can play all they want to on the beach to avoid taxes, but Congress is not going to put its head in the sand. They can have fun in the sun, but Congress refuses to let the rest of the Americans, who are working hard to pay their taxes, get burned by having to pay not only for the taxes that these tax dodgers haven't paid but for government contracts that are paid for with taxpayer money.

Let's support competition, and let's support American companies that are paying their fair share. Let's adopt this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chair, as the designee of Mr. MICA of Florida, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. 417. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 24305(c)(4) of title 49, United States, Code.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairwoman, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 4745. This amendment would prohibit funds from being used to subsidize Amtrak food and beverage service.

As my colleagues know, Amtrak operates at a loss every year, partially due to millions lost in the food service cost. In 2012, Amtrak lost \$72 million on its food and beverage service, and that loss is just one in a consistent series of losses. This loss on its own would be cause for concern, but even more concerning is that the loss directly violates the law.

Madam Chairwoman, in 1981, Federal law mandated that Amtrak break even on its food and beverage service by the following year, 1982. Despite this, Amtrak not only failed to break even, but it contracted with high-end chefs to develop gourmet recipes for Amtrak meals, to the tune of more than \$905 million in the last decade.

Heavily subsidized routes feature dishes such as lamb shank and Atlantic salmon, and Amtrak has a Culinary Advisory Team to develop new high-end recipes. In 2012, a hamburger cost Amtrak \$16.15, with riders paying \$9.50. This means that we, the taxpayers, are forced to pick up the tab for the remaining \$6.65 through subsidies provided to Amtrak. On some routes, first-class passengers are offered complimentary cheese, wine, and champagne. While the passenger may enjoy these luxury items, it is not fair that the taxpayer is forced to subsidize these extravagances.

Each spring, Amtrak brings together some of the best chefs in the country for a retreat of sorts. These chefs—several of them, of course, award-winning—come together for what The Washington Post has called "an intensive 3-day session of cooking and brainstorming." At last year's gathering, chefs tasted more than 100 offerings. Of the recipes tested, including recipes for braised pork chop and a spinach and mushroom frittata, several will be deemed unsuitable for offering on Amtrak either due to kitchen limitations or due to a lack of cohesiveness with the rest of the menu.

Madam Chairwoman, I ask you: When the average American is struggling to make ends meet, why are we throwing away money at Amtrak for these luxuries, especially when Amtrak consistently operates at a loss?

If a private company wants to host a brainstorming weekend for top chefs, that is its prerogative, but the taxpayer should not be on the hook for a getaway focused on developing lavish meals for Amtrak passengers.

Taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize Amtrak, and they certainly should not be forced to cover tens of millions of dollars in costs to pay for gourmet meals and first-class service on Amtrak. Amtrak's food and beverage losses violate the law. Yet this is flagrantly disregarded. Rather than taking steps to correct the problem, the service goes after more upscale options.

We must end this cycle of wasteful spending and enact real change to get our fiscal house back in order. With a national debt of more than \$17 trillion, we cannot afford to keep throwing money away, particularly on luxuries such as gourmet meals on a federally subsidized train service.

For that reason, Mr. MICA and I are offering this amendment to prohibit funds made available by this act from being used to subsidize Amtrak food and beverage service. I urge my colleagues to support the Gingrey-Mica amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. TONKO. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Chair, in the last 5 years, moving crude oil by train has grown exponentially from a virtually nonexistent industry to a booming one with no signs of slowing down; but after a number of high-profile derailments, the need for increased safety regulations on shipping hazardous materials via rail could not be clearer.

Last week, I had the privilege of attending a first responder training course that was focused on crude oil trains at the Port of Albany, which has become a major hub for crude oil shipments, processing more than 40,000 carloads last year. I know rail carriers and emergency planners are taking it upon themselves to prepare for handling hazardous materials in increased volumes, but regulatory steps are also needed.

We need a comprehensive approach to address this issue, including expanding route planning and selection requirements, requiring response plans for rail carriers and ensuring shippers and rail carriers are testing and classifying their shipments appropriately. Many of these suggestions have been recommended by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Many of the reforms I support are common sense. For example, comprehensive oil spill response plans are currently required for oil shipments greater than 1,000 barrels per tank car, but most tank cars only hold 700 barrels; therefore, trains, some with as many as 120 cars that are carrying crude oil, are not required to have comprehensive response plans because of this outdated threshold. Among other safety issues, tank car safety, particularly in regard to the DOT-111s, is a major concern for many of my constituents.

Every day, trains transporting Bakken crude oil move and idle next to public housing and the highway near Albany's South End before entering the Port of Albany. Everyone agrees—railroads, suppliers and the NTSB, to name a few—that we need a higher safety standard on new tank car orders and an aggressive phaseout or retrofit of the old DOT-111s, which have no business transporting hazardous materials. Only 14,000 of 92,000 DOT-111 tank cars are currently built to the latest industry standards. The remaining 78,000 have demonstrated that they are prone to splitting open during derailments.

The rail industry has taken meaningful and voluntary steps to account for the DOT-111s' inadequacies, including raising the industry standard for cars built after October of 2011, but we need higher Federal standards. This is long overdue, and DOT must act.

I know this is an issue my good friend from New York, Ranking Member LOWEY, is passionate about as well. Earlier this year, we sent a letter to Secretary Foxx, urging him to move forward with a rulemaking process

that includes phasing out the DOT-111s. We should harmonize our regulations with Canada's already announced plan, which includes a 3-year phaseout or retrofit of DOT-111s. Just this morning, I had the opportunity to speak with Secretary Foxx about DOT's rule-making process. I know this is a top priority for him, and I have been assured that it is moving forward aggressively. I encourage a speedy but appropriate resolution.

I also appreciate that the chair included language urging a comprehensive approach to rail safety. The language directs the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to update emergency spill response planning thresholds and to finalize a rule on tank cars by the end of this fiscal year. The bill also fully funds the President's request for FRA's safety and operations account and PHMSA's hazardous materials account.

Finally, the manager's amendment, during the full committee markup, designated some funds to hire additional safety staff to monitor routing and to make safety improvements on grade crossings that carry energy products. This, indeed, is a positive step. However, I would have preferred the inclusion of \$40 million, as in the President's budget request, to establish a safe transportation of energy products fund within the Office of the Secretary of Transportation in order to support prevention and response activities.

Aside from the crude-by-rail issues, I understand the challenges of the current funding allocations, but I must strongly oppose this bill's shortfalls in numerous infrastructure and transit accounts. The FTA's Capital Investment Grant program is \$809 million below the request. Amtrak's capital grants are cut by \$200 million, and TIGER only receives \$100 million, shamefully shortfailing what we need.

It is my hope that we can improve this bill during conference, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to include appropriate levels for underfunded programs while building upon this bill's rail safety provisions.

Again, I want to thank Chairmen ROGERS and LATHAM and Ranking Members LOWEY and PASTOR for their attention to this critical rail safety issue.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1730

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS

Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following new section:

SEC. 417. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to support Amtrak's route with the highest loss, measured by contributions/(Loss) per Rider, as based on the National Railroad Passenger Corporation Fiscal Years 2013-2017 Five Year Plan from May 2013.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Chairman, my amendment is really straightforward and one which I have offered year after year after year after year on the floor of the House of Representatives.

It would eliminate funding for the absolute worst performing line, one line, on the Amtrak system, a line that is known as the Sunset Limited, and it runs from New Orleans to Los Angeles.

Madam Chairman, the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 required that Amtrak operate without any Federal assistance after 2002. Amtrak was supposed to be free of Federal operating subsidies.

Yet, despite this commonsense requirement that Amtrak cease their financial irresponsibility and mismanagement, instead, it costs the taxpayers \$396.31 per rider, per year, on this line. That is \$396.31 to subsidize the travels of passengers from New Orleans to Los Angeles, a trip that takes nearly 48 hours, assuming the train is on time.

Madam Chairman, we could buy everybody a free ticket on an airline from New Orleans to Los Angeles and probably end up saving money.

However, according to Amtrak's most recent performance report, the Sunset Limited only arrives on time 46 percent of the time. So it might even make sense for somebody to get there not only quicker, but also cheaper.

This places the Sunset Limited as one of the top 10 worst on-time routes for any of Amtrak's routes in its latest performance report.

Madam Chairman, taxpayers should be happy that the train really doesn't run more often. But when it does run, the route loses an average of \$40 million a year.

So my amendment is the first step, once again, in instilling just a small measure, joining the gentleman from Georgia, in fiscal discipline that Amtrak should be told today that it has to establish.

If it cannot manage itself with its worst, most expensive performing line, then God help us all. If they won't do it, we are going to. Failure to do so will only allow Amtrak to continue misusing and wasting taxpayer dollars.

Look, it is just very simple. I am asking that my colleagues join with me and say that the worst-performing, the most cost-prohibitive line would be stopped by Amtrak. So, I think it makes sense to say, no more Sunset Limited.

So I urge all my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. This Amtrak route, the Sunset Limited, runs through 8 States, Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, and if we start picking lines, individual lines in terms of terminating, what we begin doing is a downward spiral for the demise of Amtrak.

So, for the reasons that I want to ensure that my colleague from Texas, his constituents are able to travel on this line, as well as the ones from Arizona, I rise in opposition.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MS. BASS

Ms. BASS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary or the Federal Transit Administration to implement, administer, or enforce section 18.36(c)(2) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, for construction hiring purposes.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BASS. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment that will spur local job creation through federally-funded transit projects nationwide.

Specifically, this amendment would provide the necessary flexibility for transit agencies to implement geographically targeted hiring and procurement preferences.

My amendment will help to ensure construction and operations jobs contribute to the local economic development and of cities and towns where the transportation projects exist, instead of outsourcing these new jobs. Flexibility to implement local hire policies will also provide local and State agencies the ability to address unemployment in our hardest-hit regions.

For example, the Los Angeles Transit Corridor Light Rail Line is currently under construction in Los Angeles. This project is expected to be a significant economic engine for development, generating an estimated 7,000 jobs during its 5-year construction period.

Los Angeles Metro, our local transit agency, would like to encourage construction contractors to hire within the local community in order to help address unemployment in the area.

However, according to current regulations, local transit agencies are restricted from implementing local hiring and procurement policies for federally-funded transportation projects, even when the vast majority of the project funds are State or locally generated.

This is a commonsense amendment. It will limit burdensome regulations placed on local government agencies, and it will allow State and local agencies to more easily generate employment and economic development, and it preserves the competition mandates in our current grant rules governing Federal transit projects.

Again, this is not a mandate. This just allows local agencies the flexibility.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment. It would allow transportation agencies to advance construction projects through the use of local workers.

Every year, cities and local communities must contribute their own resources in the form of a local match for projects that receive Federal funds. At a time when many communities are still struggling from the economic distress, it is understandable that these local agencies would want transportation dollars to benefit local workers and benefits businesses.

It will help ensure construction and operation jobs contribute to the local economic development within the cities and towns where the transportation projects exist, instead of outsourcing jobs to other countries or States.

Madam Chairman, I support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following new section:

SEC. 417. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to support any Amtrak route whose costs exceed 2 times its revenues, as based on the National Railroad Passenger Corporation Fiscal Years 2013-2017 Five Year Plan from May 2013.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Chairman, once again I stand up in a continuing theme of what I believe fiscally respon-

sible Members who come to the floor should look at—the operation of Amtrak.

Today, once again, I come to the floor to offer my ideas about how we can help, especially during troubling financial times for the American taxpayer with our Federal Government, that we can look at and find ways to where we work with Amtrak.

Years ago I met with the chairman of the board, who openly acknowledged that there were challenges that Amtrak faced, not just safety issues, but many other issues that dealt with their financial integrity.

I told him I would continue doing these kinds of amendments, and he considered this, in a sense, an opportunity for the people who provide money, meaning the taxpayers of the United States, to have a say about the operation of how their money would be used. That is the same spirit that I am here on the floor today.

Madam Chairman, my amendment would eliminate funding for Amtrak routes that have total direct costs that are more than twice the revenue that they produce. That means, if the cost is twice as much as the revenue, I think that that should be a solid reason why someone should consider eliminating those routes.

They are all over the place, and I believe that Amtrak continues to provide these, accept government money, and they don't give two flips about what we think about the use of the taxpayer money. And so I think it is worth our time to be here.

Every single long-distance route that Amtrak provides over 400 miles in length operates at a loss every single month. If they have got a route that is more than 400 miles, I mean, we are helping them out here, Madam Chairman.

We are helping out Amtrak, and we are saying to them, if you have got something more than 400 miles, you are operating at a loss.

Now we are saying, however, if it is twice the cost of the revenue, that is what we would like to have you look at. And I think that it would be an argument for us, as a provider of money, to say, look, we think that you should help people. Maybe when they call in to you to take Amtrak, if it is one of those routes, why don't you suggest to them that they fly aircraft, that they take a bus, that they do something where the American taxpayer is not on the line.

The bottom line is, if you combine seven routes that are taken in this parameter, the American taxpayer pays \$332.8 million for this subsidy. \$332 million is maybe not a lot of money to Amtrak, but that is a darn lot amount of money for the American people to be putting into Amtrak to have them waste.

I believe it is a waste. I believe it could be not only better allocated, but

utilized in a better way, like shifting people who are coming to you—let's take an alternative. Let's maybe take an airplane.

It is clear that the government subsidizes rail service on Amtrak, and it does not make economic sense that they take advantage of that.

So, Madam Chairman, it is real simple. This is an opportunity for the people who represent taxpayers to simply come forth and say, let's have a vote on this, that we believe that that is too much money. 332 million bucks should not be used on these seven routes, and that is why I am here today.

So, Madam Chairman, I urge all my colleagues to support what I think is a commonsense amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. While I support the efforts and reforms to move Amtrak to operate in a more efficient and effective manner, I must oppose this amendment.

I appreciate very much the gentleman from Texas, my good friend, and his raising this issue. The gentleman's amendment would eliminate seven Amtrak routes and eliminate rail service to dozens of cities and towns of all sizes across America.

Just to list, those would be California Zephyr, which goes from Chicago to Emeryville, California, which happens to go through Iowa; Cardinal Hoosier line, which is Chicago to New York; Coast Star Light, from Seattle to Los Angeles; the Crescent, from New York City to New Orleans; Silver Star, from New York City to Miami; Southwest Chief, from Chicago to Los Angeles; and the Sunset Limited, from Los Angeles to New Orleans.

□ 1745

Again, I appreciate very much what the gentleman is trying to do. I just think we need to work on efficiency at Amtrak.

We have been trying very, very hard, through all of our hearings and through our contact with Amtrak, to get efficiency and to modernize and to try to get them to a profitable state; but unfortunately, I must oppose this amendment, just because of the vast impact it would have on so many people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Chair, I also agree with the chairman for the reasons he stated.

I rise in opposition to this amendment. It would dismantle Amtrak, the only resemblance of a rail system that we have in this Nation.

Obviously, we need to work with them, so that Amtrak becomes more efficient, but this amendment would dismantle it, and for that reason, I oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Chair, on May 24, 2011, President Obama issued a memorandum on Federal fleet performance that requires all new light-duty vehicles in the Federal fleet to be alternative fuel vehicles, such as hybrid, electric, natural gas, or biofuel, by December 31, 2015.

My amendment echoes the Presidential memorandum by prohibiting funds in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act from being used to lease or purchase new light-duty vehicles, except in accord with the President's memorandum.

Mr. LATHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ENGEL. I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. I would be happy to accept your amendment.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentleman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

The amendment was agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mr. DENHAM of California.

Amendment No. 1 by Mrs. BLACKBURN of Tennessee.

An amendment by Mr. SCHOCK of Illinois.

An amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

An amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

An amendment by Mr. SCHIFF of California.

An amendment by Mr. SESSIONS of Texas.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DENHAM

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 227, noes 186, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 288]

AYES—227

Aderholt	DesJarlais	Jones
Amash	Diaz-Balart	Jordan
Amodei	Duffy	Joyce
Bachmann	Duncan (SC)	Kelly (PA)
Bachus	Duncan (TN)	King (IA)
Barletta	Ellmers	King (NY)
Barr	Farenthold	Kingston
Barrow (GA)	Fincher	Kinzinger (IL)
Barton	Fitzpatrick	Kline
Benishek	Fleischmann	Labrador
Bentivolio	Fleming	LaMalfa
Bera (CA)	Flores	Lamborn
Bilirakis	Forbes	Lance
Bishop (UT)	Fortenberry	Lankford
Black	Fox	Latham
Blackburn	Franks (AZ)	Latta
Boustany	Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo
Brady (TX)	Gardner	Long
Bridenstine	Garrett	Lucas
Brooks (AL)	Gibbs	Luetkemeyer
Brooks (IN)	Gingrey (GA)	Lummis
Broun (GA)	Gohmert	Marchant
Brownley (CA)	Goodlatte	Marino
Buchanan	Gosar	Massie
Bucshon	Gowdy	McAllister
Burgess	Granger	McCarthy (CA)
Byrne	Graves (GA)	McCaul
Calvert	Graves (MO)	McClintock
Camp	Griffin (AR)	McHenry
Campbell	Griffith (VA)	McKeon
Capito	Guthrie	McKinley
Carter	Hanna	McMorris
Cassidy	Harper	Rodgers
Chabot	Harris	Meehan
Chaffetz	Hartzler	Messer
Coble	Hastings (WA)	Mica
Coffman	Heck (NV)	Miller (FL)
Cole	Hensarling	Miller (MI)
Collins (GA)	Herrera Beutler	Mullin
Collins (NY)	Holding	Mulvaney
Conaway	Hudson	Murphy (PA)
Cook	Huelskamp	Neugebauer
Cotton	Huizenga (MI)	Noem
Cramer	Hultgren	Nugent
Crawford	Hunter	Nunes
Crenshaw	Hurt	Olson
Daines	Issa	Palazzo
Davis, Rodney	Jenkins	Paulsen
Denham	Johnson (OH)	Pearce
Dent	Johnson, Sam	Perry
DeSantis	Jolly	

Peters (CA)	Rothfus	Terry
Peterson	Royce	Thompson (PA)
Petri	Ruiz	Thornberry
Pittenger	Runyan	Tiberi
Pitts	Ryan (WI)	Tipton
Poe (TX)	Salmon	Turner
Pompeo	Sanford	Upton
Posey	Scalise	Valadao
Price (GA)	Schock	Wagner
Reichert	Schweikert	Walberg
Renacci	Scott, Austin	Walden
Ribble	Sensenbrenner	Walorski
Rice (SC)	Sessions	Weber (TX)
Rigell	Shimkus	Webster (FL)
Roby	Shuster	Wenstrup
Roe (TN)	Simpson	Westmoreland
Rogers (AL)	Smith (MO)	Williams
Rogers (KY)	Smith (NE)	Wittman
Rogers (MI)	Smith (NJ)	Wolf
Rohrabacher	Smith (TX)	Womack
Rokita	Southerland	Woodall
Rooney	Stewart	Yoder
Ros-Lehtinen	Stivers	Yoho
Roskam	Stockman	Young (AK)
Ross	Stutzman	Young (IN)

NOES—186

Barber	Green, Al	Napolitano
Bass	Green, Gene	Neal
Beatty	Grijalva	Nolan
Becerra	Grimm	O'Rourke
Bishop (GA)	Gutiérrez	Pallone
Bishop (NY)	Hahn	Pascrell
Blumenauer	Hanabusa	Pastor (AZ)
Bonamici	Hastings (FL)	Payne
Brady (PA)	Heck (WA)	Pelosi
Bralley (IA)	Higgins	Perlmutter
Brown (FL)	Himes	Peters (MI)
Bustos	Hinojosa	Pingree (ME)
Butterfield	Holt	Polis
Capps	Honda	Price (NC)
Capuano	Hoyer	Quigley
Cárdenas	Huffman	Rahall
Carney	Israel	Rangel
Carson (IN)	Jackson Lee	Reed
Cartwright	Jeffries	Richmond
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Royal-Allard
Castro (TX)	Johnson, E. B.	Ruppersberger
Chu	Keating	Rush
Ciциlline	Kelly (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Clark (MA)	Kennedy	Sánchez, Linda T.
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	Sanchez, Loretta
Clay	Kilmer	Sarbanes
Cleaver	Kind	Schakowsky
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Schiff
Cohen	Cohen	Schneider
Connolly	Langevin	Schrader
Conyers	Larsen (WA)	Schwartz
Cooper	Larson (CT)	Scott (VA)
Costa	Lee (CA)	Scott, David
Courtney	Levin	Serrano
Crowley	Lipinski	Sewell (AL)
Cuellar	Loeb	Shea-Porter
Cummings	Lofgren	Sherman
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Sinema
Davis, Danny	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Slaughter
DeFazio	Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)	Smith (WA)
DeGette	Lynch	Speier
DeLauro	Maffei	Swalwell (CA)
DelBene	Maloney,	Takano
Deutch	Carolyn	Thompson (CA)
Dingell	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (MS)
Doggett	Matheson	Tierney
Duckworth	Matsui	Titus
Edwards	McCarthy (NY)	Tonko
Ellison	McCollum	Tsongas
Engel	McDermott	Van Hollen
Enyart	McGovern	Vargas
Eshoo	McIntyre	Veasey
Esty	McNerney	Vela
Farr	Meeks	Velázquez
Fattah	Meng	Visclosky
Foster	Michaud	Walz
Frankel (FL)	Miller, George	Waters
Fudge	Moore	Waxman
Gabbard	Moran	Welch
Galego	Murphy (FL)	Wilson (FL)
Garamendi	Nadler	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—18

Cantor	Delaney	Gerlach
Culberson	Doyle	Hall

Horsford
Kaptur
Lewis
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod

Nunnelee
Owens
Pocan
Sires

Wasserman
Schultz
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)

□ 1820

Ms. FUDGE, Ms. CHU, and Mr. RUSH changed their vote from “aye” to “no.” So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. BLUMENAUER was allowed to speak out of order.)

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR VICTIMS OF REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, Reynolds High School in Troutdale, Oregon, is a terrific institution in my district. I was there recently, and the kids gave me a wooden bowtie with a bicycle on it.

In a scene that is achingly familiar, this morning at Reynolds, a shooting occurred. A student was killed. The shooter died. A teacher was wounded.

The school and law enforcement recently completed drills to deal with these sad circumstances. Luckily, it went off without a hitch, and there were no further injuries. It went as well as could be expected under the circumstances, with a massive regional response from law enforcement on the scene.

I would ask, Mr. Chairman, that the House observe a moment of silence in support for the victims, their families, and the community.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Members will rise and observe a moment of silence.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 159, noes 260, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 289]

AYES—159

Amash
Amodei
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bentivolio

Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)

Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon

Burgess
Byrne
Campbell
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cooper
Cotton
Crawford
Daines
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)

Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
Long
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perry
Peterson
Petri

Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stivers
Stuckman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Toupin
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Williams
Wittman
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—260

Aderholt
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Costa
Courtney

Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al

Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo

Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne

Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus

Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Westmoreland
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—12

Cantor
Delaney
Doyle
Hall

Horsford
Kaptur
Lewis
Miller, Gary

Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1828

Mr. BARR changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCHOCK

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 210, noes 209, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 290]

AYES—210

Amash	Gowdy	Perry
Amodei	Granger	Peters (MI)
Bachmann	Graves (GA)	Peterson
Bachus	Graves (MO)	Petri
Barletta	Griffith (VA)	Pittenger
Barr	Guthrie	Pitts
Barrow (GA)	Hanna	Pompeo
Barton	Harper	Posey
Benishek	Harris	Price (GA)
Bentivolio	Hartzler	Reed
Bilirakis	Hensarling	Renacci
Bishop (UT)	Herrera Beutler	Ribble
Black	Holding	Rice (SC)
Blackburn	Hudson	Rigell
Boustany	Huelskamp	Roe (TN)
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Rogers (AL)
Bridenstine	Hultgren	Rogers (MI)
Brooks (AL)	Hunter	Rohrabacher
Brooks (IN)	Hurt	Rokita
Broun (GA)	Issa	Rooney
Buchanan	Jenkins	Roskam
Bucshon	Johnson (OH)	Ross
Burgess	Johnson, Sam	Rothfus
Byrne	Jolly	Royce
Calvert	Jones	Ryan (WI)
Camp	Jordan	Salmon
Campbell	Joyce	Sanford
Capito	Kelly (PA)	Scalise
Carter	King (IA)	Schock
Cassidy	Kingston	Schweikert
Chabot	Kinzinger (IL)	Scott, Austin
Chaffetz	Kline	Sensenbrenner
Coble	Labrador	Sessions
Coffman	LaMalfa	Shimkus
Cole	Lamborn	Shuster
Collins (GA)	Lance	Simpson
Collins (NY)	Lankford	Sinema
Conaway	Latta	Smith (MO)
Cook	Long	Smith (NE)
Cotton	Lucas	Smith (NJ)
Cramer	Luetkemeyer	Smith (TX)
Daines	Lummis	Southerland
Davis, Rodney	Marchant	Stewart
Denham	Marino	Stivers
Dent	Massie	Stockman
DeSantis	Matheson	Stutzman
DesJarlais	McAllister	Terry
Duffy	McCarthy (CA)	Thompson (PA)
Duncan (SC)	McCaul	Thornberry
Duncan (TN)	McClintock	Tiberi
Ellmers	McHenry	Tipton
Farenthold	McIntyre	Upton
Fincher	McKinley	Wagner
Fleischmann	McMorris	Walberg
Fleming	Rodgers	Walden
Flores	Meadows	Walorski
Forbes	Messer	Walz
Fortenberry	Mica	Weber (TX)
Foxx	Miller (FL)	Webster (FL)
Franks (AZ)	Miller (MI)	Wenstrup
Frelinghuysen	Mullin	Westmoreland
Gabbard	Mulvaney	Williams
Galleo	Murphy (PA)	Wittman
Gardner	Neugebauer	Noem
Garrett	Noem	Woodall
Gerlach	Nugent	Yarmuth
Gibbs	Nunes	Yoder
Gingrey (GA)	Olson	Yoho
Gohmert	Palazzo	Young (AK)
Goodlatte	Paulsen	Young (IN)
Gosar	Perlmutter	

NOES—209

Aderholt	Carney	Crenshaw
Barber	Carson (IN)	Crowley
Bass	Cartwright	Cuellar
Beatty	Castor (FL)	Cuberson
Becerra	Castro (TX)	Cummings
Bera (CA)	Chu	Davis, Danny
Bishop (GA)	Cicilline	Davis, Dana
Bishop (NY)	Clark (MA)	DeFazio
Blumenauer	Clarke (NY)	DeGette
Bonamici	Clay	DeLauro
Brady (PA)	Cleaver	DeBene
Braley (IA)	Clyburn	Deutch
Brown (FL)	Cohen	Diaz-Balart
Brownley (CA)	Connolly	Dingell
Bustos	Conyers	Doggett
Butterfield	Cooper	Duckworth
Capps	Costa	Edwards
Capuano	Courtney	Ellison
Cárdenas	Crawford	Engel

Enyart	LoBiondo	Rogers (KY)
Eshoo	Loebsock	Ros-Lehtinen
Esty	Lofgren	Roybal-Allard
Farr	Lowenthal	Ruiz
Fattah	Lowe	Runyan
Fitzpatrick	Lujan Grisham	Ruppersberger
Foster	(NM)	Rush
Frankel (FL)	Luján, Ben Ray	Ryan (OH)
Fudge	(NM)	Sánchez, Linda
Garamendi	Lynch	T.
Garcia	Maffei	Sanchez, Loretta
Gibson	Maloney,	Sarbanes
Grayson	Carolyn	Schakowsky
Green, Al	Maloney, Sean	Schiff
Green, Gene	Matsui	Schneider
Griffin (AR)	McCarthy (NY)	Schrader
Grijalva	McCollum	Schwartz
Grimm	McDermott	Scott (VA)
Gutiérrez	McGovern	Scott, David
Hahn	McKeon	Serrano
Hanabusa	McNerney	Sewell (AL)
Hastings (FL)	Meehan	Shea-Porter
Hastings (WA)	Meeks	Sherman
Heck (NV)	Meng	Sires
Heck (WA)	Michaud	Slaughter
Higgins	Miller, George	Smith (WA)
Himes	Moore	Speier
Hinojosa	Moran	Swalwell (CA)
Holt	Murphy (FL)	Takano
Honda	Nadler	Thompson (CA)
Hoyer	Napolitano	Thompson (MS)
Huffman	Neal	Tierney
Israel	Nolan	Titus
Jackson Lee	O'Rourke	Tonko
Jeffries	Owens	Tsongas
Johnson (GA)	Pallone	Turner
Johnson, E. B.	Pascrell	Valadao
Keating	Pastor (AZ)	Van Hollen
Kelly (IL)	Payne	Vargas
Kennedy	Pearce	Veasey
Kildee	Pelosi	Vela
Kilmer	Peters (CA)	Velázquez
King (MO)	Pingree (ME)	Visclosky
King (NY)	Pocan	Wasserman
Kirkpatrick	Poe (TX)	Schultz
Kuster	Polis	Waters
Langevin	Price (NC)	Waxman
Larsen (WA)	Quigley	Welch
Larson (CT)	Rahall	Wilson (FL)
Latham	Rangel	Wolf
Lee (CA)	Reichert	Womack
Levin	Richmond	
Lipinski	Roby	

NOT VOTING—12

Cantor	Horsford	Negrete McLeod
Delaney	Kaptur	Nunnelee
Doyle	Lewis	Whitfield
Hall	Miller, Gary	Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1833

Messrs. POE of Texas, GARCIA, and MAFFEI changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.
The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 190, noes 232, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 291]

AYES—190

Amash	Gowdy	Nunes
Bachmann	Granger	Olson
Barber	Graves (GA)	Palazzo
Barletta	Graves (MO)	Paulsen
Barr	Griffin (AR)	Perry
Barrow (GA)	Griffith (VA)	Peterson
Barton	Guthrie	Petri
Benishek	Hanna	Pittenger
Bentivolio	Harper	Pitts
Bilirakis	Harris	Poe (TX)
Bishop (UT)	Hartzler	Polis
Black	Hensarling	Pompeo
Blackburn	Herrera Beutler	Posey
Boustany	Holding	Price (GA)
Brady (TX)	Hudson	Ribble
Bridenstine	Huelskamp	Rice (SC)
Brooks (AL)	Huizenga (MI)	Rigell
Brooks (IN)	Hultgren	Roe (TN)
Broun (GA)	Hunter	Rogers (AL)
Buchanan	Hurt	Rogers (MI)
Bucshon	Issa	Rohrabacher
Burgess	Jenkins	Rokita
Byrne	Johnson (OH)	Roskam
Camp	Johnson, Sam	Ross
Campbell	Jones	Rothfus
Capito	Jordan	Royce
Carter	Kelly (PA)	Ryan (WI)
Cassidy	King (IA)	Salmon
Chabot	Kingston	Sanford
Chaffetz	Kline	Scalise
Coble	Labrador	Schweikert
Coffman	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin
Collins (GA)	Lamborn	Sensenbrenner
Collins (NY)	Lance	Sessions
Conaway	Lankford	Shimkus
Cook	Latta	Sinema
Cotton	Long	Smith (MO)
Cramer	Lucas	Smith (NE)
Daines	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NJ)
Davis, Rodney	Maffei	Smith (TX)
Denham	Marchant	Southerland
Dent	Marino	Stewart
DeSantis	Matheson	Stivers
DesJarlais	McAllister	Stockman
Duffy	McCarthy (CA)	Stutzman
Duncan (SC)	McCaul	Terry
Duncan (TN)	McClintock	Thornberry
Ellmers	McHenry	Tiberi
Farenthold	McIntyre	Tipton
Fincher	McKinley	Upton
Fleischmann	McMorris	Wagner
Fleming	Rodgers	Walberg
Flores	Meadows	Walden
Forbes	Messer	Walorski
Fortenberry	Mica	Weber (TX)
Foxx	Miller (FL)	Wenstrup
Franks (AZ)	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Frelinghuysen	Mullin	Williams
Gabbard	Mulvaney	Wittman
Galleo	Murphy (PA)	Woodall
Gardner	Neugebauer	Yoder
Garrett	Noem	Yoho
Gerlach	Nugent	Young (IN)
Gibbs	Nunes	
Gingrey (GA)	Olson	
Gohmert	Palazzo	
Goodlatte	Paulsen	
Gosar	Perlmutter	

NOES—232

Aderholt	Carson (IN)	Cummings
Amodei	Cartwright	Davis (CA)
Bachus	Castor (FL)	Davis, Danny
Bass	Castro (TX)	DeFazio
Beatty	Chu	DeGette
Becerra	Cicilline	DeLauro
Bera (CA)	Clark (MA)	DeBene
Bishop (GA)	Clarke (NY)	Dent
Bishop (NY)	Clay	Deutch
Blumenauer	Cleaver	Diaz-Balart
Bonamici	Clyburn	Dingell
Brady (PA)	Cohen	Doggett
Braley (IA)	Cole	Doyle
Brown (FL)	Connolly	Duckworth
Brownley (CA)	Conyers	Edwards
Bustos	Cooper	Ellison
Butterfield	Costa	Engel
Calvert	Courtney	Enyart
Capps	Crenshaw	Eshoo
Capuano	Crowley	Esty
Cárdenas	Cuellar	Farr
Carney	Culberson	Fattah

Fitzpatrick	Lofgren	Ruiz
Fortenberry	Lowenthal	Runyan
Foster	Lowey	Ruppersberger
Frankel (FL)	Lujan Grisham	Rush
Frelinghuysen	(NM)	Ryan (OH)
Fudge	Lujan, Ben Ray	Sánchez, Linda
Gabbard	(NM)	T.
Galleo	Lynch	Sanchez, Loretta
Garamendi	Maloney,	Sarbanes
Garcia	Carolyn	Schakowsky
Gerlach	Maloney, Sean	Schiff
Grayson	Matheson	Schneider
Green, Al	Matsui	Schock
Green, Gene	McCarthy (NY)	Schrader
Grijalva	McCollum	Schwartz
Grimm	McDermott	Scott (VA)
Gutiérrez	McGovern	Scott, David
Hahn	McKeon	Serrano
Hanabusa	McNerney	Sewell (AL)
Hastings (FL)	Meeks	Shea-Porter
Hastings (WA)	Meng	Sherman
Heck (NV)	Michaud	Shuster
Heck (WA)	Miller, George	Simpson
Higgins	Moore	Sires
Himes	Moran	Slaughter
Hinojosa	Murphy (FL)	Smith (WA)
Holt	Nadler	Speier
Honda	Napolitano	Swalwell (CA)
Hoyer	Neal	Takano
Huffman	Nolan	Thompson (CA)
Israel	Nugent	Thompson (MS)
Jackson Lee	O'Rourke	Thompson (PA)
Jeffries	Owens	Tierney
Johnson (GA)	Pallone	Titus
Johnson, E. B.	Pascrell	Tonko
Jolly	Pastor (AZ)	Tsongas
Joyce	Payne	Turner
Kaptur	Pearce	Valadao
Keating	Pelosi	Van Hollen
Kelly (IL)	Perlmutter	Vargas
Kennedy	Peters (CA)	Veasey
Kildee	Peters (MI)	Vela
Kilmer	Pingree (ME)	Velázquez
Kind	Pocan	Visclosky
King (NY)	Price (NC)	Walz
Kinzinger (IL)	Quigley	Wasserman
Kirkpatrick	Rahall	Schultz
Kuster	Rangel	Waters
Langevin	Reed	Waxman
Larsen (WA)	Reichert	Webster (FL)
Larsen (CT)	Renacci	Welch
Latham	Richmond	Whitfield
Lee (CA)	Roby	Wilson (FL)
Levin	Rogers (KY)	Wolf
Lipinski	Rooney	Womack
LoBiondo	Ros-Lehtinen	Yarmuth
Loeb sack	Roybal-Allard	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—9

Cantor	Horsford	Negrete McLeod
Delaney	Lewis	Nunnelee
Hall	Miller, Gary	Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1838

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 181, noes 240, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 292]

AYES—181

Amash	Granger	Olson
Bachmann	Graves (GA)	Palazzo
Barr	Graves (MO)	Paulsen
Barrow (GA)	Griffin (AR)	Perry
Barton	Griffith (VA)	Peterson
Benishek	Harper	Petri
Bentivolio	Harris	Pittenger
Bilirakis	Hartzler	Pitts
Bishop (UT)	Hensarling	Poe (TX)
Black	Holding	Pompeo
Blackburn	Hudson	Posey
Boustany	Huelskamp	Price (GA)
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Ribble
Bridenstine	Hultgren	Rice (SC)
Brooks (AL)	Hunter	Rigell
Brooks (IN)	Hurt	Roe (TN)
Broun (GA)	Issa	Rogers (AL)
Buchanan	Jenkins	Rohrabacher
Bucshon	Johnson (OH)	Rokita
Burgess	Johnson, Sam	Roskam
Byrne	Jones	Ross
Camp	Jordan	Rothfus
Campbell	Kelly (PA)	Royce
Capito	King (IA)	Ryan (WI)
Carter	Kingston	Salmon
Cassidy	Kline	Sanford
Chabot	Labrador	Scalise
Chaffetz	LaMalfa	Schweikert
Coble	Lamborn	Scott, Austin
Coffman	Lance	Sensenbrenner
Collins (GA)	Lankford	Sessions
Collins (NY)	Latta	Shimkus
Conaway	Long	Sinema
Cook	Lucas	Smith (MO)
Cotton	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NE)
Cramer	Lummis	Smith (TX)
Crawford	Maffei	Southerland
Daines	Marchant	Stewart
Davis, Rodney	Marino	Stivers
Denham	Massie	Stockman
DeSantis	Matheson	Stutzman
DesJarlais	McAllister	Terry
Duncan (SC)	McCarthy (CA)	Thornberry
Duncan (TN)	McCauley	Tiberi
Ellmers	McClintock	Tipton
Farenthold	McHenry	Upton
Fincher	McKinley	Wagner
Fleischmann	McMorris	Walberg
Fleming	Rodgers	Walden
Flores	Meadows	Walorski
Forbes	Meehan	Weber (TX)
Fox	Messer	Wenstrup
Franks (AZ)	Mica	Westmoreland
Gardner	Miller (FL)	Whitfield
Garrett	Miller (MI)	Williams
Gibbs	Mullin	Wittman
Gingrey (GA)	Mulvaney	Woodall
Gohmert	Murphy (PA)	Yoder
Goodlatte	Neugebauer	Yoho
Gosar	Noem	Young (IN)
Gowdy	Nunes	

NOES—240

Aderholt	Cartwright	DeGette
Amodei	Castor (FL)	DeLauro
Bachus	Castro (TX)	DelBene
Barber	Chu	Dent
Barletta	Cicilline	Deutch
Bass	Clark (MA)	Diaz-Balart
Beatty	Clarke (NY)	Dingell
Becerra	Clay	Doggett
Bera (CA)	Cleaver	Doyle
Bishop (GA)	Clyburn	Duckworth
Bishop (NY)	Cohen	Duffy
Blumenauer	Cole	Edwards
Bonamici	Connolly	Ellison
Brady (PA)	Conyers	Engel
Braley (IA)	Cooper	Enyart
Brown (FL)	Costa	Eshoo
Brownley (CA)	Courtney	Esty
Bustos	Crenshaw	Farr
Butterfield	Crowley	Fattah
Calvert	Cuellar	Fitzpatrick
Capps	Culberson	Fortenberry
Capuano	Cummings	Foster
Cárdenas	Davis (CA)	Frankel (FL)
Carney	Davis, Danny	Frelinghuysen
Carson (IN)	DeFazio	Fudge

Gabbard	Lowey	Runyan
Galleo	Lujan Grisham	Ruppersberger
Garamendi	(NM)	Rush
Garcia	Lujan, Ben Ray	Ryan (OH)
Gerlach	(NM)	Sánchez, Linda
Gibson	Lynch	T.
Grayson	Maloney,	Sanchez, Loretta
Green, Al	Carolyn	Sarbanes
Green, Gene	Maloney, Sean	Schakowsky
Grijalva	Matsui	Schiff
Grimm	McCarthy (NY)	Schneider
Guthrie	McCollum	Schock
Hahn	McDermott	Schrader
Hanabusa	McGovern	Schwartz
Hanna	McIntyre	Scott (VA)
Hastings (FL)	McKeon	Scott, David
Hastings (WA)	McNerney	Serrano
Heck (NV)	Meeks	Sewell (AL)
Holt	Meng	Shea-Porter
Herrera Beutler	Michaud	Sherman
Higgins	Miller, George	Shuster
Himes	Moore	Simpson
Hinojosa	Murphy (FL)	Sires
Holt	Nadler	Slaughter
Honda	Napolitano	Smith (NJ)
Horsford	Neal	Smith (WA)
Hoyer	Nolan	Speier
Huffman	Nugent	Swalwell (CA)
Israel	O'Rourke	Takano
Israel	Owens	Thompson (CA)
Jackson Lee	Pallone	Thompson (MS)
Jeffries	Pascrell	Thompson (PA)
Johnson (GA)	Pastor (AZ)	Tierney
Johnson, E. B.	Jolly	Payne
Joly	Joyce	Pearce
Joyce	Kaptur	Pelosi
Kaptur	Keating	Perlmutter
Keating	Kelly (IL)	Peters (CA)
Kelly (IL)	Kennedy	Peters (MI)
Kennedy	Kildee	Pingree (ME)
Kildee	Kilmer	Pocan
Kilmer	Kind	Polis
Kind	King (NY)	Price (NC)
King (NY)	Kinzinger (IL)	Quigley
Kinzinger (IL)	Kirkpatrick	Rahall
Kirkpatrick	Kuster	Rangel
Kuster	Langevin	Reed
Langevin	Larsen (WA)	Reichert
Larsen (WA)	Larson (CT)	Renacci
Larsen (CT)	Latham	Richmond
Latham	Lee (CA)	Roby
Lee (CA)	Levin	Rogers (KY)
Levin	Lipinski	Rogers (MI)
Lipinski	LoBiondo	Rooney
Lipinski	Loeb sack	Ros-Lehtinen
LoBiondo	Lofgren	Roybal-Allard
Loeb sack	Lowenthal	Ruiz

NOT VOTING—10

Cantor	Lewis	Nunnelee
Delaney	Miller, Gary	Wilson (SC)
Gutiérrez	Moran	
Hall	Negrete McLeod	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1841

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. BOEHNER was allowed to speak out of order.)

RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE LATHAM ON HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Chair, I will have the Members know that the gentleman from Iowa has announced that this will be his last term in Congress.

On behalf of the House, I want to thank Mr. LATHAM for his 20 years of service to the House, thank him for all those years of service on the Appropriations Committee, and thank him for being one of my best friends. Congratulations.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. HOYER was allowed to speak out of order.)

RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE LATHAM AND REPRESENTATIVE PASTOR ON THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, first I want to say to Mr. LATHAM, with whom I had the opportunity of serving on the Appropriations Committee for some years, thank you for your service. We obviously didn't always agree, but I always found you to be a gentleman and conscientious and honest in your leadership and willing to work together where we could work together, and I want to thank you for that.

□ 1845

Mr. Chairman, not only is Mr. LATHAM retiring, but his partner, the ranking member, Mr. PASTOR, who is standing at the back of the Chamber, is also retiring.

Mr. Chairman, let me simply say about ED PASTOR, ED PASTOR is a quiet man, a little bit like John Wayne in "The Quiet Man," but a very effective man who worked very hard not only for his constituents, but for the citizens of our country.

I also had the opportunity to serve many years with Mr. PASTOR on subcommittees together and on the full committee together. We owe a debt of gratitude to both of these gentlemen who worked together to produce products that America could be proud of and work forward on. Perhaps we didn't always get there, any of us, but they worked as a team trying to get the best job possible within the constraints on which they were operating, and we thank them both for that.

Thank you, Mr. PASTOR. We are proud of you.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 208, noes 212, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 293]

AYES—208

Barber	Bishop (GA)	Bridenstine
Barrow (GA)	Bishop (NY)	Brooks (AL)
Bass	Blumenauer	Brown (GA)
Beatty	Bonamici	Brown (FL)
Becerra	Brady (PA)	Brownley (CA)
Benishkek	Braley (IA)	Bustos

Butterfield	Horsford	Peters (CA)
Campbell	Hoyer	Peters (MI)
Capps	Huelskamp	Pingree (ME)
Capuano	Huffman	Pocan
Cárdenas	Israel	Poe (TX)
Carney	Jackson Lee	Polis
Castor (FL)	Jeffries	Price (NC)
Castro (TX)	Jenkins	Quigley
Chaffetz	Johnson, E. B.	Rangel
Chu	Jones	Richmond
Cicilline	Jordan	Rooney
Clark (MA)	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard
Clarke (NY)	Keating	Ruiz
Clay	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Cleaver	Kennedy	Rush
Clyburn	Kildee	Ryan (OH)
Coffman	Kilmer	Sánchez, Linda T.
Cohen	Kind	Sánchez, Loretta
Connolly	Kuster	Sarbanes
Conyers	Langevin	Schakowsky
Cooper	Lankford	Schiff
Courtney	Larsen (CT)	Schrader
Crowley	Lee (CA)	Schwartz
Cuellar	Levin	Scott (VA)
Davis (CA)	Lipinski	Scott, David
Davis, Danny	Loebsack	Sensenbrenner
DeFazio	Loftgren	Serrano
DeGette	Lowenthal	Sewell (AL)
DeLauro	Lowe	Shea-Porter
DelBene	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Sherman
Deutch	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Shimkus
Dingell	Lummis	Sires
Doggett	Lynch	Slaughter
Doyle	Maloney	Smith (WA)
Duncan (SC)	Maloney, Carolyn	Speier
Edwards	Maloney, Sean	Stewart
Ellison	Massie	Stockman
Ellmers	Matsui	Swalwell (CA)
Engel	McCarthy (NY)	Takano
Enyart	McCollum	Thompson (CA)
Eshoo	McCollum	Thompson (MS)
Esty	McDermott	Tierney
Farr	McGovern	Titus
Fattah	McHenry	Tonko
Foster	McIntyre	Tsongas
Frankel (FL)	McNerney	Upton
Fudge	Meeks	Van Hollen
Gabbard	Meng	Vargas
Gallego	Michaud	Veasey
Garcia	Miller, George	Vela
Gibson	Moore	Velázquez
Goodlatte	Murphy (FL)	Visclosky
Grayson	Nadler	Walz
Green, Al	Napolitano	Wasserman
Green, Gene	Neal	Schultz
Grijalva	Nolan	Waters
Hahn	O'Rourke	Waxman
Hanabusa	Owens	Welch
Hastings (FL)	Pallone	Whitfield
Heck (WA)	Pascarell	Wilson (FL)
Higgins	Pastor (AZ)	Wittman
Himes	Payne	Wolf
Hinojosa	Pelosi	Yarmuth
Holt	Perlmutter	Yoho
Honda		

NOES—212

Aderholt	Chabot	Flores
Amash	Coble	Forbes
Amodei	Collins (GA)	Fortenberry
Bachmann	Collins (NY)	Fox
Bachus	Conaway	Franks (AZ)
Barletta	Cook	Frelinghuysen
Barr	Costa	Garamendi
Barton	Cotton	Gardner
Bentivoglio	Cramer	Garrett
Bera (CA)	Crawford	Gerlach
Bilirakis	Crenshaw	Gibbs
Bishop (UT)	Culberson	Gingrey (GA)
Black	Cummings	Gohmert
Blackburn	Daines	Gosar
Boustany	Davis, Rodney	Gowdy
Brady (TX)	Denham	Granger
Brooks (IN)	Dent	Graves (GA)
Buchanan	DeSantis	Graves (MO)
Bucshon	DesJarlais	Griffin (AR)
Burgess	Diaz-Balart	Griffith (VA)
Byrne	Duckworth	Grimm
Calvert	Duffy	Guthrie
Camp	Duncan (TN)	Hanna
Capito	Farenthold	Harper
Carson (IN)	Fincher	Harris
Carter	Fitzpatrick	Hartzler
Cartwright	Fleischmann	Hastings (WA)
Cassidy	Fleming	Heck (NV)

Hensarling	Meadows	Runyan
Herrera Beutler	Meehan	Ryan (WI)
Holding	Messer	Salmon
Hudson	Mica	Sanford
Huizenga (MI)	Miller (FL)	Scalise
Hultgren	Miller (MI)	Schneider
Hunter	Mullin	Schock
Hurt	Mulvaney	Schweikert
Issa	Murphy (PA)	Scott, Austin
Johnson (GA)	Neugebauer	Sessions
Johnson (OH)	Noem	Shuster
Johnson, Sam	Nugent	Simpson
Jolly	Nunes	Sinema
Joyce	Olson	Smith (MO)
Kelly (PA)	Palazzo	Smith (NE)
King (IA)	Paulsen	Smith (NJ)
King (NY)	Pearce	Smith (TX)
Kingston	Perry	Southerland
Kinzinger (IL)	Peterson	Stivers
Kirkpatrick	Petri	Stutzman
Kline	Pittenger	Terry
Labrador	Pitts	Thompson (PA)
LaMalfa	Pompeo	Thornberry
Lamborn	Posey	Tiberi
Lance	Price (GA)	Tipton
Larsen (WA)	Rahall	Turner
Latham	Reed	Valadao
Latta	Reichert	Wagner
LoBiondo	Renacci	Walberg
Long	Ribble	Walden
Lucas	Rice (SC)	Walorski
Luetkemeyer	Rigell	Weber (TX)
Maffei	Roby	Webster (FL)
Marchant	Roe (TN)	Wenstrup
Marino	Rogers (AL)	Westmoreland
Matheson	Rogers (KY)	Williams
McAllister	Rogers (MI)	Womack
McCarthy (CA)	Rohrabacher	Woodall
McCaul	Rokita	Yoder
McClintock	Ros-Lehtinen	Young (AK)
McKeon	Roskam	Young (IN)
McKinley	Ross	
McMorris	Rothfus	
Rodgers	Royce	

NOT VOTING—11

Cantor	Hall	Negrete McLeod
Cole	Lewis	Nunnelee
Delaney	Miller, Gary	Wilson (SC)
Gutiérrez	Moran	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1849

Ms. DUCKWORTH changed her vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 167, noes 250, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 294]

AYES—167

Aderholt Graves (GA) Nunes
 Amash Graves (MO) Olson
 Amodei Griffin (AR) Palazzo
 Bachmann Guthrie Paulsen
 Bachus Harper Pearce
 Barr Harris Perry
 Barrow (GA) Hastings (WA) Peterson
 Barton Heck (NV) Petri
 Benishek Hensarling Pittenger
 Bentivolio Herrera Beutler Pitts
 Bishop (UT) Holding Poe (TX)
 Black Hudson Pompeo
 Boustany Huelskamp Posey
 Brady (TX) Huizenga (MI) Price (GA)
 Bridenstine Hultgren Reichert
 Brooks (AL) Hunter Renacci
 Brooks (IN) Hurt Ribble
 Broun (GA) Issa Rice (SC)
 Buchanan Johnson (OH) Rigell
 Bucshon Johnson, Sam Roe (TN)
 Burgess Jones Rogers (AL)
 Byrne Jordan Rogers (KY)
 Camp Kelly (PA) Rogers (MI)
 Campbell King (IA) Rohrabacher
 Carter Kingston Rokita
 Cassidy Kline Rooney
 Chabot Labrador Ros-Lehtinen
 Chaffetz LaMalfa Roskam
 Coble Lamborn Ryan (WI)
 Coffman Lankford Salmon
 Collins (GA) Latta Sanford
 Collins (NY) Long Scalise
 Conaway Lucas Schweikert
 Cook Luetkemeyer Scott, Austin
 Cotton Lummis Sensenbrenner
 Culberson Marchant Sessions
 DeSantis Marino Simpson
 DesJarlais Massie Smith (MO)
 Diaz-Balart Matheson Smith (NE)
 Duffy McAllister Smith (TX)
 Duncan (SC) McCarthy (CA) Southerland
 Duncan (TN) McCaul Stewart
 Farenthold McClintock Stockman
 Fincher McHenry Stutzman
 Fleischmann McMorris Thornberry
 Fleming Rodgers Upton
 Flores Meadows Walberg
 Foxx Messer Weber (TX)
 Franks (AZ) Mica Wenstrup
 Garrett Miller (FL) Westmoreland
 Gingrey (GA) Miller (MI) Williams
 Gohmert Mullin Wittman
 Goodlatte Mulvaney Woodall
 Gosar Neugebauer Yoder
 Gowdy Noem Yoho
 Granger Nugent Young (IN)

NOES—250

Barber Cole Farr
 Barletta Connolly Fattah
 Bass Conyers Fitzpatrick
 Beatty Cooper Forbes
 Becerra Costa Fortenberry
 Bera (CA) Courtney Foster
 Bishop (GA) Cramer Frankel (FL)
 Bishop (NY) Crawford Frelinghuysen
 Blumenauer Crenshaw Fudge
 Bonamici Crowley Gabbard
 Brady (PA) Cuellar Gallego
 Braley (IA) Cummings Garamendi
 Brown (FL) Daines Garcia
 Brownley (CA) Davis (CA) Gardner
 Bustos Davis, Danny Gerlach
 Butterfield Davis, Rodney Gibbs
 Calvert DeFazio Gibson
 Capito DeGette Grayson
 Capps DeLauro Green, Al
 Capuano DelBene Green, Gene
 Cárdenas Denham Griffith (VA)
 Carney Dent Grijalva
 Carson (IN) Deutch Grimm
 Cartwright Dingell Hahn
 Castor (FL) Doggett Hanabusa
 Castro (TX) Doyle Hanna
 Chu Duckworth Hartzler
 Cicilline Edwards Hastings (FL)
 Clark (MA) Ellison Heck (WA)
 Clarke (NY) Ellmers Higgins
 Clay Engel Himes
 Cleaver Enyart Hinojosa
 Clyburn Eshoo Holt
 Cohen Esty Honda

Horsford McKinley Scott (VA)
 Hoyer McNeerney Scott, David
 Huffman Meehan Serrano
 Israel Meeks Sewell (AL)
 Jackson Lee Meng Shea-Porter
 Jeffries Michaud Sherman
 Jenkins Miller, George Shimkus
 Johnson (GA) Moore Shuster
 Johnson, E. B. Murphy (FL) Sinema
 Jolly Murphy (PA) Sires
 Joyce Nadler Slaughter
 Kaptur Napolitano Smith (NJ)
 Keating Neal Smith (WA)
 Kelly (IL) Nolan Speier
 Kennedy O'Rourke Stivers
 Kildee Owens Swalwell (CA)
 Kilmer Pallone Takano
 Kind Pascrell Terry
 King (NY) Pastor (AZ) Thompson (CA)
 Kinzinger (IL) Payne Thompson (MS)
 Kirkpatrick Pelosi Thompson (PA)
 Kuster Perlmutter Tiberi
 Lance Peters (CA) Tierney
 Langevin Peters (MI) Tipton
 Larsen (WA) Pingree (ME) Titus
 Larson (CT) Pocan Tonko
 Latham Polis Tsongas
 Lee (CA) Price (NC) Turner
 Levin Quigley Valadao
 Lipinski Rahall Van Hollen
 LoBiondo Rangel Vargas
 Loeb sack Reed Veasey
 Lofgren Richmond Vela
 Lowenthal Roby Velázquez
 Lowey Ross Visclosky
 Lujan Grisham Rothfus Wagner
 (NM) Roybal-Allard Walden
 Lujan, Ben Ray Runyan Walorski
 (NM) Ruppersberger Walz
 Lynch Rush Wasserman
 Maffei Ryan (OH) Schultz
 Maloney, Sánchez, Linda Waters
 Carolyn T. Waxman
 Maloney, Sean Sanchez, Loretta Webster (FL)
 Matsui Sarbanes Welch
 McCarthy (NY) Schakowsky Whitfield
 McCollum Schiff Wilson (FL)
 McDermott Schneider Wolf
 McGovern Schock Womack
 McIntyre Schrader Yarmuth
 McKeon Schwartz Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—14

Bilirakis Hall Nunnelee
 Blackburn Lewis Royce
 Cantor Miller, Gary Ruiz
 Delaney Moran Wilson (SC)
 Gutiérrez Negrete McLeod

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1853

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. FOXX). The
 Clerk will read the last three lines.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the “Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015”.

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Chairman, I move that the committee do now rise and report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) having assumed the chair, Ms. FOXX, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under con-

sideration the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, directed her to report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under House Resolution 604, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a separate vote on Gingrey amendment No. 29.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is a separate vote demanded on any other amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will redesignate the amendment on which a separate vote has been demanded.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 167, noes 254, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 295]

AYES—167

Aderholt Cotton Hartzler
 Amash Cramer Hastings (WA)
 Bachmann Crawford Hensarling
 Bachus Crenshaw Herrera Beutler
 Barr DeSantis Holding
 Barton DesJarlais Hudson
 Bentivolio Duffy Huelskamp
 Bilirakis Duncan (SC) Huizenga (MI)
 Bishop (UT) Duncan (TN) Issa
 Black Ellmers Jenkins
 Blackburn Farenthold Johnson, Sam
 Boustany Fincher Jordan
 Brady (TX) Fleischmann King (IA)
 Bridenstine Fleming Kingston
 Brooks (AL) Flores Kline
 Brooks (IN) Forbes Labrador
 Buchanan Foxx LaMalfa
 Bucshon Franks (AZ) Lamborn
 Burgess Frelinghuysen Lankford
 Dent Gardner Latta
 Carson (IN) Garrett Long
 Cartwright Dingell Lucas
 Castor (FL) Doggett Luetkemeyer
 Castro (TX) Doyle Lummis
 Chu Duckworth Marchant
 Cicilline Edwards Massie
 Clark (MA) Ellison McAllister
 Clarke (NY) Ellmers McCarthy (CA)
 Clay Engel McCaul
 Cleaver Enyart Griffith (VA)
 Clyburn Eshoo Harper McHenry
 Cohen Esty Honda McKeon

McMorris	Ribble	Smith (NE)
Rodgers	Rice (SC)	Smith (TX)
Meadows	Rigell	Southerland
Messer	Roby	Stewart
Mica	Roe (TN)	Stutzman
Miller (FL)	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (PA)
Miller (MI)	Rogers (KY)	Thornberry
Mullin	Rogers (MI)	Tipton
Mulvaney	Rokita	Upton
Neugebauer	Rooney	Valadao
Noem	Roskam	Wagner
Nugent	Ross	Walberg
Nunes	Rothfus	Walden
Olson	Royce	Walorski
Palazzo	Ryan (WI)	Weber (TX)
Paulsen	Salmon	Webster (FL)
Pearce	Sanford	Wenstrup
Perry	Scalise	Whitfield
Petri	Schweikert	Williams
Pittenger	Scott, Austin	Womack
Pitts	Sensenbrenner	Woodall
Poe (TX)	Sessions	Yoder
Pompeo	Simpson	Yoho
Price (GA)	Smith (MO)	Young (IN)

NOES—254

Amodei	Esty	Loebsack
Barber	Farr	Lofgren
Barletta	Fattah	Lowenthal
Barrow (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Lowe
Bass	Fortenberry	Lujan Grisham
Beatty	Foster	(NM)
Becerra	Frankel (FL)	Luján, Ben Ray
Benishek	Fudge	(NM)
Bera (CA)	Gabbard	Lynch
Bishop (GA)	Gallego	Maffei
Bishop (NY)	Garamendi	Maloney,
Blumenauer	Garcia	Carolyn
Bonamici	Gerlach	Maloney, Sean
Brady (PA)	Gibbs	Marino
Braley (IA)	Gibson	Matheson
Brown (GA)	Graves (MO)	Matsui
Brown (FL)	Grayson	McCarthy (NY)
Brownley (CA)	Green, Al	McCollum
Bustos	Green, Gene	McDermott
Butterfield	Grijalva	McGovern
Capito	Grimm	McIntyre
Capps	Guthrie	McKinley
Capuano	Hahn	McNerney
Cárdenas	Hanabusa	Meehan
Carney	Hanna	Meeks
Carson (IN)	Hastings (FL)	Meng
Cartwright	Heck (NV)	Michaud
Castor (FL)	Heck (WA)	Miller, George
Castro (TX)	Higgins	Moore
Chu	Himes	Murphy (FL)
Cicilline	Hinojosa	Murphy (PA)
Clark (MA)	Holt	Nadler
Clarke (NY)	Honda	Napolitano
Clay	Horsford	Neal
Cleaver	Hoyer	Nolan
Clyburn	Huffman	O'Rourke
Cohen	Hultgren	Owens
Collins (NY)	Hunter	Pallone
Connolly	Hurt	Pascarell
Conyers	Israel	Pastor (AZ)
Cook	Jackson Lee	Payne
Cooper	Jeffries	Pelosi
Costa	Johnson (GA)	Perlmutter
Courtney	Johnson (OH)	Peters (CA)
Crowley	Johnson, E. B.	Peters (MI)
Cuellar	Jolly	Peterson
Culberson	Jones	Pingree (ME)
Cummings	Joyce	Pocan
Daines	Kaptur	Polis
Davis (CA)	Keating	Posey
Davis, Danny	Kelly (IL)	Price (NC)
Davis, Rodney	Kelly (PA)	Quigley
DeFazio	Kennedy	Rahall
DeGette	Kildee	Rangel
DeLauro	Kilmer	Reed
DelBene	Kind	Reichert
Denham	King (NY)	Renacci
Dent	Kinzinger (IL)	Richmond
Deutch	Kirkpatrick	Rohrabacher
Diaz-Balart	Kuster	Ros-Lehtinen
Dingell	Lance	Roybal-Allard
Doggett	Langevin	Ruiz
Doyle	Larsen (WA)	Runyan
Duckworth	Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger
Edwards	Latham	Rush
Ellison	Lee (CA)	Ryan (OH)
Engel	Levin	Sánchez, Linda
Enyart	Lipinski	T.
Eshoo	LoBiondo	Sanchez, Loretta

Sarbanes	Smith (NJ)	Veasey
Schakowsky	Smith (WA)	Vela
Schiff	Speier	Velázquez
Schneider	Stivers	Visclosky
Schock	Stockman	Walz
Schrader	Swalwell (CA)	Wasserman
Schwartz	Takano	Schultz
Scott (VA)	Terry	Waters
Scott, David	Thompson (CA)	Waxman
Serrano	Thompson (MS)	Welch
Sewell (AL)	Tiberi	Westmoreland
Shea-Porter	Tierney	Wilson (FL)
Sherman	Titus	Wittman
Shimkus	Tonko	Wolf
Shuster	Tsongas	Yarmuth
Sinema	Turner	Young (AK)
Sires	Van Hollen	
Slaughter	Vargas	

NOT VOTING—10

Cantor	Lewis	Nunnelee
Delaney	Miller, Gary	Wilson (SC)
Gutiérrez	Moran	
Hall	Negrete McLeod	

□ 1903

Messrs. HURT and HASTINGS of Florida changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Ms. ESTY. I am in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Esty moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4745 to the Committee on _____ with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 37, line 13, (related to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Operations and Research), after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 48, line 5, (related to Federal Transit Administration, Administrative Expenses), after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Ms. ESTY (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, we owe Americans a safe transportation system. Drivers need to know that their cars are safe. Parents shouldn't have to worry about

a faulty accelerator propelling them at speeds of 100 miles an hour as they drive to work or pick up their children from soccer practice. None of us should be concerned about a faulty switch turning off power steering, our brakes, or airbags.

Tragically, as recent news reports and congressional investigations have shown, Americans are justifiably worried. The costs of inadequate safety oversight are real.

My friend and senior Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL shared the following story with me.

A woman from Fairfield County was driving one of the recently recalled car models on a major highway. She wound up under a freight dump truck, and her airbags failed to deploy. Her head hit the steering wheel, and she was knocked unconscious. Nine months and two surgeries later, she still suffers from postconcussion syndrome.

In her own words, she said:

I had to move back home . . . giving up the dream I had been pursuing.

Mr. Speaker, the free market won't protect consumers by itself. We have learned over the decades that consumer safety depends not only on our automakers, but also on our Department of Transportation having the resources to conduct investigations and enforce our recall system.

I am a mother of three children, all of them young drivers. I know how important product safety oversight can be to keeping our children safe.

In fact, just before coming on the floor this afternoon, I learned that two school buses in my district were involved in a multivehicle accident, sending dozens of students to the hospital.

I also know oversight won't save lives, unless we provide investigators the resources they need to keep our vehicles safe. We can do better. We must do better. Do you know why? We need to save lives.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today provides millions less than the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has requested for operations and research. My motion to recommit adds \$5 million for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's vehicle safety enforcement program. This amendment would not add one penny to the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, it shouldn't take a record settlement, after years of litigation, to bring some small measure of closure to victims and their families following a preventable defect, nor should it take 10 years to issue a recall once a major problem is discovered.

Whatever your position is on the underlying bill, I ask you to support my amendment in the name of common sense. I ask you to support this proposal in the name of auto dealers in my State and in yours, who have reported difficulty getting replacement parts

that are desperately needed for these recalls.

I ask for your support on behalf of the thousands of Connecticut car-owners and millions across this country affected by recent recalls.

Safety is—and should be—a bipartisan issue. We can do better. We should do better. We must do better.

I ask for your support as someone who believes that we can write better legislation without spending more money. Let's do the right thing. Let's do the reasonable thing. I ask all House Members to join me to vote for this motion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to say thank you to Speaker BOEHNER and Mr. HOYER for the kind words earlier and to also express my appreciation to my counterpart here, Mr. PASTOR, who has been such a great partner through this whole process. It has been a real pleasure.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we considered is a good piece of legislation that adequately funds critical transportation and housing programs, programs that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle support, and it does so within the confines of a reduced budget.

The motion specifically adds money to NHTSA's administration account. Unfortunately, simply throwing money at a problem will not solve the problem. We have an opportunity in the next surface reauthorization bill to look at NHTSA's authority and regulatory ability.

It is kind of a surprise to have this motion now. We have gone through 2 days under a totally open rule. This could have been considered in regular order. Mr. Speaker, this is just an effort to grind the appropriations process bills to a halt.

I urge my colleagues to reject this motion and pass H.R. 4745 today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 195, noes 227, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 296]

AYES—195

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Bralley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson

Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loebbeck
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan

NOES—227

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess

Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney

O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas

Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney

Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—9

Cantor
Delaney
Hall

Lewis
Miller, Gary
Moran

Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Wilson (SC)

□ 1917

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 229, nays 192, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 297]

YEAS—229

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Crenshaw
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble

Byrne
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach

Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis

Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis

DesJarlais	King (NY)	Rogers (AL)
Diaz-Balart	Kingston	Rogers (KY)
Duckworth	Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (MI)
Duffy	Kline	Rokita
Duncan (SC)	LaMalfa	Rooney
Duncan (TN)	Lamborn	Ros-Lehtinen
Ellmers	Lance	Roskam
Farenthold	Lankford	Ross
Fincher	Latham	Rothfus
Fitzpatrick	Latta	Royce
Fleischmann	LoBiondo	Runyan
Fleming	Long	Ruppersberger
Flores	Lucas	Ryan (WI)
Forbes	Luetkemeyer	Salmon
Fortenberry	Marchant	Scalise
Fox	Marino	Schock
Franks (AZ)	McAllister	Schweikert
Frelinghuysen	McCarthy (CA)	Scott, Austin
Gabbard	McCauley	Sessions
Gallego	McHenry	Shimkus
Gardner	McIntyre	Shuster
Garrett	McKeon	Simpson
Gerlach	McKinley	Smith (MO)
Gibbs	McMorris	Smith (NE)
Gingrey (GA)	Rodgers	Smith (NJ)
Gohmert	Meadows	Smith (TX)
Goodlatte	Meehan	Southerland
Gosar	Messer	Stewart
Gowdy	Mica	Stivers
Granger	Miller (FL)	Stockman
Graves (GA)	Miller (MI)	Stutzman
Graves (MO)	Mullin	Terry
Green, Gene	Mulvaney	Thompson (PA)
Griffin (AR)	Murphy (PA)	Thornberry
Griffith (VA)	Neugebauer	Tiberi
Grimm	Noem	Tipton
Guthrie	Nugent	Turner
Hanna	Nunes	Upton
Harper	Olson	Valadao
Harris	Owens	Vela
Hartzler	Palazzo	Visclosky
Hastings (WA)	Pastor (AZ)	Wagner
Heck (NV)	Paulsen	Walberg
Hensarling	Pearce	Walden
Herrera Beutler	Perry	Walorski
Holding	Peterson	Walz
Hudson	Petri	Weber (TX)
Huelskamp	Pittenger	Webster (FL)
Huizenga (MI)	Pitts	Wenstrup
Hultgren	Poe (TX)	Westmoreland
Hunter	Pompeo	Whitfield
Hurt	Posey	Williams
Issa	Price (GA)	Wittman
Jenkins	Reed	Wolf
Johnson (OH)	Reichert	Womack
Johnson, Sam	Renacci	Woodall
Jolly	Ribble	Yoder
Jordan	Rice (SC)	Yoho
Joyce	Rigell	Young (AK)
Kelly (PA)	Roby	Young (IN)
King (IA)	Roe (TN)	

NAYS—192

Amash	Cohen	Gibson
Bass	Connolly	Grayson
Beatty	Conyers	Green, Al
Becerra	Cooper	Grijalva
Bera (CA)	Costa	Gutiérrez
Bishop (GA)	Courtney	Hahn
Bishop (NY)	Crowley	Hanabusa
Blumenauer	Cuellar	Hastings (FL)
Bonamici	Cummings	Heck (WA)
Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)	Higgins
Braley (IA)	Davis, Danny	Himes
Brooks (AL)	DeFazio	Hinojosa
Broun (GA)	DeGette	Holt
Brown (FL)	DeLauro	Honda
Brownley (CA)	DelBene	Horsford
Bustos	Deutch	Hoyer
Butterfield	Dingell	Huffman
Capps	Doggett	Israel
Capuano	Doyle	Jackson Lee
Cárdenas	Edwards	Jeffries
Carney	Ellison	Johnson (GA)
Carson (IN)	Engel	Johnson, E. B.
Cartwright	Enyart	Jones
Castor (FL)	Eshoo	Kaptur
Castro (TX)	Esty	Keating
Chu	Farr	Kelly (IL)
Ciциlline	Fattah	Kennedy
Clark (MA)	Foster	Kildee
Clarke (NY)	Frankel (FL)	Kilmer
Clay	Fudge	Kind
Cleaver	Garamendi	Kirkpatrick
Clyburn	Garcia	Kuster

Labrador	Moore	Schneider
Langevin	Murphy (FL)	Schrader
Larsen (WA)	Nadler	Schwartz
Larson (CT)	Napolitano	Scott (VA)
Lee (CA)	Neal	Scott, David
Levin	Nolan	Sensenbrenner
Lipinski	O'Rourke	Serrano
Loeb sack	Pallone	Sewell (AL)
Lofgren	Pascrell	Shea-Porter
Lowenthal	Payne	Sherman
Lowe y	Pelosi	Sinema
Lujan Grisham	Perlmutter	Sires
(NM)	Peters (CA)	Slaughter
Lujan, Ben Ray	Peters (MI)	Smith (WA)
(NM)	Pingree (ME)	Swalwell (CA)
Lummis	Pocan	Takano
Lynch	Polis	Thompson (CA)
Maffei	Price (NC)	Thompson (MS)
Maloney,	Quigley	Tierney
Carolyn	Rahall	Titus
Maloney, Sean	Rangel	Tonko
Massie	Richmond	Tsongas
Matheson	Rohrabacher	Van Hollen
Matsui	Roybal-Allard	Vargas
McCarthy (NY)	Ruiz	Veasey
McClintock	Rush	Velázquez
McCollum	Ryan (OH)	Wasserman
McDermott	Sánchez, Linda	Schultz
McGovern	T.	Waters
McNerney	Sanchez, Loretta	Waxman
Meeks	Sanford	Welch
Meng	Sarbanes	Wilson (FL)
Michaud	Schakowsky	Yarmuth
Miller, George	Schiff	

NOT VOTING—10

Cantor	Miller, Gary	Speier
Delaney	Moran	Wilson (SC)
Hall	Negrete McLeod	
Lewis	Nunnelee	

□ 1924

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4800, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4457, AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4453, S CORPORATION PERMANENT TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2014

Mr. BURGESS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-472) on the resolution (H. Res. 616) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4800) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4457) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4453) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations, which was referred to the

House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 286, I voted "yes" inadvertently. I would like the RECORD to reflect that my vote would have been "no."

CPI'S 100 PERCENT JOB PLACEMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the faculty, staff, and students of the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology, referred to as "CPI," in Centre County, Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

On April 30, CPI's Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning class graduated with a 100 percent job placement rate.

The HVAC class included over 900 hours of technical training in order to prepare students for careers in repairing basic residential and commercial heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration, and pipe fitting. Students also learn plumbing, mechanical, building codes, design schematics, blueprints, and hazardous materials and gas handling techniques.

As the cochair of the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am very proud to have a great model of career and technical education right in Pennsylvania's Fifth District.

Despite unemployment remaining above average levels, many industries face challenges finding qualified employees to fill job vacancies. The skills gap between those seeking jobs and those businesses requiring highly qualified and skilled workers can adequately be addressed with the rigorous, high-quality career and technical education programs, such as those offered at CPI.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the recent CPI graduates. I wish them the best in their new jobs.

THE SILENCE IS DEAFENING

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, sadly, the House asked for a moment of silence for a student who was killed in Oregon. Yesterday, sadly, we had a moment of silence for deaths in Nevada. We didn't have a moment of silence for the death of a student at Seattle Pacific University in Washington 3 or 4 days earlier.

Sadly, it is becoming a regular occurrence of moments of silence for children who are killed in schools. We had Santa Barbara. We have had others. There have been 74 since Newtown.

The silence is deafening that the House has not acted. Whether it is mental health, whether it is gun laws, the House needs to act and not continue to be silent.

□ 1930

IT IS TIME FOR CONGRESS TO STAND UP AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, today we stood up again for a moment of silence because there was violence in schools, and we know this has happened repeatedly since Newtown.

These families are waiting for us to do something. They are waiting for Congress to do something. They don't want us to keep standing up for a moment of silence. They want us to stand up for a vote.

I call on Speaker BOEHNER to bring some legislation to the floor. We have legislation, good legislation that can help prevent some of this terrible tragedy. So let's work together and start addressing this terrible program that is impacting so many people in our country.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS AND POLICIES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BELARUS AND OTHER PERSONS TO UNDERMINE BELARUS'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES OR INSTITUTIONS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-118)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRIDENSTINE) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the

actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2014.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 10, 2014.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I don't think we will take a full hour here, but there are a couple of things that we need to talk about.

I always like to start these hour sessions with why we are here; what are the values that we want to put forth.

Why do we spend these hours in the Chamber?

What is our job here?

I often find myself going back to FDR. He said back in the thirties something that has always been with me. He said: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much. It is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

The test of our progress: Do we provide more to those who have much, or to those who have too little?

How can we meet this test?

What can we do?

Today is one of those days that I guess comes from "A Tale of Two Cities"; the best of times and the worst of times.

I am going to put up this photo of a levee break in California. I represent 200 miles of the Sacramento River Valley and probably have over 1,100 miles of levees. Today, actually is the best of times. The levees are not breaking. Actually, we are in the middle of a drought.

But today, at the White House, the President signed the Water Resources and Reform Development Act, an extremely important piece of legislation for my district, and for America, because this legislation provides for the protection of our cities. It provides for the flood control programs that are ab-

solutely essential in my part of California and all across America.

So, Mr. President, thank you very much for signing that legislation.

And for the Members of this House and for the Senate that decided that it was time to put aside all the partisanship and to do something right for the people of America, we actually made progress today and the Water Resources Reform and Development Act is now the law of the land.

For California, Hamilton City will see their levees, after 15 years of effort, they will see their levees under construction in the coming year. And God willing, there won't be a flood this winter. And also an end to the drought, thank you.

Natomas, the city of Sacramento, major levee improvements there, and along Yuba City, along the Feather River, 40 miles of levee improvements now underway, and also over in Marysville.

We are thankful that there was bipartisanship and that there was a major piece of legislation. We have to provide the funding, but the authorization is there.

So this photo of a levee break in California, we can put it aside and we can then talk about this. This takes us back to FDR.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act not only deals with levees and floods, it also deals with the ports. It deals with the inland waterways. It deals with the locks and all that comes with the transportation in the sector of water transportation, whether it is on the east coast ports, the ports in California, Long Beach, Los Angeles and in my area, Stockton and Sacramento ports.

We are talking about 13 million jobs, and these are the good, middle class jobs that Americans need. They want to go to work. They want a job. They want to be able to support their families. They want to be able to have a home. They want to be able to have that vacation.

With the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, now law, signed today by the President, we will see 13 million jobs in the future. They are not going to happen tomorrow, but they will over the next 5 years, as this bill—over the next 2 years as this bill goes into effect.

So FDR's challenge to us: What have we done for those who do not have enough?

Today, the signing of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act provides for those who do not have jobs the opportunity. For those who are in harm's way in floods, it provides for them to have those levees built over the next several years.

For those who have abundance, well, maybe their home is behind the levee also, or maybe they also will benefit from the improvement of our ports and waterways. So that is the good news.

So what happened today on the bad news side?

Well, let's talk about that. This is a picture of an Amtrak train that has been built in Sacramento, California. This train was paid for by the stimulus bill, which some in this House think was a failure, but the 600 employees in Sacramento at the Siemens manufacturing plant there, they don't think it was a failure: \$800 million in the stimulus bill 5 years ago to provide for 100 percent American-made locomotives.

This is the most modern locomotive in the United States. It will soon be running on the Northeast corridor between Washington, D.C., and Boston, made in America, made in Sacramento by Americans, 100 percent American-made.

So why am I talking about something that happened in this House 5 years ago with the stimulus bill, the American Recovery Act? Why am I bringing it up tonight?

Because today, the House of Representatives passed an appropriation bill for transportation and housing, a woefully inadequate piece of legislation that actually will reduce funding for public transportation.

Amtrak may not be able to use this train, may not be able to use the locomotive that was built specifically for the Northeast corridor because our Republican colleagues reduced the funding for Amtrak and actually passed legislation to further restrict public transportation, Amtrak and public transportation, in our cities all over this Nation.

Why would they do that when we know, when everybody knows that transportation is absolutely critical, that public transportation, whether it be Amtrak or a light-rail system or a rapid transit system in any of our cities, is absolutely essential for those people who have little ability to travel to their jobs?

Whether it is on a bus, light rail or a train, they need to have that public transportation.

So what did our colleagues do?

They reduced the money for public transportation all across this Nation, whether it is Amtrak or your local light rail or your local bus system. Why? Why, when we know that we also have to deal with climate change?

And how can you deal with climate change when you do not fund the public transportation systems of this Nation?

It makes no sense. In fact, it is nonsense. You want to put people to work?

You put people to work in building the infrastructure of this Nation, whether it is a train, an Amtrak locomotive, or a levee, or a port, you put people to work building the transportation systems.

We know that we also have a major funding bill that is necessary. We have to reauthorize the transportation pro-

grams. The MAP-21 expires this year. We know that this summer the highway trust fund runs out of money.

So where was that money in the transportation bill?

It wasn't there. Reductions.

Who is going to build?

Who is going to repair our bridges?

Are we going to be able to do that?

Probably not, not with the money that was not appropriated today for the transportation programs.

But the President has proposed a major reauthorization of the transportation programs. It is called GROW AMERICA. It expands our highway fund some \$302 billion over the next 5 years, an expansion so that we can repair our bridges.

We know across America, some 25 to 30 percent of the bridges in every district that the 435 of us represent, every single one of us have a bridge that is subject to collapse. In my district, I probably have more than 200 bridges that are in desperate need of repair for the protection of the individuals and communities that use those bridges, as well as the commerce that is dependent upon them.

But, no. We don't have a transportation bill on our side. We need to take the President's bill, we need to embrace it because it is fully paid for. It has not only the money that is currently available from the various programs that currently fund it—these are the excise taxes on fuel, whether it is gasoline or diesel, but it adds to that another very large sum of money by corporate tax reform.

Those corporations that have been able to skip out of their responsibility here in the United States to pay for the programs that all of us depend upon, they would have to pay their fair share in a corporate tax reform.

That money would then flow into the transportation programs, providing the money that we need to build our transportation system, whether it is the light-rail systems, the heavy rail, Amtrak systems, or the roads and the bridges of this Nation.

□ 1945

It is a good bill. It deserves our full support. We can tweak it. We can make little changes here and there, but unless we take up the challenge of transportation funding in this Nation, unless we are willing to work with the President and his proposal—we have no other proposal before us in this House of Representatives.

Let us embrace the President's proposal, make the changes that we think are necessary, but let us move forward. Let us make America move forward with a transportation program for this millennium, not for the last one, but for this one, one that provides all the benefits that we need.

I want to bring up another part of the transportation program—and once

again, it is about jobs. The economist in this case, Mark Zandi, has done an economic analysis of the transportation programs and the infrastructure investment. By the way, this guy worked for JOHN MCCAIN in the McCain Presidential campaign.

His analysis is, for every \$1 we invest in infrastructure, \$1.57 is pumped into the American economy, so you are getting that multiplier effect. You are putting men and women to work, not just the hardhats, not just with the pick and shovels working on the roads and bridges, but also in the offices, the engineers, the architects, the economists, and all those who are doing the work in the back office.

So for every \$1 that we invest—and let's think about it. The President's proposal is \$302 billion over the next 5 years. Multiply it out. An extra \$1.57 for every dollar invested.

So let us take Mr. Zandi's analysis. Let us apply it. So we probably have somewhere over \$450 billion of actual economic growth, if we were to follow what the President has proposed in his GROW AMERICA transportation program.

Has anybody got a better idea around here? I don't see much happening, but we know by midsummer, the transportation programs in America face a highway cliff. The Federal highway trust fund runs out of money—no new contracts.

Some 700,000 people are likely to be laid off in the ensuing year, unless the House of Representatives and the Senate takes up the challenge of funding the transportation programs of this Nation.

It is ports. It is highways. It is bridges. It is the bus systems. It is the Amtrak system. It is the rail systems of America. All of these are part of the President's proposal, and it is something we ought to take up and we ought to move forward with.

What we have been talking about here in these hour-long sessions over the last 3 years is another piece of this puzzle.

When we do infrastructure—whether it be the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, the levees and the ports, and the inland waterways, the locks, the channels, all of those critical parts of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, as we do that and the transportation bill, we need to think about how to increase the multiplier that Mr. Zandi talked about.

He talked about, for every \$1 we invest, you get \$1.57 growth in the economy. However, he did not take into account another critical aspect of this.

This is our Make It In America agenda. If we take that \$302 billion Presidential program and we take the piece of it that he has suggested—that we take the Buy America law that has been in effect in the United States

since 1933—and we expand that from the current 60 percent content; that is, for every dollar spent in the transportation programs, we would go to 100 percent of that money being spent on American-made steel, concrete, iron, and American-made products of all kinds, so that when we build a bridge, it is American steel, and it is made in America.

The Make It In America agenda says: let us spend our tax money on American-made equipment, on American steel, by United States companies operating in the United States, that the men and women of America get to benefit from the tax money that they have contributed to our transportation programs.

This is the Make It In America agenda. It is using our tax money to employ Americans, American steelworkers, American bridgebuilders, American contractors.

I wanted to give you an example of what happens when you do not use the Make It In America agenda, when you ignore the 1933 law that says, at a minimum, 60 percent of the content in our transportation programs must be spent on American-made steel, American-made equipment.

Here is what happens. This is a picture of the new San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge. It opened less than 7 months ago. It is a marvelous piece of architecture. It is quite a bridge. It has beauty, and it is extraordinarily expensive. This is a single-suspension bridge, so it is suspended on both sides, an architectural marvel.

However, all of the steel here in this 500-foot tower and the steel on the roadway was not produced in the United States. It was made in China by a Chinese Government-owned steel mill that was actually expanded and built on the backs of the American taxpayer—\$1 billion spent of American taxpayer money, directly sent to China, to the Chinese Government-owned steel mill.

By the way, there were significant delays, and there were cost overruns because the Chinese steel manufacturer did a shoddy, crummy job of producing the parts of this bridge.

All of the welding was done in China by Chinese welders that were, by all accounts and by audits done by Caltrans, ill-trained, ill-prepared, and had done thousands upon thousands of very inadequate welds, so that when this incredible bridge arrived by boat from China, the welds were inadequate. There were cracks.

In fact, much of the welding was done in the rain in Shanghai. When you do welding in the rain, you are going to get a very bad result.

So there were thousands of problems, all of which led to a delay, and all of which led to additional expense, a prime example of what happens when you do not follow the law. The law said

60 percent content in the United States.

However, the Schwarzenegger administration in California figured out a way to circumvent the law. They took this bridge, a multibillion-dollar bridge, and they broke it into 20 different pieces, so that they could avoid the Buy America law—the result: made in China, 3,000 jobs, shoddy work, additional expense, and additional delays.

The President's proposal, the GROW AMERICA proposal that he has given to this Congress to consider and which we ought to consider, would say that, in this case, if you are going to use American taxpayer money to build a bridge, then it will, over the next 5 years, ramp up from 60 percent American content to 100 percent American content.

Let's do it. Let's Make It In America. Let's employ Americans, and let's tell the Chinese: you build your own bridges in China, but by golly, in America, it is going to be built by American steel and American workers.

That is what the President is proposing for us. That is what we ought to be doing, and we ought to be embracing the notion that we cannot do it on the cheap, as this Congress did attempt to do less than an hour ago with the passage of the Transportation-Housing appropriation bill, totally inadequate money to deal with our fundamental transportation programs, to say nothing of the housing programs that are desperately needed for the low- and moderate-income people of America.

If you care about the American workers, if you care about the ability of this economy to prosper, then we must embrace an aggressive, fully-funded, robust transportation program.

We must fund the Water Resources Reform and Development Act that the President signed today, and we are grateful for his signature. I am personally grateful that communities in my district will be able to have protection from floods in the future, as a result of that law.

However, the question will come to us: Are we willing to put up the money to build those projects? Today, we have a prime example of the unwillingness of my colleagues on the Republican side to fund the transportation program that this Nation desperately needs.

The infrastructure of this Nation is the foundation upon which the economy will grow. These are the issues of the Make It In America. Tax policy, the President addresses that in the GROW AMERICA. He says that American corporations cannot duck their responsibility to this Nation.

He has proposed tax reforms for corporations to pay their fair share—no more running away, no more getting a tax break for sending jobs overseas, but, rather, pay your fair share, and build America.

We will come to energy policy another day.

His proposal also calls for the job force preparation, so that we are training those men and women who are going to be our future engineers to build the bridges of the future, so that we will have the men and women that know how to do the welding—apparently, the Chinese could use that kind of training also—so that we would have the job training programs that at every level—the back office accountants, the engineers, the architects, the men and women that are operating the heavy equipment, and those that are doing the welding on these projects, that is part of the proposal that the President has put forward, and that is part of the GROW AMERICA proposal.

So the labor and the education come together. Down here, infrastructure. This is the Make It In America agenda. Tomorrow, my Democratic colleagues and I will be talking with our leader, STENY HOYER, about how we can take an additional package of bills and advance the Make It In America, the GROW AMERICA proposals.

We would hope our colleagues here on the floor of the House of Representatives would embrace a bipartisan effort to really build our infrastructure, to take what success we had in the water resources and reform and take that success to the transportation issues that confront this Nation. There is much more that we must do.

As we do these things, we will also address a fundamental problem that faces this Nation, which is climate change. This is real. I studied this in the 1990s, when I was Deputy Secretary of the Department of Interior, as we prepared the American agenda for the Kyoto climate conference. Unfortunately, the treaty that came back from that conference was never adopted by the Senate in the 1990s.

So to this day, we have yet to address this issue, and we must. This is an issue that will cause flooding across this Nation. It will cause sea levels to rise, which we are already seeing, and it will lead to more severe storms, which we are already seeing.

How can we do that? Again, back to the transportation bill, back to the water resources bill. Put together the levees that we need to protect ourselves, and put together the transportation systems that allow for increased public transportation, whether it is on a locomotive built by that German company in America, in Sacramento, which is the most modern locomotive in the United States, made in America 100 percent.

Maybe it is a streetcar or a fast rail system or a bus, again, financed by Americans, built by Americans with a Buy America proposal, our taxpayer money used to employ Americans as we build high-speed trains, as we build new locomotives, hybrid buses, or whatever.

That public transportation will lead to a reduction in greenhouse gases, and if we eliminate the congestion that is caused by our inadequate highway system, we also will reduce greenhouse gases, all of which is good for climate change.

□ 2000

There is much more to be said. But for more than 3 years, I have stood on this floor and brought to this floor and to the attention of this Nation the Make It In America agenda, which is part of the transportation system as well as part of our highways and ports system. So we are going to continue with this.

The plea I have to my colleagues—435 of them, Democrats and Republicans—is that we learn from our success. The Water Resources and Reform Development Act was a success—a bipartisan success. It lays the foundation for the protection that we need from floods, as well as growing our economy on the rivers, locks, and the ports of America. It was a good one. We thank the President for his signature today. Step one.

Step two comes to us over the next 3 months as we face the highway cliff where we know that if we fail to enact a new highway bill, we will see 700,000 Americans unemployed, losing their jobs over the next year. We have to get this job done. The President has laid out a good proposal. We can tweak it, we can make changes to it, but we must take it up, and we must move forward with the transportation program. And when we do, no more—no more bridges made in China, only bridges made in America, American taxpayer money spent in America for American steel and American workers.

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

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF GREAT CIVILIZATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we have been going through appropriation bills, today Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development. We have had an open rule process where anybody who wanted to bring any amendment could do so. I was a little surprised that my amendment did not pass. It had 160 votes today. This is a very simple amendment. We took the last official number we could find from an executive branch, from January of 2009, before President Obama was sworn in, and it indicated that there was less than 1 percent of those getting section 8 public housing given to them, and so we took the amount of money clear back from 2009, even though there

are indications that it is many times that now, we just took that conservative amount, trying to be conservative and trying to be more than fair, which it was, and said, okay, we have got to send a message to Housing and Urban Development folks that you can't just keep giving housing away.

I know the mainstream media never talks about it when there is a Democratic President, but they sure bring it right back up as soon as a Republican takes over the White House, and that is homelessness. Well, if homelessness is ever a problem, then why do we keep offering and paying for people to use federally financed housing when they are not legally getting federally financed housing?

So it gets me to use the word "only" with \$24 million, but it was only \$24 million that would be the amount reduced from section 8 public housing to send a message that, HUD, if you are going to be providing housing to people who are not legally allowed in public housing, then we are going to cut your funding by that much. It seemed like a pretty good amendment. It sent a message. And I was grateful for the numbers. The USA is very concerned about the illegal immigration issue. We scored that as an important vote, and we got 160 votes.

If we cannot, as a majority Republican Congress, muster a majority of votes to say to the rest of the country that we have an obligation in this generation not to spend future generations' money, not to continue to be the first generation in American history to put succeeding generations into so much debt they can never get out of it—we have a moral obligation not to do that. It is absolutely immoral to be spending future generations' money. It is wrong, and if we can't even agree to cut public housing that is provided to people by the amount that was provided 5 years ago—illegally—then where are we ever going to make cuts?

It would be nice if America were strong enough to house and feed the entire world. But if we try to do that, we will be so devastated and emaciated as a country that we will become a Third World country, because you just can't do that. You go bankrupt, then people quit buying your products, and then you have an entire rebound situation. But that is how you can become a destitute country.

It is how the Soviet Union went out of business. It is what happens to any country, any group that tries to live under a communist or socialist system. As Margaret Thatcher said, eventually you run out of other people's money, and you are broke.

A true free market system does not fail. A free market system fails when it becomes more and more and more socialistic, more government controlled, more giveaways, less reward for one's own work, and more reward for not

working at all. That brings down a nation under the rules of socialism because it cannot stand—not in this life. It cannot. Yet, this Congress, though we are Republican-controlled in the House, is continuing to fail to stand strongly enough to protect future generations. And it is heartbreaking.

Now, I got back from being in Nigeria for a couple of days. There are mothers with whom I met of young minor girls. Three of the girls were taken into captivity by Boko Haram, a radical Islamic group, and they were able to escape. There were only a handful that were able to do that, and this was three of those. Twenty-two of the mothers—one mother had two of her girls kidnapped.

Radical Islam, because of its desire for a global caliphate, is a threat to all freedom-loving people. It is a threat to moderate Muslims because they generally go to the top of the list. If they protest, then they are at the top of the list to be knocked off by the radical Islamists. But consistently at the top are Christians and Jews. So radical Islam is a threat to civilization as we know it.

The progress that was made in Muslim civilizations could not have been made if they were truly radical as we keep seeing them raise their ugly heads in Iran and places like Nigeria, the northern part where Boko Haram continues to terrorize, including yesterday. I am not for going to war, but we were able to go into Afghanistan when we knew Afghanistan was where the 9/11/2001 attack originated, and with less than 500 American soldiers, Special Forces and some intelligence, air cover, some weapons, they were wiped out within 4 or 5 months. It wasn't until we became occupiers with tens of thousands of military in-country that we started running into real difficulty and loss of American lives.

Then this President came in and basically was ready to announce a date of withdrawal, which is considered by most warriors as an announcement of surrender. When you say, this is when we will withdraw no matter what is happening, most consider that as a declaration of surrender if they are opposing those who are going to withdraw.

So we could do that in places. We have done it in the Philippines. Send a little embedded help for the Nigerians to eliminate Boko Haram, take them out as a threat, and then don't become occupiers, don't nation-build, just help them take out anything that is a threat to civilization as we know it and our freedom and liberty as we love it.

It may shock some, Mr. Speaker, but in Nigeria these families have heard repeatedly that nobody cares about your daughters that were abducted and nobody cares what is happening. And if you think for a minute anybody from America cares, they are too busy enjoying their own lifestyle, they could

care less what happens here. Nobody from America is coming.

One Congressman came, and there are more, there was another small group there, but I was the only one that met with family members. So they didn't know there was another group.

Again, it may shock some, but these families in Nigeria don't follow Twitter. They don't know what a hashtag is. So when the best an administration in the United States can do is #bringbackourgirls, it doesn't do anything for the families. They continue to cry day after day after day. One of these three girls was telling me that they had nightmares because they knew what was happening to the girls because of what happened to them while they were there, and they felt guilty because they were out and these girls were in.

When the superpower of the world doesn't seem to care about the rule of law, number one, and begins to reward our enemies, begins to penalize our allies, those three things—and I will add one more—and then fourth, spending massive amounts more of money than we take in, those four are a very good prescription for bringing about the end of a great nation.

Now, I am not a doom-and-gloom person, but I did major in history before I went—I knew I was going into the Army for 4 years, I loved history, especially American history, but anybody that studies world history understands that no nation will last forever—none. No nation will ever last forever in this life and in this world. So it is a question of how long you can maintain a great nation.

The Romans, as great as they were, couldn't make an empire last forever. Later, the Ottoman Empire took over all these nations, most of them surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. And until the stop in Vienna, it looked like they were headed toward taking over all of Europe. They didn't last forever.

□ 2015

Going back before the Romans, the Greeks, they had a great empire. They didn't last forever. Ironically, some like to point to Alexander the Great and say: see, you can conquer Afghanistan and occupy it successfully.

I point out that Alexander the Great died leaving Afghanistan. I wouldn't consider that a great victory. It didn't work out that well. It didn't then. It didn't for the Russians. We have to be smarter about what we do because no Nation does last forever.

My goal in being in Congress—one of my goals—is to try to work with other Members of Congress to perpetuate this little experiment in democracy for another 200—maybe 100 to 200 years.

As Ben Franklin said:

It is a republic if you can keep it.

That takes work.

As Thomas Jefferson said:

The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

Our Nation seemed to grow more apathetic after World War II and has seen our deficits go through the roof. Countries around the world are now saying: You can't trust the dollar because Americans can't control their spending; they have no moral judgment which would keep them from spending their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren's money, so we need to stop taking the dollar.

When the dollar ceases to be important international world currency, it will have a devastating effect, bring about a crash, most likely, here in the United States, and you will not be able to revive the economy by creating more and more and more money, day after day, as is currently happening in this country now and has been dramatically happening for some years, especially since 2008.

Nothing indicates to the world at large our lawlessness more than our refusal to enforce our immigration laws and to secure our borders. Some say: oh, you must not like Mexicans.

Nothing could be further from the truth. I think the Hispanic culture, with a love of God—generally speaking—a love of family, and hard work ethic can help reinvigorate our Nation's morality where it should be. My wife and I went for our honeymoon 36 years ago in Mexico. It was quite extraordinary. I have very fond memories.

What we have seen recently are not Mexicans coming across our border—no. The big numbers have been coming from further south. They have been coming from South America and south Latin America, south Central America.

In talking to a law enforcement officer in Texas, the pride of Governor Rick Perry, I was just told—talking in the cloakroom to Steve McGraw—they are not sure how many 12 and under are in these masses, but generally, it doesn't look like there is a big percentage 12 and under.

Apparently, in the last 8 days, the first 8 days of June, it appears that they have dwarfed the massive thousands that have come into the U.S. in the whole month of May, and May was dramatically ratcheted up from the month before that, and it is continuing to grow larger and larger.

It was a bit appalling to hear a spokesman for the Obama administration is saying they have no idea why there is such a tremendous surge in the numbers of children coming into the United States.

I mean, for heaven's sake, when you send out an invitation saying "you all come," you shouldn't be surprised when they do.

When you basically send out notification to the world that, if you can come quickly, we will give you amnesty, and we will provide you housing, and we

will give you welfare benefits, and we will give you education, and we will give you better hospital care than you have ever had, then I think you can expect a great—a dramatic increase in the numbers of people who send their children to America. It shouldn't be a mystery.

I have had great regard for the Anti-Defamation League. My understanding of their inception is basically to deal with hate, particularly as had been seen with anti-Semitism.

After studying about the Holocaust during World War II and studying about it in history—high school and college—I couldn't believe that we would ever see anti-Semitism, an anti-Jewish sentiment arise in America as it had around the world.

I didn't think we would see the rise of anti-Judaism in Europe again. I figured the Europeans would be too ashamed to ever allow that to happen, and yet we have seen it happen.

While the Anti-Defamation League has not done the best job of helping suppress the anti-Jewish sentiment growing in Europe and that some see growing here in America, as we see Middle Easterners like Iran saying they want to wipe out Israel as the Little Satan and the U.S. as the Great Satan, and when you read the pleading that the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks wrote in his comfortable cell at Guantanamo Bay and he talked about and quoted the Koran, in essence, as the basis for wanting to destroy all Jewish people and all Christian people, so that Jews and Christians are together, as far as the radical Islamists are concerned, we all need to be wiped out.

Instead, the Anti-Defamation League, this noble endeavor, sent this letter to me that was received last week:

Dear Representative Gohmert:

We write to urge you to stop using inflammatory rhetoric in the immigration debate. Your statements from the House floor that the current administration is "luring young children across the border" and that current policies are complicit in "helping lure people into sex trafficking" do not help engage in a productive discussion about the salient issues surrounding the immigration challenges our country is experiencing. Immigration remains a deeply polarizing issue in American politics and public life.

Well, let me assuage concerns by the Anti-Defamation League, but the policies of this administration are luring young people—children—into this country, mainly being sent by adults, because of the policy of trying to create amnesty for children.

Anyone in Congress, Republican—and I know we have some—and Democrat who keep saying yes, any children that are here, we need to go in and give them amnesty, are helping to lure children.

I know they are not doing it intentionally, but they are doing it, and talking about amnesty for children is

sending more and more children from South America and Latin America and other places, so they can get here in time for their amnesty.

I was told by a missionary about a billboard up with our President's face, encouraging sending children to America, and the word spreads like wildfire: America is going to give amnesty to any children that can get there.

Deeply troubling should be the fact that some children get tied in with sex trafficking and really despicable human traffickers—why? Because of this announced, discussed policy that we want to provide amnesty for children that are here.

There is an article from Breitbart today entitled, "Illegal Immigrants Intentionally Surrendering to Border Patrol to Gain Entry to U.S.," by Tony Lee.

Illegal immigrants are reportedly signaling Federal officials to detain them once they are near the U.S.-Mexico border, as Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have declared they may not pursue all illegal immigrants who do not show up for hearings after they enter the country.

Mr. Speaker, if anybody in this administration thinks they don't hear that and that word does not get around to those who are tempted to send children to America, they are wrong. That word gets around: they are not going to send you back if you come.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Yoselin Ramos, an illegal immigrant from Guatemala who was with "20 other families with children," actually "had looked forward to being caught," telling the outlet "at one point even waving down Federal helicopters—because of the welcoming treatment they had assumed they would receive."

In their home countries south of the border, reports have been circulating that illegal immigrants, especially those with children, will be allowed to stay in the United States "indefinitely." Ramos said she decided to make the trek to the United States after hearing reports "that parents will not be detained in the U.S. if they arrive with a child."

The Federal Government has been sending illegal immigrants to States like Arizona and Oklahoma, and local officials do not even know where some of them are headed. And though illegal immigrants are required to show up to meet with local Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, officials within 15 days, ICE official told the Times that "they couldn't guarantee they would pursue all cases in which immigrants do not show up for follow-up appointments, but would examine each case to determine priorities."

In fact, "ICE officials say that the immigrants are released as long as they can provide an address for their destination—with family or friends, no matter their legal status."

Ramos was sent to stay with her family in Iowa. And the Houston Chronicle reported that another illegal immigrant said he considered the papers ICE gave him to be a "permit" to remain in the United States. That illegal immigrant was sent to stay with family in North Carolina.

Though these illegal immigrants said they intended to show up at their hearings, there

is no guarantee that ICE is willing or even has the resources to track them down if they do not show up.

This is from Judicial Watch from yesterday: "Influx of Illegal Alien Minors a Disaster: Overcrowded Shelters, Diseases, Sexually Active Teens."

It sure seems to be clear from the pictures we have been seeing that a very small percentage of the minors coming in would be below teenage years, but this story says:

The barrage of illegal immigrant minors entering U.S. through Mexico in recent weeks has created an out-of-control disaster with jampacked holding centers, rampant diseases, and sexually active teenagers at a Nogales facility, according to information obtained by Judicial Watch from a Homeland Security source.

□ 2030

There was a liberal game plan laid out some years ago that indicated the way to bring down the United States, for those extreme liberal activists who wanted to do so, the hippy mentality, let's bring down the evil United States that was the freest country in the history of the world, they wanted to bring it down, destroy it. The part of the game plan for doing so in this well thought-out narrative, you overwhelm the system. You get so many people on welfare rolls, the government implodes. You bring so many people in, you lure them in, so much so that the country cannot take care of them, and it implodes.

My dear friend Joel Rosenberg has a good book I was reading recently, called, "Implosion." That is one way a nation can end its existence as a strong nation.

Another article from Newsmax, "Central America Newspapers Tout Open U.S. Door for Illegal Minors."

Mr. Speaker, for those in the administration that just cannot imagine what is causing the dramatic increase week after week, more and more and more coming to this country and overwhelming our Border Patrol's ability to handle the situation, then they just need to read a few newspaper articles. It's really quite telling.

This one by Todd Beamon says:

Newspapers in El Salvador and Honduras are promoting policies by the Obama administration that defer deportation to minors brought to the United States as children by their parents—known as "DREAMers"—and those that are housing illegal children at military bases in the South and West.

Almost all agree that a child who crossed the border illegally with their parents, or in search of a father or a better life, was not making an adult choice to break our laws, and should be treated differently than adult violators of the law," Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson is quoted in a story about a new 2-year extension of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act published by Dario El Mundo in El Salvador.

Signed by President Barack Obama in 2012, the law grants temporary legal custody to many young illegal immigrants, ending the threat of deportation for at least 2 years.

The policy, however, does not entitle the immigrants to state services. The law was renewed for 2 more years. "With the renewal of DACA, we act according to our values and code of this great Nation," Johnson said. "But the biggest task of comprehensive immigration reform is yet to come."

Meanwhile, La Prensa of Honduras discusses in a report how as many as 500 illegal minors are being housed at the Naval Base Ventura County in southern California. "The children will be accommodated for between 3 and 4 months, while their parents or relatives are located in the United States," the report says.

"The administration of President Barack Obama has acknowledged he faces a serious crisis for the continuous arrival of children, mostly Central Americans, who are illegally entering the country on the border with Mexico." Besides Mexico and Honduras, the report notes that many of the children are coming from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

"During their stay, in addition to accommodations and food, the children receive English classes, play sports, and participate in targeted programs while immigration authorities contact their families," the La Prensa report says. On Monday, the Obama administration said it would begin housing as many as 1,200 illegal minors at the Army base in Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

And it goes on.

For anybody who could wonder why the numbers are increasing basically daily, weekly, dramatically increasing, so that potentially in the first 8 days of June they have already overshadowed the massive number that came in in May, and because this Nation is a caring and the most charitable nation in the history of the world—any time, any place—the most charitable nation in the world, the most welcoming of immigrants around the world to our country legally—no one comes close to the number of immigrants that we allow into this country annually, nobody. Legally, I am talking about. And yet they dare to criticize our immigration policy as not being open enough?

I still believe if the President or the Secretary of State notified the leaders in Mexico: Look, we turn around people that come in by mistake to the U.S. If they try to come in by mistake, we normally turn them around—that is until this administration's policy of just welcoming everybody, basically, particularly if they have got children. But if the President or Secretary of State added that we are about to start pushing the change of our laws in some respects to being like your immigration laws, so when an American citizen cannot own property outright by themselves in Mexico, we are going to change our laws, because if it is good enough for you to treat United States citizens like this in your country, then it should be good enough for the United States to treat our—treat your Mexican visa holders the same way, so we are going to outlaw Mexican nationals owning property outright in America. But if you want to head off our beginning to have our immigration laws

more reflective of your own laws treating us when we come in, then you better let our marine go, and you better not ever pull that again.

The man said he made a mistake. It was easy to make a mistake. I couldn't believe somebody could make a wrong turn and end up being unable to turn around, but then when you see Greta Van Susteren's video where she goes in, you have the concrete barriers, you can't turn around until you get there and say, "I made a mistake; I want turn around and go back," and they decide this is a great chance to grab an American soldier and throw him in jail.

It is a similar message that's being sent around the world by this administration doing nothing about our marine being falsely, wrongly held in jail. The same kind of message is going into Africa and into Afghanistan and into the Middle East and China and Russia and Crimea. And the message is: we don't even protect our own people, really. If we have a deserter, then we may give away five people that are destined to kill lots more Americans, but otherwise, we are not going to help a marine who really had served honorably. We are not going to help him, but we may help somebody who walked away from his post.

The message is going out and making America appear to be a joke. It is why some are pushing their nation like Putin, knowing he could take over the Crimea. And the U.S. Government might talk about it, they might do as they did and put a hashtag and Twitter something and then be shocked that the Russians weren't scared to continue on in their imperialistic landgrabs by this administration's Tweets.

What a shock. A man who learned manipulation and domination from the KGB appears to the world to be backing down a community organizer. What a shock.

The story from Breitbart written by Kristin Tate, "Border Children Reportedly Sickened by Food in U.S. Facilities, Throwing in Trash." It is from a Houston story.

A tidal wave of illegal immigrants along the U.S.-Mexico border has caused Federal housing and processing facilities to become overwhelmed and overcrowded.

The surge of thousands of children, it talks about. And so is it any surprise that more and more are coming to the extent we can't even provide them proper food?

Here is one from Townhall.com, "Internal Border Patrol Email: Unaccompanied Child Crisis is 'Unprecedented'"—Katie Pavlich. That is from today.

A story from Stephen Dinan of The Washington Times, "Holder Seeks Legal Team for Children on Border, Program to Aid 'Most Vulnerable.'" "

A story from Breitbart—I am not sure that is an appropriate title—

"Obama's Criminal Activity on Immigration." The story talks about:

With the wave of illegal immigrants crossing America's southern border thanks to the Obama administration's policy of non-enforcement, more and more Americans are rightfully anxious about the new and unprecedented use of executive power by President Obama. In December, U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen of Brownsville, Texas, wrote, "[The government] has simply chosen not to enforce the United States' border security laws."

It was written by my friend Ben Shapiro.

Here is one, "Officials 'Overwhelmed' by Influx of Children Crossing Mexican Border into U.S. on Their Own."

It is very dramatic what has been going on, and there is a price to pay when we do not enforce our own laws, and we will pay by having more and more and more children coming into this country illegally.

So, Mr. Speaker, let's think about this. When people come into the U.S. and we fail to turn them around and say: You are not lawfully coming in, so you can't come in. We are not going allow you to come in illegally, so go back, go back from where you came. You were able to get here, so go back wherever you came from. When we refuse to do that and allow them to come on in anyway, then we end up providing food, shelter, supervision, education. Apparently, we are going to provide legal services now, according to this article discussing our contemptuous Attorney General Eric Holder, who has shown a pattern of refusing and failing to follow and enforce United States law.

□ 2045

It would seem that when you add up all the costs of those things, we would be better off—I had heard there was a plane with 100 and something minors that landed in the U.S. It seems it would be cheaper to just refuel their fuel tanks and send them back where they came from, sending a message with it: we are not letting people come in illegally. We already let more people in legally more than any Nation in the world, and we are not even one of the largest nations in the world.

You have got China with estimates between 1.3 and 1.8 billion. You got India that is nearly as big. We are a large Nation, but not nearly compared. We are about a fifth the size of China, a fourth the size maybe of India, yet we let in many more immigrants than they do.

So it is not that we have a ruthless immigration policy. But, Mr. Speaker, it seems, and I have had more and more reporters asking this question: So what do you do? Well, you secure the border first. You don't seal it. I have never advocated that. People lie when they say I have ever said that. I have never said that. You don't seal the border. You secure the border so that we continue to

allow over a million people a year legally to come in.

But anyone who is trying to come in illegally must be stopped, they must be stopped and be required to attempt entering legally because they will not be allowed to come in illegally.

Whatever adults are sending children, it would still be cheaper to put an ICE agent with a group that came from a place like the 113 and make sure they go back where they came from, because otherwise the radical liberal approach of overwhelming the system so you can bring it down is in full display right now on America's borders, overwhelming the spending so that our dollar is not worth what it was, overwhelming our ability to protect ourselves, dramatically cutting the military where we can't adequately defend ourselves and those who would be harmed immediately before we would be harmed. Because as President Bush used to say, it is a whole lot better to fight people in another country than have to fight them within our own country.

There are those who have compared Israel to the miner's canary; that if Israel is under attack, as they are every day, then the free world will be immediately behind it.

We have got to start being more lawful. As I asked somebody in one of our hearings on immigration before, why are people coming here? Well, they are coming here for jobs or for food or for opportunity. Well, no, that is not answering why they are coming here, because they wouldn't need to come here if the countries they were coming from had jobs and had opportunity. Obviously, they don't have the jobs and opportunity where they are coming from. So why are there more jobs or more opportunity here? The answer is, up until more recently, we have been a Nation of laws. Up until this administration, we abided by the Constitution as best we could.

Sometimes in our history the Constitution was misconstrued. It should have stood for freedom for all men and women throughout our history, but it took a Civil War and then an ordained Christian minister named Martin Luther King, Jr., to see that rights were to be applied across the board.

But nonetheless, there was an effort throughout our history where Presidents were supposed to follow the law and have their administrations enforce the law. This Attorney General is in contempt of Congress because he is not.

It is time to take further action and send a message to the world that we are still a Nation of laws and believe in the rule of law, because until we do that we will be overwhelmed, and hopefully we can take a stand and require the administration to follow the law before it is too late.

But it genuinely was heartbreaking to me. It is not angering but heartbreaking to hear the President of the United States say, if Congress doesn't act I will, indicating that he would usurp constitutional authority reserved for the legislature in the Constitution. He would usurp that. The response by most of my friends on this side of the aisle was to stand and applaud the announcement that the President would ignore the Constitution, and if Congress didn't change the law he would take care of it himself by himself.

To see people applaud the destruction of our Constitution was heartbreaking to me because I know they didn't realize they were applauding the implosion of our Constitution. There are an awful lot of good friends I have on the other side of the aisle who probably stood and applauded, and I am sure they didn't realize. But that is the effect when a President of the United States says if Congress doesn't address the law, change the law, then I will.

The result is what our Founders promised. It was a Republic as long as you tried to keep it. You did have liberty, but you ceased being vigilant so you lost it. I tried to warn you about all these things. We tried to warn you, as John Adams did, that this government is only meant for religious and moral people, and not fit to govern any others.

Abraham Lincoln, as inscribed on the inside wall on the north wall of the Lincoln Memorial in his inaugural address a month or so before he was assassinated, talked about God. Lincoln tried to debate in his inaugural address within himself how a good God could allow such suffering.

It comes down, it appears, from his theological dissertation, that when a nation acts wrongly, as this Nation did in allowing slavery, a just God would allow suffering as a result. To paraphrase Lincoln, if it be God's will that every drop of blood drawn by the master's lash also be drawn by the sword in war, then we still must say, as was said 3,000 years ago, the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous all together.

When we as a Nation ignore the law, when we as a Nation encourage other nations to ignore our law, when our Justice Department refuses to enforce the law fairly and justly across the board, you lose the country that was, has been, and hopefully for a while longer will be the greatest country in the history of the world.

We have an obligation, a moral obligation, to future generations not to leave this country the way we are about to. But people have got to wake up on both sides of the aisle. You can't keep announcing that we are going to ignore the law if you can just get here before we pass the law. We are looking the other way, come on, ignore our law

along with our Justice Department, ignore our law along with the Homeland Security Department, ignore our law along with the White House, come on, we will ignore our law together. It truly is a prescription for the end of the Nation. We can't let that happen. People have got to wake up.

So for those in the administration that just can't imagine why there is a dramatic increase in minors coming to our border, start reading some of the things you are saying and you will find the answer.

Mr. Speaker, we have an oath to follow. By God's grace let's follow it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the afternoon of June 10.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 11, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5891. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho: Infrastructure Requirements of the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R10-OAR-2012-0183; FRL-9911-09 Region 10] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5892. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; San Joaquin Valley; Contingency Measures For the 1997 PM2.5 Standards [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0534; FRL-9911-07 Region-9] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5893. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Revision to the Chicago 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0274; FRL-9910-92 Region 5] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5894. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Cyflumetofen; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0269; FRL-9905-80] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5895. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Finding of Failure to Submit a Prevention of Significant Deterioration State Implementation Plan Revision for Particulate Matter Less Than 2.5 Micrometers (PM2.5); Arkansas [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0380; FRL-9911-25 Region-6] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5896. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Oregon; Approval of Substitution for Transportation Control Measures [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0139; FRL-9911-23 Region-10] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5897. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of States' Requests to Relax the Federal Reid Vapor Pressure Volatility Standard in Florida, and the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill and Greensboro/Winston-Salem/High Point Areas in North Carolina [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0787; FRL-9911-13-OAR] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5898. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Review of New Sources and Modifications in Indian Country — Amendments to the Federal Indian Country Minor New Source Review Rule [EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0076; FRL-9909-78-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR25) received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5899. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee; Removal of Obsolete Regulations [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0813; FRL-9911-44 Region-4] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5900. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Revision of the Venting Prohibition for Specific Refrigerant Substitutes [EPA-HA-OAR-2012-0580; FRL-9911-42-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AM09) received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5901. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; Regulations Limiting Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds and Nitrogen Oxides [EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0446; A-1-FRL-9901-93 Region-1] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5902. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Georgia; Redesignation of the Roma, Georgia, 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0893; FRL9910-65 Region-4] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5903. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Utah; Revisions to UAC Rule 401- Permit: New and Modified Sources [EPA-R08-OAR-2012-0168; FRL-9756-5] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5904. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Priorities List, Final Rule No. 58 [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2013-0630, 0632, 0633, 0634, 0637, 0638, and 0639; FRL-9910-72-OSWER] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5905. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Georgia; Redesignation of the Macon, Georgia, 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R04-OAR2012-0851; FRL-9910-64 Region-4] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5906. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Update of the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton 199 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Maintenance Area [EPA-R03-2014-0278; FRL-9910-48 Region-3] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5907. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Mancozeb, Maneb, Metiram, and Thiram; Tolerance Actions (RIN: 2070-ZA16) [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0431; FRL-9909-80] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5908. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-348, "Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5909. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-347, "Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Consumer Protection Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5910. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-346, "Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5911. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-345, "Transportation Infrastructure and Public Space Impact Mitigation Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5912. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-344, "Traffic Adjudication Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 616. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4800) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4457) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4453) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations (Rept. 113-472). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself and Mr. RICE of South Carolina):

H.R. 4822. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for 100 percent bonus depreciation for manufacturing property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 4823. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to require one-stop delivery systems under such Act to offer services through Internet websites and to direct the Secretary of Labor to develop standards and best practices for such websites; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ENYART:

H.R. 4824. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish a scholarship program for dislocated workers or unemployed individuals transitioning into manufacturing employment; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 4825. A bill to establish Presidential awards to recognize organizations that have made extraordinary efforts to create jobs and strengthen the economy of the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HOLT, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr.

MCDERMOTT, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 4826. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 4827. A bill to establish a pilot program to promote public-private partnerships among apprenticeships or other job training programs, local educational agencies, and community colleges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARCIA:

H.R. 4828. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to establish STEM Innovation Networks; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mrs. ELLMERS):

H.R. 4829. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 with respect to high priority corridors on the National Highway System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H.R. 4830. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to ensure continuing funding for the United States Merchant Marine Academy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 4831. A bill to establish a Federal tax credit approximation matching program for State new manufacturing jobs training tax credits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. ENYART):

H.R. 4832. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide student loan eligibility for mid-career, part-time students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 4833. A bill to increase the participation of historically underrepresented demographic groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and industry; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself and Mr. CAPUANO):

H. Res. 614. A resolution strongly supporting the quality and value of diversity and innovation in the Nation's higher education institutions, and strongly disagreeing with the President's proposal to create and administer a Postsecondary Institution Ratings System; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H. Res. 615. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Members who vote in favor of the establishment of a public, Federal Government run health insurance option are urged to forgo

their right to participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and agree to enroll under that public option; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H. Res. 617. A resolution condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the terrorist group known as Boko Haram in northeastern provinces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 618. A resolution expressing support for Lunchtime Music on the Mall in Washington, DC, to benefit the District of Columbia, regional residents, and visitors and recognizing the public service of the performers and sponsors; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER

H.R. 4822

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill makes changes to existing law relating to Article 1, Section 7, which provides that "All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

By Mr. SWALWELL of California

H.R. 4823

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18.

By Mr. ENYART

H.R. 4824

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NOLAN

H.R. 4825

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 and clause 3 of the US Constitution

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York

H.R. 4826

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HORSFORD

H.R. 4827

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have power . . . to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among several states, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mr. GARCIA

H.R. 4828

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD

H.R. 4829

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

By Mr. ISRAEL

H.R. 4830

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KILDEE

H.R. 4831

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico

H.R. 4832

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York

H.R. 4833

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 36: Mr. WALBERG.
- H.R. 166: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
- H.R. 543: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
- H.R. 594: Mr. TURNER.
- H.R. 713: Mr. PETERS of California.
- H.R. 715: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 809: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
- H.R. 831: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
- H.R. 963: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
- H.R. 997: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
- H.R. 1037: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. ESHOO.
- H.R. 1074: Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FLORES, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. BUCSHON.
- H.R. 1179: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. RANGEL.
- H.R. 1201: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
- H.R. 1254: Mr. WALBERG.
- H.R. 1313: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
- H.R. 1427: Mr. PETERS of California.
- H.R. 1440: Ms. LEE of California.
- H.R. 1449: Mr. WILLIAMS.
- H.R. 1462: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
- H.R. 1518: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
- H.R. 1563: Mr. COSTA.
- H.R. 1666: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. KIND.
- H.R. 1698: Mr. TONKO.
- H.R. 1717: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. NEAL.
- H.R. 1761: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. JENKINS, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
- H.R. 1779: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
- H.R. 1827: Mrs. BEATTY.
- H.R. 2139: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

- H.R. 2164: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. COFFMAN.
- H.R. 2175: Mr. FORBES.
- H.R. 2178: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 2179: Mr. COHEN.
- H.R. 2247: Mr. GUTHERIE.
- H.R. 2263: Mr. YOHO.
- H.R. 2291: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
- H.R. 2328: Mr. GIBSON.
- H.R. 2384: Mr. TIERNEY.
- H.R. 2417: Mr. TIPTON.
- H.R. 2444: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
- H.R. 2453: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. DESANTIS, and Mr. TERRY.
- H.R. 2607: Mr. TONKO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. NOLAN, and Mr. PAULSEN.
- H.R. 2656: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
- H.R. 2673: Mr. MCALLISTER
- H.R. 2835: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
- H.R. 2852: Mr. WAXMAN.
- H.R. 2996: Mr. HULTGREN and Ms. DELAURO.
- H.R. 3086: Mr. NUGENT, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. POLIS.
- H.R. 3301: Mr. WALBERG.
- H.R. 3303: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
- H.R. 3318: Mr. ISRAEL.
- H.R. 3322: Mr. O'ROURKE.
- H.R. 3422: Mr. JONES.
- H.R. 3423: Mr. GIBSON.
- H.R. 3471: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 3481: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
- H.R. 3485: Mr. SCALISE.
- H.R. 3486: Mr. MARCHANT.
- H.R. 3538: Mr. WALZ.
- H.R. 3560: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
- H.R. 3680: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CARNEY, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. HIMES, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KIND, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. BARBER, Ms. BASS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FATAH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HAHN, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KLINE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. WELCH.
- H.R. 3740: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
- H.R. 3776: Mr. CASSIDY.
- H.R. 3854: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 3858: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
 H.R. 3867: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. HUDSON.
 H.R. 3877: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H.R. 3992: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. NUNNELEE.
 H.R. 4017: Mr. DAINES.
 H.R. 4047: Mr. WALBERG.
 H.R. 4105: Mr. DEFAZIO.
 H.R. 4106: Mr. RIBBLE.
 H.R. 4136: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
 H.R. 4190: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
 H.R. 4212: Mr. MARCHANT.
 H.R. 4234: Mr. GIBBS.
 H.R. 4289: Mr. MCCAUL.
 H.R. 4347: Mr. COSTA, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 4351: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. KENNEDY.
 H.R. 4365: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H.R. 4370: Mr. HENSARLING and Mrs. LUMMIS.
 H.R. 4430: Mr. BARR.
 H.R. 4447: Mr. MULVANEY.
 H.R. 4450: Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BARTON, and Mr. DEFAZIO.
 H.R. 4510: Mr. LONG, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, and Mr. ROTHFUS.
 H.R. 4574: Mr. VARGAS.
 H.R. 4582: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 4589: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.
 H.R. 4618: Ms. CHU and Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 4630: Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 4631: Ms. ESTY and Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 4635: Mr. DELANEY.
 H.R. 4651: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
 H.R. 4653: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. MEADOWS.
 H.R. 4659: Mr. PETERSON.
 H.R. 4664: Mr. POLIS.
 H.R. 4698: Mr. MULLIN.
 H.R. 4707: Mr. KENNEDY.
 H.R. 4716: Mrs. NOEM.
 H.R. 4717: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. KLINE.
 H.R. 4747: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 4767: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
 H.R. 4781: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
 H.R. 4783: Mr. PALLONE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
 H.R. 4786: Mr. KLINE.
 H.R. 4802: Mr. MCCAUL.
 H.R. 4803: Mr. MCCAUL.
 H.R. 4805: Mr. NUNES, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. DESANTIS.
 H.R. 4810: Mr. TERRY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. BASS, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DUFFY, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HALL, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LONG, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MEADOWS, Mrs. NOEM, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KINGSTON.
 H.R. 4812: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. MCCAUL.
 H.R. 4816: Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. FALOMAVAEGA, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.J. Res. 113: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
 H. Res. 231: Mr. ROTHFUS.
 H. Res. 411: Mr. GOSAR.
 H. Res. 456: Mr. POMPEO.
 H. Res. 525: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KIND, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
 H. Res. 562: Mr. KENNEDY.
 H. Res. 609: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. CONYERS

AMENDMENT NO. 33: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay any FHA mortgage insurance claim in connection with the sale of any mortgage insured by the FHA in contravention of—
 (1) section 230(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715u(a)); or
 (2) section 203.500, 203.501, 203.600, 203.602, 203.604, 203.605, 203.606, or 203.365(c) of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. RICHMOND

AMENDMENT NO. 34: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to recover Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery funds from any eligible homeowner recipient impacted by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita who used such funds to restore the homeowner's home to a habitable state and has made an honest attempt to utilize the funds for their intended purpose and comply with the covenants of the grant agreement.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. CONYERS

AMENDMENT NO. 35: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay any FHA mortgage insurance claim or in connection with the sale of any mortgage insured by the FHA before compliance with existing FHA loss mitigation requirements, documentation of such compliance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and provision of such documentation to the mortgagor.

H.R. 4745

OFFERED BY: MR. CONYERS

AMENDMENT NO. 36: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay any FHA mortgage insurance claim or in connection with the sale of any mortgage insured by the FHA before compliance with existing FHA loss mitigation requirements, documentation of such compliance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and provision of such documentation to the mortgagor.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MR. HUELSKAMP

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled "Importation of Beef From a Region in Brazil" published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on December 23, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 77370 et seq.)

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MRS. HARTZLER

AMENDMENT NO. 2: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement section 12106 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79; 128 Stat. 980), section 11016(b) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246; 122 Stat. 2130), or the amendments made by such sections.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT NO. 3: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. _____. (a) Each amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 1 percent.
 (b) The reduction in subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the following mandatory accounts:
 (1) "Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund".
 (2) "Commodity Credit Corporation Fund—Reimbursement for Net Realized Losses".
 (3) "Child Nutrition Programs".
 (4) "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program".

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MR. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT NO. 4: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:
 SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel of the Department of Agriculture to provide any benefit described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (E) of subsection (b)(2) of section 1001D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308-3a) to a person or legal entity if the average adjusted gross income (as defined in subsection (a) of such section) of such person or legal entity exceeds \$250,000.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MR. BRIDENSTINE

AMENDMENT NO. 5: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:
 SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the final rule entitled "Milk in the Northeast and Other Marketing Areas; Order Amending the Orders" published by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on April 23, 2010 (75 Fed. Reg. 21157 et seq.).

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MR. CONNOLLY

AMENDMENT NO. 6: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:
 SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be provided to a Member of Congress or the spouse of a Member of Congress through any agriculture program administered by the Secretary of Agriculture (or by any agency of the Department of Agriculture) that provides financial support (including incentives, payments, loans, and

contracts) to persons based on the business of agriculture in which such persons are engaged.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MR. ROYCE

AMENDMENT NO. 7: Page 16, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$15,500,000)”.

Page 48, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: MR. GALLEG0

AMENDMENT NO. 8: Page 3, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,869,000)”.

Page 82, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,869,000)”.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PEDRO IRIARTE BORJA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Pedro Iriarte Borja, the former mayor of the municipality of Chalan Pago-Ordot in Guam. Mayor Borja passed away on May 31, 2014 at the age of 85.

Pedro Iriarte Borja was born on July 1, 1928 to Francisco Borja Borja and Ana Benavente Iriarte Borja. Affectionately known as "Pete," he married Maria Crisostomo Arceo, his wife of 62 years, on July 7, 1951 and together they had seven children.

Pedro Borja was elected mayor of Chalan Pago-Ordot in November of 2004 and served from 2005 to 2009. During his term, Mayor Borja made significant improvements in the community. He oversaw the restoration of the Jose Atoigue Park and erected monuments to honor fallen servicemembers from Chalan Pago-Ordot.

Prior to his term as mayor, Pete Borja attended the Territorial College of Guam, which subsequently became the University of Guam, where he served as Student Body President. He then joined the United States Navy and served in the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1956, and subsequently returned to Guam.

After his service in the Navy, Pete worked at the Navy Public Works Center (PWC), Ship Repair Facility (SRF), U.S. Post Office, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In 1967, he joined the Military Sealift Merchant Marines. He retired as a civil servant after 30 years.

Following his civil service, Mayor Borja remained an active member of our community. He was instrumental to developing and supporting activities for senior citizens of Ordot. His advocacy was key to developing the Ordot Community Advancement Association (OCAA) Bingo operations, which helped to raise funds for the San Juan Bautista Catholic Church. He was also the Director of Tita's Day Care, his wife's daycare business.

Mayor Borja served as the President of the Korean War Veterans Association and was recognized as Veteran of the Year in 2011. He was also an active member of the Guam Caregiver's Association and served as the organization's treasurer.

Mayor Borja was a dedicated public servant and leader who worked to help others in our community. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and I join the people of Guam in mourning a great veteran and public servant. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. Though he will be missed, his legacy will live on in the memories of the people of Guam.

HONORING AYRIS EVANS GRANBY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, few professions are as rewarding, or demanding, as nursing. Ayris Evans Granby knew that this was her calling from a young age, and has worked diligently to establish herself as one of the leading practitioners in her community.

Ayris, the third of nine children, was born and raised in New York. Her dream finally came true, when she was accepted into the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing. Her passion later led her to teach nursing, including as an instructor and the chair of the Central School of Practical Nursing where she was instrumental in developing a curriculum that trained nurses' aides to be practical nurses. She later became the Assistant Director of Nursing at her alma mater, the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing.

Ayris has also served as the Associate Director of Nursing, Acting Director, before rising to Associate Executive Director for Hospital Administration. As the Associate Executive Director for Hospital Administration, Ayris was responsible for the development and implementation of key programs at Harlem Hospital, such as credentialing for all professional nurses working in enhanced roles.

Ayris was appointed as a nursing consultant for the New York State Department of Health after she left Harlem Hospital. She served for five years before returning to the private sector as the Director of Nursing for a nursing home. In addition, Ayris has assisted a number of undergraduate students from several colleges and universities secure field placements throughout the years. The Division of Health Care Administration and Planning, Meharry Medical College, Fisk University, Herbert H. Lehman College, Rutgers University, and Livingstone College are among the colleges and governmental agencies that have recognized her for her work. She also won the "Pierre Toussaint Medallion" from the New York Archdiocese for Community Service.

Ayris is married to her high school sweetheart, Samuel Granby, Jr., and the pair is blessed with two children. Ayris and Samuel founded Granby's Funeral Service, Inc., together, and as their business grew, so did their commitment to the community. The pair developed a scholarship program to provide financial assistance to college-bound students and those seeking to attend a vocational school.

The Friends of the United Negro College Fund Choir, the Board of Directors of the Crawford Community Day Care Center are among the groups where Ayris so generously and selflessly donates her time. She's also volunteered as a workshop leader and instruc-

tor for the Community Service Society of New York, where she advised community residents of their rights and responsibilities in Medicaid health programs.

Ayris Evans Granby is truly a remarkable woman who has done much to enrich the lives of others. It is my sincere wish that her legacy continues to inspire others.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF ROSS CHADWICK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated service of Chief Ross Chadwick of the Denton Fire Department. After more than 40 years in public service, Chief Chadwick's illustrious career is coming to an end.

Ross Chadwick started his 43-year fire service career in southern California, where he rose through the ranks to Fire Chief. After 25 years in California, including 12 as chief, he relocated to Texas and took the helm as Fire Chief in Denton, Texas where he has served for the last 18 years. His commitment to excellence has led him to attain bachelor's degrees in Fire Science and Public Administration, and a Masters in Public Administration. He served as a Firefighter Association President for several years as well as their lead negotiator in collective bargaining.

The Denton Fire Department's fine reputation is a reflection of the dedicated, ethical supervision of Chief Chadwick. His professional legacy will continue to benefit the citizens and businesses of Denton for years to come. I join his colleagues and the community in commending Denton Fire Chief Ross Chadwick for his sterling record and extend best wishes upon his retirement. It is my privilege to represent the City of Denton in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA CORKER FOR HER SERVICE AS THE NEW YORK DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Corker in recognition of her year of service as the New York Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Barbara Corker is a truly remarkable person. Barbara has been a member of the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Throggs Neck Memorial Unit #1456, Bronx County for 35 years through the eligibility of her late father, George Farrell who served in the United States Army during WWII. Over these many years, she has worked tirelessly on behalf of veterans and their families throughout New York State. She served as First District President three times before serving as Department First, Second and Third Vice President. In 2009, as a member of the Throggs Neck Memorial Unit #1456, she was awarded the National Award for National Security for Best Overall National Security Program activities in the Eastern Division. In 2011, Barbara was awarded the National Award for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation for Best Overall VA&R Program in the Eastern Division.

This past year, Barbara has focused her energy on Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW). OCW is a program dedicated to meeting the needs of wounded, injured or ill military personnel by providing them with comfort items not usually supplied by the government. Like President Corke's personal motto, OCW was built on Love, Loyalty and Friendship. Under her guidance, Operation Comfort Warriors has raised \$50,000 so far, and is expected to continue growing.

Barbara truly exemplifies the American Legion Auxiliary's motto of "Service, Not Self". She has served as Department Chairman for Cancer Awareness, Children & Youth and Membership. Barbara is a Certified Leadership Instructor. She has served as a housemother for the Empire Girls State Program and has been an instructor at the American Legion Auxiliary College. Her lifelong commitment to improve and support the lives of others, particularly those who have served our great country, reflects the best of our citizenry.

Mr. Speaker, I join with her family, friends and Auxiliary members in celebrating Barbara Corke for her selfless contributions, leadership and accomplishments serving our veterans.

HONORING MOTHERS AGAINST
DRUNK DRIVING NATIONAL
PRESIDENT JAN WITHERS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and the National President of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Jan Withers, who this December will complete a three and a half year term as President of MADD, the Nation's leading voice against drunk driving.

Ms. Withers joined MADD in 1992, after her 15-year-old daughter, Alisa Joy, was killed by an underage drinker who chose to drive after consuming numerous alcoholic beverages. She first volunteered by sharing her story and lobbying for tougher legislation to help stop this preventable violent crime. In Maryland and across the country, Withers actively campaigned to lower the legal limit of blood alcohol content for drivers from 0.10 BAC to 0.08 BAC, and had the privilege to be present in

the Oval Office when President Clinton signed that change into law in 2000.

With all of the work she has done at the State and national level, her passion remains providing support for other victims and survivors of this violent crime. Before becoming National President in July 2011, Ms. Withers served as a victim's advocate for MADD Maryland, facilitating a support group for victims and participating in the MADD Maryland Operations Council. She joined the MADD National Board of Directors in 2005 and has served on numerous committees, including Communications and Branding, Public Policy, and Victim Services.

During her tenure as National President, Ms. Withers has traveled the country and walked the halls of Congress speaking to lawmakers about MADD's Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving, supporting the survivors of this violent crime, and preventing underage drinking. In large part because of her efforts, the recent highway reauthorization bill fully codified MADD's campaign by funding DUI crackdowns, creating an ignition interlock incentive grant program, and authorizing the Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety—or DADSS program. We are all hopeful that these three initiatives will lead to a reduction and the eventual elimination of drunk driving in America.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Ms. Withers, thousands of lives have been saved and countless victims of this crime assisted. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of MADD National President Jan Withers.

RECOGNIZING MR. SCOTT
MCKENZIE

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize a Central Floridian, Mr. Scott McKenzie, an Advanced Placement teacher at East Ridge High School, for being selected as a member of the inaugural class of AP Advocacy Fellows.

The AP Advocacy Fellowship Program engages exceptional AP teachers who ensure that every student is provided access to opportunity. As part of the program, fellows participate in professional development training that focuses on media communication, government relations, and relevant state and federal legislation.

In this global economy, our economic prosperity depends on our ability to train a high-wage, high-tech workforce able to compete with countries around the world. In order to achieve these goals, we must build an education system that not only works to solve today's problems but also focuses on our nation's long term competitiveness.

It is a privilege to recognize Mr. McKenzie for his demonstrated excellence in education, and I thank him for his commitment to the students of Central Florida.

HONORING THE MANOR CLUB ON
THE OCCASION OF THEIR 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, for 100 years The Manor Club in Pelham Manor, has fostered friendship among women in Pelham and its surrounding communities. Originally formed as a men's social club in 1882, The Manor Club has since become a women's club and is now the oldest one in Westchester County.

When new members enter the front door, they are not welcomed by strangers, but by women who will become their friends.

The spirit of friendship is at the core of The Manor Club's mission. The Manor Club has over 300 members from all walks of life, and prides itself as a place where new friendships are formed, and old ones are renewed.

The Manor Club has hosted many famous artists, writers, political leaders and leading experts in their respective fields to present their work at The Manor Club. Many of the Club's programs are open to the public.

The Manor Club is truly a venue for all. I congratulate them on their 100 years of friendship and service in the Pelham Manor community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Manor Club of Pelham Manor for their legacy of camaraderie, and their many contributions to their members and community.

REMEMBERING NORTH CAROLINA
SENATOR HARRIS BLAKE

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn yesterday of the passing of former North Carolina State Senator Harris Blake. Sen. Blake served the people of Moore, Lee and Harnett Counties with honor and distinction for 10 years before being elected to the position of deputy president pro tempore for his final term in the North Carolina Senate. He was a loyal public servant who served in three different levels of government during his career, including the federal, state and local levels.

Harris was a friend to me during my early years in office, always willing to lend a helping hand or pass along knowledge about the counties we served. He was awarded the Order of the Longleaf Pine by Governor Pat McCrory in 2013—North Carolina's highest honor for those who have gone above and beyond in public service. Sen. Blake was a loving father, an honorable statesman and a trustworthy friend. We were fortunate to have him as a leader of our great state and the voice for Moore, Lee and Harnett Counties.

HONORING ELAINE KATZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities are built on the strength of its people and its institutions. Riverdale is such a strong community because of the service and dedication of residents like Elaine Katz. Elaine is a quintessential member of the community who should serve as a role model for us all.

The Riverdale community has enjoyed the gift of Elaine's service since she moved there 15 years ago. Her commitment to the Riverdale Temple is particularly noteworthy. Elaine strives to place the needs of others before her own, and often shies away from the spotlight. Instead, she chooses to be a guiding light for others. Her wisdom and foresight have enriched the Riverdale Temple in numerous ways.

Elaine is a member of the Board of Trustees and Assistant Financial Secretary. She's organized many outreach community programs for the Riverdale Temple, and serves as President of the Women of Reform Judaism.

Elaine's service to the community extends beyond the Bronx borders. She currently serves as the Vice President of the Lower Eastside Service Center in Manhattan, a non-profit organization that assists New Yorkers with mental health and chemical dependency issues. Elaine's commitment to the Lower Eastside Service Center began over 29 years ago.

She is blessed with four loving grandchildren and three children. Elaine was married for 54 years before her husband passed away.

The Riverdale Temple is honoring Elaine Katz at their Student Sponsorship Breakfast. It is my pleasure to congratulate her on her recognition at the event. Both the Riverdale community and I appreciate her exemplary service. The Riverdale community and the lives of the people she has touched would not be the same without her selfless devotion.

RECOGNITION OF "LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE" WINNER

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Prakviti Mehta, an outstanding student and constituent from Memphis, Tennessee. Miss Mehta was selected as a winner of "Letters About Literature" for her composition written in response to Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr.

I commend Miss Mehta for her academic achievement and commitment to high standards. The "Letters About Literature" program is a nationwide competition sponsored by the Library of Congress that challenges students in grades 4–12 to write to the author of a poem, book, or speech. The competition is judged by a panel of authors, editors, publishers, librarians, teachers and state officials.

On behalf of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District, I congratulate Miss Mehta and wish her the best of luck for all future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL VICTOR STREIT

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel Victor Streit who passed away on April 22, 2014. He was a Blue Diamond Veteran who served 13 years in the United States Marine Corps.

Lt. Col. Streit joined the Marine Corps in 1937 while still in college. In August of 1940 he was commissioned as an officer. He served with the First Marine Division throughout the Pacific during World War II. When he was stationed on Wallis Island he was the only soldier in his unit who could speak French, so he played a vital role in the transfer of power between Vichy and Free French authorities who held the Island. During his service Lt. Col. Streit was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Guantanamo Bay, Fort Benning, and Camp Lejeune and deployed to Wallis Island, Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, and Peleliu. He retired in 1949 receiving a citation from Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Presidential Unit Citation, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, a WWII Victory Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Upon his retirement from the Corps, he worked as an administrator at Jonas Salk Junior High School in Levittown, New York. His devotion to education led him to help found Wesley College, a secondary school in St. George's Grenada, W.I. In addition to his work in Public Education, he was also extremely involved with the missionary work of his church. He moved to Tequesta, Florida in 1983 and then to Jupiter in 2012 where he had been an active member of the Treasure Coast community as well as the Military Officers Association of America Palm Beach/Martin County Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Mary, four sons, his daughter, and his ten grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Col. Streit dedicated his life to this country. It is truly humbling to recognize his life and his great service to our country here today.

HONORING TEMPLE ISRAEL OF NEW ROCHELLE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, New Rochelle, a community in my Congressional district, celebrates a wonderful blend of cultures. It is a symbol of our nation's cultural past and bright future, a nation that when united we can overcome incredible challenges in the service of others. However, such a future would not be

possible without the support of religious institutions which work tirelessly in the service of individuals who experience hardships, and to bridge the divides that sometimes exist within our communities.

Temple Israel of New Rochelle lives by the motto, "Building our home, together," and it is clear the community embodies this notion. Temple Israel is at the forefront of the New Rochelle community. Its proud tradition of unifying many people of various backgrounds, working together to develop an inclusive environment, is their hallmark.

Temple Israel draws upon the faith and leadership of its clergy to support civil rights causes and fundraise for those in need, while also helping families within the community who are experiencing difficulties. Temple Israel is a congregation that relishes the opportunity to serve. Temple Israel of New Rochelle recognizes the broad spectrum of beliefs, ideals and cultures within our community, by celebrating this diversity within the programs it runs to aid our community. The synagogue recognizes a comprehensive understanding of beliefs, customs and traditions within Reform Judaism. This shared approach, of social and religious inclusion, ensures that Temple Israel remains a leader within our municipality, proactively working to unite the community, searching for our commonalities, rather than our differences.

Leading by example is central to Temple Israel, whose early childhood and adult education programs have led the way for the growth and development of our youth, and created further opportunities for members of the community to deepen their understanding of faith. These programs are crucial to providing a safe and secure environment in our communities.

I commend Temple Israel of New Rochelle, Rabbi Scott Weiner, the Temple Israel leadership and its members for their service to the community and legacy of religious inclusion. Together, they are the deserving recipients of Mary Lou McNaney Founder's Award from Hope Community Services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent the week of May 27, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following: rollcall vote No. 241: H. Res. 599—"yea"; rollcall vote No. 242: H.R. 503—"yea"; rollcall vote No. 243: Pompeo Amendment—"no"; rollcall vote No. 244: McNerney Amendment—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 245: Bridenstine Amendment—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 246: King (IA) Amendment—"no"; rollcall vote No. 247: Cohen Amendment No. 1—"no"; rollcall vote No. 248: Cohen Amendment No. 2—"no"; rollcall vote No. 249: Thompson (CA) Amendment—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 250: Polis Amendment—"no."

Rollcall vote No. 251: Cicilline Amendment—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 252: Smith (TX) Amendment—"no"; rollcall vote No. 253: Austin Scott Amendment—"no"; rollcall vote No.

254: Moran Amendment—"yes"; rollcall vote No. 255: Blackburn Amendment No. 14—"no"; rollcall vote No. 256: Blackburn Amendment No. 15—"no"; rollcall vote No. 257: Bonamici Amendment—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 258: Rohrabacher Amendment—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 259: Holding Amendment—"no"; rollcall vote No. 260: Massie Amendment—"aye."

Rollcall vote No. 261: Southerland Amendment—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 262: Ellison Amendment—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 263: Grayson Amendment—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 264: Duffy Amendment—"no"; rollcall vote No. 265: Garrett Amendment—"no"; rollcall vote No. 266: King (IA) Amendment—"no"; rollcall vote No. 267: Meadows Amendment—"no"; rollcall vote No. 268: Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4660—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 269: Final Passage of H.R. 4660—"yea"; rollcall vote No. 270: Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4681—"yea"; rollcall vote No. 271: Passage of H.R. 4681—"aye."

INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION DISAGREEING WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RATINGS SYSTEM

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the diversity within our Nation's postsecondary education system is the envy of the world. Colleges and universities across the United States of America are preparing individuals to become doctors, teachers, scientists, counselors, entrepreneurs, artists, musicians, and hundreds of other occupations. While each student chooses a specific field of study, there is no doubt that postsecondary education has many benefits outside of training in a specified field. Institutions are cultivating individuals who are civically engaged and who are going into public service, the military, ministry, non-profit work, or are staying at home to care for family. We cannot measure the benefits associated with these types of life-long lessons, and yet that is what the Administration's proposed Postsecondary Institutions Ratings System will attempt to do.

On December 17, 2013 the Department of Education solicited in the Federal Register a Request for Information on the Postsecondary Institution Ratings System (PIRS), suggesting that the Federal Government knows better than students and their families what makes a college or university valuable and appropriate for each individual. A rating system, administered by the Federal Government and potentially tied to Federal student aid, will drive postsecondary institutions to standardization, thereby decreasing choice, diversity, and innovation.

I rise today in opposition to this proposal and instead stand in support of students and their families—they know best what will meet their educational needs. The House Resolution I offered today with my friend, Congressman CAPUANO, strongly supports the quality and value of diversity in our higher education

system and strongly disagrees with the Administration's proposal to rate our Nation's colleges and universities.

It is true that all taxpayer dollars, including those spent on Federal student aid, should be spent efficiently; however, it is also important that we trust students' free choices and allow for postsecondary institutions to be evaluated, not only by their accreditation and Federal eligibility for federal aid, but also by the free market choices of the students they are competing for.

Our Nation's colleges and universities are as diverse as our students. Historically black colleges, women's colleges, faith-based colleges, research universities, career training schools, work colleges, land grant universities, institutes for the arts, and other specialized institutions all offer a world of opportunity and innovation in postsecondary education. We must protect this American tradition and reject any proposal that will intentionally, or unintentionally, destroy it.

HONORING FRED WILFORD

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Fred Wilford on his retirement after thirty-six years of service to his community as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Sagaponack Common School District in Sagaponack, New York, located in my district. Mr. Wilford has served his community and his country with dedication and distinction, and I am proud to call him a resident of New York's first congressional district. In addition to his long-time work on the school board, he is also a fifty-year veteran of the local volunteer fire department and a veteran of the United States Navy.

First elected to the Sagaponack school board in 1978, Mr. Wilford has served twelve consecutive terms on the board. He is known as a dedicated and caring person who always works for what is best for the school, its students and its teachers. His connection to the school district stretches back to his grandmother, Maebelle Clarke, who taught at the school at the beginning of the Twentieth Century and where she met her future husband, Fred Topping. With its historic little red schoolhouse and one teacher, the Sagaponack school district has one of the few remaining one-room schoolhouses in the country.

Mr. Wilford, who has lived all of his life in Sagaponack except for the four years he served in the Navy, attended the Sagaponack schoolhouse as did his mother, Elmira, his six siblings and his four children. During his tenure on the board, he served as board president, vice president and trustee. His wife Ellen served as a member of the school maintenance support staff, the scholarship committee and the shared decision making committee throughout his tenure on the board.

"I love the job, I love the school, and I love what I do," Mr. Wilford said recently about his plan to retire this month. "It's been part of my life for so many years that you hate to give it up."

In addition to his service to the school, Wilford also served for fifty years as a member, past chief and commissioner of the Bridgehampton Fire Department. He worked for the Long Island Lighting Company for over thirty years and currently operates an estate care business.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the school district will miss Fred Wilford's expertise and commitment after he retires. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I would like to wish him well and thank him for all he has done for our community.

HONORING SAMUEL GRANBY, JR.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities are built upon the shared values and good will of neighbors. Samuel Granby, Jr., known to his friends as "Granby," has continually demonstrated his selfless commitment to his community and to enhancing the lives of others. He lives by the principle, "Service to Mankind."

Granby was introduced to mortuary science while serving our great nation. He was responsible for transporting deceased personnel to the morgue, even though he had suffered from second and third degree burns as the result of a lightning strike. He received an honorable discharge from the United States Army in 1955, and later graduated from the McAllister School of Embalming.

Granby married his high school sweetheart, Ayris Evans, and the pair is blessed with two children, Ayris and Rev. Lamont. Granby and his wife also have three wonderful grandchildren.

An entrepreneur at heart, Granby dreamed of owning his own funeral service. Granby operated his funeral business out of the Wiley's Funeral Home, before opening Granby's Funeral Service, Inc., on April 27, 1984. Granby's is truly a family enterprise; his wife and children have helped him manage and grow the business.

After 37 years of service, Granby retired as a general supervisor for the United States Postal Service in 1988. He was very popular with his coworkers and would train his staff for other opportunities within the USPS.

Granby has shown the same type of steadfast dedication to his community as he has to his profession. He served as the Chairperson for the Carnegie Hall concert given by the Friends of the United Negro College Fund Choir, which raised money for the United Negro College Fund and helps defray travel costs for the United Negro College Fund Choir.

He is also a member of: Prince Hall, Fidelity Lodge #97 of Free and Accepted Masons; Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Sigma Chapter; 369th Veterans Association, Westchester District; Saint Luke's Episcopal Church's "Men on a Mission" and the Williamsbridge Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Granby has been recognized and honored by several organizations for his service. Among his honors, Granby and his wife jointly received the "Pierre Toussaint Medallion" from the New York Archdiocese in 2007.

He strongly believes that education is the key to uplifting the community, and in the spirit of his beliefs, Granby's Funeral Service has established a scholarship fund for college-bound students and those seeking to attend vocational school.

Samuel Granby's story illustrates the power of striving for our dreams. I applaud him for his commitment to our nation through his service in the armed forces, to his community and to his family.

RECOGNIZING DR. CORA L.E.
CHRISTIAN

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend a medical colleague who has been a trailblazer for over 30 years, in the area of health care in my district of the U.S. Virgin Islands, in the wider Caribbean and in the national arena as well.

Dr. Cora L.E. Christian was the first native female to become a medical doctor in the Virgin Islands and this Saturday, June 14th, she will be honored for a lifetime of dedicated public service, by the Virgin Islands Medical Institute, (VIMI), a group that she founded in 1977 to improve the quality of health care for all territorial residents. Today I join them in paying tribute to a fellow physician, administrator and public servant for her vision, courage and diligence as she worked to make a difference in the lives of the people of our community.

Dr. Christian completed her medical studies at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, her residency in Family Practice at Howard University Medical Center and her Master's in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University.

Upon completion of her studies, she returned to the Virgin Islands to serve the economically depressed area of Frederiksted, St. Croix. There, she served as emergency room physician, and Physician in Charge of the Ingeborg Nesbitt Clinic. In 1977, she became Assistant Commissioner of Health for the Virgin Islands, and served in that capacity for over 15 years, spanning three political administrations. She was in charge of health services on the island of St. Croix as well as having territorywide responsibility for ambulatory care, chronic diseases, immunization, maternal and child health, public health laboratories, neighborhood health centers, the sexually transmitted disease program, the HIV program and family planning programs. Dr. Cora Christian is credited with the development of the Frederiksted Health Center, both its renovations from the old hospital into a functioning health center and its staffing with qualified professionals. She also spearheaded and managed a regional system of preventive and health promotion activities for the territory.

In 1991, Dr. Cora Christian became the Medical Director of HOVENSA, one of the

largest oil refineries in the Western Hemisphere located on St. Croix and served as the Chief Medical Consultant until its closure in 2012. She is board certified in forensic medicine and is President of the V.I. Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She has been President, Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Virgin Islands Medical Society, past Public Relations Chair of Project Impact—St. Croix, Board Member of the St. Croix chapter of the American Cancer Society and Board Member of the Interfaith Coalition. Dr. Christian chaired the Foundation of the University of the Virgin Islands for 10 years, and is currently still a Board Member. Dr. Christian continues to lead the Virgin Islands Medical Institute, which brings over \$3 million to the territory with each contract cycle.

On the national level, Dr. Christian has served as Vice-Speaker and member of the Board of Directors for the American Health Quality Association, the national quality improvement organization. She was consultant to the NY/VI AIDS Education and Training Center and was past Chair of the by-laws committee and member of the Commission on Government Advocacy for the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). She is delegate to the Congress of Delegates of AAFP and Sergeant of Arms for the Congress. In 2013, she received the AAFP Humanitarian Award for outstanding community service. From 2004 to 2010, she served on the National AARP Board overseeing over 36 million members. She was a member of the Health Insurance Trust and numerous committees of the AARP National Board.

Dr. Christian has also served as President of the Caribbean Studies Association, an association of scholars from across the Caribbean, Latin America, the United States, Canada and Europe that studies Caribbean issues. She is well published and a frequent presenter and public speaker.

Dr. Christian has been honored as the Virgin Islands Physician of the Year in 2003, the VIMI Physician for Community Service in 1997, and Best Doctor in America in 1999. She is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Dr. Christian is married to Dr. Simon B. Jones-Hendrickson, Ambassador from St. Kitts & Nevis Federation to CARICOM and Latin America and she has two children, Nisha, a practicing attorney and Marcus, a biologist and entrepreneur.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask the 113th Congress to join me in congratulating Dr. Christian for her tireless work on behalf of the health and well being of the people of the Virgin Islands.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT
RECIPIENTS

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate five young men from Dyersburg, Tennessee: Alan Cecil, Daniel Clegg, Peyton Hickman, James D. Johnson III, and Hunter Webster who have achieved the Eagle Scout

award, a Boy Scout's highest honor. This recognition is well deserved and represents these young men's commitment to public service.

In order to become an Eagle Scout, each young man had to earn more than twenty-one merit badges as well as serve their fellow troops in a variety of leadership roles. They also had to develop and plan an Eagle Scout project to benefit their local communities.

Achieving the status of Eagle Scout is a huge accomplishment, and I commend these gentlemen for being positive role models to young people across our great state and the nation through their commitment to community service.

Once again, congratulations to these five young men for their outstanding accomplishment. I am very proud of them all and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING JOHN MUSTO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, education is the bedrock of our society. Education teaches our children to dream and allows them to achieve their ambitions. Teachers are thus one of our most valuable assets.

Albert Einstein once noted that, "it is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." Their passion, drive and dedication to their students is inspirational. We entrust them with the responsibility of shaping our leaders, which is why today I must commend one such individual, John Musto.

John is the Assistant Principal for Student Affairs at St. Raymond's High School for Boys. He began his 23-year tenure there as a history teacher and later became Chairman of the department, before becoming an assistant principal.

John is driven by a desire to give back to the community that has afforded him such opportunity and fond memories. He was instilled with the values of service and volunteerism by his father and the deep respect he fostered toward volunteers within Morris Park Community Association, who patrolled the neighborhood to ensure the community was a safe place to grow up. John has continued to demonstrate this sense of commitment through his volunteer service as a basketball coach at St. Francis Xavier for the past three decades.

Along with his wife Liz, John is the proud father of three daughters: Sabrina, Gabriella and Olizia. His family undoubtedly shares in his pride in our community and for his life of commitment to service. Much of what is accomplished within our community by devoted individuals is also a reflection of the strong support they receive from their families.

Mr. Speaker, teaching is not a job, it is a vocation. I join with the Morris Park Community Association in honoring John at their 40th Annual Dinner Dance. I wish John Musto every success in the future, as he continues to work to shape the lives of our nation's youth into tomorrow's leaders.

THE OCCASION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND DOCTOR STEVE BLAND JR. AS PASTOR OF LIBERTY TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Dr. Steve Bland Jr. on the occasion of his Tenth Anniversary as the Senior Pastor of the congregation of Liberty Temple Baptist Church in Detroit, MI.

As the son of the late Reverend Steve Bland Sr., who was pastor to Bethesda Baptist Church, Dr. Bland grew up immersed in the teachings of Christ. It is hardly surprising that, like his father, Dr. Bland would heed the call and desire to serve his community. Dr. Bland entered the ministry full-time after working at a Kansas City accounting firm in the early 1980's. He is also the former Minister of Music, Youth Pastor and Assistant Pastor to the late Rev. Dr. Mac Charles Jones at the St. Stephen Baptist Church of Kansas City, MO. After faithfully serving for over 14 years in Rockford, Illinois as Pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Dr. Bland was called to serve the congregation at Liberty Temple Baptist Church.

Under his leadership, the congregation at Liberty Temple has flourished with an increase of well over 900 members in a brief time. During his 10 years as Senior Pastor, Dr. Bland has brought a great sense of spiritual revitalization and excitement to Liberty Temple Baptist Church and the city of Detroit. Dr. Bland is a dynamic leader who offers a vibrant worship experience, inspirational teaching, and uplifting preaching, while meeting the holistic needs of the church, his family, and surrounding community.

As a Miles Jones Fellow and doctoral graduate of the Samuel Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, Dr. Bland's intellect and achievements have been sought out, leading to appointments on several boards and leadership positions in the BM&E State Convention, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Michigan District Baptist Association, the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity, the Ministers Council of the Michigan Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. of Detroit, Michigan and the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

In every way possible, Dr. Bland finds avenues through which he can further God's kingdom and genuinely pursues them. Dr. Bland's grand efforts have been strengthened by his wife, Phyllis, and his three children, Steven, Brandon, and Sydnie.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the profound impact that Reverend Dr. Steve Bland Jr. has made on the congregation of Liberty Temple Baptist Church as its pastor for the last ten years and the larger impact he has made on the communities around him. I wish Dr. Bland, his family, and the congregants of Liberty Temple many more blessed years of spiritual fellowship.

HONORING THE OPENING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY PATRIOTS PROJECT

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the opening of the Ulster County Patriots Project in Kingston, New York. The Patriots Project, which will open on July 2, addresses an issue that plagues many of our veterans, including many in my district—homelessness. Once open, the Patriots Project will provide eight clean and safe rooms, two of which will be handicap-accessible, for Ulster County homeless veterans as they work through the many challenges confronting our veteran population.

I also rise today to thank Ulster County Executive Mike Hein and all the leaders from across Ulster County who made the Patriots Project a reality. I was honored to join with leaders from across the region who wrote letters of support and leveraged a variety of governmental programs to fund the program. Moreover, Mike, his team, and volunteers from across my district donated their time, resources, and expertise to ensure that this noble project came to fruition. On behalf of the people of New York's 19th Congressional District, I thank them.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREERS OF ALLAN AND JILL ROSS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the noteworthy careers of Allan and Jill Ross, of the Quad Cities.

The Rosses married in 1973 and both joined the U.S. Army that year. Allan, a veteran of 20 years, retired in 1994 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He served domestically and abroad, ending his military service at the Rock Island Arsenal. Following his career in the Army, Allan worked in commercial real estate, investments, and internet sales, and he has been serving as the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities since 2002, an organization that addresses the needs of its community in a wide range of issues.

Jill served as an Army Personnel Specialist and Team Leader, and rose to the rank of Sergeant. She later worked for the Army library system in Germany, managing three libraries. Following her time in the military, Jill manages and owns Jill Ross Vintage Clothes, which she has done successfully since 1983. Jill has also been a very active member of the Jewish community, which includes volunteer work for the Tri-City Jewish Center, the Beth Israel Sisterhood and the Jewish Federation.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Rosses for their years of dedicated service to our country and community. Allan Ross and his wife Jill have been, and continue to be, invaluable

members of the community, and I am again delighted to recognize their achievements and pleased to know that people like them are contributing to our society.

EASTCHESTER 350TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our young nation includes many communities that are older than America itself. I am pleased to recognize one of those communities, the Town of Eastchester, as it celebrates its 350th Anniversary.

Eastchester is truly a town steeped in history. A number of America's famed daughters and sons have a connection to Eastchester, including Anne Hutchinson, Aaron Burr, and John Adams.

Eastchester's origins can be traced back to Thomas Pell, who sold his land to original ten farm families migrated from Fairfield, Connecticut, in 1664. The Pell Deed, signed on June 24, of that year, verifies the sale and serves as proof of the Town's founding.

The Eastchester Covenant, signed in 1665, outlines a civil code of conduct agreed upon by the first families. The spirit of their Covenant lives today; neighbors help neighbors, friends show their concern for others, and volunteers work together to ensure the community continues to thrive.

Governor Richard Nicolls, acting as the colonial agent on behalf of James, Duke of York, signed the Royal Patent, or Land Grant, of 1666, which established the initial town boundaries. Three of the original ten farmers—Philip Pinckney, James Everts and William Haiden—were named in this document.

Two other documents—the Indian Deed of 1700 and the Long Reach Patent of 1708—enabled the fledgling community to continue to grow. The Long Reach Patent, in particular, transferred over 3,000 acres of land to Eastchester from Queen Anne. Much of that land is included within the borders of modern Eastchester.

Eastchester is now a thriving suburban community nestled within Westchester County. Residents of Eastchester, along with the incorporated Villages of Tuckahoe and Bronxville, are celebrating the Town's founding with a year-long celebration honoring Eastchester's storied past.

It is my hope that residents will commemorate the Town of Eastchester's 350 year anniversary with much friendship and joy, as they work together to build an even stronger future.

It has been a pleasure to represent this historic Town in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 MICHIGAN
POLICE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the Michigan law enforcement community who were recently awarded the 2014 Police Officers of the Year award by the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM), which represents over 14,000 frontline officers across the state. As part of the 47th annual POAM convention that was held on May 22, 2014 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, five officers were recognized for recent heroic actions and dedication to their work.

I would first like to honor Southfield Police Officer Nicholas Smiscik who, on New Year's Day 2013, bravely pursued an armed carjacker who shot and injured two people in Redford Township.

Officer Smiscik subdued the dangerous suspect and placed him under arrest. During his acceptance speech at the POAM convention Officer Smiscik stated that he was simply "doing his job." I want to thank him for his service and for risking his life to keep our communities safe. I am honored to have him as a constituent in my District.

I would also like to recognize Crawford County Officers Matthew Swope and Michael Jacobi, who were honored as Police Officers of the Year for putting their lives on the line while apprehending a dangerous individual who was deemed a proven threat to the community.

In addition, Grand Blanc Officers Andrea Carlson and Lindsay Witthuhn were honored with the 2014 Police Officers of the Year award for acting with great bravery and discipline when responding to a domestic disturbance and preventing a far more tragic outcome.

Mr. Speaker, as a long-time friend, supporter and ally of the Michigan law enforcement community, I am proud to recognize the commitment of Michigan's police officers and the sacrifices they and their families make each and every day. Like Officer Smiscik, they will say they are just doing their job, but their dedication and bravery in the line of duty make our communities safe and enjoyable places to live.

It is a great honor to represent these heroic men and women and I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating all five Michigan officers on receiving this award.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DECALOGUE SOCIETY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate the Decalogue Society of Lawyers, which this year celebrates its 80th anniversary.

Founded in 1934 to fight anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination and intolerance, the Decalogue Society has a proud record of achievement. It is the oldest Jewish Bar Association in the United States, representing the values and concerns of the Jewish community while working to protect the rights and privileges of all Americans. The Decalogue Society strives to promote justice in society and to advance and improve the law, the administration of justice, and the legal profession.

All of us are proud to be a nation of laws, and we strive to ensure that "equal justice under the law" is not just a motto but a reality. The Decalogue Society recognizes that lawyers play an essential role in maintaining a free society committed to equal justice. It works to ensure that we as a nation understand and value the role of the legal profession in reaching that goal, even as its lawyers participate in social action and cooperate in diverse movements for the public welfare.

The Decalogue Society maintains vigilance against public and private practices which are anti-social, discriminatory, anti-Semitic or oppressive and joins with other groups and minorities to protect legal rights and privileges. The Decalogue Society's active Social Action Committee has organized volunteers for "Mitzvah" projects at soup kitchens, food pantries, and retirement residences. With a strong commitment to public welfare and human rights, the Decalogue Society, in conjunction with other minority bar associations, has raised awareness about special situations in the courts and in the workplace that present challenges for people of various faiths.

Access to competent legal representation is an essential ingredient for making sure that the laws of the land are just and fairly enforced. The Decalogue Society provides free continuing legal education to assist members and non-members alike in becoming better informed lawyers. It extends critical educational and financial support to those lawyers who work to end discrimination and represent the rights of the most vulnerable among us. The Decalogue Foundation was created in the 1960s to provide scholarships for deserving law students. It has established nine endowment funds at the Hebrew University Law School and six Chicago-area law schools. It also has a mentorship program for law students and young lawyers to help them network, hone their interviewing skills, and find jobs.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Decalogue Society for its commitment to the ideals of religious freedom and racial tolerance and for its efforts to encourage and assist those women and men who want to pursue future legal careers in public service. Chicago, Illinois and the United States all benefit from its activities and from its commitment to the principles of law and equality.

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS
ENTERING OUR ARMED FORCES

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor high school graduates from the Broome/Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services area who are entering the U.S. Armed Forces. These young men and women have made an admirable decision to defend our country. I join the Conklin Kiwanis Club and Our Community Salutes of Broome County, New York in honoring them.

The Conklin Kiwanis Club and Our Community Salutes of Broome County, New York will hold a special celebration to honor these graduating high school seniors. "The First to Say Thank You" event will take place on Tuesday, June 10th at Windsor Central High School in Windsor, New York.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you join me in honoring the following students entering the New York State Army National Guard: Ms. Lynn Lyons, Candor; Mr. Victor Beecher, Whitney Point; Mr. Ryan Burch, Susquehanna Valley; Mr. Jordan Little, Binghamton.

Honoring the students entering the U.S. Air Force: Ms. Alisha Hubbard, Afton; Ms. Alexis Delgado, Binghamton; Mr. Zachary Hunt, Harpursville; Mr. John Armitage, Union-Endicott.

Honoring the students entering the U.S. Army: Mr. Gerald Hastings, Binghamton; Mr. Joshua Williams, Chenango Valley; Ms. Sarah Carpinelli, Owego-Apalachin; Mr. Kristofer Colley, Susquehanna Valley; Ms. Leah Fuller, Union-Endicott; Mr. Trevor Hampton, Windsor.

Honoring the students entering the U.S. Marines: Mr. Dylon Chisolm, Binghamton; Mr. Brandon Davis, Binghamton; Mr. David Contento, Cortland; Mr. Scott Gregory, Harpursville; Mr. Jacob Norton, Homer; Mr. Brandon Miller, Homer; Ms. Kayla Lainhart, Johnson City; Mr. Jackson Beukema, Maine-Endwell; Mr. Timothy Lasher, Maine-Endwell; Mr. Gavin Gates, Marathon; Mr. Brett Kunze, Newark Valley; Ms. Victoria Young, Owego-Apalachin; Mr. Damien Travis, Tioga; Mr. Troy Harding, Vestal; Mr. Nicholes Clark, Whitney Point; Mr. Brendan Smith, Windsor; Mr. Vincent Mathers, Windsor; Mr. Austin Orshal, Windsor; Ms. Helen Kilbury, Windsor; Mr. Trevor Hawk, Windsor; Mr. Noah Jones, Windsor.

Honoring the students entering the U.S. Navy: Mr. Logan Dietzman, Harpursville; Mr. Christian Moretz, Harpursville; Mr. Benjamin Shultis, Homer; Mr. Brett Rozelle, Maine-Endwell; Ms. Heather Carpinelli, Owego-Apalachin; Mr. Nathan Garris, Union-Endicott; Mr. Brandon Piech, Whitney Point.

HONORING U.S. SERVICE ACADEMY
BOUND STUDENTS—CLASS OF 2018

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous honor to rise today to recognize the 24 young men and women of the Third District of Texas who have been nominated and appointed to the prestigious United States Service Academies. These brave students will commit to diligently study and rigorously train to become our nation's defenders and protectors. North Texas is home to some of our nation's best and brightest students and I look forward to their future successes.

Throughout high school, these individuals have devoted their time to both athletic and educational ventures, while contributing to their communities. They have excelled both in and out of the classroom. Bottom line is they are the cream of the crop. I have no doubt they will continue this level of excellence as they protect and preserve the freedoms we all hold dear. It is with great pride that I look at these young men and women. It is people like them who give me great hope that our nation's best days are ahead.

I humbly take this opportunity to challenge these exemplary students to uphold the standard of honor, sacrifice, duty, and courage that have been displayed time and time again by our troops and veterans. These students will receive a world-class education and the finest military training available. I'm confident that they are ready to join the premier military force of the world.

May we keep these young students and their families in our hearts and lift them up in prayer for their commitment to America and the sacrifices they are willing to make for our citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and celebrating these individuals as they embark on a lifetime of service. God bless you and God bless America. I salute them.

The name and high school of each student follows:

THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVICE
ACADEMY APPOINTEES—CLASS OF 2018

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

Andre Bergstein, Plano East Senior High School

Blake William Box, Plano West Senior High School

Taylor Chambers, Plano Senior High School

Timothy Johnson, McKinney Boyd High School

Jonathan Lara, Plano Senior High School

Kenneth Nead, Centennial High School

*Jesse Palmer, Plano West Senior High School

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Natasha Blaskovich, McKinney North High School

Collin Charles, Heritage High School

Brock Crawford, Legacy Christian Academy

Julie Hodges, Allen High School

Erin Hoppe, McKinney High School

Curtis Ladd, McKinney Boyd High School

Jamie Lewis, Plano West Senior High School

Drew Morgan, Pecan Orchard Academy

Samuel Schell, Plano West Senior High School

*John Carver, Wakeland High School

*Emily Krupka, Plano West Senior High School

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Brock Dudley, Plano West Senior High School

Jessica Martinez, Ursuline Academy of Dallas

Simic Tuan, Plano East Senior High School

Christopher Turner, Liberty High School

*Connor Doyle, McKinney Christian Academy

U.S. MERCHANT MARINE

Clayton Foster, Canterbury Episcopal School

*Denotes acceptance to one of the academy preparatory schools

HONORING JOSEPH BENARDO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, far too many of our young men and women in the armed services have witnessed the horrors of war. So noble is the sacrifice they have made while serving our country in uniform. Patriots like Joseph Benardo proudly served, so that others would not have to.

Joe was just 22 years old when he was sent to fight in Europe. A first-generation American, he felt compelled to defend his homeland and to fight for the freedom of people everywhere.

Joe was in the first wave of troops who stormed Omaha Beach in the historic invasion on June 6, 1944. He and two other soldiers were hit by a mortar; Joe was severely wounded during the invasion. A medic found Joe and whisked him to a military hospital, where he remained until the war's end.

A very strong history of service runs within the Benardo family. Joe, the oldest of Samuel and Alegria's three children, is a Purple Heart recipient. His brother Jack won a Bronze Star, and the youngest brother Leo served stateside during the Korean War. Ian, Joe's only grandchild, served in the Israeli army.

Joe is equally committed to his country as he is to his family, for he understands both are the very foundations of our society.

A Bronx boy at heart, Joe never left his hometown, save for his service abroad. He and his brothers lived in close proximity to each other, so that their bond would remain strong. Joe and his late wife Lillian raised two sons, Steven and Sheldon, who still call the Bronx home. Like their mother, Steve and Sheldon chose to serve our country by educating Bronx youth.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Omaha Beach invasion, a day that helped alter the course of history. We owe our lives, liberty, and freedom to those who have served honorably in the armed forces. It is a debt that we, as a nation, can never fully repay.

Joseph Benardo has much to be proud of when he celebrates his 95th birthday in September. He has created an enduring legacy of valor, service, and sacrifice that can be felt by the lives of whom he has touched.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF
NEWTOWN COMMEMORATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial celebration of Sarasota's African American community of Newtown.

Since its initial development in 1914, Newtown has experienced tremendous challenges and historic triumphs.

In the early 1900s, African Americans were recruited to provide an adequate workforce during Sarasota's economic boom. Many of them moved into the Newtown community.

In its early years, Newtown flourished, despite segregation, with several successful small businesses, schools and churches.

In 1961, four years after the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown vs. Board of Education Court decision that declared laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students unconstitutional, the NAACP filed a desegregation lawsuit in federal court. And in 1962, the first African American students enrolled in what had been all-white schools.

Twenty years later, the NAACP successfully challenged Sarasota's system of local representation, alleging it prevented the election of blacks to city government, and in 1985 Fred Atkins became the first African American to serve on the city commission.

I appreciate this opportunity to help celebrate the rich heritage of Newtown.

RECOGNIZING POLICE DETECTIVE
EDWARD T. DAVIES

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, after 29 years of honorable service, Police Detective Edward T. Davies of Perkasio Borough will be retiring from the Montgomery Township Police Department on July 31, 2014. During his career, he served in several leadership capacities and has received many commendations for his professional service. He is known as a keen investigator, a court-qualified fingerprint expert, and a hostage negotiator. Detective Davies has served the Montgomery Township community with distinction, receiving sixteen commendations and numerous letters of appreciation from township residents and neighboring law enforcement agencies. In 1996, he was honored with Officer of the Year by the North Penn Chamber of Commerce. We extend our congratulations, as we wish him a happy and well-deserved retirement. Because we are proud of dedicated police officers, who, each day, are on the front lines of public safety, we offer Detective Edward T. Davies our gratitude for a job well done, knowing he has set an example for others to follow.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOMEN
AND MINORITIES IN STEM
BOOSTER ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, together, women and minorities comprise 2/3 of the entire United States workforce. Women today make up half of the current workforce, yet they still hold less than a quarter of all Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) jobs. Minority populations including African-American, Hispanic, and Asian populations make up only 28 percent of the STEM workforce.

Between 2010 and 2020, STEM career fields are expected to grow by 8.5 million jobs. These jobs pay 35 more percent than jobs in other fields. Furthermore, there is a great demand for workers with scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematics-based skills. STEM-educated graduates are more likely to find jobs in the manufacturing sector, the industry most likely to boost our economy and increase competition.

Background in a STEM education is essential to the many jobs that are opening in the manufacturing industry. America's manufacturing sector has led our economic recovery and will help the United States remain competitive in economic competition with emerging economies. However, in order to return to pre-recession level, the manufacturing sector must add 1.7 million jobs. Women and minorities engaged in STEM training have greater opportunity to contribute to the manufacturing sector and boost our global economy.

That is why I'm introducing the House version of S. 288, the Women and Minorities in STEM Booster Act of 2014. This bill will authorize competitive grant programs for three years through the National Science Foundation. The grants will go to online workshops, mentoring programs, internships, and outreach programs to engage women and minorities in STEM university departments, educational partnerships, and non-profit organizations to encourage the participation of women and minorities in STEM.

America must invest in the potential of our entire workforce in order for our manufacturing sector to expand and our global competitiveness rise. Opportunities in STEM education will empower historically underrepresented groups who will help boost our economy so that it reaches its full capacity. I urge my colleagues to support the availability of STEM opportunities for all students in the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE ADDITION OF
THE 2015 VIKING VI SIDE BY
SIDE PRODUCTION OF YAMAHA
MOTORS MANUFACTURING
PLANT

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to recognize addition of the 2015 Viking VI Side-By-Side production at Yamaha Motors Manufacturing plant in Newnan, Georgia. This is a momentous occasion for Yamaha Motors and for Georgia, as Newnan is home to the Yamaha Motor Manufacturing Corporation facility.

Since 1986, Yamaha Motors has helped to grow Georgia's economy with quality manufacturing, more jobs, and a deep commitment to improving our community. Their production keeps over 1,350 Georgians employed and are expected to add over 300 additional jobs over the next few years. Yamaha Motor Manufacturing Corporation's continued success led to a \$250 million investment over the last thirteen years, making Newnan, Georgia Yamaha's worldwide hub for ATV/SxS production and distribution.

Yamaha's achievements showcase how great Georgia is for manufacturing and business, and I thank them for their commitment to improving our district and state's economy. I am honored that the Yamaha Motor Manufacturing Corporation calls Georgia's Third District home and look forward to sharing many more milestones with them in the future.

HONORING THE GRAND OPENING
OF PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY NORTH

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Prestonwood Christian Academy (PCA) on the grand opening of their North campus. PCA, one of the strongest Christian education programs in the country, provides students with lessons that extend far beyond the classroom. Their level of commitment to excellence in academics, athletics and arts coupled with lifelong teachings of biblical faith contributes to a brighter America and stronger future for our youth.

Larry Taylor's, Head of School, vision and promise for our youth is precisely what students need to help them succeed. In a message to the students, parents and friends of PCA—he wrote:

If your vision is for a year, plant wheat.

If your vision is for ten years, plant trees.

If your vision is for a lifetime, plant people.

I couldn't agree more. We must invest in people. A Christian education not only empowers our next generation of leaders to work hard, persevere, and reach their fullest potential but live a life according to God's will. It

produces students who are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families and communities. I am pleased to see PCA grow and have the opportunity to reach children and parents in more communities including Prosper, Celina, North Frisco, and McKinney.

As classes begin for the first time, I pray for the continued growth of the PCA community, the new principal Mrs. Donna Gilson Leadford, and for discernment in hiring godly faculty and staff.

I commend the leadership of the countless teachers, faculty, parents, and volunteers who contributed to the development of this new campus. I look forward to seeing the many ways in which the creative and innovative voices of this institution will help shape and educate our young North Texans. I am confident, PCA will soon serve as a model for more and more schools across the nation.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in welcoming Prestonwood Christian Academy North!

HONORING ASSOCIATION OF RIVERDALE
COOPERATIVES & CONDOMINIUMS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, all vibrant communities are underpinned by strong civic associations. I would like to recognize the Association of Riverdale Cooperatives & Condominiums for their steadfast commitment to the Riverdale community and for 30 years of service.

The Association of Riverdale Cooperatives & Condominiums was formed in 1984, with the mission to educate local condominium and cooperative owners on issues directly related to cooperative living.

As the Association expanded, it developed additional services and programs to ensure better management of residential property, such as civic engagement through political advocacy.

The Association of Riverdale Cooperatives & Condominiums succeeded in its efforts to convince ConEd to install natural gas supply lines in Riverdale and diversified communication sources by bringing Verizon to the Riverdale market.

I commend the Association of Riverdale Cooperatives & Condominiums for 30 years of service to the Riverdale community and to the greater Bronx. I am confident the organization will continue to grow and that its continued outreach will benefit future generations of cooperative and condominium owners.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) fiftieth anniversary.

Since ASCO's founding in 1964, it has made tremendous gains to improve the lives of Americans diagnosed with cancer. When the Society was formed, cancer was often fatal with few effective treatments. Today, new and innovative treatments have developed that are changing what it means to receive a cancer diagnosis.

As a survivor of cancer of the appendix, I can attest to this personally. In 2007 I received an innovative treatment called hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy. This involves washing the abdomen with heated chemotherapy to eliminate cancerous cells. A little more than a year after receiving this treatment, I ran my first marathon. Three years later I began my first campaign for Congress, and seven years later I am still cancer-free.

Advancements in cancer treatments like this bring hope to the millions of Americans suffering from cancer, and the 1.6 million Americans who will receive a cancer diagnosis this year.

I thank the ASCO for its continued research and contributions to the science in the last fifty years, and I look forward to the development of even more innovations to fight and cure cancer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 273 held on June 9, 2014, I intended to vote "no." I oppose Amendment 783 offered by Representative BROUN to H.R. 4745. Nearly 32 million passengers rely on Amtrak for business and recreational travel annually. The Northeast Corridor, which runs between Washington, DC and my home State of Massachusetts, is one of the busiest and most technically advanced tracks in the world. We ought to be investing more in our nation's passenger rail system, not less.

HONORING THE WINNERS OF MAINE'S NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of Maine's National History Day competition who are eligible to represent our State in the national competition.

Maine's National History Day program is a partnership between the University of Maine and the Margaret Chase Smith Foundation that promotes the study of history in schools. This year, the students were tasked with pursuing projects centered on the theme of "Rights & Responsibilities in History." Among those eligible to represent Maine at the national competition are 30 students from across Maine's Second Congressional District.

The following students are eligible to represent Maine at the national competition: Sydney McDonald and Kathleen Dunn of Bangor High School; Abby Boucher of Penobscot Christian School; Lily Waddell of the William S. Cohen School; Dennis Wescott, Norliyana Menes, Jordyn Bennett, and Brooklyn Hutchins of Buckfield Jr/Sr High School; Sela R. Smith and Ben Buck of Dingo High School; Jacob Brown, Josie Champagne, and Tiana Gordon of Lawrence High School; Damian Sheffer, Cecilia Doering, Cannon Breen, and Trey Stimpel of Holbrook Middle School; Anderson Huston, Samantha Grandahl, and Alyssa Thompson of Monmouth Academy; Lauren Grant of Center Drive School; Katelyn Dufour, Nathalie Theriault, Madeline Tiner, Sydney Gosselin, Katelynn Green, Morgan Brousseau, Sarah Moody, and Bailee Kinney of Bruce M. Whittier Middle School; Ben Voter, Chandler Plante, Mariah Lancaster, Jaime Withrow, Abigail Stevens, Thomas Leo, and Emily Michaud of Skowhegan Area Middle School; and Jessica Doucette, Jenna Doucette, and Margaret Bragg of Hartford Summer Elementary School.

These talented students and the history educators that support them are a testament to the creative and dynamic spirit of Maine. I look forward to hearing about their progress as they participate in the national contest at the University of Maryland, College Park from June 15–19, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating these students for their outstanding achievements and in wishing them the best of luck at the national competition.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL LA'TONYA LYNN

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Colonel La'Tonya Lynn of the U.S. Army for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Colonel Lynn distinguished herself through exceptionally meritorious service from August 13, 2012 to June 20, 2014, while serving as the Chief of the Army House Liaison Division.

During this period of extraordinary change, continued combat operations in Afghanistan, significant fiscal constraints and challenges facing the Army, Colonel Lynn fostered a strategic partnership with both the 112th and 113th Congress. She clearly understood the importance of Congressional oversight and did a truly outstanding job managing some of the most complex issues the Army faced during the last three legislative cycles.

A native of Glen Burnie, Maryland, Colonel Lynn began her career in the Army in 1986. She was commissioned as a Military Police Officer upon graduation from Hampton University.

Her assignments include Chief, Prisoner Services; Platoon Leader; Assistant Operations Officer; Company Commander; Budget Officer; Executive Officer; Deputy Division Provost Marshal, 1st Armored Division; Division

Provost Marshal, 1st Infantry Division, Operation Iraqi Freedom; Battalion Commander, 10th and 91st Military Police Battalions, Fort Drum, New York; Commander, Task Force Vigilant, Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan and Brigade Commander, 8th Military Police Brigade, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

She also served as Chief, Military Police Enlisted Branch, Human Resources Command and Executive Officer for the Director of Strategy, Plans and Policy, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7, in the Pentagon.

Colonel Lynn has attended numerous Army and civilian schools and training programs. She earned a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from National Defense University (ICAF), a Master of Business Administration degree from Bowie State University, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Hampton University.

Colonel Lynn is an Army Airborne Paratrooper whose military awards include, among others, the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, multiple Kosovo Campaign Medals, multiple Afghanistan Campaign Medals, and Kuwait Liberation Medals. She received the Parachutist Badge, Army Staff Identification Badge and also earned the prestigious Military Police "Order of the Marechausee."

In light of her achievements, the Army has recognized her outstanding potential and has assigned her to serve as the Chief of the Ethics/Character Task Force at Headquarters, Department of the Army, Pentagon. Colonel Lynn's outstanding leadership, strategic vision, and keen judgment are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon her, the Office of the Army Legislative Liaison and the U.S. Army.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Colonel La'Tonya Lynn as she proceeds to the next chapter in her remarkable career and continues to serve our great Nation.

HONORING SHERYL AND AARON FLEISHAKER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Sheryl and Aaron Fleishaker have long played a vital role in Beth El Synagogue of New Rochelle, New York.

From painting scenery for youth plays, to filling Mishloach Manot baskets for Purim, and helping to feed over 250 USYers at the last two Kinnusim hosted by Beth El, Sheryl has demonstrated her commitment to do whatever is necessary to support youth programs. She has served as the Youth Activities co-chair and PTA president for four years, and has been a member of the Board of Trustees.

Aaron has also demonstrated his commitment to Beth El throughout the years. He has served on the Board of Trustees for the last 15 years, and is finishing his third year as

president. He previously served as vice president and executive vice president. Aaron serves on the Audit and Finance Committee, the Human Resources Committee, and the Fund Raising Committee.

Sheryl and Aaron are the honorees at the annual Beth El Synagogue Center Dinner Dance. They are truly deserving of this honor. I commend them for their years of service and for their commitment to Beth El and the greater Jewish community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheryl and Aaron Fleishaker for their vital contributions to Beth El Synagogue.

HONORING SECRETARY JACK
MARSH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Secretary of the Army John O. "Jack" Marsh, Jr., of Winchester, for being awarded the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Public Service. I am proud to call Jack my good friend and pleased to join the Ford Foundation in honoring him for his long and distinguished service to our country.

After attending Washington and Lee University and practicing law in the Shenandoah Valley, Jack began his career in public service when he was elected as a Democrat to represent Virginia's 7th Congressional District in 1963. He later went on to serve as Assistant Secretary of Defense in 1973.

While serving in Congress, Jack met Congressman Gerald Ford, who was representing Michigan's 5th District as a Republican at the time. When Ford became Vice President to Richard Nixon, Jack was asked to serve as National Security Advisor and when Ford assumed the presidency in 1974, Jack became Counselor to the President—a cabinet-level post.

Later, under President Reagan, Jack was appointed Secretary of the Army, an office he held from 1981 until 1989. He is the longest serving Secretary of the Army in history.

The Medal for Distinguished Public Service is awarded annually to public servants who successfully demonstrate President Ford's leadership qualities over their career, and is reserved for a precious few. In receiving the Medal for Distinguished Public Service, Jack joins a special group of alumni, which includes prominent figures like Tip O'Neill, Henry Kissinger, John Paul Stevens and Brent Scowcroft.

I am pleased to submit the following article from the Winchester Star on Jack's achievements and thank my friend for his years of selfless service to our country.

[From The Winchester Star, June 3, 2014]

FORMER ARMY SECRETARY HONORED

(By Cynthia Cather Burton)

WINCHESTER.—Former Secretary of the Army John O. "Jack" Marsh Jr. of Winchester was awarded the 2014 Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service on Monday.

The presentation took place during the annual dinner of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Marsh, 87, joins a group of political, judicial and military luminaries who have received the award, which was established in 2003 by the foundation's board of trustees to recognize individuals "who reflect the qualities demonstrated by President Ford during his public service career," according to the foundation's website at geraldfordfoundation.org. These include strength of character, integrity, trustworthiness, sound judgment, decisiveness (particularly during periods of crisis), determination in the face of adversity, diligence, self-confidence balanced with respect for the views of others, and self-discipline in personal life.

Past recipients are Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, 2013; Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, 2012; William T. Coleman, 2011; Henry Kissinger, 2010; Justice John Paul Stevens, 2009; Carla A. Hill, 2008; James A. Baker and Lee H. Hamilton, 2007; and the U.S. armed forces branches, 2006.

Marsh, a Winchester native, served as secretary of the Army under President Ronald Reagan from 1981 to 1989. Previously, in 1973, he was appointed assistant secretary of defense. In 1974, he became national security adviser for then-Vice President Ford.

During Ford's presidency, Marsh was counselor to the president and held cabinet rank.

"I handled a lot of issues that he directed me to do," Marsh said from his Winchester office on Monday afternoon. "I did whatever he wanted me to. My duties related in large measure to the Congress."

Marsh said he first met Ford when both were serving in the U.S. House of Representatives—Marsh represented Virginia's 7th District from 1963 to 1971 as a Democrat and Ford Michigan's 5th District from 1949 to 1973 as a Republican. They were introduced by Donald Rumsfeld, who would go on to serve as secretary of defense under Ford from 1975 to 1977 and President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2006.

"We were on different sides of the aisle, but we came to know one another," Marsh said of Ford. "When he became vice president, he asked me to be on his staff."

Following the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon in the wake of the Watergate scandal, Ford became the nation's 38th president, serving from 1974 to 1977.

Marsh said the presidency did not change Ford. "He was the same person."

With Watergate, the OPEC oil embargo against the United States, high unemployment and an unpopular war in Vietnam, Ford inherited "a government that was in deep trouble," Marsh recalled. "These were issues that were very difficult to handle, and he handled them well. Part of that was because he was so close to the Congress. They respected him, and he respected them . . . He knew how the House worked."

Marsh noted that Ford "had more time in Congress than any president, before or since. He was very popular on both sides of the aisle. He was an example of cooperation."

Congress, Marsh added wryly, "was more bipartisan in those days."

He added that Ford was an "unflappable" leader. "Criticism didn't bother him . . . He never carried a grudge."

Marsh said he was honored to receive the Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service "because it reflects a time in my life when I was party to and took part in a very critical time in our government."

Before his political career, Marsh practiced law in the Shenandoah Valley. He also was a

World War II veteran and later served in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard. He was a graduate of Harrisonburg High School and Washington and Lee University.

GRAND OPENING OF THE CASEY
JOYCE ALL AMERICA POST 4380

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the grand opening of the Casey Joyce All America Post 4380 in Plano, Texas. Plano Post 4380 was chartered on July 28, 1982, to provide support and aid to local veterans and to participate in neighborhood projects and functions in order to build strong ties to the community. On January 1, 2000, the Post was renamed Casey Joyce All America Post 4380; in memory of Sergeant Casey Joyce, an Army Ranger and graduate of Plano Senior High School who was killed in Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1993.

Over twenty years ago, Sergeant Joyce was one of the brave Rangers who put his life on the line to bring American pilots safely home after two U.S. Black Hawk helicopters were shot down. In the midst of the vicious battle, a fellow Ranger who fell from one of the helicopters was in critical condition—without immediate medical attention he would die. Fulfilling the Ranger Creed, Sergeant Joyce took it upon himself to "never leave a fallen comrade" behind. He proceeded towards enemy fire in search of a medivac vehicle and was killed in action. It's because of patriots like Sergeant Joyce that America remains the land of the free and home of the brave.

Renaming the Post to Casey Joyce All America Post 4380 will serve as a reminder to us all of the greatness of the American spirit, the unwavering courage of our servicemen, and their commitment to service before self. Some of the post's contributions include the Casey Joyce Memorial Four Year Scholarship and the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Award given to young, bright, and talented students who want to pursue a higher education. Post members also provide leadership, guidance, and other awards to the Plano ISD JROTC Program. Post members volunteer their time to the Samaritan Inn Shelter and Hope's Door Domestic Violence Counseling Center. Their contribution to our North Texas community goes unmatched.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude and support for all the achievements performed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and for the 32 years of service that the Casey Joyce All America Post 4380 has provided to the North Texas community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the grand opening of the post and thanking all of the members for continuing their legacy of selfless service. Keep up the good work! God Bless you.

HONORING JACOB DEAN MITCHELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Dean Mitchell. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 92, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Dean Mitchell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING LOGAN WAYNE CALDWELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan Wayne Caldwell. Logan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Logan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Logan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Logan has earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Logan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Logan restored the dilapidated pillars in front of the Winston School and placed the original stones from the classes of 1929 and 1930 back into the pillars.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Logan Wayne Caldwell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING JACOB ALAN CROUSE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Alan

Crouse. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 309, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has led his troops as Junior Scoutmaster. Jacob has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project by building a picnic shelter for his church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Alan Crouse for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING TY MICHAEL KIXMILLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ty Michael Kixmiller. Ty is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ty has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ty has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ty has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow. Ty has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Ty renovated and landscaped Lion's Park in Kearney, Missouri, rehabilitating the front signage, replacing the park grills and mulching the entire park.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ty Michael Kixmiller for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) PRIDE MONTH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOE SAUNDERS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT)

Pride Month, to recognize State Representative Joe Saunders. Representative Saunders was elected to the Florida House on November 6, 2012 to serve House District 49 in East Orange County, and made history as one of Florida's first openly gay state lawmakers.

A graduate of the University of Central Florida's Political Science, Women's Studies, and Legal Studies programs, Joe began his political work as a community organizer on campus. As a campus leader, Joe fought for environmental protections, affordable tuition rates, and stronger anti-discrimination policies. He also ran civic engagement programs to register and empower young voters.

After graduating in 2005, Joe began working for Equality Florida, a statewide civil rights group dedicated to educating and advocating for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Over the past ten years, he has led coalitions that have won non-discrimination protections for over 1.5 million people in Central Florida. Joe was also a key leader in the 2008 passage of the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act, Florida's first anti-bullying law.

In addition to his legislative duties, Representative Saunders currently serves as the Director of Civic Engagement for the Equality Florida Institute where he works to register and engage progressive voters in the political process. He also directs the Equality Florida Institute's Equality Means Business program where he works to improve Florida's national and international reputation by spotlighting major employers in Florida who are leading the way on inclusion and diversity.

Joe has held leadership roles with Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando, the Central Florida Disability Chamber of Commerce, Orange County Democratic Executive Committee, and was a board member at Mad Cow Theatre.

A respected leader in arts education, for several years Joe has chaired the Osceola Arts for a Complete Education Coalition which advocates for quality arts education in K-12 public schools. He is a member of "The Circle" coalition for the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center and a past board member for the arts education non-profit, Applause Academy. Recognizing Joe's contributions, the Florida Alliance for Arts Education awarded him with their 2013 Leadership Award.

During the 2013 and 2014 legislative session, Rep. Saunders filed the Florida Competitive Workforce Act which would ban employment and housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The bi-partisan bill earned 35 co-sponsors including 10 Republicans.

Rep. Saunders serves on the House Education Committee, Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee, Health Quality Subcommittee and is the Ranking Democratic member of the Choice and Innovation Subcommittee.

I am happy to honor Representative Joe Saunders, during LGBT Pride Month, for his leadership and service to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MICHAEL SLAYMAKER

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT)

Pride Month, to recognize Michael Slaymaker. Michael has a phenomenal record of success in his career as a fundraising professional and a gay rights advocate. Whether the nonprofit organization was large or small, Michael's knowledge, skills, abilities, and dedication to the mission of these organizations earned the same results—he doubled the fundraising revenues, in some cases increased the revenues ten-fold. During his career, Michael Slaymaker has generated over \$33 million for nonprofit organizations.

Michael started out as a volunteer fundraiser for the Orlando Gay Chorus (OGC) in August 1998, but was quickly hired as a part time contract employee to help the small arts organization. During his tenure, he helped OGC increase their annual budget from \$28,000 to \$189,000. Raising funds for a gay organization in Orlando was a challenge, but Michael's commitment to diversity and his belief in the chorus' vision to use music to change images and attitudes, build a stronger community, and make the world a better place created a tremendous impact. Many local arts organization in Orlando have closed their doors, but due to the ten years of success from Michael's fundraising efforts, OGC continues to entertain audiences and remain solvent.

Orlando Youth Alliance (OYA) provides a safe space for Central Florida gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning teenagers through support groups, and social, educational, and recreational activities, so that none of the youth will ever feel that suicide is the answer. In 2007, Michael Slaymaker became the volunteer Board President. Although the organization was founded in 1990, it took Michael's leadership and knowledge to secure a 501(c)(3) designation and take this tiny nonprofit organization to new levels. Michael strengthened the board and volunteer structure and increased the number of chapters, so that the number of youth being served could increase significantly. Michael serves as the main volunteer fundraiser and leader today. He has increased their annual campaign from \$1,900 to a high of \$49,000 for this all-volunteer organization. Over the past 25 years, OYA has impacted the lives of 1,300 young people and not a single one has committed suicide.

After being denied a job by a local non-profit because he was gay, Michael recruited a group of volunteers to change local ordinances and policies to make sure what happened to him would never happen to anyone else. In April, 2000, Michael founded the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee (OADO). The mission of OADO is to secure protection for Central Florida residents from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Under Michael's leadership, drive, and direction the group has amended or updated a staggering 15 ordinances and policies in Orange County, Florida.

I am happy to honor Michael Slaymaker, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RANDY STEPHENS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Randy Stephens.

Raised in rural Alabama by blue collar parents, Randy learned activism at an early age. Both parents were officials with local unions and were role models for employee activism. The picket line was Randy's childhood playground. Upon graduation from Talladega High School, Randy attended Auburn University where he became involved in student government. His interest in government grew while attending Cumberland School of Law from which he graduated in 1981.

After serving as staff attorney for Justice Eric Embry of the Alabama Supreme Court, Randy took a position with the Alabama Education Association (AEA). While serving as attorney and lobbyist, Randy worked on influencing politics by using a statewide network of teachers and support personnel in local campaigns. As a result, AEA was a dominant voice in state politics for decades.

Looking for a change, Randy relocated to Florida in 1992. The activist in him began to get restless. He became involved in, and later chaired, the Rainbow Democratic Club and became the GLBT Democratic Caucus's Region Director for Central Florida. Randy helped lay the groundwork for identifying and registering LGBT persons in Orange County. Thousands of members of the community were registered, giving the community increased influence in many local and statewide elections. Randy also served as a member of the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee (OADO) which successfully championed for equality rights in both the City of Orlando and the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

Randy has served as the Executive Director of the GLBT Community Center of Central Florida for the past four years. During this time "The Center" has become a vital part of the GLBT Community, hosting numerous Town Hall meetings and providing the community with useful information on issues like marriage equality. Also, during Randy's tenure, The Center expanded its HIV testing hours, becoming the first center in Florida to test seven days a week and one of the largest HIV testing centers in the state.

Recently married to his partner, Thomas Berthier, Randy anticipates the overturning of the remaining sections of the Defense of Marriage Act and the Florida ban on same sex marriage. Randy always looks for ways to ensure equality for all.

I am happy to honor Randy Stephens, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARIA RUIZ MARGENOT

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Maria Ruiz Margenot. Born in Cuba during Castro's Revolution, Maria witnessed the debilitating effect of a culture robbed of its freedoms, rights, and voice. Her parents, Victor and Rosaura Ruiz, at immense personal sacrifice, took their young children and fled political oppression. Upon arriving in the United States, her family was classified as political refugees and they were able to obtain green cards.

Maria's family began anew at the Jersey shore. From her experience as a refugee, Maria learned to value the right to vote, to speak out, and to seek social justice.

Maria moved to South Florida, where she found her niche in the hospitality industry, as well as a large community of Cuban exiles. There, she was able to raise her daughter, Ashley, and experienced and embraced both her Cuban and American heritage.

Through passion and commitment, Maria has become a formidable leader in both her industry and community. She is an instrumental figure at Wyndham Vacation Ownership, one of the most recognized and respected hospitality companies in the world. She serves as Senior Vice President of Sales Development, Recruiting and Training. Maria has impacted her company by fostering a culture of inclusion and diversity. She has championed diversity efforts to ensure everyone will feel accepted and valued in the workplace. As a result of employees like Maria, Wyndham Vacation Ownership is consistently named a Best Place to Work for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality.

As her company's highest-ranking Hispanic woman, she was the founding executive sponsor of FUERTE!, a Hispanic employee resource group. Maria has shared her personal story through WynPride, her company's group for LGBT employees and straight allies. Her work isn't confined to the walls of her office building, as she's a strong voice for the LGBT population in the business community.

Maria volunteers for the Human Rights Campaign and serves as Fed Club co-chair. She's a member of various civic groups, such as Equality Florida, 100 Women Strong, the Florida Diversity Council, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando, MBA Orlando, and NCLR (National Council of La Raza). Following in her mother's footsteps as a strong supporter of organizations committed to women's reproductive health, she also serves on the board of Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando.

Maria has represented Wyndham Worldwide at the Top 50 Latina Women Award at the White House, has received the Multicultural Leadership Award from the Florida Diversity Council, and has been recognized as Woman of the Year by the National Professional Women's Association.

I am happy to honor Maria Ruiz Margenot, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY MEEKS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Mary Meeks. As a child Mary learned fearlessness from her mother, Syble Meeks, who taught her to recognize injustice and stand up for herself and others. Even back then Mary knew she wanted to be an attorney and when she grew up and entered law school, civil rights and constitutional law became her passion and life's work.

Mary has practiced law in Central Florida since 1988, where she has represented individuals, small business owners, and Fortune 500 companies for over 26 years. But nothing has been more important or gratifying to her than fighting and dismantling discrimination, whether on behalf of a client or on behalf of an entire community.

Currently, Mary is a member of the legal team representing six plaintiff couples and

Equality Florida who have filed a historic lawsuit challenging Florida's two state statutes and state constitutional amendment which ban marriage equality. She is honored to be working alongside Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the most influential attorney in the national LGBT rights movement, to bring marriage equality to Florida.

Mary has worked extensively with municipal and state government to write and advocate for legislation to legally protect LGBT individuals, couples, and families in Florida. Her work has resulted in numerous Human Rights Ordinances and Domestic Partnership Registries, and a multitude of Employee Benefits being implemented throughout the state. Mary co-authored the 2012 Orlando/Orange County Domestic Partnership Registry Ordinance which became model legislation for other local communities in Florida. She is also the co-author of Florida Senate and House Bills which have been introduced to create a statewide domestic partnership registry to provide important legal protections to same-sex couples no matter where they live or travel.

Mary has served the LGBT and wider community in many leadership positions, including serving on the Boards of the National LGBT Bar Foundation, the Central Florida ACLU Legal Panel, the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee, the Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers, the Central Florida Gay and Lesbian Law Association, and Equality Florida's Central Florida Steering Committee. Mary has taught Employment Discrimination Law and Florida Civil Practice as an Adjunct Professor at Barry University School of Law, and has served as a consultant to The Orlando Business Journal and The Orlando Sentinel on employment issues.

Mary is a frequent speaker and author on employment and civil rights issues. Her column, "Living Loud," is featured regularly in The Watermark, Florida's statewide LGBT publication. Mary and her wife, Vicki Nantz, have produced a series of acclaimed documentaries on social justice subjects and have traveled together throughout the state advocating for equality.

I am happy to honor Mary Meeks, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING JACOB TODD HILEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Todd Hiley.

Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, has become a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow and currently serves as his troops' Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Jacob has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jacob built a storage mezzanine in the bus barn for First United Methodist Church of Kearney.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Todd Hiley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CHRISTIAN POLOVICH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christian Polovich. Christian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 404, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christian has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and serves as his troops' Senior Patrol Leader. Christian has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Christian constructed a workout station on the fitness trail on the campus of A. T. Still University in Kirksville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christian Polovich for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 29, 2014, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 243, "nay"; on rollcall No. 244, "yea"; on rollcall No. 245, "yea"; on rollcall No. 246, "yea"; on rollcall No. 247, "nay"; on rollcall No. 248, "nay"; on rollcall No. 249, "nay"; on rollcall No. 250, "nay"; on rollcall No. 251, "nay"; on rollcall No. 252, "yea"; on rollcall No. 253, "nay"; on rollcall No. 254, "nay"; on rollcall No. 255, "yea"; on rollcall No. 256, "yea"; on rollcall No. 257, "nay"; on rollcall No. 258, "nay"; on rollcall No. 259, "yea"; on rollcall No. 260, "nay"; on rollcall No. 261, "yea"; on rollcall No. 262, "nay"; on rollcall No. 263, "nay"; on rollcall No. 264, "yea"; on rollcall No. 265, "yea"; on rollcall No. 266, "yea"; on rollcall No. 267, "yea"; on rollcall No. 268, "nay"; on rollcall No. 269, "yea."

HONORING SULLIVAN J. EASLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sullivan J. Easley. Sully is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 391, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sully has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Sully has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Sully has led his troops as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Sully has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Sully organized and constructed six bird houses in four different parks. He also led a team in building new trails along a new expansion in a nature preserve for the Friends of Webster Trails organization near Rochester, New York.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sullivan J. Easley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SENATE—Wednesday, June 11, 2014

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Immortal and invisible God only wise, we cannot escape You, nor do we desire to do so. This morning we thank You for sending the rain from Heaven, watering the Earth and making it bud and flourish. Thank You for providing seeds for the sower and a harvest for the laborers.

Lord, thank You as well for our lawmakers. As they serve You today on Capitol Hill, give them courage, power, and wisdom. May You bless and keep them from stumbling or slipping, so that one day they will stand in Your presence with great joy. Today, Lord, lift the light of Your countenance upon them and give them Your peace.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if any, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2432, the college affordability bill.

The time until 10 a.m. this morning will be divided as follows—and there is an order outstanding that dictates this: Senator ALEXANDER will control 15 minutes, and the remaining time will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 10 a.m. there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the college affordability bill.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, all over America today there are newspaper articles of hope—for example, in the Washington Post today, “Veterans Affairs bills progressing quickly in Congress.” It quotes me as saying it is something that needs to be done. “It’s urgent that we get this done to resolve some of the outstanding issues within the VA.”

My friend the Republican leader, the senior Senator from Kentucky, “predicted that GOP senators will overwhelmingly support the bill.”

This is what the article says about Mr. MILLER from Florida, the House chairman:

Miller signaled support for the Sanders-McCain bill, noting that it largely mirrors a series of similar stand-alone proposals the House approved in recent months.

Each side has run what are called hotlines—meaning permission from Senators to move forward on this legislation—and we have been able to do that. It was my understanding late last evening that the junior Senator from Oklahoma has an amendment he feels should be offered. Fine. Let’s bring that up, vote on it, and move on.

This is a bill that needs to get done. Not only are the veterans elated to hear language like what I have just read but also people all over America because we support the veterans community.

We have issues that are so deep and complex that we need to get to. Will this solve all the issues? Of course not. But because of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we have 2 million new veterans who have a multitude of problems we have never had in other wars. So I certainly hope we can quickly arrange an opportunity to move forward on this legislation. I stand ready to work with my Democratic allies here

and those in the minority to do everything we can to move forward on this legislation as quickly as possible.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

BANK ON STUDENT EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2432, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 409, S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, will control 15 minutes, and the remaining time until 10 a.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Who yields time? If no one yields time, then the time will be charged equally to both sides.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, could the Chair please let me know when I have 3 minutes remaining on my time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair will do so.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I heard the majority leader’s comments about the importance of moving on to the veterans bill, so I have a suggestion: Why don’t we send this political stunt on student loans to the Senate education committee, where the Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN, and I are busy working in a bipartisan way to reauthorize higher education, and let’s move on to the veterans bill immediately. Why should the Senate take a week on a political stunt that everybody here knows won’t pass when veterans are standing in line at clinics, waiting for us to act on a bipartisan solution to their problems?

It actually goes further in giving veterans more choices in health care than anything Congress has ever done. It actually begins to give veterans more choice in health care in the same way Congress gave them choices in higher education with the passage of the GI bill for veterans in 1944. Back then,

Congress said to the veterans: Here is the money. Go choose your college.

Moving to and passing the veterans bill, Congress would be saying: If you have to stand in line too long or if you live too far away from a veterans facility, here is the money—go choose your medical care.

That is a very important step for millions of veterans. It deals directly with the problems all Senators on both sides of the aisle are chagrined about—veterans standing in line waiting for health care.

So I have one question: Why should the Senate spend a week on a political stunt? Why should we go all the way to next Monday before disposing of it? Let's dispose of it today. Let's send it to the committee that is already considering these issues, and let's move on to the veterans bill before noon. We could do that, and the veterans and the people of this country would respect us for it.

I thought we had stopped the political stunts on student loans last year when the President, to his credit, worked with the Republican House and a bipartisan group in the Senate, and came to a result—a big result. It affects \$100 billion of loans every year.

Half the students in America have a grant or loan to help pay for college. Congress stopped this type of political stunt last year. Instead of every election year where someone comes forward offering some preposterous proposal about what we can do in the hope that students might vote for them—Congress stopped that by saying: Let's put a market-based pricing system on new student loans. The effect of that was to stop semi-annual political stunts, while lowering the interest rate on loans for undergraduates nearly in half. Undergraduate students are 85 percent of the students receiving federal loans. So a 19-year-old student can get a loan to go to college at 3.86 percent without any credit rating and in some cases can get a grant of up to \$5,645 to go to college. Congress did that last year.

This year the Senate education committee has held 10 bipartisan hearings on higher education. This is a committee that knows how to work. Senator HARKIN, the Senator from Iowa, and I have big ideological differences in our committee, but that doesn't stop us from working, from doing our job. We passed 19 bills out of our committee, and 10 of them have gone through the Senate and became law. No other committee in the Senate can say that. Right now we are working on this very subject of the political stunt.

So why not stop the political stunt and put this where it belongs—back in the committee that is already working on it in a bipartisan way. Let's focus on the veterans who are standing in line and do what the majority leader said, which is let's deal with that issue.

Why do I say this student loan idea is not a serious proposal? It is not out of lack of respect to the sponsor. Of course I have great respect for her and for other Senators who are offering this proposal. But let me outline why I say this is not a serious proposal. And everybody in the Senate knows that. They know it is not going to pass. So why would the Senate waste time on it?

No. 1, it does nothing—not one thing—for current or future students. For students who are in college today or will be tomorrow, this does nothing for them. So don't let the rhetoric fool you.

No. 2, what does it do for people who used to be in college paying off a student loan? According to data supplied by the Congressional Research Service: It will give them \$1 a day. For the typical former student who has old loans, this bill will give them a taxpayer subsidy of \$1 a day to help pay their student loans.

How big is that loan? For undergraduates—which are 85 percent of all students with loans—it is \$21,600. For graduates with a 4-year degree, it is \$27,000. So \$27,000—probably the best investment a person will ever make. The College Board says that if you have a 4-year degree, your lifetime earnings will be \$1 million more. So \$27,000 for a student with no credit rating and has a right to borrow that earns you \$1 million? I think that is a pretty good deal. In fact, this \$27,000, is about the exact amount of the average car loan.

So what are we going to do next week? Instead of dealing with lines of veterans at clinics, is somebody going to come on the floor and say: Well, people have a \$27,000 car loan, so let's raise taxes and raise the debt and give them \$1 a day to pay off their car loan or the mortgage loan or the credit card.

This is not a serious proposal. It is not going to help people. College graduates don't need a dollar-a-day tax subsidy to pay off their loan. They need a job. They need a job, and right now they are experiencing the worst situation for finding a job that they have seen in a long time.

Now Republicans have plans that would help create more jobs. We would like to do what the President said, which was give the President more trade authority so companies in the nation can sell more things in Europe and Asia, but, no, we cannot bring that up. We would like to approve the Keystone Pipeline, but, no, we cannot bring that up. We would like to repeal ObamaCare and particularly the parts that make it harder to create jobs, but, no, we don't want to talk about that. We would like to at least change the provision about part-time jobs from 30 to 40 hours which affects millions of American workers, but, no, we cannot bring that up either.

If the Senate wants to talk about students paying back loans, they don't

need a dollar a day, they need a job. But my point is why should the Senate waste a week on this bill when veterans are standing in line waiting for us to take up and deal with a bipartisan proposal that the majority leader just described? What else is wrong with this student loan proposal? It could add up to \$420 billion to the Federal debt. It does bring the money with it to eventually pay it off, we hope, but it adds to the debt. The Congressional Budget Office says national debt is rising at such a rate that interest payments will go from around \$200 billion up to around \$800 billion in 10 years. Taxpayers will be spending more on interest in 10 years than on national defense. It increases individual income taxes \$72 billion with what I call a class warfare tax. That tax has been rejected eight times by the United States Senate, seven times on a motion to proceed.

There already is a way to lower your payments if you are a student with a loan and your monthly payments are too high. It is in the law. The President talked about it this week. It is called the income based repayment plan. It could lower monthly payments \$60 more a month than the Democrat proposal if you are a typical undergraduate and \$300 more a month if you are a typical graduate student. Former students can do that today. That is a bigger savings on monthly payments than in the proposal we are debating.

In addition to that, if this proposal were to pass the Senate. It could not be sent to the House. It is unconstitutional. We cannot originate a tax in the Senate, according to the Constitution. So why would the Senate pass this if it cannot be sent to the House? Next, it violates the Budget Control Act. We passed a law that said we couldn't spend any more than X. This measure violates that act.

So if it gives a dollar a day to pay off a \$27,000 loan at a time when a college degree will earn people more than \$1 million, if the loans for undergraduates are about the same as a car loan, if it raises the debt by \$420 billion, if it raises taxes by \$72 billion, if there already is a way in the law to lower monthly payments more than this proposal without raising taxes, without raising the debt, without passing the law that is unconstitutional—so even if it did pass, it cannot be sent to the House—if it violates the Budget Control Act, why would the Senate waste time on it when veterans are standing in line waiting for a bipartisan proposal to give them more choices for medical care? Why would we do that?

Right behind the veterans bill are Senator MIKULSKI from Maryland and Senator SHELBY from Alabama with a series of appropriations bills that have bipartisan support. They have been through committee too. We haven't passed appropriations bills in the last 4

years—two of those years we passed zero, one of those years we passed one. They are ready to do the job on both sides of the aisle.

Why would we spend time on this if it doesn't deal with the real issue? Students with loans don't need a dollar a day to pay off the loan. They need a job. We have proposals for jobs. The real problems with student loans are complexities and over-borrowing. Ninety percent of the loans we read about in the paper that are over \$100,000 are loans held by graduate students. But these are only 2 percent of the loans for all students.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. May I inform the Senator from Tennessee he has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Chair. I will reserve 1 minute and I will do it in this way:

Vote no. A "no" vote means no to a week-long political stunt, no to debt and taxes, and yes to moving today to a bipartisan solution to the problem of veterans standing in line at clinics; yes to appropriations bills that deal with cancer research and national defense and the other urgent needs of our country, also in a bipartisan way; yes to the way the Senate ought to run. It would mean no to the practice of pulling a bill out of your pocket, putting it on the floor, and wasting 1 week with a political stunt while veterans are standing in line at a clinic waiting for us to act.

So I would suggest the right thing to do is to vote no, send the bill and the discussion about student loans to the education committee. We can work with the President on a solution just like last year, and let's move on to dealing with a bipartisan solution to veterans who are standing in line waiting for the Senate to act.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The senior Senator from Tennessee has summed it up quite accurately. I have been calling on the majority leader to press pause on his party's nonstop campaign so we can take up bipartisan legislation for a change, because there is a real crisis in the country. It is a scandal that demands the Senate's full attention.

According to the Obama administration's own internal audit, its veterans scandal has now spread to more than three-quarters—three-quarters—of the VA facilities that were surveyed. Nearly 100,000 veterans continue to wait for care at VA centers and many of our veterans have been forced to wait 3 months or longer. Eighteen veterans have already died in Phoenix alone waiting for care that never came. This is a national disgrace.

The President needs to nominate a capable leader and manager who pos-

sesses the skills, leadership ability, and determination to correct the failings of the VA, support thousands of VA workers who are committed to serving our veterans, and provide all of those who have served bravely with the timely care they have earned. He also needs to use the tools he already has to address the systemic failures of management in his administration, and he needs to use the new tools we can provide him with the legislation as well. We in this body have a responsibility to act and to do so with a sense of urgency.

Yesterday the House passed bipartisan legislation unanimously—to help deal with this crisis. It is similar to the bipartisan Sanders-McCain bill right here in the Senate. It would increase patient choice, it would introduce some much needed accountability into the VA system, and it is past time to take up that kind of legislation in the Senate. Veterans have been made to wait long enough. Senate Democrats shouldn't be keeping them in the waiting room even longer.

I know the majority leader and his Democratic colleagues would rather stick to their campaign playbook. We know they would rather talk about a bill they claim is about student loans, but the Senate Democrats' bill isn't about students at all. It is all about Senate Democrats because Senate Democrats don't actually want a solution for their students, they want an issue to campaign on to save their own hides this November.

Recall that around this same time last year Republicans had to swoop in with a bipartisan piece of legislation to save students from a rate increase after Senate Democrats blew past the deadline, and Senator ALEXANDER was right in the middle of that incredible and effective solution. Now Senate Democrats are pushing yet another—yet another—student loan bill, one they actually hope will fail.

I think Senate Democrats are in for a surprise. Americans are not going to fall for this spin because students can understand this bill will not make college more affordable, they understand it will not reduce the amount of money they have to borrow, and students know it will not do a thing—not a thing—to fix the economy that is depriving so many young Americans of the jobs they seek.

Of course Senate Democrats understand all of these things too. Here is what the majority leader's lieutenant, the senior Senator from New York, said when he was asked a couple of years ago about student loans. He said that if Democrats had wanted to be "political about this" issue, they "would have paid for it with" the very same gimmick being used to pay for the bill before us today.

I give the Senator from New York points for honesty. His words show without equivocation that Senate

Democrats are now playing politics with the futures of young Americans instead of doing something about the VA crisis.

So let's just accept the Senator's admission that his party's bill is truly about helping Democrats, not students, and let's move on to fixing the VA scandal instead. The time is now to turn away from designed-to-fail politicking and toward actual bipartisan solutions. Our constituents demand it and our veterans deserve it.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Thank you very much. We can do both the Sanders-McCain bill, the veterans bill, and we can do this, and there is a need for this.

I was proud to join Senator WARREN of Massachusetts in presenting the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. I come from a State where we have the distinction of being fourth in the Nation in terms of level of debt that our students have when they graduate from college, over \$30,000. Then we see people who come to graduate school with a lot more.

I do college roundtables all the time. Kids are working 20, 30, 40 hours a week while going to school. I have kids telling me they are giving blood while they are in school. We need to address this. This is only a part of what we need to do when talking about the costs of college, but why is it possible to refinance a home loan in this country, people are able to refinance their car loans, they are able to refinance a business loan, but they cannot refinance their student debt? That makes no sense.

This has become a macroeconomic issue. Economists agree that because of the level of student debt—and if someone is paying 10 percent interest on it, it makes a huge difference—they are not able to save enough to put a downpayment on a house or they are not able to buy a car, they are not able to move out of their parents' house. This would help 550,000 Minnesotans—550,000 Minnesotans. That is 1 out of every 10 Minnesotans.

What pays for it is saying that people who make over \$1 million a year would pay in income taxes what people making \$60,000 a year pay. This is about fairness. We all know that in the last number of decades, and especially in the last number of years, virtually all new income has flowed to those at the top. The top 40 hedge fund managers make as much as 300,000 teachers. Why shouldn't they pay 30 percent on their income? Why not benefit the millions of Americans who have student debt and let them refinance their debt as we can with home loans, car loans, business loans?

It just seems that this is a matter of fairness, and it is smart economics because economists agree that the \$1.2

trillion in student debt has hurt this economy. It seems to make common sense.

This is not political. It is not political if the other side votes for it. If the other side votes for it, then we can help millions and millions of Americans refinance debt just like other Americans can refinance their credit card debt or home debt. This makes too much sense, and it should not be political. It should be bipartisan.

We should get to this, and then move on to the Sanders-McCain bill, which I cosponsored. I want to get on that. I want to be able to get on a lot of legislation. In this Congress we have sometimes seen—and in the last several Congresses—the minority do what it can to slow down the process and gum up the works here. I would love to get to the veterans bill immediately after passing this.

I thank the Presiding Officer and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, which is currently pending before the Senate. This legislation would reduce student loan debt for millions of Americans and provide relief for those who are struggling to keep up with their payments.

Student loan debt is exploding, and it threatens the stability of our young people and the future of our economy. The debt now totals \$1.2 trillion and it is growing bigger every single day. In 8 years the average student loan balance increased by 70 percent, and now 7 out of every 10 college seniors are dealing with student loan debt.

This debt is crushing our young people and dragging down our economy by keeping borrowers from being able to buy homes, cars, and open small businesses. It is keeping them from making the purchases that get their economic lives started and help our economy grow.

We must act now to provide relief for existing borrowers, and the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act will do exactly that. The legislation is straightforward. It allows existing borrowers to reduce their debt by refinancing their high-interest loans to much lower—and much more manageable—levels.

Depending on when they took out their student loans, millions of Americans are stuck in loans at 6 percent, 8 percent, 10 percent, and even higher.

While interest rates are low, we propose to refinance those loans so that the old debt is at the same rates currently being offered to new student loan borrowers. These new rates are exactly the same rates that nearly every Republican in the House and Senate voted for just last summer as the fair rate for new student loans issued in 2013 through 2014—3.6 percent for undergraduate loans and a little higher for graduate and parent loans. These new rates are still higher than what it costs the government to run its student loan program. But if these lower rates are good enough for new borrowers, they should be good enough for older borrowers too.

Later today Senators will have a choice. They can move forward and debate this bill or they can filibuster it and prevent any consideration of this refinancing plan. Some Republicans have pointed out that the legislation doesn't solve every problem that we have in higher education. Well, that is true; refinancing will not fix everything that is broken in our higher education system.

We need to bring down the cost of college, and we need more accountability for how schools spend their Federal dollars. Senator REID, Senator DURBIN, and I have a bill to do just that, and we welcome our Republican friends to join us on that bill. But we have another problem right now—student loan debt. Refinancing that debt is a straightforward way to ease that problem right now. We should do it right now. If Senators want to do more, they should offer amendments to that bill, but they should not block it from being considered.

Some Republicans have expressed concern about the effect of student loan refinancing on the deficit. In fact, the bill is fully paid for and—according to official estimates from the Congressional Budget Office—it actually reduces the deficit, and that is because it is funded by stitching up the loophole in our Tax Code that allows some millionaires to pay lower tax rates than middle-class families. Investing in students and asking billionaires to pay their taxes seems pretty fair to me. If Senators want to pay for this in a different way, they should offer amendments to this bill, but they should not block it from being considered.

Finally, some have argued that the financial benefit for our young people here is small. If Republicans would like to lower the interest rates even more, then count me in. That is what I would like to do. But let's be clear: 40 million borrowers in this country have student loan debt—40 million—and many of those individuals could save hundreds or even thousands of dollars a year under this proposal. That is real money back in the pockets of people who invested in their education. If Senators want to change those rates, they

should offer amendments to the bill, but they should not block it from being considered.

This should not be a partisan issue. Locking old borrowers into high interest rates just doesn't make any sense. The Federal Government should offer refinancing just like any other lender.

This is not only about economics, it is also about our values. These young people saddled with student loan debt didn't go to the mall and run up charges on a credit card. They worked hard and learned new skills that will benefit this country and help us build a stronger America. They deserve a fair shot at an affordable education.

Unfortunately, people struggling with student loans don't have the money to hire armies of lobbyists to argue their case on Capitol Hill, they don't have a super PAC, and they can't fund super secret political machines. But they have their voices, and they are making themselves heard. Over 700,000 people have signed petitions urging Congress to refinance student loans. Dozens of organizations have endorsed the bill—including student groups, colleges, and mortgage bankers.

Senators have a choice to make today. They can move forward and debate this bill, they can acknowledge that the debt is crushing our families and do what we were sent here to do—address an economic emergency that threatens the financial futures of Americans and the stability of our economy—or they can block this bill from being considered. They can refuse even to debate this idea in order to protect tax loopholes for millionaires and billionaires. That is it—billionaires or students, people who have already made it big or people who are working to build their futures.

With this vote, we show the American people whom we work for in the Senate—billionaires or students. A vote on this legislation is a vote to give millions of young people a fair shot at building their future. Forty million students and their families are counting on us.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, how much time do we have remaining?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. ALEXANDER. The question before the Senate is, Shall we spend the next week on a political stunt that gives some students \$1 a day to pay off a student loan or shall we move to a bipartisan solution for veterans who are lined up at clinics and hospitals across the country in a way that shocks Senators on both sides of the aisle? That is the issue.

The proposal before the Senate is not a serious proposal. There is nothing in it for current or future students. It is a

\$1 a day subsidy to pay off a \$27,000 loan. What are we going to do next week—raise taxes and raise the debt to pay off a \$27,000 car loan, which is similar to the average loan debt of a graduate with a 4-year degree?

In addition, this could not even be sent to the House if it passed because it is unconstitutional. You can't start a tax in the Senate, and this has a big tax in it.

The way we deal with these issues is the way we did it last year. We worked with the President in a bipartisan way and reduced rates for students.

What we need to do today is vote no—no to the political stunt, and move immediately to the deal to help veterans standing in line at clinics and hospitals across the country.

I urge the Senate to send this to the committee that is already working on it in a bipartisan way, and let's move to help the veterans in a bipartisan way.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 409, S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans.

Harry Reid, Ron Wyden, Elizabeth Warren, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Barbara Boxer, Jeanne Shaheen, Patty Murray, Richard J. Durbin, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Bill Nelson, Robert Menendez, Tammy Baldwin.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay."

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 185 Leg.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Corker	Markey	Walsh
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murkowski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	

NAYS—38

Alexander	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Reid
Boozman	Heller	Risch
Burr	Hoeben	Roberts
Chambliss	Inhofe	Rubio
Coats	Isakson	Sessions
Coburn	Johanns	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Crapo	Kirk	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—6

Ayotte	Graham	Moran
Cochran	McCaskill	Scott

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote the yeas are 56, the nays are 38.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on S. 2432.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion is entered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I see no one seeking the floor at this time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE ROTUNDA

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 37.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Con. Res. 37) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol in commemoration of the Shimon Peres Congressional Gold Medal ceremony.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 37) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. REID. Madam President, this is a request to use the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol to give to Shimon Peres the Congressional Gold Medal. He is really a fine human being. I feel so fortunate to have had conversations with him over the years. I have such respect for this man who has been a leader in Israel for decade after decade. This is a man who always stood for peace, a man who has been so futuristic about what should be done in that part of the world. I look forward to this ceremony that will take place. He is now 90 years old. This is just my estimation: Very few people in the world have dedicated such valiant service to their country as this man has to the State of Israel.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about some of the side effects we have been seeing from the health care law.

When President Obama and Democrats in Congress were selling their health care law, they made a lot of promises. One of the big ones was that the health care law would save money. They said it was going to save money because people would be going to see physicians in offices for routine care instead of going to the emergency room.

President Obama said:

If everybody's got coverage, then they're not going to the emergency room for treatment.

Well, just like promises about keeping your doctor if you like your doctor or keeping your insurance if you like your insurance—promises the President made—it turns out the President's

claims about emergency room care weren't true either. That is what the Louisville Courier Journal says they have seen in the State of Kentucky. This was the headline on Monday, just a couple days ago: "More patients flocking to ERs under ObamaCare." That is not what the President said, but that was the headline.

The article says:

It wasn't supposed to work this way, but since the Affordable Care Act took effect in January, Norton Hospital has seen its packed emergency room become even more crowded, with about 100 more patients a month.

That is a 12-percent spike in the number of patients at the emergency room of that hospital in Louisville. As the article said, it wasn't supposed to happen that way, and that is why I come to the floor to talk about the side effects of the President's health care law.

There are many side effects. They are harmful. They are expensive. Some are irreversible. But they are all related to promises made to the American people by a President who I don't believe fully understands his law. And I know there are many people in this body who voted for it who, I understand, never read it in the first place. Those are the concerns I have. Those are the concerns I hear at home in Wyoming every week, and I heard them this past weekend all around the Cowboy State.

For the President, this emergency room situation may be just another surprising side effect of the health care law. And they are not seeing this just in Kentucky. According to a survey by the American College of Emergency Physicians, it is happening all across the country. Their survey found that 58 percent of emergency room doctors say they are seeing more patients since the beginning of the year. A doctor in Virginia told the Wall Street Journal that the health care law "is going to stretch emergency doctors further, and that has implications on how quickly we can get people through." When the emergency rooms have more patients, it involves longer wait times for those patients.

It seems the Democrats who voted for this health care law—many without reading it—were so focused on getting people insurance coverage that they came up with a system that actually makes it harder for people to get care. It was interesting listening to the President continuing to give speeches about coverage and ignoring the fact that people were worried about actually getting health care.

That is a very dangerous side effect, but it is not the only side effect of the law. There are also incredibly expensive side effects of the health care law.

There is an expensive side effect that a lot of people are starting to hear more about as States release information on insurance premiums for next year.

Late last Friday the State of Maryland released their rates. We could tell it was going to be bad news for people in Maryland because they snuck the numbers out late Friday afternoon. It seems that is what happens when bad news comes out—they get it out late Friday afternoon. According to the Washington Post, the biggest insurance company in Maryland is CareFirst. This was in the Washington Post Metro section on Saturday, June 7: "CareFirst seeks hefty premium increases."

The article says:

Maryland's dominant insurance company, CareFirst, is proposing hefty premium increases of 23 to 30 percent for consumers buying individual plans next year under the federal health care law.

The President of the United States said the health care law was going to save families \$2,500 a year by the end of his first term. But what we are seeing here—Metro section, Washington Post, Saturday: "CareFirst seeks hefty premium increases."

Maryland's dominant insurance company, CareFirst, is proposing hefty premium increases of 23 to 30 percent for consumers buying individual plans next year under the federal health care law.

That is a very costly side effect of the health care law.

Remember, the health exchange—where people are supposed to buy this insurance in Maryland—was so broken that they had to start over again. State officials spent \$118 million to set up their own exchange. Now they are going to use software from Connecticut's exchange. Nobody got care for that money. That is wasted taxpayer dollars. Nobody got care.

Connecticut may have gotten the software right, but people there are going to have to pay more for insurance too. The Washington Post says that two insurance carriers in Connecticut have proposed rate increases averaging about 12 percent. That is the average. Some people will have smaller increases, but many people will pay much more.

President Obama said Democrats in Congress should forcefully defend the law and be proud of it. That is what he said they should do—forcefully defend and be proud. Are there any Democrats who are ready to come down to the floor and forcefully defend these dangerous side effects of more people going to the emergency room, stretching overworked emergency room doctors even thinner, making for longer wait times in emergency rooms? Are Democrats going to come to the floor and forcefully defend and be proud of the law when they see expensive side effects such as the hefty premium increases in Maryland of 23 to 30 percent, 12 percent in Connecticut?

It didn't have to be this way. Republicans offered ways to reform America's health care system back when we

were debating the law, but President Obama and Democrats in Congress didn't want to hear it. We warned about some of these brutal side effects of the health care law that were going to hurt people, and we talked about bipartisan ideas that could have helped to maintain the access people had for the doctor they liked. That is what people want. They want the doctor they liked, and at the same time they want care to be more affordable. They want access to care, quality care, affordable care, not empty coverage, expensive coverage, which is what the President has provided.

We are going to keep talking about measures that would expand access to health savings accounts to save money for families as well as for employers. I talked about that when some of us met with the President in 2010. The President didn't want to listen. It is too bad, but it is not too late.

The Republicans are going to keep talking about letting consumers buy health insurance across State lines to increase competition, to let them shop for options they actually need, want, and will work for their family. That could actually help bring down prices, not drive them up as the Democrats' health care laws do. These are ideas Republicans have offered from the beginning, ways to give the American people care they need, from a doctor they choose, at lower costs. That is all people wanted in the beginning. Instead they got these harmful, hurtful, expensive side effects.

We know what the American people have asked for. We know what they wanted, and that is what Republicans are going to continue to try to give them, not the empty promises from President Obama and Democrats who told the American people that the President and Democrats knew better what they needed or wanted than what the American people knew worked best for them and their families.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I wish to say a few words as to where we are right now and my strong hope that we can move forward as rapidly as we can—hopefully today—in addressing some of the very serious problems that exist within the Veterans' Administration.

What I have learned since I have been chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for the last year and a half is that the cost of war does not end when the last shots are fired and the last missiles are launched. The cost of war continues until the last veteran receives the care and the benefits he or she is entitled to and has earned on the battlefield. The cost of war is in fact extremely expensive in terms of human life and financially. That is something every American should know.

It is very easy to vote to send people to war, but we have to understand what the costs of those wars are in terms of what happens to people who come home from them and in some cases do not come home. The cost of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is almost 7,000 dead. The cost of war from Iraq and Afghanistan alone is some 200,000 men and women coming home with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. The cost of war is too many young men and women coming home without their legs or their arms or their hearing or their eyesight. The cost of war is manifested by tragic suicides that are taking place all across this country. The cost of war is veterans coming home and finding it difficult to get reintegrated into their communities and get jobs and get their feet on the ground financially. The cost of war is high divorce rates and the impact that has on children. The cost of war is widows suddenly having to begin their lives anew. Those are some of the real costs of war.

Last week Senator MCCAIN and I hammered together a proposal to deal with the immediate crisis facing the VA. I thank him very much for coming forward, for working with me, and for understanding the need for us to move forward expeditiously. There are serious problems at the VA now and they must be addressed now—not next week, not next month but now.

I thank the 27 bipartisan cosponsors who have agreed to sign on to this bill. There are 21 Democrats and 6 Republicans, and I think in fact the support is broader than that. I thank Senators BEGICH, BLUMENTHAL, BOOKER, BURR, CASEY, COLLINS, COONS, HAGAN, HIRONO, ISAKSON, JOHANNES, KAINE, MANCHIN, MCCAIN, MERKLEY, MURPHY, PRYOR, RUBIO, SCHATZ, UDALL, WALSH, and WHITEHOUSE for cosponsoring this legislation.

Clearly, the bill Senator MCCAIN and I introduced, which now has 27 cosponsors from both parties, is not the bill he would have written alone, and it certainly is not the bill I would have written alone. It is a compromise. What this bill does is address the immediate crisis facing the VA of veterans having to wait too long a period of time—long waiting lists—in order to get the quality care they need in a timely manner.

What our veterans deserve is to be able to get into the system in a timely manner and get quality care. What this legislation does is move us forward strongly in that direction. Let me very briefly describe some of the major features in this legislation.

There has been on the drawing boards for many years in some cases the need to build or expand VA medical and research facilities. This bill provides for 26 major medical facility leases in 26 States and Puerto Rico. That is something that is supported in a bipartisan

way and has already passed the House in virtually a unanimous vote.

This bill provides for the expedited hiring of VA doctors, nurses, and other health care providers and \$500 million targeted to hire those providers with unobligated funds. The simple truth is that no medical program—not in the private sector, not in the VA, not anywhere—can provide quality care in a timely manner if that program does not have an adequate number of doctors, nurses, and other medical providers. It is unclear exactly how many more providers are needed, but there is no question there are many needed. I have heard—I will not swear to this, but I have heard estimates that in Phoenix alone there is a need for up to 500 new providers. While the Phoenix situation may be worse than other parts of the country, there is no doubt in my mind that many hundreds, if not thousands, of doctors and nurses are needed, and we need to expedite the hiring process.

Importantly, what our legislation also does is say to veterans around the country that if they cannot get into a VA facility in a timely manner, they will be able to get the care they need outside of the VA from a private provider in their community. They will be able to go to a federally qualified health center in their community, an Indian Health Service or if there is a Department of Defense military base and they can get care there, they will be able to do that. This gives the veteran himself or herself the opportunity if that person cannot get timely care within the VA to go outside of the VA.

What this bill also does is say to veterans who live 40 miles or more away from a VA facility if they choose—and it is clear there are some veterans that live hundreds of miles away in our rural areas from a VA facility—they will also be able to get care outside of the VA. For those veterans in rural areas this is an important provision.

This legislation also addresses a major crisis that we have seen tragically in recent years within the DOD, within the military, and that is the issue of sexual assault. Far too many women and men have been sexually assaulted, and this legislation provides funding for the VA to provide improved care for those suffering from sexual assault.

This bill also deals with an issue where I believe there is widespread support among Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, and that is the need to address in-state tuition for all veterans at public colleges and universities. This legislation also provides that surviving spouses of those who die in the line of duty will be eligible for the post-9/11 GI bill. This bill also establishes commissions to provide help to the VA in terms of improving scheduling capabilities and also their capital planning, two areas clearly where the VA needs to improve.

Lastly, and it is very important, this bill gives the Secretary of the VA the authority to immediately fire incompetent employees and, even worse, those who have falsified or manipulated data in terms of waiting periods or in other instances. So what we say is if somebody has lied, has manipulated data, they are out tomorrow, after the bill is signed, but we also provide a very expedited appeals process in order to allow some due process.

I worry very much about the politicalization of the VA if a Secretary comes in with a new President and says, I am going to get rid of 400 top people and 4 years later another Secretary comes in and says, I am going to get rid of another 400 people. What we want in the VA, which is the largest integrated health care system in America, taking care of 6.5 million veterans—one shouldn't care if those folks are Republicans, Democrats, progressives or conservatives—what we want are competent, able supervisors. I also want to make sure if people get fired that it has nothing to do with the color of their skin or sexual orientation.

So we have an abbreviated appeals process, but within that appeals process somebody can be removed from their position immediately.

The House of Representatives, as you know, passed legislation yesterday which covers a lot of the same ground the Sanders-McCain bill covers, and I applaud the House for moving forward in a very rapid fashion. I am absolutely confident that working with House Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD, we can in fact bridge the differences that exist in the two bills and send to the President legislation he can sign as soon as possible.

Finally, I wish to say a word to the some 300,000 employees who work at the VA. The overwhelming majority of these people are hardworking, honest, serious employees. In fact, many of them are veterans. My experience is that for many of these employees what they do is less of a job than a mission. They understand the sacrifices veterans have made, and they in the vast majority of cases are doing excellent work to support our veterans. Let us never forget that some 230,000 veterans today and tomorrow and the next day are going into the VA for health care and that the vast majority of those people—and that is 6.5 million people a year—are receiving high-quality care.

I have talked to veterans all over the State of Vermont, and what they tell me is that they get very good care. I obviously cannot speak for every veteran, but in Vermont—and I expect in most areas around this country—veterans feel good about the health care they get.

A few weeks ago I held a hearing and asked all of the major veterans organizations point blank about their view on

VA health care. What they said—this is not what BERNIE SANDERS said; it is what they said—was that once people get into the system, the care is good. That is not just their view. There are independent studies out there that rate VA health care with private sector care, and oftentimes VA health care comes out better. Right now our job is to address the crisis of long waiting periods and making sure that veterans all over this country can get the care they need in a timely manner.

In my State of Vermont—according to information that just came out the other day—some 98 percent of veterans get appointments in the system within 30 days. I suspect the numbers are similar in certain other parts of the country, although clearly not in all parts of the country. That is the issue we are addressing right now.

It seems to me that our job now is to defend the veterans of this country who have defended us. It is time to move the Sanders-McCain legislation as quickly as we can—hopefully today. I know the majority leader, Senator REID, feels strongly about this issue. He wants this legislation moved as quickly as possible, as do I, and I believe Senator MCCAIN does as well.

Once we get that legislation passed, I am confident we can set up a quick conference committee and resolve the differences between the House and Senate bills and get a bill to the President as early as next week.

It is one thing to give great speeches on Memorial Day and Veterans Day about how much we love and respect veterans, but it is another for us to act expeditiously and effectively on behalf of veterans. Now is the time for action, and I hope very much we will have virtually unanimous support to move this important legislation forward.

With that, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise today to discuss a topic of great importance to our country's security, economy, and social fabric, and that is our broken immigration system.

No one can dispute that our system is broken. We do not yet have sufficient resources on our border or in our interior to prevent illegal immigration. And our legal immigration system takes far too long, has far too much bureaucratic redtape, and does not sufficiently serve our economic needs. In the meantime, our broken system has created millions of broken families.

Many of these families are separated simply because of immigration status.

All of these problems can be solved by passing immigration reform legislation. Immigration reform will jumpstart our economy, reduce our national debt, secure our country, and heal these broken families. The truth is, we have heard excuse after excuse after excuse from House Republicans about why they have not put immigration reform legislation on the floor.

First, it was that the Senate had to act first with broad bipartisan support. Well, that was taken away when the Senate passed bipartisan comprehensive reform legislation with 68 votes—a vote total which is virtually unprecedented for such important legislation.

Then it was that the House could only pass measures under the Hastert rule, which meant that a majority of the Republicans in the House had to support a bill in order to get a vote. This excuse was also taken away when the House showed it could pass other legislation, such as the debt ceiling, Sandy relief, and the Violence Against Women Act, without needing to fulfill the Hastert rule.

Then it was that the House could not pass one bill; it needed to break up the bill into component pieces. They thought this would be a deal killer. We said: Fine, we will work with you on the smaller pieces of immigration reform as long as all of the important pieces are addressed at or around the same time.

Then it was lack of trust of the President. That too was a phony excuse given that the President has deported more individuals than any other President. But even here we said: If that is really your problem, let's pass a bill now and delay implementation until 2017. We will get the President out of this equation so he is not used as an excuse. The House had no answers for that suggestion.

Now we have a new excuse. The excuse is that we supposedly cannot pass immigration reform because ERIC CANTOR lost his primary election. Well, just like all of the other excuses that have proven to be illusory, the idea that they cannot do immigration reform because ERIC CANTOR lost his election is another phony excuse for not passing immigration reform put together by those who willingly and unashamedly hand the leadership gavel on immigration to far-right extremists like STEVE KING.

I want to be very clear about two things today. First, ERIC CANTOR was never the solution on immigration. He was always the problem. Every time I talked to Republican Members, business leaders, growers, and faith leaders about immigration reform in the last several months, I consistently heard that the House leadership wanted to move forward but they did not have CANTOR's support. CANTOR was the

chokepoint for immigration reform for these past few months. Contrary to the conventional wisdom, CANTOR's loss makes it easier—not harder—for House leadership to pass immigration reform.

Secondly, the polling is clear. ERIC CANTOR did not lose his primary because of support for immigration reform. It has been widely reported that 72 percent of registered voters in CANTOR's district polled on Tuesday said they either strongly or somewhat support immigration reform that would secure the borders, block employers from hiring those illegally, and allow undocumented residents without criminal backgrounds to gain legal status. And this is the case in one of the most conservative districts in Virginia and the country. The polling is consistent with other recent polling which shows support for immigration reform among a majority of Republicans and a plurality of tea party supporters across the country. Even 70 percent of Republicans in CANTOR's district support reform. Again, to be clear, not even the majority of the farthest right segment of the Republican Party supports deportations and the current broken system. But that is what we still have in place today.

So to repeat, ERIC CANTOR did not lose his primary yesterday because of immigration. He lost it because he had lost touch with the people in his district.

The election shows the Republican Party has two paths it can take on immigration: the Graham path of showing leadership and solving a problem in a mainstream way, which leads to victory, or the Cantor path of trying to play both sides, which is a path to defeat.

The lesson Republicans should take from last night is that embracing and showing leadership on immigration reform is a far better path to victory than running from it, particularly for Republicans who are not tea party members but mainstream conservatives. The example shown by Senator GRAHAM is dispositive. Rather than trying to be all things to all people, he defended immigration reform strongly in his State and was rewarded by the people of South Carolina, the Republicans of South Carolina, which is an extremely Republican and conservative State.

Senator GRAHAM sat with us from day one and crafted an immigration reform bill that he could sell to the mainstream conservatives in South Carolina, and he was rewarded last night by his State for being a man of principle.

One final thing about last night's election. David Brat won by receiving 36,000 votes in a Republican primary in rural Virginia in an election where 65,000 people showed up. The total population of the Cantor district is over 750,000 people, and there are 11 percent

more Republicans in the district than Democrats. For some context, in the 2012 election, ERIC CANTOR received 220,000 votes and his Democratic challenger 160,000 votes. The point here is that it would be a monumentally lame excuse for Republicans to say that our Nation's immigration policy should be dictated by the whims of less than 20 percent of the Republican voters in a rural Virginia Republican district.

So the time for excuses is over. The time for action is now. It has been nearly 1 year since the Senate passed bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform legislation that would secure the border, turbo charge America's economic growth, and provide a chance to heal America's broken families who are being separated by our dysfunctional immigration system.

For far too long, Republican House leaders have yielded the leadership gavel on immigration to the xenophobic leaders of the extreme far right of the party such as STEVE KING, who has previously described immigration as a "slow-motion holocaust."

The question is whether House leadership will side with the STEVE KINGS and David Brats of the world or if they will side with the opinions of the vast majority of Republican voters and even the vast majority of voters in the Seventh Congressional District in Virginia.

Time is running out. The window is now open for passing immigration reform legislation, and the clock is furiously ticking. We have less than 7 weeks to go to get something passed, and the time is now for Republicans to give us their proposals on fixing the broken system. I say 7 weeks because it is highly unlikely that immigration reform could pass during a Republican Presidential primary season, where the party leaders will have to move to the extreme right to try and capture the Presidential nomination.

Therefore, it is time for the House leadership to declare unequivocally that immigration reform will be placed on the floor for a vote before the August recess. Without this declaration and the pressure to act, we will not be able to get immigration reform drafted and passed during this window.

Make no mistake about it. If the House fails to act during this window—a clear indication that they have no inclination in solving the problem—the President would be more than justified in acting anytime after the summer is over to take whatever changes he feels are necessary to make our immigration system work better for those unfairly burdened by our broken immigration laws.

But administrative relief is not what anyone wants to resort to. Those measures will be far too limited to fix all of the problems that currently plague our broken system. What we need right now is true leadership. Let's work to-

gether to get this done. A true leader will say: I will do what is good for my country—and for my party—even if it means that an extreme wing of my party will be unhappy. That is leadership. That is necessary.

We stand ready to work with any of our Republican colleagues who want to achieve solutions in good faith. But for now, I will conclude by saying that immigration reform is both necessary and inevitable. It is necessary because it will secure our country, grow our economy, reduce our deficit, create new jobs, and provide us with the best and the brightest. It is inevitable because the population of voters who believe this is an important issue continues to grow and become more politically active day by day.

So to my Republican friends, the choice is yours: Work with us on immigration reform this year and help the country now or do nothing and watch as immigration reform eventually passes without your support or your input. I hope we can act this year, but we will ultimately act. Let's hope we can finally do what is right before every other option has been tried.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, are we still in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is considering the motion to proceed to S. 2432, the student loan refinancing bill.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. WARNER. I come to the floor disappointed that the Senate did not move to full consideration of the legislation that I know the Presiding Officer and others have worked on to take on the challenge that I believe will be the next great financial crisis our country will face—student debt.

Student debt, which is \$1.2 trillion, now exceeds credit card debt, and that has been a PolitiFact out there and now validated. Increasingly, this crushing amount of student debt is slowing economic growth. It is not allowing young workers to go into the marketplace and buy a house or start a business.

While I am disappointed that we were not able to move to full consideration of the legislation that would provide a more comprehensive ability for students to refinance at a lower rate, I

would point out that there are a number of other tools we can use.

I know I am going to be joined in a few moments—our paths may not completely cross here—by Senator RUBIO. There are two pieces of legislation around this issue that Senator RUBIO and I are working on together, and I want to speak briefly about both of those.

The first is legislation we have actually been joined by Senator WYDEN on as well called the Know Before You Go Act—a relatively simple concept using data that the U.S. Department of Education already collects. It says we ought to put together in a user-friendly Web site information for every parent and young student before they go off to college—whether it is a 4-year college, a 2-year college, or a community college—so they know, if they attend that university, what their chance of graduation is, how long it will take; if they choose to major in art history, the way my daughter did, what the chances are of getting a job and what that job would actually pay, so that we can make these people—young and not so young—better informed consumers. The cost of higher education—perhaps next to the purchase of a home—is the single largest investment most families will make.

This legislation I have with Senator RUBIO, the Know Before You Go Act—and Senator WYDEN—would say that making these families and parents more informed will add value and make a more-informed consumer. It is simple, very little cost. We already collect this data, but we don't present this data in a format that is easily obtainable by families all across America.

I know Senator RUBIO is going to speak about the second piece of legislation, and I think Senator RUBIO and I share a common background on this issue. I believe we are both first in our generation to have graduated from college. I was able to get through college and law school—being quite a bit older than Senator RUBIO—through direct aid, through work during college and law school, but also through student loans, but I came out of that with only \$15,000 in student debt.

My personal story is that after working a bit in politics, I decided I would become an entrepreneur and proceeded to go off and start my own business, which within 6 weeks failed miserably. I then started a second enterprise that lasted a little longer; it lasted 6 months. My third enterprise was in the very early days of cell phones, and it managed to do pretty well, going on to cofound the company that became Nextel.

But as I reflect upon that period, particularly when I was literally living out of my car and sleeping on friends' couches, I am not sure I would have had the courage to try once, twice, or three times if I was looking at the kind

of student debt that many—perhaps even some of these young pages here as they go on to college—might face if we don't take on this problem. It is not uncommon now for students—particularly if they complete graduate school—to see \$70, \$80, \$100,000 in debt. The average student in Virginia comes out with about \$30,000 in debt. We have to recognize that there should be a variety of tools available to them.

Again, I wish we had proceeded with the full debate on the bill on having the comprehensive ability to refinance.

One other piece of legislation, one other solution set—and I will be coming to the floor on a regular basis because I think there are a variety of ideas we need to lay out—a piece of legislation that Senator RUBIO and I are working on together that we will be introducing is on simplifying into a single form a tool that already exists on student debt in terms of income-based repayment.

Income-based repayment is a pretty simple idea. It says that if you get out of college or get out of graduate school—too many young people now are perhaps forced into careers that may not have been their initial choice, but because of the crushing amount of debt payments they have to make, they don't have the kind of freedom I had to go out, candidly, and fail a couple of times before I managed to be successful. Income-based repayment says we will graduate the amount of money you will pay back on your student debt based upon the income you make. So if at first you need to take that job that might pay a little lower because there is a chance you can pursue your dream or actually become an entrepreneur, we will allow you to tailor your repayment schedule based upon the income, and as your income goes up, your payments will go up.

Rather than making income-based repayment kind of at the end of the line and very complicated to sort through, we simplify this approach, do it in a way that I believe is financially responsible, and do it in a way that gives that potential entrepreneur—the way I was—the chance to go out and take those risks, and if you are not successful at first—and can't leave out that 90 percent of entrepreneurs are not successful the first time they try a business—to make sure that you can maybe get that second shot, get that fair shot every American ought to have and not allow that student debt to be able to crush your dreams.

Clearly in America in 2014, in a world that is a global economy that is based upon our knowledge skills to stay competitive, you shouldn't go broke in America if you choose to go to college or get a higher education.

I believe these two pieces of legislation I am working on with Senator RUBIO—the Know Before You Go Act, so you are more informed about your

options going forward, and this income-based repayment—are two of the possible solutions that could be added to make sure everyone gets the same kind of fair shot that I know the Presiding Officer and my good friend the Senator from Maryland had and that we want to make sure all the future Americans have as well.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Let me thank Senator WARNER for his leadership on this issue.

The bills Senator WARNER is bringing forward will help deal with the incredible burden American families are confronting today in order to get quality education. His story is a story told about the opportunities of America. Education is the great equalizer in this country.

My grandparents came to America for a better life for their children. My parents benefited from education. They are products of the Baltimore City public school system and the public colleges and universities in the State of Maryland. As a result of the educational tools given to them, the grandson of those immigrants now serves in the Senate. That is the story of America. Education is the great equalizer.

That is why we were so disappointed that we couldn't proceed with an important tool to make education more available to families; that is, the bill we just recently voted on to try to at least break the filibuster so that we could help those who currently have student loans.

Education has been the great equalizer in a growing middle class, which has led to the strength of America. It has been key to global competition. We all talk about the fact that other countries are doing a better job in STEM education or catching up to America—in some cases surpassing America. Well, education is a great equalizer.

We should make it easier for families to be able to afford a college education.

The truth is that it is more expensive here than it is in other countries. Yet we expect our country to be able to compete globally.

We are hurting ourselves. It is important for a growing economy, a growing middle class. Trained workers will strengthen America's economy, creating more jobs and more opportunity. So it is in our collective interests, not just that one family who is debating whether they are going to send their child to college or which college because of costs. It is in all of our interests to make it easier for Americans to afford a higher education.

The cost of higher education today is just plain too expensive. It is just too costly. It is the single most important investment a family can make. Yet today college debt is around \$1.2 tril-

lion—greater than all of the credit card debt held by American families. Is that putting a priority on education? I don't think so. We can do a much better job.

In Maryland, 776,000 students have Federal student loan debt totaling over \$21 billion. Over 50 percent of those graduating students are borrowing money in order to attend college, but here is the problem. For too many families it is a decision of whether they are going to college or not going to college—the cost. For too many families it is going to a school of their second, third, or fourth choice rather than the school they want to go to, and they are making that choice not because they couldn't get into the school they wanted but because they can't afford the school they want, their first choice.

The debt they have when they leave college, it is clearly affecting their career choice. We may have a brilliant future researcher or a brilliant future teacher. What is more important than being a teacher? But they choose to go into a different profession because they have student loans, and they choose for immediate pay considerations for their jobs rather than the career they really want because they know it is not fair to their families to continue these large student debts with which they are graduating.

That is the situation we confront. We know the numbers. I will tell you some real stories about real Marylanders.

Last year I visited one of our 4-year colleges and had a roundtable discussion with students. There was a second-year student there. She told me she was going to drop out of school after her second year. This is, by the way, in a very challenged community.

I said to her: I guess you are not doing well. She said: I am a straight-A student. I love the opportunities I am being given here. I love the knowledge I am getting, but I can't do it to my family to incur more debt. I look at my classmates from high school who have graduated and they are making money for their family and here I am a burden to my family by incurring more debt. I can't do it. I don't know where I am going to be 2 years from now, but I know I can't do this to my family. So I have to go out and work. I can't incur more debt.

That is a loss for that student and for our community.

I met another student named Becky last week at one of our Southern Maryland colleges. She told me the story about wanting to become a pediatric dentist. She is brilliant. She is doing great. But Becky is working full time and going to college. She is not going to be able to go to her first choice. She has her first choice, but she is not going to be able to do that because she is working full time and incurring debt in order to go to college. So it is going to take her a lot longer. She is not going to get through undergraduate in

4 years. It is going to take her 5 years or 6 years to get through, and whether she will ever become the pediatric dentist she wants to be, I don't know.

That is what is happening in America today, and millions of others can tell you similar stories of career decisions they have made, giving up the most important investment in their life because of the financial considerations. The bill we have on the floor right now can do something about it.

I would be the first to acknowledge there is a lot we could do to help in this regard, but I thank Senator WARREN for her leadership in bringing forward a bill that will make a difference for millions of students who hold debt. It will make it less costly for them to take out the loans they have taken out. It would affect millions of students.

I think Americans would be upset, disappointed, and outraged to learn the Federal Government is making money off of student loans. The interest rates are higher than what the cost of the student loan is. Taking into consideration defaults, taking into consideration administrative costs, taking into consideration the cost of borrowing, between 2007 and 2012 \$66 billion was made off the backs of students who can't afford the loans they currently have.

What Senator WARREN's bill does is allow those who hold student debt to refinance and take advantage of lower interest rates. It is not going to be subsidized loans. There will be no cost to the taxpayers to do this. This seems like a no-brainer, quite frankly. It would make it easier for them. We let homeowners refinance their mortgages and we passed special legislation to allow that. We allow businesses to refinance their loans to the lowest competitive rate. Why can't students do this? That is what the bill before us does. It lets us move forward at no cost because we are not subsidizing the loans.

Just because of our unusual scoring reasons here, she provides an offset, which I don't think is necessary, but I certainly support the bill, and the offset is certainly one that has millionaires paying their fair share and it makes sense. So this will save thousands of dollars for those who currently holds loans. That is important.

Some say: Don't we need more accountability from higher education? Yes, we do. Don't we need more transparency from higher education? Yes, we do. Don't we need to have better consumer information? Yes. I agree with all of the above, but today we can do something about the interest costs and correct an injustice of government, making money off of student loans, and do this in a way that makes it more affordable for families. We can do something that truly helps. It will provide help to families.

President Obama has acted. I thank him for doing that. Five million families will benefit from his Executive order or clarification which says no more than 10 percent of your income will be used to pay student loans and caps the number of years. That is going to help. He is also doing more to promote awareness of repayment options. That is good, but we in Congress have an opportunity to act and act today.

I hope we get bipartisan support to help middle-income families and to help our country. I urge my colleagues to allow us to get on the bill and to pay to help the middle class of America.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, in a few moments I will yield the floor to my colleagues who will have an announcement about the progress which has been made on the veterans bill, an important issue.

I wish to take this moment to talk about a tale of two bills—a tale of two very critical issues that confront our country, both deserving of the time and attention of the Senate but how they have been treated very differently from one another.

The first issue is one which has been talked about here; that is, the issue of student loans in America. This is an issue I care about deeply for two reasons.

The first is, when I arrived on the floor of the Senate in January of 2011, I owed over \$100,000 in student loans. For years we struggled with the cost of those loans. My parents never made enough money to save for our education, but I was able to pay for it through a combination of Pell grants and loans for my undergraduate and graduate studies. The undergraduate-level loans were manageable. The graduate-level loans for law school were quite a strain. At one point in our lives it was the single highest expenditure in our monthly budget. So I know the cost of this.

The other reason is because I have the honor of serving as an adjunct professor at Florida International University, where once or twice a week I interact with young men and women in South Florida who are facing not just the cost of undergraduate education but starting to think about how they are going to pay to go to law school or get a master's degree or any other profession they choose. This is a very significant issue, and there are two aspects of it that we are going to talk about in a moment.

The second issue that is critically important for our country is the well-

documented problems of the Veterans' Administration. I don't need to go into a long dissertation about how our men and women who have served us so honorably and so bravely in uniform deserve the very best care possible.

Well documented are the long waiting lists and, even more tragically, efforts among some at the VA to cover up all of this, to cover their tracks and to cover up their incompetence. The vast majority of the men and women who work at the VA work hard and do a good job, but there are too many who do not, and there is not enough accountability with regard to that. As I said a couple of weeks ago when I came to the floor and tried to pass a measure, a companion of the issue that passed in the House: You are more likely to get a promotion or bonus than you are to get demoted or fired for not doing your job at the VA.

Two very important issues: a tale of two bills because they have been handled so differently.

I anticipate in a moment a number of Senators will come to the floor—Senators whom I thank for allowing me to work with them to make this possible—and will have an announcement to make with regard to votes on the veterans bill. That is great news. The men and women who have served us deserve this progress.

There is no claim that this is going to solve every problem in the world, but it is an important first step. I thank Senators MCCAIN, SANDERS, BURR, COBURN, and others for all the work they have done on this issue. We are excited to hear about their announcement in a few moments. If they arrive, I will gladly yield the floor for them to do that at the appropriate moment. I thank them, our men and women who have served us thank them, and the people of Florida thank them. We are a State with an enormous number of veterans.

This is an important issue, and I wish people could have seen the effort and how people worked across party lines to get this done. Everyone has great ideas about things they want to see added to it, about things they would like to see in addition to what has been included, but we all understand a sense of urgency about addressing this issue. We all had ideas we wanted to pursue, but we were all willing to put those aside for another debate and another day in order to get this done.

We need more of that in the Senate, we need more of that in the U.S. Government, and I thank the Senators who have worked so hard to make this happen and my colleague in the House, JEFF MILLER, for the work he has done in terms of bringing this forward as well. He has done a fantastic job.

Compare that to the way this issue on student loans has been handled, however. This is a legitimate issue that needs to be addressed, but the bill that

was brought before the Senate included something the proponents knew was deeply political and controversial—the so-called Buffett rule. We have had debate on that issue before. We can have debate in the future.

They knew the simple utilization of that rule as part of this measure—as admitted, by the way, by Members of the majority who have talked about this measure in the past—they knew that by putting that in there, it politicized it and, quite frankly, doomed it to failure.

Let me lift the veil for those who are watching at home or in the gallery or anywhere, watching or listening now or in the future. They knew what the outcome would be when they included that, but it was put in there for the purposes of saying Republicans blocked this because they knew that issue in and of itself served as a sort of poison pill that held this up. It is unfortunate because the issue of student loans is a very valid issue in America.

Look, there was a time not long ago when higher education was an important option for millions of Americans, but, for example, even if someone didn't have a college education, they could still find a middle-income job that allowed them to make it to the middle class.

That is how my parents did it. Neither one of my parents had advanced formal education. Neither one finished the equivalent of high school. Yet we lived in the middle class. We achieved the American dream, because working as a bartender and as a maid, my parents were able to make enough money to achieve that.

The world has changed. Today, if someone doesn't have some form of advanced education, they are going to struggle to find a job that pays enough to keep up with the cost of living, much less to get ahead. This has made higher education no longer an option. It is now a necessity. This is an issue that needs to be looked at in multiple ways, not simply the loan issue, by the way.

Take, for example, the story of a 41-year-old head of household who has worked their entire life to provide for their family and now has lost their job or their business, the only way they are going to be able to get a job that makes it to the middle class in the 21st century—because the job they used to have has been automated or outsourced or the industry is no longer around. The only way they are going to be able to make it back into the middle class and stay there is to acquire skills and education necessary for 21st century middle-class and above jobs.

But if someone is 41 years old and they have to work full time to provide for their family, and they have to raise that family, they can't just drop everything and go back to college for 4 years, and they probably can't afford it

either. So we need to revolutionize what higher education means in America so people living those circumstances can access it in a cost-effective way.

When I worked in the State legislature, I had an employee who was the equivalent of my executive assistant. She made less than \$30,000 a year because that is what the State pay grade called for. But she went to school at night and became a paralegal and doubled her pay on the day after her graduation because she was able to acquire advanced skills and a degree that allowed her to improve not just her lifestyle and her quality of life but that of her daughter's as well—a young, single mother struggling to provide and move ahead in life.

The problem is that our existing higher education system is one we had in the 20th century. It is largely designed for a student who graduates from high school and goes to college for 4 years, but it is inaccessible and unaffordable for Americans who are later in their lives, who have to work full time and raise a family, for people who in the middle of a career have found their job outsourced or automated and need to be retrained. That in and of itself calls for higher education to be revolutionized. The second point I would make is there is some innovation in higher education. For example, there are degrees and degree-type programs you can now get online. But you will often find that the cost of those programs is as much and more than a brick and mortar institution would charge. It costs as much and in many instances more to get your degree on line than it would by sitting in a classroom and taking lectures every day. For many people that is not realistic.

So we need to revolutionize what higher education means. The traditional 4-year college will always be an important part of it, but we also have to provide programs that allow people to graduate from high school with skills that allow them to immediately be employed such as more welders and more electricians. There is nothing wrong with that. These are important jobs that we have shortages in, by the way.

We need to create more innovation so that people can acquire learning in the most effective way possible. For example, why can't we allow people to package learning in any way they acquire it, online, work experience, life experience, to be able to package all of your learning and acquire the equivalent of a degree that allows you to go to work?

There are real answers to these problems. I am involved in at least three of them. One is a program called "Right to Know Before You Go" that I sponsored with Senator WYDEN. It is a bipartisan proposal. It is very simple. It says that when you go to school before

you take out a loan you have to be told: "This is how much people that graduate from our school with a degree that you are seeking make." So you can decide whether it is worth taking out thousands of dollars in loans for a degree that doesn't lead to jobs.

The other proposal is changing the way we accredit higher education in America. Accrediting basically means you have permission to get a college degree. But the institutions who control that process are the existing status quo schools. They will always have an important job in our educational portfolio but they cannot be the only ones anymore. We need to change that so there are alternative programs available that allow you to package learning no matter how you acquire it so that you can get credit for that as well. So the changing of accrediting is a big part of this.

I believe that income-based repayments should be a part of this. There is a more responsible way to do it. Thankfully, Senator WARNER and I are working on such a proposal. I wish issues such as that were debated as a part of this solution, as opposed to simply a political stunt brought to the floor designed to get enough "no" votes by Republicans so it can be used in November on the campaign trail.

Student loans—a trillion dollars' worth—are owed by both Republicans and Democrats. We need to get this issue solved if we are going to move forward. On the Veterans' Administration issue—I see a number of Senators have arrived and potentially have an announcement for us—we have made great progress. The bill is important, but the one part I have been working on personally is accountability, giving the Secretary the power to hire and to fire those mid-level bureaucrats that are not doing their job. That is an important measure. I am glad that is included in this. I am glad the Senate will be moving forward on this in a few moments.

It is the tale of two bills. One is an example of how we can get things done to address the real needs in our country, and the other is a missed opportunity to address one of the single greatest impediments to upward mobility and the American dream in the 21st Century—and that is the accessibility and affordability of higher education, because today higher education is no longer just an option. In some way, shape or form acquiring higher education has become a necessity for all Americans, and we need to make that more accessible and more affordable.

It is my hope that in the weeks and months to come we will be able to put aside the desire to turn this issue into a political tool and come together to solve this problem because there is a trillion dollars of student loan debt sitting out there, and there are hundreds of thousands of Americans who desperately need to acquire some sort of

higher education and they cannot afford it or they cannot access it or both. They need us to address this issue because this cannot be an issue we do not resolve. The American dream will continue to slip out of reach for millions of people in this new century unless we make the acquisition of higher education more accessible and more affordable to people from all walks of life: the 18-year-old who graduates from high school, the 25-year-old single mother, the 41-year-old father who heads a household, and everyone in between.

This is an enormous challenge for our country but one for which there are solutions. All we need now is a willingness to proceed to do it, and I hope that in the weeks to come, once we pass this moment, we can get back on this issue and solve it in a real and responsible way.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on these issues. I look forward to working to pass the veterans bill hopefully today and to move forward and work together in a serious and meaningful way to make higher education more affordable for every American who needs it in order to achieve their American dream.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, before I say anything, I really and deeply appreciate the ability of the Democrats and Republicans to work together on an extremely important issue, and I need not editorialize more than that.

MAKING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS DURING A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 206, H.R. 3230; that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 2450 be inserted in lieu thereof, which is the Sanders-McCain veterans bill; that there be no other amendments, motions or points of order in order other than a budget point of order against the bill and the applicable motion to waive; that the time until 4 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that if a budget point of order is made and the applicable motion to waive the point of order is made, then at 4 p.m. today, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to waive; if the motion to waive is agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the

Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3230) making continuing appropriations during a government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period.

The amendment is as follows:

H.R. 3230

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 3230) entitled "An Act making continuing appropriations during a Government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period.", do pass with the following amendments:

Strike all after the enacting clause, and insert in lieu thereof:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE*.—This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENT OF SCHEDULING SYSTEM FOR HEALTH CARE APPOINTMENTS

Sec. 101. Independent assessment of the scheduling of appointments and other health care management processes of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 102. Technology task force on review of scheduling system and software of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

TITLE II—TRAINING AND HIRING OF HEALTH CARE STAFF

Sec. 201. Treatment of staffing shortage and bi-annual report on staffing of medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 202. Clinic management training for managers and health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 203. Use of unobligated amounts to hire additional health care providers for the Veterans Health Administration.

TITLE III—IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO CARE FROM NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS

Sec. 301. Expanded availability of hospital care and medical services for veterans through the use of contracts.

Sec. 302. Transfer of authority for payments for hospital care, medical services, and other health care from non-Department providers to the Chief Business Office of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department.

Sec. 303. Enhancement of collaboration between Department of Veterans Affairs and Indian Health Service.

Sec. 304. Enhancement of collaboration between Department of Veterans Affairs and Native Hawaiian health care systems.

Sec. 305. Sense of Congress on prompt payment by Department of Veterans Affairs.

TITLE IV—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Sec. 401. Improvement of access of veterans to mobile vet centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 402. Commission on construction projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 403. Commission on Access to Care.

Sec. 404. Improved performance metrics for health care provided by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 405. Improved transparency concerning health care provided by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 406. Information for veterans on the credentials of Department of Veterans Affairs physicians.

Sec. 407. Information in annual budget of the President on hospital care and medical services furnished through expanded use of contracts for such care.

Sec. 408. Prohibition on falsification of data concerning wait times and quality measures at Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 409. Removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance.

TITLE V—HEALTH CARE RELATED TO SEXUAL TRAUMA

Sec. 501. Expansion of eligibility for sexual trauma counseling and treatment to veterans on inactive duty training.

Sec. 502. Provision of counseling and treatment for sexual trauma by the Department of Veterans Affairs to members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 503. Reports on military sexual trauma.

TITLE VI—MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES

Sec. 601. Authorization of major medical facility leases.

Sec. 602. Budgetary treatment of Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facilities leases.

TITLE VII—VETERANS BENEFITS MATTERS

Sec. 701. Expansion of Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship.

Sec. 702. Approval of courses of education provided by public institutions of higher learning for purposes of All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program and Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program conditional on in-State tuition rate for veterans.

TITLE VIII—APPROPRIATION AND EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS

Sec. 801. Appropriation of emergency amounts.

Sec. 802. Emergency designations.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENT OF SCHEDULING SYSTEM FOR HEALTH CARE APPOINTMENTS

SEC. 101. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SCHEDULING OF APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT PROCESSES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—

(1) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract with an independent third party to assess the following:

(A) The process at each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs for scheduling appointments for veterans to receive hospital care, medical services, or other health care from the Department.

(B) The staffing level and productivity of each medical facility of the Department, including the following:

(i) The case load of each health care provider of the Department.

(ii) The time spent by each health care provider of the Department on matters other than the case load of such health care provider, including time spent by such health care provider as follows:

(I) At a medical facility that is affiliated with the Department.

(II) Conducting research.

(III) Training or overseeing other health care professionals of the Department.

(C) The organization, processes, and tools used by the Department to support clinical documentation and the subsequent coding of inpatient services.

(D) The purchasing, distribution, and use of pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, and medical devices by the Department, including the following:

(i) The prices paid for, standardization of, and use by the Department of the following:

(I) High-cost pharmaceuticals.

(II) Medical and surgical supplies.

(III) Medical devices.

(ii) The use by the Department of group purchasing arrangements to purchase pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, medical devices, and health care related services.

(iii) The strategy used by the Department to distribute pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, and medical devices to Veterans Integrated Service Networks and medical facilities of the Department.

(E) The performance of the Department in paying amounts owed to third parties and collecting amounts owed to the Department with respect to hospital care, medical services, and other health care, including any recommendations of the independent third party as follows:

(i) To avoid the payment of penalties to vendors.

(ii) To increase the collection of amounts owed to the Department for hospital care, medical services, or other health care provided by the Department for which reimbursement from a third party is authorized.

(iii) To increase the collection of any other amounts owed to the Department.

(2) **ELEMENTS OF SCHEDULING ASSESSMENT.**—In carrying out the assessment required by paragraph (1)(A), the independent third party shall do the following:

(A) Review all training materials pertaining to scheduling of appointments at each medical facility of the Department.

(B) Assess whether all employees of the Department conducting tasks related to scheduling are properly trained for conducting such tasks.

(C) Assess whether changes in the technology or system used in scheduling appointments are necessary to limit access to the system to only those employees that have been properly trained in conducting such tasks.

(D) Assess whether health care providers of the Department are making changes to their schedules that hinder the ability of employees conducting such tasks to perform such tasks.

(E) Assess whether the establishment of a centralized call center throughout the Department for scheduling appointments at medical facilities of the Department would improve the process of scheduling such appointments.

(F) Assess whether booking templates for each medical facility or clinic of the Department would improve the process of scheduling such appointments.

(G) Recommend any actions to be taken by the Department to improve the process for scheduling such appointments, including the following:

(i) Changes in training materials provided to employees of the Department with respect to conducting tasks related to scheduling such appointments.

(ii) Changes in monitoring and assessment conducted by the Department of wait times of veterans for such appointments.

(iii) Changes in the system used to schedule such appointments, including changes to improve how the Department—

(I) measures wait times of veterans for such appointments;

(II) monitors the availability of health care providers of the Department; and

(III) provides veterans the ability to schedule such appointments.

(iv) Such other actions as the independent third party considers appropriate.

(3) **TIMING.**—The independent third party carrying out the assessment required by paragraph (1) shall complete such assessment not later than 180 days after entering into the contract described in such paragraph.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the independent third party completes the assessment under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the results of such assessment.

(2) **PUBLICATION.**—Not later than 30 days after submitting the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall publish such report in the Federal Register and on an Internet website of the Department accessible to the public.

SEC. 102. TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE ON REVIEW OF SCHEDULING SYSTEM AND SOFTWARE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **TASK FORCE REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, through the use of a technology task force, conduct a review of the needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to the scheduling system and scheduling software of the Department of Veterans Affairs that is used by the Department to schedule appointments for veterans for hospital care, medical services, and other health care from the Department.

(2) **AGREEMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with a technology organization or technology organizations to carry out the review required by paragraph (1).

(B) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.**—No Federal funds may be used to assist the technology organization or technology organizations under subparagraph (A) in carrying out the review required by paragraph (1).

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the technology task force required under subsection (a)(1) shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth the findings and recommendations of the technology task force regarding the needs of the Department with respect to the scheduling system and scheduling software of the Department described in such subsection.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Proposals for specific actions to be taken by the Department to improve the scheduling system and scheduling software of the Department described in subsection (a)(1).

(B) A determination as to whether an existing off-the-shelf system would—

(i) meet the needs of the Department to schedule appointments for veterans for hospital care, medical services, and other health care from the Department; and

(ii) improve the access of veterans to such care and services.

(3) **PUBLICATION.**—Not later than 30 days after the receipt of the report required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall publish such report in the Federal Register and on an Internet website of the Department accessible to the public.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than one year after the receipt of the report required by subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall implement the recommendations set forth in such report that the Secretary considers are feasible, advisable, and cost-effective.

TITLE II—TRAINING AND HIRING OF HEALTH CARE STAFF

SEC. 201. TREATMENT OF STAFFING SHORTAGE AND BIENNIAL REPORT ON STAFFING OF MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **STAFFING SHORTAGE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than September 30 each year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall determine, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register, the five occupations of health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs for which there is the largest staffing shortage throughout the Department.

(2) **RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT.**—Notwithstanding sections 3304 and 3309 through 3318 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary may, upon a determination by the Inspector General under paragraph (1) that there is a staffing shortage throughout the Department with respect to a particular occupation of health care provider, recruit and directly appoint highly qualified health care providers to serve as health care providers in that particular occupation for the Department.

(3) **PRIORITY IN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO CERTAIN PROVIDERS.**—Section 7612(b)(5) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

“(B) shall give priority to applicants pursuing a course of education or training towards a career in an occupation for which the Secretary has, in the most current determination published in the Federal Register pursuant to section 201(a)(1) of the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014, determined that there is one of the largest staffing shortages throughout the Department with respect to such occupation; and”.

(b) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than December 31 of each even numbered year thereafter until 2024, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report assessing the staffing of each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The results of a system-wide assessment of all medical facilities of the Department to ensure the following:

(i) Appropriate staffing levels for health care providers to meet the goals of the Secretary for timely access to care for veterans.

(ii) Appropriate staffing levels for support personnel, including clerks.

(iii) Appropriate sizes for clinical panels.

(iv) Appropriate numbers of full-time staff, or full-time equivalents, dedicated to direct care of patients.

(v) Appropriate physical plant space to meet the capacity needs of the Department in that area.

(vi) Such other factors as the Secretary considers necessary.

(B) A plan for addressing any issues identified in the assessment described in subparagraph (A), including a timeline for addressing such issues.

(C) A list of the current wait times and workload levels for the following clinics in each medical facility:

(i) Mental health.

(ii) Primary care.

(iii) Gastroenterology.

(iv) Women's health.

(v) Such other clinics as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(D) A description of the results of the most current determination of the Inspector General under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) and a plan to use direct appointment authority under paragraph (2) of such subsection to fill staffing shortages, including recommendations for improving the speed at which the credentialing and privileging process can be conducted.

(E) The current staffing models of the Department for the following clinics, including recommendations for changes to such models:

(i) Mental health.

(ii) Primary care.

(iii) Gastroenterology.

(iv) Women's health.

(v) Such other clinics as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(F) A detailed analysis of succession planning at medical facilities of the Department, including the following:

(i) The number of positions in medical facilities throughout the Department that are not filled by a permanent employee.

(ii) The length of time each position described in clause (i) remained vacant or filled by a temporary or acting employee.

(iii) A description of any barriers to filling the positions described in clause (i).

(iv) A plan for filling any positions that are vacant or filled by a temporary or acting employee for more than 180 days.

(v) A plan for handling emergency circumstances, such as administrative leave or sudden medical leave for senior officials.

(G) The number of health care providers of the Department who have been removed from their positions, have retired, or have left their positions for another reason, disaggregated by provider type, during the two-year period preceding the submittal of the report.

(H) Of the health care providers specified in subparagraph (G) who have been removed from their positions, the following:

(i) The number of such health care providers who were reassigned to other positions in the Department.

(ii) The number of such health care providers who left the Department.

(iii) The number of such health care providers who left the Department and were subsequently rehired by the Department.

SEC. 202. CLINIC MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR MANAGERS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) CLINIC MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall commence a clinic management training program to provide

in-person, standardized education on health care management to all managers of, and health care providers at, medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The clinic management training program required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Training on how to manage the schedules of health care providers of the Department, including the following:

(i) Maintaining such schedules in a manner that allows appointments to be booked at least eight weeks in advance.

(ii) Proper planning procedures for vacation, leave, and graduate medical education training schedules.

(B) Training on the appropriate number of appointments that a health care provider should conduct on a daily basis, based on specialty.

(C) Training on how to determine whether there are enough available appointment slots to manage demand for different appointment types and mechanisms for alerting management of insufficient slots.

(D) Training on how to properly use the appointment scheduling system of the Department, including any new scheduling system implemented by the Department.

(E) Training on how to optimize the use of technology, including the following:

(i) Telemedicine.

(ii) Electronic mail.

(iii) Text messaging.

(iv) Such other technologies as specified by the Secretary.

(F) Training on how to properly use physical plant space at medical facilities of the Department to ensure efficient flow and privacy for patients and staff.

(3) SUNSET.—The clinic management training program required by paragraph (1) shall terminate on the date that is two years after the date on which the Secretary commences such program.

(b) TRAINING MATERIALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the termination of the clinic management training program required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide training materials on health care management to each of the following employees of the Department upon the commencement of employment of such employee:

(A) Any manager of a medical facility of the Department.

(B) Any health care provider at a medical facility of the Department.

(C) Such other employees of the Department as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) UPDATE.—The Secretary shall regularly update the training materials required under paragraph (1).

SEC. 203. USE OF UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS TO HIRE ADDITIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FOR THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the end of each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015, all covered amounts shall be made available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire additional health care providers for the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or to carry out any provision of this Act or the amendments made by this Act, and shall remain available until expended.

(b) PRIORITY IN HIRING.—The Secretary shall prioritize hiring additional health care providers under subsection (a) at medical facilities of the Department and in geographic areas in which the Secretary identifies the greatest shortage of health care providers.

(c) COVERED AMOUNTS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered amounts” means amounts—

(1) that are made available to the Veterans Health Administration of the Department for an appropriations account—

(A) under the heading “MEDICAL SERVICES”;

(B) under the heading “MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE”; or

(C) under the heading “MEDICAL FACILITIES”; and

(2) that are unobligated at the end of the applicable fiscal year.

TITLE III—IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO CARE FROM NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS

SEC. 301. EXPANDED AVAILABILITY OF HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS THROUGH THE USE OF CONTRACTS.

(a) EXPANSION OF AVAILABLE CARE AND SERVICES.—

(1) FURNISHING OF CARE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Hospital care and medical services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, shall be furnished to an eligible veteran described in subsection (b), at the election of such veteran, through contracts authorized under subsection (d), or any other law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with entities specified in subparagraph (B) for the furnishing of such care and services to veterans.

(B) ENTITIES SPECIFIED.—The entities specified in this subparagraph are the following:

(i) Any health care provider that is participating in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(ii) Any Federally-qualified health center (as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2)(B))).

(iii) The Department of Defense.

(iv) The Indian Health Service.

(2) CHOICE OF PROVIDER.—An eligible veteran who elects to receive care and services under this section may select the provider of such care and services from among any source of provider of such care and services through an entity specified in paragraph (1)(B) that is accessible to the veteran.

(3) COORDINATION OF CARE AND SERVICES.—The Secretary shall coordinate, through the Non-VA Care Coordination Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the furnishing of care and services under this section to eligible veterans, including by ensuring that an eligible veteran receives an appointment for such care and services within the current wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration for the furnishing of hospital care and medical services.

(b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—A veteran is an eligible veteran for purposes of this section if—

(1)(A) the veteran is enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code; or

(B) the veteran is enrolled in such system, has not received hospital care or medical services from the Department, and has contacted the Department seeking an initial appointment from the Department for the receipt of such care or services; and

(2) the veteran—

(A)(i) attempts, or has attempted under paragraph (1)(B), to schedule an appointment for the receipt of hospital care or medical services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, but is unable to schedule an appointment within the current wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration for the furnishing of such care or services; and

(ii) elects, and is authorized, to be furnished such care or services pursuant to subsection (c)(2);

(B) resides more than 40 miles from the nearest medical facility of the Department, including a community-based outpatient clinic, that is closest to the residence of the veteran; or

(C) resides—

(i) in a State without a medical facility of the Department that provides—

- (I) hospital care;
 - (II) emergency medical services; and
 - (III) surgical care rated by the Secretary as having a surgical complexity of standard; and
- (ii) more than 20 miles from a medical facility of the Department described in clause (i).

(c) ELECTION AND AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary confirms that an appointment for an eligible veteran described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for the receipt of hospital care or medical services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is unavailable within the current wait-time goals of the Department for the furnishing of such care or services, the Secretary shall, at the election of the eligible veteran—

(A) place such eligible veteran on an electronic waiting list described in paragraph (2) for such an appointment; or

(B)(i) authorize that such care and services be furnished to the eligible veteran under this section for a period of time specified by the Secretary; and

(ii) send a letter to the eligible veteran describing the care and services the eligible veteran is eligible to receive under this section.

(2) ELECTRONIC WAITING LIST.—The electronic waiting list described in this paragraph shall be maintained by the Department and allow access by each eligible veteran via www.myhealth.va.gov or any successor website for the following purposes:

(A) To determine the place of such eligible veteran on the waiting list.

(B) To determine the average length of time an individual spends on the waiting list, disaggregated by medical facility of the Department and type of care or service needed, for purposes of allowing such eligible veteran to make an informed election under paragraph (1).

(d) CARE AND SERVICES THROUGH CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into contracts with health care providers that are participating in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) to furnish care and services to eligible veterans under this section.

(2) RATES AND REIMBURSEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In entering into a contract under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(i) negotiate rates for the furnishing of care and services under this section; and

(ii) reimburse the health care provider for such care and services at the rates negotiated pursuant to clause (i) as provided in such contract.

(B) LIMIT ON RATES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), rates negotiated under subparagraph (A)(i) shall not be more than the rates paid by the United States to a provider of services (as defined in section 1861(u) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(u))) or a supplier (as defined in section 1861(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(d))) under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) for the same care and services.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may negotiate a rate that is more than the rate paid by the United States as described in clause (i) with respect to the furnishing of care or services under this section to an eligible veteran if the Secretary determines that there is no health care provider that will provide such care or services to such eligible veteran at the rate required under such clause—

(I) within the current wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration for the furnishing of such care or services; and

(II) at a location not more than 40 miles from the residence of such eligible veteran.

(C) LIMIT ON COLLECTION.—For the furnishing of care and services pursuant to a contract under this section, a health care provider may not collect any amount that is greater than the rate negotiated pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i).

(3) INFORMATION ON POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall provide to any health care provider with which the Secretary has entered into a contract under paragraph (1) the following:

(A) Information on applicable policies and procedures for submitting bills or claims for authorized care and services furnished to eligible veterans under this section.

(B) Access to a telephone hotline maintained by the Department that such health care provider may call for information on the following:

(i) Procedures for furnishing care and services under this section.

(ii) Procedures for submitting bills or claims for authorized care and services furnished to eligible veterans under this section and being reimbursed for furnishing such care and services.

(iii) Whether particular care or services under this section are authorized, and the procedures for authorization of such care or services.

(e) CHOICE CARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of receiving care and services under this section, the Secretary shall issue to each eligible veteran a card that the eligible veteran shall present to a health care provider that is eligible to furnish care and services under this section before receiving such care and services.

(2) NAME OF CARD.—Each card issued under paragraph (1) shall be known as a “Choice Card”.

(3) DETAILS OF CARD.—Each Choice Card issued to an eligible veteran under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The name of the eligible veteran.

(B) An identification number for the eligible veteran that is not the social security number of the eligible veteran.

(C) The contact information of an appropriate office of the Department for health care providers to confirm that care and services under this section are authorized for the eligible veteran.

(D) Contact information and other relevant information for the submittal of claims or bills for the furnishing of care and services under this section.

(E) The following statement: “This card is for qualifying medical care outside the Department of Veterans Affairs. Please call the Department of Veterans Affairs phone number specified on this card to ensure that treatment has been authorized.”

(4) INFORMATION ON USE OF CARD.—Upon issuing a Choice Card to an eligible veteran, the Secretary shall provide the eligible veteran with information clearly stating the circumstances under which the veteran may be eligible for care and services under this section.

(f) INFORMATION ON AVAILABILITY OF CARE.—The Secretary shall provide information to a veteran about the availability of care and services under this section in the following circumstances:

(1) When the veteran enrolls in the patient enrollment system of the Department under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) When the veteran attempts to schedule an appointment for the receipt of hospital care or medical services from the Department but is unable to schedule an appointment within the current wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration for delivery of such care or services.

(g) PROVIDERS.—To be eligible to furnish care and services under this section, a health care provider must—

(1) maintain at least the same or similar credentials and licenses as those credentials and licenses that are required of health care providers of the Department, as determined by the Secretary for purposes of this section; and

(2) submit, not less frequently than once each year, verification of such licenses and credentials maintained by such health care provider.

(h) COST-SHARING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require an eligible veteran to pay a copayment to the Department for the receipt of care and services under this section only if such eligible veteran would be required to pay such copayment for the receipt of such care and services at a medical facility of the Department.

(2) LIMITATION.—The copayment required under paragraph (1) shall not be greater than the copayment required of such eligible veteran by the Department for the receipt of such care and services at a medical facility of the Department.

(i) CLAIMS PROCESSING SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide for an efficient nationwide system for processing and paying bills or claims for authorized care and services furnished to eligible veterans under this section.

(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations for the implementation of such system.

(3) OVERSIGHT.—The Chief Business Office of the Veterans Health Administration shall oversee the implementation and maintenance of such system.

(4) ACCURACY OF PAYMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that such system meets such goals for accuracy of payment as the Secretary shall specify for purposes of this section.

(B) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the termination date specified in subsection (n), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the goals for accuracy of such system.

(ii) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by clause (i) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the goals for accuracy for such system specified by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

(2) An assessment of the success of the Department in meeting such goals during the year preceding the submittal of the report.

(j) MEDICAL RECORDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that any health care provider that furnishes care and services under this section to an eligible veteran submits to the Department any medical record related to the care and services provided to such eligible veteran by such health care provider for inclusion in the electronic medical record of such eligible veteran maintained by the Department upon the completion of the provision of such care and services to such eligible veteran.

(k) TRACKING OF MISSED APPOINTMENTS.—The Secretary shall implement a mechanism to track any missed appointments for care and services under this section by eligible veterans to ensure that the Department does not pay for such care and services that were not furnished to an eligible veteran.

(l) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe interim final regulations on the implementation of this section and publish such regulations in the Federal Register.

(m) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 540 days after the publication of the interim final regulations under subsection (l), the

Inspector General of the Department shall submit to the Secretary a report on the results of an audit of the care and services furnished under this section to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of payments by the Department for the cost of such care and services, including any findings and recommendations of the Inspector General.

(n) **TERMINATION.**—The requirement of the Secretary to furnish care and services under this section terminates on the date that is two years after the date on which the Secretary publishes the interim final regulations under subsection (l).

(o) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **INITIAL REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the publication of the interim final regulations under subsection (l), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the furnishing of care and services under this section that includes the following:

(A) The number of eligible veterans who have received care and services under this section.

(B) A description of the type of care and services furnished to eligible veterans under this section.

(2) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 540 days after the publication of the interim final regulations under subsection (l), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the furnishing of care and services under this section that includes the following:

(A) The total number of eligible veterans who have received care and services under this section, disaggregated by—

(i) eligible veterans described in subsection (b)(2)(A); and

(ii) eligible veterans described in subsection (b)(2)(B).

(B) A description of the type of care and services furnished to eligible veterans under this section.

(C) An accounting of the total cost of furnishing care and services to eligible veterans under this section.

(D) The results of a survey of eligible veterans who have received care or services under this section on the satisfaction of such eligible veterans with the care or services received by such eligible veterans under this section.

(E) An assessment of the effect of furnishing care and services under this section on wait times for an appointment for the receipt of hospital care and medical services from the Department.

(F) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of continuing furnishing care and services under this section after the termination date specified in subsection (n).

(p) **RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**—

(1) **NO MODIFICATION OF CONTRACTS.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Secretary to renegotiate contracts for the furnishing of hospital care or medical services to veterans entered into by the Department before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **FILLING AND PAYING FOR PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the process of the Department for filling and paying for prescription medications.

SEC. 302. TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY FOR PAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND OTHER HEALTH CARE FROM NON-DEPARTMENT PROVIDERS TO THE CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICE OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

(a) **TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective on October 1, 2014, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall transfer

the authority to pay for hospital care, medical services, and other health care through non-Department providers to the Chief Business Office of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs from the Veterans Integrated Service Networks and medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) **MANNER OF CARE.**—The Chief Business Office shall work in consultation with the Office of Clinical Operations and Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that care and services described in paragraph (1) are provided in a manner that is clinically appropriate and effective.

(3) **NO DELAY IN PAYMENT.**—The transfer of authority under paragraph (1) shall be carried out in a manner that does not delay or impede any payment by the Department for hospital care, medical services, or other health care provided through a non-Department provider under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(b) **BUDGETARY EFFECT.**—The Secretary shall, for each fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) include in the budget for the Chief Business Office of the Veterans Health Administration amounts to pay for hospital care, medical services, and other health care provided through non-Department providers, including any amounts necessary to carry out the transfer of authority to pay for such care and services under subsection (a), including any increase in staff; and

(2) not include in the budget of each Veterans Integrated Service Network and medical center of the Department amounts to pay for such care and services.

SEC. 303. ENHANCEMENT OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.

(a) **OUTREACH TO TRIBAL-RUN MEDICAL FACILITIES.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with the Director of the Indian Health Service, conduct outreach to each medical facility operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization through a contract or compact with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) to raise awareness of the ability of such facilities, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations to enter into agreements with the Department of Veterans Affairs under which the Secretary reimburses such facilities, Indian tribes, or tribal organizations, as the case may be, for health care provided to veterans eligible for health care at such facilities.

(b) **METRICS FOR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING PERFORMANCE.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement performance metrics for assessing the performance by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Indian Health Service under the memorandum of understanding entitled "Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS)" in increasing access to health care, improving quality and coordination of health care, promoting effective patient-centered collaboration and partnerships between the Department and the Service, and ensuring health-promotion and disease-prevention services are appropriately funded and available for beneficiaries under both health care systems.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Director of the Indian Health Service shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the feasibility and advisability of the following:

(1) Entering into agreements for the reimbursement by the Secretary of the costs of direct care services provided through organizations receiving amounts pursuant to grants made or

contracts entered into under section 503 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1653) to veterans who are otherwise eligible to receive health care from such organizations.

(2) Including the reimbursement of the costs of direct care services provided to veterans who are not Indians in agreements between the Department and the following:

(A) The Indian Health Service.

(B) An Indian tribe or tribal organization operating a medical facility through a contract or compact with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

(C) A medical facility of the Indian Health Service.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **INDIAN.**—The terms "Indian" and "Indian tribe" have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

(2) **MEDICAL FACILITY OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.**—The term "medical facility of the Indian Health Service" includes a facility operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization through a contract or compact with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

(3) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term "tribal organization" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

SEC. 304. ENHANCEMENT OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with Papa Ola Lokahi and such other organizations involved in the delivery of health care to Native Hawaiians as the Secretary considers appropriate, enter into contracts or agreements with Native Hawaiian health care systems that are in receipt of funds from the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to grants awarded or contracts entered into under section 6(a) of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (42 U.S.C. 11705(a)) for the reimbursement of direct care services provided to eligible veterans as specified in such contracts or agreements.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the terms "Native Hawaiian", "Native Hawaiian health care system", and "Papa Ola Lokahi" have the meanings given those terms in section 12 of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (42 U.S.C. 11711).

SEC. 305. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PROMPT PAYMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall comply with section 1315 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (commonly known as the "prompt payment rule"), or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling, in paying for health care pursuant to contracts entered into with non-Department of Veterans Affairs providers to provide health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

TITLE IV—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

SEC. 401. IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS OF VETERANS TO MOBILE VET CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall improve the access of veterans to telemedicine and other health care through the use of mobile vet centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing standardized requirements for the operation of such centers.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The standardized requirements required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The number of days each mobile vet center of the Department is expected to travel per year.

(B) The number of locations each center is expected to visit per year.

(C) The number of appointments each center is expected to conduct per year.

(D) The method and timing of notifications given by each center to individuals in the area to which such center is traveling, including notifications informing veterans of the availability to schedule appointments at the center.

(3) USE OF TELEMEDICINE.—The Secretary shall ensure that each mobile vet center of the Department has the capability to provide telemedicine services.

(b) REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than September 30 each year thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the following:

(1) The use of mobile vet centers to provide telemedicine services to veterans during the year preceding the submittal of the report, including the following:

(A) The number of days each mobile vet center was open to provide such services.

(B) The number of days each mobile vet center traveled to a location other than the headquarters of the mobile vet center to provide such services.

(C) The number of appointments each center conducted to provide such services on average per month and in total during such year.

(2) An analysis of the effectiveness of using mobile vet centers to provide health care services to veterans through the use of telemedicine.

(3) Any recommendations for an increase in the number of mobile vet centers of the Department.

(4) Any recommendations for an increase in the telemedicine capabilities of each mobile vet center.

(5) The feasibility and advisability of using temporary health care providers, including locum tenens, to provide direct health care services to veterans at mobile vet centers.

(6) Such other recommendations on improvement of the use of mobile vet centers by the Department as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 402. COMMISSION ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an Independent Commission on Department of Veterans Affairs Construction Projects (in this section referred to as the "Commission").

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Commission shall be composed of 10 voting members as follows:

(i) Three members to be appointed by the President from among members of the National Academy of Engineering who are nominated under subparagraph (B).

(ii) Three members to be appointed by the President from among members of the National Institute of Building Sciences who are nominated under subparagraph (B).

(iii) Four members to be appointed by the President from among veterans enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code, who are nominated under subparagraph (B).

(B) NOMINATION OF VOTING MEMBERS.—The majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall jointly nominate not less than 24 individuals to be considered by the President for appointment under subparagraph (A).

(C) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Commission shall be composed of the following nonvoting members:

(i) The Comptroller General of the United States, or designee.

(ii) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee.

(iii) The Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or designee.

(D) DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—The appointments of the members of the Commission under subparagraph (A) shall be made not later than 14 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than five days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.

(5) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(6) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(7) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among its members.

(b) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—

(1) REVIEW.—The Commission shall review current construction and maintenance projects and the medical facility leasing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to identify any problems experienced by the Department in carrying out such projects and program.

(2) REPORTS.—

(A) COMMISSION REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth recommendations, if any, for improving the manner in which the Secretary carries out the projects and program specified in paragraph (1).

(B) DEPARTMENT REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the submittal of the report under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the feasibility and advisability of implementing the recommendations of the Commission, if any, included in the report submitted under such subparagraph, including a timeline for the implementation of such recommendations.

(c) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this section.

(2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this section. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(d) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the du-

ties of the Commission. All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(3) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(B) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(5) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(e) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under subsection (b)(2)(A).

SEC. 403. COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO CARE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Commission on Access to Care (in this section referred to as the "Commission") to examine the access of veterans to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and strategically examine how best to organize the Veterans Health Administration, locate health care resources, and deliver health care to veterans during the 10- to 20-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Commission shall be composed of 10 voting members who are appointed by the President as follows:

(i) At least two members who represent an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

(ii) At least one member from among persons who have experience as senior management for a private integrated health care system with an annual gross revenue of more than \$50,000,000.

(iii) At least one member from among persons who are familiar with government health care systems, including those systems of the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service, and Federally-qualified health centers (as defined in section 1905(1)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(1)(2)(B))).

(iv) At least two members from among persons who are familiar with the Veterans Health Administration but are not current employees of the Veterans Health Administration.

(v) At least two members from among persons who are veterans or eligible for hospital care, medical services, or other health care under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(B) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to members appointed under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall be composed of 10 nonvoting members who are appointed by the President as follows:

(I) At least two members who represent an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

(II) At least one member from among persons who have experience as senior management for a private integrated health care system with an annual gross revenue of more than \$50,000,000.

(III) At least one member from among persons who are familiar with government health care systems, including those systems of the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service, and Federally-qualified health centers (as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2)(B))).

(IV) At least two members from among persons who are familiar with the Veterans Health Administration but are not current employees of the Veterans Health Administration.

(V) At least two members from among persons who are veterans or eligible for hospital care, medical services, or other health care under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(ii) **ADDITIONAL NONVOTING MEMBERS.**—In addition to members appointed under subparagraph (A) and clause (i), the Commission shall be composed of the following nonvoting members:

(I) The Comptroller General of the United States, or designee.

(II) The Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or designee.

(C) **DATE.**—The appointments of members of the Commission shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.**—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(4) **INITIAL MEETING.**—Not later than 15 days after the date on which seven voting members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.

(5) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(6) **QUORUM.**—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(7) **CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among its members.

(b) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—

(1) **EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT.**—The Commission shall undertake a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of access to health care at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) **MATTERS EVALUATED AND ASSESSED.**—The matters evaluated and assessed by the Commission shall include the following:

(A) The appropriateness of current standards of the Department of Veterans Affairs concerning access to health care.

(B) The measurement of such standards.

(C) The appropriateness of performance standards and incentives in relation to standards described in subparagraph (A).

(D) Staffing levels throughout the Veterans Health Administration and whether they are sufficient to meet current demand for health care from the Administration.

(E) The results of the assessment conducted by an independent third party under section

101(a), including any data or recommendations included in such assessment.

(3) **REPORTS.**—The Commission shall submit to the President, through the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, reports as follows:

(A) Not later than 90 days after the date of the initial meeting of the Commission, an interim report on—

(i) the findings of the Commission with respect to the evaluation and assessment required by this subsection; and

(ii) such recommendations as the Commission may have for legislative or administrative action to improve access to health care through the Veterans Health Administration.

(B) Not later than 180 days after the date of the initial meeting of the Commission, a final report on—

(i) the findings of the Commission with respect to the evaluation and assessment required by this subsection; and

(ii) such recommendations as the Commission may have for legislative or administrative action to improve access to health care through the Veterans Health Administration.

(c) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) **HEARINGS.**—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this section.

(2) **INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this section. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(d) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—Each member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission. All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(2) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter 1 of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(3) STAFF.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(B) **COMPENSATION.**—The Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(4) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and

such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(5) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.**—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(e) **TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.**—The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under subsection (b)(3)(B).

(f) **FUNDING.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make available to the Commission from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Secretary such amounts as the Secretary and the Chairperson of the Commission jointly consider appropriate for the Commission to perform its duties under this section.

(g) EXECUTIVE ACTION.—

(1) **ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The President shall require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and such other heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement each recommendation set forth in a report submitted under subsection (b)(3) that the President—

(A) considers feasible and advisable; and

(B) determines can be implemented without further legislative action.

(2) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the President receives a report under subsection (b)(3), the President shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and such other committees of Congress as the President considers appropriate a report setting forth the following:

(A) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of each recommendation contained in the report received by the President.

(B) For each recommendation assessed as feasible and advisable under subparagraph (A) the following:

(i) Whether such recommendation requires legislative action.

(ii) If such recommendation requires legislative action, a recommendation concerning such legislative action.

(iii) A description of any administrative action already taken to carry out such recommendation.

(iv) A description of any administrative action the President intends to be taken to carry out such recommendation and by whom.

SEC. 404. IMPROVED PERFORMANCE METRICS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF SCHEDULING AND WAIT-TIME METRICS IN DETERMINATION OF PERFORMANCE AWARDS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that scheduling and wait-time metrics or goals are not used as factors in determining the performance of the following employees for purposes of determining whether to pay performance awards to such employees:

(1) Directors, associate directors, assistant directors, deputy directors, chiefs of staff, and clinical leads of medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) Directors, assistant directors, and quality management officers of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) MODIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE PLANS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall modify the performance plans of the directors of the medical centers of the Department and the directors of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks to ensure that such

plans are based on the quality of care received by veterans at the health care facilities under the jurisdictions of such directors.

(2) **FACTORS.**—In modifying performance plans under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that assessment of the quality of care provided at health care facilities under the jurisdiction of a director described in paragraph (1) includes consideration of the following:

(A) Recent reviews by the Joint Commission (formerly known as the “Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations”) of such facilities.

(B) The number and nature of recommendations concerning such facilities by the Inspector General of the Department in reviews conducted through the Combined Assessment Program (CAP), in the reviews by the Inspector General of community based outpatient clinics and primary care clinics, and in reviews conducted through the Office of Healthcare Inspections during the two most recently completed fiscal years.

(C) The number of recommendations described in subparagraph (B) that the Inspector General of the Department determines have not been carried out satisfactorily with respect to such facilities.

(D) Reviews of such facilities by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

(E) The number and outcomes of administrative investigation boards, root cause analysis, and peer reviews conducted at such facilities during the fiscal year for which the assessment is being conducted.

(F) The effectiveness of any remedial actions or plans resulting from any Inspector General recommendations in the reviews and analyses described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

(3) **ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.**—To the degree practicable, the Secretary shall assess the performance of other employees of the Department in leadership positions at Department medical centers, including associate directors, assistant directors, deputy directors, chiefs of staff, and clinical leads, and in Veterans Integrated Service Networks, including assistant directors and quality management officers, using factors and criteria similar to those used in the performance plans modified under paragraph (1).

(c) **REMOVAL OF CERTAIN PERFORMANCE GOALS.**—For each fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall not include in the performance goals of any employee of a Veterans Integrated Service Network or medical center of the Department any performance goal that might disincentivize the payment of Department amounts to provide hospital care, medical services, or other health care through a non-Department provider.

SEC. 405. IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY CONCERNING HEALTH CARE PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **PUBLICATION OF WAIT TIMES.**—

(1) **GOALS.**—

(A) **INITIAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register, and on an Internet website accessible to the public of each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the wait-time goals of the Department for the scheduling of an appointment by a veteran for the receipt of health care from the Department.

(B) **SUBSEQUENT CHANGES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary modifies the wait-time goals described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall publish the new wait-times goals—

(1) on an Internet website accessible to the public of each medical center of the Department

not later than 30 days after such modification; and

(II) in the Federal Register not later than 90 days after such modification.

(ii) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Any modification under clause (i) shall take effect on the date of publication in the Federal Register.

(C) **GOALS DESCRIBED.**—Wait-time goals published under this paragraph shall include goals for primary care appointments, specialty care appointments, and appointments based on the general severity of the condition of the veteran.

(2) **WAIT TIMES AT MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish on an Internet website accessible to the public of each medical center of the Department the current wait time for an appointment for primary care and specialty care at the medical center.

(b) **PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DATABASE OF PATIENT SAFETY, QUALITY OF CARE, AND OUTCOME MEASURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and make available to the public a comprehensive database containing all applicable patient safety, quality of care, and outcome measures for health care provided by the Department that are tracked by the Secretary.

(2) **UPDATE FREQUENCY.**—The Secretary shall update the database required by paragraph (1) not less frequently than once each year.

(3) **UNAVAILABLE MEASURES.**—For all measures that the Secretary would otherwise publish in the database required by paragraph (1) but has not done so because such measures are not available, the Secretary shall publish notice in the database of the reason for such unavailability and a timeline for making such measures available in the database.

(4) **ACCESSIBILITY.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the database required by paragraph (1) is accessible to the public through the primary Internet website of the Department and through each primary Internet website of a Department medical center.

(c) **HOSPITAL COMPARE WEBSITE OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**—

(1) **AGREEMENT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the provision by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of such information as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may require to report and make publicly available patient quality and outcome information concerning Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers through the Hospital Compare Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services or any successor Internet website.

(2) **INFORMATION PROVIDED.**—The information provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Secretary of Health and Human Services under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Measures of timely and effective health care.

(B) Measures of readmissions, complications of death, including with respect to 30-day mortality rates and 30-day readmission rates, surgical complication measures, and health care related infection measures.

(C) Survey data of patient experiences, including the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems or any similar successor survey developed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

(D) Any other measures required of or reported with respect to hospitals participating in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(3) **UNAVAILABLE INFORMATION.**—For any applicable metric collected by the Department of Veterans Affairs or required to be provided under paragraph (2) and withheld from or unavailable in the Hospital Compare Internet website, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish a notice in the Federal Register stating the reason why such metric was withheld from public disclosure and a timeline for making such metric available, if applicable.

(d) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SAFETY AND QUALITY METRICS.**—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the safety and quality metrics made publicly available by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under this section to assess the degree to which the Secretary is complying with the provisions of this section.

SEC. 406. INFORMATION FOR VETERANS ON THE CREDENTIALS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PHYSICIANS.

(a) **IMPROVEMENT OF “OUR PROVIDERS” INTERNET WEBSITE LINKS.**—

(1) **AVAILABILITY THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOMEPAGE.**—A link to the “Our Providers” health care providers database of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any successor database, shall be available on and through the homepage of the Internet website of the Department that is accessible to the public.

(2) **INFORMATION ON LOCATION OF RESIDENCY TRAINING.**—The Internet website of the Department that is accessible to the public shall include under the link to the “Our Providers” health care providers database of the Department, or any successor database, the location of residency training of each licensed physician of the Department.

(3) **INFORMATION ON PHYSICIANS AT PARTICULAR FACILITIES.**—The “Our Providers” health care providers database of the Department, or any successor database, shall identify whether each licensed physician of the Department is a physician in residency.

(b) **INFORMATION ON CREDENTIALS OF PHYSICIANS FOR VETERANS UNDERGOING SURGICAL PROCEDURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each veteran who is undergoing a surgical procedure by or through the Department shall be provided information on the credentials of the surgeon to be performing such procedure at such time in advance of the procedure as is appropriate to permit such veteran to evaluate such information.

(2) **OTHER INDIVIDUALS.**—If a veteran is unable to evaluate the information provided under paragraph (1) due to the health or mental competence of the veteran, such information shall be provided to an individual acting on behalf of the veteran.

(c) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT AND PLAN.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth an assessment by the Comptroller General of the following:

(A) The manner in which contractors under the Patient-Centered Community Care initiative of the Department perform oversight of the credentials of physicians within the networks of such contractors under the initiative.

(B) The oversight by the Department of the contracts under the Patient-Centered Community Care initiative.

(C) The verification by the Department of the credentials and licenses of health care providers furnishing hospital care and medical services under section 301.

(2) PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the submittal of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(i) submit to the Comptroller General, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a plan to address any findings and recommendations of the Comptroller General included in such report; and

(ii) submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a request for additional amounts, if any, that may be necessary to carry out such plan.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after the submittal of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall carry out such plan.

SEC. 407. INFORMATION IN ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE PRESIDENT ON HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES FURNISHED THROUGH EXPANDED USE OF CONTRACTS FOR SUCH CARE.

The materials on the Department of Veterans Affairs in the budget of the President for a fiscal year, as submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall set forth the following:

(1) The number of veterans who received hospital care and medical services under section 301 during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which such budget is submitted.

(2) The amount expended by the Department on furnishing care and services under such section during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which such budget is submitted.

(3) The amount requested in such budget for the costs of furnishing care and services under such section during the fiscal year covered by such budget, set forth in aggregate and by amounts for each account for which amounts are so requested.

(4) The number of veterans that the Department estimates will receive hospital care and medical services under such section during the fiscal years covered by the budget submission.

(5) The number of employees of the Department on paid administrative leave at any point during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which such budget is submitted.

SEC. 408. PROHIBITION ON FALSIFICATION OF DATA CONCERNING WAIT TIMES AND QUALITY MEASURES AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and in accordance with title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish policies whereby any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who knowingly submits false data concerning wait times for health care or quality measures with respect to health care to another employee of the Department or knowingly requires another employee of the Department to submit false data concerning such wait times or quality measures to another employee of the Department is subject to a penalty the Secretary considers appropriate after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, including civil penalties, unpaid suspensions, or termination.

SEC. 409. REMOVAL OF SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR PERFORMANCE.

(a) REMOVAL OR TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§713. Senior Executive Service: removal based on performance

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may remove any individual from the Senior Executive Service if the Secretary determines the performance

of the individual warrants such removal. If the Secretary so removes such an individual, the Secretary may—

“(1) remove the individual from the civil service (as defined in section 2101 of title 5); or

“(2) transfer the individual to a General Schedule position at any grade of the General Schedule for which the individual is qualified and that the Secretary determines is appropriate.

“(b) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after removing or transferring an individual from the Senior Executive Service under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives notice in writing of such removal or transfer and the reason for such removal or transfer.

“(c) PROCEDURE.—(1) The procedures under section 7543 of title 5 shall not apply to a removal or transfer under this section.

“(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), any removal or transfer under subsection (a) may be appealed to the Merit Systems Protection Board under section 7701 of title 5.

“(B) An appeal under subparagraph (A) of a removal or transfer may only be made if such appeal is made not later than 7 days after the date of such removal or transfer.

“(d) EXPEDITED REVIEW BY MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD.—(1) The Merit Systems Protection Board shall expedite any appeal under section 7701 of title 5 of a removal or transfer under subsection (a) and, in any such case, shall issue a decision not later than 21 days after the date of the appeal.

“(2) In any case in which the Merit Systems Protection Board determines that it cannot issue a decision in accordance with the 21-day requirement under paragraph (1), the Merit Systems Protection Board shall submit to Congress a report that explains the reason why the Merit Systems Protection Board is unable to issue a decision in accordance with such requirement in such case.

“(3) There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the Merit Systems Protection Board to expedite appeals under paragraph (1).

“(4) The Merit Systems Protection Board may not stay any personnel action taken under this section.

“(5) A person who appeals under section 7701 of title 5 a removal under subsection (a)(1) may not receive any pay, awards, bonuses, incentives, allowances, differentials, student loan repayments, special payments, or benefits from the Secretary until the Merit Systems Protection Board has made a final decision on such appeal.

“(6) A decision made by the Merit Systems Protection Board with respect to a removal or transfer under subsection (a) shall not be subject to any further appeal.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item: “713. Senior Executive Service: removal based on performance.”

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPEDITED REVIEW PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Merit Systems Protection Board shall establish and put into effect a process to conduct expedited reviews in accordance with section 713(d) of title 38, United States Code.

(2) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN REGULATIONS.—Section 1201.22 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall not apply to expedited reviews carried out under section 713(d) of title 38, United States Code.

(3) REPORT BY MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD.—Not later than 30 days after the date of

the enactment of this Act, the Merit Systems Protection Board shall submit to Congress a report on the actions the Board plans to take to conduct expedited reviews under section 713(d) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a). Such report shall include a description of the resources the Board determines will be necessary to conduct such reviews and a description of whether any resources will be necessary to conduct such reviews that were not available to the Board on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN LIMITATION ON INITIATION OF REMOVAL FROM SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE.—During the 120-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, an action to remove an individual from the Senior Executive Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 713 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), or section 7543 of title 5, United States Code, may be initiated, notwithstanding section 3592(b) of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law.

(d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or section 713 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be construed to apply to an appeal of a removal, transfer, or other personnel action that was pending before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—HEALTH CARE RELATED TO SEXUAL TRAUMA

SEC. 501. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SEXUAL TRAUMA COUNSELING AND TREATMENT TO VETERANS ON INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING.

Section 1720D(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “or active duty for training” and inserting “, active duty for training, or inactive duty training”.

SEC. 502. PROVISION OF COUNSELING AND TREATMENT FOR SEXUAL TRAUMA BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) EXPANSION OF COVERAGE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—Subsection (a) of section 1720D of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

“(2)(A) In operating the program required by paragraph (1), the Secretary may, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, provide counseling and care and services to members of the Armed Forces (including members of the National Guard and Reserves) on active duty to overcome psychological trauma described in that paragraph.

“(B) A member described in subparagraph (A) shall not be required to obtain a referral before receiving counseling and care and services under this paragraph.”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), as predesignated by paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “a veteran” and inserting “an individual”; and

(B) by striking “that veteran” each place it appears and inserting “that individual”.

(b) INFORMATION TO MEMBERS ON AVAILABILITY OF COUNSELING AND SERVICES.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “to veterans” each place it appears; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by inserting “members of the Armed Forces and” before “individuals”.

(c) INCLUSION OF MEMBERS IN REPORTS ON COUNSELING AND SERVICES.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “to veterans”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “women veterans” and inserting “individuals”; and

(B) by striking “training under subsection (d).” and inserting “training under subsection (d), desegregated by—

“(A) veterans;

“(B) members of the Armed Forces (including members of the National Guard and Reserves) on active duty; and

“(C) for each of subparagraphs (A) and (B)—

“(i) men; and

“(ii) women.”;

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking “veterans” and inserting “individuals”; and

(4) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking “women veterans” and inserting “individuals”; and

(B) by inserting “, including specific recommendations for individuals specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (2)” before the period at the end.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 503. REPORTS ON MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.

(a) REPORT ON SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Not later than 630 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the treatment and services available from the Department of Veterans Affairs for male veterans who experience military sexual trauma compared to such treatment and services available to female veterans who experience military sexual trauma.

(b) REPORTS ON TRANSITION OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA TREATMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Not later than 630 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the Department of Veterans Affairs—Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee established by section 320(a) of title 38, United States Code, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on military sexual trauma that includes the following:

(1) The processes and procedures utilized by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to facilitate transition of treatment of individuals who have experienced military sexual trauma from treatment provided by the Department of Defense to treatment provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) A description and assessment of the collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense in assisting veterans in filing claims for disabilities related to military sexual trauma, including permitting veterans access to information and evidence necessary to develop or support such claims.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term “military sexual trauma” means psychological trauma, which in the judgment of a mental health professional employed by the Department, resulted from a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment which occurred while the veteran

was serving on active duty or active duty for training.

(3) SEXUAL HARASSMENT.—The term “sexual harassment” means repeated, unsolicited verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature which is threatening in character.

(4) SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term “sexual trauma” shall have the meaning given that term by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for purposes of this section.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE VI—MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES

SEC. 601. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility leases at the locations specified, and in an amount for each lease not to exceed the amount shown for such location (not including any estimated cancellation costs):

(1) For a clinical research and pharmacy coordinating center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, an amount not to exceed \$9,560,000.

(2) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Brick, New Jersey, an amount not to exceed \$7,280,000.

(3) For a new primary care and dental clinic annex, Charleston, South Carolina, an amount not to exceed \$7,070,250.

(4) For the Cobb County community-based Outpatient Clinic, Cobb County, Georgia, an amount not to exceed \$6,409,000.

(5) For the Leeward Outpatient Healthcare Access Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, including a co-located clinic with the Department of Defense and the co-location of the Honolulu Regional Office of the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Capel Vet Center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, an amount not to exceed \$15,887,370.

(6) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Johnson County, Kansas, an amount not to exceed \$2,263,000.

(7) For a replacement community-based outpatient clinic, Lafayette, Louisiana, an amount not to exceed \$2,996,000.

(8) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Lake Charles, Louisiana, an amount not to exceed \$2,626,000.

(9) For outpatient clinic consolidation, New Port Riche, Florida, an amount not to exceed \$11,927,000.

(10) For an outpatient clinic, Ponce, Puerto Rico, an amount not to exceed \$11,535,000.

(11) For lease consolidation, San Antonio, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$19,426,000.

(12) For a community-based outpatient clinic, San Diego, California, an amount not to exceed \$11,946,100.

(13) For an outpatient clinic, Tyler, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$4,327,000.

(14) For the Arere Community Care Center, West Haven, Connecticut, an amount not to exceed \$4,883,000.

(15) For the Worcester community-based Outpatient Clinic, Worcester, Massachusetts, an amount not to exceed \$4,855,000.

(16) For the expansion of a community-based outpatient clinic, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, an amount not to exceed \$4,232,060.

(17) For a multi specialty clinic, Chattanooga, Tennessee, an amount not to exceed \$7,069,000.

(18) For the expansion of a community-based outpatient clinic, Chico, California, an amount not to exceed \$4,534,000.

(19) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Chula Vista, California, an amount not to exceed \$3,714,000.

(20) For a new research lease, Haines, Illinois, an amount not to exceed \$22,032,000.

(21) For a replacement research lease, Houston, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$6,142,000.

(22) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Lincoln, Nebraska, an amount not to exceed \$7,178,400.

(23) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Lubbock, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$8,554,000.

(24) For a community-based outpatient clinic consolidation, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, an amount not to exceed \$8,022,000.

(25) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Phoenix, Arizona, an amount not to exceed \$20,757,000.

(26) For the expansion of a community-based outpatient clinic, Redding, California, an amount not to exceed \$8,154,000.

SEC. 602. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITIES LEASES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Title 31, United States Code, requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to record the full cost of its contractual obligation against funds available at the time a contract is executed.

(2) Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11 provides guidance to agencies in meeting the statutory requirements under title 31, United States Code, with respect to leases.

(3) For operating leases, Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11 requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to record up-front budget authority in an “amount equal to total payments under the full term of the lease or [an] amount sufficient to cover first year lease payments plus cancellation costs”.

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR OBLIGATION OF FULL COST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations provided in advance, in exercising the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into leases provided in this Act, the Secretary shall record, pursuant to section 1501 of title 31, United States Code, as the full cost of the contractual obligation at the time a contract is executed either—

(A) an amount equal to total payments under the full term of the lease; or

(B) if the lease specifies payments to be made in the event the lease is terminated before its full term, an amount sufficient to cover the first year lease payments plus the specified cancellation costs.

(2) SELF-INSURING AUTHORITY.—The requirements of paragraph (1) may be satisfied through the use of a self-insuring authority consistent with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11.

(c) TRANSPARENCY.—

(1) COMPLIANCE.—Subsection (b) of section 8104 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) In the case of a prospectus proposing funding for a major medical facility lease, a detailed analysis of how the lease is expected to comply with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11 and section 1341 of title 31 (commonly referred to as the ‘Anti-Deficiency Act’). Any such analysis shall include—

“(A) an analysis of the classification of the lease as a ‘lease-purchase’, ‘capital lease’, or ‘operating lease’ as those terms are defined in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11;

“(B) an analysis of the obligation of budgetary resources associated with the lease; and

“(C) an analysis of the methodology used in determining the asset cost, fair market value, and cancellation costs of the lease.”.

(2) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Such section 8104 is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h)(1) Not less than 30 days before entering into a major medical facility lease, the Secretary

shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives—

“(A) notice of the Secretary's intention to enter into the lease;

“(B) a detailed summary of the proposed lease;

“(C) a description and analysis of any differences between the prospectus submitted pursuant to subsection (b) and the proposed lease; and

“(D) a scoring analysis demonstrating that the proposed lease fully complies with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11.

“(2) Each committee described in paragraph (1) shall ensure that any information submitted to the committee under such paragraph is treated by the committee with the same level of confidentiality as is required by law of the Secretary and subject to the same statutory penalties for unauthorized disclosure or use as the Secretary.

“(3) Not more than 30 days after entering into a major medical facility lease, the Secretary shall submit to each committee described in paragraph (1) a report on any material differences between the lease that was entered into and the proposed lease described under such paragraph, including how the lease that was entered into changes the previously submitted scoring analysis described in subparagraph (D) of such paragraph.”

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed to in any way relieve the Department of Veterans Affairs from any statutory or regulatory obligations or requirements existing prior to the enactment of this section and such amendments.

TITLE VII—VETERANS BENEFITS MATTERS

SEC. 701. EXPANSION OF MARINE GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHN DAVID FRY SCHOLARSHIP.

(a) **EXPANSION OF ENTITLEMENT.**—Subsection (b)(9) of section 3311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or spouse” after “child”.

(b) **LIMITATION AND ELECTION ON CERTAIN BENEFITS.**—Subsection (f) of such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

“(2) **LIMITATION.**—The entitlement of an individual to assistance under subsection (a) pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection (b) because the individual was a spouse of a person described in such paragraph shall expire on the earlier of—

“(A) the date that is 15 years after the date on which the person died; and

“(B) the date on which the individual remarries.

“(3) **ELECTION ON RECEIPT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS.**—A surviving spouse entitled to assistance under subsection (a) pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection (b) who is also entitled to educational assistance under chapter 35 of this title may not receive assistance under both this section and such chapter, but shall make an irrevocable election (in such form and manner as the Secretary may prescribe) under which section or chapter to receive educational assistance.”

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 3321(b)(4) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking “an individual” and inserting “a child”; and

(2) by striking “such individual's” each time it appears and inserting “such child's”.

SEC. 702. APPROVAL OF COURSES OF EDUCATION PROVIDED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR PURPOSES OF ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE CONDITIONAL ON IN-STATE TUITION RATE FOR VETERANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and subject to paragraphs (3) through (6), the Secretary shall disapprove a course of education provided by a public institution of higher learning to a covered individual pursuing a course of education with educational assistance under chapter 30 or 33 of this title while living in the State in which the public institution of higher learning is located if the institution charges tuition and fees for that course for the covered individual at a rate that is higher than the rate the institution charges for tuition and fees for that course for residents of the State in which the institution is located, regardless of the covered individual's State of residence.

“(2) For purposes of this subsection, a covered individual is any individual as follows:

“(A) A veteran who was discharged or released from a period of not fewer than 90 days of service in the active military, naval, or air service less than three years before the date of enrollment in the course concerned.

“(B) An individual who is entitled to assistance under section 3311(b)(9) or 3319 of this title by virtue of such individual's relationship to a veteran described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) If after enrollment in a course of education that is subject to disapproval under paragraph (1) by reason of paragraph (2)(A) or (2)(B) a covered individual pursues one or more courses of education at the same public institution of higher learning while remaining continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters or terms) at that institution of higher learning, any course so pursued by the covered individual at that institution of higher learning while so continuously enrolled shall also be subject to disapproval under paragraph (1).

“(4) It shall not be grounds to disapprove a course of education under paragraph (1) if a public institution of higher learning requires a covered individual pursuing a course of education at the institution to demonstrate an intent, by means other than satisfying a physical presence requirement, to establish residency in the State in which the institution is located, or to satisfy other requirements not relating to the establishment of residency, in order to be charged tuition and fees for that course at a rate that is equal to or less than the rate the institution charges for tuition and fees for that course for residents of the State.

“(5) The Secretary may waive such requirements of paragraph (1) as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(6) Disapproval under paragraph (1) shall apply only with respect to educational assistance under chapters 30 and 33 of this title.”

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Subsection (c) of section 3679 of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section), shall apply with respect to educational assistance provided for pursuit of programs of education during academic terms that begin after July 1, 2015, through courses of education that commence on or after that date.

TITLE VIII—APPROPRIATION AND EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS

SEC. 801. APPROPRIATION OF EMERGENCY AMOUNTS.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, to the Secretary of Veterans Af-

fairs, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 802. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(b) **DESIGNATION IN SENATE.**—In the Senate, this Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we will have one or two rollcall votes starting at 4 p.m. this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, we have not completed this legislation, and we may be subject to a budget point of order. It is not clear yet whether there will be one, but according to this unanimous consent agreement, there will be no amendments filed prior to a vote on final passage either with or without a budget point of order being considered by the body. We will have time between now and then to have an indepth discussion of the provisions of this legislation.

In the meantime, I thank the Senator from Vermont for his willingness to make very difficult compromises. I also thank many of my colleagues who have forgone the amending process in order that we may expedite this legislation, which if there is a definition for emergency, I would say this legislation fits that appellation. It is an emergency. What is happening to our veterans and the men and women who have served this country needs to be addressed, and we need to pass this legislation and get it to conference with the House as soon as possible.

I especially mention two people who are really responsible for this legislation, and I say—with not typical modesty—that they were the ones who were really responsible for the provisions of this bill; that is, Senator BURR, ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Senator COBURN, whom I view, in many respects, as the conscience of the Senate. Those two individuals were largely responsible for this legislation, and I am obviously very proud to be a part of it.

Again, we will have time to discuss this legislation, but I extend my appreciation to the Senator from Vermont whose chairmanship of the Veterans' Affairs Committee has been conducted with patriotism and with the needs of our veterans uppermost in his priorities.

I thank the Senator from Vermont, and I look forward to our passing this legislation and getting it to conference in as short a period of time as is possible so we can bring it back to this body and then to the President's desk for signature.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, the Senator from Arizona has been too modest. He deserves a great deal of credit for stepping to the plate when we needed him to step to the plate. He understands that we have an emergency, and it is imperative that the veterans of this country get quality care in a timely manner. He and I were both determined to make sure that something happened.

I thank Senator MCCAIN and his staff for their hard work on this bill. We will discuss this issue more on the floor. He was absolutely right when he said that we have an emergency. We have to pass this legislation today. We have to get it to conference as soon as possible, and we have to get a good bill on the President's desk next week.

Again, I thank Senator MCCAIN.

With that I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I come to the floor of the Senate to speak about an issue that is of urgent concern to me and should be of urgent concern to all of us. That issue is global warming or climate change.

This is a personal issue for me. As the father of three, along with any other parent, my kids are never far from my mind and my heart. This is true for me as a father as well as a Senator, where every day I have to ask the question: What kind of example am I setting? What kind of a world are my actions going to lead to? What sort of a world will I leave my children, and will it be better than the one my parents left to me?

Last summer I experienced one of the great joys of parenthood—a family trip. My wife Annie and I took our three children Maggie, Michael, and Jack on a visit to one of our Nation's most spectacular places: the mountains and glaciers of Glacier National Park in Montana. There was one hike in particular on our summer trip that I will never forget. It was our hike up to visit historic Grinnell Glacier. If we had taken this hike more than 60 years ago, here is what we would have seen, as this picture shows: mountains deep in glaciers, thick with ice and snow, covered in the glaciers that gave this national park its name. Yet last year as we took a long and winding hike up the trails, we came up and over the last rise, and what we saw was noticeably different—strikingly so—because most

of what is left of the iconic Grinnell Glacier in the summer is a chilly pool of water in a largely empty valley pool. We can see the difference in these two pictures, and this is just in one lifetime.

Since 1966, Grinnell Glacier has lost half its total acreage, and as we continue to warm our planet, these changes will only accelerate. My children—our children—will not just lose the chance to see beautiful glaciers and an iconic national park but the chance to live in a world as robust and safe and healthy and vibrant as the one their parents were born into. As our global population keeps growing toward 9 billion and developing nations keep seeking higher living standards and climate change accelerates, this is the foundational challenge of the 21st century.

Climate change impacts everything: human health, agriculture, national security, migration patterns for animals and fish and birds. As parents and as a nation, I think it is our responsibility, our challenge, and our opportunity to lead the way, to show that prosperity does not need to mean doom for our future.

I also think in my view that, simply put, there is no alternative to action. The world where we don't act isn't a world of vibrant economic growth, it is a world with more frequent and extreme natural disasters, with increased droughts and famine, with displaced populations and cities—even regions and in a few cases even nations—plunged under water.

I represent the lowest mean elevation State in America, the State of Delaware. It has been documented in a broad study led by our Governor's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control that rising sea levels could put up to 11 percent of my home State of Delaware under water by the end of the century. We know these changes are coming. They are slow. They are gradual. They are cumulative. At times they are hard to perceive, but they have already started and will only get more extreme and more expensive the longer we wait to act. The cost of our inaction will be borne by our children and generations to come.

We are not the only ones seeing these impacts, and although the debate over science raged for many years, and I think is settled, I have also had an opportunity to hear from folks who live well outside the Western scientific world but have a profound insight into what these impacts are and how they are seen in the world.

Several years ago, along with the senior Senator, a friend of mine, our President pro tempore, Senator LEAHY, I visited the Kogi tribe in the remote Santa Marta Mountains of Colombia. These equatorial mountains have massive glaciers up at the very top of very

high mountains but are also right at the edge of the Caribbean Sea. The folks who make up this pre-Colombian tribe, the Kogi tribe, don't have sophisticated technology that monitors and tracks climate change, but as they sat with us they shared with us what they see as starkly as our best weather-monitoring satellites. By observing changes in migratory patterns and weather and the snowpack on the glacial mountains they worship, they see, more every year, that there is a fundamental change happening in our environment, in our climate. Their purpose in calling us to meet with them was to warn us that climate change is impacting the way of life that has passed down from generation to generation for centuries in their people, and it has moved them to speak out to the world, to tell their story, and to urge the rest of us not to hurt Mother Earth and to understand the consequences of the changes we are making.

Whether the voices we listen to come from our own children, from our science community or from remote corners of the world, all of them call us to act, to act in a way that prevents the worst from happening and to ensure that the benefits outweigh the costs.

This isn't just wild-eyed or rosy thinking. It is possible for us to make meaningful change in a bipartisan way. We have done it before. Back in 1990, when acid rain was a real and pressing challenge that was threatening the vitality and the vibrancy of many of the lakes and the mountain places in the American West, I remember well that under then-Republican President George H.W. Bush, Congress came together in a bipartisan way and passed the Clean Air Act amendments. These were designed to reduce the contributing elements to acid rain: powerplant emissions that produce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide that in combination caused acid rain, damaging historic property, monuments, injuring forests and lakes and ecosystems all over our country.

So Congress came together to create a novel, market-based, flexible cap-and-trade program that allowed powerplants to find cost-effective alternatives, solutions to limit pollution. Rather than tanking our economy, that cap-and-trade plan to fight acid rain ended up finding new ways to power our country and to improve energy efficiency without so much pollution. We adapted, we changed, and in some ways we thrived.

As a study done 13 years later shows, those standards adopted in 1990 have saved lives at a cost well worth it: \$70 billion in health benefits every year, cumulatively, compared to \$1.7 billion in costs—a 40-to-1 tradeoff that I think most Americans would take any day of the week as a return on their investment.

More recently, in my own State of Delaware and eight of our northeastern neighbors, we showed how we can act together to begin to curb climate change and grow our economies at the same time. In 2003, a bipartisan group of regional leaders, this time led by New York State's Republican Gov. George Pataki, built a regional cap-and-trade system, similar to the Acid Rain Prevention Program I just referenced. But the one in our region was called the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI for short. It is flexible, market-based, and it has been effective. States choose to cut pollution in a number of ways, from closing older coal-fired powerplants or opening renewable energy projects to investing in important and valuable energy efficiency.

As the *New York Times* reported just last week, since that program started in 2009, our economies in these regional States have actually grown more than the 41 other States that are not part of RGGI—by several percentage points—while we have cut our emissions over four times more than the rest of the Nation.

We have created jobs, we have invested in innovation, we have cut pollution, and we saved millions of families money on their energy bills. That is why I think we should feel optimistic about the important steps the administration has just taken. The President's strong standards for vehicle fuel efficiency were a great start. At first many argued that pushing car companies to make cleaner, more efficient cars would end up costing a huge amount of money with little to show for it. But the opposite has happened.

We set more aggressive national standards. Engineers have gotten to work. They have innovated. They have invented. America's leading car companies have met the challenge, and the improvement in fuel efficiency has been dramatic. Although there is a cost in upfront research and development, it is well worth it, as drivers save money at the pump, America becomes less dependent on foreign oil, and we all get to breathe cleaner air.

Just last week the Obama administration took another step and proposed our Nation's first rules to limit carbon pollution from existing powerplants. Although they will not be finalized for another year, these limits represent the most significant action that any country has taken to halt the devastating warming of our planet.

They will have real and lasting health benefits. By cutting powerplant pollution over the next 15 years, we will be able to prevent 100,000 asthma attacks in children, 2,100 heart attacks, and thousands of premature deaths. That will mean nearly 500,000 fewer missed days of school and work and will save \$7 in health costs for every \$1 required of new investment.

Over the long term, curbing climate change will make large, lasting, and meaningful differences—from reduced hunger and heat waves, to reducing the spread of infectious diseases or conflicts over scarce resources.

Cynics will argue that even with these limits we will not stop climate change, and that is true. They will point out that renewable energy technology is not yet ready to fully replace fossil fuels. They will say that America acting alone cannot solve the problem, and that is true. We need global action, especially from large developing nations such as China and India that are on pace to pollute the most going forward.

As an exercise in cynicism, they get a lot of things wrong. These rules alone, yes, will not halt our rising seas. But, then again, no one is claiming they will alone. But they are a crucial step, and we owe it to posterity, to our country, to our future to take what action we can to send a powerful signal to America's entrepreneurs and engineers, our innovators and inventors, that this is a challenge we intend to take on. By acting now, we can begin to birth the innovations that will be at the heart of our planet's clean energy future.

Innovation in America has never stood still. We have done incredible things that even a few years before we might not have predicted. Remember, just a few years ago, natural gas prices were volatile, unreliable, and solar power was too expensive for most households. Yet in just the last few years new technologies have flipped those on their head and we are seeing remarkable changes. Solar prices have fallen 60 percent in just the last 3 years, and natural gas is today cheaper than coal. There are dramatic changes in our energy future going on because of a huge resurgence in natural gas production in this country. We have every reason to believe that by focusing our greatest minds on this challenge, American ingenuity can change and even save the world.

If the United States is going to lead the 21st century, we have to be at the forefront of combating climate change. Although we know meeting this challenge will take global action, the United States needs to lead the way. This is our responsibility. We cannot expect other poor nations to act if a leading, wealthy nation such as the United States is not willing to take even the most minimal responsible actions. We are the second largest polluter of greenhouse gases on the planet, only just eclipsed by the Chinese in the last decade.

For more than a century our economic growth and our strong middle class—built on American industry and innovation—made us the envy of the world, but they have also contributed to putting our planet in a dangerous position.

As developing nations work to lift hundreds of millions of people out of desperate poverty, they are looking at us to show that it is possible. Also, a great but urgent opportunity here lies before us. We have a moral obligation to lead because others are looking at competing examples and are not waiting around.

China, our greatest economic competitor, now and into the future, is itself choking on the byproducts of coal and investing heavily in cleaner air and cleaner energy. The country that figures out how to prosper without deadly pollution is the country that will dominate the technologies that our world uses and depends on in the decades to come. Are we really going to miss out on this chance to be the country that makes the clean cars, the clean powerplants, the clean technologies of the future? I hope not.

We in Congress have the opportunity and the obligation to pull together and to act responsibly as well. We can pass the bipartisan Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill today, create great jobs, and make it easy for families to spend less on energy and save money while doing it. We can put clean energy on a level playing field by passing the bipartisan Master Limited Partnership Parity Act, of which I am a cosponsor, to stop giving coal, oil, and natural gas a leg up without an even playing field for renewables and energy efficiency. We can invest in the research that will unlock the energy innovations of the future.

These are actions we could take today. There will be costs. But if we act now, they will be far outweighed by the benefits today and into the future. If we wait, these costs will only grow.

I understand this is a difficult issue politically for us to take on. Many of the most dire consequences of global warming are still into the future. As I know, as a person who struggles to make long-term, delayed decisions—whether it is investing for retirement or losing the weight my doctor keeps suggesting would help improve my long-term health—humans are not really good at taking the small but powerful steps today that over time will lead to a healthier, more secure future. Even if the costs are low, when the benefits are farther out, it is so hard for us to take action.

What will we say—what will we say—when our children ask, what did we do, when the science was clear, when the options were before us, and when we had the chance? Just as we rightly worry in this Chamber about the financial debts we are going to leave to future generations, leaving this debt, leaving the burdens of unaddressed, unresolved global warming and climate change to our children and future generations is a debt too deep for us not to address.

We are in danger—if we do not act—of leaving behind not only a worse off

world but of leaving ourselves a future where we cannot look our children in the eye and say that we stepped up to the greatest global challenge of this century.

What will it mean when my own daughter, at some point in the future, goes to Glacier National Park with her future family? Will it even have glaciers? How will she explain to them how that amazing national park has changed? And what will she say about what this Senate and her own father did to take action? It is my hope, my prayer, that on that future trip they will reflect on how we found the will, how we found the determination, to act together to change the trajectory of our future and to save it for everyone's future.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I rise today to express my disappointment that earlier today this Chamber could not even proceed to the consideration of the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. This would have allowed those with outstanding student loan debt to refinance at the lower interest rates currently offered to new borrowers. This is deeply disappointing to me, and it should be to the American public—that we could not even get on to the bill to debate it.

This is why it is particularly disappointing: Our Nation's young people and their families are burdened with extraordinary debt—\$1.2 trillion of student loan debt. This exceeds the aggregate—the total—auto loan, credit card, and home equity debt balances in America, making student loans the second largest debt of U.S. households, following mortgages.

Today, the average student graduates from college with around \$29,000 in loans. In New Jersey, that is up from an average of \$27,600 in 2011 and \$23,792 in 2010. More than 16 percent of my constituents now have student debt. That is over 1 million New Jerseyans who are weighed down by a significant financial obligation that limits the amount of money they are able to put back into the economy—in buying homes and in investing in their futures, in pursuing their American dream.

Reduced purchasing power due to high student loan debts not only holds back a family's day-to-day spending but it keeps them from making those large investments.

I believe it is irresponsible and shortsighted for us to think that we can saddle young people—the true engines of our economy—with this burden and maintain our position as the world's most powerful economy.

Historically, the United States has done things differently. We were the leader in expanding college opportunity. From the GI bill following World War II to Pell grants in 1980, we have taken bold steps to ensure that Americans have access to college regardless of their ability to pay their way entirely on their own. We created these programs because we understood that an educated workforce is essential to our Nation's economic competitiveness. The most valuable natural resource any nation on the planet has is the genius and mental acuity of its people. Without highly skilled workers, without trained minds, without that opportunity that comes with higher education, America simply will not be able to compete as well in the global economy.

The cost of college in America puts our young people at a disadvantage compared to their peers. We are not leading; we are lagging. These obstacles to a college education deny a level playing field. We are disadvantaging our young people in their fight to compete and lead against other nations that are doing so much more.

Take this important data point: More than 51 percent of the median income is the cost of college in the United States, while the cost of college in Germany is just 4.3 percent of that country's income. In Canada it is about 5 percent. In England it is about 6 percent. Compare that to us—51 percent of median income in the United States. It is less than 7 percent in Canada, in England, in Germany—our competitors.

We should be doing everything in our power to encourage forthcoming generations to pursue higher education so that we do not slide further in global rankings and compromise our ability to compete. Where we used to lead the globe in percentage of population with a college education, now we lag. We cannot be the leading economy if we are the lagging nation in education.

I commend my colleagues, including Senators HARKIN, REED, WARREN, and GILLIBRAND, who have been so active even before I came to this body in calling attention to this issue. I urge my colleagues to step up and be a part of preserving this grand American tradition of college access, which is so essential to the other grand tradition in our Nation of social mobility, that no matter where you are born, no matter what your economic status, no matter what your color or your creed, this is the Nation where, if you have grit and toughness, discipline and hard work, you can make it. We are a country that will remove those obstacles and allow genius to be made manifest.

I hope we can begin to get bills like this that are so common sense—this idea that we can refinance student debt—to the point where we can discuss the bills on the floor and they can escape the trap of the filibuster.

TRUCK SAFETY

Before yielding the floor, I wish to take this moment to express my deepest condolences to the family of victims involved in a tragic tractor trailer accident Saturday night on the New Jersey Turnpike. My thoughts and prayers go out to the several individuals who were injured in the crash. I obviously wish them a full recovery.

We owe many thanks to the emergency personnel who responded to this weekend's accident and countless others who worked tirelessly along our highways to keep them safe. During times like these, though, we must ask ourselves whether this tragedy and so many others in New Jersey and across our Nation along our highways could have been prevented with common sense. It is too early to tell, but I am grateful to the National Transportation Safety Board for investigating this particular accident thoroughly. I eagerly await their findings, but in the meantime, it is worth reviewing what we do know.

Larger and heavier trucks cause greater damage when collisions occur. It is just physics. That is why there are rules governing truck size and weight limitations on our highways. I have concerns about any attempts to increase truck size and weight limits. I hope that sound data and science will inform our decisions, the decisions this body must make on that issue.

Another major highway problem—one that I know is affecting the lives of families from coast to coast—is the problem with driver fatigue. Studies show that fatigue contributes to 30 to 40 percent of all major accidents—all major truck accidents. Thirty to forty percent of truck accidents are contributed to by fatigue. When drivers do not get enough rest, when they are more tired, they are much more likely to get into an accident. That is why there are limitations in place on the number of hours truckdrivers may work in any given week. I am concerned about any efforts to weaken those rules, which would allow people to push the limit of human exhaustion even further and would therefore create an environment where more accidents are possible.

The bottom line is that truck accidents and the deaths and injuries caused by them are actually increasing in America. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to take a serious look at what we can do to improve the safety of our highways.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I come to the floor today as we get ready

to vote on the veterans bill to make several points and would like to begin by commending Senators SANDERS and MCCAIN. They have obviously acted quickly. They have acted responsibly. They are taking up some of the most extraordinary concerns that really have come to light in the last few weeks regarding the access our veterans have to medical care.

I think it would be fair to say that every single Senator—every Senator—is grateful for the immeasurable sacrifices veterans make for the Nation. These are men and women who give up years of their lives to serve our country and willingly head into harm's way. They suffer physical and mental wounds all too often. Many of the veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—and I have seen this in my home State—have volunteered for three, four, and five tours of duty.

What is undisputable is this: The Senate understands that when our veterans come home, the health care services they receive must be second to none. I believe that strongly. I believe it is a concern widely shared here in the Senate. That is why the reports of long wait times and falsified records are so appalling.

The VA audit that came out this week showed, for example, how hard veterans in my home State of Oregon have been hit. More than 3,000 Oregon veterans could not be seen by a doctor within 90 days at the Portland VA facility, and nearly 3,500 faced the same wait times at the Roseberg VA facility. Many Oregon veterans who rely on the Boise and Walla Walla facilities got similar treatment. Moreover, an investigation is underway to determine how things deteriorated so rapidly. It is pretty obvious that these kinds of findings are inexcusable and they are unconscionable.

Veterans deserve the best. Senators SANDERS and MCCAIN deserve credit for working in a bipartisan way—a way that is too rare here in Washington, DC—to address this challenge. It is never easy to work in a bipartisan way. I commend them.

I wish to also raise today one part of the bill that I believe has to be resolved and can be resolved before the legislation gets to the President's desk. The legislation currently directs many of our veterans to Medicare's doctors and specialists. At first glance that might not raise questions, but I wanted to bring up the possibility of some unintended consequences.

Right now there is a mandated 2-percent cut on payments for Medicare services because of across-the-board sequestration. That is still in effect. However, that particular spending cut, that spending reduction, does not apply to treatment for veterans. So, in effect—and I know this was completely unintended—this could create an incentive for physicians—we already do not

have enough of them caring for seniors who rely on Medicare—it could create an incentive for doctors to take the veteran patients over our Nation's seniors. I think no Senator wants that to happen. I have talked about this with Chairman SANDERS and with Senator MCCAIN, and they certainly do not want that false choice. I think it would be fair to say that no one wants to see seniors pitted against veterans. All Senators want the best possible care for both our older people and our veterans.

The problem, however—and all Senators are familiar with this—Medicare patients often are already waiting in line to see their doctors. In fact, many of the under-performing VA facilities are located in communities that have difficulty meeting the current demand for care. This is especially true in some medical fields that are absolutely crucial for our veterans, particularly primary care and mental health.

It is important to note that the other body—the House—has picked up on an idea that I and others have advanced in order to resolve this matter. So this is an opportunity for the Senate and the House, in a bipartisan way, to work together. I have talked to leaders of the veterans committee in the House. My sense is that we now have the House fully supportive of a way to resolve this issue and ensure that despite the fact that the veterans funds are not sequestered and the seniors funds—the Medicare funds—are, there would be a way to resolve this, and that would simply be to stipulate that any credentialed provider could contract with the VA to treat veterans. That way, in effect, we would ensure that both seniors and veterans would get the care they need. In effect, it would put the Senate and the other body on the same wavelength.

It is a simple fix. We just allow our veterans to meet with any licensed clinical provider, not just the Medicare provider.

In closing, I commend again Chairman SANDERS and Senator MCCAIN for first-rate work, accomplished at truly land-speed record timing.

As chairman of the Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction and a long history with respect to Medicare, I want them and our colleagues in the other body to know the Finance Committee is very anxious to work with all concerned to make sure the final version of this legislation—the bill we hope goes to the President's desk as soon as possible—addresses what is best for both veterans and seniors.

I am confident that by working together—Democrats and Republicans in the Senate and the House—we can achieve that resolution before the bill gets to the President's desk.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I rise to express my disappointment in today's earlier vote, that we weren't able to pass the student refinancing legislation.

I thank my colleague Senator WARREN for sponsoring that bill and for my colleagues who did support it. I hope we will have a chance to bring up this legislation again, get bipartisan support, and get it passed.

We can agree education is the gateway to opportunity. I was first in my family to go to college and went to school with the help of financial aid, and I know how important it is to many in the State of Washington that we help them make education more affordable.

Student debt in this Nation quadrupled over the past 10 years, so the total amount of debt is \$1.2 trillion. Many students in my State are anxious about this situation and they want to do something about it.

Over the past 4 years student debt has even surpassed credit card debt. So when we think about that, the fact that student debt is enough to pay every American's credit card balance and still have \$450 billion left over tells us how much debt is being accumulated on behalf of students just to get an education, just to basically make their way in a changing economy.

We do live in an information age, and it means that everybody having a good base education and being able to adapt—as new information comes along that changes industry—is going to be critically important.

The fact that student debt is now the second source of personal debt in America, only behind mortgages, puts a drag on our economy. Those who are suffering under this are real individuals.

We just had a roundtable in the State of Washington last weekend with some of the best and brightest at the University of Washington. These students talked about how they were trying to invest in their own skills so they could advance in their education, and many of the stories they told were not out of the ordinary, but I think it is something we don't think about.

In a lot of these cases, these individuals were talking about how they were trying to get an education. Other people in their family, their brothers and sisters, were trying to get an education, and their parents were also trying to upgrade their skills, because in an information age economy, that is what happens, everybody has to upgrade their skills.

So these students are trying to do everything. But I was truly moved by one student who said: I have a debt that seems to be the size of a mortgage for me, but I don't have a house that goes along with it.

He was trying to say: I am coming out of college with incredible debt and

how am I going to even afford the basic things people look forward to—maybe not right after graduation but as they start their careers and start to move forward. These are individuals who contribute to our economy. They buy cars, they buy homes, everything. But this individual, a graduate of Central Washington University, told me he pays the same amount for rent as he does for student loans every month.

In Washington State the average student borrower owes more than \$23,000 before they graduate. That is an increase of 22 percent over the last 5 years, \$4,000 for the average student borrower at the University of Washington.

So over the next weeks thousands of students in Washington State will walk across and get their diploma, but when they accept this diploma and go into the world of opportunity, they will also be going with a lot of debt. We also heard from another student at the University of Washington, how at this point in her career, as she graduates, the debt will be almost \$100,000. She wants to pursue a career, but when she thinks about how much she has to pay on that student loan, that is going to affect that. In fact, during her time at the University of Washington there were points at which she worked 60 hours a week. I don't know how anybody can continue their education and work 60 hours a week.

So these are students who want to be able to refinance and pay down. In this case, with somebody who has a 6-percent or 7-percent loan, this bill and legislation would allow them to refinance.

With the legislation, an undergraduate with \$30,000 in student loans, for example, would save almost \$5,000 over the life of their loan by a refinancing of that interest rate, if it was 6.8 percent, to the current direct undergraduate interest rate of 3.86. Those are real dollars to these individuals.

That means much needed help for 25 million borrowers across the country. It could save, on average, for all those borrowers, about \$2,000 per loan. In my State it would mean relief for 451,000 students, just like the ones we spoke to last week.

The University of Washington in the Pacific Northwest took matters into its own hands and produced a report. The report showed that the typical University of Washington student would have to work 54 hours a week for a full year to pay for 1 year of student education.

I am so proud of these students. They did their own report and got it on the front page of the Seattle Times because it spells out what we have already known, that the days when students could raise the amount of money they needed to pay for education by doing summer jobs is gone.

The burden of debt and the amount of money owed is impacting students.

There is no way they can work their way through college at 54 hours or 60 hours a week and be able to do their academic work.

Entrepreneurial activity among 20- to 34-year-olds is challenged. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has found that for the first time people with student loan debt are less likely to buy a house than those without, so it is showing up in our economy.

If you think about it, if this is what a generation of Americans are going to be faced with for the next decade or two, then that is going to have a ripple effect through our economy for several years.

A recent study by the Brookings Institution found that student loan borrowers are 60 to 70 percent less likely to apply for graduate school than those without student debt. So again now we have another complexity.

I look at this issue and I look at the fact that we have a worldwide demand for 35,000 new airplanes. We need 20,000 new workers in the aerospace industry. We have demands for computer scientists, something like 300,000 a year. We only graduate 70,000.

I look at it and say: Why aren't we helping to finance everybody who wants to get an engineering degree and a computer science degree? Why aren't we figuring out a way to make that more affordable? Because in an information age economy, that is exactly what we need to do, make an investment in education, but we can't make an investment in education on the backs of these students when they are coming out of college with this much debt or trying to struggle even to learn these careers that are so vital to our economy and they have to choose between working and actually studying. We would rather they commit themselves to these careers and these educations so we can have the workforce of the future.

I know some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle didn't support this legislation, but the Congressional Budget Office projects that the bill would actually reduce the deficit by about \$14 billion over the next decade.

That is important because we want to see policies that are going to help our economy in the short run and in the long run, but they have to be fiscally responsible.

So I say to those critics who say: Oh, well, if we make the interest rate lower, then students are going to borrow more money, I don't think students are looking to borrow more to add to their debt.

I don't think students whom I talked to who had loans as high as \$180,000 want to borrow more money just because we are going to reduce the interest rate. They want to refinance, reduce their obligation, and get back to studying.

There is much more we need to do to mitigate the cost of higher education. I

know my colleagues and I are going to be working on that, but the Bank on Student Loans Emergency Refinancing Act was a very good step to help students and to focus them on their careers and education.

Again, I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will look again at this issue and get back to it. We need to make sure college education is more affordable. It is time for us to extend the same benefits we do for businesses and mortgages to students so they can refinance and that 25 million students in America could refinance their student loans.

I thank Senator WARREN for bringing up this issue. I hope we will get back to it again.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask unanimous consent that the time in quorum be equally divided between both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE UNIONS

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise to speak on a matter of great importance that seems to have slipped through the cracks of the public's consciousness. However, with the growing furor over the recent scandal at the Veterans' Administration, I expect more and more people will be made aware of it.

I don't think it is unreasonable to argue that most Americans would be outraged to learn the Federal Government pays tens of millions of dollars every year to pay hundreds, if not thousands, of government employees not to work. This practice used to be called featherbedding. "The term 'featherbedding' originally referred to any person who is pampered, coddled, or excessively rewarded."

It was later used to describe certain labor relations practices. According to Wikipedia:

The modern use of the term in the labor relations setting began in the United States railroad industry, which used feathered mattresses in sleeping cars. Railway labor unions, confronted

with changing technology which led to widespread unemployment, sought to preserve jobs by negotiating contracts which required employers to compensate workers to do little or no work or which required complex and time-consuming work rules so as to generate a full day's work for an employee who otherwise would not remain employed.

Congress tried to put an end to the practice in the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act amendments, which defined and outlawed featherbedding. However, the U.S. Supreme Court has narrowly defined the terminology, leaving most practices undisturbed.

The featherbedding-like practice I am referring to today is most often called official time, wherein government employees—who are highly compensated, often including overtime pay—are paid to perform no work for the government, only work for the benefit of their unions. These “employees” are not union employees, nor are they paid by the union. Instead, they are union members paid by the taxpayers to work full time for the union while working for the Federal Government.

Of course, this practice also goes on in the private sector. However, in the private sector, the featherbedding comes off of the bottom line and is negotiated as a measure of ensuring labor peace and in exchange for other union concessions. In the Federal Government, where the bottom line is the taxpayer and where unions are not permitted to strike, this practice is a way for weak managers to use government funds to reward public sector union political supporters and financial contributors, passing the costs along to the unknowing taxpayer for services not rendered. In the private sector, official time is carefully monitored and controlled. In the Federal sector, managers generally look the other way.

According to the Office of Personnel Management, or OPM, during fiscal year 2011 unions represented 1,202,733 nonpostal Federal civil service bargaining unit employees—an increase of more than 17,000 employees compared to fiscal year 2010. In that same year agencies reported that bargaining unit employees spent nearly 3.4 million hours on official time—an increase of nearly 10 percent compared to the previous year. How much money are we talking about, and why should American taxpayers shoulder the entire burden if the official time is only for union work?

Some may wonder what this has to do with the VA scandal. I don't think it is a coincidence that the VA—which is plagued by incompetence, dishonesty, and bureaucratic ineptitude—utilizes the practice of official time more than any other Federal agency, according to OPM. In 2011 the VA reported paying out nearly 1 million hours in official time—an increase of more than 23 percent over the previous year. The cost of

official time in 2011 amounted to nearly \$43 million. That is \$43 million paid out to VA “employees” to do union work full time. Wall Street Journal Editorial Board writer Kimberley Strassel noted a few weeks back:

The VA boasts one of the largest federal workforces, and VA Secretary Eric Shinseki bragged in 2010 that two-thirds of it is unionized. That's a whopping 200,000 union members, represented by the likes of the American Federation of Government Employees and the Service Employees International Union.

I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Union supporters often lament that under Federal law Federal employee unions are relatively toothless, especially when compared to the very powerful State employee unions. However, as Ms. Strassel noted, given its size and influence, the VA union may be an exception to that rule.

Once again, two-thirds of the VA workforce is unionized, and the agency has paid more than \$40 million in salaries to full-time union workers in a single year. That has to have an impact on the VA's efficiency. And that is for workers who don't even work—except for the union.

Obviously, the inefficiency of the VA has recently been the subject of a very high-profile public debate. However, the impact unions have had on the VA's operation was being talked about well before news of the recent scandal broke. For example, Senators PORTMAN and COBURN sent a letter to former VA Secretary Shinseki in 2013 noting that the vast majority of VA employees on official time were trained nurses, instrument technicians, pharmacists, dental assistants, or therapists. In other words, these were employees hired specifically to fulfill roles in direct support of veterans. Yet, instead of caring for veterans, processing claims, and helping to eliminate the horrendous backlog, these employees were being paid to do union work full time—all at the expense of taxpayers. On top of that, union-negotiated work rules over things such as seniority and job classification have contributed to the bureaucratic nightmare at the VA. In addition, the unions have been the most vocal opponents of any reform proposals that would give veterans access to outside health care.

While it may be overstating the unions' influence to assign to them the blame for the entire VA scandal, it is clear that these unions have at least contributed to the problems we are now seeing at the agency. They are at least partially to blame for the backlog in veterans' claims. They are at least partially to blame for the failed VA bureaucracy. They are at least partially to blame for the failure of reasonable attempts to reform the agency in the past, and it is almost impossible to reform it the way it is currently run.

I wish I could say this problem is isolated at the VA. Unfortunately, there is at least one other scandal-plagued agency with a similar union problem. I am talking, of course, about the IRS.

We are all pretty familiar with the IRS targeting scandal. By its own admission, the agency was targeting Tea Party groups in the runup to the elections in both 2010 and 2012.

Like the VA, the IRS consists of a heavily unionized workforce. About 66 percent of IRS employees belong to the National Treasury Employees Union, or NTEU.

It shouldn't surprise anyone to learn that the NTEU is extremely active in politics, having twice endorsed President Obama. During the 2010 election cycle, when the IRS first began targeting conservative groups, the NTEU raised over \$600,000 through its PAC, almost all of which went to Democrats. In the next election, in 2012, the NTEU PAC raised more than \$700,000, 94 percent of which went to Democrats. In other words, during the same campaign cycles in which the IRS was targeting conservative organizations—organizations that were critical of the President, his administration, and in many cases the IRS itself—for harassment and extra scrutiny, the union that represents nearly two-thirds of IRS employees was busy raising and donating well over \$1 million to Democratic candidates. And we wonder why the IRS—which should not be partisan in any way, shape, or form—is filled with partisanship. We should not have unions at the IRS or at the VA. Is it any surprise that the agency found itself predisposed toward harming conservative organizations or their causes?

Of course, the IRS has its own issues with the practice of paying out official time. Indeed, as of 2011 there were at least 200 IRS employees working full time for their union—all at taxpayers' expense. In that same year, the agency paid out more than 625,000 hours of official time. The total cost of these union activities was roughly around \$27 million. But that is only the beginning. That is \$27 million in a single year paid to “employees” of the Federal Government who did nothing but union work. That is simply preposterous.

As I said, if the American people understood that this type of fleecing of the taxpayers goes on every day, they would be outraged.

Current law allows most Federal employees to be represented by a union. There are, however, some exceptions—and good reasons for these exceptions. Most of these exceptions are for agencies that perform a national security function or other highly sensitive work. One would think the IRS would fit in that category. One would think the VA would fit in that category. For example, we don't allow employees at the FBI, the CIA, or the Secret Service to be unionized. There is good reason

for that: We don't need partisan political activities in those agencies. But we don't need them in the IRS or the Veterans' Administration either. We also don't allow employees at the GAO or the Federal Labor Relations Authority to unionize.

In days to come, Congress is going to have to take a hard look at reforming both the Veterans' Administration and the IRS. One of the questions we are going to have to ask ourselves is whether these agencies, with their important and sensitive missions and their poor performance in the recent past, should be added to the list of agencies not permitted to unionize, not permitted to be partisan. And anybody who doesn't understand that doesn't understand anything about politics.

In addition, as we continually look for ways to improve the efficiency of our government, we will need to examine the overall practice of official time and determine whether it should be eliminated entirely. I, for one, don't believe taxpayers ought to be footing the bill for union work. I think the majority of the American people, if given an opportunity to fully understand this practice and the abuse it entails, would agree with me.

One thing is for sure: If what we have seen at the VA and the IRS is in any way representative of the influence unions have on government agencies, drastic changes are going to be necessary. How can any American citizen feel the IRS is above politics when it is run by a union? And we all know that unions support almost 100 percent one party over the other. How can we feel the VA is going to be handled right when it has a union representing it and determining all the workloads?

I have talked to the IRS Commissioners since I have been on the Finance Committee, and they admit that to try to correct or punish an IRS employee who is out of control and not doing what is right takes upward of a year if you are lucky. That is why there are all kinds of politics in these agencies and they act with impunity in advancing what really are liberal causes.

If there are any two agencies that should not have unions in them, one ought to be the IRS and the other ought to be the Veterans' Administration.

I was raised in the union movement. I learned a trade. I went through a formal apprenticeship program, and I became a journeyman. I am proud of that. I believe unions have a place in our society, but they have become more and more partisan. It is reported that 40 percent of union members are Republicans. Yet almost 100 percent of every dime that is given in politics is given to Democrats. So by any measure we have to say that these folks are partisan, which I think is their right. But should we have partisan control of

agencies such as the IRS, which everybody has to deal with at one time or another in their life, and the Veterans' Administration, which is in dire jeopardy right now because of the way it is being run?

I have been very much trying to do a straightforward investigation of the IRS and these accusations that have been thrown at it, many of which are true. The more I get into it, the more I realize it is being run in a partisan way for one party when it should be run in a nonpartisan way—for neither party. I am going to do something about it, and I hope the American people pay attention to it because I think most people, including younger Members, would be outraged to know that there is partisanship at these agencies that is not just average partisanship. It is blatant partisanship. The more I get into it, the more I realize that is true.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Wall Street Journal article that I previously referred to.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, May 29, 2014]

BIG LABOR'S VA CHOKE HOLD

(By Kimberley A. Strassel)

We know with certainty that there is at least one person the Department of Veterans Affairs is serving well. That would be the president of local lodge 1798 of the National Federation of Federal Employees.

The Federal Labor Relations Authority, the agency that mediates federal labor disputes, earlier this month ruled in favor of this union president, in a dispute over whether she need bother to show up at her workplace—the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Martinsburg, W.Va. According to FLRA documents, this particular VA employee is 100% “official time”—D.C. parlance for federal employees who work every hour of every work day for their union, at the taxpayer's expense.

In April 2012, this, ahem, VA “employee” broke her ankle and declared that she now wanted to do her nonwork for the VA entirely from the comfort of her home. Veterans Affairs attempted a compromise: Perhaps she could, pretty please, come in two days a week? She refused, and complained to the FLRA that the VA was interfering with her right to act as a union official. The VA failed to respond to the complaint in the required time (perhaps too busy caring for actual veterans) and so the union boss summarily won her case.

The VA battle is only just starting, but any real reform inevitably ends with a fight over organized labor. Think of it as the federal version of Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and other states where elected officials have attempted to rein in the public-sector unions that have hijacked government agencies for their own purpose. Fixing the VA requires first breaking labor's grip, and the unions are already girding for that fight.

Federal labor unions are generally weak by comparison to state public-sector unions, though the VA might be an exception. The VA boasts one of the largest federal workforces and VA Secretary Eric Shinseki bragged in 2010 that two-thirds of it is unionized. That's a whopping 200,000 union mem-

bers, represented by the likes of the American Federation of Government Employees and the Service Employees International Union. And this is government-run health care—something unions know a lot about from organizing health workers in the private sector. Compared with most D.C. unions (which organize for better parking spots) the VA houses a serious union shop.

The Bush administration worked to keep federal union excesses in check; Obama administration officials have viewed contract “negotiations” as a way to reward union allies. Federal unions can't bargain for wages or benefits, but the White House has made it up to them.

Manhattan Institute scholar Diana Furchtgott-Roth recently detailed Office of Personnel Management numbers obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request by Rep. Phil Gingrey (R., Ga.). On May 25, Ms. Furchtgott-Roth reported on MarketWatch that the VA in 2012 paid 258 employees to be 100 percent “full-time,” receiving full pay and benefits to do only union work. Seventeen had six-figure salaries, up to \$132,000. According to the Office of Personnel Management, the VA paid for 988,000 hours of “official” time in fiscal 2011, a 23 percent increase from 2010.

Moreover, as Sens. Rob Portman (R., Ohio) and Tom Coburn (R., Okla.) noted in a 2013 letter to Mr. Shinseki, the vast majority of these “official” timers were nurses, instrument technicians pharmacists, dental assistants and therapists, who were being paid to do union work even as the VA tried to fill hundreds of jobs and paid overtime to other staff.

As for patient-case backlogs, the unions have helped in their creation. Contract-negotiated work rules over job classifications and duties and seniorities are central to the “bureaucracy” that fails veterans. More damaging has been the union hostility to any VA attempt to give veterans access to alternative sources of care—which the unions consider a direct job threat. The American Federation of Government Employees puts out regular press releases blasting any “outsourcing” of VA work to non-VA-union members.

The VA scandal is now putting an excruciating spotlight on the most politically sensitive agency in D.C., and the unions are worried about where this is headed. They watched in alarm as an overwhelming 390 House members—including 160 Democrats—voted on May 21 to give the VA more power to fire senior executives, a shot over the rank-and-file's bow. They watched in greater alarm as Mr. Shinseki said the VA would be letting more veterans seek care at private facilities in areas where the department's capacity is limited.

This is a first step toward a reform being drafted by Sens. Coburn, John McCain (R., Ariz.) and Richard Burr (R., N.C.), which would give veterans a card allowing them health services at facilities of their choosing. The union fear is that Democrats, in a tough election year, will be pressured toward reforms that break labor's VA stronghold.

Not surprisingly, Sen. Bernie Sanders (D., Vt.), chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, has promised his own “reform.” Odds are it will echo the unions' call to simply throw more money at the problem. Any such bill should be viewed as Democrats once again putting the interests of their union allies ahead of veterans.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, last week our Nation commemorated the 70th anniversary of D-day. Leo Scheer of Huntington County, IN, is one of those courageous veterans who survived the outlying assault on the beaches of Normandy, and last month he made the trip to Washington, DC, through the Honor Flight Network to receive a hero's welcome from a grateful Nation.

My office had the honor of greeting Leo and this group of heroes upon their arrival to the World War II Memorial, and Leo made an unforgettable impression with his humility, demeanor, and strength of character. Leo is a member of what we have come to know as the "greatest generation." They easily deserve that title, where duty comes as second nature, where braggadocio is not present, where simply standing up and serving your country in a time of crisis is responded to overwhelmingly without complaint and with true honor and dignity.

Sadly, there are a dwindling number of those not only who arrived on the shores of D-day in Normandy but those who served throughout the world's largest military conflict in history. While those great service men and women are still here to share their stories—at least a few—we must remember the sacred promise that we as a Nation made to them to give them the care they deserve when they come back home.

As a veteran myself, my hope is that our Nation will carry out this promise not only to our World War II vets but to all who have served in conflicts from that point forward—from Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places. We must live up to the promise for all who were called to serve and answered that call.

Regrettably, in recent months we have seen this promise broken and shattered. Just this week an internal audit by the Department of Veterans Affairs revealed that the department's problems have affected 76 percent of VA facilities. Nearly 100,000 veterans continue to wait for medical appointments. These are staggering figures.

In my home State of Indiana confirmed audit findings show that veterans endured unacceptably long wait times. Some Hoosier veterans never even received an appointment. This is unacceptable. That is why today I stand here to support the bipartisan Sanders-McCain veterans bill that would implement key changes to the existing VA health care system.

This is not a perfect bill, and there are parts of it that I wish were different. I hope that we can manage some needed changes as it moves over to the House of Representatives and then to conference. I hope the final bill will make our veterans proud and begin the process of reform that the VA so desperately needs.

Let me address three key reforms in this legislation that I think are essential to moving forward and the primary reason why I have agreed to support this. First, giving veterans more choices in care—perhaps the most important provision in this legislation—is allowing veterans who cannot be scheduled within a reasonable time the option to receive care from non-VA facilities or private sector facilities outside of the VA. This also applies to veterans that reside more than 40 miles away from a VA facility, many of them not in a condition to be able to secure the transportation they need for that care, so they don't have to endure long drives to get care. We must ensure that veterans receive timely care, and if the VA cannot provide it, then our veterans should be free to go elsewhere for care, including Medicare providers.

Second, the removal of bad actors—there are a lot of good people working at VA. Their hearts are in the right place. They are talented and provide good care and good service. I don't mean to demean their contributions to veterans' health care, but we do know that there have been mistakes, mismanagement, and there has been some outright fraud, it appears. We will have to prosecute that. This reform would authorize the Secretary of the VA to demote or fire senior executive service employees based on their performance. That is not present now, and if we are going to change the management it takes more than just asking the first top person to resign as has happened. We need to look at the management team and those that oversee those that are providing the care and what their responsibility is in that role. Passage here would shake up the leadership of the VA so those people can be held accountable for their actions.

The third provision I want to mention is providing more VA locations. It is clear that some of our veterans have to travel very long distances. Also it is clear that the facilities currently in place are short of help and there are not enough to address the needs of the many veterans that are entering the system. So this bill would establish 26 new VA medical facilities around the country. As I said, while this legislation is not perfect, it is an important start but it should not and will not be the end of our work to live up to our promises to veterans.

Ultimately, as I stated before to our body of Senators, the VA needs a change of culture. Too many bureaucrats view our veterans as a list of numbers rather than the heroes worthy of our very best care. We have to look at our veterans through a different lens, one that sees them clearly as defenders of our freedom and as the heroes they are.

We must continue to investigate and reform the culture within the VA and ensure that this crisis doesn't happen

again. That is why I called for an independent investigation. This bill authorizes the process of beginning these independent evaluations. Also the committee has provided additional funding to specifically allow the inspector general to conduct an independent investigation into the VA, and I join my many colleagues to ask the Department of Justice to join in this investigation. Now, unfortunately, this culture of indifference at the VA is not new. For years veterans have faced excessively long waits for disability claims. When I returned to the Senate in 2011, these waits were over 600 days in Indianapolis. Veterans were waiting over 2 years to have their claims adjudicated. Once we shined a light on the problem, the situation improved somewhat, but our veterans still face waits that are far too long both for medical visits and to receive their disability benefits.

My staff in Indianapolis currently have over 550 active cases that we are working on for Hoosier veterans who are seeking help and have not gotten satisfactory responses from the VA. So they call us and say: Can you help? We do everything that we can to help expedite the process. In many cases these veterans are just trying to assess the benefits that they have rightfully earned and they just want an answer.

Reflecting on Leo Scheer's service to our Nation on D-day reminded me of the opportunity that I had to visit the beaches of Normandy while I was Ambassador to Germany. It was, to say the least, a powerful and extremely emotional experience standing on the bluffs overlooking the spread of beaches from Utah to Omaha, and it made me reflect on the countless lives lost in service to our Nation.

I was standing there on a perfectly calm day. The water was gently lapping on the shore. The beaches were empty. A soft warm breeze was blowing. The sun was shining—just a beautiful day—and I was overwhelmed by the violence that must have taken place that I could only have imagined. We have all seen the movie "Saving Private Ryan," and I give Mr. Spielberg great credit for making that a very realistic picture of what happens. But I don't think Hollywood, or those of us who weren't there, could imagine the violence that was taking place on that beach when our troops went ashore. The silence was not there. There must have been a cacophony of noise with hundreds of ships offshore unloading our soldiers into landing vehicles. Many of them were shot down by the German bunkers up in the bluffs, built-in concrete fortifications—an almost impossible task. Many of them never even got out of their landing craft. When the doors opened, many were shot before they reached the water. The water was red with the blood from our soldiers who never

made it to the beach. The beach was littered with bodies of those who never made it to the edge of the cliff. And the sacrifice that was made in climbing those cliffs and getting to those German bunkers took many, many hundreds if not thousands of more lives.

So visiting the graves of soldiers afterwards, pausing to say a prayer of gratitude for their sacrifice leads us to this point where we have to understand what it is we are trying to provide and why we need to provide it. That is in a response to those who put their lives on the line and sacrificed those lives—and many ended up with lifelong disabilities—a commitment to those that we would take care of them when they came back.

They have come back and run into a government-run bureaucracy that has run amuck. If it proves anything, it proves that government just simply doesn't do big stuff very well, without confusion, without bureaucracy, without duplication, without excessive costs. It is not efficient and not effective, nowhere near what the private sector can offer. That is why there is the provision for veterans who cannot get care at the VA on a timely basis to have the opportunity to use our private system.

They deserve our utmost care. They served on the frontline, but when they go for benefit decisions and when they go for health care, they are not in the front of the line, they are at the back of the line, and that is not right.

We cannot let the sun set today, and I am glad we are not, because we are voting to move this legislation forward. In doing so we are going to make a statement that we are going to try to live up to that promise and do the best that we possibly can. As I said, as a veteran I expect my country to fulfill the promises to my fellow service men and women, and as a Senator I will seek to hold the Veterans' Administration accountable and to do everything I can to help in the reform of the system. That reform is so desperately needed.

The leader of the D-day effort, GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower called the invasion of Normandy "a fight in which we would accept nothing less than full victory." It is in that spirit that I call upon my Senate colleagues to immediately take up and pass this legislation on behalf of our veterans and then to continue the work of changing the culture of the VA so that we don't have to come back years from now and repeat this process all over again.

Let's get it right this time. The fight to restore trust to our veterans is one we are waging, and to paraphrase General Eisenhower, we should accept nothing less than victory.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Texas.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Indiana for his remarks about our military service men and women and our obligation to provide them the care they have earned for their service. I look forward to voting, along with everyone in this Chamber, on this bipartisan legislation this afternoon, which represents the first step—not the last step but the first step—toward the systemic failures that have been disclosed as a result of the comprehensive VA audit.

I come to the floor to speak again about a growing humanitarian crisis in South Texas, the State I represent, where authorities are struggling with waves of unaccompanied minors—children—coming through Mexico into the United States. The numbers are pretty staggering. So far 47,000 minors have been detained at the southwestern border since October. The Department of Homeland Security and Border Patrol estimate that there could be as many as 60,000 unaccompanied minors, mostly from Central America. If we look at the map from Guatemala City to McAllen, TX, it is roughly 1,200 miles.

Unfortunately, this influx is a direct consequence of the perception that this administration will not enforce our immigration laws. Interviews with more than 200 of the migrants who comprise some of these individuals confirm their impression, which is reinforced by Central American news media outlets—primarily newspapers—that if children can get to the United States, they will have a free ticket and be able to stay.

We had a chance to question and discuss this humanitarian crisis with Secretary Johnson, the Secretary of Homeland Security, this morning before the Judiciary Committee, and to his credit, he has taken an all-hands-on-deck attitude, but the truth is the Federal Government's resources are overwhelmed by this humanitarian crisis.

By creating a powerful incentive for people to come to the United States illegally, we have effectively encouraged children and their parents to make a treacherous and threatening journey from Central America, one of the most dangerous parts of the world today, through Mexico—large swaths of Mexico are controlled by drug cartels—and then all the way into Texas.

Secretary Johnson conceded this morning that somehow we are schizophrenic about this issue. When we look at the victims of human trafficking and other people, we all agree we need to do more on a bipartisan basis to deal with this scourge of human trafficking, but the fact is that the transnational criminal organizations—trafficking people for economic reasons, such as for sex, drugs, and weapons—will do anything for money. They are criminals, and that is what they do.

Unfortunately, we have a lot of innocent children who are now being swept

up in this humanitarian crisis, as I said, committed by their parents to take this trek across Mexico into the United States. We have no idea how many children start that journey and how many simply drop off along the way because they have been kidnapped, injured, murdered or perhaps they just become ill as a result of exposure and die during this long trek.

It is a journey that often begins in cities, towns, and villages scattered throughout Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. The first major checkpoint is the Mexican border with Guatemala. It is about 500 miles long. Before arriving there, many families and children pass through regions of northern Guatemala that are controlled by the Zetas cartel, one of the most violent criminal organizations in the world.

When they reach Mexico, many illegal immigrants jump onto a network of freight trains known by the ominous nickname "The Beast."

I encourage anyone who is listening to me to go online and Google or Bing or use some other search engine and type in "The Beast" and read some of the horrific stories about transportation from southern Mexico up to northern Mexico on The Beast. NPR, National Public Radio, repeatedly reported The Beast train is "just as likely to spit them out as it is to shepherd them safely to the border."

Indeed, people riding on The Beast are frequently robbed, raped or killed by the drug traffickers and gang members who control the smuggling corridors. This is organized criminal activity by transnational criminal organizations. As one former Beast passenger told CNN, "almost everyone gets assaulted."

If there is anybody who thinks illegal immigration and trafficking involves some sort of benign experience of traveling from a country where people don't have an opportunity to a country where people do have an opportunity, that part is true, but what they don't tell you is the horrific, life-threatening, and sometimes life-destroying experience of getting to the United States because people are committing themselves to the tender mercies of some of the most violent criminal organizations on the planet.

In recent years, Mexican authorities have discovered mass graves containing the bodies of Central American migrants—those who did not make it to our southern border. Among those who are not murdered by the cartels, many passengers on The Beast simply fall off the train. For example, they try to jump on it while it is moving. If they are lucky, they might just end up with a few broken bones, but if they are not lucky, they might end up losing a limb or being crushed to death underneath its wheels.

In short, no one should be traveling to the United States this way and least

of all young children, some of whom, according to published newspaper reports, are as young as 3 and 5 years old. Can any parent comprehend the idea of a 3- or 5-year-old coming unaccompanied or perhaps en masse with drug cartels and criminal organizations transporting them from their home country to the United States?

The Border Patrol reported that 180 convicted sex offenders have been arrested since October while coming across the southwestern border. Can you imagine this trip with convicted sex offenders mixed into the mass of humanity coming across the border?

Some children who ride The Beast are kidnapped or forced to become drug mules or forced into sexual slavery. In fact, some who make it all the way to Texas and north remain prisoners of organized crime after crossing the U.S. border.

I remember talking to one young woman. About 1 year ago I had the chance to visit with her. She came from Central America. She was brought by a coyote, they called him—a human smuggler—into Houston, TX. She had family in New Jersey, but that didn't work out, so she came back to Houston where she was essentially held as an indentured servant and prostituted and forced to turn over the proceeds of that money to the coyote—the smuggler.

When people operate in the shadows of the law, they have no protection of the law, and the people who are the most likely to get hurt are the immigrants themselves or certainly the immigrant community. We need to keep that in mind. We have to remember that Mexico's biggest and most violent drug cartels are heavily involved in this trafficking, as I mentioned earlier.

Time magazine reported last year: "Cartels control most of Mexico's smuggling networks through which victims are moved, while they also take money from pimps and brothels operating in their territories."

The cartels, gangs, and sex traffickers are only too happy to prey on the poor, vulnerable migrants, including children, transiting through their terrain. Experts believe the Mexican drug cartels may earn as much as \$10 billion a year from sex trafficking and sex slavery alone. These are not nice people.

According to Amnesty International: "Some human rights organizations and academics estimate that as many as six in 10 women and girl"—and one-quarter of these unaccompanied minors are girls—"migrants experience sexual violence during the journey" through Mexico—6 out of 10.

A new CRS—Congressional Research Service—memo reports that based on apprehension data provided by Customs and Border Protection, "there has been an increase in the number of [accompanied alien children] who are girls and

the number of [unaccompanied alien children] who under the age of 13."

They are not exactly able to defend themselves against the monstrosities they encounter along the way.

I hope it is clear to everyone listening and to the President and every other person of good will, that we should be doing everything possible to discourage people from risking their lives in the first place, and especially their children's lives, on such a dangerous journey.

Before I came to the Senate, I happened to be the Attorney General of Texas, and before that I had a career in law and the judiciary. It is standard criminal jurisprudence that not only should law enforcement enforce the laws in order to maintain the law, but the law serves another important function; that is, deterrence.

In other words, it stops people from doing things they know they should not do in the first place rather than just catching them after they do it. This is one of the elements that is missing and unfortunately was encouraged by the impression that you got a free ticket if all you had to do was get on the train and show up in South Texas. As I have said, this is very dangerous stuff, and it has backfired in unexpected ways.

Yesterday, I listed five simple suggestions to the President that he could take to start fixing the problem. I was glad to hear Secretary Johnson talk about some of the ad hoc measures he has begun to implement, but the truth is they are struggling to catch up.

I urged the President, No. 1, to publicly declare that his 2012 deferred action program will not apply to children currently arriving at the border. Let me stop there to say that this morning some of my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee could not resist the temptation to take a partisan shot. They said if the House had just passed immigration reform, this never would have happened.

My point is the President's deferred action program doesn't even apply to these children, so it is still against the law for them to enter. But they realize, as a practical matter, although the resources and capacity of the Federal Government are overwhelmed, there is no way we can turn them back, and they will have to be handled compassionately and in a humane sort of way.

It would help if, No. 1, the President would make clear he has not issued a free ticket to anyone who wants to enter the country illegally.

No. 2, I encouraged him to publicly discourage people from attempting the journey through Mexico, and it would help if our Mexican counterparts would do a better job—maybe with our help and assistance—securing their southern border, since that would stop a lot of people from coming from Central America through Mexico on this dan-

gerous journey which I have tried to describe.

I also encouraged the President to enforce all of our immigration laws regardless of political needs or any frustration he might feel or anyone else might feel on the current stalemate in which we find ourselves. Sometimes these things take a little time.

My hope is, if not before, then by next year, Congress—the Senate and the House—can begin to move a series of smaller pieces of legislation that are more transparent, consensus based, and begin to repair the broken immigration system. I don't think anybody believes on the right or the left that the status quo is acceptable, and indeed it is dangerous to the people I have described.

So I mentioned the fourth item, which is to work with the Mexican Government to improve security at the border with Guatemala. I was recently in Juarez, Mexico, right across the river from El Paso, which used to be one of the most dangerous places on the planet because of all of the conflict between the drug cartels. Things are getting better. It is still pretty rough, but things are getting better thanks to strong leaders, such as the mayor, whom I met with there, and thanks to the assistance the U.S. Government is providing through the Merida Initiative to help train law enforcement and to provide equipment and the like. So we could step up our work with the Mexican Government to help them secure their own southern border, which would eliminate more than half of this migration from Central America.

Finally, I urge the President to take the step of making sure that Texas and other U.S. border States and communities have the resources they need to address the ongoing crisis.

Today I reiterate those calls, and I also call on the President to please act as soon as possible. Make no mistake. The actions we take and sometimes the actions we don't take have unintended consequences. But in the days and weeks ahead, there will be life-or-death consequences to an untold number of vulnerable children, perhaps in the misperception that they can come to the United States if they can just get here, without understanding the treacherous journey that will befall them. We are doing no one a service by allowing that.

Because the impression created by the President has resulted in this problem, at least in substantial part, I believe he has the unique authority and power to begin to fix it. But first he will have to send the message that I mentioned a moment ago, which is that there is no free ticket into the United States. We have to deal with the humanitarian crisis of these children and make sure they are safe, but then we need to get about the business of enforcing our laws and not just giving the impression that anybody and

everybody who wants to come to the United States can come here.

Perhaps in a perfect world everybody could live in America. But the fact is that we need to have our immigration laws for our protection and for the protection of legal immigrants. We need to do everything we can to send a message that we are a caring country, but we are also a country that believes in the rule of law. We need to restore order out of this chaos, while dealing with the immediate humanitarian crisis of this wave of children that is overwhelming the capability of the Federal Government to deal with it. We need to do everything we can together to address all of these issues.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senator from Texas just spoke on the floor about the number of children coming across the border into the United States, and the numbers are frightening, they are so large.

We had a hearing today with Jeh Johnson, who is the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. A lot of questions were asked, such as if actions by our government or statements by our President are luring these children into the United States. Let me make the record clear. There is nothing—nothing—about the President's Executive order involving those we call DREAMers—children brought to the United States—which would lead any of these families of the children to believe they could qualify to be treated as qualified for docket—that is, deferred deportation—because they would be eligible DREAMers. None—none—of these children would be eligible, period. So the suggestion that this Executive order has anything to do with luring these children to the United States is wrong.

Second, there is turmoil in Mexico and Central America. That is a fact. I am sure that is a factor in decisions being made by some to leave. But there is an issue that has been overlooked here time and again which needs to be addressed. There is a Pulitzer Prize-winning book entitled "Enrique's Journey." The author is an L.A. Times writer named Sonia Nazario. She started following the paths of children—children—coming into the United States from Mexico and Central America and even South America. Here is what she found after her investigation: 48,000 children a year coming across the border into the United States, some as young as 7 years old, half of them without any escort. How do they get in? Well, many of them jump on freight trains. Can my colleagues imagine, 7-, 8-, 9-, 10-year-olds jumping on a freight train to come into the United States, trying to get here by themselves—half of them by themselves? Why? Seventy-five percent gave

the same reason: To find my mother. To find my father.

That is what is bringing so many of them into the United States. What happened? Mother left that village in Mexico or somewhere in Central America and came to the United States. She works hard now and sends money home and occasionally will send toys at birthdays and Christmas and exchange photographs. And heartbroken children get on these trains and try to find them.

They found a 9-year-old boy walking around Los Angeles. They asked him why and where he was going. He said: Where is San Francisco? He was trying to find his mother.

That is the reality and the heartbreak of what is happening at our border when it comes to children, so many times over. The lucky ones make it. Many don't. A survey done by the University of Houston found over and over these kids on their way are starving, they are beaten, they are robbed, they are raped over and over. Some are pushed off of the train. Some die. Some are maimed. That is the reality.

What does it tell us? As we step back and look at this, what does it tell us? It tells us what we already know: Our immigration system in America is broken. It is flat-out broken. I know this, and everyone else does too. Twelve million people living amongst us, some of whom have been here for decades, worried about being deported tomorrow, with a household where the wife and mother may be a citizen, the children may all be citizens, but one person in the household is not—that is our broken immigration system.

Well, Congress, stop talking about it. Do something about it. So we did. We did. And the Presiding Officer was here. It was a little over a year ago. We put together a bipartisan coalition of Senators—four Democrats, four Republicans, and I was one of them—and we sat down and for months worked out comprehensive immigration reform to finally fix this broken immigration system and start to end some of the tragedies we know are happening to children and to their parents all across America. We worked on it for months.

It was a pretty interesting coalition. It included JOHN McCAIN, a well-known Republican Senator from Arizona; LINDSEY GRAHAM, Republican Senator from South Carolina; MARCO RUBIO, a Republican Senator from Florida; JEFF FLAKE, a Republican Senator from Arizona; and on our side, CHUCK SCHUMER of New York, BOB MENENDEZ of New Jersey, MICHAEL BENNET of Colorado, and myself.

We worked on it for months, and we produced a comprehensive immigration reform bill that was endorsed by virtually every major labor organization and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. We go through the list of virtually every religion in America, and major reli-

gions endorsed it. It was an amazing bipartisan product, and I was proud to be a part of it and even more proud when the day came that we passed it on the floor of the Senate with 68 votes—Republicans and Democrats. We did it.

What happened to it? We sent it to the U.S. House of Representatives, where it has languished for over a year. For over a year they have refused to call this bill.

Now Senators who come to the floor, who voted against the reform, who don't acknowledge the obvious—that the Republican House will not even call this bill for debate and a vote—and who criticize the current immigration system in America, aren't telling us the whole story. The whole story is that we need to fix this system top to bottom—yes, a path to citizenship but a path to citizenship that eliminates those with serious criminal records—we don't want them—makes those who want to enter this path pay a fine and learn English and make sure as well that they are paying their taxes to our country. Then we will put them on a path to citizenship, where they can be at the back of the line. Under our bill, it would take a person 13 years before they become a citizen. All that time they are paying their fines, they are learning English, they are doing what they are supposed to do, and they are subject to regular questioning as to any problems that might be in their lives that we should know about. That is what the bill does.

So when I hear people come to the floor and say this immigration system is broken, I agree completely. It is a tragedy to think thousands of children are crossing the border in search of their parents, as young as 7, 8, 9, 10 years old, and teenagers, being preyed upon.

I just had in my office the Ambassador of Ecuador to the United States of America. We talked about this issue. She told me the story of a 12-year-old girl whose mother and father were in New York, and this heartbroken girl decided she had to at any cost be reunited with them. She jumped on one of those trains, and she was apprehended by Mexican authorities. The parents found out about it and tried to find her. They put her in an orphanage. She was going through the Mexican legal system. The next thing: It was announced that this 12-year-old girl had committed suicide—questionable but still a tragedy. And this Ambassador from Ecuador said: I can't tell you what that did to our country. It broke our hearts to think that little girl was just trying to find her mom and dad.

We can do better. We can be better. All of the excuses in the world don't count when it comes to this issue because we are a nation of immigrants, my friends, all of us. We may have to go back several generations—in my

case, not very far. My mother was an immigrant to this country. I am lucky to be standing on the floor of the Senate representing a great State such as Illinois. That is my story. That is my family's story. That is America's story. That is who we all are.

Why can't we, in our generation, embrace the reality of immigration and fix this broken system, make sure we have security on the border to stop, as much as we physically can, the flow of illegal immigration, and make sure those who are here are reporting to our government so we know who they are, where they are, and where they work? All of these things will make us a better and stronger nation.

Let me tell my colleagues something else about these immigrant folks, and I speak with some authority. The first wave of immigrants to this country, by and large, take the toughest, hardest jobs available—anything—and they will work hard on those jobs. But they are also looking over their shoulder at their kids and they are saying to their kids: We expect more from you. We want you to stay in school. We want you to succeed.

That dynamic of the hard-working immigrant and the first-generation American, striving to prove they can succeed, gives our country the energy it needs. It gives our economy the energy it needs.

I see my friend has come to the floor, Senator MCCAIN, and I mentioned his name earlier in a positive way because we worked together so closely on immigration reform. He has a special challenge I don't have. Yes, we have many undocumented in Illinois, but being a border State, Arizona has tougher challenges than most. We tried in our bill to be sensitive to both States and all States in what we were putting together.

So I wanted to come to the floor and say a word about children coming across the border. I see two of my colleagues here, and I will yield the floor in just a second.

We need to acknowledge the obvious. These children are vulnerable. They are being exploited. Many of them are being hurt. Some are being raped. Others are being killed. And that has to come to an end. To bring it to an end in a sensible, thoughtful, American way, we ought to pass comprehensive immigration reform. No more excuses in the U.S. House of Representatives. Call the bill. For goodness' sake, call the bill. Debate it. Vote on it. I will accept whatever comes, but what I won't accept is ignoring these problems, blaming them on someone else, and putting off to some time in the future the reality of the responsibility we should face today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, as the son of an Air Force master sergeant

and a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I take very seriously my responsibility to represent the interests of those who have served our country in uniform. When it comes to our Nation's veterans, their commitment to country is without question, and our country's commitment to them should be the same.

Put simply, our veterans deserve better. That is why I am pleased to see that we have come together to address this crisis in the Senate. These men and women have served and sacrificed on behalf of a grateful nation. We need to ensure that they are getting the high-quality services they have earned. Our veterans deserve a system that proves their care is our top priority.

Unfortunately, the VA is struggling to meet the health demands for our veterans. The VA inspector general is currently investigating misconduct throughout the VA health system. In order to ensure accountability, we have to give the VA the ability to fire and demote senior executive service employees who are responsible for these types of abuses.

Under current law, senior VA employees are nearly untouchable. That means the very people responsible for hiding the true extent of wait times, for instance, and other abuses cannot be fired. That is incredible when you think about it.

We cannot tolerate bad actors who abuse their power and put our veterans in danger. That is why a key component of this bill gives the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to fire or demote senior VA employees for poor performance.

Accountability is the goal here. However, that goes beyond individual employees. The Department itself needs to be held accountable for its shortcomings. So it is time we shine a light on the VA.

This bill would also establish an electronic waiting list that would be made available to veterans on the Department's Web site so everyone can see the average waiting time for an appointment at each VA medical center for specific types of care and services. New wait time goals would also be published on the Department's Web site and in the Federal Register within 90 days of the bill's enactment.

Earlier this week we saw an audit which revealed that veterans seeking care for the first time waited an average of 60 days in the Little Rock VA hospital and 52 days in the Fayetteville hospital. Clearly, these results need to be improved and indicate the failure of the VA to meet its goal of seeing new patients within 14 days.

I am committed to ensuring that the VA uses every available option it has to deliver on its mission for all veterans who have earned this care. And if it cannot, this bill gives our veterans the ability to seek that care elsewhere.

The bill we are considering today would establish a 2-year program that allows veterans who have been unable to obtain care from the VA for providing service to seek care from private providers. This option would also be provided to those who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility, including a community-based outpatient clinic. The government would be obligated to reimburse the non-VA health care provider for the services provided to the veteran.

Wait times and secret lists are not the only problem within the VA health system. We are learning now that quality-of-care issues on a range of critical care outcomes, including mortality and infection rates, are willingly being ignored by senior VA management.

We need to restore faith in the VA health care system, and that begins with accountability and following through with our promises.

The crisis surrounding the VA health care system shows an immediate need to improve timely access to medical care for our veterans. The VA needs to correct the systemic problems that are preventing our veterans from accessing the high-quality health care services offered.

I am pleased we are taking action on this important issue, and I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation before us because we need to improve the health services our veterans earned and deserve.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair welcomes the Senator from Arkansas back to the floor.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to say that this compromise is really an excellent example of what Congress can do when we work together to put our veterans first and work toward substantive solutions to the challenges they face.

Passing this legislation this afternoon is a critical step toward addressing some of the immediate accountability and transparency concerns that are plaguing the VA and fixing its deep-seated structural and cultural challenges. Each new report seems to paint a more serious and more disturbing picture of the VA's systemwide failure to provide timely access to care for our Nation's heroes. I am especially concerned by the number of facilities that serve Washington State veterans that have been flagged for further review and investigation. The VA has promised to get to the bottom of this, and I expect them to do so immediately.

However, these new reports are not only consistent with what I hear so often from veterans and VA employees but also with what the inspector general and GAO have been reporting on for more than a decade. These are not

new problems, and Congress must continue to take action on them while addressing the inevitable issues that will be uncovered as ongoing investigations and reviews are completed.

I expect this Chamber to come together, as the House did yesterday—twice, in fact—to move this bill forward so we can work on our differences with the House and send this legislation to the President's desk as soon as possible.

As we all know, there are serious problems at the VA that will not be solved through legislation alone or by simply replacing the Secretary. However, I am very hopeful these steps that are in this legislation will spark long-overdue change—from the top down—in order to ensure that our veterans are given the care and support they expect and deserve.

So I wanted to come today to commend the Senator from Arizona and the Senator from Vermont for their commitment to bipartisanship and putting the needs of our veterans first. This is an important compromise, and I urge our colleagues to continue the bipartisan collaboration that made this bill possible. Let's get it passed and in place so these reforms can begin to get started. And then we must keep working to address the management, resource, and personnel shortcomings that we all know exist at the VA.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I stand in strong support of the veterans bill we are about to vote on as well. I commend everyone who worked on it on both sides of the aisle, certainly including Senator MCCAIN, who was here a minute ago, Senator SANDERS, who is on the floor, and Senator BURR, who is the ranking Republican member of the committee.

I am strongly supporting it, mostly with three key provisions in mind—one I have been working on since well before this scandal and this crisis that has engulfed the VA broke; that is, to dislodge, to get moving on crucial expanded VA outpatient clinics in 18 States around the country, including Louisiana. Mr. President, 26 clinics; 2 of those are in Louisiana, in Lafayette and Lake Charles. Those should have been built by now. They have been on the books, they have been in the VA plan for years. Through what the VA readily admits was a bureaucratic glitch—a complete screw-up at the VA—they were delayed for a significant period of time.

There was another glitch in terms of the so-called scoring of these clinics. That required legislation, which the House passed. But that legislation, which I was spearheading in the Senate, has been balled up in the Senate.

Finally, the corrective legislation, to get moving, to get these clinics done—

including in Lafayette and Lake Charles, LA—is in this bill. So I have been committed to that for months—since well before this scandal erupted.

The other two provisions I want to highlight in this bill do go directly to this scandal. One is the need to give veterans choice when they are locked into a dysfunctional system. So for the first time ever we are mandating the unparalleled choice that if a veteran is either over 40 miles from a VA facility or he or she cannot get care—an appointment—in a reasonable timeframe, then that veteran can go to a Medicare provider or another provider who is delineated in the bill to get the care he or she needs in a timely way. That is a really important reform to expand choice and really competition that I think will make the VA system better and offer veterans, when need be, important care outside the strict VA system.

The third provision I wish to highlight is to give the leadership of the VA the tools it needs to clean house, to get rid of incompetence or, worse, to fire people who clearly merit that in the cases we have been reading about in the last several months.

We have had so many protections heaped on the civil service system over 100-plus years that it has become virtually impossible to fire or demote or punish someone who is deserving of that because of incompetence or worse. We need to change that because unless and until we do, bureaucracies such as the VA will remain broken. This bill has important provisions in that regard.

Those are the three top reasons I will be strongly supporting the bill.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, Massachusetts is the Bay State, but we are also the "Brave State." But being first in freedom is not enough if we don't put our veterans, their families, and the families of the fallen first as well.

There are more than 388,000 veterans in Massachusetts. But too many of our bravest return home unable to find a job. They suffer from homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse. Too often, they end their lives in suicide. Twenty-two veterans kill themselves every day.

This March, not one servicemember died in action in Afghanistan or Iraq, but almost 700 veterans took their own lives. Of the 8,500 Massachusetts National Guard, six of them have committed suicide in the last year and a half.

We need to treat these unseen wounds, and give our veterans a better life, where they are employed, appreciated, and supported.

We have a sacred obligation to honor and care for our service men and women for their bravery and sacrifice.

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a

nation, we must ensure that when warriors return home, we leave no veteran behind.

In recent years, we have provided historic budget increases for veterans, expanded access to VA health care, improved health services for all veterans, and modernized benefits earned by America's servicemembers.

But what is clear today is that hasn't been enough. The problems at the VA are unacceptable and they dishonor our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much.

Anyone who contributed to the careless treatment of our veterans should be held fully accountable, and I mean anyone.

And so our work must continue. We must address the emerging needs of veterans, as well as those needs that have lingered for years.

Our returning veterans, and those who served in previous wars, always should get the best services, including medical care.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, is facing a crisis. The Department of Veterans Affairs inspector general reports showed that thousands of veterans have been trying to see a doctor but were never on the VA list to see a doctor. These veterans were forgotten and lost in the scheduling process. VA leadership significantly understated the time new patients waited for their primary care appointment in their performance appraisals in part because that affected their bonuses and salary increases. Mr. President, 57,000 veterans have been waiting 90 days or more for their first VA appointment. Mr. President, 64,000 veterans have fallen through the cracks and have never received an appointment after enrollment.

These deficiencies at the VA are unacceptable.

What is clear is that we need a full-scale reform of how the VA does business. Too many men and women are falling through the cracks. We need to fully fund the VA and modernize the agency and its facilities to appropriately address the new needs of returning soldiers and their families.

All veterans are heroes, but sometimes heroes need help.

The Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 allows the immediate firing of incompetent high-level officials who broke the trust of our veterans by leaving them behind. It also includes appropriate provisions to prevent the abuse of these new powers.

The bill allows VA to lease 26 new medical facilities that would expand access to care, including \$4.8 million for the VA Worcester community-based Outpatient Clinic.

It authorizes the hiring of new medical personnel for hospitals and clinics that are facing a shortage of doctors and other health professionals.

It would allow veterans living more than 40 miles from a VA hospital or clinic to go to a private doctor.

It develops an independent commission to update the VA's scheduling appointments process and another to help spur the construction of new VA facilities.

It would allow all recently separated veterans taking advantage of the post-9/11 GI bill to get instate tuition at public colleges and universities. Finally, it would extend post-9/11 GI bill education benefits to surviving spouses of veterans who have died in the line of duty.

This bill is an important first step to dealing with the crisis at the VA. However, more needs to be done. We need to make sure the Massachusetts VA hospitals in Brockton, West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Bedford, and Northampton can continue to provide the care that our veterans deserve, including the latest in health care for traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other injuries.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of the 470,000 Maryland veterans in order to thank my colleagues for making veterans health care a priority by passing S. 2450, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014. I specifically applaud the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator SANDERS, and Senator JOHN MCCAIN for developing this bipartisan agreement and demonstrating to the Nation that the Congress can work together to meet our greatest challenges.

I want to thank President Obama and Acting Secretary Gibson for taking preliminary action and holding senior Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, leadership accountable. Now the hard work begins of renewing and meeting our commitments to our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for our Nation. I support this bill's efforts to provide immediate authority to refer veterans to non-VA care and its provisions addressing commonsense long-term reform. Much of the treatment our veterans need is already provided in world-class facilities that are closer to their homes than the nearest VA Hospital, and they stand ready to support them today.

I am concerned that the expedited firing provision for Senior Executive Service employees creates a separate process for VA staff employee. Let me be clear: Anyone guilty of fraud, malfeasance or criminal negligence must be held accountable. But current law and Office of Personnel Management policy provide measures to address such acts. Federal employees deserve the appropriate due process.

This bill is an exceptional step in the right direction and will begin to address some of the concerns we all have with respect to the VA, beginning with

access to care. But there is still much work to do to help our veterans return to civilian life after they have served. A mere thank you is of little comfort to a veteran who cannot find meaningful employment, who is struggling to provide for his or her family or who is dealing with post-traumatic stress. Their sacrifices are often made in stressful, frustrating, and dangerous conditions. Yet these brave men and women do not shy away from committing themselves to serving our country.

Disability claims at the VA are continuing to take far too long to be processed, and the backlog is denying support to veterans who are in critical need due to service-related injuries. I will continue to push for an amendment that will make the Fully Developed Claims Program permanent. The Fully Developed Claims Program is an optional new initiative that offers veterans and survivors faster decisions from the VA on compensation, pension, and survivor benefit claims. Veterans and survivors must simply submit all relevant records in their possession and those records which are easily obtainable, such as private medical records, at the time they make their claim and certify that they have no further evidence to submit. Then the VA can review and process the claims more quickly. This program is realizing much improved processing time due to the extraordinary partnership with numerous Veterans Service Organizations, but I propose we make a guarantee to our veterans that if they utilize this program, the VA will provide their final rating in an expedited manner or they will receive a provisional rating at 180 days. This is the level of commitment from Congress that the American people expect and our veterans deserve.

A true marker of our Nation's worth is our willingness to serve those who have served us. As we continue to wind down our commitments in Afghanistan after 13 years of war, we need to gear up our commitment to our veterans. Our veterans deserve every possible tool we can provide to help ease their transition to civilian life. I am committed to making sure that our veterans receive the services and benefits they have earned and the support they were promised and deserve. The United States is the strongest Nation in the world because of our veterans, and we owe them and their families our gratitude and our respect and, most important, our support.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, today I rise in strong support of S. 2450, a bill I have proudly cosponsored that would make critically needed reforms to the Department of Veterans Affairs. As we all know, revelations from whistleblowers, reports from the Government Accountability Office, an internal review by the VA, and an interim report from the VA's inspector general,

an independent watchdog, have all revealed problems within the VA that have caused the system to fail many of our veterans. This is simply unacceptable.

As the daughter of a World War II veteran, I understand the extraordinary debt we owe to the men and women who have served this Nation in defense of our freedoms. I thank my colleagues, Senator SANDERS and Senator MCCAIN, for working to forge a bipartisan bill to address some of the most serious shortcomings in the VA health care system that have been identified in recent weeks. The bill would provide for greater transparency at the VA by requiring an independent assessment of the scheduling system used at every VA medical center, along with the staffing levels and workloads at each facility. It would also task the VA inspector general to identify on an annual basis the health provider occupations with the largest staffing shortages, which will give both the VA and Congress a better understanding of the Department's needs. In order to address what has been identified as a shortage in health care providers within the VA, the bill would expand opportunities for veterans to seek care outside of the VA system, including allowing veterans who qualify to seek care at Department of Defense health facilities. The bill would also empower the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to immediately hold senior VA officials accountable if they have failed to do their jobs.

The credibility of the VA has taken a serious blow, and it will take years for the Department to regain the trust it has lost among veterans and among the American people. My strong support for this legislation is based on my belief that it will make critical and fundamental changes to the VA that will result in significant improvements to the quality of care our veterans receive and their ability to access that care. The VA is facing significant challenges, but with the passage of this legislation the Senate is taking an important step in helping to restore trust in a system that has provided tremendous care for generations of veterans. Our Nation's veterans deserve no less.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to state my strong support for the legislation on the floor that addresses the current healthcare crisis facing our nation's veterans. This bill, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014, is the product of excellent bipartisan work done by Senator SANDERS and Senator MCCAIN. I want to thank both of my colleagues for their efforts on drafting this legislation and finding a path to bring it to the Senate floor today. I believe their legislation will give our veterans access to the healthcare they deserve and that it will invest in the Department of Veterans Affairs' health care system.

While Senator SANDERS' and MCCAIN's legislation contains many good measures that will improve the healthcare our veterans receive at the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, I would like to highlight three provisions in the bill that I believe are especially important for Congress to pass.

First, I am strongly supportive that the legislation contains a provision to allow the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to immediately terminate senior executives for poor performance. It is my opinion that the current scandal was largely a result of ineffective and disgraceful mismanagement. As a first step, the Department must be able to terminate any managers who directed or pressured staff to falsify or cover up wait times for veterans seeking health care. It is time for a new culture of management in the VA, and I look forward to providing this authority to the Department.

Second, I am grateful the legislation provides the authority for the VA to quickly hire new clinical staff, such as physicians and nurses, when there is a shortage of medical providers within the VA. The legislation allows the VA to use any unobligated funds at the end of each fiscal year to do such hiring. The audit released by the Department of Veterans Affairs this week clearly indicated that many medical facilities had a shortage of clinical providers. The legislation on the floor also authorizes the VA to enter into medical leases the Department has requested in previous years, but that Congress has not funded. These include four community outpatient clinics in California, which are in San Diego, Chico, Chula Vista, and Redding. Thus, I am confident the authority to hire new clinical staff and the authority to enter into much needed medical leases are critical measures that Congress must pass if we expect the VA to meet the growing demand of medical care our Nation's veterans need and deserve.

I am also glad the legislation the Senate is considering contains measures to beef up how VA hospitals are evaluated for the quality of health care they provide, and that this information will be made public for veterans. The legislation contains a provision that would require the Department of Health and Human Services to complete evaluations of VA hospitals and to post this information publicly. It also requires the Government Accountability Office to look at the metrics the VA is using to evaluate patient care and hospital quality. Finally, the bill will require the VA to publish its appointment wait times, which will increase the transparency of how quickly our veterans can access health care. Thus, I want to thank both Senator SANDERS and Senator MCCAIN for including such important provisions that will improve accountability, transparency, and health care quality at the VA.

Recently, the Department of Veterans Affairs released the results of its nation-wide Access Audit detailing the breadth of its struggle to responsibly manage waiting lists for care at its medical facilities across the country. The allegations of false record-keeping and other inappropriate scheduling practices were further substantiated. The audit made it clear that many staff members—13 percent interviewed nationally—were instructed to use inappropriate scheduling actions by their supervisors. The audit also revealed that at least one scheduler at 76 percent of all VA facilities indicated they received direction to enter inaccurate or misleading appointment data. The result is that some veterans were forced to wait an egregious amount of time for medical appointments, and surely many of these veterans suffered negative health effects as a result of these delays.

After the press reports of secret wait lists at the Phoenix VA Medical Center, I wrote a letter to the VA's acting inspector general urging him to expand the scope of his investigation in order to determine if similar problems were occurring elsewhere. On May 28, 2014, the VA's Office of the Inspector General released an interim report of the ongoing review at the Phoenix VA Health Care System. This independent review verified that deliberate action was taken to falsify wait times and to keep some veterans—1,700 in Phoenix—off official wait lists. In response to this report, on June 2, I wrote to Acting Secretary Sloan Gibson requesting an immediate review of medical appointment wait times at all California VA medical facilities, and that the VA take action to expedite appointments for veterans in my State waiting an excessive amount of time to receive health care.

California is home to 8 major Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, health care systems which include 66 medical centers and outpatient clinics. According to the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau, of the nearly 22 million veterans in the United States, nine percent, or roughly 2 million, live in California; a figure greater than that of any other State. California's large population of veterans, many of which are concentrated in southern California, creates a substantial demand for medical care at California's VA Medical Centers.

The VA's Access Audit, released this week, validated the national extent of lengthy wait times and potential falsification of appointment records. It also makes it clear that California is not exempt from the recent VA scandal. The data collected shows that over 20,000 veterans in California are having to wait more than 30 days for a medical appointment. Nearly 3,000 are waiting more than 90 days for their appointment. Furthermore, nearly 7,000 Cali-

fornia veterans are on electronic wait lists who have not been able to schedule any appointment. This lack of urgency to provide care to our Nation's veterans is not only appalling, it is also irresponsible.

In addition, I am deeply troubled that the recent audit identified that five VA health care facilities in my State had some evidence of falsifying or hiding wait times. They are the Livermore Medical Center, the Yuba City Outpatient Clinic, the Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center, the Escondido Outpatient Clinic, and the Imperial Valley Outpatient Clinic. The VA recommended the Office of the Inspector General conduct investigations at these facilities in order to determine if any fraudulent or criminal activity occurred, and I eagerly await the results of these investigations.

It is clear to me that excessive wait times for medical appointments negatively impacts the health of our veterans. So, fixing the VA is not only about fixing the systemic management problems that led to a cover-up of appointment wait times at certain VA facilities across the Nation. The fix also must be about improving the VA's ability to provide high caliber health care to all of our Nation's veterans.

The VA must radically alter how it manages health care. It is my opinion that the VA's performance should be tied to the health outcomes of our veterans. The VA has played number games with appointment wait times in order to evaluate their performance for too long, and that must end today. I hope the new leadership at the Department will work to develop better measures of performance that are based on how well our veterans do in terms of health and wellbeing as a result of the care they receive at the VA.

For example, the VA should strive to reduce preventable drug resistant infections acquired in medical facilities. Deadly drug resistant infections are linked to poor infection control and the overuse of antibiotics in hospitals. These infections, like Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus, MRSA, and Clostridium difficile are deadly, difficult to treat, and largely preventable. VA hospitals that provide high quality medical care, that use antibiotics prudently, and that practice good hygiene will have lower rates of these infections, faster recovery times for hospitalized patients, and reduced health care costs. VA hospitals that have clear data that they use antibiotics appropriately, have fewer deadly hospital acquired infections, and have veterans who can be discharged faster should be noticed for their performance. I truly believe that a greater focus on health care quality and outcomes is critical for improving the VA's health care system.

The delays in access to health care and the culture of cover-ups that

emerged within the Department of Veterans Affairs are absolutely unacceptable. Our Nation's veterans served and sacrificed for our country, and they deserve better. I truly believe the legislation introduced by Senators SANDERS and MCCAIN is the solution our veterans need and deserve. This is not a partisan issue, this is an issue of doing what is right by those who defended our freedom.

Thus, I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in support of S. 2450, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014.

The preliminary VA inspector general's report of delayed care at the Phoenix Hospital uncovered serious and systemic failures in our VA system. The internal audit by the Veterans Health Administration confirmed these delays. These problems have dragged on long enough and must be addressed and corrected. I believe we must keep the promises we have made to our veterans. We can do this by giving them the same quality of service they gave us, and by providing them with the care they deserve. That is why I support this bill.

This bill contains a number of provisions that will improve veterans access to care when they need it the most by:

Sending care into the community and ensuring veterans do not have to wait more than 14 days to see a doctor or physician;

expeditiously hiring new doctors, nurses and other health care providers in locations that have shortages;

requiring the VA to upgrade their electronic scheduling software;

authorizing the VA to enter into 27 major medical leases that will increase access to care for thousands of veterans who currently have to travel long distances to get the care they need;

requiring the President to create a commission to evaluate access issues in the VA Health Care system;

and, creating a commission on capital planning for VA medical facilities to look at the processes to ensure our veterans are being treated in safe facilities.

There is also a provision that would allow the Secretary of the VA to terminate VA senior executives for poor performance. This provision would also require the Secretary to provide Congress a justification for any removal within 30 days. I also support giving SES employees the ability to appeal to the Merit System Protection Board within 7 days of termination, providing them the protections from retaliation and discrimination they deserve.

In addition to supporting this bill, as the chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have put money in the Federal checkbook to improve

the veterans health care system so that wounded and disabled warriors get the care and benefits they need. I have worked to ensure veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, or a traumatic brain injury, TBI receive better diagnosis and treatment through the Defense Department and the VA.

I have also led the charge to reduce the backlog in processing veterans disability claims. I brought Secretary Shinseki to Baltimore to create a sense of urgency to end the backlog by 2015. I used my power as chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee to convene a hearing with the top brass in the military and members of the committee to identify challenges and get moving on solutions. I cut across agencies to break down smokestacks and developed a 10-point checklist for change enacted as part of the FY-2014 omnibus appropriations bill. This plan includes better funding, better technology, better training and better oversight of the VA.

The Veteran's Administration needs a new attitude from the bottom up in every facility across the Nation. It is time to turn the VA around. Veterans who have fought on the front lines should not have to stand in line for the care they have earned and deserve.

This legislation is a significant step in the right direction, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: How much time is on both sides?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican side has 6 minutes, the Democrats just under 13 minutes.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the Senator from Alabama to have 6 minutes, and I ask unanimous consent for 4 additional minutes for this side, following the Senator from Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Hearing none, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I appreciate the work of my colleagues on this legislation. They have accomplished some very good things. We need legislation to pass to help our veterans. The needs are real, and recent revelations of substantially substandard care—and too often no care at all—at our VA medical centers are shocking. There is and has been a long-term problem with the management of that agency. It is heartbreaking. It is an embarrassment. We owe our veterans better care than they have been given.

One of the keys to improve that care is improving accountability, ensuring money is being properly spent, not simply wasted by government bureaucrats. The money needs to get to our veterans.

Our national debt now is \$17 trillion. It is growing rapidly. We cannot be

lighthearted or cavalier about our responsibility to follow our agreement to honor the budget limitations we have. There are a lot of budgetary freedoms we have and a lot of ability we have and duties we have to set priorities in our spending. Veterans clearly are a priority. I fought hard against the recent push to cut veterans pensions and led an effort to restore those pensions payments.

In this case we are dealing with an issue of bureaucratic accountability. What happens so often is that in the crush and press of business, we are unable to reach agreements on finding money somewhere else in this monstrous bureaucracy and government of ours, and we simply break the budget and add to the debt. Our veterans deserve better than that.

I am the ranking Republican on the Budget Committee. We wrestle with these issues—the chairman of the committee, Senator MURRAY—and the numbers from the Congressional Budget Office indicate that this legislation, as drafted, violates the Budget Act.

Indeed, the entire bill, the way the language is written, has been declared an “emergency” which allows its authors to avoid finding the efficiencies and the accountabilities needed to stay within the Federal budget limits both parties agreed to. There is plenty of wasteful spending to be cut elsewhere in government, and much we can do to increase accountability at the VA.

Even more concerning is the new open-ended entitlement legislation in the bill. The bill would authorize emergency spending but sets no limits on that spending. Section 801 says “such sums as necessary.” Well, how much is necessary? This is an important conversation to have, to wrestle with, and to develop solutions. But by simply not developing these solutions, we invite more of the same kind of accountability problems we have seen that brought us here.

I feel strongly that we have to do the right thing for our veterans, but history suggests a blank check for the bureaucracy, an unlimited entitlement program, will not have the desired results—indeed, may even yield the opposite results from what we hope to achieve.

We need to resist the temptation to create more entitlements and more entitlements, which is one of the reasons we are heading recklessly toward fiscal crisis, as our own Congressional Budget Office has indicated, and instead focus on creating reforms and solutions that improve that quality of service and the effectiveness that is delivered. Isn't that our job? Isn't that what our veterans deserve from us—the very best we can give them? As many hours as it takes for us to get this right, instead of simply avoiding the difficult issues we must tackle to solve this calamity long-term?

There are also 3 years of emergency spending under the legislation, which I think is an unwise precedent for us to set. Again: it leads to the kind of unaccountability, the lack of oversight that helped create this crisis in the first place. We should designate—maybe if we have to do this—2014 money this year where the crisis is. We have already appropriated money. If we need some more, that could be perhaps justified as emergency spending, but a 3-year bill goes beyond what I think is proper. It fails to establish the oversight that Congress has a solemn duty to deliver. We can't just write a blank check and think it will solve these problems. We have to ask the tougher, deeper questions about the changes needed in Washington to do right by our veterans. Details matter. Every line of legislation matters. We need to get this right.

The Appropriations Committee has already reported out the 2015 VA—HUD bill. It is already on the floor and could be here as early as next week. The Senate could easily attach a bipartisan amendment to that that provides the spending called for in this bill with offsets, cuts, efficiencies, and reductions in other spending to pay for it. There are places we could do this.

So I have to tell you, there are some good things in the bill. I think there are. It improves the situation. I like the idea of giving veterans more choice to go to the doctor who is close to them. It is something Senator McCAIN and Senator SANDERS have agreed on. I think that is progress, very much so, but I have to say I cannot suggest to my colleagues that the budget violation now before us should be waived. It should not. Ignoring this requirement will not help our veterans in the long run, but will lead to the same kind of problems we are confronting today. We should adhere to the agreement we reached on spending by finding offsets. If we don't adhere to our spending limits, other programs will crowd out the budget for veterans and mean we have less money in the future not more, to fund these programs. If we ignore our debt, we do a disservice to our veterans. Unfortunately, the bill does not do what the law we agreed to requires. It is not paid for. We all agree veterans are our priority. So then is it not our duty to them to fulfill this priority by reducing wasteful spending elsewhere so that money can be spent on veterans instead? Can we not deliver for these veterans that most basic level of responsibility on our part as lawmakers?

Finally, colleagues, a vote to sustain the budget point of order is a vote that tells the committee to find appropriate money for the bill and does not kill the bill. It does not knock down the bill. It allows it to continue to be alive and a piece of legislation before us. It would just require us to fix the funding. It would require us to fix the bill. So that

is what we should be doing. That is why I feel I must raise the budget point of order.

In summary, the bill has mandatory spending that violates the limits we have agreed to in the Budget Act, and the bill also abuses the emergency designation to circumvent the requirement for offsets and the need for accountability.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I raise a point of order against the emergency designation provision contained in Section 802(b) of H.R. 3230, the vehicle for S. 2450, the Veterans' Access to Care Through Choice Act, pursuant to section 403(E)(1) of the fiscal year 2010 budget resolution, S. Con. Res. 13.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I am going to yield to Senator McCAIN in a moment, but before I do that, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions and section 4(g)(3) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, I move to waive all applicable sections of those acts and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of the pending bill, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, how much time remains on both sides?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona has 4 minutes, the Senator from Vermont has 10 minutes.

Mr. McCAIN. Does the Senator from Vermont want to go ahead?

Mr. SANDERS. I am happy, if the Senator from Arizona needs more time at the end of his 4, for him go right ahead.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to thank a lot of people, including the staffs of the committees, Senator SANDERS' staff, Dahlia Melendez and Travis Murphy; Senator BURR's staff, Natasha Hickman, Maureen O'Neill, Anna Abram, and Victoria Lee; Senator COBURN's staff, Jabari White; my own staff, Elizabeth Lopez, Jeremy Hayes, and Joe Donoghue, and all the hard work that has gone into this legislation.

I think it is well known to my colleagues that this is an unprecedented piece of legislation in that for the first time it is going to provide our veterans with a choice. There are many other provisions I would like to discuss also but have been, and I am sure my colleague from Vermont will be addressing those.

There are, according to a recent VA audit, over 57,000 veterans who have been waiting for an appointment for over 3 months to see a physician at the VA. Over 63,000 veterans over the past

10 years have never been able to get an appointment at all. There are allegations in the Phoenix VA hospital that 40 veterans have died.

Today, June 11, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has opened a criminal investigation into allegedly misleading scheduling practices at the Department of Veterans Affairs that may have concealed how long veterans had to wait for appointments to see a doctor. "Our Phoenix office has opened a criminal investigation," FBI Director James Comey said in response to a lawmaker's question at a hearing Wednesday.

If that is not an emergency, I do not know what is. If it is not an emergency that the very lives of the men and women who have served our country with honor and distinction are being either jeopardized or allegations of absolutely being lost through malpractice and malfeasance, if that is not an emergency, I have never seen one before this body.

I urge my colleagues to vote this for what it is, this budget point of order. This is an emergency. If it is not an emergency that we have neglected the brave men and women who have served this country and keep us free, than I do not know what an emergency is.

Hard work has been done on this legislation, hard work and a lot of compromises. I am happy to see that the majority of the veterans service organizations are now in support of it. Is it a perfect piece of legislation? No. Is it exactly what I wanted? No. Is it exactly what the Senator from Vermont wanted? Absolutely not. But this is an emergency. I tell my colleagues, if it is not an emergency of how we care for those who have served on the field of battle, then nothing else is before this body.

It breaks our hearts. It breaks American's hearts when they hear and see these stories of those brave men and women and the neglect they have suffered, the lack of a fulfillment of an obligation we made to them. I hope we will vote against this budget point of order. I hope we will vote unanimously, 100 to 0, to pass this legislation, send it to the House, go to conference, get it to the President's desk, and start healing the wounds that have been inflicted on these men and women.

There is no way we can ever compensate for those who have gone without the treatment they have earned, but at least we can expeditiously fix this problem to the best of our ability. Is this the ultimate and final solution to those problems that have been uncovered? No, but it is a beginning. It is not the end of the beginning, it is a beginning. There will be more proposals before us. There will be more efforts to fix this gaping wound in America's conscience.

I urge my colleagues to vote to waive the budget point of order. This is an

emergency. I urge my colleagues to vote for the bill. Again, I thank everyone for their involvement, especially Senator BURR and Senator COBURN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Let me just thank Senator MCCAIN for his very hard and bold work on this issue. He stood and came forward when we needed someone to do so. I think we have made real progress in a bipartisan way.

As Senator MCCAIN just said, and I agree with him, if this is not an emergency, I am not quite clear what an emergency is.

During the last 4 years some 2 million new veterans have come into the VA system. Many of them have come in with very difficult medical problems, PTSD, TBI. We have an aging veteran population. Taking care of older people is complex and expensive. The simple truth is that in many parts of this country—not all parts I suspect, but in a number of places in this country—we simply do not have the number of doctors, nurses, and other medical staff to accommodate the needs of our veterans. I have been told, unofficially at least, that at the very minimum there is a need for 700 new physicians in the VA. I am told that is the floor, that the reality may be higher than that.

I have been told that in Phoenix alone there is a need for hundreds of new providers in order to address the problems in that one large facility. Further, this legislation says to veterans that if there are long wait times, if they cannot get into a facility in a reasonable time, they can go outside of the VA. That is what this bill says.

You know what. That is going to cost money. That will cost money. This legislation also says that if they live 40 miles or more from a VA facility, they have the option of going to a private provider. That benefit is going to cost money. The bottom line is that if we are going to do what in my view we should do; that is, to make sure every facility in the VA has adequate staffing—doctors, nurses, other medical personnel—and to make sure there is available funding to pay for those veterans who will now get care outside of the VA—right now the VA is spending about \$4.8 billion a year in contract fees. There is no question in my mind that number is going to go up, but that is what we are voting on now.

If you want to provide timely care to veterans, if you agree they should go outside of the VA, it is going to cost money. If we are going to do that and the other things in this bill, that legislation needs to be passed as written, and we must waive the point of order brought up by Senator SESSIONS.

Lastly, I remind my colleagues that when Congress voted to go to war in Afghanistan and Iraq, it did so with emergency funding. Those wars will, it

is estimated, cost between \$3 and \$6 trillion by the time we take care of the last veteran. If we can spend that kind of money to go to war on an emergency basis, surely we can spend one-tenth of 1 percent of that amount to take care of the men and women who fought those wars.

What we have done, as Senator MCCAIN has indicated, is developed a compromise. I am sure he is not happy with everything in the bill. I am not happy with everything in the bill as well. I did want to also remind Senators about a few of the other provisions that are in this bill that are important and I think do have bipartisan support.

This bill allows for 26 major medical facility leases, which means improved and expanded care for veterans in 27 States and Puerto Rico. This bill provides for the expedited hiring of VA doctors and nurses and \$500 million targeted to hire those providers with unobligated funds. As I mentioned earlier, this bill allows for veterans to go outside of the VA when there are waiting lines and when they live 40 miles from a facility. This bill also deals with an issue where there is widespread support both in the House and the Senate; that is, the need to address in-state tuition for all veterans at public colleges and universities.

It also provides that surviving spouses of those who die in the line of duty will be eligible for the post-9/11 GI bill. This bill also importantly establishes commissions to provide help to the VA in terms of improving scheduling capabilities—God knows they certainly need that help—and also for capital planning.

Lastly—and we need to reiterate this point—this bill gives the Secretary of the VA the authority to immediately fire incompetent employees and those who have falsified or manipulated data in terms of waiting periods.

Our legislation differs from the House in that in order to prevent, in my view, the politicization of the VA or eliminate all due process, it provides for a very expedited appeals process.

The House of Representatives passed legislation yesterday which covers a lot of the same ground the Sanders-McCain bill covers, and I am absolutely confident that working with Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD we can bridge the differences and send the President a bill that he can sign in the very near future.

Finally and lastly, I want to say to the 300,000 employees who work at the VA that the overwhelming majority of those people are hard-working, honest, serious people. For many of them, taking care of veterans is not a job; it is a mission. Many of them are, in fact, veterans themselves. These people understand the sacrifices the veterans have made to protect our country, and they are doing the best that they can to support our veterans.

I hope we pass this bill. I hope we pass a waiver for the budget point of order. I hope we get a conference committee moving immediately, and I hope we get a bill to the President as soon as possible.

Furthermore, as Senator MCCAIN has just mentioned, I don't think this is the end of the discussion regarding the needs of veterans. I hope very much that in our committee and on the floor we can begin to address some of the other very serious issues facing the veterans' community.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The senior Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent for 5 minutes for Dr. COBURN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. I thank the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for working with Senator MCCAIN to get a bill.

I support Senator SESSIONS and the budget points of order on this bill. I take exception to some of the statements by my colleague from Vermont.

As reported yesterday, if you look at the patient list for many of the primary care doctors in the VA, they are half of what the average practicing physician outside the VA is. When you drill down on those, many of them have patients that have been deceased for years. About 10 to 15 percent of their patient list has never been to the VA, or they came once from a different State or were transferred from somewhere else. What you actually see is the patient load in the private sector is about 2½ times what the patient load is in the VA.

I have no doubt we need to increase the number of physicians in the VA, but we also need to increase markedly the amount of output that those physicians perform.

The other thing that is important in this bill is the transparency—which I don't believe has been mentioned—that will actually allow veterans to know the quality outcomes of where they are being treated and the credentials of those who are treating them. Those are important factors for care.

Our veterans deserve the best care. I agree with the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee that the vast majority of our VA employees are hard-working employees, but there are some who aren't.

Our lack of oversight and the lack of management expertise at the VA has now exploded into issues that are going to continue to be exploded. We hear every day new whistleblowers coming forward on the problems in the VA.

It is not only scheduling; it is a lack of truthfulness in a lot of other areas. It is a lot of inaccuracy in terms of outcome.

I agree with the chairman. This is just the beginning. But if, in fact, somebody puts their life on the line for us, we certainly, at a minimum, ought to make sure that we don't just have words that say we are going to give you the health care if you are an injured returning war veteran, but that we actually give that care, and that it meets the standard of care we want for anybody in our family. This is just the start.

The other thing that I would say, in agreement with Senator SESSIONS, there are ways to pay for this bill.

On the clinics, we drill down on one clinic—and I am going to go spend just a minute talking about it. It is a clinic that will triple in size, but with an average expected increase in veteran population of 5 percent and visits of less than 7 percent over the next 20 years. So it is going to go from 50,000 to 190,000 square feet.

We are going to spend \$188 million for that facility and pay \$40 a square foot per year for it on a rate of increase of 4 percent in part of the lease. We can rent the same space in Tulsa at \$15 a foot and spend less money than we pay for the engineering cost for this to have a clinic just as good or better.

So the planning and the management of the VA on these clinics is suspect, and I plan on drilling down on every one of those before this bill comes to conference and give our conferees the information based on that. Because we are going to spend emergency money, as the chairman would like to do on this, we ought to make sure there isn't a penny that is wasted.

So we can do it. We can do it better, we can do it for less money, and we can do it in the confines of what we are actually going to see.

The final thing is I would say again to my colleague from Vermont, I appreciate his willingness to compromise on the issues. His heart is dedicated to veterans, and I understand that. Our philosophies are different on how we get there, but his commitment is nonetheless real and felt, and I thank him.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SANDERS. I yield back the remainder of the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to waive.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 75, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 186 Leg.]

YEAS—75

Alexander	Grassley	Mikulski
Ayotte	Hagan	Murkowski
Baldwin	Harkin	Murphy
Begich	Hatch	Murray
Bennet	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Pryor
Booker	Heller	Reed
Boozman	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Brown	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cantwell	Johanns	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	King	Stabenow
Chambliss	Kirk	Tester
Collins	Klobuchar	Toomey
Coons	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Levin	Vitter
Durbin	Manchin	Walsh
Feinstein	Markey	Warner
Fischer	McCain	Warren
Franken	McConnell	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Menendez	Wyden

NAYS—19

Barrasso	Enzi	Roberts
Blunt	Flake	Sessions
Coats	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Coburn	Lee	Thune
Corker	Paul	Wicker
Crapo	Portman	
Cruz	Risch	

NOT VOTING—6

Cochran	McCaskill	Moran
Graham	Merkley	Scott

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 75, the nays are 19.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to. The point of order falls.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 187 Leg.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Franken	Murphy
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murray
Baldwin	Graham	Nelson
Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Begich	Hagan	Portman
Bennet	Harkin	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Boxer	Hirono	Rockefeller
Brown	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sanders
Cantwell	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johanns	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Scott
Casey	Kaine	Shaheen
Chambliss	King	Shelby
Coats	Kirk	Stabenow
Coburn	Klobuchar	Tester
Collins	Landrieu	Thune
Coons	Leahy	Toomey
Cornyn	Lee	Udall (CO)
Crapo	Levin	Udall (NM)
Cruz	Manchin	Vitter
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	McCain	Warner
Enzi	McConnell	Warren
Feinstein	Menendez	Whitehouse
Fischer	Mikulski	Wicker
Flake	Murkowski	Wyden

NAYS—3

Corker	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
--------	--------------	----------

NOT VOTING—4

Cochran	Merkley
McCaskill	Moran

The bill (H.R. 3230), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. I ask unanimous consent that the title amendment to H.R. 3230, which is at the desk, be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. INHOFE. Reserving the right to object, let me inquire of the Senator if it is his intent to speak on that tonight.

Mr. TESTER. In a moment I am going to ask unanimous consent to go into morning business, and I am going to speak on the veterans bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. If the Senator from Montana would yield for a question, is there any kind of order established regarding who would be recognized at this point?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is not.

Mr. LEVIN. The Senator from Oklahoma and I thought we would be recognized 1 hour ago. We understood the exigency that there would be some delay.

If we could establish an order—apparently Senator GRASSLEY is waiting to be recognized as well.

May I ask the Senator from Montana how long he would be speaking? Would it be in order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. How long am I speaking?

Mr. LEVIN. Yes.

Mr. TESTER. About 7 minutes.

Through the Chair to the Senator from Michigan, it was my understanding that I was going to speak, the Senator would have his colloquy with Senator INHOFE, and then Senator GRASSLEY would speak.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the Senator.

Mr. GRASSLEY. May I ask the Senator a question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. How much time is the colloquy going to take?

Mr. LEVIN. I would say about 7 or 8 minutes.

Mr. INHOFE. I think I had the floor, and I was objecting to the UC.

Let me just share that we would—we could—do ours probably in about 12 minutes, and then we could have more time tomorrow, if that would work out.

I withdraw my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3237) was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read:

“To improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. TESTER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time previously agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Montana.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. TESTER. I rise to speak about the care this Nation provides to veterans—care that they have earned, the care that we owe them, the care that we promised them, and the care that we should never stop working to improve.

I joined the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee when I came to the Senate in January of 2007. Soon thereafter I launched a listening tour around the great State of Montana to hear what veterans thought about the health care they receive.

Montana has the second-most veterans per capita. We serve our country at some of the highest rates in the Nation. We are home to a large Native-American population that serves more often than any other minority in this country.

In 2007, the surge in Iraq was in full swing. Veterans had many concerns on their minds. But in rural Montana I heard over and over from the veterans about how the mileage reimbursement

that disabled veterans receive to see their doctor at the VA was far too low. In fact, it was at 11 cents a mile, hardly enough to even pay for the gas, much less the tires, the oil, and the automobile itself.

That number matters in a State where folks have to drive a couple hundred miles across the State to see their doctor.

So when I came back to Washington I worked with then-Senator Byrd to raise that reimbursement rate for the first time in decades. Now more veterans can afford to see their doctor, and that is how a representative of government should work—identify a problem, write a bill to fix it, work with colleagues, hear their concerns, and pass a solution into law. That is what we have done here today.

Today's bill is a good bill that gets at some of the VA's most pressing problems. Today's bill addresses many of the transparency, accountability, and access-to-care issues that are plaguing the VA. By getting rid of incentives to falsify wait times and make it easier to remove bad managers, we will hold more folks accountable for the care veterans receive. By making it easier to hire medical professionals and allowing more veterans to seek care from outside providers, we will reduce the bottleneck that forces veterans to wait too long for care.

I want to be clear about one issue. Once veterans get in the door at the VA, they receive incredibly good health care. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I continue to travel around Montana to talk to veterans. I speak to veterans' groups around the country as well.

They tell me that VA care is some of the best in the Nation. I have had wives, husbands, daughters, and sons seek me out to tell me what VA is doing right. Additionally, 9 out of 10 veterans report they are happy with the care they receive at the VA. That is important to remember.

It isn't all bad news, but the fact is that while the war in Afghanistan is winding down, and the war in Iraq has come to a close, the struggle for many service men and women continues here at home.

We went to war after 9/11 to fight against terror, to fight for the freedoms that we value in this country, but we didn't think far enough down the road. We didn't think about how we could care for our fighting men and women when they returned from battle.

When I joined the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the VA was starting to recover from years of neglect. In 2007, as Americans fought in the streets of Baghdad, Congress had to pass an emergency budget bill to keep the lights on in the VA. Imagine that—fighting two wars, but we didn't properly fund the department that cares for our troops when they come home.

With better planning and advance appropriations, we have come a long way, but attention spans and new cycles are short.

The bill we passed today is a good start, but it can't be the end of the story. Moving forward, we must make sure that we have all the facts because you can't fix a problem if you don't understand it.

That is why I have already worked with my colleagues to help pass legislation out of committee that will free up more resources for the inspector general's office of the VA to do its job and to make reports from the VA inspector general public and transparent.

The bill also prohibits the payment of bonuses to VA medical directors and senior VA employees until investigations are complete and reforms are made. Our message is clear; that is, that veterans come first.

In the 7 years since I held that first veterans listening session across Montana, since then we have worked with veterans groups to open new veterans centers and community-based out-patient clinics across the State of Montana.

I have helped more veterans get transportation to get to their doctor appointments, and I have helped lead the way to expand the use of telehealth for rural veterans. We did this while working with the VA secretaries from both parties by working across the aisle to write commonsense legislation that meets the needs of veterans and their families. Not only should improving veterans care be an unrelenting focus for this body but it must be a nonpartisan one.

Improving mental health care for veterans is not a partisan issue. Improving veterans' ability to get a good job is not a partisan issue. Making sure that veterans get the care they have earned, the care that we promised them when they signed up to fight should never be a partisan issue.

Let's keep working together to honor the sacrifices made by our fighting men and women, as well as the families who anxiously wait for them back home.

On Saturday morning I will be in Anaconda, MT, kicking off my latest veterans listening tour to get more ideas about how we can improve the services and care for veterans.

I know that many of my colleagues are holding similar sessions in their States, and I look forward to hearing what ideas they bring back so that we can work together to improve veterans health care.

If this bill is the end of this Congress's work on veterans issues, it will be disappointing to me and it will be disappointing to the veterans out there who put their lives on the line to defend our freedom.

We have more work to do, and I hope it doesn't require another crisis to get it done.

I wish to thank BERNIE SANDERS for his great work on this bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. LEVIN. Before the Memorial Day recess, the Armed Services Committee voted 25 to 1 to favorably report out S. 2410, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

The bill is on the calendar, and both it and the committee report have been filed and are available online and in print.

As the chairman and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, Senator INHOFE and I hope to bring the bill to the Senate floor as soon as the Senate schedule allows. I have talked with the majority leader about it, and he says he is going to do his best, but there are a number of things that we can do to be helpful on this effort.

Neither of us wants to be in the position that we were in last year when Senators were unable to take up the bill and vote on any amendments to this important legislation because of how close it was to the end of the session when it was brought up.

Both of us are on the floor today urging Senators who are considering amendments to the bill to file them before the July recess.

We would then be in a position—both of us, with our staffs—to work with Senators to clear as many amendments as possible for inclusion in a manager's package and to begin identifying relevant amendments that would be likely to be contested.

Now, we believe if we can develop a list of a few relevant amendments that would require votes to start with when we first take up the bill, it would help us in getting to the floor. I believe that is the case, given the circumstances the Senate is in.

We have an awful lot of work ahead of us. We don't have a long time to do it. If we were able to put together a proposal to the leaders, that we have not only the bill, which is obviously on the calendar, we have worked on a bipartisan basis to pass with the 25-vote majority—which is minus 1 vote in the Senate—it would be our belief this would have greater practical appeal to our leaders.

We think this approach would enable us to reach unanimous consent as to an initial set of relevant amendments to be considered so we could then move forward expeditiously when the Senate returns to the bill. I hope our colleagues will help us in this matter.

I think it is in everybody's interest and it is in the national security interest that we have a bill before us. We have to pass a bill in order to go to conference with the House or else we

are put in the same kind of position we were in last year, where we simply present what amounted to a conference report before a bill had ever been truly debated and sent. We and our staff, working with colleagues, put together what amounted to a conference report, which was not a conference report in technical terms but was in effect the work product of both the Senate and the House and our committees by process of negotiation.

So our colleagues can be very helpful in getting this bill to the floor, meeting the concerns of our Nation and doing what we should be doing for our troops and our families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I first say and express my appreciation to Chairman LEVIN. We hear a lot of talk about bipartisanship and people getting along. That is usually just talk. In this case, it is real.

We have a committee of Democrats and Republicans concerned about defending our Nation with totally inadequate resources. Chairman LEVIN has responded every time we have had some kind of a controversial matter come up. Then our staff—Peter Levine is the staff director for the majority and John Bonsell is the staff director for the minority—I have yet to call them when issues come up that we haven't been able to get this done, and this is kind of unusual. This doesn't happen in the Senate in very many committees.

I believe, and have always said, the NDAA is the most important bill of the year, keeping in mind we have actually passed one for 52 consecutive years. This is something that has to be done.

We adopted the National Defense Authorization Act on May 22, as the chairman said, 25 to 1, which doesn't happen very often around here. It contains a lot of vital work we have to do and it is within the budget caps.

I think it supports the training of the troops, the maintenance and modernization, research and development, and the pay and benefits. These are tough issues to negotiate, but we have done that, and we have it ready for more action.

What we don't want is what happened last year. Last year we had a lot of amendments. We on the Republican side were wanting to have all these amendments. I think we are entitled to amendments. We did a count last year of how many amendments were on the average bill. It was something like 140 amendments. We didn't have nearly that many requests, but we were able to get them in.

If we start now, we can do that. So I wish to tell my Republican colleagues that I don't want them to come back and start complaining later on, if we don't start getting amendments now so

we can hash them out, find out what is acceptable, and find out where the opposition would be. But we don't want to wait until the end of the year.

It got so close last year, as we were approaching December 31, and we all know that if we don't have a Defense authorization bill by that time, hazard pay is at risk, reenlistment bonuses won't be paid. Stop and think about the cost. Right now, if we were to hire a person in training to be an F-22 pilot, the cost is \$9 million. However, the retention bonus for over a 9-year period could be \$225,000. Look at the economics of it. We don't want that to happen.

Last year we were able to get a bill. It is the first time I have ever participated in a "big four" meeting. Actually, three of us sat down because we had one no-show. So three of us put together a bill in a period of time, tried to consider all the amendments, and most people were pretty satisfied with it, but that is not the way it is supposed to happen.

We are going to have a lot of amendments. We always do. The only way we are going to be able to do this is to get this out on the floor. I think it needs to be passed before the end of the fiscal year. So I invite my friends on both sides of the aisle to bring down their amendments.

Let me again say how appreciative I am personally of having worked with CARL LEVIN in this process and with the staff, who have been so easy to work with, and so competent and professional.

Mr. LEVIN. If the Senator will yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank Senator GRASSLEY for his patience.

Senator INHOFE and his staff worked extraordinarily well with us on this side of the aisle. It is a bipartisan bill. It is a bipartisan committee. Senator INHOFE has helped in a very important way to maintain this bipartisan tradition of our committee. I thank him for the remarks, and I thank him and his staff.

I hope our colleagues will listen to what we both are urging them to do. Let us take a look at the amendments now, instead of waiting and waiting and waiting. Because if we look at amendments now, we increase our chances of getting this bill to the floor earlier rather than later.

I thank the Presiding Officer and my friend from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to address two issues, a shorter issue on immigration and a longer issue on the student loan program, particularly in reference to legislation offered earlier this morning.

On immigration, this morning, Secretary Johnson appeared before the Judiciary Committee. We had a chance to ask a number of questions related to the administration's release of 36,000 criminal aliens, for what reasons the Department voluntarily did release them—especially convicted murderers—and what they are doing to track down and keep track of where these people are. I didn't get answers, but the Secretary committed to respond in writing about the matter, and I thank him ahead of time for doing that.

I also asked about data on countries that refuse to cooperate in taking back their nationals. Today I am introducing a bill with Senator INHOFE to fix this situation and allow the government to detain foreign nationals who pose a threat to our homeland. I have a longer statement on that issue.

Finally, I mention that the Secretary of Homeland Security answered a lot of questions related to unaccompanied children coming to the United States, mostly from Central America, and entering our southern border.

I agree we do have a humanitarian problem. These are vulnerable children whose lives are on the line. They are escorted by strangers for the most part, away from their families in some cases, and each of these young people probably not understanding what lies ahead.

When in custody, our government makes an attempt to reunite them with their families. However, sometimes the government is handing them over to nonrelatives, which concerns me because of the potential of placing them in the hands of pimps and traffickers.

As I said this morning in the committee, these children are being lured into these dire circumstances by false promises. That is evident from the interviews being done with the children.

Already, border agents and intelligence analysts have been interviewing the youth to understand why they are migrating at this particular time. Today I received a document that summarizes the findings of these interviewers. The document, while it does not have any author or official seal, was apparently done to summarize the interviews of individuals crossing the border along the McAllen, Rio Grande City, and Weslaco stations.

Two hundred thirty subjects were interviewed from several countries. An overwhelming majority said they were coming to the United States to take advantage of the new U.S. law that grants a free pass to unaccompanied children and female adults traveling with minors. That so-called free pass refers to a Notice to Appear document issued and then saying they are released on their own recognizance pending a hearing.

There is no new law. There is a new bill that passed the Senate 1 year ago but not through the House of Representatives, and it may never be. So there is no new law granting a free pass to unaccompanied children and female adults traveling with minors.

Specifically, this report states:

A high percentage of the subjects interviewed stated their family members in the U.S. urged them to travel immediately, because the United States Government was only issuing immigration [free passes] until the end of June 2014.

The report states that:

The issue of free passes was the main reason provided by 95 percent, plus or minus, of the interviewed subjects.

So while I understand there are a lot of factors involved, we cannot ignore the fact that these children are coming or are being forced here because of a belief on their part that they will never be deported.

We can say that is thanks to the Obama administration because this administration has refused to be serious about immigration enforcement. The President needs to send a signal right away, if he wants to stop this catastrophe from happening, that the laws will be enforced.

Instead of reviewing deportation policies and suggesting ways to remove fewer people, the President should task Secretary Johnson with finding ways to actually enforce the laws we have on the books.

We must send a very strong signal that there is no benefit and no avenue for them to remain in the United States. We must do this so the children are not lured into dire situations in the future. Even before they cross the border into the United States, they are probably already in circumstances we would consider a dire situation.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. GRASSLEY. In fiscal year 2014, the U.S. Department of Education will make about \$112 billion in Federal direct loans to students. The Federal Government already holds more than \$1 trillion in student loan debt. So that makes the U.S. Department of Education one of the country's largest lenders. Total student loan debt in the United States is now second only to mortgage debt, and about 90 percent of all student loans happen to be issued by the Federal Government.

When elected officials say we have a student loan crisis because too many students owe more than they can afford to repay, we have to keep in mind who it was and is that made those loans to students in the first place.

It was, in fact, Uncle Sam.

What is one of the first things a Federal regulator looks at when a private bank issues a loan? They look at whether the bank has confirmed the ability of the borrower to repay. Fed-

eral student loans are given out without a credit check or any analysis of the student's ability to repay the loans in the first place.

The fastest growing category of student loans is Federal unsubsidized student loans, which are given out regardless of need. That means that students across this country get an award letter from their college saying they are eligible for thousands of dollars in Federal loans, even though in many cases they may not need all of those loans to cover their tuition and other costs. Colleges are required to offer the full amount of Federal student loans for which the student is eligible even if a financial aid counselor at that university knows that a student is borrowing more than the student needs and even if that counselor realizes they will have trouble repaying. If a private bank followed these same tactics and gave out loans on these terms, that bank would be accused of predatory lending. These easy-money policies may even be helping fuel tuition increases, which then obviously makes the problem even worse. A Federal government trying to help a student and at the same time maybe giving incentives to increase tuition actually is not helping that student in the long run.

Between Federal student loan policies that effectively encourage overborrowing and the lack of good jobs for college graduates in this current economy, it is no wonder that so many college graduates find themselves in over their heads with student loan debt.

Unfortunately, for all the concerns we have heard expressed on the Senate floor about excessive student loan debt, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle decided to play election-year politics with this issue rather than tackle any of the root causes of the problem. In fact, when it comes to economic growth and job creation, the first rule ought to be do no harm. By including yet another massive tax increase, the bill the Senate declined to take up would have only added to the list of tax and regulatory burdens currently choking our economy.

We should be intensely focused on removing burdens to economic growth and as a result have some job creation. Instead, the policies we see from the other side of the aisle seem to be based on the old European model of accepting anemic economic growth and trying to make up for it with debt-financed government handouts for as long as possible.

I just referred to an old European model because many countries in Europe have already rejected this failed approach and instead have sought to reform entitlements, cut spending, and reduce taxes—measures we ought to be taking right here in the United States. Our goal should be to expand opportunities for young people and the middle class and not add them to the welfare state.

Incidentally, the President's recent so-called Executive action on student loans shows that he shares the same outlook of assuming a stagnant economy for the foreseeable future. He is talking about making people who graduated years ago retroactively eligible for programs enacted in 2010 that allow students to lower their monthly payments if they have a lower income. First of all, that happens to be a very transparent admission that many students who graduated near the beginning of President Obama's first term in office still don't have good-paying jobs halfway through the second term. What he doesn't tell you is that when you lower your student loan payments, you will pay off your loan more slowly and obviously accumulate more interest. In other words, you will eventually end up paying a lot more to Uncle Sam than you otherwise would have. When banks were offering adjustable-rate or interest-only mortgages, they were criticized for taking advantage of borrowers who would be faced with bigger payments down the road.

The pay-as-you-earn program may be useful tools short term for those in distress, but it will cost every one of them in the long term; that is, assuming you ever get a job that pays well. However, the second part of the program says that if you still haven't found a job that pays well enough to pay off your loan after 10 years, your loan will be forgiven if you work for the government or a nonprofit or after 20 years if you work in the private sector, which apparently is considered less worthwhile. And who foots the bill when these people get their loans forgiven? The American taxpayer will pay for those people's college loans.

Creighton University Professor Ernie Goss has analyzed the President's plan and thinks it is a poor use of taxpayer funds. This is what he said:

A lot of these men and women that are out there working don't have kids in college, won't have kids in college, and it's a big transfer of income to those of us who have university educations or particularly those of us who are in university education.

So increasing Federal subsidies for colleges at the expense of the American taxpayers who work hard to pay for their own bills just encourages colleges to keep increasing tuition.

Furthermore, expanding a program designed to help student loan borrowers who still cannot afford their student loan payments 10 or 20 years after graduation looks a lot like planning for further economic stagnation typical of the last 4 or 5 years rather than focusing on improving economic growth and resultant job creation.

The political messaging bill the Senate declined to take up today would also do nothing to address the problems of students borrowing more than they will be able to afford to repay in the first place. I have a bill that will help with that problem.

The Higher Education Act already contains a requirement for colleges to provide counseling to new borrowers of Federal student loans; however, the current disclosures in the law do not do enough to ensure that students understand what kind of debt they will face after graduation. My bill, which I have entitled "Know Before You Owe Federal Student Loan Act," strengthens the current student loan counseling requirements by making the counseling an annual requirement before new loans are disbursed rather than just for first-time borrowers.

My bill adds several key components to the information institutions of higher education are required to share with students as part of loan counseling. Perhaps most significantly, colleges would have to provide an estimate of a student's loan debt-to-income ratio upon graduation. This would be based on the starting wages for that student's program of study and the estimated student loan debt the student will likely take out to complete the program. That way, students will have a very real picture of the student loan payments they will face and whether they will be able to afford those payments with their likely future income.

Students will also be provided with information about the higher risk of default if they have a projected loan debt-to-income ratio greater than 12 percent. They will be told that they should borrow only the minimum amount necessary to cover expenses and that they do not have to accept the full amount of the loans offered.

Students will also be given options for reducing borrowing through scholarships, reduced expenses, work-study or other work opportunities.

Because adding an extra year of study can significantly increase student loan debt, an explanation will be provided about the importance of graduating on time to avoid additional borrowing and the impact of adding an additional year of study to the total indebtedness.

Finally, the bill requires that a student manually enter either in writing or through electronic means the exact dollar amount of the Federal direct loan funding the student desires to borrow. The current process almost makes borrowing the maximum amount the default option. If you want to borrow less than you need to borrow, you have to ask for less. Students may wrongly assume that the Federal Government has determined this is the appropriate amount for them to borrow when in fact the government doesn't know anything about that student's situation. Surely the Federal Government would not lend them more than they can afford to repay, right? No, that is wrong. This provision will ensure that students make a conscious decision about how much they borrow rather than simply accepting the total amount of

Federal student loans for which they are eligible.

I should add that good college financial aid counselors can and do advise students not to borrow more than they need, but the process itself needs to be reformed to give them the proper tools.

In fact, the reforms I have outlined were inspired by efforts already underway in my home State of Iowa. Grand View University in Des Moines, IA, has a financial empowerment plan where students and families construct a comprehensive 4-year financing plan. Under this plan, borrowing is based on the student's future earning potential in the student's field of study. The 4-year plan also helps ensure students graduate on time, and tuition is capped at 2 percent a year over those 4 years.

Iowa Student Loan—our State-based nonprofit lender—also has a program called Student Loan Game Plan, which is an online, interactive resource that calculates a student's likely debt-to-income ratio. It walks students through how their borrowing will affect their lifestyle in the future and what actions they can take now to reduce their borrowing. As a result, in the past year over 15 percent of the students who participated decreased the amount they had planned to borrow by an average of \$2,536, saving Iowa students over \$1 million in additional loan debt.

Finally, my own alma mater, the University of Northern Iowa, has a program called the Live Like a Student Program. This involves a number of resources to help students learn to manage their finances better, including 3-week courses, one-on-one counseling, and workshops.

We often tell prospective college students that they will earn on average \$1 million more during a lifetime. It is true that college generally is a good investment; however, when a student's academic dreams become a nightmare—and usually upon graduation that happens because they borrowed more from the Federal Government than they can afford to repay on their starting salary—they understandably feel that they have been had. And by whom? Their own government.

The Federal Government, as the lender making these loans, has a responsibility to at least ensure that students know what they are getting themselves into before they get in over their heads. This legislation I described that will be introduced will do that.

I would urge my colleagues to take a look at that piece of legislation. I would ask them to support it and join as a cosponsor so collectively we can help prevent more students from drowning in Federal student loan debt.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I very much appreciate the efforts of

Senator MCCAIN and Senator SANDERS to get the VA health care bill through the Senate. However, I was somewhat disappointed with how abrupt and abbreviated the amendment process was; to wit, there was none. As a result, I think some very good amendments never had a chance to be considered. One of those amendments was mine, and I would like to discuss it briefly because I think it is something the Senate should pursue.

I will note that everybody I spoke to about it—Republicans and Democrats alike—liked the amendment and thought it made sense. So I will describe it.

A little background: Some time ago, as we entered the computer age, we figured out that there were better ways to maintain health records than in cardboard file folders stuffed away in file drawers. One of the leaders in solving that problem—lost information buried in file folders—was the Veterans' Administration. They developed one of the best electronic health records in the country. For years they were leaders in the technology of electronic health records. To this day, the VA electronic health record system is one of which they can be proud.

It has one flaw, and that flaw is that it is limited to Veterans' Administration medical facilities and Veterans' Administration medical providers. If a veteran in Rhode Island is walking through Providence and trying to cross the plaza in Kennedy Square and gets hit by a vehicle and rushed to the Rhode Island Hospital emergency room, the Rhode Island Hospital emergency room has no access to that veteran's electronic health record.

At the same time a number of States have really stepped up not only to have electronic health records but to have a hub that exchanges the information in an electronic health record. So when you go to get an MRI or go to see a specialist or are taken to an emergency room or have a lab test, the results of that encounter are loaded automatically into your electronic health record. That can only work if you have the whole system pulling together, and some States are doing that.

Now you have the difficult situation where there are States that are building an information network for health records and the Veterans' Administration, which has one of the best electronic health records in the country, is not participating in that local effort to tie the medical system together for the benefit of local folks. That is an oversight that needs to be corrected, and my amendment would encourage and support the Veterans' Administration in taking its electronic health records and connecting them to the information exchanges that are growing.

In Rhode Island it is called Current Care. It is run by the Rhode Island Quality Institute. It does a phenomenal

job. We are reaching out to veterans to do it voluntarily, but it has been a real chore to work with the Veterans' Administration to move this along. It has taken an enormous amount of time despite the goodwill of the people involved. There has not been much in the way of resources available. We have had to go to private and nonprofit and charitable sources to try to fund this. That doesn't make sense.

This bill is particularly important—where we are providing more out-of-network access for veterans and more ability for veterans to go to doctors that will not be in the electronic health network record—because it would allow the very good electronic health record of the Veterans' Administration to connect with these emerging electronic health records information networks. It is simply leaving veterans behind to leave them out under these circumstances.

I hope I will have a chance to move this legislation on some other vehicle, but I have to say, as important as this bill was, it was disappointing that a piece of legislation as simple as mine—an amendment that would have enjoyed extraordinary bipartisan support and probably would have been agreed to on a voice vote—never had a chance to see the light of day because, as I said, of the abbreviation and abruptness, to put it mildly, of the amendment process.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to begin by thanking a number of my colleagues, most especially our good friends who are very active Members of this body, Senators SANDERS and MCCAIN, for acting in a very bipartisan and courageous way to enable us to reach a compromise and vote on a truly historic step forward—as we did recently—to begin to bring an end to this crisis in our health care system and the VA.

I also thank my colleague from Rhode Island for his amendment, and I hope it has some support in some form—as it and other amendments deserve as well—because as commendable as the bill is, it certainly does not solve all of the problems in the VA health care system, let alone the VA.

Let's recognize that the disability claims backlog persists. The bureaucratic rigmarole and sclerotic bureaucracy of the VA in many parts of the country continue to plague our veterans, and we need to recognize that top to bottom the VA needs an overhaul in its culture as well as its management. But this bill represents a good faith and effective way to respond initially—the beginning of a solution to a health care crisis that is decades long in the building. The delays in the VA health care system are well known and longstanding.

I spend a lot of time, as a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee as well as the Armed Services Committee, listening to veterans. I have a veterans advisory council that gives me extraordinarily insightful and important advice. I make a point of visiting the VA health care facilities all around Connecticut, and I spend a lot of time in places where veterans gather, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and others. Listening to them is a major source of information for me in forming my judgment about what should be done with the VA health care system. What I hear from them—most commonly—is that the health care is good, but it takes too long to get it. The doctors, nurses, and health care providers do very good work, but it takes too long to see them. The delays are what our veterans find most troubling about this system.

What we have seen—disclosed first by CNN and then by others—is not only delays but false record keeping to disguise those delays and falsification of documents and lists to hide a failure to meet deadlines—in fact, to provide timely care. That kind of falsification of records and destruction of documents, and, in effect, cooking the books and then covering it up goes beyond simply delaying health care. It is, in effect, a form of fraud. We have taken a first step here to meet the immediate needs and help end the delays.

This bill will enable veterans to seek private health care at private facilities or private clinics or private hospitals if they have to wait too long or live too far away to make use of the VA facility.

It also increases resources—a longer-term effort to provide more doctors and fill the 400 vacancies that exist right now. Those resources are vitally necessary, not only to provide more providers but also to rebuild, renovate, and construct new health care facilities.

In providing more resources, this bill will also aid 26 VA facilities, such as the Errera clinic and facility in West Haven.

It also imposes accountability. It makes sure that officials in the VA who are incompetent or corrupt can be fired more easily and that bonuses or promotions can be stopped for those officials who betrayed a trust. It also shows that what is necessary here is more money and better management—not one or the other. Both together are necessary to really serve our veterans with the health care they deserve, which is first class, world class health care and nothing less. That is what our Nation's heroes truly deserve, and more and more of them will be making use of that health care—2 million more over the past 5 years and millions more over the next 5 years. That burden is not something to be addressed at the

margins. It has to be addressed head-on and fully and generously because that is the promise we made to our veterans—first class, world class health care, and nothing less.

I will close by saying that accountability means something more than just firing corrupt or incompetent officials. It means holding them responsible for criminal culpability when they cook the books, falsify records, make false statements, and in effect lie to the American people as well as to their superiors in the VA. That will require a criminal investigation by the Department of Justice, which is the only law enforcement agency that has the resources, expertise, and authority to conduct a prompt and effective criminal investigation on the scope and scale that is required.

There are more than 50 locations where evidence of criminal culpability has been found. Thirteen percent of VA schedulers have indicated to the auditors that they were coerced or threatened into adopting, in effect, improper practices. Another 8 percent kept secret or unofficial lists, and many at those facilities and others may have cooked the books. I am not jumping to conclusions. I am not rushing to judgment. That is why an investigation is necessary and appropriate.

Only the Department of Justice can convene a grand jury. Only the Department of Justice has the FBI resources. The VA inspector general has 165 investigators for the whole country, and that is not enough. That is simply not sufficient for this investigation.

The VA is overwhelmed and overworked in its health care facilities, caseloads, and the needs that VA clients and patients are bringing to these facilities. The VA does some things very well when it comes to amputees, post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and many kinds of injuries associated with the battlefield. Combat medicine is more advanced than it has ever been before, and the VA is part of a very progressive effort to increase and to deliver health care more efficiently to that population.

But the population of veterans who have fought in the longest wars in our history—although they may be a smaller part of our population than ever before in our wars—has been through multiple deployments, and they deserve the kind of intensive and comprehensive health care that the VA has committed to provide, and that will take more resources.

This bill is a beginning. It is only a downpayment on what we owe our Nation's finest and bravest. We owe them the best that we can provide in health care and nothing less. That is part of what we promised, and that promise must be fulfilled. Thanks to the action of this body today we have begun on that path.

I urge the House of Representatives to adopt this measure and to help us

fulfill that promise. I hope they will do it soon.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of World Refugee Day on June 20. On December 4, 2000, the United Nations General Assembly decided to designate June 20 as World Refugee Day. Each year on this day, we have an opportunity to honor the women, men, and children who have faced such extreme persecution, conflict, and violence that they have been forced to flee their homes and their communities. I am as saddened by their losses as I am impressed by the strength, courage, and resilience demonstrated by their commitment to protecting their families and building new communities around the world.

There are more than 45 million refugees and internally displaced persons globally. With so many people unable to return to their homes, I am proud to be part of a nation that was built on the basic principle that all men and women were created equal and that all people have basic rights, no matter where they come from. Since 1975, our great Nation has welcomed more than 3 million refugees, and we continue to allow thousands of refugees to permanently relocate here every year. The United States is also the world's largest donor to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Today, we recognize that every minute, eight people leave everything behind to escape war, persecution, or terror. We recognize that nearly half of all refugees are younger than 18 years old. We recognize that, even after fleeing from conflict and persecution, refugees continue to face numerous challenges, from providing food for their families to persevering through homesickness and loss. We recognize that we are a nation that shares our home with those who cannot return to their own.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am proud to rise today to support the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. This bill would allow eligible students refinance their Federal loans, transfer private loans into Federal loans with better interest rates, and eliminates tax loopholes for mil-

lionaires and billionaires. This bill would help more than 25 million students in the United States, including 481,000 student borrowers in Maryland.

Middle-class families and their children deserve a fair shot at higher education. Students deserve fair, affordable loans to help them get the education they need to succeed, and the working women of America deserve a fair shot at fair pay with equal pay for equal work. Right now, millions of American students are graduating from college and universities, but as they are handed their diplomas, they are being handed a lifetime of debt. The average student debt for 2012 college graduates was \$29,400, and for the first time in U.S. history, student loan debt topped credit card debt at \$1 trillion. When you are fresh out of college and paying living expenses and investing in a 401(k), these loans add up and become burdensome.

This especially affects young women struggling to pay debts against a wage gap. College-educated women earn just 82 cents for every dollar a man makes, but they don't get an 18 percent wage gap discount on their student loans. How can we expect women to achieve their dream when they are burdened with crippling debt and fighting against a wage gap that continues to grow over time?

Recently, a Maryland woman wrote to me. She is a single mother and was on welfare for 9 months after giving birth to her son but said she did not want to become a statistic. She pursued higher education so she could improve her life. She got a bachelor's degree and a master's degree and graduated in the top 5 percent of her class. While attending school, she worked full time and raised her son. She enrolled in an income-based loan program and despite paying more than requested each month, her interest rate has increased. She cannot care for her son and pay off \$63,000 in student loans without assistance in refinancing her loans.

The women of America want more. Women make up almost half of the workforce and 40 percent are the sole breadwinners for families but still only make 77 cents for every dollar a man makes. African-American women earn 62 cents and Hispanic women earn 54 cents. Even if they have the same grades, degree, and job title, women are consistently paid less in their first job out of college. On average, women will lose more than \$431,000 over their lifetimes because of the wage gap. This doesn't just affect student loans; it affects their contributions to Social Security, pensions, and retirement security.

I am so proud of America's women. We have accomplished so much. We have gone to space, become CEOs of Fortune 500 Companies and even made it into the U.S. Senate. Today, women

are graduating from higher education in record numbers. It is time to help them get a fair shot at achieving their dreams. That starts with equal pay.

Getting a college education is the core of the American dream. I am fighting to make sure that every student has access to that dream. Let's work together to make sure that when students graduate, their first mortgage isn't their student debt. Carrying the burden of student loans drags down young people's financial future, making it harder to buy a home, start a family, or save for retirement. I support Senator WARREN's bill because it reduces debt and fights for American families. It lowers interest rates, giving everyone a fair shot at repaying their loans for a more secure financial future because women deserve a fair shot at getting equal pay for equal work.

I have said this often, but we in this country enjoy many freedoms: the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the freedom of religion. But there is an implicit freedom our constitution doesn't lay out in writing, but its promise has excited the passions, hopes, and dreams of people in this country since its founding. The freedom to take whatever talents God has given you, to fill whatever passion is in your heart, to learn so you can earn and make a contribution—the freedom to achieve.

When I was a young girl at a Catholic all-girls school, my Mom and Dad made it clear they wanted me to go to college. But right around graduation my family was going through a rough time because my Dad's grocery store had suffered a terrible fire. I offered to put off college and work at the grocery store until the business got back on its feet. My Dad said, "Barb, you have to go. Your mother and I will find a way, because no matter what happens to you, no one can ever take that degree away from you. The best way I can protect you is to make sure you can earn a living all of your life." My father gave me the freedom to achieve. And this legislation will give millions of Americans that same freedom without adding a dime to the deficit.

Senator WARREN's legislation should be passed in a swift, expeditious, and uncluttered way. It gives our students access to the American dream. It gives our young people access to the freedom to achieve, to be able to follow their talents, and to be able to achieve higher education in whatever field they will be able to serve this country.

While our work isn't done when it comes to ensuring access to affordable higher education, this bill helps us get there. While these bills will fix the problem today, I will continue to work with my colleagues to figure out a longer-term solution.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to discuss the Bank

on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act (S. 2432). Student loans in this country are at an unprecedented \$1.2 trillion and now exceed credit card debt as the largest consumer debt market after mortgages. Unfortunately, unlike mortgages, student borrowers are unable to take advantage of the low interest rate environment and many borrowers are stuck in high fixed-rate loans for 20 or more years. This means that these borrowers must delay, or put off permanently, other financial decisions such as buying a home, saving for retirement, or starting a small business. This is not just a "young American" issue—recent data shows that individuals of every demographic have increasing student debt burden, and the impact of those with student debt being unable to fully participate in the economy will affect all Americans for years to come.

This issue is particularly important to me, as South Dakota has the highest proportion in the country of residents with student loan debt. That is why I have signed on to co-sponsor Senator WARREN's bill to refinance student loans, and why, as chairman of the Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over student loans made by private lenders, I will work to consider all actions that can be taken to address both existing and future student debt.

RELEASE OF CRIMINAL ALIENS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in the last few weeks, startling data from the Obama Administration has revealed that the Department of Homeland Security has released over 36,000 aliens with criminal convictions into the United States.

According to responses to some Members of Congress, Secretary Johnson has acknowledged that 36,007 convicted criminal aliens were released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody in fiscal year 2013. Many of these aliens had multiple convictions. In fact, among the 36,007 aliens released, they had nearly 88,000 convictions.

Data prepared by ICE, and reported by the Center for Immigration Studies, shows that among the criminally convicted aliens released into American communities were: 193 homicide convictions, including one willful killing of a public official with a gun, 426 sexual assault convictions, 303 kidnapping convictions, 1,075 aggravated assault convictions, 1,160 stolen vehicle convictions, 9,187 dangerous drug convictions, and 16,070 drunk or drugged driving convictions.

I have repeatedly said that this administration has failed the American public by refusing to enforce the laws on the books. This administration has turned a blind eye to those who have broken the law and have irresponsibly exercised their executive authority to

find a way to allow people here unlawfully to remain in the country.

In failing to enforce the immigration laws, the administration has betrayed its responsibility to protect the public safety of the American people.

President Obama's administration has continually stated that they are focused on enforcement against the worst of the worst convicted criminals. Yet they are releasing thousands of aliens every year with serious and, in many cases, violent criminal convictions.

ICE has responded to criticism by declaring that many of the individuals released were under supervisory restrictions. These restrictions range from bond to ankle bracelets to a periodic telephone call to a designated ICE phone line. Some individuals, however, are issued an order of recognizance and therefore are under no supervision at all.

Is the American public supposed to feel safer because the same administration that released violent criminals into our communities claims to be monitoring them? Is the American public supposed to trust these aliens convicted of crimes and are here unlawfully to follow the terms of their release?

Despite requests, ICE has failed to specify the nature of the release conditions placed upon these violent criminal aliens. In the interest of public safety, we should all demand to know the release conditions of those aliens released who have been convicted of violent crimes.

The administration is also claiming that many of the individuals they released in 2013 were due to the 2001 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Zadvydas v. Davis*. This decision limited the Federal Government's ability to detain aliens who have been ordered removed.

This case sets the pitiful precedent that aliens subject to final orders of removal, including ones convicted of a crime, cannot be held longer than 6 months and will be released in the United States if their home country refuses to take them back or their home country simply delays the U.S. government's request for a travel document. Other countries know that—because of the ruling in *Zadvydas*—they can simply run out the clock on issuing travel documents for the criminally convicted individual. Therefore, we have aliens, with no legal right to be in the United States, unwanted by their own country, being released into the country by our own administration.

This Supreme Court decision has had a detrimental effect on our ability to obtain travel documents from foreign countries and effectuate removal orders. Many countries refuse to take back their criminal aliens, leaving us no choice but to release them into our own communities.

This precedent needs to be corrected. The administration has relied upon the

ruling in *Zadvydas* to release thousands of criminally convicted aliens. However, they have refused to help fix it. In fact, the Senate immigration reform bill that they supported does not include a fix to the 2001 Supreme Court decision. They have not asked Congress to extend the length of time they are allowed to detain foreign nationals with final orders of removal.

That is why I am cosponsoring the “Keeping Our Communities Safe Act” being introduced today by the Senator from Oklahoma. His bill would close the legal loophole that requires ICE to release dangerous criminals onto the streets of America. It would allow ICE to detain non-removable immigrants beyond six months if the alien is a national security threat or is a threat to the safety of the community and has a past violent crime conviction.

In addition to hiding behind the Supreme Court decision, the administration has refused to use the tools at its disposal to get countries to cooperate. Federal law allows the Secretary of State to discontinue granting visas to all residents of a country that refuses or unreasonably delays taking back its aliens facing deportation from the United States.

Secretary Johnson, at a House Judiciary 2 weeks ago, acknowledged that in his capacity as Secretary, his department has never asked the Department of State to use this authority. This visa sanction authority has only been invoked one time, in 2011 against Guayana, within 2 months Guayana issued travel documents for 112 of 113 aliens ordered removed from the United States to Guayana. This tactic has been proven effective and Secretary Johnson should be employing this measure.

Of the 36,000 persons released in 2013, ICE claims that 3,652 were due to the 2001 Supreme Court decision. So, only a small portion of those released were mandatorily released under *Zadvydas*.

While thousands of criminally convicted aliens have been released into the United States, both at ICE’s discretion and due to bad Supreme Court precedent, President Obama has called for a reduction of immigration detention capacity by 10 percent.

The simplicity of this idea seriously calls into question this administration’s management capabilities. The fact that thousands of people are being released from detention clearly suggests that ICE needs more beds, not less, in order to avoid releasing more criminally convicted aliens into America.

This administration is knowingly putting the safety of the American people at risk. Releasing violent criminals into the American population should cause great doubt about this administration’s ability to enforce current immigration laws.

ICE needs to provide the American people with more information about

the criminal aliens it releases. ICE needs to tell the American people what terms of release are given to what criminal offenses. ICE needs to tell the American people what types of criminal offenses it deems appropriate to release at their own discretion.

ICE needs to tell the American people how many of these criminally convicted aliens comply with the terms of their release. ICE needs to tell the American people how many of these criminally convicted aliens commit further crimes after being released. ICE needs to tell the American people how many of these criminally convicted aliens who are released become fugitives.

This administration tells us to trust them. They say they are removing more people than ever before. They claim the immigration bill passed by this body will solve our problems. Yet they have failed us and the American people. They continue to turn a blind eye to lawbreakers and refuse to take this matter seriously.

There should be more outrage about the news coming from this administration. Releasing 36,000 criminal aliens is a serious matter and one that better be fixed soon for the sake of the American public.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MADISON COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Madison County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has

worked with me to secure funding in Madison County worth over \$831,434 and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$3.5 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the community’s hard work to secure funding made available in various farm bill programs and particularly Madison County Memorial Hospital’s purchase of a mammography machine. I lost two sisters to breast cancer and know the devastating toll it takes on those who have it and their families and communities. That is why I have championed prevention and wellness throughout my career, especially early detection. I have also dramatically increased funding for cancer research at the National Institutes of Health and established the Department of Defense’s breast cancer research program. I applaud your community’s dedication to early detection of breast cancer. Ensuring Iowans have access to quality, affordable health care is critical—particularly for those in rural areas, who may find this care out of reach. I am pleased that the hospital is equipped with the equipment and facilities to care for Madison County residents and promote wellness in the area.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Madison County has received \$631,434 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Madison County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$20,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs;

strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Madison County has received more than \$596,024 from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Madison County's fire departments have received over \$456,845 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Madison County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Madison County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Madison County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. Of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

STORY COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments

to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Story County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Story County worth over \$750 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$200 million to the local economy.

Of course, I have many favorite memories of working together including dozens of projects worth more than \$200 million at Iowa State University like the Community Vitality Center that supports Iowa's small and medium-sized communities, funding \$468 million toward construction and programming for a state-of-the-art national animal disease laboratory and jail-based meth treatment for non-violent offenders provided by the Story County Sheriff's Department.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Central Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Story County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Story County, I have fought for more than \$55 million for innovate businesses in Ames such as Etrema Products, Bioprotection Systems, Advanced Analytical, and Powerfilm, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Story City to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Story County has earned \$221,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings; they build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Story County has received \$535,488 in Harkin grants.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster; it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Story County has received over \$2.4 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have

been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Story County has received more than \$87 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Story County's fire departments have received over \$2 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment and more than \$470,000 in Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funding.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Story County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Story County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Story County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

RECOGNIZING RON SPEARS

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize artist Ron Spears for sharing his talents to create the Nevada Statehood Forever Stamp, almost 150 years following Nevada's entrance into the war-torn union.

This year commemorates a very special year in Nevada's history during which we celebrate 150 years of statehood. From those days of bitter conflict, Nevada forged a State dedicated to preserving liberty and bettering America. Our dramatic entrance is why our State calls itself Battle Born and why Nevadans, over the past 150 years, have been entrepreneurial, fiercely independent, and as diverse as our terrain. It is an honor to recognize the artist who painted and captured the essence of the Nevada statehood in the Forever Stamp.

A resident of Reno, NV, Ron Spears is a university professor with a master's in fine art. His career is decorated with many different projects, ranging from illustrations on casino games, book covers, magazine articles, and even illustrations for *Magic: The Gathering*, *Dungeons and Dragons*, *Harry Potter Card Game*, *Upper Deck*, *Blizzard Entertainment*, and others. Now, Ron can add the Nevada Statehood Forever Stamp to his long list of works of art. His contribution to our State's history is something to be both commended and applauded. Ron's creativity glows from this stamp commemorating Nevada's sesquicentennial.

The brilliance and the vision that Ron discovered on his 2-year travels throughout this great State exemplifies the very inspiration that was born on October 31, 1864. Just beyond the neon lights of the Las Vegas Strip sits the stunning red rocks and bright blue skies that set the stage for a destination that is hard to miss, the Valley of Fire, Nevada's oldest State park. The magnificent formations of sandstone and dunes are what make this park a truly unique and brilliant place, one that I am glad was captured for our stamp. To say that I was struck by Ron's workmanship and vision would be an understatement.

I am truly proud that we are able to showcase this incredible achievement that I am sure will serve as a model for other artists and pioneers, right here in Nevada. Today I ask my colleagues and residents of the Silver State to join me in recognizing Ron for this great achievement and honor.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOEY LEE

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I honor Joseph "Joey" Lee for his outstanding achievements as a teacher at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. Mr. Lee is the New Hampshire Department of Education's Granite State Teacher of the Year for 2014, selected from a field of 36 nominees.

Mr. Lee is also New Hampshire's candidate for the National Teacher of the Year award, the Nation's oldest and most prestigious program focused on excellence in teaching.

In May, Mr. Lee visited Washington, DC, to meet President Obama and discuss education initiatives with representatives from the Department of Education.

Born in Hooksett and a graduate of Plymouth State University, Mr. Lee has taught at Pinkerton Academy for 6 years. A social studies teacher, he currently teaches cultural geography while also coaching golf, directing the hockey program and co-advising the China Exchange Program.

Mr. Lee has a talent for connecting with students, recognizing their unique strengths and challenges and adapting his teaching style to their needs. He is passionate about applying classroom content to real-life situations.

The New Hampshire Department of Education recognized Mr. Lee for his conviction and passion for teaching, his energy in the classroom and his commitment to his students. I congratulate Mr. Lee on the honor of being the Granite State Teacher of the Year.●

TRIBUTE TO BILL LONERGAN

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Bill Lonergan for his exemplary leadership as assistant principal of Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. Bill was named Assistant Principal of the Year by the New Hampshire Association of School Principals for commitment to helping students succeed.

A 1980 graduate of Pinkerton Academy, Mr. Lonergan first returned to the school as a student teacher in the English department. He soon became a full-time member of the staff, both teaching and serving as associate dean of students. In total, he has worked at Pinkerton for 21 years.

Mr. Lonergan developed Pinkerton's "Freshman Academy" program, working with parents, teachers and students to ease the transition from area middle schools to the high school level. The program, which is among Mr. Lonergan's many accomplishments, is personalized to each student's strengths and interests, and has improved academic performance and integration into the Pinkerton community.

Mr. Lonergan's vision and dedication have made a difference for countless students. I am pleased to recognize his contributions to Pinkerton Academy, and congratulate him on being named Assistant Principal of the Year.●

REMEMBERING HANK LAURICELLA

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the memory of Hank Lauricella, a beloved community leader from Harahan, LA, who tragically

passed away in March of this year. Hank was born in 1930 and would have turned 84 on October 19.

I was truly honored to serve with Hank in the Louisiana Legislature, albeit in different bodies. In all of my many dealings with Hank, he was a pure class act and a truly dedicated public servant. Hank was never a show horse out to grab media or other attention. He was a workhorse who got important, concrete things done, particularly in the area of economic development and transportation infrastructure.

Hank was born in Harahan, LA, and attended Holy Cross High School. Following his time at Holy Cross High School, Hank attended the University of Tennessee, where he received his bachelors of science in business administration. While at Tennessee, Hank was a standout athlete who gained immense national recognition. He was a member of the 1951 national championship team at the University of Tennessee and was first runner-up for the Heisman Trophy. In 1981, Hank was appropriately elected to the College Football Hall of Fame.

Following his college career and a year playing professional football with the Dallas Texans, Hank served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955, with 1 year of his service in Korea. After his service in the Army, Hank returned to Louisiana where he joined the family business, John L. Lauricella and Sons, now known as Lauricella Land Company. In that role, Hank was instrumental in providing strong leadership in guiding the company as they transitioned from residential to commercial real estate development.

For over 30 years, Hank served the Jefferson Parish community and indeed all of Louisiana in both the State House and the State Senate. During his time in the State legislature, Hank made economic development one of his top priorities. Hank promoted legislation that benefited the Louisiana Superdome, the Morial Convention Center, Louis Armstrong International Airport, the Port of New Orleans, and the Pontchartrain Center. Hank also served as an effective leader in many other roles. He was an original member of the Superdome Stadium Commission and played an instrumental role in the construction of the Superdome. Hank served on the boards for the Port of New Orleans, the World Trade Center of New Orleans, the Jefferson Business Council, and he served as the first chairman of the Board of the Jefferson Community Foundation.

Hank Lauricella was a man of many talents and interests. Not only was Hank a superior athlete, he also had a passion for gardening and cooking. He loved to cook using the tomatoes, basil, and rosemary that he grew in his own garden.

Of course Hank is lovingly remembered by his wife of 61 years, Betty, his four sons and one daughter, and his fifteen grandchildren. But well beyond that, Hank is remembered as a great friend and true public servant by the entire extended community which he served so ably.

I am so pleased to join them in continuing to remember and honor Hank Lauricella, a man who provided a great example of leadership through his service to others and his community. •

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:15 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4810. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for Department of Veterans Affairs patients with extended waiting times for appointments at Department facilities, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4810. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for Department of Veterans Affairs patients with extended waiting times for appointments at Department facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

S. Res. 470. A resolution amending Senate Resolution 400 (94th Congress) to clarify the responsibility of committees of the Senate in the provision of the advice and consent of the Senate to nominations to positions in the intelligence community.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and was referred as indicated:

EC-6086. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of waiver authority for Belarus; to the Committee on Finance.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2461. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2462. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain educational institutions from the employer health insurance mandate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2463. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for extensions of detention of certain aliens ordered removed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2464. A bill to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2465. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2466. A bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. THUNE):

S. Res. 469. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the May 31, 2014, transfer of five detainees from the detention facility at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. Res. 470. A resolution amending Senate Resolution 400 (94th Congress) to clarify the responsibility of committees of the Senate in the provision of the advice and consent of the Senate to nominations to positions in the intelligence community; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SESSIONS,

Mr. COATS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. COBURN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BURR, Mr. LEE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK):

S. Res. 471. A resolution honoring former President George H.W. Bush on the occasion of his 90th birthday and Barbara Bush on the occasion of her 89th birthday and extending the best wishes of the Senate to former President Bush and Mrs. Bush; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. REED, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 472. A resolution honoring Dr. James Schlesinger, former Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Energy, and Director of Central Intelligence; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. Con. Res. 37. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol in commemoration of the Shimon Peres Congressional Gold Medal ceremony; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 919

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 919, a bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1033

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1033, a bill to authorize a grant program to promote physical education, activity, and fitness and nutrition, and to ensure healthy students, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the

Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 1733

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 1790

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1790, a bill to modernize laws, and eliminate discrimination, with respect to people living with HIV/AIDS, and for other purposes.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1837

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1837, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit the use of consumer credit checks against prospective and current employees for the purposes of making adverse employment decisions.

S. 1957

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1957, a bill to establish the American Infrastructure Fund, to provide bond guarantees and make loans to States, local governments, and

infrastructure providers for investments in certain infrastructure projects, and to provide equity investments in such projects, and for other purposes.

S. 2176

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2176, a bill to revise reporting requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to preserve the privacy of individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2188

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2188, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

S. 2281

At the request of Mr. KAINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2281, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make technical improvements to the Net Price Calculator system so that prospective students may have a more accurate understanding of the true cost of college.

S. 2282

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2282, a bill to prohibit the provision of performance awards to employees of the Internal Revenue Service who owe back taxes.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2340

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary to provide for the use of data from the second preceding tax year to carry out the simplification of applications for the estimation and determination of financial aid eligibility, to increase the income threshold to qualify for zero expected family contribution, and for other purposes.

S. 2346

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2346, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to include national discovery trails, and to designate the American Discovery Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 2360

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 2360, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations.

S. 2429

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2429, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance to employer payment of interest on certain refinanced student loans.

S. 2434

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2434, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that working families have access to affordable health insurance coverage.

S. 2450

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2450, a bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2450, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2450, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2450, *supra*.

S. 2451

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2451, a bill to support the local decisionmaking functions of local educational agencies by limiting the authority of the Secretary of Education to issue regulations, rules, grant conditions, and guidance materials, and for other purposes.

S. 2460

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2460, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional disclosures and protections for students and cosigners with respect to student loans, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2463. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for extensions of detention of certain aliens ordered removed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, a year ago this month I stood before you during the Senate's debate on immigration to offer an amendment that would prevent convicted criminal aliens from being released back into our communities. Unfortunately, my amendment never came up for a vote despite the fact that this is an issue that should concern us all.

This problem arises from a couple of Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2005, which held that immigrants who have been ordered removed cannot be detained for more than 6 months. Even though an alien is an aggravated felon or has committed a crime of violence, they must be released back into society if no other country will accept them.

By releasing these criminals back into our communities we are allowing them to commit even more crimes against Americans. For example, a Vietnamese immigrant, Binh Thai Luc, was ordered deported after serving time in prison for armed robbery and assault. Due to the Supreme Court decision in *Zadvydas v. Davis*, Luc was released from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, custody when Vietnam refused to admit him. He is now facing charges for the murder of 5 people in San Francisco in March of 2012. Five people would be alive today if our law enforcement officials had not been handcuffed by the Supreme Court.

From 2008–2012, nearly 17,000 immigrants with orders of removal were released back into our communities. Just last month, we learned that this number has more than doubled in one year. In 2013 alone, more than 36,000 criminally convicted aliens were released by ICE because their home countries had yet to take them back.

That is an astonishing number, especially when you look at what crimes these offenders have committed. These 36,000 criminals have been convicted of more than 87,000 crimes, including: 193 homicide convictions; 426 sexual assault convictions; 1,075 aggravated as-

sault convictions; and 16,070 DUI convictions.

These are convictions, not allegations. Convicted murderers, sex offenders, and other violent felons that have been ordered removed from our country are now free to live among us.

Today, in light of these revelations, I am reintroducing my amendment as a standalone bill along with Senators GRASSLEY, VITTER, CRUZ, and SESSIONS. S. 2463, the Keep Our Communities Safe Act of 2014, amends the Immigration and Naturalization Act to allow the Department of Homeland Security to detain non-removable immigrants beyond 6 months in specific situations. These situations include circumstances when an alien's release would threaten national security, have serious adverse foreign policy consequences, or would threaten the safety of the community and the alien either is an aggravated felon or has committed a crime of violence.

Some organizations, such as the ACLU, believe this bill amounts to indefinite detention in violation of a criminal's due process rights. However, in addition to the specified circumstances of continued detention mentioned earlier, this bill requires the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to recertify that a person is a threat every 6 months. Furthermore, an alien can submit evidence for a review of his detention and aliens will still have access to our federal courts, giving judges a say in the process.

I would like to commend my friend, Congressman LAMAR SMITH from Texas, for his good work on this in the House and I ask that both the Senate and the House take up consideration of the Keep Our Communities Safe Act to protect our fellow Americans from these violent offenders.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 469—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE MAY 31, 2014, TRANSFER OF FIVE DETAINEES FROM THE DETENTION FACILITY AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. THUNE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 469

Whereas in enacting the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66), Congress provided the executive branch with clear guidance and requirements for transferring or releasing individuals from the detention facility at United

States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba;

Whereas the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 states the Secretary of Defense may transfer an individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, if the Secretary determines, following a review conducted in accordance with the requirements of section 1023 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 801 note) and Executive Order No. 13567, that the individual is no longer a threat to the United States, or the individual is ordered released by a United States court, or such an individual can be transferred if the Secretary determines that actions have been or are planned to be taken which will substantially mitigate the risk of the individual engaging or re-engaging in any terrorist activity or other hostile activity that threatens the United States or United States persons or interests and the transfer is in the national security interest of the United States;

Whereas the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 states that the Secretary of Defense must notify the appropriate committees of Congress of such a determination not later than 30 days before the transfer or release of the individual concerned from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba;

Whereas the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 states that such a notification must include a detailed statement of the basis for the transfer or release, an explanation of why the transfer or release is in the national security interests of the United States, a description of any actions taken to mitigate the risks of reengagement by the individual to be transferred or released, a copy of any Periodic Review Board findings relating to the individual, and a description of the evaluation conducted pursuant to factors that must be considered prior to such a transfer or release;

Whereas the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76) states that none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in that Act may be used to transfer covered individuals detained at United States Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, except in accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014;

Whereas on May 31, 2014, detainees Khairullah Khairkhwa, Abdul Haq Wasiq, Mohammed Fazl, Noorullah Noori, and Mohammed Nabi Omari were transferred from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Qatar; and

Whereas the appropriate committees of Congress were not notified of the transfers as required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 prior to the transfers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the transfers of detainees Khairullah Khairkhwa, Abdul Haq Wasiq, Mohammed Fazl, Noorullah Noori, and Mohammed Nabi Omari from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Qatar on May 31, 2014, violated the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76); and

(2) Congress should—

(A) investigate the actions taken by President Obama and his administration that led to the unlawful transfer of such detainees, including an evaluation of other options considered to reach the desired common defense policy outcome of the President; and

(B) determine the impact of the transfer of such detainees on the common defense of the United States and measures that should be taken to mitigate any negative consequences.

SENATE RESOLUTION 470—AMENDING SENATE RESOLUTION 400 (94TH CONGRESS) TO CLARIFY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE IN THE PROVISION OF THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE TO NOMINATIONS TO POSITIONS IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted the following resolution; which was placed on the calendar:

S. RES. 470

Resolved,
SECTION 1. RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMITTEES IN ADVICE AND CONSENT OF SENATE TO INTELLIGENCE APPOINTMENTS.

Section 17 of Senate Resolution 400 agreed to May 19, 1976 (94th Congress) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 17. (a)(1) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), the Select Committee shall have jurisdiction to review, hold hearings, and report the nominations of civilian individuals for positions in the intelligence community for which appointments are made by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(2) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), other committees with jurisdiction over the department or agency of the Executive Branch which contain a position referred to in paragraph (1) may hold hearings and interviews with individuals nominated for such position, but only the Select Committee shall report such nomination.

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘intelligence community’ means an element of the intelligence community specified in or designated under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

“(b)(1) With respect to the confirmation of the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, or any successor position, the nomination of any individual by the President to serve in such position shall be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and, if and when reported, to the Select Committee for not to exceed 20 calendar days, except that in cases when the 20-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Select Committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

“(2) If, upon the expiration of the period described in paragraph (1), the Select Committee has not reported the nomination, such nomination shall be automatically discharged from the Select Committee and placed on the Executive Calendar.

“(c)(1) With respect to the confirmation of appointment to the position of Director of the National Security Agency, Inspector General of the National Security Agency, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, or Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office, or any successor position to such a position, the nomination of any individual by the President to serve in such position, who at the time of the nomination is a member of the Armed Forces on active duty, shall be referred to the Committee on Armed Services and, if and when reported, to the Select Committee for not to

exceed 30 calendar days, except that in cases when the 30-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Select Committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

“(2) With respect to the confirmation of appointment to the position of Director of the National Security Agency, Inspector General of the National Security Agency, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, or Inspector General or the National Reconnaissance Office, or any successor position to such a position, the nomination of any individual by the President to serve in such position, who at the time of the nomination is not a member of the Armed Forces on active duty, shall be referred to the Select Committee and, if and when reported, to the Committee on Armed Services for not to exceed 30 calendar days, except that in cases when the 30-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Committee on Armed Services shall have an additional 5 calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

“(3) If, upon the expiration of the period of sequential referral described in paragraphs (1) and (2), the committee to which the nomination was sequentially referred has not reported the nomination, the nomination shall be automatically discharged from that committee and placed on the Executive Calendar.”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 471—HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY AND BARBARA BUSH ON THE OCCASION OF HER 89TH BIRTHDAY AND EXTENDING THE BEST WISHES OF THE SENATE TO FORMER PRESIDENT BUSH AND MRS. BUSH

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COATS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. COBURN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BURR, Mr. LEE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 471

Whereas George Herbert Walker Bush was born in Milton, Massachusetts, on June 12, 1924;

Whereas on his 18th birthday, George H.W. Bush enlisted in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas George H.W. Bush was the youngest pilot in the United States Navy when he received his wings;

Whereas George H.W. Bush flew 58 combat missions during World War II, including a mission over the Pacific as a torpedo bomber pilot during which he was shot down by Japanese antiaircraft fire and later rescued from

the water by a United States submarine, the U.S.S. Finback;

Whereas George H.W. Bush was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals for his service during World War II;

Whereas George H.W. Bush was honorably released from active duty in 1945, achieving the rank of Lieutenant;

Whereas in January 1945, George H.W. Bush married Barbara Pierce;

Whereas George H.W. Bush graduated from Yale University, where he was captain of the baseball team and excelled in academics;

Whereas in 1966, George H.W. Bush was elected to the House of Representatives, where he served with integrity for two terms;

Whereas in 1970, President Richard Nixon appointed George H.W. Bush to be the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, a post he held for two years after confirmation by the Senate;

Whereas in 1974, President Gerald R. Ford appointed George H.W. Bush as chief of the United States Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China, where his efforts helped foster the development of positive relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China;

Whereas from January 1976 to January 1977, George H.W. Bush served as the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters was later designated the George Bush Center for Intelligence in his honor;

Whereas from 1981 to 1989, George H.W. Bush served as the 43rd Vice President of the United States;

Whereas George H.W. Bush was elected the 41st President of the United States in 1988;

Whereas George H.W. Bush directed the negotiation of and signed the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed at Moscow July 31, 1991 and entered into force December 5, 1994 (the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty of 1991 (START I)), which required the United States and the Soviet Union to reduce their nuclear arsenals by $\frac{1}{3}$;

Whereas during his Presidency, George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and Public Law 101-549 (commonly known as the "Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990") (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

Whereas since leaving office, George H.W. Bush has been an international ambassador of United States goodwill and a strong supporter of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, which was named for the former President in 1997;

Whereas George H.W. Bush was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011;

Whereas, on June 8, 2014, former First Lady Barbara Bush, George H.W. Bush's wife of 69 years, who has dedicated herself to promoting family literacy and improving the lives of the people of the United States through learning, celebrated her 89th birthday; and

Whereas, on June 12, 2014, George H.W. Bush celebrates his 90th birthday: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors former President George H.W. Bush on the occasion of his 90th birthday; and

(2) extends the congratulations and best wishes of the Senate to former President Bush and Barbara Bush.

SENATE RESOLUTION 472—HONORING DR. JAMES SCHLESINGER, FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, SECRETARY OF ENERGY, AND DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. REED, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 472

Whereas the Honorable Dr. James Rodney Schlesinger was born in New York City, New York, on February 15, 1929, and died in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 27, 2014, at the age of 85;

Whereas Dr. Schlesinger married Rachel Line Mellinger in 1954 and remained her devoted husband until her death in 1995;

Whereas Dr. Schlesinger is survived by his 8 children, Cora Schlesinger, Charles Schlesinger, Ann Schlesinger, William Schlesinger, Emily Schlesinger, Thomas Schlesinger, Clara Schlesinger, and James Schlesinger, Jr., and 11 grandchildren;

Whereas, in 1950, Dr. Schlesinger graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University, where he was elected Phi Beta Kappa and awarded the Frederick Sheldon Travel Fellowship;

Whereas Dr. Schlesinger subsequently earned master's and doctoral degrees in economics from Harvard University;

Whereas Dr. Schlesinger was a generous patron of the arts, and was instrumental in establishing the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria, Virginia;

Whereas Dr. Schlesinger was a generous sponsor of higher education, serving on the International Council at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs of Harvard University, endowing the Julius Schlesinger Professorship of Operations Management at New York University Stern School of Business and the James R. Schlesinger Distinguished Professorship at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia, and sponsoring an ongoing music scholarship at Harvard College in honor of his beloved wife;

Whereas Dr. Schlesinger was a distinguished statesman-scholar of great integrity, intellect, and insight who dedicated his life to protecting the security and liberty of the United States and the people of the United States throughout a highly-decorated and distinguished career that spanned 7 decades;

Whereas Dr. Schlesinger's intellectual contributions to the fields of economics and national security include serving as professor of economics at the University of Virginia from 1955 until 1963, serving at the RAND Corporation from 1963 until 1969, including a term as the director of strategic studies, and authoring numerous important scholarly publications, such as *The Political Economy of National Security: A Study of the Economic Aspect of the Contemporary Power Struggle* (1960), *Defense Planning and Budgeting: The Issue of Centralized Control* (1968), *American Security and Energy Policy* (1980), *America at Century's End* (1989), and, most recently, *Minimum Deterrence: Examining the Evidence* (2013);

Whereas Dr. Schlesinger's service in the Federal Government began in 1969, when he took a lead role on defense matters as the assistant director and acting deputy director of the United States Bureau of the Budget;

Whereas Dr. Schlesinger served as a member and chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) from 1971 until 1973, working tirelessly to implement extensive organizational and management changes to strengthen the regulatory performance of the Commission;

Whereas, as Director of Central Intelligence in 1973, Dr. Schlesinger focused on the agency's adherence to its legislative charter;

Whereas Dr. Schlesinger was confirmed as the Secretary of Defense in 1973 at age 44, a position he held until 1975;

Whereas, during his tenure as Secretary of Defense, Dr. Schlesinger contributed to the national security of the United States by authoring the "Schlesinger Doctrine", which instituted important reforms strengthening the flexibility and credibility of the United States nuclear deterrent to prevent war, reassure the allies of the United States, and protect the liberties of all people of the United States, and by taking action, including overseeing the successful development of the A-10 close-air support aircraft and the F-16 fighter aircraft, to ensure that the United States maintained "essential equivalence" with the Soviet Union's conventional military forces and surging nuclear capabilities;

Whereas Dr. Schlesinger was highly regarded by the uniformed services, and led the Department of Defense with great skill and prescience through numerous challenges, including the 1973 Yom Kippur War, in which he was key to the United States airlift that, according to Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, "meant life for our people", the 1974 Cyprus Crisis, the closing phase of the Indochina conflict, and the 1975 *Mayaguez* incident, in which his actions helped save the lives of United States citizens held by the Khmer Rouge, the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from Vietnam, and cuts to the budget of the Department of Defense;

Whereas, in light of his realistic views of the power and intentions of the Soviet Union, Dr. Schlesinger was invited to China as a private citizen in 1975 at the personal request of Mao Zedong, Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, and upon Mao's death, was the only foreigner invited by the Chinese leadership to lay a wreath at Mao's bier;

Whereas, in 1976, during a difficult period of oil embargoes and fuel shortages, President-elect Jimmy Carter invited Dr. Schlesinger to serve as his special advisor on energy to establish a national energy policy and create the charter for the Department of Energy;

Whereas President Carter appointed Dr. Schlesinger as the first Secretary of Energy in 1977, and in this role Dr. Schlesinger successfully initiated new conservation standards, the gradual deregulation of oil and natural gas industries, and the unification of United States policies with respect to energy and national security;

Whereas following his return to private life in 1979, Dr. Schlesinger continued to work tirelessly in a wide array of public service and civic positions, including as a member of President Ronald Reagan's Commission on Strategic Forces, a member of Virginia Governor Charles Robb's Commission on Virginia's Future, chairman of the board of trustees for the Mitre Corporation, a member of the Defense Policy Board and co-chair of studies for the Defense Science Board, chairman of the National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) Board, a director of the Sandia National Corporation, a trustee of the Atlantic Council, a

trustee of the Nixon Center, a trustee of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, and an original member of the Secretary of State's International Security Advisory Board;

Whereas, in the recent past, Dr. Schlesinger was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Homeland Security Advisory Board, invited by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to lead the Schlesinger Task Force to recommend measures to ensure the highest levels of competence and control of the nuclear forces of the United States, and invited by Congress to serve as the Vice Chairman of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States, which produced the 2009 study "America's Strategic Posture" that served as the blueprint for the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review of the Department of Defense;

Whereas in addition to Dr. Schlesinger's earned doctorate from Harvard University, he was awarded 13 honorary doctorates, and was the recipient of numerous prestigious medals and awards, including the National Security Medal (presented by President Carter), the Defense Science Board's Eugene G. Fubini Award, the United States Army Association's George Catlett Marshall Medal, the Air Force Association's H. H. Arnold Award, the Navy League's National Meritorious Citation, the Society of Experimental Test Pilots' James H. Doolittle Award, the Military Order of World Wars' Distinguished Service Medal, the Air Force Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation's Henry M. Jackson Award for Distinguished Public Service; and

Whereas Dr. Schlesinger's monumental contributions to the security and liberty of the United States and Western civilization, and to the betterment of his local community, should serve as an example to all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Dr. James R. Schlesinger, former Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Energy, and Director of Central Intelligence;

(2) honors the legacy of Dr. Schlesinger's commitment to the liberty and security of the United States and Western civilization, the betterment of his local community, and his loving family;

(3) extends its deepest condolences and sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Dr. Schlesinger who have lost a beloved father, grandfather, and leader;

(4) honors Dr. Schlesinger's wisdom, discernment, scholarship, and dedication to public service that greatly benefited his community, country, and Western civilization;

(5) recognizes with great appreciation that, while serving as a public servant under President Nixon, President Ford, and President Carter, Dr. Schlesinger contributed significantly, thoughtfully, and directly to the betterment of the policies and practices of the United States in the areas of national defense, energy, and intelligence;

(6) recognizes with great appreciation that, after returning to private life, Dr. Schlesinger continued to serve the United States selflessly through bipartisan contributions to the reasoned public discourse of issues and his leadership on high-level studies sponsored by the Executive, the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and the Congress;

(7) recognizes with great appreciation Dr. Schlesinger's exemplary life, which was guided by his commitment to the continuing

security and liberty of the United States, and by his honor, duty, and devotion to country, family, scholarship, and personal moral integrity;

(8) expresses profound respect and admiration for Dr. Schlesinger and his extraordinary legacy of commitment to the people of the United States, United States military personnel, and all those who help safeguard the Nation; and

(9) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Dr. James R. Schlesinger.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 37—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SHIMON PERES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY

Ms. AYOTTE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 37

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SHIMON PERES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on June 26, 2014, for the commemoration of the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

(b) **PREPARATIONS.**—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3233. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2450, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3234. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2450, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3235. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2450, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3236. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3230, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3237. Mr. TESTER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3230, supra.

SA 3238. Mr. REID (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CHAMBLISS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1681, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

SA 3239. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2450, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3233. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2450, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 703. ASSISTING VETERANS WITH MILITARY EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING CIVILIAN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 314 the following:

“SEC. 315. ASSISTING VETERANS WITH MILITARY EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING CIVILIAN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.

“(a) **PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall establish a program consisting of awarding demonstration grants to States to streamline State requirements and procedures in order to assist veterans who completed military emergency medical technician training while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States to meet certification, licensure, and other requirements applicable to becoming an emergency medical technician in the State.

“(b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Amounts received as a demonstration grant under this section shall be used to prepare and implement a plan to streamline State requirements and procedures as described in subsection (a), including by—

“(1) determining the extent to which the requirements for the education, training, and skill level of emergency medical technicians in the State are equivalent to requirements for the education, training, and skill level of military emergency medical technicians; and

“(2) identifying methods, such as waivers, for military emergency medical technicians to forego or meet any such equivalent State requirements.

“(c) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible for a grant under this section, a State shall demonstrate that the State has a shortage of emergency medical technicians.

“(d) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall submit to the Congress an annual report on the program under this section.

“(e) **FUNDING.**—Of the amount authorized by section 751(j)(1) to be appropriated to carry out section 751 for fiscal year 2014, \$1,000,000 shall be allocated to carry out this section for the period of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 751(j)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294a(j)(1)) is amended by striking “to carry out this section” and inserting “to carry out this section and section 315”.

SA 3234. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2450, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII, add the following:
SEC. 703. SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS OF LAW SCHOOLS THAT ASSIST VETERANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take such actions as the Secretary considers appropriate to support programs of law schools that provide assistance to veterans with respect to obtaining benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

(b) **LIAISON.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs has a liaison appointed to work with programs described in subsection (a).

(c) **PRIORITY REVIEW.**—The Secretary shall give priority in the adjudication of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary to a claim that is certified as complete by a program described in subsection (a).

(d) **DIAGNOSIS.**—The Secretary shall allow practitioners and graduate psychology clinics to do a Disability Benefits Questionnaire that will supplant a Compensation and Pension exam for initial diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

(e) **ACCESS TO SYSTEMS.**—The Secretary shall allow programs described in subsection (a) to access the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal, the Veterans Benefits Management System, and the Beneficiary Identification Records Locator System for current active files and for claims files to the same degree as an organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

(f) **TRAINING.**—The Secretary shall provide training to the head of a program described in subsection (a) on matters relating to submitting claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

(g) **REMOVAL OF IMPEDIMENTS TO AWARDED OF GRANTS.**—To the degree practicable, the Secretary shall remove impediments to the awarding of grants to pro bono legal clinics.

(h) **EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LISTS.**—The Secretary shall include programs described in subsection (a) in email distributions relating to fast letters, training letters, regulation changes, and training opportunities.

SA 3235. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2450, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 43, between lines 20 and 21, insert the following:

SEC. 305. REAUTHORIZATION OF PILOT PROGRAM OF ENHANCED CONTRACT CARE AUTHORITY FOR HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS.

Section 403(a)(3) of the Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-387; 38 U.S.C. 1703 note) is amended by striking "only during the three-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program under paragraph (2)" and inserting "through September 30, 2017".

SA 3236. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3230, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department

of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, insert the following:

TITLE IX—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 901. PILOT PROGRAM ON ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF HEALTH INFORMATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND STATE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of enabling the electronic bi-directional sharing of health information between the Department of Veterans Affairs and non-Department health care providers through the award of grants to State health information exchanges for enabling such sharing.

(b) **GRANTS TO HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under this section through the award of grants to State health information exchanges.

(2) **SELECTION.**—The Secretary shall award grants under paragraph (1) to not more than four State health information exchanges.

(3) **PRIORITY.**—The Secretary shall give priority in the award of grants under paragraph (1) to a State health information exchange that—

(A) is located in a State in which a high percentage of hospitals and physicians in the State share information with the State health information exchange of the State;

(B) has been awarded a grant from not less than two of—

(i) the Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program;

(ii) the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program; and

(iii) the Regional Extension Center Program; and

(C) has a relationship with a Federally-qualified health center (as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(1)(2)(B))), a facility funded by the Indian Health Service, or the Department of Defense.

(4) **LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.**—Each grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not exceed \$250,000.

(c) **USE OF AMOUNTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A State health information exchange that is awarded a grant under subsection (b) shall use the grant amounts to develop the capability to allow non-Department health care providers to electronically exchange health information with the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs through the use of the exchange.

(2) **DEVELOPMENT OF CAPABILITY.**—In developing the capability described in paragraph (1), a State health information exchange that is awarded a grant under subsection (b) may use the grant amounts as follows:

(A) To make upgrades to the exchange that are required to enable non-Department health care providers to electronically access and share health information maintained by the Department through the exchange, and to securely store and display that information.

(B) To enter into agreements with the Department on the sharing of information between the Department and non-Department health care providers through the exchange.

(C) To develop technical capacity and privacy safeguards necessary for the sharing of information pursuant to agreements described in subparagraph (B).

(D) To acquire legal support and technical assistance necessary for the sharing of infor-

mation pursuant to agreements described in subparagraph (B).

(E) To pay any fees associated with the exchange of information between the Department and non-Department health care providers.

(F) To assist the Department with the implementation of new information sharing capabilities and training of employees of the Department in using such capabilities.

(G) To evaluate the implementation of the capability described in paragraph (1) and assess the effectiveness of such implementation.

(d) **OPERATION PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Before obligating any of the amounts awarded pursuant to subsection (b), a State health information exchange that is awarded a grant under subsection (b)(1) shall, in coordination with the Secretary, develop an operation plan to carry out the development of the capability described in subsection (c)(1).

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The operation plan required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A plan for training employees of the Department to use new health information sharing capabilities.

(B) A coordinated outreach strategy to maximize the enrollment of veterans in State health information exchanges.

(e) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the feasibility and advisability of enabling the electronic bi-directional sharing of health information between the Department and non-Department health care providers.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of the following:

(A) The extent to which veterans and health care providers are benefitting from enhanced health information sharing capabilities under the pilot program.

(B) The success of outreach to veterans under the pilot program, including the extent to which veterans are opting into the sharing of health information under the pilot program.

(C) The need for additional resources, if any, in carrying out the pilot program.

(D) Any challenges or obstacles to making progress toward the electronic bi-directional sharing of health information between the Department of Veterans Affairs and non-Department health care providers that were encountered in carrying out the pilot program.

(f) **OUTREACH TO VETERANS.**—The Secretary shall conduct outreach to veterans to inform veterans of the opportunity to participate in health information sharing initiatives, including State health information exchanges, to improve the health information of, and the hospital care, medical services, and other health care received by, such veterans who receive such care and services from non-Department health care providers in addition to such care and services from the Department.

(g) **FUNDING.**—Amounts to carry out this section shall be derived from amounts available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of carrying out initiatives related to the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record.

(h) **DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.**—Notwithstanding section 5701 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary may disclose information about a veteran, if the veteran consents to such disclosure, to State health

information exchanges and non-Department health care providers for purposes of carrying out the pilot program.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HEALTH INFORMATION.—The term “health information” has the meaning given such term in section 1171(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d(4)).

(2) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SA 3237. Mr. TESTER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3230, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read:

“To improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”

SA 3238. Mr. REID (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CHAMBLISS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1681, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

- Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 102. Classified Schedule of Authorizations.
- Sec. 103. Personnel ceiling adjustments.
- Sec. 104. Intelligence Community Management Account.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

- Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 202. CIARDS and FERS special retirement credit for service on detail to another agency.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—General Matters

- Sec. 301. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law.
- Sec. 302. Restriction on conduct of intelligence activities.
- Sec. 303. Specific authorization of funding for High Performance Computing Center 2.
- Sec. 304. Clarification of exemption from Freedom of Information Act of identities of employees submitting complaints to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.
- Sec. 305. Functional managers for the intelligence community.
- Sec. 306. Annual assessment of intelligence community performance by function.

- Sec. 307. Software licensing.
- Sec. 308. Plans to respond to unauthorized public disclosures of covert actions.
- Sec. 309. Auditability.
- Sec. 310. Reports of fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Sec. 311. Public Interest Declassification Board.
- Sec. 312. Official representation items in support of the Coast Guard Attaché Program.
- Sec. 313. Declassification review of certain items collected during the mission that killed Osama bin Laden on May 1, 2011.
- Sec. 314. Merger of the Foreign Counterintelligence Program and the General Defense Intelligence Program.

Subtitle B—Reporting

- Sec. 321. Significant interpretations of law concerning intelligence activities.
- Sec. 322. Review for official publication of opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice concerning intelligence activities.
- Sec. 323. Submittal to Congress by heads of elements of intelligence community of plans for orderly shutdown in event of absence of appropriations.
- Sec. 324. Reports on chemical weapons in Syria.
- Sec. 325. Reports to the intelligence community on penetrations of networks and information systems of certain contractors.
- Sec. 326. Report on electronic waste.
- Sec. 327. Promoting STEM education to meet the future workforce needs of the intelligence community.
- Sec. 328. Repeal of the termination of notification requirements regarding the authorized disclosure of national intelligence.
- Sec. 329. Repeal or modification of certain reporting requirements.

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Subtitle A—National Security Agency

- Sec. 401. Appointment of the Director of the National Security Agency.
- Sec. 402. Appointment of the Inspector General of the National Security Agency.
- Sec. 403. Effective date and applicability.

Subtitle B—National Reconnaissance Office

- Sec. 411. Appointment of the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.
- Sec. 412. Appointment of the Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office.

Subtitle C—Central Intelligence Agency

- Sec. 421. Gifts, devises, and bequests.

TITLE V—SECURITY CLEARANCE REFORM

- Sec. 501. Continuous evaluation and sharing of derogatory information regarding personnel with access to classified information.
- Sec. 502. Requirements for intelligence community contractors.
- Sec. 503. Technology improvements to security clearance processing.
- Sec. 504. Report on reciprocity of security clearances.

- Sec. 505. Improving the periodic reinvestigation process.
- Sec. 506. Appropriate committees of Congress defined.

TITLE VI—INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

- Sec. 601. Protection of intelligence community whistleblowers.
- Sec. 602. Review of security clearance or access determinations.
- Sec. 603. Revisions of other laws.
- Sec. 604. Policies and procedures; non-applicability to certain terminations.

TITLE VII—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 701. Technical amendments to the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949.
- Sec. 702. Technical amendments to the National Security Act of 1947 relating to the past elimination of certain positions.
- Sec. 703. Technical amendments to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The term “congressional intelligence committees” means—

- (A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and
- (B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014 for the conduct of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the following elements of the United States Government:

- (1) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
- (2) The Central Intelligence Agency.
- (3) The Department of Defense.
- (4) The Defense Intelligence Agency.
- (5) The National Security Agency.
- (6) The Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force.
- (7) The Coast Guard.
- (8) The Department of State.
- (9) The Department of the Treasury.
- (10) The Department of Energy.
- (11) The Department of Justice.
- (12) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- (13) The Drug Enforcement Administration.
- (14) The National Reconnaissance Office.
- (15) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.
- (16) The Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 102. CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SPECIFICATIONS OF AMOUNTS AND PERSONNEL LEVELS.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 101 and, subject to section 103, the authorized personnel ceilings as of September 30, 2014, for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the elements listed in paragraphs (1) through (16) of section 101, are those specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations prepared to accompany the bill S. 1681 of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AVAILABILITY.—The classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a) shall be made available to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the President.

(2) DISTRIBUTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), the President shall provide for suitable distribution of the classified Schedule of Authorizations, or of appropriate portions of the Schedule, within the executive branch.

(3) LIMITS ON DISCLOSURE.—The President shall not publicly disclose the classified Schedule of Authorizations or any portion of such Schedule except—

(A) as provided in section 601(a) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (50 U.S.C. 3306(a));

(B) to the extent necessary to implement the budget; or

(C) as otherwise required by law.

SEC. 103. PERSONNEL CEILING ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) AUTHORITY FOR INCREASES.—The Director of National Intelligence may authorize employment of civilian personnel in excess of the number authorized for fiscal year 2014 by the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) if the Director of National Intelligence determines that such action is necessary to the performance of important intelligence functions, except that the number of personnel employed in excess of the number authorized under such section may not, for any element of the intelligence community, exceed 3 percent of the number of civilian personnel authorized under such Schedule for such element.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL.—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish guidelines that govern, for each element of the intelligence community, the treatment under the personnel levels authorized under section 102(a), including any exemption from such personnel levels, of employment or assignment in—

(1) a student program, trainee program, or similar program;

(2) a reserve corps or as a reemployed annuitant; or

(3) details, joint duty, or long term, full-time training.

(c) NOTICE TO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The Director of National Intelligence shall notify the congressional intelligence committees in writing at least 15 days prior to each exercise of an authority described in subsection (a).

SEC. 104. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence for fiscal year 2014 the sum of \$528,229,000. Within such amount, funds identified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2015.

(b) AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL LEVELS.—The elements within the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence are authorized 855 positions as of September 30, 2014. Personnel serving in such elements may be permanent employees of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence or personnel detailed from other elements of the United States Government.

(c) CLASSIFIED AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Man-

agement Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Community Management Account for fiscal year 2014 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a). Such additional amounts for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2015.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONNEL.—In addition to the personnel authorized by subsection (b) for elements of the Intelligence Community Management Account as of September 30, 2014, there are authorized such additional personnel for the Community Management Account as of that date as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund for fiscal year 2014 the sum of \$514,000,000.

SEC. 202. CIARDS AND FERS SPECIAL RETIREMENT CREDIT FOR SERVICE ON DETAIL TO ANOTHER AGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203(b) of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act (50 U.S.C. 203(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “service in the Agency performed” and inserting “service performed by an Agency employee”; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “Agency activities” and inserting “intelligence activities”.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall be applied to retired or deceased officers of the Central Intelligence Agency who were designated at any time under section 203 of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act (50 U.S.C. 203) prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—General Matters

SEC. 301. INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Appropriations authorized by this Act for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for Federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in such compensation or benefits authorized by law.

SEC. 302. RESTRICTION ON CONDUCT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

The authorization of appropriations by this Act shall not be deemed to constitute authority for the conduct of any intelligence activity which is not otherwise authorized by the Constitution or the laws of the United States.

SEC. 303. SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING CENTER 2.

Funds appropriated for the construction of the High Performance Computing Center 2 (HPCC 2), as described in the table entitled Consolidated Cryptologic Program (CCP) in the classified annex to accompany the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6; 127 Stat. 198), in excess of the amount specified for such activity in the tables in the classified annex prepared to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-277; 126 Stat. 2468) shall be specifically authorized by Congress for the purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094).

SEC. 304. CLARIFICATION OF EXEMPTION FROM FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF IDENTITIES OF EMPLOYEES SUBMITTING COMPLAINTS TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 103H(g)(3)(A) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(g)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “undertaken;” and inserting “undertaken, and this provision shall qualify as a withholding statute pursuant to subsection (b)(3) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’);”.

SEC. 305. FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS AUTHORIZED.—Title I of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 103I the following new section:

“SEC. 103J. FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

“(a) FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS AUTHORIZED.—The Director of National Intelligence may establish within the intelligence community one or more positions of manager of an intelligence function. Any position so established may be known as the ‘Functional Manager’ of the intelligence function concerned.

“(b) PERSONNEL.—The Director shall designate individuals to serve as manager of intelligence functions established under subsection (a) from among officers and employees of elements of the intelligence community.

“(c) DUTIES.—Each manager of an intelligence function established under subsection (a) shall have the duties as follows:

“(1) To act as principal advisor to the Director on the intelligence function.

“(2) To carry out such other responsibilities with respect to the intelligence function as the Director may specify for purposes of this section.”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 103I the following new item:

“Sec. 103J. Functional managers for the intelligence community.”.

SEC. 306. ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE BY FUNCTION.

(a) ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED.—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 506I the following new section:

“SEC. 506J. ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE BY FUNCTION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with the Functional Managers, submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on covered intelligence functions during the preceding year.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include for each covered intelligence function for the year covered by such report the following:

“(1) An identification of the capabilities, programs, and activities of such intelligence function, regardless of the element of the intelligence community that carried out such capabilities, programs, and activities.

“(2) A description of the investment and allocation of resources for such intelligence function, including an analysis of the allocation of resources within the context of the National Intelligence Strategy, priorities for recipients of resources, and areas of risk.

“(3) A description and assessment of the performance of such intelligence function.

“(4) An identification of any issues related to the application of technical interoperability standards in the capabilities, programs, and activities of such intelligence function.

“(5) An identification of the operational overlap or need for de-confliction, if any, within such intelligence function.

“(6) A description of any efforts to integrate such intelligence function with other intelligence disciplines as part of an integrated intelligence enterprise.

“(7) A description of any efforts to establish consistency in tradecraft and training within such intelligence function.

“(8) A description and assessment of developments in technology that bear on the future of such intelligence function.

“(9) Such other matters relating to such intelligence function as the Director may specify for purposes of this section.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered intelligence functions’ means each intelligence function for which a Functional Manager has been established under section 103J during the year covered by a report under this section.

“(2) The term ‘Functional Manager’ means the manager of an intelligence function established under section 103J.”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 506I the following new item:

“Sec. 506J. Annual assessment of intelligence community performance by function.”

SEC. 307. SOFTWARE LICENSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 108 the following new section:

“SEC. 109. SOFTWARE LICENSING.

“(a) REQUIREMENT FOR INVENTORIES OF SOFTWARE LICENSES.—The chief information officer of each element of the intelligence community, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community, shall biennially—

“(1) conduct an inventory of all existing software licenses of such element, including utilized and unutilized licenses;

“(2) assess the actions that could be carried out by such element to achieve the greatest possible economies of scale and associated cost savings in software procurement and usage; and

“(3) submit to the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community each inventory required by paragraph (1) and each assessment required by paragraph (2).

“(b) INVENTORIES BY THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community, based on the inventories and assessments required by subsection (a), shall biennially—

“(1) compile an inventory of all existing software licenses of the intelligence community, including utilized and unutilized licenses; and

“(2) assess the actions that could be carried out by the intelligence community to achieve the greatest possible economies of scale and associated cost savings in software procurement and usage.

“(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a copy of each inventory compiled under subsection (b)(1).”

(b) INITIAL INVENTORY.—

(1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ELEMENTS.—

(A) DATE.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the chief information officer of each element of the intelligence community shall complete the initial inventory, assessment, and submission required under section 109(a) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(B) BASIS.—The initial inventory conducted for each element of the intelligence community under section 109(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall be based on the inventory of software licenses conducted pursuant to section 305 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–277; 126 Stat. 2472) for such element.

(2) CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community shall complete the initial compilation and assessment required under section 109(b) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a).

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended—

(1) by striking the second item relating to section 104 (relating to Annual national security strategy report); and

(2) inserting after the item relating to section 108 the following new item: “Sec. 109. Software licensing.”

SEC. 308. PLANS TO RESPOND TO UNAUTHORIZED PUBLIC DISCLOSURES OF COVERT ACTIONS.

Section 503 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3093) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) For each type of activity undertaken as part of a covert action, the President shall establish in writing a plan to respond to the unauthorized public disclosure of that type of activity.”

SEC. 309. AUDITABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 509. AUDITABILITY OF CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

“(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL AUDITS.—The head of each covered entity shall ensure that there is a full financial audit of such covered entity each year beginning with fiscal year 2014. Such audits may be conducted by an internal or external independent accounting or auditing organization.

“(b) REQUIREMENT FOR UNQUALIFIED OPINION.—Beginning as early as practicable, but in no event later than the audit required under subsection (a) for fiscal year 2016, the head of each covered entity shall take all reasonable steps necessary to ensure that each audit required under subsection (a) contains an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of such covered entity for the fiscal year covered by such audit.

“(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The chief financial officer of each covered entity shall provide to the congressional intelligence committees an annual audit report from an accounting or auditing organization on each audit of the covered entity conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

“(d) COVERED ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered entity’ means the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 508 the following new item:

“Sec. 509. Auditability of certain elements of the intelligence community.”

SEC. 310. REPORTS OF FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE.

Section 8H(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended in paragraph (1)—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) An employee of an element of the intelligence community, an employee assigned or detailed to an element of the intelligence community, or an employee of a contractor to the intelligence community, who intends to report to Congress a complaint or information with respect to an urgent concern may report such complaint or information to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.”; and

(3) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated by paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “Act or section 17” and inserting “Act, section 17”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “, or section 103H(k) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(k)).”

SEC. 311. PUBLIC INTEREST DECLASSIFICATION BOARD.

Section 710(b) of the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–567; 50 U.S.C. 3161 note) is amended by striking “2014.” and inserting “2018.”

SEC. 312. OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION ITEMS IN SUPPORT OF THE COAST GUARD ATTACHE PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other limitation on the amount of funds that may be used for official representation items, the Secretary of Homeland Security may use funds made available to the Secretary through the National Intelligence Program for necessary expenses for intelligence analysis and operations coordination activities for official representation items in support of the Coast Guard Attaché Program.

SEC. 313. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW OF CERTAIN ITEMS COLLECTED DURING THE MISSION THAT KILLED OSAMA BIN LADEN ON MAY 1, 2011.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall—

(1) in the manner described in the classified annex to this Act—

(A) complete a declassification review of documents collected in Abbottabad, Pakistan, during the mission that killed Osama bin Laden on May 1, 2011; and

(B) make publicly available any information declassified as a result of the declassification review required under paragraph (1); and

(2) report to the congressional intelligence committees—

(A) the results of the declassification review required under paragraph (1); and

(B) a justification for not declassifying any information required to be included in such declassification review that remains classified.

SEC. 314. MERGER OF THE FOREIGN COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM AND THE GENERAL DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of National Intelligence

shall carry out the merger of the Foreign Counterintelligence Program into the General Defense Intelligence Program as directed in the classified annex to this Act. The merger shall go into effect no earlier than 30 days after written notification of the merger is provided to the congressional intelligence committees.

Subtitle B—Reporting

SEC. 321. SIGNIFICANT INTERPRETATIONS OF LAW CONCERNING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.), as added by section 309 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 510. SIGNIFICANT INTERPRETATIONS OF LAW CONCERNING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

“(a) NOTIFICATION.—Except as provided in subsection (c) and to the extent consistent with due regard for the protection from unauthorized disclosure of classified information relating to sensitive intelligence sources and methods or other exceptionally sensitive matters, the General Counsel of each element of the intelligence community shall notify the congressional intelligence committees, in writing, of any significant legal interpretation of the United States Constitution or Federal law affecting intelligence activities conducted by such element by not later than 30 days after the date of the commencement of any intelligence activity pursuant to such interpretation.

“(b) CONTENT.—Each notification under subsection (a) shall provide a summary of the significant legal interpretation and the intelligence activity or activities conducted pursuant to such interpretation.

“(c) EXCEPTIONS.—A notification under subsection (a) shall not be required for a significant legal interpretation if—

“(1) notice of the significant legal interpretation was previously provided to the congressional intelligence committees under subsection (a); or

“(2) the significant legal interpretation was made before the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

“(d) LIMITED ACCESS FOR COVERT ACTION.—If the President determines that it is essential to limit access to a covert action finding under section 503(c)(2), the President may limit access to information concerning such finding that is subject to notification under this section to those members of Congress who have been granted access to the relevant finding under section 503(c)(2).”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 509, as so added, the following new item:

“Sec. 510. Significant interpretations of law concerning intelligence activities.”.

SEC. 322. REVIEW FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OPINIONS OF THE OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CONCERNING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

(a) PROCESS FOR REVIEW FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, establish a process for the regular review for official publication of significant opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice that have been provided to an element of the intelligence community.

(b) FACTORS.—The process of review of opinions established under subsection (a) shall include consideration of the following:

(1) The potential importance of an opinion to other agencies or officials in the Executive branch.

(2) The likelihood that similar questions addressed in an opinion may arise in the future.

(3) The historical importance of an opinion or the context in which it arose.

(4) The potential significance of an opinion to the overall jurisprudence of the Office of Legal Counsel.

(5) Such other factors as the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence consider appropriate.

(c) PRESUMPTION.—The process of review established under subsection (a) shall apply a presumption that significant opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel should be published when practicable, consistent with national security and other confidentiality considerations.

(d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall require the official publication of any opinion of the Office of Legal Counsel, including publication under any circumstance as follows:

(1) When publication would reveal classified or other sensitive information relating to national security.

(2) When publication could reasonably be anticipated to interfere with Federal law enforcement efforts or is prohibited by law.

(3) When publication would conflict with preserving internal Executive branch deliberative processes or protecting other information properly subject to privilege.

(e) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CLASSIFIED OPINIONS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any opinion of the Office of Legal Counsel that would have been selected for publication under the process of review established under subsection (a) but for the fact that publication would reveal classified or other sensitive information relating to national security shall be provided or made available to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR COVERT ACTION.—If the President determines that it is essential to limit access to a covert action finding under section 503(c)(2) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3093(c)(2)), the President may limit access to information concerning such finding that would otherwise be provided or made available under this subsection to those members of Congress who have been granted access to such finding under such section 503(c)(2).

(f) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The determination whether an opinion of the Office of Legal Counsel is appropriate for official publication under the process of review established under subsection (a) is discretionary and is not subject to judicial review.

SEC. 323. SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS BY HEADS OF ELEMENTS OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY OF PLANS FOR ORDERLY SHUTDOWN IN EVENT OF ABSENCE OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the head of an applicable agency submits a plan to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with section 124 of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11, pertaining to agency operations in the absence of appropriations, or any successor circular of the Office that requires the head of an applicable agency to submit to the Director a plan for an orderly shutdown in the event of the absence of appropriations, such head shall submit a copy of such plan to the following:

(1) The congressional intelligence committees.

(2) The Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(3) The Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(4) In the case of a plan for an element of the intelligence community that is within the Department of Defense, to—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) HEAD OF AN APPLICABLE AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “head of an applicable agency” includes the following:

(1) The Director of National Intelligence.

(2) The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

(3) Each head of each element of the intelligence community that is within the Department of Defense.

SEC. 324. REPORTS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SYRIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report on the Syrian chemical weapons program.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A comprehensive assessment of chemical weapon stockpiles in Syria, including names, types, and quantities of chemical weapons agents, types of munitions, and location and form of storage, production, and research and development facilities.

(2) A listing of key personnel associated with the Syrian chemical weapons program.

(3) An assessment of undeclared chemical weapons stockpiles, munitions, and facilities.

(4) An assessment of how these stockpiles, precursors, and delivery systems were obtained.

(5) A description of key intelligence gaps related to the Syrian chemical weapons program.

(6) An assessment of any denial and deception efforts on the part of the Syrian regime related to its chemical weapons program.

(c) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Every 90 days until the date that is 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a progress report providing any material updates to the report required under subsection (a).

SEC. 325. REPORTS TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ON PENETRATIONS OF NETWORKS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS OF CERTAIN CONTRACTORS.

(a) PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING PENETRATIONS.—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish procedures that require each cleared intelligence contractor to report to an element of the intelligence community designated by the Director for purposes of such procedures when a network or information system of such contractor that meets the criteria established pursuant to subsection (b) is successfully penetrated.

(b) NETWORKS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS SUBJECT TO REPORTING.—The Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with appropriate officials, establish criteria for covered networks to be subject to the procedures for reporting system penetrations under subsection (a).

(c) PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) RAPID REPORTING.—The procedures established pursuant to subsection (a) shall require each cleared intelligence contractor to

rapidly report to an element of the intelligence community designated pursuant to subsection (a) of each successful penetration of the network or information systems of such contractor that meet the criteria established pursuant to subsection (b). Each such report shall include the following:

(A) A description of the technique or method used in such penetration.

(B) A sample of the malicious software, if discovered and isolated by the contractor, involved in such penetration.

(C) A summary of information created by or for such element in connection with any program of such element that has been potentially compromised due to such penetration.

(2) ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PERSONNEL.—The procedures established pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(A) include mechanisms for intelligence community personnel to, upon request, obtain access to equipment or information of a cleared intelligence contractor necessary to conduct forensic analysis in addition to any analysis conducted by such contractor;

(B) provide that a cleared intelligence contractor is only required to provide access to equipment or information as described in subparagraph (A) to determine whether information created by or for an element of the intelligence community in connection with any intelligence community program was successfully exfiltrated from a network or information system of such contractor and, if so, what information was exfiltrated; and

(C) provide for the reasonable protection of trade secrets, commercial or financial information, and information that can be used to identify a specific person (other than the name of the suspected perpetrator of the penetration).

(3) LIMITATION ON DISSEMINATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—The procedures established pursuant to subsection (a) shall prohibit the dissemination outside the intelligence community of information obtained or derived through such procedures that is not created by or for the intelligence community except—

(A) with the approval of the contractor providing such information;

(B) to the congressional intelligence committees or the Subcommittees on Defense of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for such committees and such Subcommittees to perform oversight; or

(C) to law enforcement agencies to investigate a penetration reported under this section.

(d) ISSUANCE OF PROCEDURES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CRITERIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall establish the procedures required under subsection (a) and the criteria required under subsection (b).

(2) APPLICABILITY DATE.—The requirements of this section shall apply on the date on which the Director of National Intelligence establishes the procedures required under this section.

(e) COORDINATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO PREVENT DUPLICATE REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall establish procedures to permit a contractor that is a cleared intelligence contractor and a cleared defense contractor

under section 941 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 10 U.S.C. 2224 note) to submit a single report that satisfies the requirements of this section and such section 941 for an incident of penetration of network or information system.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLEARED INTELLIGENCE CONTRACTOR.—The term “cleared intelligence contractor” means a private entity granted clearance by the Director of National Intelligence or the head of an element of the intelligence community to access, receive, or store classified information for the purpose of bidding for a contract or conducting activities in support of any program of an element of the intelligence community.

(2) COVERED NETWORK.—The term “covered network” means a network or information system of a cleared intelligence contractor that contains or processes information created by or for an element of the intelligence community with respect to which such contractor is required to apply enhanced protection.

(g) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or limit any otherwise authorized access by government personnel to networks or information systems owned or operated by a contractor that processes or stores government data.

SEC. 326. REPORT ON ELECTRONIC WASTE.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on the extent to which the intelligence community has implemented the recommendations of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community contained in the report entitled “Study of Intelligence Community Electronic Waste Disposal Practices” issued in May 2013. Such report shall include an assessment of the extent to which the policies, standards, and guidelines of the intelligence community governing the proper disposal of electronic waste are applicable to covered commercial electronic waste that may contain classified information.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED COMMERCIAL ELECTRONIC WASTE.—The term “covered commercial electronic waste” means electronic waste of a commercial entity that contracts with an element of the intelligence community.

(2) ELECTRONIC WASTE.—The term “electronic waste” includes any obsolete, broken, or irreparable electronic device, including a television, copier, facsimile machine, tablet, telephone, computer, computer monitor, laptop, printer, scanner, and associated electrical wiring.

SEC. 327. PROMOTING STEM EDUCATION TO MEET THE FUTURE WORKFORCE NEEDS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the Secretary of Education and the congressional intelligence committees a report describing the anticipated hiring needs of the intelligence community in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including cybersecurity and computer literacy. The report shall—

(1) describe the extent to which competitions, challenges, or internships at elements of the intelligence community that do not involve access to classified information may be utilized to promote education in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and

mathematics, including cybersecurity and computer literacy, within high schools or institutions of higher education in the United States;

(2) include cost estimates for carrying out such competitions, challenges, or internships; and

(3) include strategies for conducting expedited security clearance investigations and adjudications for students at institutions of higher education for purposes of offering internships at elements of the intelligence community.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF EXISTING PROGRAMS.—In developing the report under subsection (a), the Director shall take into consideration existing programs of the intelligence community, including the education programs of the National Security Agency and the Information Assurance Scholarship Program of the Department of Defense, as appropriate.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HIGH SCHOOL.—The term “high school” mean a school that awards a secondary school diploma.

(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(3) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “secondary school” has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

SEC. 328. REPEAL OF THE TERMINATION OF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE AUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Section 504 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-277; 126 Stat. 2477) is amended by striking subsection (e).

SEC. 329. REPEAL OR MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPEAL OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) THREAT OF ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES USING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.—Section 114 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3050) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(2) TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE.—Section 2(5)(E) of the Senate resolution advising and consenting to ratification of the Document Agreed Among the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) of November 19, 1990, adopted at Vienna May 31, 1996 (Treaty Doc. 105-5) (commonly referred to as the “CFE Flank Document”), 105th Congress, agreed to May 14, 1997, is repealed.

(b) MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Section 410(b) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (50 U.S.C. 3309) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) NOTIFICATION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Director of National Intelligence and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall each notify the congressional intelligence committees each time each such Director creates an advisory committee. Each notification shall include—

“(1) a description of such advisory committee, including the subject matter of such committee;

“(2) a list of members of such advisory committee; and

“(3) in the case of an advisory committee created by the Director of National Intelligence, the reasons for a determination by

the Director under section 4(b)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) that an advisory committee cannot comply with the requirements of such Act.”

(2) INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION SHARING.—Section 102A(g)(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(g)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) The Director of National Intelligence shall, in a timely manner, report to Congress any statute, regulation, policy, or practice that the Director believes impedes the ability of the Director to fully and effectively ensure maximum availability of access to intelligence information within the intelligence community consistent with the protection of the national security of the United States.”

(3) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY BUSINESS SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION.—Section 506D(j) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3100(j)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2015” and inserting “2014”.

(4) ACTIVITIES OF PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OFFICERS.—Section 1062(f)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee-1(f)(1)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “quarterly” and inserting “semi-annually”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the table of contents in the first section, by striking the item relating to section 114 and inserting the following new item:

“Sec. 114. Annual report on hiring and retention of minority employees.”;

(2) in section 114 (50 U.S.C. 3050)—

(A) by amending the heading to read as follows: “ANNUAL REPORT ON HIRING AND RETENTION OF MINORITY EMPLOYEES”;

(B) by striking “(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON HIRING AND RETENTION OF MINORITY EMPLOYEES.—”;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subsections (a) through (e), respectively;

(D) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively; and

(ii) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated)—

(I) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(II) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “clauses (i) and (ii)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) and (B)”;

(E) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph), by striking “subsection” and inserting “section”; and

(F) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively; and

(ii) by striking “subsection,” and inserting “section”; and

(3) in section 507 (50 U.S.C. 3106)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “(1) The date” and inserting “The date”;

(ii) by striking “subsection (c)(1)(A)” and inserting “subsection (c)(1)”;

(iii) by striking paragraph (2); and

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (F) as paragraphs (1) through (6), respectively;

(B) in subsection (c)(1)—

(i) by striking “(A) Except” and inserting “Except”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(C) in subsection (d)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “subsection (a)(1)” and inserting “subsection (a)”;

(II) by inserting “and” after “March 1”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B).

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Subtitle A—National Security Agency

SEC. 401. APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

(a) DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.—Section 2 of the National Security Agency Act of 1959 (50 U.S.C. 3602) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(b)” before “There”; and

(2) by inserting before subsection (b), as so designated by paragraph (1), the following:

“(a)(1) There is a Director of the National Security Agency.

“(2) The Director of the National Security Agency shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(3) The Director of the National Security Agency shall be the head of the National Security Agency and shall discharge such functions and duties as are provided by this Act or otherwise by law or executive order.”

(b) POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may designate the Director of the National Security Agency as a position of importance and responsibility under section 601 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 402. APPOINTMENT OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in section 8G(a)(2), by striking “the National Security Agency,”; and

(2) in section 12—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or the Federal Cochairpersons of the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code;” and inserting “the Federal Cochairpersons of the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code; the Director of the National Security Agency;”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “or the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code,” and inserting “the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code, the National Security Agency.”

SEC. 403. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the amendments made by sections 401 and 402 shall take effect on October 1, 2014, and shall apply upon the earlier of—

(1) in the case of section 401—

(A) the date of the first nomination by the President of an individual to serve as the Director of the National Security Agency that occurs on or after October 1, 2014; or

(B) the date of the cessation of the performance of the duties of the Director of the National Security Agency by the individual performing such duties on October 1, 2014; and

(2) in the case of section 402—

(A) the date of the first nomination by the President of an individual to serve as the In-

spector General of the National Security Agency that occurs on or after October 1, 2014; or

(B) the date of the cessation of the performance of the duties of the Inspector General of the National Security Agency by the individual performing such duties on October 1, 2014.

(b) EXCEPTION FOR INITIAL NOMINATIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A) or (2)(A) of subsection (a), an individual serving as the Director of the National Security Agency or the Inspector General of the National Security Agency on the date that the President first nominates an individual for such position on or after October 1, 2014, may continue to perform in that position after such date of nomination and until the individual appointed to the position, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, assumes the duties of the position.

(c) INCUMBENT INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The individual serving as Inspector General of the National Security Agency on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be eligible to be appointed by the President to a new term of service under section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Subtitle B—National Reconnaissance Office

SEC. 411. APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 106 the following:

“SEC. 106A. DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is a Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.

“(b) APPOINTMENT.—The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(c) FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.—The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office shall be the head of the National Reconnaissance Office and shall discharge such functions and duties as are provided by this Act or otherwise by law or executive order.”

(b) POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may designate the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office as a position of importance and responsibility under section 601 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 106 the following:

“Sec. 106A. Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.”

SEC. 412. APPOINTMENT OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE.

The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)—

(1) in section 8G(a)(2), as amended by section 402, is further amended by striking “the National Reconnaissance Office,”; and

(2) in section 12, as amended by section 402, is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office;” before “as the case may be;”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or the National Reconnaissance Office,” before “as the case may be;”.

SEC. 413. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by sections 411 and 412 shall take effect on October 1, 2014, and shall apply upon the earlier of—

(1) in the case of section 411—

(A) the date of the first nomination by the President of an individual to serve as the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office that occurs on or after October 1, 2014; or

(B) the date of the cessation of the performance of the duties of the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office by the individual performing such duties on October 1, 2014; and

(2) in the case of section 412—

(A) the date of the first nomination by the President of an individual to serve as the Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office that occurs on or after October 1, 2014; or

(B) the date of the cessation of the performance of the duties of the Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office by the individual performing such duties on October 1, 2014.

(b) EXCEPTION FOR INITIAL NOMINATIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A) or (2)(A) of subsection (a), an individual serving as the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office or the Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office on the date that the President first nominates an individual for such position on or after October 1, 2014, may continue to perform in that position after such date of nomination and until the individual appointed to the position, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, assumes the duties of the position.

(c) INCUMBENT INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The individual serving as Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be eligible to be appointed by the President to a new term of service under section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Subtitle C—Central Intelligence Agency**SEC. 421. GIFTS, DEVICES, AND BEQUESTS.**

Section 12 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3512) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting “GIFTS, DEVICES, AND BEQUESTS”;

(2) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by inserting “by the Director as a gift to the Agency” after “accepted”; and

(B) by striking “this section” and inserting “this subsection”;

(3) in subsection (b), by striking “this section,” and inserting “subsection (a),”;

(4) in subsection (c), by striking “this section,” and inserting “subsection (a),”;

(5) in subsection (d), by striking “this section” and inserting “subsection (a),”;

(6) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(7) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f)(1) The Director may engage in fundraising in an official capacity for the benefit of nonprofit organizations that provide support to surviving family members of deceased Agency employees or that otherwise provide support for the welfare, education, or recreation of Agency employees, former Agency employees, or their family members.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘fundraising’ means the raising of funds through the active participation in the promotion, production, or presentation of an event designed to raise funds and does not include the direct solicitation of money by any other means.”.

TITLE V—SECURITY CLEARANCE REFORM**SEC. 501. CONTINUOUS EVALUATION AND SHARING OF DEROGATORY INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONNEL WITH ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.**

Section 102A(j) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(j)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION” and inserting “CLASSIFIED INFORMATION”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(5) ensure that the background of each employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, each contractor to an element of the intelligence community, and each individual employee of such a contractor who has been determined to be eligible for access to classified information is monitored on a continual basis under standards developed by the Director, including with respect to the frequency of evaluation, during the period of eligibility of such employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, such contractor, or such individual employee to such a contractor to determine whether such employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, such contractor, and such individual employee of such a contractor continues to meet the requirements for eligibility for access to classified information; and

“(6) develop procedures to require information sharing between elements of the intelligence community concerning potentially derogatory security information regarding an employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, a contractor to an element of the intelligence community, or an individual employee of such a contractor that may impact the eligibility of such employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, such contractor, or such individual employee of such a contractor for a security clearance.”.

SEC. 502. REQUIREMENTS FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONTRACTORS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—Section 102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(x) REQUIREMENTS FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONTRACTORS.—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the head of each department of the Federal Government that contains an element of the intelligence community and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, shall—

“(1) ensure that—

“(A) any contractor to an element of the intelligence community with access to a classified network or classified information develops and operates a security plan that is consistent with standards established by the Director of National Intelligence for intelligence community networks; and

“(B) each contract awarded by an element of the intelligence community includes provisions requiring the contractor comply with such plan and such standards;

“(2) conduct periodic assessments of each security plan required under paragraph (1)(A) to ensure such security plan complies with the requirements of such paragraph; and

“(3) ensure that the insider threat detection capabilities and insider threat policies of the intelligence community apply to facilities of contractors with access to a classified network.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to

contracts entered into or renewed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 503. TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS TO SECURITY CLEARANCE PROCESSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall conduct an analysis of the relative costs and benefits of potential improvements to the process for investigating persons who are proposed for access to classified information and adjudicating whether such persons satisfy the criteria for obtaining and retaining access to such information.

(b) CONTENTS OF ANALYSIS.—In conducting the analysis required by subsection (a), the Director of National Intelligence shall evaluate the costs and benefits associated with—

(1) the elimination of manual processes in security clearance investigations and adjudications, if possible, and automating and integrating the elements of the investigation process, including—

(A) the clearance application process;

(B) case management;

(C) adjudication management;

(D) investigation methods for the collection, analysis, storage, retrieval, and transfer of data and records; and

(E) records management for access and eligibility determinations;

(2) the elimination or reduction, if possible, of the use of databases and information sources that cannot be accessed and processed automatically electronically, or modification of such databases and information sources, to enable electronic access and processing;

(3) the use of government-developed and commercial technology for continuous monitoring and evaluation of government and commercial data sources that can identify and flag information pertinent to adjudication guidelines and eligibility determinations;

(4) the standardization of forms used for routine reporting required of cleared personnel (such as travel, foreign contacts, and financial disclosures) and use of continuous monitoring technology to access databases containing such reportable information to independently obtain and analyze reportable data and events;

(5) the establishment of an authoritative central repository of personnel security information that is accessible electronically at multiple levels of classification and eliminates technical barriers to rapid access to information necessary for eligibility determinations and reciprocal recognition thereof;

(6) using digitally processed fingerprints, as a substitute for ink or paper prints, to reduce error rates and improve portability of data;

(7) expanding the use of technology to improve an applicant's ability to discover the status of a pending security clearance application or reinvestigation; and

(8) using government and publicly available commercial data sources, including social media, that provide independent information pertinent to adjudication guidelines to improve quality and timeliness, and reduce costs, of investigations and reinvestigations.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the analysis required by subsection (a).

SEC. 504. REPORT ON RECIPROcity OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.

The head of the entity selected pursuant to section 3001(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(b)) shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report each year through 2017 that describes for the preceding year—

(1) the periods of time required by authorized adjudicative agencies for accepting background investigations and determinations completed by an authorized investigative entity or authorized adjudicative agency;

(2) the total number of cases in which a background investigation or determination completed by an authorized investigative entity or authorized adjudicative agency is accepted by another agency;

(3) the total number of cases in which a background investigation or determination completed by an authorized investigative entity or authorized adjudicative agency is not accepted by another agency; and

(4) such other information or recommendations as the head of the entity selected pursuant to such section 3001(b) considers appropriate.

SEC. 505. IMPROVING THE PERIODIC REINVESTIGATION PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until December 31, 2017, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a strategic plan for updating the process for periodic reinvestigations consistent with a continuous evaluation program.

(b) CONTENTS.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an analysis of the costs and benefits associated with conducting periodic reinvestigations;

(2) an analysis of the costs and benefits associated with replacing some or all periodic reinvestigations with a program of continuous evaluation;

(3) a determination of how many risk-based and ad hoc periodic reinvestigations are necessary on an annual basis for each component of the Federal Government with employees with security clearances;

(4) an analysis of the potential benefits of expanding the Government's use of continuous evaluation tools as a means of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of procedures for confirming the eligibility of personnel for continued access to classified information; and

(5) an analysis of how many personnel with out-of-scope background investigations are employed by, or contracted or detailed to, each element of the intelligence community.

(c) PERIODIC REINVESTIGATIONS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “periodic reinvestigations” has the meaning given that term in section 3001(a) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(a)).

SEC. 506. APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.

In this title, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

TITLE VI—INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS**SEC. 601. PROTECTION OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHISTLEBLOWERS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XI of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 1104. PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ means an executive department or independent establishment, as defined under sections 101 and 104 of title 5, United States Code, that contains an intelligence community element, except the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(2) COVERED INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ELEMENT.—The term ‘covered intelligence community element’—

“(A) means—

“(i) the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the National Reconnaissance Office; and

“(ii) any executive agency or unit thereof determined by the President under section 2302(a)(2)(C)(ii) of title 5, United States Code, to have as its principal function the conduct of foreign intelligence or counterintelligence activities; and

“(B) does not include the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(3) PERSONNEL ACTION.—The term ‘personnel action’ means, with respect to an employee in a position in a covered intelligence community element (other than a position excepted from the competitive service due to its confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character)—

“(A) an appointment;

“(B) a promotion;

“(C) a disciplinary or corrective action;

“(D) a detail, transfer, or reassignment;

“(E) a demotion, suspension, or termination;

“(F) a reinstatement or restoration;

“(G) a performance evaluation;

“(H) a decision concerning pay, benefits, or awards;

“(I) a decision concerning education or training if such education or training may reasonably be expected to lead to an appointment, promotion, or performance evaluation; or

“(J) any other significant change in duties, responsibilities, or working conditions.

“(b) IN GENERAL.—Any employee of an agency who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action, shall not, with respect to such authority, take or fail to take a personnel action with respect to any employee of a covered intelligence community element as a reprisal for a lawful disclosure of information by the employee to the Director of National Intelligence (or an employee designated by the Director of National Intelligence for such purpose), the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, the head of the employing agency (or an employee designated by the head of that agency for such purpose), the appropriate inspector general of the employing agency, a congressional intelligence committee, or a member of a congressional intelligence committee, which the employee reasonably believes evidences—

“(1) a violation of any Federal law, rule, or regulation; or

“(2) mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial

and specific danger to public health or safety.

“(c) ENFORCEMENT.—The President shall provide for the enforcement of this section.

“(d) EXISTING RIGHTS PRESERVED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

“(1) preempt or preclude any employee, or applicant for employment, at the Federal Bureau of Investigation from exercising rights provided under any other law, rule, or regulation, including section 2303 of title 5, United States Code; or

“(2) repeal section 2303 of title 5, United States Code.”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 1104. Prohibited personnel practices in the intelligence community.”.

SEC. 602. REVIEW OF SECURITY CLEARANCE OR ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.

(a) GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3001(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(b)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not” and inserting “Except as otherwise provided, not”;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014—

“(A) developing policies and procedures that permit, to the extent practicable, individuals to appeal a determination to suspend or revoke a security clearance or access to classified information and to retain their government employment status while such challenge is pending; and

“(B) developing and implementing uniform and consistent policies and procedures to ensure proper protections during the process for denying, suspending, or revoking a security clearance or access to classified information, including the ability to appeal such a denial, suspension, or revocation, except that there shall be no appeal of an agency's suspension of a security clearance or access determination for purposes of conducting an investigation, if that suspension lasts no longer than 1 year or the head of the agency or a designee of the head of the agency certifies that a longer suspension is needed before a final decision on denial or revocation to prevent imminent harm to the national security.”.

(2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The policies and procedures for appeal developed under paragraph (7) of section 3001(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, as added by subsection (a), shall provide for the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, or the inspector general of the employing agency, to conduct fact-finding and report to the agency head or the designee of the agency head within 180 days unless the employee and the agency agree to an extension or the investigating inspector general determines in writing that a greater period of time is required. To the fullest extent possible, such fact-finding shall include an opportunity for the employee to present relevant evidence such as witness testimony.

(b) RETALIATORY REVOCATION OF SECURITY CLEARANCES AND ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.—Section 3001 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C.

3341) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) RETALIATORY REVOCATION OF SECURITY CLEARANCES AND ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Agency personnel with authority over personnel security clearance or access determinations shall not take or fail to take, or threaten to take or fail to take, any action with respect to any employee’s security clearance or access determination in retaliation for—

“(A) any lawful disclosure of information to the Director of National Intelligence (or an employee designated by the Director of National Intelligence for such purpose) or the head of the employing agency (or employee designated by the head of that agency for such purpose) by an employee that the employee reasonably believes evidences—

“(i) a violation of any Federal law, rule, or regulation; or

“(ii) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety;

“(B) any lawful disclosure to the Inspector General of an agency or another employee designated by the head of the agency to receive such disclosures, of information which the employee reasonably believes evidences—

“(i) a violation of any Federal law, rule, or regulation; or

“(ii) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety;

“(C) any lawful disclosure that complies with—

“(i) subsections (a)(1), (d), and (h) of section 8H of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.);

“(ii) subparagraphs (A), (D), and (H) of section 17(d)(5) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(d)(5)); or

“(iii) subparagraphs (A), (D), and (I) of section 103H(k)(5) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(k)(5)); and

“(D) if the actions do not result in the employee or applicant unlawfully disclosing information specifically required by Executive order to be kept classified in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs, any lawful disclosure in conjunction with—

“(i) the exercise of any appeal, complaint, or grievance right granted by any law, rule, or regulation;

“(ii) testimony for or otherwise lawfully assisting any individual in the exercise of any right referred to in clause (i); or

“(iii) cooperation with or disclosing information to the Inspector General of an agency, in accordance with applicable provisions of law in connection with an audit, inspection, or investigation conducted by the Inspector General.

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Consistent with the protection of sources and methods, nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to authorize the withholding of information from Congress or the taking of any personnel action against an employee who lawfully discloses information to Congress.

“(3) DISCLOSURES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A disclosure shall not be excluded from paragraph (1) because—

“(i) the disclosure was made to a person, including a supervisor, who participated in an activity that the employee reasonably believed to be covered by paragraph (1)(A)(ii);

“(ii) the disclosure revealed information that had been previously disclosed;

“(iii) the disclosure was not made in writing;

“(iv) the disclosure was made while the employee was off duty; or

“(v) of the amount of time which has passed since the occurrence of the events described in the disclosure.

“(B) REPRISALS.—If a disclosure is made during the normal course of duties of an employee, the disclosure shall not be excluded from paragraph (1) if any employee who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action with respect to the employee making the disclosure, took, failed to take, or threatened to take or fail to take a personnel action with respect to that employee in reprisal for the disclosure.

“(4) AGENCY ADJUDICATION.—

“(A) REMEDIAL PROCEDURE.—An employee or former employee who believes that he or she has been subjected to a reprisal prohibited by paragraph (1) may, within 90 days after the issuance of notice of such decision, appeal that decision within the agency of that employee or former employee through proceedings authorized by subsection (b)(7), except that there shall be no appeal of an agency’s suspension of a security clearance or access determination for purposes of conducting an investigation, if that suspension lasts not longer than 1 year (or a longer period in accordance with a certification made under subsection (b)(7)).

“(B) CORRECTIVE ACTION.—If, in the course of proceedings authorized under subparagraph (A), it is determined that the adverse security clearance or access determination violated paragraph (1), the agency shall take specific corrective action to return the employee or former employee, as nearly as practicable and reasonable, to the position such employee or former employee would have held had the violation not occurred. Such corrective action may include back pay and related benefits, travel expenses, and compensatory damages not to exceed \$300,000.

“(C) CONTRIBUTING FACTOR.—In determining whether the adverse security clearance or access determination violated paragraph (1), the agency shall find that paragraph (1) was violated if a disclosure described in paragraph (1) was a contributing factor in the adverse security clearance or access determination taken against the individual, unless the agency demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that it would have taken the same action in the absence of such disclosure, giving the utmost deference to the agency’s assessment of the particular threat to the national security interests of the United States in the instant matter.

“(5) APPELLATE REVIEW OF SECURITY CLEARANCE ACCESS DETERMINATIONS BY DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.—

“(A) APPEAL.—Within 60 days after receiving notice of an adverse final agency determination under a proceeding under paragraph (4), an employee or former employee may appeal that determination in accordance with the procedures established under subparagraph (B).

“(B) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Defense, shall develop and implement policies and procedures for adjudicating the appeals authorized by subparagraph (A).

“(C) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Consistent with the protection of sources and methods, at the time the Director of National Intelligence issues an order regarding an appeal pursuant to the policies and procedures established by this paragraph, the Di-

rector of National Intelligence shall notify the congressional intelligence committees.

“(6) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit or require judicial review of any—

“(A) agency action under this section; or

“(B) action of the appellate review procedures established under paragraph (5).

“(7) PRIVATE CAUSE OF ACTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit, authorize, or require a private cause of action to challenge the merits of a security clearance determination.”.

(c) ACCESS DETERMINATION DEFINED.—Section 3001(a) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9) ACCESS DETERMINATION.—The term ‘access determination’ means the determination regarding whether an employee—

“(A) is eligible for access to classified information in accordance with Executive Order 12968 (60 Fed. Reg. 40245; relating to access to classified information), or any successor thereto, and Executive Order 10865 (25 Fed. Reg. 1583; relating to safeguarding classified information with industry), or any successor thereto; and

“(B) possesses a need to know under such an Order.”.

(d) EXISTING RIGHTS PRESERVED.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to preempt, preclude, or otherwise prevent an individual from exercising rights, remedies, or avenues of redress currently provided under any other law, regulation, or rule.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in section 3001 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341), as amended by this title, shall be construed to require the repeal or replacement of agency appeal procedures implementing Executive Order 12968 (60 Fed. Reg. 40245; relating to access to classified information), or any successor thereto, and Executive Order 10865 (25 Fed. Reg. 1583; relating to safeguarding classified information with industry), or any successor thereto, that meet the requirements of paragraph (7) of section 3001(b) of such Act, as added by this section.

SEC. 603. REVISIONS OF OTHER LAWS.

(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978.—Section 8H of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after “(b)”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) If the head of an establishment determines that a complaint or information transmitted under paragraph (1) would create a conflict of interest for the head of the establishment, the head of the establishment shall return the complaint or information to the Inspector General with that determination and the Inspector General shall make the transmission to the Director of National Intelligence and, if the establishment is within the Department of Defense, to the Secretary of Defense. In such a case, the requirements of this section for the head of the establishment apply to each recipient of the Inspector General’s transmission.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) An individual who has submitted a complaint or information to an Inspector General under this section may notify any member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, or a staff member of

either such Committee, of the fact that such individual has made a submission to that particular Inspector General, and of the date on which such submission was made.”.

(b) CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—Section 17(d)(5) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(d)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by inserting “(i)” after “(B)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(i) If the Director determines that a complaint or information transmitted under paragraph (1) would create a conflict of interest for the Director, the Director shall return the complaint or information to the Inspector General with that determination and the Inspector General shall make the transmission to the Director of National Intelligence. In such a case, the requirements of this subsection for the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency apply to the Director of National Intelligence”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) An individual who has submitted a complaint or information to the Inspector General under this section may notify any member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, or a staff member of either such Committee, of the fact that such individual has made a submission to the Inspector General, and of the date on which such submission was made.”.

(c) NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947.—Section 103H(k)(5) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(k)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(I) An individual who has submitted a complaint or information to the Inspector General under this section may notify any member of either of the congressional intelligence committees, or a staff member of either of such committees, of the fact that such individual has made a submission to the Inspector General, and of the date on which such submission was made.”.

SEC. 604. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES; NON-APPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN TERMINATIONS.

(a) COVERED INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ELEMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered intelligence community element”—

(1) means—

(A) the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the National Reconnaissance Office; and

(B) any executive agency or unit thereof determined by the President under section 2302(a)(2)(C)(ii) of title 5, United States Code, to have as its principal function the conduct of foreign intelligence or counterintelligence activities; and

(2) does not include the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(b) REGULATIONS.—In consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence shall develop policies and procedures to ensure that a personnel action shall not be taken against an employee of a covered intelligence community element as a reprisal for any disclosure of information described in 1104 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by section 601 of this Act.

(c) REPORT ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit a report on the status of the im-

plementation of the regulations promulgated under subsection (b) to the congressional intelligence committees.

(d) NONAPPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN TERMINATIONS.—Section 1104 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by section 601 of this Act, and section 3001 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341), as amended by section 602 of this Act, shall not apply if—

(1) the affected employee is concurrently terminated under—

(A) section 1609 of title 10, United States Code;

(B) the authority of the Director of National Intelligence under section 102A(m) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(m)), if the Director determines that the termination is in the interest of the United States;

(C) the authority of the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency under section 104A(e) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3036(e)), if the Director determines that the termination is in the interest of the United States; or

(D) section 7532 of title 5, United States Code, if the head of the agency determines that the termination is in the interest of the United States; and

(2) not later than 30 days after such termination, the head of the agency that employed the affected employee notifies the congressional intelligence committees of the termination.

TITLE VII—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

SEC. 701. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ACT OF 1949.

Section 21 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3521) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(D), by striking “section (a)” and inserting “subsection (a)”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(E), by striking “provider.” and inserting “provider”.

SEC. 702. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947 RELATING TO THE PAST ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN POSITIONS.

Section 101(a) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking the semicolon and inserting “; and”;

(2) by striking paragraphs (6) and (7);

(3) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (6); and

(4) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by striking “the Chairman of the Munitions Board, and the Chairman of the Research and Development Board.”.

SEC. 703. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 506 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–277; 126 Stat. 2478) is amended—

(1) by striking “Section 606(5)” and inserting “Paragraph (5) of section 605”; and

(2) by inserting “, as redesignated by section 310(a)(4)(B) of this Act,” before “is amended”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–277).

SA 3239. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2450, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Af-

fairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. —. EXEMPTION OF MEDICAL DEVICES SOLD UNDER THE TRICARE FOR LIFE PROGRAM OR VETERAN'S HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS FROM THE MEDICAL DEVICE EXCISE TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 4191(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end,

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E), and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

“(D) any medical device which is sold to individuals covered under the TRICARE for Life program or the veteran's health care program under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, any portion of the cost of which is paid or reimbursed under either such program, and”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to sales after the date of the enactment of this Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 11, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 11, 2014, at 11 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 11, 2014, at 5:15 p.m. to hold a hearing entitled “CLOSED/TS/SCI: The Situation in Ukraine.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 11, 2014, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 11, 2014, in room SD-628 of

the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 11, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 11, 2014, at 4 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREE-
MENT—EXECUTIVE NOMINA-
TIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Thursday—that is tomorrow—June 12, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and consideration of Calendar No. 523, under the previous order; further, that following the disposition of that nomination, the Senate proceed to consideration and vote on Calendar Nos. 710, 782, and 776; further, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 244, S. 1681.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1681) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. I further ask unanimous consent that the substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3238) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 1681), as amended, was passed.

CLARIFYING RESPONSIBILITY OF
SENATE COMMITTEES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that S. Res. 470, which is at the desk, be placed on the calendar and that upon the enactment into law of the language of title IV of S. 1681, as amended, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the resolution; that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT
GEORGE H.W. BUSH AND BAR-
BARA BUSH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 471.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 471) honoring former President George H.W. Bush on the occasion of his 90th birthday and Barbara Bush on the occasion of her 89th birthday and extending the best wishes of the Senate to former President Bush and Mrs. Bush.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 471) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

HONORING DR. JAMES
SCHLESINGER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration S. Res. 472.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 472) honoring Dr. James Schlesinger, former Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Energy, and Director of Central Intelligence.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 472) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 12,
2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the next 30 minutes; and that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 523, as provided for under the previous order; further, that upon disposition of the Batta nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business until 1:45 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that at 1:45 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 769, as provided for under the previous order; finally, upon disposition of the Fischer nomination, the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be a series of votes at noon tomorrow and another series at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:01 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 12, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, June 11, 2014

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 11, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JASON T. SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

NO SUBSIDIES WITHOUT VERIFICATION ACT

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

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, more than 1 million Americans who signed up for health care on the Federal ObamaCare exchange may be receiving an incorrect taxpayer subsidy for their plan due to the fact that the Obama administration pushed this law through before the systems were in place to accurately confirm eligibility.

This isn't mere incompetence on the part of the White House; no, this is a direct result of the administration's insistence on moving forward with their arbitrary October 1, 2013, open enrollment date, regardless of the consequences.

Consider the problem this presents as there is currently no realtime system in place to ensure only those who qualify for subsidies receive them. This means that hardworking American taxpayers may be left on the hook for potentially billions of dollars in fraudulent subsidy payments. Furthermore, it means that someone who simply fills out their ObamaCare enrollment appli-

cation incorrectly could be hounded for years by the Internal Revenue Service for back taxes owed on improper payments.

This problem was entirely preventable. That is why, in the wake of the clandestine holiday rules change that delayed income verification provisions in ObamaCare last summer, I introduced legislation that would have prevented any ObamaCare subsidies from being doled out until a system was in place to make sure that only those who were determined eligible would receive them. The House acted on this legislation, passing it in a bipartisan vote last September to help protect the American taxpayers from rampant fraud and abuse.

Unfortunately, instead of giving my bill the consideration that it deserved, the Senate stripped the verification provision contained in the bill and replaced it with language requiring a mere report to Congress by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius at the end of last year, certifying that there is a system in place to verify incomes before subsidies are paid out.

Predictably, this weakened income verification language has failed, and we have now learned from news reports that over 1 million Americans are potentially receiving an amount in error. That is why I have now introduced H.R. 4805, the No Subsidies Without Verification Act of 2014.

The tax credits and cost-sharing assistance for ObamaCare premiums administered by HHS is estimated to amount to a staggering \$10 billion per month, making this one of the largest entitlement programs in the Nation. My bill would simply require an income verification system to be put into place before any additional taxpayer subsidies are given out.

Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare has become such a boondoggle that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office can't even score it anymore. My commonsense legislation would slow the bleeding this law is having on American taxpayers, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to move it forward.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, some things do not change after a primary, even a primary result that no one, in-

cluding the winning candidate, had predicted. The thing that does not change with the political winds in Washington is the calendar. There are only 10 legislative days before the July Fourth recess.

Another thing has not changed. The Republican Party and the Republican leadership have a difficult choice. They can choose to address the immigration issue head-on and get it resolved, and give the Republican nominee in 2016 a fighting chance in his or her run for the White House, or they can go back to the bunker, sharpen their anti-Obama knives, and never get to the White House in the next generation, possibly two.

As I have said on the floor before, if there is no serious immigration reform action headed toward a floor vote in the House by July Fourth, we will not see action at all, and it will be left up to the President to rescue the country from the worst aspects of our dysfunctional immigration system.

On the Democratic side, we all prefer a legislative solution where the House, like our counterparts in the Senate, pass bills signed by the President. But in the absence of anything resembling leadership from the legislature, the President will not just sit back and watch a bad situation get worse. He will act in accordance with existing law to protect all immigrants he can. I believe he can protect literally millions of them through executive action.

Immigration reform is not dead. It will just move to the White House for action if none comes from this House. So with 10 days left before July Fourth, where do we stand? The majority leader released his legislative schedule for the month of June, and reforming our immigration system is nowhere to be found. Immigration is the single most important issue to address for the Republican Party's ability to be competitive at the national level after this fall, and it is nowhere on the schedule before this fall.

So what lessons have we learned? Half-measures to legalize some immigrants here and allow legal immigration for some industries there doesn't seem to have much political traction with conservative voters in the South. Blocking sensible immigration reform and sending out mailers decrying "amnesty" at the last minute doesn't seem to have much traction with southern voters in conservative districts.

Articulating, however, a firm argument for why deporting 11 or 12 million

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

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

people is not a realistic proposition, defending your position that legal immigration is preferable to illegal immigration, and making clear that the only way to actual border security is a combination of enforcement, legal immigration, and addressing the legal status for immigrants already living and working here seems to work pretty well with southern conservative voters.

That is what the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. GRAHAM, would tell us, or the gentlelady from North Carolina, or every poll that has been taken in recent memory. And we know that in every part of the country outside the most conservative districts, mainly in the South, supporting the end of illegal immigration and a broad and rigorous legalization combined with serious workplace and border enforcement is not only the policy that works, it is the only policy that is viable politically.

So every pundit on TV last night said it was time to man the barricades. They said immigration reform with a Republican stamp in a Republican Congress is dead because the American people want to be protected from the threatening world outside, and Republican Congressmen want to be protected from their threatening voters.

But it is still up to the Republican leadership how they plan to proceed. Not a single Republican who opposes immigration reform needs to vote for it—not one. And we will still have a majority of the House voting to do what a majority of Americans want them to do; that is, address our broken immigration system.

Next week in Judiciary we will have a hearing on the crisis of unaccompanied minors fleeing Central America, and we will be pointing fingers at everyone but ourselves, and not, I would note, using the few remaining legislative days available to craft a sensible border and immigration strategy as our colleagues did in the Senate almost a full year ago.

Let us not accept the latest excuse for inaction on immigration, especially from those who want to take no action under any conditions. This Nation—built by and sustained by 400 years of immigration—needs a coherent system, and we need politicians brave enough to craft one.

CELEBRATING FLAG DAY AND THE ARMY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Flag Day, which will be celebrated on Saturday, June 14. This date is important to all Americans, as June 14, 1777, is the date the Continental Congress adopted a resolution officially

designating a flag of the United States. That same date in 1775 is also recognized as the birthday of our Army.

On our flag, those 13 broad stripes and 50 bright stars are an important symbol of America that is recognized across the globe and, quite frankly, even on the Moon.

Our flag has many meanings. Our flag is raised by our athletes during the Olympics. Our flag is flown with pride and honor during ceremonies. Our flag is worn on the right arm of every soldier. And our flag is draped over the coffins of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country that it represents and that they served.

This Saturday, June 14, I encourage all to remember why we fly our flag and to also use the opportunity to remember the Army's birthday and the many soldiers who have defended the flag and what it has represented for the past 239 years.

GUN CONTROL

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the 74th school shooting incident since the horrific day at Sandy Hook in December 2012 where 26 people, including 20 children, were slaughtered. Only this time, it was my district.

Reynolds High School, the second-largest in the State of Oregon, was the scene of the tragic murder of 14-year-old Emilio Hoffman, a junior high school varsity soccer player and volunteer soccer coach. He was gunned down; a teacher was wounded, and the shooter, apparently an ex-student, dead.

I was struck by, just a few days earlier, when *The Onion*, the satirical newspaper, had their response to this recent spate of shootings that has shaken us all.

The *Onion* headline read:

“No Way To Prevent This,” Says Only Nation Where This Regularly Happens.

The article read:

In the days following a violent rampage in southern California in which a lone attacker killed seven individuals, including himself, and seriously injured over a dozen others, citizens living in the only country where this kind of mass killing routinely occurs reportedly concluded that there was no way to prevent the massacre from taking place. “This was a terrible tragedy, but sometimes these things just happen and there is nothing anyone can do to stop them,” said North Carolina resident Samuel Wipper, echoing sentiments expressed by tens of millions of individuals who reside in a nation where over half the world's deadliest mass shootings have occurred in the past 50 years and whose citizens are 20 times more likely to die of gun violence than those of other developed countries. “It is a shame, but what can we do? There really isn't anything that was going to keep this guy from snapping and killing a lot of people if that is what he real-

ly wanted.” At press time, residents of the only economically advanced nation in the world where roughly two mass shootings have occurred every month for the past 5 years were referring themselves and their situation as “hopeless.”

Well, the fact is we can do something about gun violence. It is a public health crisis, and with any other disease or health product that produced such widespread death and destruction, we would mobilize. First, we need to take some simple, commonsense steps like universal background gun checks. We have them in my State of Oregon. Obviously, it doesn't keep every senseless act of gun violence from happening, but it is often proven effective to keep weapons out of the hands of the mentally unstable and criminal elements.

Universal background checks are supported by an overwhelming number of Americans—over 90 percent by some estimates—and a strong majority, over two-thirds, of gun owners want to make sure there are no loopholes in the background check laws.

Recent events have also demonstrated what you will find out by visiting any jail, emergency room, or simply walking the streets of our communities: too many Americans are facing a mental health crisis. I am looking forward to working with Representative TIM MURPHY on his H.R. 3717, Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act.

□ 1015

We have been discussing ways to advance some of the provisions in this Congress. Recently, my friend and colleague from Tucson, Congressman RON BARBER, himself a victim of gun violence which occurred during the tragic murders in Tucson—which included the serious wounding of our former colleague, Gabby Giffords—has also introduced legislation.

I am looking forward to being able to work with both Congressman MURPHY and Congressman BARBER, so that this Congress produces legislation to strengthen the opportunities to help people who are mentally ill.

We ought not to pretend that there is nothing we can do about these situations. Look at what happened with automobile safety. It has dramatically improved within a generation, once we stopped accepting the carnage on our roadways.

Auto deaths have been cut in half, serious injuries reduced, not with any single magic solution, but by patient, hard work involving step-by-step efforts to improve design and construction of automobiles, the education of drivers, and the enforcement of our laws.

Education, engineering, and enforcement can likewise make a big difference in reducing the epidemic of gun violence in America, and we certainly

can do a better job of helping individuals and families in mental health crisis.

Let's not make a parody in *The Onion* be the reality of this Congress. Let's act. Tens of thousands of victims, past and future, including young Emilio Hoffman, demand our best efforts.

HONORING LINDA TOWSE FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress rely a great deal on our staff for policy advice, research, interacting with constituents, and all of the other tasks that allow us to serve our districts.

Today, I would like to take a moment to recognize one member of my staff who has been the backbone of my office for over 35 years. Linda Towse started in my office on June 7, 1979, less than 2 months after I was elected.

Last week marked her 35th anniversary in our office. Before that, Linda worked with Senator Edward Brooke from Massachusetts. All told, Linda has been a congressional staffer for 42 years.

Always patient, always thoughtful, always thorough, Linda is what every Member wants in a staffer. She has helped countless Sixth District residents resolve issues with Federal agencies.

Hundreds of young people will remember Linda for her work coordinating their internship in my office or working with them while overseeing my service academy commission.

Birthdays are always remembered and celebrated thanks to her, and fellow staff rely on her years of wisdom and experience for learning the ropes and succeeding in their jobs.

She is our office historian and somehow locates any specific piece of paper when needed from the stack of papers on her desk.

We see staffers come and go, but it is rare to have one as dedicated as Linda and one who has served the Congress for over 40 years. Thank you, Linda, for your service to the Sixth District of Wisconsin over these many years.

CONGRATULATING AUDRA McDONALD

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Audra McDonald, an award-winning actress and singer from my hometown of Fresno, California.

Audra, who I have the pleasure of knowing personally, made history on Sunday, if you were watching the Tony

Awards, when she received her sixth Tony Award. This win makes her the most statue-laden Tony Award winner in our Nation's history. Audra's most recent Tony Award was for her incredible portrayal of Billie Holiday in "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill."

Audra, who grew up in Fresno, began her career with my friend Dan Pessano and the Good Company Players while attending Roosevelt High School. She then went on to graduate from the Juilliard School of New York in 1993. Audra has seen great success on Broadway, television, and in the opera.

In addition to having won three Tony Awards at the age of 28, Audra has also received numerous Grammy Awards, Drama Desk Awards, and Outer Critics Circle Awards. There is almost nothing that she hasn't performed in her field. She also has been able to display her talents at the White House and on the greatest stages in the world.

Audra is not only an exceptional actress, but also a wonderful, giving person. She actively gives back to her community and seeks to improve the lives of those around her, including her family.

Earlier this year, she held a benefit concert for Hands in the Community and is a supporter of marriage equality. She also sits on the advisory committee for Broadway Impact. Most importantly, she has always given credit to where credit is due, beginning with her parents who are respected educators in Fresno, who motivated and taught students as they taught Audra.

Audra McDonald is a source of pride and inspiration in the San Joaquin Valley and her hometown of Fresno, as well as around the world. I think it is important that we take special note of the talented people throughout our country who provide joy and the experience of the arts as this very, very fine individual has done, a star in her own right, Audra McDonald—hometown, Fresno, California.

FEDERAL RESERVE

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I have the Federal Reserve on my mind this morning.

You can't really get through the Federal Reserve in 5 minutes, Mr. Speaker, but I wanted to start down the road today because I saw a headline Bloomberg reported to say that what had been intended to be the beginning of an unwinding of a Federal Reserve balance sheet wasn't going to occur in the timely fashion that had been intended. This was news to me, based on what we have seen in the Budget Committee.

I have with me this morning the Federal Reserve Act authorization. Folks

often wonder where the Federal Reserve comes from. The truth is it comes from the Federal Reserve Act.

I point to section 2A, "Monetary policy objectives." Its says that:

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve and the Open Market Committee shall maintain long-run growth of the monetary and credit aggregates commensurate with the economy's long-run potential to increase production, so as to promote effectively the goals of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates.

Now, I know there are some high school economic students out there who are thinking: Hey, wait a minute. Can you really promote stable prices, maximum employment, and moderate long-term interest rates with the same set of policies?

I share that high school economics concern about whether or not those three goals can be pursued collectively, but this is the mandate the Federal Reserve has, and this is why the Federal Reserve is involved in what they are involved in.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what I have here is the Federal Reserve balance sheet. It goes back to 2007, back when the Federal Reserve balance sheet was relatively stable. By stable, I mean it was at about \$800 billion—\$800 billion, the balance sheet of the Federal Reserve.

I want you to watch on the chart as we go out through these stable times, right up until the balance sheet triples in 2008. Now, when we are trying to promote economic stability, the tripling of any government balance sheet should be of concern. The Federal Reserve balance sheet triples in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand a hearing transcript from my very first month on the Budget Committee. That occurred 3 years ago. It was 2011, and Chairman PAUL RYAN was questioning Ben Bernanke, then the Federal Reserve chairman.

Chairman RYAN said, "I want to talk to you about QE2"—quantitative easing 2—and what it is doing to the American economy.

Chairman Bernanke's response was this, Mr. Speaker. He said:

What we are doing here is a temporary measure which will be reversed, so that at the end of this process, the money supply will be normalized, the amount of the Fed's balance sheet will be normalized, and there will be no permanent increase, either in money outstanding, in the Fed's balance sheet, or in inflation.

That was February 2011. I point to February 2011 on my chart here, Mr. Speaker, where the Federal Reserve chairman said that the balance sheet would begin to normalize.

What I want you to observe in the intervening months between February 2011, when normalization was discussed and projected, we have actually seen the balance sheet increase almost 100 percent. Today, we are met with the news that a return to a normalized balance sheet may be delayed even further.

Mr. Speaker, these are decisions on which no Member of this Chamber votes. These are decisions on which no member of America's board of directors—being the American voters—have a voice, and this is a decision that will either rescue or destroy the economic future of this country.

It needs to be discussed more often, Mr. Speaker. I intend to bring these issues to the floor on a regular basis. No harm will come from shining the bright light of transparency on these Federal Reserve decisions. No harm will come from incorporating 330 million Americans into this debate about America's economic security.

ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, we live in a country that is truly blessed with an abundant array of energy resources, yet despite major advances in technology in recent years that are allowing us to access even more of these energy resources, our country is sadly failing to take advantage of these opportunities and is imposing higher costs on all Americans.

My constituents and people across the country continue to struggle to keep up with high energy prices. With an average price of nearly \$4 for a gallon of gas in Michigan, middle class families in my district can't understand why the Federal Government can't get serious about developing an all-of-the-above energy policy.

For the past few years, House Republicans have been pursuing an all-of-the-above energy strategy. We understand that developing our resources at home won't only lower energy costs, but it will grow good paying American jobs and ease the squeeze on the middle class.

The House has taken action to immediately ease that pain. In February, we passed H.R. 3826, the Electricity Security and Affordability Act, to put a check on the President's and the EPA's misuse of the Clean Air Act in pursuit of cap-and-trade.

In March, we passed H.R. 2824, the Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act, which would protect coal mining from unnecessary, harmful, and useless Federal regulation. We need the resources, and our people need these jobs.

The House will continue standing up for the American people and against the President's plans to increase utility costs. This week, I proudly cosponsored H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, a bill introduced by Chairman UPON of the Energy and Commerce Committee, that will remove redtape that interferes

with our ability to build the necessary infrastructure to move North American energy where it is needed most.

I expect the House will soon consider H.R. 3301 and a number of other bills that will lessen the squeeze of high energy prices, while protecting and creating new energy jobs that will grow a healthy economy and form a framework for all of our middle class and a real all-of-the-above energy plan.

HELPING FAMILIES IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, a gunman with a history of mental illness killed one and wounded two others at a Seattle university.

Just before Memorial Day, a young man known by his family and therapists to be mentally ill killed six people and himself in another awful episode of mass violence.

Before there was Elliot Rodger, there was Adam Lanza in Newtown; Jared Loughner in Tucson; James Holmes in Aurora, Colorado; and Aaron Alexis at the Washington Navy Yard.

There was Gus Deeds, another young man who was in a mental health crisis, but was denied extended inpatient care at a hospital before he killed himself and stabbed his father, a Virginia State senator.

All had untreated or undertreated serious mental illness. All spiraled out of control within a system that lacked the basic mechanisms to help. Many had parents who were pleading for more help.

How many more must die before we finally deal with our broken mental health system?

Violence amongst persons with mental illness is extraordinarily rare and is far more likely to be self-directed. Last year, there was 40,000 suicide deaths and almost 1 million attempts.

□ 1030

The mentally ill are more likely to be the victims of violence, robberies, beatings, rape, and other crimes. The mentally ill are also 10 times more likely to be in jail than a hospital. That is because the seriously mentally ill often encounter law enforcement after refusing medical care.

What makes these painful episodes so confounding is the reality that so many tragedies involving a person with mental illness is entirely preventable. For example, in 34 States, Elliot Rodger's family would have been able to ask a court to order an emergency psychiatric evaluation, but in California the law says they cannot.

The families know when their loved one is in a mental health crisis and

their condition is gravely deteriorating; but as our yearlong investigation performed at the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations revealed, families are shut out from being part of the care delivery system.

As revealed in our subcommittee review, for far too long, policymakers have been in denial about brain disease and serious mental illness as well as the need to address these medical issues in the policy arena. We pretend like it doesn't exist and, therefore, don't have policies in place to help families and patients in mental health crisis.

Congress has been more comfortable in the behavioral wellness realm than in confronting the difficult and painful reality that persons with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major clinical depression are more likely to end up homeless, in prison, or dead by suicide than in a meaningful health care treatment setting because of our failure to make courageous, substantive legislative changes.

We pretend that all the seriously mentally ill are fully aware of their symptoms and welcome treatment. The fact is many don't. Forty percent of persons with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder do not even recognize their delusions and hallucinations aren't real. They refuse treatment and don't get better.

They have a right to get better, and don't they have a right to get treatment?

Our investigation paved the way for the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act. With nearly 90 cosponsors, my bipartisan measure fixes the shortage of psychiatric hospital beds, clarifies HIPAA privacy laws so families are part of the frontline care, and helps patients get treatment well before their illness spirals into crisis. The bill has been endorsed by nearly a dozen publications, including The Washington Post, Seattle Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Wall Street Journal, and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Each day, I hear from families in crisis from across the country who are counting on our efforts to bring positive changes to the mental health system. We cannot let these families down. Lives are depending on it. We cannot wish this away, and denial is not a treatment.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by cosponsoring H.R. 3717, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act. Please help, because where there is no help, there is no hope.

TAKE ACTION AND VOTE

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives stood in solidarity and silence as we once again rose to acknowledge another death, another shooting, another loss of life again at one of our schools. We rose out of respect for the victims and their families, as we have done repeatedly.

On average, there has been a shooting in a school a week. The American people are outraged. They no longer want Congress' silence. They want to hear Congress' voice.

In America, the most important thing that we can do is vote; the most patriotic thing that we can do is vote. But in this Chamber, we have yet to take up simple legislation on background checks.

Now, let me be very specific about that.

PAT TOOMEY, JOE MANCHIN, two of the most conservative Senators in the United States Congress, put together a very narrowly constructed compromise that called for universal background checks to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill.

This is not complicated. It is supported by 92 percent of the American people and 76 percent of the NRA. JOHN BOEHNER, ERIC CANTOR, KEVIN MCCARTHY, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS are honorable people. They know what the right thing to do is. And the right thing here, whatever side you come down on this issue, is to give the people in the people's House a vote.

How many more times are we going to hear the pleas from parents who are crying out for Congress to take action? In a body where many people pride themselves on the right to life, why will we not rise to do everything to protect our schoolchildren?

When I was growing up, we used to have drills because we were fearful of nuclear annihilation by Russia. Today our schools go through routine lockdown drills for fear of our own citizens.

Congress has got to act or Congress, as I have said before on this floor, is duplicitous in every single tragedy that takes place, duplicitous because of its inaction. It is the morally right thing to do to cast a vote.

However you feel on this issue, and there are strong feelings about it, but the American people, and clearly the families of these victims, need to know that minimally their democracy was willing not to stand in silence and in remorse, as important as that was and is, but to take action and vote.

U.S.-SERBIA ALLIANCE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since our founding, Americans have always had to fight for the liberty and freedom

that we have. Throughout our history, we have had allies from other parts of the world on our side ready to help us, and we have been ready to help them stand together for freedom over tyranny.

Today, I want to commemorate one of our most important allies: the people of Serbia. For more than 130 years, we have had a close relationship with the Serbian people.

I have on my staff here in Washington a Serbian American, Blair Bjellos, who is my victim's advocate. When I was in Texas as a judge, my chief of staff, Elaine Dudich Stolte, who now runs the best children's assessment center in the world, worked for me. Both are of Serbian descent.

Our friendship with the Serbians is based on our shared belief in democracy and standing up for liberty. During both World War I and World War II, our two countries fought on the same battlefield and our people shared and shed blood together. Because of that brotherhood, we have a special relationship.

During World War I, Austria-Hungary tried to pick a fight with Serbia, through the July Ultimatum. Of course, the Ultimatum wasn't a deal at all, and it was purposely unacceptable and meant to provoke a war with the two nations. Despite being 10 times smaller than Austria-Hungary, Serbia, an independent, freedom-loving nation, refused to back down to the aggressor. Like a true David versus Goliath, the Serbian people fought valiantly with us against the central powers in World War I. In the end, 25 percent of the Serbian population was killed during that war.

Despite the toll World War I took on Serbia, when World War II started, they were allies again. There are numerous accounts of bravery that the Serbs conducted during World War II, and a lot of that was not known to the world until recently. I just want to talk about one of those.

Perhaps the most inspiring report of bravery and brotherhood was shown during the Halyard Mission, when Serbian General Draza Mihailovich and Serbian American George Vujnovich led a mission to save American pilots that had been shot down by Nazi planes behind the lines in Serbia.

In 1944, hundreds of B-17 and B-24 fighter pilots and their crews were shot down by the Nazi Luftwaffe over what we now know as Serbia. General Mihailovich immediately began finding those pilots and members of the crew and hid them in barns and farmhouses throughout Serbia, wherever he could find them shelter. He and his men and local Serbian civilians hid our troops. They risked their lives in doing so, and many of them later paid the consequences when the Nazis found out about it.

When Mihailovich radioed Washington to alert them of his actions,

here in the United States, Vujnovich, an OSS agent of Serbian descent, found out and planned a daring rescue mission. Vujnovich would train Allied Forces on how to act like Serbs and sneak them into Nazi territory to save the downed pilots and their crews. Once in, they would help guide U.S. planes into the country to pick up the downed pilots.

With the help of local Serbs, the undercover U.S. soldiers and General Mihailovich built a makeshift runway in just 9 days. They had no sophisticated tools or machinery. They just used oxen, wagons, brute strength, and the tools that they could find. Over the next 6 months, Allied planes flew right under Nazi noses to land on that crude airstrip.

I was most fortunate to have known one of those brave men. Serbian George Dudich was among those who risked his life to save those American downed pilots. When Mr. Dudich and his family later came to the United States after Communist Tito took over, he took time to find many of those downed pilots and crew members to meet with them once again. In total, the Halyard Mission saved 512 U.S. airmen. Not one American was lost, although many Serbs died in those rescues. Unfortunately, the United States took the wrong side after the war and we supported Tito, a communist, rather than Mihailovich, to lead Serbia.

We did not recognize Mihailovich's deeds until recently, and now he has been awarded the Legion of Merit; and Vujnovich, at 95 years old, received a Bronze Star from the United States.

Many Americans and many American Serbs served together then, and I want to congratulate the relationship and commemorate the relationship between the United States and Serbia during the wars and the relationship the two countries have today.

And that's just the way it is.

RECESS

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

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

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Rabbi Eytan Hammerman, Temple Beth Shalom, Mahopac, New York, offered the following prayer:

Our God and God of our ancestors, we rise in prayer in one of the world's

most sacred spaces. This hallowed Hall combines enormous power with awesome responsibility. We pray that You, O God, inspire those who stand before You today—mere mortals—women and men, young and old, the many races, colors, and ancestries that make up our blessed country.

In the Jewish calendar, we have just concluded the Feast of Weeks, marking, we are taught, the receipt of the Bible at Mount Sinai. This was the culmination of a march from bondage and slavery toward freedom and responsibility. We ask that You bless the Members of this august body as they work to guarantee freedom in our day so that we may all live long lives; peaceful lives of goodness and blessing; lives free from shame; lives filled with abundance and honor; and lives in which our hearts' desire for goodness—for one and all—will be fulfilled.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MEEHAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING RABBI EYTAN HAMMERMAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I welcome Rabbi Eytan Hammerman of Temple Beth Shalom to the House of Representatives and thank him for serving as today's guest chaplain.

Rabbi Hammerman leads the congregation at Temple Beth Shalom and is passionate about serving his neighbors in Mahopac, New York.

A distinguished scholar, Rabbi Hammerman holds a B.A. and a master's degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City and a degree in political science from Columbia University. Before he joined Temple Beth Shalom in 2010, he served small and large congregations in Baltimore, Maryland; White Plains, New

York; and northern New Jersey, in addition to serving as director of the Jewish Youth Philanthropy Institute here in Washington, D.C.

Rabbi Hammerman has served the Mahopac community since he was ordained in 2010, and his leadership has united people all throughout the community—no matter what their beliefs or what their background.

Not only a religious leader, he has long been a political advocate for justice and equality, and especially for a reduction in the horrible plague of gun violence we see in our country.

He is joined here today by his wife, Rebecca, and his three beautiful daughters, Ary, Rena, and Ilana, as well as his mother- and father-in-law, Marjorie and Dr. Steven Hoffman.

Not only a religious leader, he is also my friend, and I am proud to call him my friend. I hope you will join me in welcoming Rabbi Hammerman.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING THE LEGACY OF JAMES F. KILCUR OF WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, last week, I attended the Transportation Management Association of Chester County for its annual legislative breakfast. At the breakfast, the association posthumously honored James F. Kilcur as its executive director emeritus. It is a very special recognition by his colleagues within the transportation industry. I can't think of anybody more deserving of this distinction than Jim, and I join the association in honoring Jim's service to southeastern Pennsylvania.

Jim Kilcur, of West Chester, Pennsylvania, died on Wednesday, February 19, 2014. Born in northeast Philadelphia, Jim was a proud Philadelphia native and a pillar of his community. He was a labor lawyer admired for his trusted counsel and respected by all for his ability to get to a fair resolution of any matter. Jim stood out at Saul Ewing as a partner and at Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority as general counsel for nearly a decade. Then, just as now, everybody respected Jim.

I had the pleasure to work with Jim during his time at SEPTA. He was a confident, intelligent man, and while tolerant of other positions, was steadfast in his own. He was decisive, and there was no waffling or ambiguity in his thinking.

Jim was the chairman of the board of trustees of his alma mater, DeSales University in Center Valley, and a proud alumni of Cardinal Dougherty High School.

I would like to commend Jim on his devoted service to his community, to his church, and his impressive career history, and his life of love and devotion to his family, especially his wife. Let me remember Jim with this legacy.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that yesterday the House adopted my amendment to prevent communities that have experienced recent population loss from being excluded from the Community Development Block Grant program.

Since the creation of the Community Development Block Grant program in 1974, HUD has designated "entitlement communities," which included cities with a population of at least 50,000. For 40 years, HUD has allowed cities that have had their populations fall below 50,000 to continue to participate in the program.

Unfortunately, HUD signaled a desire to change course and to remove these cities from the program. This would have devastated 127 cities in 31 States, including the city of Niagara Falls in my congressional district.

The Community Development Block Grant program has become a foundation for community and economic development across the Nation and in western New York.

I am pleased that communities who rely on this funding will continue to have access to this critical resource.

WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH RESOLUTION

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with my colleague, Congresswoman DONNA EDWARDS, who is here with me today, am introducing an important bipartisan resolution targeting heart disease in women.

Dubbed "the silent killer," this disease is the number one killer of women in the United States. Since 1984, more women have died of heart disease than men. It is the leading cause of death in West Virginia, claiming more than 4,800 lives in the year 2010.

Preventative screenings can make a huge difference in helping women learn the risk of heart disease and how to reduce that risk. Women often rely on their OB/GYNs and community health centers for primary care, and our resolution seeks to educate women of all

ages on the need to make heart health an important part of their screening wherever they receive care and from whoever they are seeing.

Women spend so much time taking care of others—spouses, children, aging parents, and the responsibilities of work. It is time to encourage all women to take better care of themselves.

Learn your risk factors. Learn how to be healthier. Learn how to live longer and healthier for yourself and for those that you love.

SEVENTY-FOUR SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, there have been 74 school shootings since the Sandy Hook tragedy:

Apostolic Revival Center Christian School; Taft Union High School; Stevens Institute of Business; Hazard Community College; Chicago State University; Lone Star College; Price Middle School; Morehouse College; Indian River State College; Hillside Elementary School; Henry Grady High School; the University of Central Florida; Davidson Middle School; New River Community College; Elizabeth City State University; Grambling State University; Stillman College; La Salle High School; Santa Monica College; Alexander Dreyfoos School of the Arts; Northwest High School; Ronald McNair Learning Academy; Westside Elementary School; North Panola High School; Carver High School; Savannah State University; New Gloucester High School; Agape Christian Academy; Lannier High School; Sparks Middle School; Algona High School and Middle School; North Carolina A&T; Stephenson High School; South Dakota School of Technology; West Orange High School; Arapahoe High School; Edison High School; Liberty Technology High School; Berrendo Middle School; Martin Luther King Elementary School; Delaware Valley Charter High School; Widener University; Purdue University; South Carolina State University; Tennessee State University; Eastern Florida State College; Cesar Chavez High School; North High School; Bend High School; Salisbury High School; Brush High School; Union University; Raytown Success Academy; McDaniel College; Madison High School; University of Wisconsin; University of Delaware; Savannah State University; Kent State University; Eastern New Mexico University; East English Prep Academy; St. Mary Catholic School; Provo High School; Iowa Western Community College; Marquette University; Horizon Elementary School; Paine College; Georgetown College; Georgia Gwinnett College; Clark Street School; Seattle Pacific University; and Reynolds High School.

CELEBRATING THE NEWLY LAUNCHED DFW-HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI FLIGHTS

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch of two new flagship routes at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, which I represent. Today, American Airlines opens direct service from DFW to both Hong Kong and Shanghai.

These new flights are the latest additions to the growing international hub at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. Hong Kong and Shanghai join an impressive list of other newly launched international flights from DFW, including Bogota, Dubai, Lima, Seoul, and Sydney.

Many businesses have operations in my district because of the easy access to direct flights from DFW. These new flights will promote further business development and make it easier for my constituents to travel to Asia and across the world. More good news will come next month as DFW will soon add a direct flight to Doha.

My sincere congratulations to everyone at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

THE IMPORTANCE OF 6-DAY MAIL DELIVERY

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the United States Postal Service 6-day mail delivery.

The most recent proposal offered by the Republican leadership to pay for the highway trust fund by reducing mail service is unprecedented and irresponsible. The elimination of 6-day mail delivery would have a negative effect on the Postal Service and could result in the loss of up to 80,000 jobs.

For decades, the Postal Service has sustained and created American jobs in every corner of the country. Eliminating 6-day delivery service would not only slow the delivery of mail and harm small businesses across America, but it will impose a hardship on the elderly and rural citizens who rely most on mail delivery for medical prescriptions and critical correspondence.

The Republican leadership's proposal to eliminate 6-day mail service will take 10 years to generate enough money to fund the highway spending for just 1 year.

Proposals like these are illogical, short-term fixes for serious problems facing our Nation's transportation infrastructure. Come on, guys. Put on your thinking caps, and come up with a better proposal for America.

□ 1215

PROTECTING OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my Republican colleagues to focus on the things that the American people sent us here to do. Today, I want to talk about protecting our veterans.

We owe it to our veterans to do everything we can to restore their confidence in the VA health care system. The plan announced Monday by the VA is a step in the right direction, but we must do much more.

I stand on behalf of the veterans in my district. They are still waiting too long and driving too far to see a doctor and waiting far too long for their claims and appeals to be processed. We need to see Congress spend its time getting to the bottom of the VA's dysfunction and giving the VA leadership the tools they need to fix these problems.

This is something we should do right now, instead of spending time on yet another series of politically motivated hearings on Benghazi. I call on the Republican leadership to use our House resources to investigate the real causes of the delays and work to find real solutions that will serve our veterans. That is a plan the whole House could get behind.

OCEANS AND FISHERIES

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of smart and sustainable use of our precious ocean resources. We depend on a healthy ocean for so much—for food, livelihoods, recreation, and more. That is why scientists, managers, and entrepreneurs from across the country are currently in Washington, D.C., to discuss critical marine policy issues as part of Capitol Hill Ocean Week.

A key issue on the agenda is the responsible management of our Nation's fisheries. America's fisheries are rich, both economically and culturally, because we have smart laws that prioritize sustainable resource use.

Under these laws, our fishing industry alone contributed \$199 billion in sales and 1.7 million jobs in 2012 alone. These laws, however, are being threatened by partisan legislation recently passed by the Natural Resources Committee.

This bill—which I call the “Empty Oceans Act”—would override key environmental laws, erode fisheries, and hurt our coastal economies. It is no way to manage our ocean resources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the “Empty Oceans Act” and find a better path forward.

MANAGING OUR FEDERAL FISHERIES

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, the House Natural Resources Committee marked up amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act, the law that manages our Nation's Federal fisheries.

Unfortunately, the bill that passed out of committee was not a bipartisan effort. Among its many concerning provisions, the bill supersedes long-standing protections for endangered species and our national marine landmarks.

That is why I offered an amendment in committee that would have kept the Marine Sanctuaries Act, the Antiquities Act, and the Endangered Species Act from being overridden by Magnuson-Stevens.

That act, Magnuson-Stevens, is really designed to manage fisheries, not to safeguard our national marine treasures. Thankfully, the Senate is taking a bipartisan approach to Magnuson-Stevens. I urge our committee leaders to follow their example and work across party lines to build a bipartisan fisheries bill.

WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor of a resolution that recognizes the importance of providing basic, preventative heart screenings for women wherever they seek primary care. I want to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), for joining with me to introduce this resolution.

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death for women in the United States, causing one in four deaths among women each year. For the past three decades, the number of deaths from heart disease for women has exceeded those of men.

I am concerned that heart disease claims the lives of more than 400,000 women each year. Nearly half of all African-American women have some form of cardiovascular disease. Among Latinas, awareness that heart disease is the leading cause of death is the lowest, at 34 percent.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to bring awareness to the burden of heart disease, so we can reduce heart disease among women in the United States by ensuring that, wherever women seek care, they get basic, preventive heart health screening for heart disease.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this important and timely resolution.

MOMENT OF ACTION, NOT MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's deadly shooting at Reynolds High School in Oregon was the 74th school shooting in America since the gunman murdered 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012.

That is nearly one school shooting per week. More than half have occurred at K-12 schools. These shootings are becoming so frequent that one company saw a business opportunity and is marketing bulletproof blankets to elementary schools.

The congressional response to the senseless loss of our children, educators, friends, and neighbors to gun violence has been silence—moments of silence on this floor, amplified only by the cowardice from those in this body who refuse to stand up for basic public safety.

Mr. Speaker, 86 Americans lose their lives to guns every day, and Americans are 20 times more likely to be murdered by a gun than people in the rest of the developed world.

The American people want us to act. Ninety-two percent support expanded background checks to close loopholes in the law and help ensure dangerous people can't get guns.

Mr. Speaker, enough with the moments of silence. It is time for a moment of action from Congress to prevent gun violence.

SIX-DAY MAIL SERVICE

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition of the misguided proposal to fund the highway trust fund by eliminating Saturday mail delivery.

Time and again, I have heard from people across my region that Saturday mail service is crucially important to them and to their communities.

I had the opportunity earlier this year to partner with a letter carrier in the city of Galesburg, Illinois. As I have met folks along the delivery routes of the vast 7,000-square mile district that I serve, it is clear how important 6-day delivery is to them.

I have met seniors who depend on mail on Saturday for their prescription drugs. I have met small business owners who depend on Saturday delivery to manage their inventories. I have met folks who talk about eliminating Saturday mail as a blow to the communities across the State of Illinois and across our country.

Our transportation and infrastructure projects are critically important to our Nation, and we seek bipartisan

support to make sure that happens, but not in a way that threatens the livelihood of so many people.

I stand ready to roll up my sleeves and to work across the aisle on practical solutions for our country.

REAUTHORIZING TRIA

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the reauthorization of TRIA, the antiterrorism risk insurance program, which will soon expire. This is a vitally needed program that helps the economy of our country. It was put in place after the 9/11 attacks, and it helped our country rebuild.

After 9/11, you could not get an insurance policy for even a hot dog stand in New York. You had to go to Lloyd's of London. It was tremendously expensive to get any type of insurance, but this program did exactly what it was expected to do. It allowed us to rebuild. It had a government backstop, and it did not cost the taxpayer one penny; yet it helped us build jobs and rebuild our economy.

We have so many government programs that don't work. This is one that did exactly what it was supposed to do and at no additional cost. We need to have a plan in place, so, God forbid, if we are attacked again, we have a plan of how to respond and how to rebuild. This is a program that has worked, and we need to reauthorize it.

CONGRATULATING FORT WORTH NORTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL MARIACHI BAND

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor the mariachi students at Fort Worth's North Side High School who, under the direction of Ramon Nino, were chosen to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 22. The appearance by the Fort Worth group will be the first Carnegie Hall concert by any mariachi band in 7 years.

With an outpouring of support from the school district and local community, the 23-member group has successfully raised partial funds for the trip. These hardworking students continue to rally the community for support and have played for donations at a host of metroplex-area restaurants to raise the remaining difference.

This is a great opportunity for these young people to step onto the national stage and proudly represent not only their school, but the Fort Worth community and the great State of Texas.

I am proud to represent this caring community, school, and such talented

constituents. I wish them a safe journey to the Big Apple. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement.
Go Steers.

GUN VIOLENCE AT AMERICAN SCHOOLS

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday morning's fatal shooting at Reynolds High School is the 74th shooting at a school on American soil since a lone gunman's attack on Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, in December, 2012.

The list of shootings, which includes 13 school shootings in the first 6 weeks of this year, was compiled and is on the Web site of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. Earlier, my colleague, TED DEUTCH, recited all 74 of them.

Yesterday and two other times in the last 2 weeks, the House rightly held moments of silence. I and two of my colleagues did not stand, not because of disrespect for those who lost their lives; we abhor the loss of life, and we abhor the House of Representatives taking moments of silence and then returning to business as usual and doing absolutely nothing about gun violence.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 11, 2014 at 9:28 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment. H. Con. Res. 100.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4800, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4457, AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4453, S CORPORATION PERMANENT TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I

call up House Resolution 616 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 616

Resolved, That (a) at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4800) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived.

(b) During consideration of the bill for amendment—

(1) each amendment, other than amendments provided for in paragraph (2), shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment except as provided in paragraph (2);

(2) no pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate; and

(3) the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read.

(c) When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4457) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the

bill (H.R. 4453) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-46 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 1230

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 616 provides for consideration of three important bills. The first, H.R. 4800, the Agriculture Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, will ensure continued operations for those Federal agencies responsible for monitoring the health and safety of our food and drug supplies. H.R. 4457, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014, and H.R. 4453, the Permanent S Corporation Built-in Gains Recognition Period Act of 2014, are two critical pieces of tax legislation that will give certainty to the small business community, making permanent two pieces of our Tax Code which Congress has had to continually renew annually for decades. Making these tax credits permanent will allow businesses to look out for more than a year ahead and to actually evaluate their economic situations, allowing for those businesses to make staffing and investment decisions for the long term rather than just the short term.

The rule before us today provides for a modified open rule for H.R. 4800. This allows all Members to offer any amendments to the bill that they may choose. The Speaker is committed to completing as many appropriations bills under regular order as possible.

The rule before us formalizes the same unanimous consent agreement

that was entered into during the consideration of the CJS appropriations bill, which streamlines the debate, providing for 10 minutes of debate on every amendment offered on the bill. However, in no way does this rule restrict Members from offering any and all amendments to the underlying bill.

The rule further provides for the consideration of both H.R. 4457, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014, and H.R. 4453, the Permanent S Corporation Built-in Gains Recognition Period Act of 2014, both under a closed rule. By bringing these two bills here today, Members will be allowed to debate the policy of each of these tax provisions individually rather than as a single omnibus tax extender legislation hurriedly passed at the end of the year that would not allow Members to weigh in on each separate extender as this process does.

H.R. 4800, the Agriculture and Related Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, provides almost \$21 billion for the department agencies funded in the bill. This is funded at the same level as fiscal year 2014 and \$457 million above the President's request. The bill provides critical funding for agricultural research; animal and plant health; conservation programs; the Farm Service Agency; rural development, including infrastructure and food safety inspection; the Food and Drug Administration; the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; and the food and nutrition programs, including child nutrition, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and WIC, the program for women, infants, and children.

Of particular importance to the work I have been involved with on the Energy and Commerce Committee, the agriculture appropriations bill provides over \$2.5 billion in funding to the Food and Drug Administration. In addition, the bill allows for the collection of user fees cumulatively, amounting to overall discretionary funding of \$4.5 billion in the FDA.

These dollars serve an important mission. From drug and device approval to food safety, the Food and Drug Administration is at the regulatory forefront of protecting the Nation's health, but it also acts as the doorway for new treatments and cures. From basic research to cutting-edge treatments, America has led the way in opening new fields of discovery and taking medicine to boundaries that I could not have imagined during my medical training or career, yet we have barely scratched the surface of medical breakthroughs that are over the horizon. And believe it or not, there are only hundreds of treatments for diseases that afflict us and thousands still without any treatment at all, let alone a cure.

Will the United States continue to be the home for the latest inventions? If the answer to that is yes, the Food and

Drug Administration will be a key part of the future.

Patients and innovators are on the front lines in the fight against diseases like Alzheimer's and cancer, yet their voices are not always heard. Bureaucratic rules have stood in the way of innovation. Some estimates show that medical devices may be approved almost 4 years earlier in Europe than in the U.S.

In 2012, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology recommended "encouraging innovation" as part of the FDA's mission statement in order to ensure that the FDA understood its role in helping new innovative treatments reach patients.

However, the true impact of the medical device, pharmaceutical, biologic, and generic drug industries in the United States is that they are partners in providing our physicians and practitioners with the tools that they need to prevent disease and alleviate human suffering.

The Food and Drug Administration must have the infrastructure and programs in place to ensure all innovations are dealt with in a fashion that ensures safety for the patient, as well as a straightforward and predictable and streamlined approval process. The Food and Drug Administration can continue to streamline the approval process of single-molecule drugs with which they have the most regulatory experience, but if we can't handle the fundamentals, then we have got a big problem.

Congress has taken several bipartisan actions in the last few years to break down the barriers to health innovation, and the Food and Drug Administration will and has seen changes as a result. The funding provided will continue to move these reforms along, but as report language notes, there is a great deal of work that remains to be done.

For the good of patients and to retain our global leadership and the economic benefits that come with it, it is time to breathe new life into the life sciences sector. As a physician, I understand the importance of ensuring that the government has the resources to lead to the next generation of treatments in the 21st century while also ensuring that those treatments are safe and effective. The bill will ensure that the Food and Drug Administration has the scientific and medical expertise that they need when reviewing products utilizing emerging science by providing adequate resources in a challenging fiscal environment.

After the successful passage of the farm bill this year, the next step in that process is to fund those programs. H.R. 4800 achieves that goal.

And I will add, I was disappointed to see that the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, to bring grocery stores and fresh food to underserved communities,

was not funded in this appropriations bill even after the House resoundingly defeated an amendment to strip the program from the farm bill, showing that this body overwhelmingly supports this initiative. I understand that an amendment to fix this oversight will be offered during consideration of the bill, and I hope that something can be worked out.

The two tax bills before us today are, again, critical to give small businesses stability and the ability to look beyond the end of each calendar year in making decisions for their companies. Extending these provisions today will be a boost to our economy.

H.R. 4457, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014, would make permanent a provision within the Tax Code that allows annual investments of depreciable business property up to \$500,000 to be expensed. Further, computer software and rules for the expensing of qualified real property—leasehold improvement, restaurant and retail improvement property—can also be written off as well.

The present tax system harms investment in many ways. One of the most important is that, unlike other expenses, businesses must deduct capital expenses—such as for business equipment—over many years rather than the year the expense is incurred. This raises the cost of capital and reduces investment. H.R. 4457 would go a long way to reverse this trend.

Likewise, the other two tax extenders that we are voting on today deal with S corporations or pass-through corporations. These corporations elect not to pay any Federal corporate taxes and, instead, pass corporate income, losses, and deductions and credits through to their shareholders.

H.R. 4453, the Permanent S Corporation Built-in Gains Recognition Period Act of 2014, makes permanent an expired tax break that would enable businesses set up S corporations to shrink the window that they have to hold built-in gains from 10 years to 5.

H.R. 4454, the Permanent S Corporation Charitable Contributions Act of 2014, would make permanent the tax rule requiring an adjustment to the basis of a shareholder's stock in an S corporation if the corporation makes tax-deductible charitable donations.

Recently, the House passed a permanent tax credit for corporate research and development. Sixty-two Democrats voted against the measure. Their reasoning, as far as I can tell, was not against the policy, but it was the fact that the measure was not offset. However, offsets are something in Congress that we need when we are creating new programs or allocating money not previously appropriated, essentially making the American people pay more in taxes. Offsets are unnecessary and not needed when, in fact, we are shielding the American people from being taxed.

Moreover, we heard last night in the Rules Committee, and I suspect we will hear it again today on the floor, about the fact that the two tax-related bills before us today in this rule are not offset. Congress only needs to pay for tax credits if one subscribes to the belief that all money in the country—all money in the country—belongs first to the government rather than the people. I reject this mind-set. Congress does not need to justify or offset not taking more money from the American people; Congress needs to justify and pay for policies that take money from the American people.

Indeed, every member of the Rules Committee on the minority side has voted at least three times to extend these very provisions without having any sort of offset. President Obama, himself, signed those three extensions of these provisions into law, all done without offsets. Senator WYDEN, who has been working on a larger tax extender bill in the Senate has included the same PAYGO language that is included in these bills before us in this legislation. To make hay about this issue, which is truly much ado about nothing, is to play politics with taxpayers and our economy, and the Republican majority in this House will not play along.

In the absence of a larger, comprehensive tax reform package, permanent extenders like these are common sense. They bring back stability and certainty to businesses that are constantly waiting at the end of every calendar year to see if Congress will retroactively act to provide that tax relief.

I encourage my colleagues to vote “yes” on the rule and “yes” on the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1245

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, the House will adopt yet another closed rule for these two tax extender measures, which will cross a new Rubicon, a new threshold. We are going to break the record for the most closed rules considered by a Congress ever, and we still have 7 months to go.

The graphic that I am holding illustrates that—that we have the most closed Congress ever, which allows, among other things, that we don't deal with immigration reform, we don't deal with the minimum wage, we don't deal with unemployment insurance, we don't deal with universal gun background checks, we don't deal with dealing with banning assault weapons. This is a closed Congress.

This may sound like inside baseball, but it is much more than just a procedural agreement. I have seen a lot of

rules serving nearly 10 years now on the Rules Committee, but this is a new one. This rule limits debate during the appropriations process. It deems passage of a provision to ignore the deficit that this legislation will create, and it sets an all-time record, as I have shown, for closed rules. We managed to do this yesterday and now have it on the floor all in one rule.

Congress has, as I have said, many important issues it needs to take up, including the things I have shown and reiterate now: immigration reform, raising the minimum wage, and extending unemployment insurance.

2.5 million people in this country are without unemployment insurance. If we were to pass it, it would create 200,000 jobs, and we stand around here and talk about creating jobs all the time.

Closed rules prevent the House from working its will on these measures. That is the way it appears that leadership, what is left of it, wants it to be.

My friends do make some Democratic amendments in order at times. Both parties have used closed rules when they have been in control, and that is true. That is the prerogative of the party controlling the House.

But you can read these closed rules like a roadmap of my friends' priorities. In general, the only amendments made in order are those that are expected either to pass or fail along party lines. Over 30 House Republicans and 64 percent of Republican voters polled support immigration reform, but we can't get a vote. Where is the immigration reform bill? Where is the measure that will allow for us to answer many of the problems that this country is confronted with in reference to immigration reform?

This week, as I have indicated, nearly 3 million Americans have lost emergency unemployment insurance since it expired in December, but we can't get a vote here on the House of Representatives' floor.

The Voting Rights Act needs to be reformed in order to protect American voters, but we can't get a vote in the people's House. Leadership uses closed rules to prevent the House from working its will because they are worried about undermining their message, more worried about it than actually legislating.

Today's tax extenders are a perfect example of how these heavy-handed tactics help the chosen few, but leave everyone else without recourse. There are at least 50 other tax extenders that we could have taken into consideration, but no, we choose these six because that is your agenda. Dozens of other provisions that expire at the end of 2017 and several others scheduled to expire at the end of this year have been skipped over in favor of these six extenders favored by businesses that are pretty substantial, and not necessarily

the big corporations but many of the large S corporations.

My friends across the aisle have passed up the chance—would you believe this?—to renew the work opportunity tax credit, which helps veterans get back to work, as well as the new markets tax credit, which helps revitalize communities.

How do you do that? They have chosen to ignore renewable energy tax credits and tax credits to help working parents pay for child care. How about that? They have decided there is no reason to extend deductions for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses, qualified tuition, mortgage insurance premiums, or State and local taxes, a deduction that is critical for Floridians and the people that I represent.

These six extenders will be the only extenders that the House votes on because these are the priorities of my friends across the aisle, priorities that may solidify your message, my friends, particularly your message with your base—and evidently you are confused about that particular matter—but you are more interested in them and assuring that you do nothing to help hard-working Americans.

You are going to use the power of the closed rule to ensure that no other provisions get a vote, and you are going to become the most closed Congress ever, disallowing immigration reform, disallowing a minimum wage increase. There are States that are giving a realistic minimum wage increase to people. You tell me, how it is that people live on \$7.35 an hour? Many of us have been to food shelters and seen people that are working, many of us have seen people that are living in shelters, working families living in shelters, and we won't even bring a measure here. Are you afraid to just say “yes” or “no” whether or not Americans ought to have an increase in their minimum wage at the Federal level?

You let 2½ million people don't have unemployment insurance, can't meet their obligations, and we are not willing to help them, and you tell me that you will increase—you talk all the time about the deficit, so you are going to increase the deficit with some mumbo jumbo about money if it is not in the hands of, and disallow people that we know, if they were to receive unemployment insurance compensation, that they would spend all of that money and that it would, in fact, create jobs, and it would sustain small businesses if we were to do that.

One presenter in the House yesterday, outstanding in his presentation, a friend from the other side, pointed out that he had come from a hardscrabble life and that his father one time had been on unemployment insurance. I said to him, and I believe it to be true, that you just proved my point. And I asked him did his daddy get a job after he was on unemployment insurance.

And his answer was, yes, and I knew that is what it would be. Many people who are on unemployment insurance today, if we were to give them a chance, they would get a job. Get a life, Republicans, give people a chance.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute for the purpose of a response.

In the 111th Congress, the final 2 years of Representative PELOSI's time as Speaker, 2009 to 2010, this House never considered a single bill under an open rule. Let me state that again: 2009 to 2010, the 111th Congress, Speaker PELOSI was Speaker, the House never considered a single bill under an open rule.

Mr. Speaker, I would submit, that is the definition of a closed process.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My friend on the other side of the aisle may try to change the subject. Do that if you like. But I ask the gentleman: Is this a new record for closed rules or not? And I answer rhetorically because it is. And I don't deny that Democrats have used closed rules. I said it in my opening remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas, Judge LLOYD DOGGETT, my good friend.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, across America, for 30 million schoolchildren implementation of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act is working. Schools are literally stepping up to the plate with a plate of healthier food. Indeed, for school lunches in Texas, 99 percent of Texas school districts are successfully serving meals that meet strong nutritional standards. In most of the schools I visit, 99 percent is an A-plus.

First Lady Michelle Obama has provided impressive leadership in getting students, families, all of us, to pay a little more attention to food quality, to encourage kids to be more physically active, to get moving, and to grow up healthy. Active, healthy kids do better in school, and they grow up to be more productive citizens who can help in moving our country forward.

Today's bill presents the question of whether we are to wave good-bye with a waiver to healthy school lunch standards. This bill that we are about to consider is not the only place where unhealthy congressional action lurks. At the very same moment that the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee was weakening school nutrition standards with a waiver, the House Ways and Means Committee, on which I serve, approved a bill to expand a tax subsidy for "apparently wholesome food." That sounds good. The only problem is that the statutory definition of "apparently wholesome food" does not actually limit itself to the wholesome. It includes Halloween

candy, Twinkies, Pop Rocks, stale potato chips, and other expired junk food, all of which receive a taxpayer subsidy. I think that is a little hard to stomach.

In a Nation where one-third of our children are overweight or obese, we should neither be subsidizing junk food nor repackaging healthy school meal standards into less healthy meals.

We are already spending in America an estimated \$245 billion every year on diabetes. Rates of dietary-related Type 2 diabetes are skyrocketing among children and young adults. Since many of our children consume up to half of their daily calories at school through the school lunch and school breakfast programs, their health depends upon the nutritional quality of the food they are served.

Today, we should not take a giant step backwards. Let's join against this push to lower standards for our Nation's children. They deserve the healthiest future possible.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Returning briefly—before I yield to my good friend—to the subject of open and/or closed rules, this is what Speaker BOEHNER promised right here in this Chamber in his own words:

I offer a commitment: Openness, once a tradition of this institution, but increasingly scarce in recent decades, will be the new standard. You will always have the right to a robust debate in an open process that allows you to represent your constituents, to make your case, offer alternatives and be heard.

It is unfortunate that my friends on the other side of the aisle campaigned telling the country how open and transparent they were going to be, and then when they do the opposite and are called out on it, it is just more excuses.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 4582, the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. Mr. TIERNEY, my good friend, authored that bill to help millions of people lower their student loan debt. The bill would allow borrowers to refinance Federal and private student loans to the lowest rates that are currently available to new borrowers.

To discuss this proposal, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY), a distinguished gentleman, my friend and colleague.

□ 1300

Mr. TIERNEY. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the House to act on responsible legislation that I have introduced that would help tens of millions of college students, graduates, parents, and middle class fami-

lies all across the country refinance their existing loans to the same low rate offered to new borrowers in the student loan program.

As the President said earlier this week when he voiced support for this bill, this should be a no-brainer. Homeowners and small businesses are so often able to refinance their debts, there is no reason at all that students and parents shouldn't be able to do the same.

Refinancing would be a significant financial help to these students and their parents. In fact, a recent analysis by the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service showed that a middle class undergraduate student with an average loan debt would save more than \$4,000 over the life of that loan. A typical graduate student would save more than \$2,500, and a typical parent who borrowed to pay for their child's education would save \$3,500 or more.

As my colleagues know, these savings would be invested right back into the economy. Last year, the Center for American Progress estimated that refinancing of just some of these Federal loans would pump \$21 billion into the economy.

That is because these people are going to be able to save \$40 to \$100 a month—thousands over the course of their loan—and they have expenses and necessities for which they have to pay.

Our bill is a good deal for taxpayers. Last week, the Congressional Budget Office scored our bill as generating \$72.5 billion in savings over 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, more and more constituents are writing my office, emailing, posting on my Facebook page, and even stopping me on the street to talk about stories about how their children are buried in student loan debt. Two days ago, I received an email from a concerned mother in my district.

This is what she had to say: she and her husband followed the rules and have been able to own their own home and support two children up to adulthood, but she feels that her daughter would not be able to do the same, as she currently owes \$60,000 in college loans.

Her interest rates vary from 6.5 percent to 8.5 percent. She is drowning in her own debt, and she is only 24 years of age.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. TIERNEY. I appreciate that from my colleague.

The reason this mother supports the bill is that she knows it is going to help her daughter pay her loans in a reasonable way, while pursuing other goals this life.

This is really, Mr. Speaker, about whose side are you on. Are we on the

side of special interests and allowing them to continue tax favors, while middle class Americans end up lugging around this heavy burden of debt?

I am on the side of that concerned mother and her daughter and others in this country who are concerned about their children's future.

Let's bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would indicate to my friend from Texas that I am prepared to close. I have no further speakers at this time, and so I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is not all doom and gloom over here. There are provisions in the agriculture appropriation measure that I support.

I appreciate the report language in support of the United States Department of Agriculture's pollinator programs. I, along with others, have been leaders in bringing the subject to the attention of Congress, something of vital interest to all of this Nation.

I have been teased an awful lot about being the "bee man" because I bring up the pollinator issue all the time, but the fact of the matter is, if we don't have bees, we are not going to have food.

I also appreciate the provisions related to citrus greening, which has been devastating to Florida citrus growers, as well as those provisions in this measure that address rural housing.

I represent Belle Glade; South Bay; Canal Point; and Pahokee, Florida; and places where rural housing is really important, but I, along with all of my colleagues—particularly JOE GARCIA, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and MARIO DIAZ-BALART—have raised the issues with reference to citrus greening. The whole south Florida delegation has been involved in that particular area.

I grew up in the citrus area. I saw the early-on stages of greening. If we don't do something about this particular problem—and this farm appropriations does deal with some of it—then we may have no citrus coming from the State of Florida.

There are a limited number of days left on our legislative calendar, and we have many miles to go before we, as a Congress, have delivered on our obligation to help all Americans.

We absolutely have an obligation to businesspeople, but we also have an obligation to help veterans get work; an obligation to ease the burden on teachers who use their own money to support their students—our students; and an obligation to address forthrightly important issues, including immigration reform and raising the minimum wage and extending unemployment insurance.

We should stop standing around here and thinking that we are doing something when we offer a moment of silence, which is right for victims who have died of gun violence and the grief that is coming through all of those families. You hear them begging for us to do something.

We know that we can't solve all of those problems, but at least we could give them some assurance that we are trying to have universal background checks and that we are willing to ban assault weapons. Why would anybody want an assault weapon, other than a police officer or military person, and why should we permit them to be in their hands?

We won't bring those measures down here to the floor, and we do so at our peril.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question, vote "no" on the underlying bills, and certainly vote "no" on this record-setting rule for closed rules, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, first off, I just want to reference something on Speaker JOHN BOEHNER's Web site.

John Boehner took the Speaker's gavel in January of 2011, promising to run a more open U.S. House of Representatives than his predecessor. In the 3½ years since then, Speaker Boehner has made good on that pledge by allowing more amendments and a steady stream of "open rules," while the Democratic-controlled United States Senate, under Majority Leader Harry Reid, has gone in the other direction.

One congressional expert calls open rules, which allow Members to freely offer amendments of essentially any nature during the consideration of a given bill, "essential for fair consideration of legislation on the House floor.

Under Boehner's leadership, Members on both sides of the aisle have been allowed to offer significantly more amendments, and the House has operated under far more open rules than were allowed under the previous Democratic-controlled House.

The final years of the Pelosi-run House were a tour de force in closed government. During the final 2 years of Representative Pelosi's time as Speaker, the House never considered a single bill under an open rule. Some Members of Congress served their entire House careers under Speaker Pelosi without ever operating under an open rule.

Mr. Speaker, on the issue of so-called immigration reform, the administration has done more to distance and set back any policy in that direction.

Why do I say that? The reason is the unintended effects of their policies to

send a message worldwide to those that come here by any method possible, and we will not prosecute, we will not send you back.

As a consequence, we have got an issue on the border of our State in Texas that is, at the same time, both heartbreaking and frightening, with underage children literally being shoved across the border.

Mr. Speaker, what does it say when an 8-year-old child can cross our border illegally? Who else is getting in, if 8-year-olds are able to come across this porous border that the administration has opened up?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BURGESS. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I share your concerns as you expressed them with reference to the unaccompanied young people coming to our country, and I don't make any quarrel with you, but I would highlight the fact that it is believed by some that many of the places they are coming from—El Salvador, Guatemala, and Central America—the kids are running because of fright.

I remind you that they already have TSP, and we did that quite some time ago for those Central American countries. We did it, rightly, then.

I just offer that for information, and I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. BURGESS. Reclaiming my time, I would just point out that those conditions the gentleman referenced that might cause a child to be frightened existed 4 years ago, existed 3 years ago, but there has been a dramatic change in the past 2 years.

I believe that change is directly attributable to the policies of the administration when they went around the United States Congress to unilaterally alter the United States immigration laws, which specifically, in the Constitution, is a legislative branch requirement.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule provides for the consideration of three important bills: H.R. 4800, the Agriculture Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015; H.R. 4457, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014; and H.R. 4453, the Permanent S Corporation Built-In Gains Recognition Period Act for 2014.

The rule is fair and important for us to move forward on the debate on these pieces of legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 616 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4582) to amend the

Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 4582.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member con-

trolling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

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

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

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 194, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 298]

YEAS—224

Aderholt	Capito	Ellmers
Amash	Carter	Farenthold
Amodei	Cassidy	Fincher
Bachmann	Chabot	Fitzpatrick
Bachus	Chaffetz	Fleischmann
Barletta	Coble	Fleming
Barr	Coffman	Flores
Barton	Cole	Forbes
Benishkeh	Collins (NY)	Fortenberry
Bentivolio	Conaway	Foxx
Bilirakis	Cook	Franks (AZ)
Black	Cotton	Frelinghuysen
Blackburn	Cramer	Gardner
Boustany	Crawford	Garrett
Brady (TX)	Crenshaw	Gerlach
Bridenstine	Culberson	Gibbs
Brooks (AL)	Daines	Gibson
Brooks (IN)	Davis, Rodney	Gingrey (GA)
Broun (GA)	Denham	Gohmert
Buchanan	Dent	Goodlatte
Bucshon	DeSantis	Gosar
Burgess	DesJarlais	Gowdy
Byrne	Diaz-Balart	Granger
Calvert	Duffy	Graves (GA)
Camp	Duncan (SC)	Graves (MO)
Campbell	Duncan (TN)	Griffin (AR)

Griffith (VA)	McClintock	Runyan
Grimm	McKeon	Ryan (WI)
Guthrie	McKinley	Salmon
Hall	McMorris	Sanford
Hanna	Rodgers	Scalise
Harper	Meadows	Schock
Harris	Meahan	Schweikert
Hartzler	Messer	Scott, Austin
Hastings (WA)	Mica	Sensenbrenner
Heck (NV)	Miller (FL)	Sessions
Hensarling	Miller (MI)	Shimkus
Herrera Beutler	Mullin	Shuster
Holding	Mulvaney	Simpson
Hudson	Murphy (PA)	Smith (MO)
Huelskamp	Neugebauer	Smith (NE)
Huizenga (MI)	Noem	Smith (NJ)
Hultgren	Nugent	Smith (TX)
Hunter	Nunes	Southerland
Hurt	Olson	Stewart
Issa	Palazzo	Stivers
Jenkins	Paulsen	Stockman
Johnson (OH)	Pearce	Stutzman
Johnson, Sam	Perry	Terry
Jolly	Petri	Thompson (PA)
Jones	Pittenger	Thornberry
Jordan	Pitts	Tiberi
Joyce	Poe (TX)	Tipton
Kelly (PA)	Pompeo	Turner
King (IA)	Posey	Upton
King (NY)	Price (GA)	Valadao
Kingston	Reed	Wagner
Kinzinger (IL)	Reichert	Walberg
Kline	Renacci	Walden
Labrador	Ribble	Walorski
Lamborn	Rice (SC)	Weber (TX)
Lance	Rigell	Webster (FL)
Latham	Roby	Wenstrup
Latta	Roe (TN)	Westmoreland
LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)	Whitfield
Long	Rogers (KY)	Williams
Lucas	Rogers (MI)	Wilson (SC)
Luetkemeyer	Rohrabacher	Wittman
Lummis	Rokita	Wolf
Marchant	Rooney	Womack
Marino	Ros-Lehtinen	Woodall
Massie	Roskam	Yoder
McAllister	Ross	Yoho
McCarthy (CA)	Rothfus	Young (AK)
McCaul	Royce	Young (IN)

NAYS—194

Barber	Delaney	Johnson, E. B.
Barrow (GA)	DeLauro	Kaptur
Bass	DelBene	Keating
Beatty	Deutch	Kelly (IL)
Becerra	Dingell	Kennedy
Bera (CA)	Doggett	Kildee
Bishop (GA)	Doyle	Kilmer
Bishop (NY)	Duckworth	Kind
Blumenauer	Edwards	Kirkpatrick
Bonamici	Ellison	Kuster
Brady (PA)	Engel	Langevin
Braley (IA)	Enyart	Larsen (WA)
Brown (FL)	Eshoo	Larson (CT)
Brownley (CA)	Esty	Lee (CA)
Bustos	Farr	Levin
Butterfield	Fattah	Lewis
Capps	Foster	Lipinski
Capuano	Frankel (FL)	Loebsack
Cárdenas	Fudge	Lofgren
Carney	Gabbard	Lowenthal
Carson (IN)	Gallego	Lowe
Cartwright	Garamendi	Lujan Grisham
Castor (FL)	Garcia	(NM)
Castro (TX)	Grayson	Luján, Ben Ray
Chu	Green, Al	(NM)
Ciilline	Green, Gene	Lynch
Clark (MA)	Grijalva	Maffei
Clarke (NY)	Gutiérrez	Maloney,
Clay	Hahn	Carolyn
Cleaver	Hanabusa	Maloney, Sean
Clyburn	Hastings (FL)	Matsui
Cohen	Heck (WA)	McCarthy (NY)
Connolly	Higgins	McCollum
Conyers	Himes	McDermott
Cooper	Hinojosa	McIntyre
Costa	Holt	McNerney
Courtney	Honda	Meeks
Crowley	Horsford	Meng
Cuellar	Hoyer	Michaud
Cummings	Huffman	Miller, George
Davis (CA)	Israel	Moore
Davis, Danny	Jackson Lee	Moran
DeFazio	Jeffries	Murphy (FL)
DeGette	Johnson (GA)	Nadler

Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz

NOT VOTING—13

Bishop (UT)
Cantor
Collins (GA)
LaMalfa
Lankford

□ 1341

Mr. HINOJOSA changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mrs. HARTZLER changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

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

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 227, noes 189, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 299]

AYES—227

Aderholt
Amash
Amden
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot

Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Eillers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Furterberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)

Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tittus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Vashaw
Velasquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin

NOES—189

Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Deutsch
Dingell
Doggett

Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paluzzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock

Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Braley (IA)
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Labrador
Langevin

Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Cantor
Collins (GA)
Denham
Grijalva
LaMalfa

NOT VOTING—15

Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko

□ 1348

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

S. Con. Res. 37. Concurrent Resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol in commemoration of the Shimon Peres Congressional Gold Medal ceremony.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4800, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 616 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4800.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1351

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4800)

making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

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

I am pleased to begin consideration of H.R. 4800, making appropriations for FY 2015 for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. The bill before us is unique in that the programs supported in this bill will impact every American every day of the year.

We support America's farmers and ranchers, who are very vital to our Nation's economy and our health and well-being. We support those at home in need with food and housing and provide rural businesses with low-interest loans and grants to help them sustain local economies. We help others around the world that face starvation and malnutrition. We support research and development in agriculture to improve productivity and stability. We support the oversight of commodity markets, providing confidence for businesses, traders, investors, and the public. We support a safe food supply and safe and effective drugs and devices. We are fortunate this Nation can and does support these vital programs.

The bill before us this afternoon reflects a delicate balance of needs and requirements. We have drafted what I consider a responsible bill for FY 2015 spending levels for the departments and agencies that are under the jurisdiction of the subcommittee. We have had to carefully prioritize the funding in this bill. We have had to make some hard choices about how to limit spending.

I want to thank the gentleman from Kentucky, Chairman ROGERS, for supporting us with a very fair allocation for this bill and for helping us move this bill forward.

I also want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), the subcommittee ranking member. He has been a valuable partner and colleague as we have moved forward with this legislation. I appreciate his commitment. I appreciate his understanding as we have moved forward on a wide variety of programs in this bill, and I sincerely thank him for his help. While I and the other subcommittee members have a wide array of agriculture in our districts, Mr. FARR represents an area

sometimes referred to as the "salad bowl of the world."

I want to thank all of the members of the subcommittee for their help, and I also thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), who is the ranking member for the full committee.

I also thank the majority staff for their hard work: Tom O'Brien, Betsy Bina, Pam Miller, Andrew Cooper, and Karen Ratzow.

I also appreciate the professionalism and the cooperation of the minority staff. In particular, I want to thank Martha Foley and Hogan Medlin for their help during all of the long hours spent putting this bill and report together, as well as Rochelle Dornatt, Troy Phillips, and Caitie Whelan of Mr. FARR's staff.

When the subcommittee began the FY15 appropriations process, I asked my colleagues to keep in mind three guiding principles. They were: to ensure the proper use of funds through robust oversight, ensuring the appropriate level of regulation to protect producers and the public, and to ensure funding is targeted to vital programs.

These three principles guided us from the time the President's budget request was first submitted to the subcommittee until this bill was put before the House today. This basic framework helped us set principles and priorities during the 10 budget hearings and oversight hearings that we had throughout the spring, which covered all of USDA's mission area, as well as the Food and Drug Administration, and also included the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

They also formed a framework for us to consider the many requests we received from our colleagues on this bill. In particular, we received more than 3,900 requests from 326 Members to support, reduce, or amend funding levels in the numerous accounts of this bill. Of course we could not meet every request, but we tried to address these requests in a bipartisan manner and in a way that was under the House rules. As such, there are no earmarks included in this bill.

The total funding for this bill is \$142.5 billion. This is \$1.5 billion below the President's request and \$3 billion below the FY14-enacted level. The bill includes \$20.88 billion in discretionary budget authority, which is the same as the FY14-enacted level. Mandatory spending totals \$122 billion, or \$3 billion below the FY14 level. These mandatory funds support USDA's farm, conservation, crop insurance, and nutrition programs.

I would like to briefly mention a few highlights that are in this bill.

We provide \$2.8 billion for agricultural research. We have received many, many letters requesting support for the land-grant colleges and universities. We were able to provide level funding for them. We also provided \$325 million,

as requested, for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, which is USDA's premier competitive research grants program.

We provide \$870 million for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. This agency works to eradicate plant and animal diseases and keeps the bad bugs out of the country. I am pleased to say that we were able to increase funding to combat citrus greening disease and the viral epidemic affecting the hog producers. This funding will supplement the emergency funding that the administration announced last week for research and surveillance purposes.

The bill also includes more than \$1 billion for the Food Safety and Inspection Service. This is approximately the same as the FY14 level, but \$3.8 million above the request. It will maintain more than 8,000 inspectors at more than 6,400 meat, poultry, and egg product facilities across the Nation.

The bill provides \$1.5 billion for the Farm Service Agency, and it does not allow the closure of any county offices. This proposal made no sense when the 2014 farm bill is still being implemented in county offices across the Nation. We also fully fund the various farm loan programs in this bill.

□ 1400

For the Natural Resources Conservation Service, we provide \$869 million to help farmers, ranchers, and private forest land owners conserve and protect their land and increase funding to help rehabilitate small dams.

This bill is the only one of the 12 appropriations bills that truly focuses on rural America. It provides \$2.6 billion for the rural development programs. That includes funding to support \$881 million in business and industry loans, \$1.3 billion in loans for rural water and waste programs, and \$6.2 billion for rural electric and telephone infrastructure. We also provide more than \$1 billion for the single-family direct loan program, \$1.1 billion for rental assistance, and \$30 million for the Mutual and Self-Help program.

This bill includes both discretionary and mandatory funding for USDA's food and nutrition programs.

In particular, it provides \$6.6 billion for the Women, Infants, and Children program. This is \$93 million below the FY14 enacted level, and it is actually \$200 million below the budget request. But I want to be clear about the decreased funding because a declining caseload and large carryover balances from the previous year is why we are doing this. And let me stress that every person who is eligible for the program will be able to receive funding under this funding level in this bill.

The bill includes \$20.5 billion in required mandatory funding for child nutrition programs and \$82.3 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Program, sometimes referred to as SNAP. This funding level helps support more than 47 million Americans each month.

To support those in time of need in places like Syria, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic, the bill provides \$1.7 billion for overseas food aid. We were able to provide a \$66 million increase for Food for Peace grants, and \$13 million for the McGovern-Dole Education and Child Nutrition Program offset from savings that we found elsewhere in the bill.

The Food and Drug Administration receives \$2.6 billion in discretionary funding in this bill. This is an increase of \$23 million over the FY14 level. When the user fees are included, FDA will receive \$4.5 billion in FY15.

Within the total, the committee provides a \$25 million increase of the full amount requested for food safety activities in the President's budget, and drug safety activities are increased by \$12 million.

Furthermore, the bill includes \$218 million for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. This is an increase of \$3 million above last year's

level and is intended to address information technology needs.

Before I close, I do want to address one issue that has opened up a necessary dialogue in local cafeterias and schools across the Nation. It is the provision that would allow schools to seek a temporary—and let me stress that it is a temporary—waiver from the current school lunch standards if a school district has lost money over the last 6-month period as a result of trying to implement the new regulations.

I have had a constant stream of letters, I have talked to people, received emails, and I have had meetings over the past year with school nutritionists, with the teachers, and the school administrators. I have talked to parents, and I have talked to students, all concerned about the rising cost, the increased waste, and the declining participation in the school lunch program.

To tell the truth, the students have been concerned about the taste, they have been concerned about the variety and the quality of the meals. But, again, we have gone to the school nutritionists, to the teachers, and the administrators who have identified where the real problem is.

This is a real problem in many school districts across the country. Some school districts may not be experiencing this problem, but many, many are across the country. This bill acknowledges the concerns of schools and responds to their requests for a certain amount of flexibility. It only allows schools more time if they need it. In fact, it provides something very similar to the flexibility that USDA recently announced for the whole grain requirements.

The benefits to farmers, ranchers, consumers, businesses, and patients provided in this bill far outweigh any one or two objections a Member may have about this bill. The bill represents our best take on matching needs with limited resources. We have tried to work hard to produce the best bill we possibly can within the resources that we have had to work with in this appropriations process.

I thank the Members for their attention, and I would urge all the Members to support this bipartisan legislation. I look forward to passing this bill on the floor as we move forward, and I reserve the balance of my time.

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS					
Production, Processing, and Marketing					
Office of the Secretary					
Office of the Secretary.....	5,051	5,086	5,051	---	-35
Office of Tribal Relations.....	498	502	498	---	-4
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Coordination.....	1,496	1,507	1,507	+11	---
Office of Advocacy and Outreach.....	1,209	1,217	1,209	---	-8
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration..	804	809	804	---	-5
Departmental Administration.....	22,786	25,661	22,811	+25	-2,850
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations.....	3,869	3,897	3,869	---	-28
Office of Communications.....	8,065	8,137	5,535	-2,530	-2,602
Total, Office of the Secretary.....	43,778	46,816	41,284	-2,494	-5,532
Executive Operations:					
Office of the Chief Economist.....	16,777	16,854	16,777	---	-77
National Appeals Division.....	12,841	13,430	13,317	+476	-113
Office of Budget and Program Analysis.....	9,064	10,292	9,392	+328	-900
Subtotal, Executive Operations.....	38,682	40,576	39,486	+804	-1,090
Office of the Chief Information Officer.....	44,031	45,199	45,025	+994	-174
Office of the Chief Financial Officer.....	6,213	6,080	6,028	-185	-52
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights....	893	898	898	+5	---
Office of Civil Rights.....	21,400	24,236	24,070	+2,670	-166
Agriculture buildings and facilities and rental payments.....	(233,000)	(64,825)	(54,825)	(-178,175)	(-10,000)
Payments to GSA.....	164,470	---	---	-164,470	---
Department of Homeland Security.....	13,800	---	---	-13,800	---
Building operations and maintenance.....	54,730	64,825	54,825	+95	-10,000
Hazardous materials management.....	3,592	3,600	3,600	+8	---
Office of Inspector General.....	89,902	97,240	97,020	+7,118	-220
Office of the General Counsel.....	41,202	47,567	44,383	+3,181	-3,184
Office of Ethics.....	3,440	3,867	3,440	---	-427
Total, Departmental Administration.....	526,133	380,904	360,059	-166,074	-20,845
Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.....	893	898	898	+5	---
Economic Research Service.....	78,058	83,446	85,784	+7,726	+2,338
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	161,206	178,999	169,371	+8,165	-9,628
Census of Agriculture.....	(44,545)	(48,044)	(47,842)	(+3,297)	(-202)
Agricultural Research Service:					
Salaries and expenses.....	1,122,482	1,104,403	1,120,253	-2,229	+15,850
Buildings and facilities.....	---	---	155,000	+155,000	+155,000
Total, Agricultural Research Service.....	1,122,482	1,104,403	1,275,253	+152,771	+170,850

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

National Institute of Food and Agriculture:					
Research and education activities.....	772,559	837,747	774,465	+1,906	-63,282
Native American Institutions Endowment Fund.....	(11,880)	(11,880)	(11,880)	---	---
Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund.....	---	(10,000)	---	---	(-10,000)
Extension activities.....	469,191	468,968	467,339	-1,852	-1,629
Integrated activities.....	35,317	28,821	32,000	-3,317	+3,179

Total, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	1,277,067	1,335,536	1,273,804	-3,263	-61,732
Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.....	893	898	898	+5	---
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:					
Salaries and expenses.....	821,721	834,341	867,505	+45,784	+33,164
Buildings and facilities.....	3,175	3,175	3,175	---	---

Total, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.....	824,896	837,516	870,680	+45,784	+33,164
Agricultural Marketing Service:					
Marketing Services.....	79,914	82,963	81,192	+1,278	-1,771
Standardization activities (user fees) NA.....	(64,000)	(64,000)	(64,000)	---	---
(Limitation on administrative expenses, from fees collected).....	(60,435)	(60,709)	(60,709)	(+274)	---
Funds for strengthening markets, income, and supply (Section 32):					
Permanent, Section 32.....	1,107,000	1,122,000	1,122,000	+15,000	---
Marketing agreements and orders (transfer from section 32).....	(20,056)	(20,317)	(20,056)	---	(-261)
Payments to States and Possessions.....	1,363	1,235	1,235	-128	---

Total, Agricultural Marketing Service program...	1,248,712	1,266,907	1,265,136	+16,424	-1,771
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration:					
Salaries and expenses.....	40,261	44,017	43,722	+3,461	-295
Limitation on inspection and weighing services....	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	---	---
Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety.....	811	816	816	+5	---
Food Safety and Inspection Service.....	1,010,689	1,001,402	1,005,189	-5,500	+3,787
Lab accreditation fees.....	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	---	---

Total, Production, Processing, and Marketing....	6,231,666	6,175,033	6,290,901	+59,235	+115,868
=====					

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Farm Assistance Programs					
Office of the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.....	893	898	898	+5	---
Farm Service Agency:					
Salaries and expenses.....	1,177,926	1,139,323	1,205,068	+27,142	+65,745
(Transfer from Food for Peace (P.L. 480)).....	(2,735)	(2,528)	(2,528)	(-207)	---
(Transfer from export loans).....	(354)	(354)	(354)	---	---
(Transfer from ACIF).....	(306,998)	(306,998)	(306,998)	---	---
Subtotal, transfers from program accounts.....	(310,087)	(309,880)	(309,880)	(-207)	---
Total, Salaries and expenses.....	(1,488,013)	(1,449,203)	(1,514,948)	(+26,935)	(+65,745)
State mediation grants.....	3,782	3,404	3,404	-378	---
Grassroots source water protection program.....	5,526	---	2,500	-3,026	+2,500
Dairy indemnity program.....	250	500	500	+250	---
Subtotal, Farm Service Agency.....	1,187,484	1,143,227	1,211,472	+23,988	+68,245
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund (ACIF) Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Farm ownership loans:					
Direct.....	(575,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(+925,000)	---
Guaranteed.....	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	---	---
Subtotal.....	(2,575,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(+925,000)	---
Farm operating loans:					
Direct.....	(1,195,620)	(1,252,004)	(1,252,004)	(+56,384)	---
Unsubsidized guaranteed.....	(1,500,000)	(1,393,443)	(1,393,443)	(-106,557)	---
Subtotal.....	(2,695,620)	(2,645,447)	(2,645,447)	(-50,173)	---
Emergency loans.....	(34,658)	(34,667)	(34,667)	(+9)	---
Indian tribe land acquisition loans.....	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	---	---
Conservation loans:					
Guaranteed.....	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	---	---
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans.....	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	---	---
Boll weevil eradication loans.....	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	---	---
Total, Loan authorizations.....	(5,527,278)	(6,402,114)	(6,402,114)	(+874,836)	---

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

Loan subsidies:					
Farm ownership loans:					
Direct.....	4,428	---	---	-4,428	---
Farm operating loans:					
Direct.....	65,520	63,101	63,101	-2,419	---
Unsubsidized guaranteed.....	18,300	14,770	14,770	-3,530	---
Subtotal.....	83,820	77,871	77,871	-5,949	---
Emergency Loans.....	1,698	856	856	-842	---
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans.....	68	---	---	-68	---
Individual development account grants.....	---	2,500	---	---	-2,500
Total, Loan subsidies and grants.....	90,014	81,227	78,727	-11,287	-2,500
ACIF administrative expenses:					
Salaries and expense (transfer to FSA)....	306,998	306,998	306,998	---	---
Administrative expenses.....	7,721	7,920	7,920	+199	---
Total, ACIF expenses.....	314,719	314,918	314,918	+199	---
Total, Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund... (Loan authorization).....	404,733 (5,527,278)	396,145 (6,402,114)	393,645 (6,402,114)	-11,088 (+874,836)	-2,500 ---
Total, Farm Service Agency.....	1,592,217	1,539,372	1,605,117	+12,900	+65,745
Risk Management Agency:					
Administrative and operating expenses.....	71,496	76,779	77,094	+5,598	+315
Total, Farm Assistance Programs.....	1,664,606	1,617,049	1,683,109	+18,503	+66,060
=====					
Corporations					
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation:					
Federal crop insurance corporation fund.....	9,502,944	8,666,022	8,666,022	-836,922	---
Commodity Credit Corporation Fund:					
Reimbursement for net realized losses.....	12,538,880	9,067,281	9,067,281	-3,471,599	---
Hazardous waste management (limitation on expenses).....	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	---	---
Total, Corporations.....	22,041,824	17,733,303	17,733,303	-4,308,521	---
=====					
Total, Title I, Agricultural Programs.....	29,938,096	25,525,385	25,707,313	-4,230,783	+181,928
(By transfer).....	(330,143)	(330,197)	(329,936)	(-207)	(-261)
(Loan authorization).....	(5,527,278)	(6,402,114)	(6,402,114)	(+874,836)	---
(Limitation on administrative expenses)....	(115,435)	(115,709)	(115,709)	(+274)	---
=====					

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE II - CONSERVATION PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.....	893	898	898	+5	---
Natural Resources Conservation Service:					
Conservation operations.....	812,939	814,772	843,053	+30,114	+28,281
Farm Security and Rural Investment program (transfer authority).....	---	(732,819)	---	---	(-732,819)
Total, Public Lands Conservation operations.....	812,939	1,547,591	843,053	+30,114	-704,538
Watershed rehabilitation program.....	12,000	---	25,000	+13,000	+25,000
Total, Natural Resources Conservation Service...	824,939	814,772	868,053	+43,114	+53,281
Total, Title II, Conservation Programs.....	825,832	815,670	868,951	+43,119	+53,281
TITLE III - RURAL DEVELOPMENT					
Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development...	893	898	898	+5	---
Rural Development:					
Rural development expenses:					
Salaries and expenses.....	203,424	225,101	224,201	+20,777	-900
(Transfer from RHIF).....	(415,100)	(397,296)	(415,100)	---	(+17,804)
(Transfer from RDLFP).....	(4,439)	(4,249)	(4,439)	---	(+190)
(Transfer from Healthy Foods, HNI).....	---	(750)	---	---	(-750)
(Transfer from RETLP).....	(34,478)	(33,000)	(34,478)	---	(+1,478)
(Transfer from RTB).....	---	---	---	---	---
Subtotal, Transfers from program accounts.....	(454,017)	(435,295)	(454,017)	---	(+18,722)
Total, Rural development expenses.....	(657,441)	(660,396)	(678,218)	(+20,777)	(+17,822)
Rural Housing Service:					
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Single family direct (Sec. 502).....	(900,000)	(360,000)	(1,042,276)	(+142,276)	(+682,276)
Unsubsidized guaranteed.....	(24,000,000)	(24,000,000)	(24,000,000)	---	---
Subtotal, Single family.....	(24,900,000)	(24,360,000)	(25,042,276)	(+142,276)	(+682,276)

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Housing repair (Sec. 504).....	(26,280)	(26,279)	(26,372)	(+92)	(+93)
Rental housing (Sec. 515).....	(28,432)	(28,432)	(28,398)	(-34)	(-34)
Multi-family housing guarantees (Sec. 538).....	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	---	---
Site development loans (Sec. 524).....	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	---	---
Single family housing credit sales.....	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	---	---
Self-help housing land develop. (Sec. 523).....	(5,000)	---	(5,000)	---	(+5,000)
Farm Labor Housing (Sec.514).....	(23,855)	(23,854)	(23,602)	(-253)	(-252)
Total, Loan authorizations.....	(25,148,567)	(24,603,565)	(25,290,648)	(+142,081)	(+687,083)
Loan subsidies:					
Single family direct (Sec. 502).....	24,480	26,568	76,920	+52,440	+50,352
Housing repair (Sec. 504).....	2,176	3,687	3,700	+1,524	+13
Rental housing (Sec. 515).....	6,656	9,812	9,800	+3,144	-12
Farm labor housing (Sec.514).....	5,656	7,681	7,600	+1,944	-81
Total, Loan subsidies.....	38,968	47,748	98,020	+59,052	+50,272
Farm labor housing grants.....	8,336	8,336	8,336	---	---
RHIF administrative expenses (transfer to RD).....	415,100	397,296	415,100	---	+17,804
Total, Rural Housing Insurance Fund program.....	462,404	453,380	521,456	+59,052	+68,076
(Loan authorization).....	(25,148,567)	(24,603,565)	(25,290,648)	(+142,081)	(+687,083)
Rental assistance program:					
Rental assistance (Sec. 521).....	1,110,000	1,088,500	1,088,500	-21,500	---
Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program Account:					
Rural housing voucher program.....	12,575	8,000	8,000	-4,575	---
Multi-family housing revitalization program.....	20,000	20,000	20,000	---	---
Total, Multi-family housing revitalization..	32,575	28,000	28,000	-4,575	---
Mutual and self-help housing grants.....	25,000	10,000	30,000	+5,000	+20,000
Rural housing assistance grants.....	32,239	25,000	27,000	-5,239	+2,000
Rural community facilities program account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Community facility:					
Direct.....	(2,200,000)	(2,200,000)	(2,200,000)	---	---
Guaranteed.....	(59,543)	---	(73,222)	(+13,679)	(+73,222)
Total, Loan authorizations.....	(2,259,543)	(2,200,000)	(2,273,222)	(+13,679)	(+73,222)

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

Loan subsidies and grants:					
Community facility:					
Guaranteed.....	3,775	---	3,500	-275	+3,500
Grants.....	13,000	17,000	13,000	---	-4,000
Rural community development initiative....	5,967	---	5,000	-967	+5,000
Economic impact initiative grants.....	5,778	---	5,000	-778	+5,000
Tribal college grants.....	4,000	4,000	4,000	---	---
Total, RCFP Loan subsidies and grants....	32,520	21,000	30,500	-2,020	+9,500
Subtotal, grants and payments.....	89,759	56,000	87,500	-2,259	+31,500
Total, Rural Housing Service.....	1,694,738	1,625,880	1,725,456	+30,718	+99,576
(Loan authorization).....	(27,408,110)	(26,803,565)	(27,563,870)	(+155,760)	(+760,305)

Rural Business--Cooperative Service:					
Rural Business Program Account:					
(Guaranteed business and industry loans).....	(958,097)	(590,802)	(880,626)	(-77,471)	(+289,824)
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Guaranteed business and industry subsidy..	66,971	30,190	45,000	-21,971	+14,810
Rural business development grants.....	26,568	---	20,000	-6,568	+20,000
Delta regional authority.....	3,000	---	---	-3,000	---
Total, RBP loan subsidies and grants.....	96,539	30,190	65,000	-31,539	+34,810
Rural Business and Cooperative Grants.....	---	57,500	---	---	-57,500
Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account:					
(Loan authorization).....	(18,889)	(10,013)	(16,234)	(-2,655)	(+6,221)
Loan subsidy.....	4,082	3,084	5,000	+918	+1,916
Administrative expenses (transfer to RD).....	4,439	4,249	4,439	---	+190
Total, IRP Fund.....	8,521	64,833	9,439	+918	-55,394
Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account:					
(Loan authorization).....	(33,077)	(59,456)	(59,456)	(+26,379)	---
Limit cushion of credit interest spending....	(172,000)	(155,000)	(155,000)	(-17,000)	---
(Rescission).....	-172,000	-155,000	-155,000	+17,000	---

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

Rural Cooperative Development Grants:					
Cooperative development.....	5,800	---	5,800	---	+5,800
Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas.....	2,250	2,087	2,500	+250	+413
Grants to assist minority producers.....	3,000	3,000	3,000	---	---
Value-added agricultural product market development.....	15,000	11,000	10,750	-4,250	-250

Total, Rural Cooperative development grants.....	26,050	16,087	22,050	-4,000	+5,963
Rural Microenterprise Investment Program Account:					
(Loan authorization).....	---	(25,683)	---	---	(-25,683)
Loan subsidies and grants.....	---	3,290	---	---	-3,290

Total, Rural Microenterprise Investment.....	---	3,290	---	---	-3,290
Rural Energy for America Program					
(Loan authorization).....	(12,760)	(47,259)	(33,081)	(+20,321)	(-14,178)
Loan subsidy.....	3,500	5,000	3,500	---	-1,500
Grants.....	---	5,000	---	---	-5,000

Total, Rural Energy for America Program.....	3,500	10,000	3,500	---	-6,500
Rural Business Investment Program Account					
(Loan authorization).....	---	(39,254)	(39,254)	(+39,254)	---
Loan subsidy.....	---	4,000	4,000	+4,000	---
Grants.....	---	2,000	---	---	-2,000

Total, Rural Business Investment Program...	---	6,000	4,000	+4,000	-2,000
Healthy Foods, Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative:					
Grants.....	---	12,250	---	---	-12,250
Administrative expenses (transfer to RD).....	---	750	---	---	-750

Total, Healthy Foods, Healthy Neighborhoods.....	---	13,000	---	---	-13,000
=====					
Total, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.....	-37,390	-11,600	-51,011	-13,621	-39,411
(Loan authorization).....	(1,022,823)	(772,467)	(1,028,651)	(+5,828)	(+256,184)
=====					

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

Rural Utilities Service:					
Rural water and waste disposal program account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Direct.....	(1,200,000)	(1,200,000)	(1,200,000)	---	---
Guaranteed.....	(50,000)	---	(84,746)	(+34,746)	(+84,746)
Direct loans authorized by P.L. 83-566....	(40,000)	---	---	(-40,000)	---
Total, Loan authorization.....	1,290,000	1,200,000	1,284,746	-5,254	+84,746
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Direct subsidy.....	---	---	---	---	---
Direct loans authorized by PL 83-566.....	---	---	---	---	---
Guaranteed subsidy.....	355	---	500	+145	+500
Water and waste revolving fund.....	1,000	---	1,000	---	+1,000
Water well system grants.....	993	---	993	---	+993
Colonias and AK/HI grants.....	66,500	36,480	66,500	---	+30,020
Water and waste technical assistance.....	19,000	9,120	19,000	---	+9,880
Circuit rider program.....	15,000	7,600	15,000	---	+7,400
Solid waste management grants.....	4,000	4,000	4,000	---	---
High energy cost grants.....	10,000	---	---	-10,000	---
Water and waste disposal grants.....	345,523	246,800	359,900	+14,377	+113,100
Total, Loan subsidies and grants.....	462,371	304,000	466,893	+4,522	+162,893
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Electric:					
Direct, 5%.....	---	---	---	---	---
Direct, FFB.....	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	---	---
Guaranteed underwriting.....	(500,000)	---	(500,000)	---	(+500,000)
Subtotal, Electric.....	(5,500,000)	(5,000,000)	(5,500,000)	---	(+500,000)
Telecommunications:					
Direct, Treasury rate.....	(690,000)	(345,000)	(690,000)	---	(+345,000)
Total, Loan authorizations.....	(6,190,000)	(5,345,000)	(6,190,000)	---	(+845,000)
RETLP administrative expenses (transfer to RD).....	34,478	33,000	34,478	---	+1,478
Total, Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account..	34,478	33,000	34,478	---	+1,478
(Loan authorization).....	(6,190,000)	(5,345,000)	(6,190,000)	---	(+845,000)
=====					
Distance learning, telemedicine, and broadband program:					
Loan authorizations:					
Broadband telecommunications.....	(34,483)	(44,238)	(24,077)	(-10,406)	(-20,161)
Total, Loan authorizations.....	(34,483)	(44,238)	(24,077)	(-10,406)	(-20,161)

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

Loan subsidies and grants:					
Distance learning and telemedicine:					
Grants.....	24,323	24,950	20,000	-4,323	-4,950
Broadband telecommunications:					
Direct.....	4,500	8,268	4,500	---	-3,768
Grants.....	10,372	20,372	10,372	---	-10,000
Total, Loan subsidies and grants.....	39,195	53,590	34,872	-4,323	-18,718
=====					
Total, Rural Utilities Service.....	536,044	390,590	536,243	+199	+145,653
(Loan authorization).....	(7,514,483)	(6,589,238)	(7,498,823)	(-15,660)	(+909,585)
=====					
Total, Title III, Rural Development Programs....	2,397,709	2,230,869	2,435,787	+38,078	+204,918
(By transfer).....	(454,017)	(435,295)	(454,017)	---	(+18,722)
(Loan authorization).....	(35,945,416)	(34,165,270)	(36,091,344)	(+145,928)	(+1,926,074)
=====					
TITLE IV - DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services.....	811	816	816	+5	---
Food and Nutrition Service:					
Child nutrition programs.....	19,262,957	20,472,000	20,471,795	+1,208,838	-205
School breakfast program equipment grants.....	25,000	35,000	25,000	---	-10,000
Demonstration projects (Summer EBT).....	---	30,000	27,000	+27,000	-3,000
Total, Child nutrition programs.....	19,287,957	20,537,000	20,523,795	+1,235,838	-13,205
Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC).....	6,715,841	6,823,000	6,623,000	-92,841	-200,000
Supplemental nutrition assistance program: (Food stamp program).....	79,168,947	79,250,389	79,250,140	+81,193	-249
Reserve.....	3,000,000	5,000,000	3,000,000	---	-2,000,000
FDPIR nutrition education services.....	998	998	998	---	---
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion....	---	---	---	---	---
National food consumption survey.....	---	5,000	---	---	-5,000
Nutrition education.....	---	---	---	---	---
FY 2016 (first quarter).....	---	21,064,097	---	---	-21,064,097
Total, Food stamp program.....	82,169,945	105,320,484	82,251,138	+81,193	-23,069,346

Fiscal year 2015.....	(82,169,945)	(84,256,387)	(82,251,138)	(+81,193)	(-2,005,249)

Commodity assistance program:					
Commodity supplemental food program.....	202,682	208,682	208,682	+6,000	---
Farmers market nutrition program.....	16,548	16,548	16,548	---	---
Emergency food assistance program.....	49,401	49,401	49,401	---	---
Pacific island and disaster assistance.....	1,070	1,070	1,070	---	---
Total, Commodity assistance program.....	269,701	275,701	275,701	+6,000	---

Nutrition programs administration.....	141,348	155,000	150,824	+9,476	-4,176

Total, Food and Nutrition Service.....	108,584,792	133,111,185	109,824,458	+1,239,666	-23,286,727
FY 2015.....	(108,584,792)	(112,047,088)	(109,824,458)	(+1,239,666)	(-2,222,630)
=====					
Total, Title IV, Domestic Food Programs.....	108,585,603	133,112,001	109,825,274	+1,239,671	-23,286,727
FY 2015.....	(108,584,792)	(112,047,088)	(109,824,458)	(+1,239,666)	(-2,222,630)
=====					

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE V - FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS					
Foreign Agricultural Service					
Salaries and expenses.....	177,863	182,563	182,563	+4,700	---
(Transfer from export loans).....	(6,394)	(6,394)	(6,394)	---	---
Total, Salaries and expenses.....	184,257	188,957	188,957	+4,700	---
Food for Peace Title I Direct Credit and Food for Progress Program Account, Administrative Expenses					
Farm Service Agency, Salaries and expenses (transfer to FSA).....	2,735	2,528	2,528	-207	---
Unobligated balances (rescission).....	---	-13,000	-13,000	-13,000	---
Food for Peace Title II Grants:					
Expenses.....	1,466,000	1,400,000	1,466,000	---	+66,000
Commodity Credit Corporation Export Loans Program Account (administrative expenses):					
Salaries and expenses (Export Loans):					
General Sales Manager (transfer to FAS).....	6,394	6,394	6,394	---	---
Farm Service Agency S&E (transfer to FSA).....	354	354	354	---	---
Total, CCC Export Loans Program Account.....	6,748	6,748	6,748	---	---
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program grants.....	185,126	185,126	198,126	+13,000	+13,000
Total, Title V, Foreign Assistance and Related Programs.....	1,838,472	1,763,965	1,842,965	+4,493	+79,000
(By transfer).....	(6,394)	(6,394)	(6,394)	---	---
TITLE VI - RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION					
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Food and Drug Administration					
Salaries and expenses, direct appropriation.....	2,551,905	2,575,383	2,574,080	+22,175	-1,303
Prescription drug user fees.....	(760,000)	(798,000)	(798,000)	(+38,000)	---
Medical device user fees.....	(114,833)	(128,282)	(128,282)	(+13,449)	---
Human generic drug user fees.....	(305,996)	(312,116)	(312,116)	(+6,120)	---
Biosimilar biological products user fees.....	(20,716)	(21,014)	(21,014)	(+298)	---
Animal drug user fees.....	(23,600)	(22,464)	(22,464)	(-1,136)	---
Animal generic drug user fees.....	(7,328)	(6,944)	(6,944)	(-384)	---
Tobacco product user fees.....	(534,000)	(566,000)	(566,000)	(+32,000)	---
Food and Feed Recall user fees.....	(12,925)	---	(1,434)	(-11,491)	(+1,434)
Food Reinspection fees.....	(15,367)	---	(6,414)	(-8,953)	(+6,414)
Voluntary qualified importer program fees.....	---	---	(5,300)	(+5,300)	(+5,300)
Subtotal (including user fees).....	(4,346,670)	(4,430,203)	(4,442,048)	(+95,378)	(+11,845)
Mammography user fees.....	(19,318)	(19,705)	(19,705)	(+387)	---
Export and color certification user fees.....	(12,447)	(13,651)	(13,651)	(+1,204)	---
Food and Feed Recall user fees.....	---	(1,434)	---	---	(-1,434)
Food Reinspection fees.....	---	(6,414)	---	---	(-6,414)
Voluntary qualified importer program fees.....	---	(5,300)	---	---	(-5,300)
Pharmacy compounding fees (CBO estimate).....	---	(1,000)	(1,000)	(+1,000)	---
Subtotal, FDA user fees.....	(1,826,530)	(1,902,324)	(1,902,324)	(+75,794)	---
Subtotal, FDA (with user fees).....	(4,378,435)	(4,477,707)	(4,476,404)	(+97,969)	(-1,303)

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

FDA New User Fees (Leg. proposals):					
Food Facility registration and inspection user fees.....	---	(60,120)	---	---	(-60,120)
Food import user fees.....	---	(169,021)	---	---	(-169,021)
International courier user fees.....	---	(5,807)	---	---	(-5,807)
Cosmetic user fees.....	---	(19,457)	---	---	(-19,457)
Food contact substance notification user fees....	---	(5,098)	---	---	(-5,098)

Subtotal, FDA new user fees (Leg Proposals).....	---	(259,503)	---	---	(-259,503)
Buildings and facilities.....	8,788	8,788	8,788	---	---

Total, FDA (w/user fees, including proposals)...	(4,387,223)	(4,745,998)	(4,485,192)	(+97,969)	(-260,806)
Total, FDA (w/enacted user fees only).....	(4,387,223)	(4,486,495)	(4,485,192)	(+97,969)	(-1,303)
Total, FDA (excluding user fees).....	2,560,693	2,584,171	2,582,868	+22,175	-1,303
=====					
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	215,000	280,000	217,578	+2,578	-62,422
Farm Credit Administration (limitation on administrative expenses).....	(62,600)	(65,100)	(54,000)	(-8,600)	(-11,100)
=====					
Total, Title VI, Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration.....	2,775,693	2,864,171	2,800,446	+24,753	-63,725
=====					
TITLE VII - GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Emergency livestock assistance program (rescission) (Sec. 709).....	---	-125,000	-125,000	-125,000	---
Limit Dam Rehab (Sec.717(1)).....	-153,000	---	-50,000	+103,000	-50,000
(rescission).....	---	-153,000	---	---	+153,000
Limit Environmental Quality Incentives (Sec.717(2))..	-272,000	-250,000	-95,000	+177,000	+155,000
Limit Agricultural Easement Program (Sec.717(3)).....	---	---	-30,000	-30,000	-30,000
Limit Conservation Stewardship Program (Sec.717(4))...	---	---	-31,000	-31,000	-31,000
Limit Biomass Crop Assistance Program (Sec.717(5))....	---	---	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000
Limit Rural Energy for America Program (Sec.717(6))...	---	---	-16,000	-16,000	-16,000
Limit Biorefinery Assistance (Sec.717(7)).....	---	---	-24,000	-24,000	-24,000
Limit fruit and vegetable program (Sec.718).....	-119,000	-122,000	-122,000	-3,000	---
Section 32 (rescission) (Sec.718).....	-189,000	-203,000	-121,000	+68,000	+82,000
Resource Conservation and Development (rescission) ...	-2,017	---	---	+2,017	---
Geographic Disadvantaged farmers	1,996	---	---	-1,996	---
Hardwood Trees (Reforestation Pilot Program).....	600	---	---	-600	---
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments (rescission)	-30,000	---	---	+30,000	---
Rural Housing Service (rescission)	-1,314	---	---	+1,314	---
Section 9005 Bioenergy program (rescission).....	-8,000	---	---	+8,000	---
Water Bank program	4,000	---	---	-4,000	---
Section 9003 Biorefinery program (rescission).....	-40,694	---	---	+40,694	---
Hunger Commission	1,000	---	---	-1,000	---
FDA user fees	79,000	---	---	-79,000	---
Citrus greening (APHIS)	20,000	---	---	-20,000	---
Southwest Border Regional Commission.....	---	2,000	---	---	-2,000
=====					
Total, Title VII, General provisions.....	-708,429	-851,000	-624,000	+84,429	+227,000
=====					
Grand total	145,652,976	165,461,061	142,856,736	-2,796,240	-22,604,325
Appropriations fiscal year 2015.....	(146,096,001)	(145,045,964)	(143,270,736)	(-2,825,265)	(-1,775,228)
Rescissions.....	(-443,025)	(-649,000)	(-414,000)	(+29,025)	(+235,000)
Advance appropriations, FY 2016.....	---	(21,064,097)	---	---	(-21,064,097)
(By transfer).....	(790,554)	(771,886)	(790,347)	(-207)	(+18,461)
(Loan authorization).....	(41,472,694)	(40,567,384)	(42,493,458)	(+1,020,764)	(+1,926,074)
(Limitation on administrative expenses).....	(178,035)	(180,809)	(169,709)	(-8,326)	(-11,100)
=====					

AGRICULTURE-RURAL DEVELOPMENT-FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS (H.R. 4800)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

RECAPITULATION					
Title I - Agricultural programs.....	29,938,096	25,525,385	25,707,313	-4,230,783	+181,928
Mandatory.....	(23,149,074)	(18,855,803)	(18,855,803)	(-4,293,271)	---
Discretionary.....	(6,789,022)	(6,669,582)	(6,851,510)	(+62,488)	(+181,928)
Title II - Conservation programs (discretionary).....	825,832	815,670	868,951	+43,119	+53,281
Title III - Rural development (discretionary).....	2,397,709	2,230,869	2,435,787	+38,078	+204,918
Title IV - Domestic food programs	108,585,603	133,112,001	109,825,274	+1,239,671	-23,286,727
Mandatory.....	(101,432,902)	(125,787,484)	(102,722,933)	(+1,290,031)	(-23,064,551)
Discretionary.....	(7,152,701)	(7,324,517)	(7,102,341)	(-50,360)	(-222,176)
Title V - Foreign assistance and related programs (discretionary).....	1,838,472	1,763,965	1,842,965	+4,493	+79,000
Title VI - Related agencies and Food and Drug Administration (discretionary).....	2,775,693	2,864,171	2,800,446	+24,753	-63,725
Title VII - General provisions (discretionary).....	-708,429	-851,000	-624,000	+84,429	+227,000
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total	145,652,976	165,461,061	142,856,736	-2,796,240	-22,604,325
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

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

I rise having cosponsored this bill as the ranking member on the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. I have to say that I think we have worked very well together. We have worked together as chair and ranking member over a period of time. It is an interesting perspective. I think we have crossed the cultural divide when a Californian can understand the language of an Alabaman, and we have become friends.

I have to say that probably 90 percent of this bill is something we all agree on. Ten percent is what we don't agree on, and it is a horrible 10 percent—a big 10 percent. The bill allocates \$20.8 billion, which is the same as what we came up with last year in the conference level.

I appreciate the working relationship that Mr. ADERHOLT already outlined and the wonderful staff that both his office and I have, and my office and the committee has. We all work well together as a team. So we bring this bill to the floor today.

It is quite a privilege to be able to have this position, and I think that we all understand the privilege, because the USDA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is our main focus, in addition to the Food and Drug Administration, and to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Department of Agriculture, many people don't understand, was created during the Civil War by Abraham Lincoln. It was a department that needed to be created as the United States was facing the Western expansion. Abraham Lincoln was very insightful in realizing that people who moved out into the boonies needed help. There is no infrastructure there. There is nothing there. It became kind of a home ec department. And to this day, the Department of Agriculture still has a division of rural water, a division of rural housing, farmworker housing, and of rural telecommunications.

It is obviously involved with all the science research in agriculture and a big research section. The USDA has a specialist in almost every county in the United States and almost every country in the world, as we have ag advisers in all of our Embassies.

It is an awesome responsibility to govern a very complex system of trade and balances, of phytosanitary inspections, of fighting diseases that get into this country. And it is a lot of fun, also, and I think that is why we get along well trying to put together a good bill.

Now, I voted against this bill in committee because of the concerns of several aspects. Among these concerns are two highly objectionable nutrition riders. I am really concerned that the bill would allow school food authorities to get waivers from complying with the

improved lunch and breakfast nutrition standards in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which we enacted in 2010. The bill would allow them to get waivers if they show they are operating at a net loss.

I believe that rather than going backwards and serving children in some schools less healthy meals, we should be encouraging the USDA to continue giving schools the technical assistance they need to meet the standards. We should also be encouraging USDA to continue providing flexibility, where warranted, in meeting nutritional standards. The approach in this bill, however, is unacceptable.

Second, despite the recommendations of the medical community indicating that consumption of starchy vegetables meets or exceeds recommended amounts, and the food in-take data showing that white potatoes are the most widely used vegetables and therefore by law or by statute have been excluded from the WIC program, where you get vouchers to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, this bill allows white potatoes to be purchased under that program. It is not necessary at all. The white potato lobby is a very effective lobby.

I am troubled by the inclusion of this bill requiring white potatoes be eligible for purchase in the WIC program. The WIC program, as I said, gives supplemental nutrition through specified foods, and white potatoes is not one of them. So there are some real concerns with this bill. This is the first time that Congress has dictated as to what has to be purchased with those vouchers, and we have never before mandated an inclusion of a specific food item in the WIC food package in the history of the program.

While the funding levels in this bill are, in general, acceptable, there are some exceptions. The most notable to that is the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. This is a Commission that reviews about \$300 trillion in trade. That is almost \$1 trillion a day. And what we do is provide funding to have the referees so that they know when the trading is being fair or not fair, and it is essentially a review process, but they need money to hire those referees, as we call them. The President asked for \$62 million more than we are allowing him to have to fill the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Those are big concerns.

On the positive side, the bill restores the Food for Peace funding to 2014 levels. It increases the McGovern-Dole program by \$13 million over the 2014 levels. But I am also concerned that in these programs there is an exclusion of important reforms that would have furthered the impact of each dollar spent on food aid.

Given the high level of need, our food aid has to be as cost effective and as ef-

ficient as possible, so I am disappointed that food aid reforms enabling more people to be fed at lower cost were not included in the bill.

I would like to say that you are going to hear a lot of my colleagues raise issues on some of these issues because it is very important that we try to get it right and hopefully defeat some of the bad provisions that are in this bill.

Food is peace. America leads the world in food assistance. California is the number one agriculture State in the Union. I am proud to be the ranking member in bringing this bill to the floor for healthy debate.

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this bill. This is the fifth of the twelve 2015 appropriations cycle bills. It provides \$20.9 billion in discretionary funding for important agriculture, rural development, and FDA programs.

With this legislation, we ensure America's farmers and ranchers—who contribute billions to our economy, as well as create jobs and put food on our tables—have the resources they need to continue to remain successful.

We have provided responsible funding for programs that work to stop crop, plant, and animal disease that can cripple U.S. producers and entire industries. Funding is also directed to programs that help conserve and protect farmland, and improve water quality and food safety.

In addition, this bill also provides funding for infrastructure development, housing loans and rental assistance, and economic opportunities for America's rural communities. These vital loans and programs help foster an environment for economic growth and will help rural America thrive.

The committee also prioritized the safety of our Nation's food and drug supply, targeting increases to FDA food and drug safety activities.

The funding in this bill will maintain 8,000 inspection personnel for meat, poultry, and egg products and facilities across the Nation.

I am also pleased that we have included language that forces the FDA to develop more robust guidelines for abuse-deterrent opioid pill formulations. We withhold \$20 million from the Commissioner's office until these long-overdue regulations are finalized, because the drugs on the market that are not abuse-deterrent result in opioid addictions, overdoses, and deaths. They need to be corrected.

□ 1415

Prescription drug abuse is a scourge on this Nation, and FDA can and

should be doing more to battle this epidemic.

Beyond funding these critical USDA and FDA programs, the bill also includes funding for a variety of nutrition programs, making sure our most vulnerable, including our children and elderly, don't go hungry.

The discretionary funding level in this bill is about the same as last year, which is a testament to the hard work of this subcommittee to find savings wherever possible to make that possible. Each and every program within this bill has been closely examined to help make the best decisions about where to direct tax dollars and where to trim funding.

The bill also makes strides to make these programs more efficient, more effective, and more useful for the American people and strengthens congressional oversight, particularly where it comes to mandatory spending on important nutrition programs.

For example, within SNAP, formerly called food stamps, we have required the enforcement of a ban on certain outreach with foreign governments and implemented protocols to help weed out waste, fraud, and abuse.

Mr. Chairman, the bill before us today is a commonsense bill that makes every step to adequately fund important agricultural programs, to support our most vulnerable citizens, and to act with fiscal restraint.

I want to thank Chairman ADERHOLT, Ranking Member FARR, the subcommittee members, and their staffs for all they did to achieve this very good bill. It was not easy because the allocation they had was not perfect, but they made do with it, and they made do well. I want to thank them for their hard work and congratulate them on a good bill. I urge unanimous support for the bill.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member of the full committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the efforts of the chairman and the ranking member in putting together this bill. While many of the funding decisions are appropriate, I do oppose this bill because I have deep objections to controversial riders.

First, this bill would begin to back away from much-needed efforts to make school meals healthier. According to the CDC, as of 2012, more than one-third of children and adolescents were obese.

Obese children are more likely to become obese adults, and thus are at a much greater risk of developing heart diseases, type 2 diabetes, stroke, and forms of cancer. Schools should support and teach healthy eating habits.

Instead of providing waivers, this bill should help the districts meet this higher standard by providing the technical assistance and training to become compliant.

Additionally, bill language would make white potatoes eligible for purchase by WIC participants, which is inconsistent with the purpose of the WIC program to include only foods based on documented nutritional deficiencies.

White potatoes are excluded today based on the best available science, and science, not special interests, should continue to be the guide for WIC's policies.

The majority should have fully embraced the work and purpose of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and fully funded the administration's request. I am also concerned that the bill provides only half of the requested funds to expand and improve oversight of drug compounding to ensure products are safe and effective.

I thank the chairman for working with me to ensure that the summer feeding pilot program remains open to children in rural and urban areas and adding report language related to sunscreen ingredients, sprays, and high SPF products.

I very much support the additional \$13 million in funding for the McGovern-Dole food aid program and the restoration of funding for the Food for Peace program.

However, the bill should have also included the administration's proposal to allow up to 25 percent of title II resources to be made available in cash for emergencies to better respond to multiple, high-level crises around the world. This change alone would have allowed U.S. aid to reach an estimated 2 million more people in chronically food-insecure communities.

The bill provides sufficient funds for nutritional assistance programs, such as WIC and SNAP, and provides needed discretionary funds for food safety programs within FDA and the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

It is my sincere hope that we can improve these shortcomings before a bill is signed into law.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD).

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, I rise to engage in an important colloquy with Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman ADERHOLT of Alabama and the ranking member of the Livestock Subcommittee on the House Ag Committee, Mr. COSTA of California, regarding the issue of mandatory country of origin labeling, or COOL, for beef, pork, and poultry.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, I strongly support discontinuing the overreaching country of origin labeling regulations that not only burden our Nation's livestock industry, but threaten massive retaliatory tariffs from Canada and Mexico on a vast range of U.S. industry and products.

I appreciate your work in the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee to include a directive in the bill's re-

port language requiring USDA to discontinue enforcement of COOL, should the WTO compliance panel rule against the United States when they make their decision in a few weeks.

However, I believe the final appropriations bill should include the strongest language possible to prevent any further harm to the livestock industry and all industries threatened on the retaliatory trade list.

COOL represents yet another failed policy of the Federal Government, imposing costly and burdensome mandates on private sector industry. While the primary goal of COOL is to give American-grown meat a competitive advantage, the result has been exactly the opposite.

As a direct result of this policy, we are not only seeing sharp increases in the cost of marketing and selling beef and pork, but trade retaliation from our closest trading partners will cost us billions of dollars in trade, which will kill U.S. jobs, harm our competitiveness, and have a long-term negative impact on American industry.

As you prepare for conference, I hope we can work together to make sure the final bill provides the most appropriate response to this problem.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Chairman, we are again, I think, missing an opportunity with regard to the country of origin labeling, otherwise referred to as COOL.

COOL has proven, as Mr. CRAWFORD has stated, to be a failed experiment. We are seeing an increased cost to ranchers and processors in order to comply with these regulations that are ultimately passed on to the consumers and to make it more difficult to provide the separate lines of animal source from different countries to fulfill the intent of the law.

This program has added nothing but cost to the cattle industry in America, and it is time where we make an attempt to deal with these added costs.

To be totally honest, we don't even know what the actual costs to the industry are. Its producers and processors have had difficulty putting together a formal economic impact, so an analysis has never yet been done.

Finally—and probably more important—it is threatening to the trade relationship with our two biggest markets in the export of U.S. beef, pork, and chicken, which is Canada and Mexico.

Should, as we all assume, the WTO rule against the United States, we will face harsh retaliatory efforts against the products produced here and we are trying to encourage, not only in my home State of California, but in America.

No one wants to see retaliatory efforts made by Canada or Mexico. I know, in talking with producers and people in the industry in Canada and

Mexico, they don't want to pursue retaliatory efforts.

We have the data and the studies and the WTO experience to show that it is time that we fix COOL. We want to see this problem resolved, and we want to work together to do it. Hopefully, we will use this legislation to do just that.

Mr. Chairman, we hope you will work with us to provide relief in the event the World Trade Organization does rule against the United States.

Mr. CRAWFORD. I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I assure the gentleman from California that I will be committed to working with both he and Mr. CRAWFORD as we continue on this issue. I agree with my colleagues that the final WTO ruling on the pending COOL case could bring irreparable harm to various U.S. industries.

As has been noted, report language has been included expressing the committee's concern that U.S. exports to Mexico and Canada will suffer an economic impact of approximately \$2 billion in retaliatory tariffs. The report directs USDA not to implement or enforce the COOL final rule for meat labeling, should the WTO issue a final ruling against the United States.

Again, I can assure both of my colleagues here this afternoon that it is my intention to protect our domestic industries from retaliation. We will closely monitor the progress of the WTO in this matter and will respond as necessary, so that our U.S. economy does not suffer.

I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to discuss this important issue with both of you, and I look forward to working with both of you as we move forward.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD), the second generation of congresspersons from the Roybal family.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to provisions in this bill that undermine nutrition standards for school meals and the WIC program. Nutrition programs that support balanced diets are vital tools in protecting against childhood hunger and reducing childhood obesity.

While I appreciate Chairman ADERHOLT's efforts to fully fund childhood nutrition programs, I strongly oppose this bill because it weakens, unnecessarily, Federal child nutrition standards; rather than allowing USDA to work with schools to help them meet healthier nutrition criteria, this bill undermines the national school meal program by allowing a blanket waiver to any school that says it can't meet the new standards.

In addition, the bill adds white potatoes to the WIC food package, ignoring

research findings that white potatoes are already consumed above recommended levels and should not compete with other fruits and vegetables for limited WIC vouchers.

Mr. Chairman, we have an obesity crisis in our country, and our Nation's children and families are best served when Federal nutrition standards are guided by science. Now is not the time to lower the benchmarks that protect our children's health now and in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support amendments that remove these damaging riders to the bill.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your and the committee's hard work on crafting the agriculture appropriations bill on the floor today. It is a bill that supports American farmers, protects the safety of our food, keeps rural America vibrant, and ensures that our taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively.

I also want to thank you and the committee's continued support for an issue that is very important to my constituents of the Second District of Ohio, the Asian long-horned beetle. This pest, also known as ALB, is one of the most destructive, invasive species that has entered the United States.

These beetles have been discovered in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Illinois, and they were first seen in my district in 2012. Mr. Chairman, ALB is devastating our trees. These insects burrow themselves into the heartwood of our trees, where they lay larvae and feast off the wood.

As a result, trees in my community are dying or becoming so structurally weak that they are unsafe to even be near them. This doesn't just affect one type of tree, unfortunately, but over a dozen different species.

Eradicating this infestation is extremely important to me and my constituents. Unfortunately, the infestation has already come at a very high cost. To date, roughly 43,000 trees have been removed in Clermont County of Ohio, due to the Asian long-horned beetle, including over 30,000 trees that have not even yet been infested.

This is 43,000 less trees that can no longer provide shade on a sunny day or protect against erosion; not to mention, this infestation and tree removal is directly impacting the property values of homeowners.

Currently, cutting down and removing trees is the most common method used to eradicate these beetles. My constituents are having their trees removed from their own private properties, turning front yards into lumber yards.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that you insert language into the conference report that would encourage the Secretary of

the Department of Agriculture to support alternative methods to tree removal to combat the Asian long-horned beetle.

Thank you, and I appreciate your past and continued efforts to eradicate this destructive pest.

□ 1430

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this agriculture funding bill. Budgeting is about choices, and this bill makes the wrong choices for the American people.

Time and again in this legislation the House majority has chosen to put profits and politics before nutrition and food safety. It puts partisan ideology before impartial science, and the interests of big corporate industries over the needs of families and children.

Examples: for decades our Federal nutrition policies have been based on the principle of sound scientific research and evidence-based decision-making. Until now, Congress has never prescribed the details of Federal nutrition programs. This bill circumvents the Institute of Medicine process for determining the appropriate foods to offer in the Supplemental Women, Infants, and Children program, or the WIC package.

To benefit industry, the House majority adds white potatoes to WIC, despite the advice and findings of nutritionists that white potatoes are not lacking in a mother's and children's diets. In fact, they are the most consumed vegetable in America. This is the same type of thinking from Congress that got pizza called a vegetable.

Further, this bill would waive requirements for schools to meet the nutrition standards that we passed as part of the 2010 Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act. These standards, developed by experts, improve school meals, remove unhealthy junk foods in our Nation's schools. The standards have already been achieved at over 90 percent of America's schools and are working to help kids choose healthier food options. House Republicans are trying to appease special interests by weakening child nutrition programs in this bill.

The bill also undermines menu labeling and creates carve-outs for industries at the expense of health. It assumes a passage of an accelerated and unsafe poultry inspection system that increases the chance of contaminated chicken on our kitchen tables just so companies can make more profit.

At a time when foodborne illness outbreaks are a continual challenge, it cuts the Food Safety and Inspection Service, a linchpin of our food safety efforts, by \$6 million, putting families at risk, and no permanent inspectors will be able to be hired.

This bill dangerously underfunds the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. It allows risky financial transactions to continue, putting the profits of Wall Street ahead of consumers.

These are all unprecedented attempts to use the appropriations process to do the bidding of industry and special interests at the expense of the public interest.

Our job—our job—is to craft a budget that does right by the American people, that helps kids get the nutrition that they need to grow, that fights hunger in all of our communities, and that ensures that our food supply is safe. This budget fails in all of these regards, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey, Dr. HOLT.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the nutrition standards for school meals and in strong opposition to the waivers to those standards in this legislation that would result in schools providing nutritionally deficient meals.

Federal child nutrition programs help alleviate hunger and poor nutrition, and were it not for these programs, many students would not receive enough to eat. In New Jersey alone, my home State, the number of children who were eligible for free and reduced school meals increased by 22 percent in the past 5 years to a total that now exceeds half a million children.

According to a study from Harvard released earlier this year, because of the nutrition standards, children are eating more fruits and vegetables. These standards are working, and they are helping children receive better nutrition.

We knew a decade ago that almost half of school lunches were based on prepackaged foods high in calories and fat and salt. Many schools did not offer fruits and vegetables as part of their meals. Congress acted and raised the standards. Healthy children are the source of our country's well-being. The effects of these new standards last long after the children leave school.

At a time when one in three American children is overweight or obese, school nutrition standards can reduce the long-term health costs. And at a time when medical costs are growing ever higher, we should be thinking of ways to reduce health care costs, especially by encouraging more healthful living. We should support Mr. FARR's amendment when he brings it up that would retain, in this bill, the good nutritional standards.

Almost all schools are meeting the new standards now. The USDA has provided flexibility to schools to allow schools to successfully implement the

standards, and that is reflected in the high adoption rate among schools across the Nation.

Through the Farm to School Program that I helped write in the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, Hopewell Elementary School, for example, in my district is providing more local produce on their menu. This is helping the kids learn about healthy eating, learn where our food comes from—not a package or a box, but from the ground and from farmers. We should give them the best nutrition.

Congress should continue to ensure that schools have the resources to meet the standards, not to lower the standards or exempt schools from them.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM).

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in opposition to the language in this bill that rolls back standards that ensure our children are being fed nutritious foods at school.

As a former State health secretary, I want to refocus this debate where I think it belongs, and that is on health. What we are really talking about here is the health of our children. More than one-third of children and adolescents are overweight or obese, and more than 2 million adolescents are prediabetic.

Mr. Chair, children who learn to eat nutritious food are more likely to continue those healthy habits as adults. The best place to teach children about healthy eating is where they spend most of their time—in school.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues concerned about the cost of nutritious food to think about the cost of obesity and malnutrition and to think about our children's future. My colleagues say that it is too hard, that children really don't like healthy foods. I agree that making change isn't easy, but we are going to have to invest some time and energy into teaching our children to make healthy choices. That is a change worth making.

I thank the gentleman from California, who has been a real leader on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support his efforts to fix the bill.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank my colleague from Alabama for his leadership on this issue.

This is an issue where I think we all agree. We want children in this country to eat healthier. We all want to fight childhood obesity. But I come up to this podium in opposition to this

amendment because I am a parent. I have three kids in public schools. I coach youth football. I coach Little League. I talk to children. I have talked to superintendents and principals in central Illinois about this problem. And it is not just a problem that Washington can solve, but it is a problem that Washington created that we need to fix.

There is a lot of plate waste. You look at a recent Los Angeles Times article, upwards of \$20 million per year the Los Angeles, California, school district is losing to plate waste. 1.2 million less children in this country are participating in the school lunch program, the school nutrition program.

In my district, schools like Monticello, Illinois, have pulled out of the school nutrition program because they were losing upwards of \$100,000 a year to comply with regulations that were thought of in a concrete building in Washington, D.C., rather than rural America.

Now, what have we done?

We have asked Secretary Vilsack to offer some flexibility to schools like Monticello so that more kids will participate and that school district doesn't have to choose between following the rules and regulations set forth in Washington, D.C., and choosing to hire two teachers.

We have asked the White House and the USDA to voluntarily comply with the same rules and regulations that every school nutrition program, every school cafeteria in this country has to comply with. No answer.

We have offered for Secretary Vilsack to come visit the school districts that have talked to me about this being a burden and a problem financially for them. Still no answer.

Giving schools flexibility does not mean that I want kids to eat unhealthy. It means parents and local schools districts know better how to feed our children rather than bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

I am going to continue to advocate for more flexibility for these regulations so that we don't lose more than the 1.2 million children that should be participating in the school lunch program.

What I want to know is why this administration and why the USDA fails to recognize that there is a problem in rural America and a problem in our urban schools when it comes to money that could be better spent educating our children in this great country.

Support this legislation. Do not support this amendment.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time each side has remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) has 12½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HOLT) has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the author of the Child Nutrition Act. He probably knows more about child nutrition than anybody in Congress.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chair, these are not regulations that were written in Washington, D.C. These are regulations that were written in cooperation with school food service personnel, superintendents and teachers and school districts all over the country.

After many years of deliberation, we have continued to improve this program. Plate waste is less now than it was before. What we have discovered is, if children can select what they wanted to eat from a healthy menu, where we didn't have to worry that they were just selecting high-sugar content and high-salt content, they were eating what they liked, what they became familiar with, plate waste went down.

The purpose of this program is not to increase the profits of food processors or the agribusiness industry in this country. The purpose of this program is to improve the nutrition of children in our schools. Why? Because we understand that nutrition is directly connected to how well those children do in the classroom, not because I say so, not because the Secretary of Education says so or the Secretary of Agriculture, but because classroom teachers will tell you that if children don't have nutrition in the morning, if there is not food in their homes and they come to school, they start to act out in class because they start to drift. And the fact is the school breakfast program has made a remarkable difference. The school lunch program has made a remarkable difference in children not acting out in class and children being able to concentrate and to perform better, to get better grades, to graduate from high school. It is directly connected.

Now what we see is that industry thinks that this is simply some kind of marketing system for their products. It is like white potatoes aren't available to poor people, white potatoes aren't available to people on food stamps, white potatoes aren't available in America. Yes, they are. But in the WIC program, it is directly related to the health of that mother, the fetus, the newborn infant, and the young child. We have to think about what a healthy meal means to the healthy development of that child. A surplus of white potatoes in that diet is not necessarily what you want to have happen.

In that schoolroom, what we want is good nutrition. We are not going to let that be dictated by the industry. The idea that somehow school districts can't comply, well, 90 percent have complied, and 90 percent have complied within the additional amount of money

that the Federal Government made available so they could comply.

□ 1445

The Secretary has been reaching out to those districts in trouble, and I suggest those districts reach out to other districts in their area that are complying and finding this to be helpful. This isn't some big burden by the Federal Government. This is working in 90 percent of the districts.

Our own School Nutrition Association of California is against this waiver. We have very creative people. In our committee, we brought those people in and we talked about plate waste, we talked about flexibility, and that was incorporated in this legislation when it became the law of the land.

So on the whim and the misinformation that somehow it is not working, somehow it is impossible to do, I will stand with 90 percent of the districts and school food service people who are implementing it. I will stand with the health officials. I will stand with the teachers that understand what a difference it means to have healthy and nutritious food available to these children during the school day.

We have got to support the Farr amendment. We have got to take care of our children. We have got to give them an opportunity to learn in our schools, and good nutrition provides that opportunity. Bad nutrition interrupts that opportunity.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. And the time is expired for this kind of legislation.

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

I know this has been a controversial issue in this bill. I sincerely think that everybody in this House is well-intentioned about kids' meals, so I in no way want to say the other side is trying to hurt the schoolchildren. To indicate that the Republicans are trying to hurt the school kids is a complete misreading on what the Republicans are trying to do and what we are trying to do in this bill.

There are so many good intentions about this. I think what has happened is, a lot of the regulations as they have come down to a lot of these school districts, every school district is different, and it is hard to have a cookie cutter mentality in every school district in the Nation. That is really what makes this Nation. We are many States but we are one Nation, and they are not all the same.

What this legislation would do with just some commonsense standards—and I by no means say that my colleagues have bad intentions. I would never say that to my colleague from California, and I hope he would not say that about me on this issue. We are

talking about providing lunches and flexibility to students and to the school nutritionists to meet their needs. We are not asking that this roll back the nutrition standards, we are not asking that it gut the underlying law. But some of the comments made, those would be the comments that you would think that we are trying to gut the entire law.

Mr. DAVIS made some very important comments when he spoke. All of us want kids to eat healthy meals, and we want to see child obesity decline. But simply providing school lunches that the kids won't eat and stopping there is not what this is about.

Student participation in the program continues to decline. A lot of the students are now bringing their lunches while the kids that are on these meal programs, they have no choice to eat this food while the other kids are bringing much more unhealthy food to the cafeteria, and watching them eat this other kind of food. It is just really disconcerting to see this. But we all have the same goal. Like I said, it is very disconcerting to hear that some of us would want our kids to be obese or to be unhealthy, and that is furthest from the truth.

I just want to say that because I think it is very important as we move forward with this debate.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First of all, I would like to announce that the Tom Colicchio group—he is one of those celebrity chefs and his group is called the Food Policy Action Network—they have told us that they are going to score the vote on this bill because of this provision that we are talking about right now and the amendment that I am going to offer to strike the provision.

The reason I want to strike the provision in the bill is because it just gives it a blank waiver. It says, schools, you don't have to comply. That is too broad. We could have worked out some compromise language and more flexible language. But just to give them blank waiver, I think, is just an opt-out and doesn't necessarily get them back in, doesn't have any guidelines for how you can improve and get back on track. That's why I think it is a pretty extreme provision in the bill and ought to be knocked out.

Another reason is that we are paying for it. The taxpayers of this country put up the money and we are allocating it to this program, and I don't think the taxpayers want their money to go to food that isn't nutritious, that doesn't help kids to be healthier. I am not insinuating that the other side wants that, but I am saying that with that money, as in everything we do in the whole rest of this bill, it comes with conditionality.

Congress is a heavy parent. We don't just give money out. We also give instructions on what to spend it for and not to spend it for. When we are giving money to schools for school nutrition—for school lunch, school breakfast, school snack programs—we put some conditionality in it, and the conditionality is, let's buy healthy food with it, fruits and vegetables, and serve them to the kids.

I know there are places that say that is not what the kids eat at home or what they like, and so they are throwing it away. That is called "plate waste." But frankly, there is plate waste in our cafeteria here in Congress. There is plate waste everywhere. There is too much plate waste in America. When so much of the world can't get access to food we are throwing away about 50 percent of what we prepare every day, which is just appalling.

How do you change that? One is you get kids to like what they are eating. We have to encourage our kids to eat vegetables. As was said earlier, you have to encourage your kids to take a bath, you have to encourage your kids to turn off the television set, you have to encourage your kids to do the math homework that they don't want to do. We give instruction.

I think what is missing in this whole debate is the instructional opportunity. Frankly, America has got to face the fact that we have not really put much attention into raising a culture of people that have values in food health, in body health, and the fast food industry has been very good at getting a lot of sugar, a lot of salt, a lot of things out there that taste really great, and people want to eat that all the time, but your body is not made to handle all that.

I think it is an opportunity for us to use the school nutrition program as a learning method. I point out that when I grew up there weren't any fast foods. McDonald's was the first fast food industry to come to our area. It came to the biggest city in my county in 1964. I had already graduated from college. So all my youth experience was eating at home, eating in the school, and there were never any fast foods. It was all fresh prepared every day. I didn't have the ability to get all that. If anything, it was in a can, and a whole new industry was developing to have fresh frozen.

So we have an opportunity to help our national security problem with food nutrition because the military officers tell us that 75 percent of the youth today cannot qualify to get in the military—75 percent. That is just appalling. That is why they have indicated that we need to have a school nutrition program.

We also see it in health care costs, the biggest cost in America. Why we did this whole health care reform was to bring down cost. Underlying all of

that was, hey, we are going to raise healthier people in this country so we can avoid—the ounce of prevention—avoid those expensive costs when people get diabetes, obesity, and other things that are preventable. So what better way to teach the cost of prevention than through nutritional health and exercise.

Lastly, why it is important that we wipe out this provision in the bill is because we are paying. The money is all there. So the schools that would be able to get the flexibility that you talk about, the waiver, they get to keep all the money but they don't have any of the responsibility to deliver the product, to deliver the nutritional foods. I think that is where we are wrong. We can't just give them money and then no responsibility to be wisely spent on the purposes for which it was intended.

So that amendment is going to come up later, and I hope that I can get support from this amendment across the aisle.

Mr. COHEN. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining so I can see how much time I can yield?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. FARR. All right. I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee for a colloquy.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. MILLER was talking about white potatoes. How does this bill affect white potatoes? I saw this movie called "Fed Up," and white potatoes in general are the evil that cause people to get obese and gain weight. How are white potatoes in this bill?

Mr. FARR. Thank you for asking. The other provision is not in this school nutrition program, but in the WIC—the Women, Infants, and Children—program where we give vouchers to mothers of newborns or pregnant women in expectation that they are having children. To give them access to healthy fruits and vegetables we give them vouchers.

In that recommended formula, what the voucher should be spent on is, they are not allowed to spend them on white potatoes. Why? Because Americans eat about 90 pounds of white potatoes or potatoes per year. Think of it. They have hash browns for breakfast, french fries for lunch, and baked potatoes for night. That is a lot of potatoes in one day. Certainly, a newborn and about-to-be-born are not necessarily needing potatoes.

Nonetheless, the potato industry is very powerful here and they were able to get a provision in demanding that the vouchers also include the ability to buy white potatoes. That is what stirred up this whole comment, because Congress has never dictated as to what you have to buy with it or to get into buying things that haven't been recommended as nutritional.

Mr. COHEN. That is what I was astonished about, Mr. FARR, when I watched this movie. It was Katie Couric, and I forget all the other people involved in producing it. But it was about how Congress had basically acquiesced to special interests to change the dietary guidelines, to the detriment of children, women, and infants. Carbohydrates and the production of insulin causing the digestive system and body to produce fat is the main cause of obesity. It is not exercise. It is not pushing yourself away from the table so much, but they discovered it is carbs and white potatoes. So we are now putting white potatoes back because of the potato industry? This is the Idaho provision?

Mr. FARR. It is often said as a food analogy that if you like sausages or laws you should never watch either of them being made. Perhaps what you are watching is that white potato mandate is getting stuck into this bill.

Mr. COHEN. Sausages and white potatoes. Thank you, sir.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, we worked hard to try to put together a pretty good bill, except for these two provisions that we were just talking about and the underfunding of the Federal Commodities Futures Trading Commission, and we will be having amendments on those issues.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ADERHOLT. May I inquire as to how many speakers the minority has.

Mr. FARR. We don't have any further speakers.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 1½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Alabama has 1 minute remaining and the right to close.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, this is an issue that, unfortunately, I think is misunderstood.

In school districts like Monticello, Illinois, that had to make the tough decision to pull out of the program, they don't get the Federal dollars anymore. They don't get the reimbursement. But they had to make the cost-benefit decision of whether or not to still feed those who qualify for free and reduced lunch out of their own pocket so they wouldn't lose the \$100,000 a year. When the Los Angeles school district is losing upwards of \$20 million a year, it is a big deal because school districts are having to choose between teachers and complying with Federal rules and regulations.

I believe that the decision on how to feed children is best left to parents and our local school districts. Do you know what? The kids that are hurt the worst by this, that is why we are asking for this waiver. We are asking for the

USDA to approve a waiver. That is it; nothing more, nothing less.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ADERHOLT. I just wanted to clarify. I think the school district in Illinois you are talking about, they got out of the system because a hard boiled egg was not appropriate, or anything more than 12 ounces of skim milk was deemed inappropriate. That is what we are talking about, the regulations that are so out of whack.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. And the kids that are hurt the worst are the poorest kids who don't have the ability to go out to the convenience store when they are hungry afterwards, like many of the children of ours, and feed themselves. That is the only meal they may get that day, and we can't have Washington determining what that meal is.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, let me explain that not a drop of this money, a cent of it, can be spent on a teacher's salary. This is not, "We are going to spend it on food or a teacher's salary." This is only for food, and the Federal Government takes sole responsibility for that. If States want to add something they can. But it is a Federal program, one of the only solid Federal programs in K-12 education.

I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of Congressman FARR's amendment that would remove the waiver that would exempt schools from providing even half a cup of fruits and vegetables to their students for lunch. More than 200 education and nutrition organizations oppose the weakening of nutrition standards. While it may be difficult to get kids to eat healthier, it is possible, as 90 percent of schools are already meeting the standards.

Rodney Taylor, the food service director at Riverside Unified School District, which is in my district, sent me a letter about the importance of nutrition standards, saying:

Children in our district and many others are enjoying meals that meet updated school lunch requirements from the USDA, proving that it is possible to have healthy children and healthy budgets. Letting schools opt out of these standards will not help them move forward and will be detrimental to the children they serve.

□ 1500

I thank Congressman FARR for introducing this amendment, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it, so we can move forward in the fight against childhood obesity.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of Section 738, a

section allowing for the inclusion of white potatoes in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), in the fiscal year 2015 Agriculture Appropriations Act. I commend Chairman ADERHOLT as well as Chairman ROGERS for their work crafting this legislation in a bipartisan manner.

Washington State is blessed with an incredibly diverse agriculture industry, providing our nation and the rest of the world with top-quality products including asparagus, apples, cherries, peas, lentils, wheat—and of course—potatoes. In fact, Washington State is second in the nation when it comes to potato production, contributing 23 percent of the nation's potato crop. Additionally, potatoes are the fourth largest agricultural commodity in Washington, providing jobs for hundreds of people in Eastern Washington and all across the state. To that end, I was pleased to join my colleagues this past January in passing the bipartisan Omnibus spending bill which directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to include in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for WIC a range of fruits and vegetables including nutritious white potatoes.

Science has proven that fresh white potatoes are more nutrient dense than many of the vegetables already included in the WIC program and possess a significant amount of vitamin C and potassium. Despite the latest research and the clear intention of Congress, the Administrative has repeatedly fought to exclude white potatoes from the WIC program. Relying on decades-old consumption data cited in a 2005 Institute of Medicine report, the Department of Agriculture has arbitrarily limited this healthy option from the diets of millions of Americans. In fact, the most current science available, the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, recommends greater consumption of starchy vegetables.

Mr. Chair, I believe the exclusion of potatoes in the WIC program is both scientifically unfounded and unfair to those Americans seeking a greater variety of healthy food options. I appreciate the work done in this bill to correct this arbitrary restriction and I urge my colleagues to support Section 738 of this bill.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Committee report language from the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2015 that relates to the FDA's proposed "menu labeling" rule.

The most recent FDA draft rule fails to provide sufficient flexibility in allowing chain restaurants and other retailers to provide menu labeling information in the most efficient and effective way possible. Only through government bureaucracy in Washington, DC would a grocery store that cuts a piece of fruit into slices for customers be considered similar to a chain restaurant. FDA's initial proposal would essentially require in-store nutrition lab testing and new signage any time a grocery retailer assembles a salad from the produce area or sells a cup of soup using fresh ingredients. As a result, independently-operated grocers would not have the flexibility to offer the freshest and healthiest foods to their customers. Some may stop offering salads and other fresh foods altogether.

Or, just look at the pizza industry. These small businesses that offer highly customized, made to order items and primarily service customers outside the restaurant are being forced to provide nutritional information not just for a few items but for every made to order option available.

Like so many other pieces of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the menu labeling provision in the law is being interpreted as overly broad and leading to widespread unintended consequences. This is why I have introduced legislation that addresses the issue, and am grateful to Chairmen ADERHOLT and ROGERS from including pertinent language in the Committee report.

I support consumers being provided with important nutrition information; however, the FDA should find more common sense and flexible ways for retailers to be able to comply with these regulations. H.R. 1249, the Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act will provide those common sense solutions should the FDA fail to do so.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition of the proposed language that provides schools with waivers for meeting school meal standards. As the House considers the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, I press my colleagues to support an amendment striking this waiver from the bill.

Congress has made great progress in improving the health of our nation's students. Since the passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 school lunches and breakfasts have become healthier.

In my District's Gahr High School, Food Service Cafeteria Manager, Linda Harbin, notes that the menu at Gahr High School and other schools in the ABC Unified School District changed drastically since the new school food guidelines began implementation. On average, Gahr High School serves 450 meals for lunch and before the new meal requirements they were only serving about 250 meals. Harbin meets monthly with about 100 other school food service workers in my District, and is hearing they are having similar experiences with increases in meals being purchased and decreases in "plate waste". Requiring school meal standards is working.

Students are currently served lower calorie meals with more fruits, vegetables and whole grains, helping reduce their risk for obesity, type 2 diabetes and other chronic diseases. For many children, the meals they eat in school are the most nutritious meals they eat all week. With increasing rates of childhood poverty and obesity, coupled with a difficult economy and rising food costs, many families cannot afford more nutritious foods and rely on school meals as a quality source of nutrition for their children.

We cannot waiver our support for improving the health of our students.

As the House considers the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, I ask that my colleagues join me in opposing language that provides schools with waivers for meeting school meal standards. Let's work together to keep our kids healthy.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to using the appropriations process to weaken federal child and school nutrition programs. Following the passage of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, the United States Department of Agriculture proposed rules regarding implementation of meal standards in schools. Unfortunately, House Republicans are playing politics with our children's health.

The Agriculture appropriations bill now contains a proposal that would allow schools to take a waiver to opt-out of school nutrition programs. House Republicans say that schools are having financial trouble meeting new standards, but data show that 90% of schools are currently meeting these updated standards.

In a meeting with First Lady Michelle Obama, school officials from across the country stated that they have been successful in implementing these standards and serving students more grain rich products, fruits, and vegetables. The USDA and local officials have relied on feedback from students and school officials to formulate new menus.

Even though some schools cite financial troubles in meeting new nutritional standards, we should not allow any and all schools to abandon implementing new standards with a waiver. The majority of schools has implemented these changes and seen success.

For decades, Congress has based decisions regarding federal nutrition programs on science. I strongly believe that we must continue this practice for the benefit of our children. I urge my colleagues to oppose this provision and instead to support Congressman SAM FARR's amendment to strike the waiver from the bill.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment. No pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or their respective designees, may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose. Amendments so printed shall be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows.

H.R. 4800

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and

Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$41,284,000, of which not to exceed \$5,051,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed \$498,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Relations; not to exceed \$1,507,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Coordination; not to exceed \$1,209,000 shall be available for the Office of Advocacy and Outreach; not to exceed \$26,115,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which \$22,811,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department and for general administration, security, repairs and alterations, and other miscellaneous supplies and expenses not otherwise provided for and necessary for the practical and efficient work of the Department; not to exceed \$3,869,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations to carry out the programs funded by this Act, including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch; and not to exceed \$5,535,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$11,000 of the amount made available under this paragraph for the immediate Office of the Secretary shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations in this Act for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings as required by 5 U.S.C. 551—558: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to maintain personnel at the agency level: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 14, after the first dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 2, line 21, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 2, line 22, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 43, line 18, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$8,150,000)".

Page 44, line 2, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$8,150,000)".

Page 48, line 4, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Ms. LEE of California (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, first, let me thank our chair and our ranking member for working with me on this amendment. I appreciate the bipartisan cooperation. Also, I want to thank our staff for helping us with this.

This amendment would provide a badly needed increase to the school breakfast grant program of approximately \$8.1 million. The offset for this amendment is the Secretary's administrative account and the administrative and expenses account.

These competitive grants allow States, schools, and local educational agencies to purchase important equipment for their school breakfast program. The school breakfast program is a critical tool in the fight to keep our students fed with a nutritious meal at the start of the day.

Oftentimes, this is the meal that children rely on to help them get through the day, especially toward the end of the day, when they are about ready to go home and they have not been fully fed at the beginning of the day.

The bottom line is breakfast is very, very important to the growth, health, welfare, and development of our children.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. LEE of California. I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, the bill provides \$25 million for USDA to make the school meal equipment grants. I understand the intent of this amendment would be to increase the funding to match the President's request for a total of \$35 million. Since there is an acceptable offset, we would be willing to accept this amount.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is especially critical for low-income children, many of whom who have not had a nutritious meal since the previous day of school, so I really appreciate your support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 2, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 2, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 6, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Mr. THOMPSON of California (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment authored by myself and Mr. HUFFMAN from California.

Our amendment would help support the USDA Office of the Inspector General by providing them with additional resources to protect our Nation’s food supply.

In February of this year, Rancho Feeding, a slaughterhouse bordering my district, recalled 8.7 million pounds of beef that it produced in the year 2013. That is no small recall. Unfortunately, the USDA was slow to share information about the nature of the recall and what would happen to the beef already processed by the Rancho facility.

From the beginning of this recall, public safety has been our number one concern. We can’t let food get out that puts the health and safety of the American people at risk. That is why it is important that the Office of the Inspector General have the support it needs from Congress to do its job and ensure our food is safe. This amendment provides them with that additional support.

Jobs, businesses, and livelihoods are on the line. The longer this investigation drags on, the more uncertainty businesses face. Following the results of the investigation, USDA must put in place practices and procedures that prevent this type of recall from occurring in the future.

I want to thank my colleague and friend, Mr. HUFFMAN, for working closely with me on this issue. He and I both represent ranchers affected by this recall. He has shared my frustration during the past few months.

If you support protecting our food supply and ensuring the integrity of USDA programs, then I urge you to support this amendment.

I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

Mr. HUFFMAN. Thank you, Mr. THOMPSON.

The Federal Government has a responsibility to ensure our food safety and to make sure that the meat we barbecue this summer doesn’t come with harmful diseases.

It is the responsibility of the inspectors and the oversight agencies to stop unsafe practices from occurring in the first place and to proactively address problems before they require massive recalls.

Unfortunately, it doesn’t always happen that way. The facility in my district that is now experiencing a sweeping recall of 8.7 million pounds of meat does not represent a simple breakdown in the inspection process.

The Office of the Inspector General has launched a criminal investigation into improper activities that include deceptive practices by the owners of the slaughterhouse. We know, from a CNN investigation, that misconduct may even include some of the very USDA inspectors that were charged with protecting the public.

This incident clearly demands a serious investigation. The public has a right to know what happened, how the process broke down, and who will be held responsible for it. Unfortunately, to date, we have received virtually no information about this from USDA.

This sweeping recall, coupled with a complete lack of information, not only shakes public confidence, it affects, in a very serious way, many of the ranchers in my district whose livelihoods have been harmed. They deserve answers from the USDA, too.

I have many constituents who are facing serious financial losses, and they can’t get any information about what happened. Many ranchers in the North Bay had tens of thousands of pounds of their premium beef recalled, and the USDA won’t tell them what happened, whether their beef was actually contaminated, or even when this case will be closed.

We have gotten far more information, frankly, from CNN than we have gotten from USDA. This is completely unacceptable.

Our amendment transfers \$1 million from the USDA’s administrative account to the inspector general’s office, so that we can have the resources needed to swiftly complete this investigation, close the case, and make sure we get answers, so that we can prevent this from happening again.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HUFFMAN. I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ADERHOLT. I was simply asking the gentleman to yield to say we would accept your language.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Reclaiming my time, thank you very much.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the chairman and ranking member for cooperating with us and working with us on this very important matter, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGO

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,869,000)”.

Page 3, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,869,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Chairman, I offer this amendment because I believe that government must respect the people that it serves and always remember that government is a servant of the people.

Several years ago, the Department of Agriculture closed an inspection station that was incredibly important to the city of Presidio in Presidio County, Texas.

When I took office some 18 months ago and made inquiries, USDA never returned phone calls, never made any effort to work with us to determine why it is that that inspection station was closed.

They refused to work with the city or the county or the local business community, and so businesses across the area were harmed in a way that they will never get their money back as a result of all of the lost business. Presidio was the leading cattle importation port in the country at the time.

This amendment would zero fund their Office of Congressional Relations in an attempt to get the attention of the Department of Agriculture and indicate to them that their behavior is totally, thoroughly, and completely unacceptable.

People in Presidio, as well as people elsewhere across the Nation, deserve respect. Those men and women who run businesses and depend on the cattle industry in that part of the State deserve to have their questions answered.

For the Department to drag its feet for more than 2 years before giving a simple answer as to why that action was taken by the Department is totally, thoroughly and completely inexcusable.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, this amendment would zero fund their Office of Congressional Relations in an attempt to get their attention.

Having offered the amendment, Mr. Chairman, and made my point, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas.

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HINOJOSA

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,500,000)".

Page 2, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,500,000)".

Page 2, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,500,000)".

Page 13, line 8, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,500,000)".

Page 13, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,500,000)".

Mr. HINOJOSA (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Congressman MIKE THOMPSON from California for joining me on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment to H.R. 4800 is simple. It would increase funding for the specialty crop pests program at the Department of Agriculture by \$2.5 million in order to provide more funding to strongly combat the invasive pests that threaten our agriculture industry.

□ 1515

From the Mediterranean fruit fly, which attacks fruits and nuts throughout California, to the imported fire ant that destroys corn and soybean and okra in Louisiana, the need for this program is higher than it has ever been.

Nowhere is this more important than in my own congressional district in south Texas, which is being ravaged by citrus greening. Citrus greening is one of the most destructive plant diseases in the world. Once a citrus tree is infected, it produces bitter, unusable fruit and kills the tree, itself, within a few years. There is no cure, and it has proven to be difficult to eradicate. As a result, over half of the trees in every citrus orchard in Florida have contracted this disease. Right now, both

Cameron and Hidalgo Counties, in my district, are under a full emergency quarantine. This is a growing epidemic that threatens to eradicate an entire agricultural industry if we do not do everything we can to stop it.

While I am pleased that the recently passed farm bill included \$125 million in funding over a 5-year period to study ways to wipe it out, that funding is focused on long-term solutions through competitive grants. The funding for the invasive pest control, which the amendment would increase, is specifically meant to help deal with the immediate impacts on the ground today, programs such as coordinated area-wide suppression programs, pest surveys, protecting disease-free nursery stock, and public outreach and education programs.

While I am happy that the committee provided a modest increase to this funding in the underlying bill, I believe this additional funding is greatly needed to increase our on-the-ground presence to stop the outbreak in Texas from its alarming spread, which threatens the entire State. For these reasons, I would urge the support of my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, the House bill does provide significant funding for this project and report language regarding the citrus growing disease. Mr. ROONEY, Mr. VALADAO, along with Mr. MCCARTHY and Mr. FARR, have raised this issue. We understand how devastating this disease has been, especially to the Florida growers and, certainly, to California as well.

The bill, itself, provides \$44.5 million for the programs that protect the citrus industry, so I believe we have addressed the urgency of the need in this bill. I do accept the gentleman's amendment, understanding this is a very important issue.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. I thank the gentleman for accepting my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, in my area just a year ago, we went to see and meet with all of the producers, and they were showing us the comparison of where we are in Texas as compared to the damage that was done in Florida and in California. Within less than 6 months, we were put under quarantine in my area, and we are one of the three largest citrus growing regions in the whole country—in California, in Florida, and in deep south Texas—where we grow the Ruby Reds and the Navel oranges and all of that.

We are really needing it not over a 5-year period—we need to attack it now. We have the research going on with the Texas A&M University Research Cen-

ter in Weslaco, and this money will help us to be able to stop the damage that has already been done.

I thank you for accepting my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Economist, \$16,777,000, of which \$4,000,000 shall be for grants or cooperative agreements for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155.

NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION

For necessary expenses of the National Appeals Division, \$13,317,000.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, \$9,392,000.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, \$45,025,000, of which not less than \$22,000,000 is for cybersecurity requirements of the Department.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, \$6,028,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 5, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$220,000)".

Page 6, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$220,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer the simplest of amendments.

This amendment transfers \$220,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's wasteful and ineffective Office of the chief financial officer to the Department's Office of Inspector General, bringing their appropriations in line with the President's request. It seems only fitting that the inspector general's office receive additional resources, particularly at the expense of the office it will most likely first investigate.

In April of this year, the inspector general reported that the Department's chief financial officer failed to comply with the Improper Payments Information Act for the third year in a row. The CFO would have saved more than \$415 million by simply following Federal law and ensuring certain programs

met their spending reduction goals. Instead, the CFO continued to turn a blind eye, and the inspector general reported that, last year alone, the USDA made \$6.2 billion in improper payments. Let me repeat that: \$6.2 billion in improper payments were made by the USDA last year alone. I would like to provide a few examples of this wasteful spending.

In fiscal year 2013, the USDA paid more than \$50 million to special interest groups to promote Christmas. The USDA's chief financial officer authorized a loan to a well-established brewing company for over \$450,000. The USDA spent \$20 million on IT software that did not work. On the chief financial officer's watch, \$403,627 was wasted last year on a study to see if we could turn cow manure into electricity. Over 100 people received loan guarantees of \$500,000 or more to buy a home in Hawaii. This "Hawaiian beachfront property" loan program lost nearly \$500 million last year according to the Office of Inspector General.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOSAR. I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ADERHOLT. We will accept your amendment.

Mr. GOSAR. We will accept the gentleman's proposal.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, \$898,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF
GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 5, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000)".

Page 7, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000)".

Page 12, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000)".

Page 18, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000)".

Page 20, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000)".

Page 25, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000)".

Page 26, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000)".

Page 43, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000)".

Page 82, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$40,000)".

Mr. BROUN of Georgia (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from Georgia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply gathers the arbitrary budget increases of \$5,000 added to seven under secretaries' offices and one assistant secretary's office, totaling \$40,000, and it applies that amount to the spending reduction account.

What would a \$5,000 increase to the budget of the office of an under secretary even pay for? Would it pay for one taxpayer-funded trip? for pencils? for paper clips? maybe pay raises to the Federal bureaucrats to implement the nearly \$1 trillion new farm bill?

According to the Web site wallstcheatsheet.com, a person can start a business for \$5,000 or less in overhead; but, Mr. Chairman, the Federal Government is not a business, and it does not run like one, unfortunately, as \$5,000 is a drop in the bucket compared to the accounts we are considering today.

This increase is a symbol of this government's out-of-control spending. Both political parties are guilty. If Congress can't cut \$40,000, then we are facing the root of our spending problem—thousands of dollars can quickly add up to millions, which would soon become billions, and all the while, Congress keeps approving more and more even when there is no good reason for the increase.

The American people have demanded that we cut the outrageous spending that is going on here in Washington by Republicans and Democrats alike. We must look to every corner of the budget to do so. We must become better stewards of taxpayers' dollars, and this amendment is one small step in that right direction.

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's concern for the Federal deficit and the debt problem that we are facing in this Nation. It is something that is very serious, and I appreciate his hard work on this issue. I know that he is very concerned, as we all are, about it.

I am going to have to reluctantly oppose the amendment. We have carefully reviewed the President's budget request, and we believe that we have

appropriately and adequately funded the various mission areas within the Department of Agriculture, and because of that, as I say, I will oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$24,070,000.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313, including authorities pursuant to the 1984 delegation of authority from the Administrator of General Services to the Department of Agriculture under 40 U.S.C. 121, for programs and activities of the Department which are included in this Act, and for alterations and other actions needed for the Department and its agencies to consolidate unneeded space into configurations suitable for release to the Administrator of General Services, and for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and repair of Agriculture buildings and facilities, and for related costs, \$54,825,000, to remain available until expended, for building operations and maintenance expenses: *Provided*, That the Secretary may use unobligated prior year balances of an agency or office that are no longer available for new obligation to cover shortfalls incurred in prior year rental payments for such agency or office.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Department of Agriculture, to comply with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), \$3,600,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That appropriations and funds available herein to the Department for Hazardous Materials Management may be transferred to any agency of the Department for its use in meeting all requirements pursuant to the above Acts on Federal and non-Federal lands.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, including employment pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$97,020,000, including such sums as may be necessary for contracting and other arrangements with public agencies and private persons pursuant to section 6(a)(9) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, and including not to exceed \$125,000 for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended under the direction of the Inspector General pursuant to

Public Law 95-452 and section 1337 of Public Law 97-98.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

For necessary expenses of the Office of the General Counsel, \$44,383,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,181,000)”.

Page 82, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,181,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer another amendment to the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015.

This amendment pertains to the Department of Agriculture’s Office of General Counsel.

By way of background, this office was appropriated \$41,202,000 in fiscal year 2014. The President’s budget for FY15 requested a steep increase of \$6,365,000. The President attempts to justify this 15.4 percent increase by saying that these moneys will go towards: “31 full-time equivalents to handle an increased workload, to support current staff, rent, and enhance OGC’s information technology reporting capabilities and litigation management tools.” In other words, most of that money will be used to hire both government attorneys and to give raises to government attorneys already on staff.

You see, because I am from the Western States, I take issue with that.

I represent a rural district in western Arizona, and I serve on the House Natural Resources Committee, which oversees much of the executive branch’s activities with regard to resources and lands. I am quite familiar with the effects government attorneys often have on States, their resources, and their lands, and my colleagues and I are generally disgusted with the overreaching policies the Obama administration has imposed on Western States. Therefore, I oppose any plans by the Department to hire more government attorneys, many of whom will be used to implement and defend the administration’s overreaching landgrabs, watergrabs, and climate change policies.

I appreciate that this committee decided not to fulfill the President’s request in full, but it did propose appropriating roughly half of his request. I simply cannot, in good conscience, allow more attorneys to be hired at the USDA—attorneys who will infringe upon many States’ 10th Amendment rights.

My amendment proposes to cut most of the increase the Appropriations Committee has offered in this bill, but it leaves a portion of the increase for the sole purpose of improving the informational technology of the Office of the General Counsel.

□ 1530

I understand the Federal Government generally has major issues with information technology. Our departments and agencies are often using archaic IT systems and many should be updated for efficiency and security purposes.

IT issues are often highlighted at my other committee assignment on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. This a bipartisan issue and has been addressed regularly by Chairman ISSA, Ranking Member CUMMINGS, and the rest of my colleagues.

To close, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment. It would help to reserve States’ rights, curb executive branch overreach, cut spending, and improve information technology systems all at once.

As always, I appreciate the work of the committee, particularly the work of the chair and the ranking member.

I urge passage of my commonsense amendment.

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, again, I appreciate the gentleman’s concern for the Federal debt, the deficit problem that we are facing in this Nation. Again, it is a very serious issue, and we need to address it in many ways.

However, I would have to oppose this amendment, reluctantly. We have carefully reviewed the President’s budget, the request that he has made, and we have tried to appropriately and adequately fund the mission areas within the Department of Agriculture.

For that reason, again, we would have to oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate the government’s overreach, particularly in Western States. With due respect, this budget does not look at the appropriate utilization of funds for attorneys. And when you look at the overreach of this administration with climate change, with water, and with resources, it is about time that we made conscious use of attorneys’ fees.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. JOLLY). The question is on the amendment offered

by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF ETHICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Ethics, \$3,440,000.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, \$898,000.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Economic Research Service, \$85,784,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 43, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 44, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the Kelly-Cohen-Titus amendment to increase funding to the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program.

For many young people, the end of school is an exciting day, and they get out for the summer. But for the millions of children and families who rely on school lunch for meals, the summer months are a time of stress, anxiety, and hunger when those meals disappear.

The Summer Food Service Program, created by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

Last Monday, I joined the Summer Food Kickoff at Emerald Square in Memphis in support of this program. I had the opportunity to speak with kids, watch them in delight as they ate their lunch and listened to them read books provided by Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

This amendment would increase the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children program by \$3 million. The project allows USDA to study alternative approaches to providing food assistance to low-income children in urban and rural districts through the summer months.

Additional funding to this program for children would not only reduce childhood hunger when school is out and encourage healthier eating but

allow us to learn more about food insecurity among children and the best approaches to reducing it long-term.

The wealthiest Nation of the world should not send its children to bed hungry, so making sure they have the food they need must be a top priority.

This program helps fill the gap when students are not in school, providing meals for many children that would otherwise go hungry in Memphis, Chicago, Las Vegas, and throughout the Nation.

By increasing funding to this program, we can be sure we are feeding our kids a healthy meal each day. I urge passage of the amendment to restore funding to the Summer Food Service Program.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the gentleman from Tennessee and the gentlewoman from Nevada to offer a commonsense amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations Act that would ensure that this summer, when students walk away from their classroom, they don't walk into homes and communities that allow them to go hungry.

Most of us can remember the excitement of the last day of school. But too many of us forget the fact that, for millions of children in rural, suburban, and urban communities, the summer months, when you no longer have lunchtime in the cafeteria, are often the hungriest time of the year.

Our amendment is a fiscally responsible effort to be there for our kids while providing funds for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children program, which will help the USDA offer responsible solutions that respond to the food security needs of children across our Nation.

When children wake up in Illinois and feel the same exact hunger as kids in Memphis, Las Vegas, and the Speaker's district, we are doing something wrong. I urge my colleagues to work in a bipartisan manner and put kids first and pass this amendment.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to join with my colleagues, Representatives KELLY and COHEN, to introduce this amendment to increase the summer food program for children by \$3 million.

Across the country, one of every five children is at risk of going hungry. In Nevada, more than 233,000 children qualify for free or reduced lunch. That means that 54 percent of Nevada's students come from low-income households that struggle with hunger.

While these children can eat free and reduced-price lunch during the school year, the vast majority are left without adequate nutrition during the summer.

The Summer EBT program is a pilot program that helps fill this gap by providing eligible families with additional SNAP benefits during the summer months. It works.

In 2012, it served almost 67,000 children who might have otherwise gone hungry. The participation in this program is dramatically higher than in other programs, serving up to 75 percent of eligible children.

That is why I believe that we should meet the President's budget request and increase funding to feed as many hungry children as possible. A vacation from school shouldn't mean a hungry child.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF
GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$7,726,000)".

Page 82, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$7,726,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from Georgia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment that would reduce the funding for the USDA's Economic Research Service by \$7,726,000 and increase the spending reduction account by that same amount.

This amendment would maintain, I repeat, maintain current funding levels, while helping to end the duplicative research the USDA is currently conducting.

The Economic Research Service makes social science inquiries into the nutritional choices of citizens, as well as farmers' decisions to participate in risk management programs. According to the USDA, this program is "the primary source of statistical indicators of the farm sector," and it is the only USDA research agency based entirely in D.C., according to the Congressional Research Service.

However, there is a second agency within the USDA, the National Agricultural Statistics Agency, which serves essentially the same purpose. This agency is funded at \$169,371,000 in this bill.

But wait, Mr. Chairman. The underlying bill also provides \$1.2 billion in mandatory spending for research, education, and economics studies, the same function as the Economic Research Service and the National Agricultural Statistics Agency.

Mr. Chairman, we are in an economic and fiscal emergency. The Federal Government spends too much money. It is irresponsible to keep spending money beyond our means. Not only do we need to reduce our deficit, but we need to begin to make an impact on eliminating the huge debt that has been accumulating over the last several years.

I applaud the Appropriations Committee for bringing to the floor five appropriations bills in roughly the same number of weeks. In fact, we haven't seen this particular bill here in the House since 2011.

I offered a similar amendment to this one during the consideration of that bill, to cut \$7 million from the Economic Research Service.

So I ask my colleagues, let's try again. Let's cut the duplicative spending that is in this bill for that agency. Let's make meaningful cuts to show the American people that we are serious about controlling spending and serious about the future of our country. I urge support of my amendment.

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I respect the gentleman's desire to cut, squeeze, and trim and be a deficit hawk, but I think you are really cutting the wrong area.

There are a lot of statistical departments in the Department of Agriculture because it is involved with a lot of different issues, sort of the whole rural economics of America, all the trade issues.

You have got two departments. You have got one that does the big data and one that does the small data.

You are a doctor of medicine, and it would be like comparing an MRI to a thermometer. They both are diagnostic tools but they don't do the same things. And neither does ERS or NAS.

You stated they seem like they duplicate. No, they are both involved in economic research, and I don't know how to explain it all, but it is the underlying data that drives everything, drives all the markets, drives decision-making. The growers are private sector capitalists, if you will, having to borrow from a banking system. They all have to have good data in order to make decisions.

□ 1545

I think, if you squeeze and trim these economic data collectors, you are really hurting the underlying economy of agriculture in the United States, so I would oppose your amendment.

We need crop data. We need market data. We need nutritional data. We need rural economy data, and these are the agencies, particularly the ERS that

you are cutting, that collects that, so I oppose the amendment.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FARR. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank my friend for yielding.

In this bill, we are appropriating \$1.2 billion of mandatory spending to gather data for research education and economic studies.

Is there any reason why, within that \$1.2 billion of getting data, that they cannot do the same function as we are with the Economic Research Service?

Mr. FARR. Well, I am not sure that I understand the gentleman's question, but there are different kinds of data, and there are different places that you collect that data, as there is in everything we do in government and the private sector.

I think what you are doing, I mean, you are taking a program—if you just kind of open the book and look at government and find all these areas where you think there is duplication, I think that the next step is to go and find out exactly where there is waste.

Everybody is against—and we do trim waste because we are always looking for money, but this is not the place. There is no trim there. It doesn't get you anything. In fact, it hurts the users of that data, not being able to have it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, \$169,371,000, of which up to \$47,842,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture: *Provided*, That amounts made available for the Census of Agriculture may be used to conduct Current Industrial Report surveys subject to 7 U.S.C. 2204g(d) and (f).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Research Service and for acquisition of lands by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100, and for land exchanges where the lands exchanged shall be of equal value or shall be equalized by a payment of money to the grantor which shall not exceed 25 percent of the total value of the land or interests transferred out of Federal ownership, \$1,120,253,000: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed one for replacement only: *Provided further*,

That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for the construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided, the cost of constructing any one building shall not exceed \$375,000, except for greenhouses or greenhouses which shall each be limited to \$1,200,000, and except for 10 buildings to be constructed or improved at a cost not to exceed \$750,000 each, and the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building or \$375,000, whichever is greater: *Provided further*, That the limitations on alterations contained in this Act shall not apply to modernization or replacement of existing facilities at Beltsville, Maryland: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center: *Provided further*, That the foregoing limitations shall not apply to replacement of buildings needed to carry out the Act of April 24, 1948 (21 U.S.C. 113a): *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by, and acceptable to, the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the easements shall be that upon completion the facility shall be accepted by the Secretary, subject to the availability of funds herein, if the Secretary finds that acceptance of the facility is in the interest of the United States: *Provided further*, That funds may be received from any State, other political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of establishing or operating any research facility or research project of the Agricultural Research Service, as authorized by law.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture, where not otherwise provided, \$155,000,000 to remain available until expended.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

For payments to agricultural experiment stations, for cooperative forestry and other research, for facilities, and for other expenses, \$774,465,000, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Education Activities" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That funds for research grants for 1994 institutions, education grants for 1890 institutions, the agriculture and food research initiative, veterinary medicine loan repayment, multicultural scholars, graduate fellowship and institution challenge grants, and grants management systems shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That each institution eligible to receive funds under the Evans-Allen program receives no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions be made available to individual eligible institutions or consortia of eligible institutions with funds awarded equally to each of the States of Alaska and Hawaii: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for 1890 institutions shall be made available to institutions eligible to receive funds

under 7 U.S.C. 3221 and 3222: *Provided further*, That not more than 5 percent of the amounts made available by this or any other Act to carry out the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative under 7 U.S.C. 4501(b) may be retained by the Secretary of Agriculture to pay administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out that authority.

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund authorized by Public Law 103-382 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), \$11,880,000, to remain available until expended.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

For payments to States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa, \$467,339,000, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That funds for facility improvements at 1890 institutions shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 for cooperative extension receive no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for cooperative extension under sections 3(b) and (c) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c)) and section 208(c) of Public Law 93-471 shall be available for retirement and employees' compensation costs for extension agents.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

For the integrated research, education, and extension grants programs, including necessary administrative expenses, \$32,000,000, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Integrated Activities" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, \$898,000.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including up to \$30,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4085), \$867,505,000, of which \$470,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available for the control of outbreaks of insects, plant diseases, animal diseases and for control of pest animals and birds (contingency fund) to the extent necessary to meet emergency conditions; of which \$11,520,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used for the cotton pests program for cost share purposes or for debt retirement for active eradication zones; of which \$35,339,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Animal Health Technical Services; of which \$697,000 shall be for activities under the authority of the Horse Protection Act of 1970, as amended (15 U.S.C. 1831); of which \$52,340,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used to support avian health; of which \$4,251,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for information technology infrastructure; of

which \$156,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for specialty crop pests; of which, \$8,826,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for field crop and rangeland ecosystem pests; of which \$47,417,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for tree and wood pests; of which \$4,222,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the National Veterinary Stockpile; of which up to \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the scrapie program for indemnities; of which \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the wildlife damage management program for aviation safety: *Provided*, That of amounts available under this heading for wildlife services methods development, \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of amounts available under this heading for the screwworm program, \$4,990,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That no funds shall be used to formulate or administer a brucellosis eradication program for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States of at least 40 percent: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed four, of which two shall be for replacement only: *Provided further*, That in addition, in emergencies which threaten any segment of the agricultural production industry of this country, the Secretary may transfer from other appropriations or funds available to the agencies or corporations of the Department such sums as may be deemed necessary, to be available only in such emergencies for the arrest and eradication of contagious or infectious disease or pests of animals, poultry, or plants, and for expenses in accordance with sections 10411 and 10417 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8310 and 8316) and sections 431 and 442 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7751 and 7772), and any unexpended balances of funds transferred for such emergency purposes in the preceding fiscal year shall be merged with such transferred amounts: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the repair and alteration of leased buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 13, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, for decades, there has been a growing debate among marine biologists and other professionals over maintaining marine mammals in captivity, but it was last year’s release of the documentary “Blackfish” that spurred a broader public discussion over whether the conditions in which marine mammals, par-

ticularly orcas, are held for public display are humane and whether these animals should even be held in captivity.

I have serious concerns about the psychological and physical harm to orcas and other large marine mammals in captivity. Isolating these animals—which can travel hundreds of miles in a day in the wild and which live in large, complex social groupings—in a small enclosure is troubling.

There is substantial evidence that orcas in captivity live much shorter lives than those in the wild and display high levels of stress and aberrant and sometimes dangerous behavior.

Two weeks ago, Representative HUFFMAN and I, along with 38 of our colleagues, sent a letter to the Department of Agriculture, urging them to move forward with a rulemaking regarding conditions of captivity for marine mammals under the Animal Welfare Act.

Twenty years ago, the Department recognized the need to revise regulations. Ten years ago, the Department proposed such a rulemaking and received many public comments. Since then, progress has stalled, despite the public outcry about this issue.

Our amendment would serve to kick-start that effort by providing \$1 million for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to study the effect of captivity on large marine mammals, so that USDA can follow through with proposing a rule that is long overdue.

Among the issues that would benefit from an unbiased examination by APHIS are the effects of captivity on the longevity of marine mammals, whether they suffer from physical and mental maladies at a higher rate than animals in the wild and whether they display unnatural and unhealthy behaviors indicating high levels of stress.

The finding of this study will inform the USDA’s consideration of reopening a rulemaking process, which could result in scientifically-based regulations that ensure humane conditions for these awe-inspiring animals.

The amendment does not change existing rules and regulations. Instead, we are calling on the USDA to gather all scientific evidence and propose a rule that has been 20 years in the making. I urge adoption of the amendment.

At this point, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), who is a leader on this issue.

Mr. HUFFMAN. I thank my colleague from southern California for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, like many people, I did a lot of reflecting after I saw the documentary “Blackfish.” Specifically, I looked into whether our Federal authorities were using the most updated science-based information in their regulation of marine mammal captivity.

I was disappointed to find that our government has done virtually nothing

to update these regulations in the last two decades.

APHIS, the agency charged with this responsibility, has not updated the Animal Welfare Act regulations since 1995, and these rules should have been updated 10 years ago, when APHIS opened up a rulemaking process. Unfortunately, they dropped the ball, so it is time to try again.

As Congressman SCHIFF mentioned, we recently led a sign-on letter with three dozen of our colleagues to Agriculture Secretary Vilsack, demanding action on that issue.

In that letter, we urged him to complete the updating of these regulations for captive marine mammals, including publishing the proposed rule and allowing a public comment period, so that we can incorporate the latest science.

We have had no response to that letter, so today, we are offering an amendment to provide APHIS with the funding needed to start that process again and ensure that our regulations for captive orcas and other marine mammals are based on modern science.

This amendment reminds APHIS that inaction is unacceptable. The agency must use the funds provided to ensure that we have on the books the best possible standards for captive marine mammals based on solid modern science and informed by all of the information that we have gleaned in the past two decades.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment

Mr. SCHIFF. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

In fiscal year 2015, the agency is authorized to collect fees to cover the total costs of providing technical assistance, goods, or services requested by States, other political subdivisions, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, or individuals, provided that such fees are structured such that any entity’s liability for such fees is reasonably based on the technical assistance, goods, or services provided to the entity by the agency, and such fees shall be reimbursed to this account, to remain available until expended, without further appropriation, for providing such assistance, goods, or services.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, preventive maintenance, environmental support, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2250, and acquisition of land as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 428a, \$3,175,000, to remain available until expended.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

MARKETING SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, \$81,192,000: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration

and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 16, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$15,500,000)”.

Page 48, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to compliment the chairman and the ranking member for the work that they have done to bring this bill to the floor, but this bill can be improved.

There is growing bipartisan support for improving our international food assistance to ensure that more people are helped for less money. Unfortunately, this bill fails to advance international food aid reform, and it actually reverses progress achieved in the 2014 farm bill, legislation enacted by this body just a few months ago.

It fails to provide flexibility, so that up to 25 percent of the Food for Peace title II budget would be exempt from U.S. purchase requirements. If enacted, this proposal would have generated over \$100 million in efficiency savings and enabled the United States to reach an additional 2 million people in dire need of food aid. An effective international food aid program helps those in need, and it strengthens our international security.

Finally, the bill fails to fund a congressionally authorized, broadly supported Local and Regional Procurement program. Following upon a successful pilot, the 2014 farm bill authorized \$80 million per year for the Local and Regional Procurement program.

That means we can buy food closer to the area in crisis, reducing transit time by more than 10 weeks, reducing the cost per food aid recipient by 20 to 30 percent. This was considered an important reform that won, again, broad bipartisan support.

This amendment contains a modest shift in funding that will have a major impact, \$10 million, while reducing funds for the administration of marketing and promotion programs that benefit major corporations. We can save lives. It is an easy choice.

Mr. Chairman, our food aid takes too long to arrive and costs too much to get there. A former top aid official told our committee that:

In fast onset famines, such as Somalia in 1991–1992, and wars involving mass population displacement, such as in Darfur in 2003 and 2004, I watched people die waiting for food arrive.

Obviously, he strongly backs this reform.

Lastly, I recently traveled to the Philippines and witnessed firsthand the impact that LRP can have. Devastated by a powerful typhoon and left with virtually nothing, the people of Tacloban did not have the luxury of time to wait for U.S. food aid to arrive from warehouses in Sri Lanka.

In fact, it took more than 3 weeks for those shipments to arrive, but with local and regional procurement, we were able to start helping people right away, and we saved lives.

I would say, in Syria, where the delivery of U.S. food is nearly impossible, the combination of vouchers with local and regional purchase is the only viable option.

It is time to make a change. This requires \$10 million. Vote “yes,” please, on the Royce amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, my colleague from California (Mr. ROYCE) has been working at this issue for a very long time, and he has considerable knowledge and certainly a compassion and a deep understanding of these issues. There is far more to this than was explained in your presentation.

There is an ongoing debate about how the United States ought to be assisting in the disasters and famines around the world. That debate came to a head last year in which it was decided that we ought to continue with the longstanding appeal for a Food for Peace program, with some modifications.

My concern here with this particular amendment is that it may open the door for a continuation of that debate and ultimately lead to the demise of the P.L. 480 program, which has extraordinary political support as a result of the combination of American farmers, the merchant marine industry, as well as many NGOs around the Nation.

I recognize that, in many places, it is necessary to have local purchases of food, and the chairman actually cited a couple of those examples. It turned out that the local purchase of food was accomplished through an existing program that USAID presently has, and that program is the international disaster assistance program, where money is available for the local purchase of food.

The bottom line is that this \$10 million really doesn't add anything that isn't already available in the current

appropriation—in the current bill, so I would say let's not go down this road right now. Let's not open up this door to what may very well be a very extensive debate that we have already had, so I would softly oppose the amendment.

I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. FINCHER. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment. This amendment would essentially duplicate an existing program already in place at the U.S. Agency for International Development under the international development assistance account.

□ 1600

USAID already allows for local and regional purchases so there is no need for the same program at the USDA.

More importantly, this amendment would use taxpayer dollars to purchase commodities from foreign countries rather than right here at home. Unlike other foreign aid programs, the Food for Peace program is American-made through and through. It was designed to take American commodities on American ships overseas to feed those in need.

The Food for Peace program supports American agriculture, exports, and jobs while increasing goodwill overseas and helping those in need. The USDA estimates that for every \$1 billion in U.S. agricultural exports, 8,400 American jobs are created. We need to be focused on creating jobs here at home and growing our economy so the United States is able to be abundantly generous to countries that can't grow enough food to feed their growing populations.

This amendment gives away American tax dollars to our foreign competitors and puts American jobs at risk. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and support American farmers, workers, and taxpayers.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield my remaining 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Mr. ROYCE's amendment. I want to work with him on an offset that I think might be a little more desirable.

But the notion here somehow that we are going to undercut the reforms that were achieved in the farm bill that require food, on average, to take 74 days longer, when you use U.S.-sourced commodities, when it is going to be, on average, 25 percent more expensive, and to talk about our “foreign competitors,” when we are talking about being able to purchase locally from people who are on the edge of impoverishment, rather than flooding American

commodities that are more expensive late in the game and undercutting local production, I think is a sad step forward.

I appreciate the gentleman's leadership and strongly urge support of this as we work for a better offset.

Mr. ROYCE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROYCE. In closing, I would just say that I am open to working with the chairman and ranking member to find an appropriate offset in conference. However, it is essential to adopt this amendment now so that this matter can be set, we can put a marker down, and get this in place. I thank the gentleman for the support for the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO) having assumed the chair, Mr. JOLLY, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4800) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1651

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). Pursuant to House Resolution 616 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the

Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4800.

Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1652

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4800) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 7, printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), had been postponed, and the bill had been read through page 16, line 19.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Fees may be collected for the cost of standardization activities, as established by regulation pursuant to law (31 U.S.C. 9701).

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$60,709,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses: *Provided*, That if crop size is understated or other uncontrollable events occur, the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

FUNDS FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY (SECTION 32)

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Funds available under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), shall be used only for commodity program expenses as authorized therein, and other related operating expenses, except for: (1) transfers to the Department of Commerce as authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Act of August 8, 1956; (2) transfers otherwise provided in this Act; and (3) not more than \$20,056,000 for formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 and the Agricultural Act of 1961.

PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

For payments to departments of agriculture, bureaus and departments of markets, and similar agencies for marketing activities under section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)), \$1,235,000.

GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, \$43,722,000: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARDNER

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask

unanimous consent that the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) be listed as a cosponsor of my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. An amendment may not be cosponsored.

The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 18, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,461,000)".

Page 42, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,461,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment which provides an additional \$3.4 million for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas.

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program was reduced from FY14-enacted levels, and my amendment restores some of the funding to improve access to health care and education for rural areas.

Rural areas are typically areas where they have local primary care physicians who perform routine checkups and primary care. But what if a patient requires a specialist or has a more complicated medical condition?

My hometown of Yuma, Colorado, is more than 2 hours from a number of specialized medical services, complex trauma centers, or oncology centers. The doctors in our area and in other rural areas do the best job they can with the resources that they have, but most lack the specialization to treat more complicated cases.

We can improve patient outcomes, quality of life, lower costs, and improve care by utilizing technology that is already available. This amendment provides additional resources for our rural communities to do just that. Increases in funding for telemedicine will give patients access to health care anywhere at any time.

Additionally, this amendment would provide funding to support distance learning services. These funds will go toward providing better educational opportunities to students in rural areas. There is no reason children should be at a disadvantage simply because of their location.

This amendment reduces the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration by \$3.4 million back to the FY14-enacted levels. GIPSA's responsibility is to oversee the marketing of livestock, poultry, meats, grains, and other agriculture products. This agency has more than ample resources to do its work, and it is only reducing funds to the FY14-enacted levels.

This amendment will provide so much more to the people in our rural communities, and I urge a "yes" vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Does anyone wish to speak in opposition to the amendment?

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for his support, and I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for his support and encourage passage of this bill to help rural Colorado and rural America produce and provide greater telemedicine opportunities for the country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$50,000,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for inspection and weighing services: *Provided*, That if grain export activities require additional supervision and oversight, or other uncontrollable factors occur, this limitation may be exceeded by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, \$816,000.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

For necessary expenses to carry out services authorized by the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, including not to exceed \$50,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$1,005,189,000; and in addition, \$1,000,000 may be credited to this account from fees collected for the cost of laboratory accreditation as authorized by section 1327 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 138f): *Provided*, That funds provided for the Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure system shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That no fewer than 148 full-time equivalent positions shall be employed during fiscal year 2015 for purposes dedicated solely to inspections and enforcement related to the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 19, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,500,000)".

Page 20, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$5,500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this amendment is to reverse \$5.5 million in cuts for food safety and food inspection here in the United States.

Currently, the Food Safety and Inspection Service is funded at \$1,005,189,000 in this bill. That is \$5.5 million below the current enacted amount and \$17.581 million below the Senate allocation in their agriculture appropriations bill.

This bill seeks to remove \$5.5 million from a pay-for from the Farm Service Agency. The Farm Service Agency is funded at \$1,205,068,000 in this bill. That is over \$27 million above the current enacted amount, and it is \$65.5 million above the President's request and \$22.5 million above the Senate allocation.

Certainly, farm conservation and regulation is very important, and that is the function of the Farm Service Agency. However, food safety and food inspection is paramount because of all the problems that the country is facing today on this count.

According to this study by Robert Scharff that I have in my hand here from the Journal of Food Protection, dated 2012, the economic burden of health loss is due to foodborne illnesses in the United States. The cost of foodborne illnesses in the United States each year is \$77.7 billion. That is \$77.7 billion. Food safety and food losses and foodborne illnesses lead to 128,000 hospitalizations every year and, unfortunately, 3,000 deaths every year in the United States.

Specifically, we have a total of 3,036 deaths caused by bacteria, by parasites, and by viruses. The shame of it, Mr. Chairman, the ultimate shame, is that food poisoning is 100 percent preventable. Every single instance of death, hospitalization could be avoided if we had a properly funded and fully funded food inspection system. That is the dilemma that faces us today.

□ 1700

Each year, under this bill, the inspectors are required to inspect every animal before slaughter and each carcass after slaughter, in order to ensure that public health requirements are met.

In one recent year, this included 50 billion pounds of livestock carcasses, 59 billion pounds of poultry carcasses, and 4.3 billion pounds of processed egg products. At U.S. borders, they also inspected 3.3 billion pounds of imported meat and poultry products.

Increasingly, food safety is a global concern. Globalization of food production and trade increases the likelihood of international incidents involving contaminated food. Imported food products and ingredients are common in many countries, including our own.

Stronger food safety systems in export countries can reinforce local and

cross border health security, but, frankly, the ultimate responsibility is ours.

Seventy-five percent of new infectious diseases affecting humans over the past 10 years were caused by bacteria, viruses, and pathogens that started in animals and in animal products. Many of these diseases are in people who are related to the handling of infected domestic and wild animals during food production, in food markets, and at slaughterhouses.

Preventing disease starts at the farm, which is where the inspections take place. Preventing animal infections at the farm level can reduce foodborne illnesses.

For example, reducing the amount of salmonella in farm chickens by 50 percent through better farm management and inspections results in 50 percent fewer incidences of people getting sick from the bacteria. Salmonella-free chicken herds are what this country needs.

It is fundamentally irresponsible for this body to be cutting the Food Safety and Inspection Service budget. God help us all if there is some widespread outbreak in this country where we don't have 3,000 deaths a year, we don't have 30,000 deaths a year, but we have 300,000 deaths a year caused by poor food inspection standards.

We must restore this money to the budget, and I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, the bill that we have on the floor provides over \$1 billion for the Food Safety and Inspection Service. The amount is an increase of \$3.8 million above the President's own request.

Food safety is certainly important. I don't think anyone can argue that that is not a very important issue that we have made in this bill. We have proven that by exceeding the amount requested by the minority's own administration request.

Now is not the time to be reducing funds from the Farm Service Agency. They are trying trying to implement the new farm bill and provide assistance to American farmers and ranchers.

We have a bipartisan request to prevent the administration from implementing their plan to close FSA offices. Support of the amendment is equivalent to supporting a closure of FSA offices across the country.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amount, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I would simply submit that we cannot expect more for less. If we are going to

be reducing the budget for food inspection in this country, we will have less food inspections, we will have more disease, we will have more hospitalizations, and we will have more deaths.

That is not something that I want on my conscience. God help us all if such a thing happens, but I want to know that I did everything I could to avoid that from happening. It is fundamentally silly and wrong to think that we can cut the budget and somehow expect people to do more for less.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, let me just say that the Farm Service Agency is a very important aspect of this bill. We are hearing from a lot of our Members about FSA office closure. If this amendment passes, this may mean the closure of some of the FSA offices.

Again, I would oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

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

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, \$898,000.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Service Agency, \$1,205,068,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary is authorized to use the services, facilities, and authorities (but not the funds) of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make program payments for all programs administered by the Agency: *Provided further*, That other funds made available to the Agency for authorized activities may be advanced to and merged with this account: *Provided further*, That funds made available to county committees shall remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HOLDING). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 20, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$11,000,000) (increased by \$11,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, the amendment my colleague Mr. GARAMENDI and I are offering simply decreases the funding for the Farm Service Agency by \$11 million and increases it by the same amount. The intent of this amendment is to ensure that \$11 million goes towards the Emergency Conservation Program, or ECP.

Mr. Chairman, you might wonder why I would decrease and increase the amount by the same amount, but in the arcane world of appropriations, it is the intent of Congress—and we want to make sure that the intent is there—to put this money into the Emergency Conservation Program.

The ECP helps farmers and ranchers during severe drought. They are able to use this program’s funding to repair damaged farm land or install measures for water conservation.

My State of California has more than 80,000 farmers and ranchers, accounting for 15 percent of national receipts for crops and 77.1 percent for the U.S. revenue for livestock and livestock products. State exports totaled approximately \$18 billion in value.

Unfortunately, California is experiencing a prolonged and serious drought. Conditions haven’t improved. Snowpack and reservoirs are at historically low levels. This drought is a State emergency, and support will be needed through the rest of this year and next.

Our farmers and ranchers need every available resource right now, rather than responding after the fact when the damage is more severe. Programs like the ECP are critical for these farmers and ranchers in times of exceptional drought.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to my colleague from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, my colleague from California has it right. California is in a severe drought, as well as half a dozen other States, including Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Georgia, Oregon, and Nevada.

The intent of this amendment is to signal to the Department of Agriculture to move some money out of the salaries and the support for the Farm Service Agency and over to the Emergency Conservation Program. We know \$11 million isn’t going to do it, but it is a good start, and it is a signal that we need to send.

I know that, in my own district, we normally have over 500,000 acres of rice. This year, it will be 300,000 acres of rice planted. We have tens of thousands of acres of walnuts and almonds. Many of those orchards are going to die, unless there is an opportunity to provide for the emergency conservation programs that will be needed. Those are wells, pumps, and other systems.

We ought to do this. I urge an “aye” vote on this amendment. It moves

money from one account to another account and back to the original account.

This is a messaging amendment. I ask for your “aye” vote.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, our farmers need the assistance right now. I am glad that the House appears to be ready to take a vote.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 20, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “, of which \$50,000,000 shall be for the emergency conservation program under title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I love messaging, and I appreciate the House acquiescing to the previous amendment that is a messaging amendment.

Now, let’s do something. Let’s not just send a message. Let’s send \$50 million to the Department of Agriculture’s Emergency Conservation Program, so that they can carry out an absolutely essential task, which is to assist farmers in States such as California, Nevada, Oregon, New Mexico, Texas, and Georgia. Those States are all experiencing drought. There will be others as this year progresses.

The money can be used immediately to set up water conservation programs. For example, earlier today, a research program that has been administered by the Department of Agriculture that has proven in several States, such as Maryland, Georgia, California, and others, is using modern technology like soil moisture sensing devices, coupled directly with irrigation systems that can be turned on when the plant needs water, not when the irrigator needs water.

Those systems can save between 20 and 40 percent of the normal consumption in the agricultural sector. That applies to virtually every kind of plant that might be grown.

It certainly applies in my own district with those almond orchards that are now without an adequate supply of water. If this was available to them now—as it could be if we were to pass this amendment and the appropriation bill—those farmers could then access this money, put in place those water

conservation technologies, and stretch their supply, allowing them to keep their orchards alive.

God forbid that we have another drought.

Under the present scenario, thousands of orchards in California will die for lack of water, but if we can save this year and next year 20 to 40 percent of the water that is available, which is possible if we actually enact this legislation and provide the kind of incentive—in this case, 75 percent Federal, 25 percent farmer—we could keep those orchards alive.

So I appeal to my colleagues that we allow this to be done. The money comes from the overall account that is within the Department that provides for administrative expenses and salaries. Move it from there over to this conservation account. That money would then be available to farmers to use.

We ought to do this. We have other drought legislation that has moved through this House and went to the Senate, but there is no money in those accounts—well, we have the money.

The question is: Are we willing to make it available for farmers in any State where there is a drought emergency?

I would ask for your “aye” vote on this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, this is the first time that we have seen this amendment.

I do have to rise in opposition. We are very concerned that this is not the appropriate time to be reducing funds for FSAs. We are trying to implement the new farm program at this time, providing assistance to the farmers and ranchers across America.

□ 1715

We have had bipartisan requests to prevent the administration from implementing its plan to close FSA offices. Members on both sides of the aisle have voiced their concerns to us about these closures. Supporting this amendment is equivalent to supporting the closure of offices, so I would urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by

the gentleman from California will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

For grants pursuant to section 502(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5101–5106), \$3,404,000.

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out well-head or groundwater protection activities under section 12400 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-2), \$2,500,000, to remain available until expended.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses involved in making indemnity payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products under a dairy indemnity program, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such program is carried out by the Secretary in the same manner as the dairy indemnity program described in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-387, 114 Stat. 1549A–12).

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed farm ownership (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.) and operating (7 U.S.C. 1941 et seq.) loans, emergency loans (7 U.S.C. 1961 et seq.), Indian tribe land acquisition loans (25 U.S.C. 488), boll weevil loans (7 U.S.C. 1989), guaranteed conservation loans (7 U.S.C. 1924 et seq.), and Indian highly fractionated land loans (25 U.S.C. 488) to be available from funds in the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund, as follows: \$2,000,000,000 for guaranteed farm ownership loans and \$1,500,000,000 for farm ownership direct loans; \$1,393,443,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans and \$1,252,004,000 for direct operating loans; emergency loans, \$34,667,000; Indian tribe land acquisition loans, \$2,000,000; guaranteed conservation loans, \$150,000,000; Indian highly fractionated land loans, \$10,000,000; and for boll weevil eradication program loans, \$60,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall deem the pink bollworm to be a boll weevil for the purpose of boll weevil eradication program loans.

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: farm operating loans, \$63,101,000 for direct operating loans, \$14,770,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans, and emergency loans, \$856,000, to remain available until expended.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$314,918,000, of which \$306,998,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for “Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses”.

Funds appropriated by this Act to the Agricultural Credit Insurance Program Account for farm ownership, operating and conservation direct loans and guaranteed loans may be transferred among these programs: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Risk Management Agency, \$77,094,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1506(i).

CORPORATIONS

The following corporations and agencies are hereby authorized to make expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accord with law, and to make contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation or agency, except as hereinafter provided.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

For payments as authorized by section 516 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1516), such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND

REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, pursuant to section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a–11): *Provided*, That of the funds available to the Commodity Credit Corporation under section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i) for the conduct of its business with the Foreign Agricultural Service, up to \$5,000,000 may be transferred to and used by the Foreign Agricultural Service for information resource management activities of the Foreign Agricultural Service that are not related to Commodity Credit Corporation business.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

(LIMITATION ON EXPENSES)

For the current fiscal year, the Commodity Credit Corporation shall not expend more than \$5,000,000 for site investigation and cleanup expenses, and operations and maintenance expenses to comply with the requirement of section 107(g) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9607(g)), and section 6001 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6961).

TITLE II

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, \$898,000.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for carrying out the provisions of the Act of April 27, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 590a–f), including preparation of conservation plans and establishment of measures to conserve soil and water (including farm irrigation and land drainage and such special measures for soil and water management as may be necessary to prevent floods and the siltation of reservoirs and to control agricultural related pollutants); operation of conservation plant materials centers; classification and mapping of soil; dissemination of information; acquisition of lands, water,

and interests therein for use in the plant materials program by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100 pursuant to the Act of August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 428a); purchase and erection or alteration or improvement of permanent and temporary buildings; and operation and maintenance of aircraft, \$843,053,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for construction and improvement of buildings and public improvements at plant materials centers, except that the cost of alterations and improvements to other buildings and other public improvements shall not exceed \$250,000: *Provided further*, That when buildings or other structures are erected on non-Federal land, that the right to use such land is obtained as provided in 7 U.S.C. 2250a.

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Under the authorities of section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, \$25,000,000 is provided.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) be listed as a cosponsor of my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. An amendment may not be cosponsored.

The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 26, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced to \$0)".

Page 82, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$25,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from Georgia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would eliminate all funding provided in the bill for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

Across the United States, 11,000 dams have been constructed in local communities under this program for the purpose of mitigating flood conditions. Most of these dams were built in the 1940s and 1950s, and thousands of them are suspected to be in need of attention. Of this amount, only about 120 dams have been repaired so as to extend their use into modern times. Indeed, given the advances of engineering technology in the last 50 years, these refurbished dams may last well into the next century, but Federal funding to maintain these many-State infrastructure projects is simply not sustainable.

Under the farm bill passed earlier this year, the Watershed Rehabilitation Program was authorized to receive both increased mandatory as well as discretionary funding. However, the President has not requested funding for this program in over 3 years, in large part because he recognizes that the responsibility to maintain these projects

must ultimately fall on the local project sponsors. Likewise, over in the Senate, zero dollars has been provided via discretionary spending in recent years; and according to the Congressional Research Service, it is expected that the mandatory spending will ultimately be canceled permanently. In fact, the Watershed Rehabilitation Program has never been allowed to spend mandatory funding.

So why is the House falling all over itself to fund this program?

Mr. Chairman, as long as the Federal Government is involved in this dam program, the process of identifying problem dams and implementing rehabilitation plans will be much like everything else the Federal Government undertakes. It will be slow, painstaking, and way too expensive.

In my home State of Georgia, we have many dams that we depend on to mitigate heavy rains and prevent floods. I have to say, Mr. Chairman, that I agree with the President here. I don't agree with him sometimes, and I do agree with him many times, but in this place, I agree with him in that we ought to leave the maintenance of these projects to the States. They know better than the Federal Government what works for their communities.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, which is to limit spending money that we just don't have.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to hear that my friend from Georgia agrees with the President on something. That is kind of a fascinating turn of events considering his traditional record, but let's focus for a moment on what the upstream flood control dams do.

This is a program that began in the 1940s to build small earthen dams—too small to fall within the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction—to act as interlocking flood control structures to protect people and property and assets below the structures wherever they may be, all the way to the Atlantic Ocean or all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

The problem, you see, is that, as meritorious and as wonderful as these 3,000 structures have worked, time takes its toll on everything, and if we don't pursue this program to rehabilitate them—to extend the life—not only will they not continue the protection of people and of property and of wildlife and not only will they not restrain the silt and manage floods, but they will have to be taken out, and all of the good they have done will be undone.

So what does this language in the bill do?

It provides cost share money so that local entities can rehabilitate these structures.

My colleague was exactly right in that the advance of technology is tremendous. The work that is done should last—instead of 50 years—100 years or more, but we have got 3,000 of these structures, and they are getting older. Spending a little money to extend their lives to continue to protect wildlife and people and property from every structure all the way to the ocean seems like a wise use of resources.

Now, I understand that there is something like \$900 million in requested funding in 2014 to meet this need. This farm bill language doesn't meet all of that need, but it takes a huge step in the right direction. We spend a lot of money around here on things that last just a few minutes or a few hours or a few days. This is an investment that will last a century in building on a previous half century's investment—a wise use of resources.

The government built these dams to protect life and property, and many of these structures are hitting their life expectancies. Let's spend a little bit to continue that wise investment. Yes, let's keep the silt out of the streams, and, yes, let's enhance the wildlife qualities up and down these streams, but don't ever forget not just the property but the people who can sleep at night without the fear of what Mother Nature may do because of the upstream flood control dams.

I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment. I urge them to continue to support the investment that has been so wisely made since the 1940s. Please vote "no."

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my good friend, the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, is very erudite in his discussion against my amendment, but the facts are these: there is \$250 million authorized in the farm bill—in his own bill. In this bill, there is \$92 million in mandatory spending that is being appropriated, and I am not touching debt whatsoever. The mandatory spending has never gone out.

I certainly know about farm dams and how flood control works. In fact, back in 1994, I was living in Americus, Georgia—I was practicing medicine there—and we had a hurricane that parked itself right over Americus, Georgia. In a 24-hour period, we had 25 inches of rain, and 30 people died in southwest Georgia because of the upstream dams' failing one by one in a fashion that was just like dominoes that were falling over. The water ran into Lake Blackshear, Georgia. Then it went from there down to Albany, Georgia, and there was a tremendous flood in Albany. All of southwest Georgia got flooded, and 30 people were killed because of it.

I certainly know about that, and I have a great feeling for that, but the problem is that the mandatory spending has never been spent. What I am doing in my amendment is just striking the \$25 million extra in discretionary spending. I believe that we ought to repair those dams. We need to help make sure that we have some flood mitigation, but we are not utilizing the authorized money or the appropriated money appropriately.

We are in an economic emergency as a nation. Let's utilize our money from a fiscally sane perspective. That is what I am trying to do, and I encourage the acceptance of my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DUNCAN OF
TENNESSEE

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 26, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 82, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentleman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, my amendment deals with the same part of the bill as Mr. BROUN's, and it is very similar.

My amendment would save \$10 million by reducing the increase in this program, the Watershed Rehabilitation Program. Let me repeat that, Mr. Chairman. My amendment simply reduces the increase. It is not a cut. In fact, this program would still be getting a 25 percent increase in discretionary funds even if my amendment were approved. In addition, this program has had a restriction on mandatory spending since 2002. Under this bill, this restriction is being removed.

This means that, without my amendment, spending on this program, which was \$12 million this year and \$13.6 million last year, will go to \$117 million this next fiscal year. No other department or agency in the Federal Government is receiving this type of increase—almost 10 times what is being spent on this program during this fiscal year.

This is a program for which the President requested no funding, as Mr. BROUN mentioned, and for which the Senate Appropriations Committee provides no funding, which he also mentioned. Surely, Republicans in the House are not going to allow the President or the Senate to act in a more fiscally conservative manner than we here in the House.

□ 1730

Most State and local governments are in much better fiscal shape than the Federal Government is with our \$17.6 trillion national debt. They can carry out this program, where necessary, or farmers themselves can do some improvement.

The National Taxpayers Union supports this amendment and has announced that they will be including my amendment in their ratings of congressional votes.

Mr. Chairman, this is a very modest attempt to do at least a little something about our horrendous debt. Admiral Mike Mullen, a very respected man who was Chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff a couple of years ago gave several speeches and testified before several committees of the House and Senate; and he said over and over again that our national debt is the greatest threat to our national security. This amendment is a small step, but an important step toward doing something about that.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS. My friends, once again, slightly different amount, same subject.

What can I say?

Yes, in the process of putting the farm bill together, where we saved \$23 billion, we looked very carefully at all of the programs underneath our jurisdictions. Many things were reformed, reducing spending.

Some things that have worked extremely well actually received more resources. I think that part of being competent and wise legislators is assessing how the resources are used, reducing spending in wasteful areas, and enhancing spending in areas that are wisely spent. I think that is what we are about here.

Now, I know that apparently there are outside groups that have chosen to score this, and I would remind my friends that they score a variety of things. But why do you have to pick on the things that affect rural America?

Why do you have to address the infrastructure issues that go after public safety, preservation of property, life itself?

I suppose if you are sitting somewhere in an ivory tower typing out

scorecards, you can pick the things that are less relevant to you.

But of those 3,000 structures scattered across America, dating back to the 1940s, countless, countless lives and millions, if not hundreds of millions, of dollars of property have been protected. I think that is a good use of our resources, a wise commitment in how we allocate our funds.

Now, some of my colleagues have alluded to the way in which the funds are handled, the mandatory dollars coming through the farm bill every so many years and how, in the magical process called appropriations, some of that mandatory money becomes discretionary.

I do not pretend to have enough time to discuss the nuances of that art form, but I will say this: as long as the resources are of sufficient caliber to make a major effort in meeting the needs that exist, whether it is through the every 5-year farm bill or the annual appropriations process by our friends on the Ag Subcommittee of Appropriations, let's just do the right thing. And on this occasion, we are doing the right thing.

If you care about long-term investments, if you care about public safety, if you care about property—and I repeat one more time: for those of you have ever been in the field that look at these structures, they act to control silt flows in streams. That is important to wildlife and fish. That is important to water quality, and they inhibit these floods that come, and then they meter the water out in a slow fashion.

The overwhelming lion's share of them do not impound water, they simply slow the process down so that the streams and rivers below can handle it.

My real regret here is that we haven't put more effort in the last 50 years into these structures. If we had, if we would have, if we could, or if we will some day, the effect on the environment, the effect on our fellow citizens will be tremendous, even more than it is now.

Again, please reject this amendment. I know my Republican friends here are very sincere in following the President's lead on this, but please reject this amendment. Let's continue to make this investment.

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I will simply repeat that my amendment does not go as far as Mr. BROUN's. It would save \$10 million, if adopted.

This program, if my amendment is not adopted, will receive an increase almost 10 times the amount that is being spent on this program in this fiscal year. It would seem to me that most people in this country would feel it is ridiculous to give any program a tenfold increase. I know the Congress is very generous in spending other people's money, but they are going too far on this.

I urge my colleagues to support my very minimal, modest amendment.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I respect my colleague from Tennessee greatly. I believe he is very sincere in what he is trying to do. I do not question his motives. I have great faith in Congressman DUNCAN.

But this amendment, like the previous amendment, has long-term ramifications. They have long-term ramifications on previous investments made.

Let's reject these two amendments. Let's continue the good work that has been done. Let's focus on the things that we need to be doing.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TITLE III

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development, \$898,000.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for carrying out the administration and implementation of programs in the Rural Development mission area, including activities with institutions concerning the development and operation of agricultural cooperatives; and for cooperative agreements; \$224,201,000: *Provided*, That no less than \$15,000,000 shall be for the Comprehensive Loan Accounting System: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support the Rural Development mission area: *Provided further*, That any balances available from prior years for the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Business-Cooperative Service salaries and expenses accounts shall be transferred to and merged with this appropriation.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, to be available from funds in the rural housing insurance fund, as follows: \$1,042,276,000 shall be for direct loans and

\$24,000,000,000 shall be for unsubsidized guaranteed loans; \$26,372,000 for section 504 housing repair loans; \$28,398,000 for section 515 rental housing; \$150,000,000 for section 538 guaranteed multi-family housing loans; \$10,000,000 for credit sales of single family housing acquired property; \$5,000,000 for section 523 self-help housing land development loans; and \$5,000,000 for section 524 site development loans.

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: section 502 loans, \$76,920,000 shall be for direct loans; section 504 housing repair loans, \$3,700,000; and repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of section 515 rental housing, \$9,800,000: *Provided*, That to support the loan program level for section 538 guaranteed loans made available under this heading the Secretary may charge or adjust any fees to cover the projected cost of such loan guarantees pursuant to the provisions of the Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the interest on such loans may not be subsidized: *Provided further*, That of the amounts available under this paragraph for section 502 direct loans, no less than \$5,000,000 shall be available for direct loans for individuals whose homes will be built pursuant to a program funded with a mutual and self-help housing grant authorized by section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 until June 1, 2015.

In addition, for the cost of direct loans, grants, and contracts, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 1484 and 1486, \$15,936,000, to remain available until expended, for direct farm labor housing loans and domestic farm labor housing grants and contracts: *Provided*, That any balances available for the Farm Labor Program Account shall be transferred to and merged with this account.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$415,100,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed pursuant to the authority under section 521(a)(2) or agreements entered into in lieu of debt forgiveness or payments for eligible households as authorized by section 502(c)(5)(D) of the Housing Act of 1949, \$1,088,500,000; and, in addition, such sums as may be necessary, as authorized by section 521(c) of the Act, to liquidate debt incurred prior to fiscal year 1992 to carry out the rental assistance program under section 521(a)(2) of the Act: *Provided*, That rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed during the current fiscal year shall be funded for a 1-year period: *Provided further*, That rental assistance contracts will not be renewed within the 12-month contract period: *Provided further*, That any unexpended balances remaining at the end of such 1-year agreements may be transferred and used for the purposes of any debt reduction; maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation of any existing projects; preservation; and rental assistance activities authorized under title V of the Act: *Provided further*, That rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2015 for a farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act may not be recaptured for use in another project until such assistance has remained unused for a period of 12 consecutive months, if such project has a waiting list of tenants seeking such assistance or the project has rental as-

sistance eligible tenants who are not receiving such assistance: *Provided further*, That such recaptured rental assistance shall, to the extent practicable, be applied to another farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act.

MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING REVITALIZATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the rural housing voucher program as authorized under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949, but notwithstanding subsection (b) of such section, and for additional costs to conduct a demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of multi-family rental housing properties described in this paragraph, \$28,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$8,000,000, shall be available for rural housing vouchers to any low-income household (including those not receiving rental assistance) residing in a property financed with a section 515 loan which has been prepaid after September 30, 2005: *Provided further*, That the amount of such voucher shall be the difference between comparable market rent for the section 515 unit and the tenant paid rent for such unit: *Provided further*, That funds made available for such vouchers shall be subject to the availability of annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, administer such vouchers with current regulations and administrative guidance applicable to section 8 housing vouchers administered by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary determines that the amount made available for vouchers in this or any other Act is not needed for vouchers, the Secretary may use such funds for the demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of multi-family rental housing properties described in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$20,000,000 shall be available for a demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of the sections 514, 515, and 516 multi-family rental housing properties to restructure existing USDA multi-family housing loans, as the Secretary deems appropriate, expressly for the purposes of ensuring the project has sufficient resources to preserve the project for the purpose of providing safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers including reducing or eliminating interest; deferring loan payments, subordinating, reducing or reamortizing loan debt; and other financial assistance including advances, payments and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall as part of the preservation and revitalization agreement obtain a restrictive use agreement consistent with the terms of the restructuring: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary determines that additional funds for vouchers described in this paragraph are needed, funds for the preservation and revitalization demonstration program may be used for such vouchers: *Provided further*, That if Congress enacts legislation to permanently authorize a multi-family rental housing loan restructuring program similar to the demonstration program described herein, the Secretary may use funds made available for the demonstration program under this heading to carry out such legislation with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the

Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

For grants and contracts pursuant to section 523(b)(1)(A) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490c), \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended.

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For grants for very low-income housing repair made by the Rural Housing Service, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 1474, \$27,000,000, to remain available until expended.

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$2,200,000,000 for direct loans and \$73,222,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of guaranteed loans, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, \$3,500,000, to remain available until expended.

For the cost of grants for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$27,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for a Rural Community Development Initiative: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be used solely to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes to undertake projects to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be made available to qualified private, nonprofit and public intermediary organizations proposing to carry out a program of financial and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That such intermediary organizations shall provide matching funds from other sources, including Federal funds for related activities, in an amount not less than funds provided: *Provided further*, That \$5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be to provide grants for facilities in rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression (Public Law 106-387), with up to 5 percent for administration and capacity building in the State rural development offices: *Provided further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for community facilities grants to tribal colleges, as authorized by section 306(a)(19) of such Act: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading.

RURAL BUSINESS—COOPERATIVE SERVICE

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the cost of loan guarantees and grants, for the rural business development programs authorized by section 310B and described in section 310B (a), (c), and (g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$65,000,000, to remain available until ex-

pendent: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$500,000 shall be made available for one grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development: *Provided further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for business grants to benefit Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, including \$250,000 for a grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development: *Provided further*, That for purposes of determining eligibility or level of program assistance the Secretary shall not include incarcerated prison populations: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to funds made available under this heading.

INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), \$16,234,000.

For the cost of direct loans, \$5,000,000, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), of which \$531,000 shall be available through June 30, 2015, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which \$1,021,000 shall be available through June 30, 2015, for Mississippi Delta Region counties (as determined in accordance with Public Law 100-460): *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan programs, \$4,439,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized under section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, \$59,456,000.

Of the funds derived from interest on the cushion of credit payments, as authorized by section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, \$155,000,000 shall not be obligated and \$155,000,000 are rescinded.

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

For rural cooperative development grants authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), \$22,050,000, of which \$2,500,000 shall be for cooperative agreements for the appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$3,000,000 shall be for grants for cooperative development centers, individual cooperatives, or groups of cooperatives that serve socially disadvantaged groups and a majority of the boards of directors or governing boards of which are comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups; and of which \$10,750,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for value-added agricultural product market development grants, as authorized by section 231 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1632a).

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

For the cost of a program of loan guarantees, under the same terms and conditions as

authorized by section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107), \$3,500,000: *Provided*, That the cost of loan guarantees, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For loans for the rural business investment program, as authorized by section 384F(b)(3)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants for the rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B and described in sections 306C(a)(2), 306D, 306E, and 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$466,893,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306(a)(2)(B) of such Act, and of which not to exceed \$993,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306E of such Act: *Provided*, That \$66,500,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants including water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by 306C(a)(2)(B) and 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Federally recognized Native American Tribes authorized by 306C(a)(1), and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (of the State of Hawaii): *Provided further*, That funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be provided to a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83: *Provided further*, That not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by the State of Alaska for training and technical assistance programs and not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83 for training and technical assistance programs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$19,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for technical assistance grants for rural water and waste systems pursuant to section 306(a)(14) of such Act, unless the Secretary makes a determination of extreme need, of which \$6,000,000 shall be made available for a grant to a qualified non-profit multi-state regional technical assistance organization, with experience in working with small communities on water and waste water problems, the principal purpose of such grant shall be to assist rural communities with populations of 3,300 or less, in improving the planning, financing, development, operation, and management of water and waste water systems, and of which not less than \$800,000 shall be for a qualified national Native American organization to provide technical assistance for rural water systems for tribal communities: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$15,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for contracting with qualified national organizations for a circuit rider program to provide technical assistance for rural water systems: *Provided*

further, That not to exceed \$4,000,000 shall be for solid waste management grants: *Provided further*, That any prior year balances for high-energy cost grants authorized by section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 918a) shall be transferred to and merged with the Rural Utilities Service, High Energy Cost Grants Account: *Provided further*, That sections 381E–H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by sections 305 and 306 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 935 and 936) shall be made as follows: loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, rural electric, \$5,000,000,000; guaranteed underwriting loans pursuant to section 313A, \$500,000,000; 5 percent rural telecommunications loans, cost of money rural telecommunications loans, and for loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, rural telecommunications loans, \$690,000,000: *Provided*, That up to \$2,000,000,000 shall be used for the construction, acquisition, or improvement of fossil-fueled electric generating plants (whether new or existing) that utilize carbon sequestration systems.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$34,478,000, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

For the principal amount of broadband telecommunication loans, \$24,077,000.

For grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq., \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

For the cost of broadband loans, as authorized by section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act, \$4,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the cost of direct loans shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In addition, \$10,372,000, to remain available until expended, for a grant program to finance broadband transmission in rural areas eligible for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program benefits authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaaa.

TITLE IV

DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, \$816,000.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), except section 21, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), except sections 17 and 21; \$20,523,795,000 to remain available through September 30, 2016, of which such sums as are made available under section 14222(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), as amended by this Act, shall be merged with and available for the same time period and purposes as provided herein: *Provided*, That of the total

amount available, \$17,004,000 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$25,000,000 shall be available to provide competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the equipment needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$27,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out section 749(g) of the Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-80).

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

For necessary expenses to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), \$6,623,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 17(h)(10) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(h)(10)), not less than \$60,000,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other related activities, \$14,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure, \$30,000,000 shall be used for management information systems, and \$25,000,000 shall be used for WIC electronic benefit transfer systems and activities: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula except in accordance with the cost containment and competitive bidding requirements specified in section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided shall be available for activities that are not fully reimbursed by other Federal Government departments or agencies unless authorized by section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That upon termination of a federally-mandated vendor moratorium and subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, the Secretary may waive the requirement at 7 CFR 246.12(g)(6) at the request of a State agency.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), \$82,251,138,000, of which \$3,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2016, shall be placed in reserve for use only in such amounts and at such times as may become necessary to carry out program operations: *Provided*, That funds provided herein shall be expended in accordance with section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$998,000 may be used to provide nutrition education services to State agencies and Federally recognized tribes participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be subject to any work registration or workfare requirements as may be required by law: *Provided further*, That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available through September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for a study on Indian tribal administration of nutrition programs, as provided in title IV of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79), and a study of the removal of cash benefits in Puerto Rico, as provided in title IV of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79) shall be available until expended: *Pro-*

vided further, That funds made available under this heading for section 28(d)(1) and section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 shall remain available through September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for employment and training pilot projects, as provided in title IV of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79), shall remain available through September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity provided that such activities are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SPEIER

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 45, line 16, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)" after the 1st dollar amount.

Page 45, line 16, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)" after the 1st dollar amount.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, I am joined in making this amendment by my colleague from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

This particular amendment addresses the issue of veterans in this country who are living on the edge, the 1.4 million veterans who are living in poverty, the 900,000 who are on food stamps.

We do know there is a backlog that exists, even now, with veterans' disability claims from 572,000 currently around the country, some waiting as long as 200 days. This amendment is going to make them eligible for SNAP benefits under the disabled category, which will, for all intents and purposes, allow them to access food that is prepared and also deduct medical expenses for their status.

Filing for SNAP under the disabled status can provide much-needed assistance with minimal cost. For a veteran with war-related mental or physical injuries, this small amount of help can make an enormous difference.

Again, I want to thank Congressman BENISHEK for his cosponsorship of this amendment.

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in support of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support a very commonsense amendment.

I think we can all agree that no disabled veteran should go hungry. Those who have served our Nation with honor and distinction, and come home as wounded veterans deserve great honor, not a life of hardship.

Unfortunately, not all of our veterans have fared well following their tours of duty. From the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan alone, 45 percent of the 1.6 million veterans are applying for benefits with the VA. Only about one-third have been granted benefits so far.

□ 1745

The VA has almost 600,000 pending disability claims as of April 2014, with 23 percent of those from Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

This amendment would allow veterans to apply for SNAP benefits while their disability claims are pending with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Just like all Americans, veterans would still be required to meet income eligibility requirements for SNAP. However, they would no longer have to wait on the backlog that is so prevalent at the VA to find out if they would be eligible for these specific benefits.

Mr. Chairman, our Nation's veterans should never live under the threat of hunger due to an administrative backlog in Washington. They deserve better. This amendment is fully paid for and just makes sense. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, as my colleague said, this is truly a simple amendment that holds our poor veterans harmless while we deal with the dysfunction in the VA. It is a compassionate and appropriate action by this House. I urge its passage.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out disaster assistance and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program as authorized by section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note); the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983; special assistance for the nuclear affected islands, as authorized by section 103(f)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188); and the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, \$275,701,000, to remain available through September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That none of these funds shall be available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for commodities donated to the program: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective with funds made available in fiscal year 2015 to support the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutri-

tion Program, as authorized by section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, such funds shall remain available through September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)), the Secretary may use up to 10 percent for costs associated with the distribution of commodities.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary administrative expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service for carrying out any domestic nutrition assistance program, \$150,824,000: *Provided*, That of the funds provided herein, \$2,000,000 shall be used for the purposes of section 4404 of Public Law 107-171, as amended by section 4401 of Public Law 110-246.

TITLE V

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service, including not to exceed \$158,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$182,563,000: *Provided*, That the Service may utilize advances of funds, or reimburse this appropriation for expenditures made on behalf of Federal agencies, public and private organizations and institutions under agreements executed pursuant to the agricultural food production assistance programs (7 U.S.C. 1737) and the foreign assistance programs of the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided further*, That funds made available for middle-income country training programs, funds made available for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship program, and up to \$2,000,000 of the Foreign Agricultural Service appropriation solely for the purpose of offsetting fluctuations in international currency exchange rates, subject to documentation by the Foreign Agricultural Service, shall remain available until expended.

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE I DIRECT CREDIT AND

FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING RESCISSION AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the credit program of title I of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and the Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o), \$2,528,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses": *Provided*, That of the unobligated balances provided pursuant to title I of the Food for Peace Act, \$13,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be rescinded pursuant to the previous proviso from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS

For expenses during the current fiscal year, not otherwise recoverable, and unrecovered prior years' costs, including interest thereon, under the Food for Peace Act (Public Law 83-480), for commodities supplied in connection with dispositions abroad under title II of said Act, \$1,466,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, for fiscal year 2015, the amount made available

pursuant to section 412(e)(2) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f(e)(2)) to carry out nonemergency food assistance programs under title II of such Act shall be \$375,000,000. MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1), \$198,126,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Commodity Credit Corporation is authorized to provide the services, facilities, and authorities for the purpose of implementing such section, subject to reimbursement from amounts provided herein.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT (LOANS) CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the Commodity Credit Corporation's Export Guarantee Program, GSM 102 and GSM 103, \$6,748,000; to cover common overhead expenses as permitted by section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and in conformity with the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, of which \$6,394,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Foreign Agricultural Service, Salaries and Expenses", and of which \$354,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses".

TITLE VI

RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Food and Drug Administration, including hire and purchase of passenger motor vehicles; for payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313 for programs and activities of the Food and Drug Administration which are included in this Act; for rental of special purpose space in the District of Columbia or elsewhere; for miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities, authorized and approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed \$25,000; and notwithstanding section 521 of Public Law 107-188; \$4,442,048,000: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$798,000,000 shall be derived from prescription drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379h, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$128,282,000 shall be derived from medical device user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$312,116,000 shall be derived from human generic drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-42, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$21,014,000 shall be derived from biosimilar biological product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-52, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$22,464,000 shall be derived from animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-12, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$6,944,000 shall be derived from animal generic drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-21, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$566,000,000 shall be derived from tobacco product user fees authorized by 21

U.S.C. 387s, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$1,434,000 shall be derived from food and feed recall fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-31, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$6,414,000 shall be derived from food reinspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-31, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; and \$5,300,000 shall be derived from voluntary qualified importer program fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-31, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That in addition and notwithstanding any other provision under this heading, amounts collected for prescription drug user fees, medical device user fees, human generic drug user fees, biosimilar biological product user fees, animal drug user fees, and animal generic drug user fees that exceed the respective fiscal year 2015 limitations are appropriated and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That fees derived from prescription drug, medical device, human generic drug, biosimilar biological product, animal drug, and animal generic drug assessments for fiscal year 2015, including any such fees collected prior to fiscal year 2015 but credited for fiscal year 2015, shall be subject to the fiscal year 2015 limitations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may accept payment during fiscal year 2015 of user fees specified under this heading and authorized for fiscal year 2016, prior to the due date for such fees, and that amounts of such fees assessed for fiscal year 2016 for which the Secretary accepts payment in fiscal year 2015 shall not be included in amounts under this heading: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used to develop, establish, or operate any program of user fees authorized by 31 U.S.C. 9701: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated: (1) \$913,784,000 shall be for the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (2) \$1,326,402,000 shall be for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (3) \$344,267,000 shall be for the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (4) \$171,783,000 shall be for the Center for Veterinary Medicine and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (5) \$420,548,000 shall be for the Center for Devices and Radiological Health and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (6) \$62,494,000 shall be for the National Center for Toxicological Research; (7) \$531,527,000 shall be for the Center for Tobacco Products and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (8) not to exceed \$163,471,000 shall be for Rent and Related activities, of which \$47,116,000 is for White Oak Consolidation, other than the amounts paid to the General Services Administration for rent; (9) not to exceed \$228,839,000 shall be for payments to the General Services Administration for rent; and (10) \$278,933,000 shall be for other activities, including the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine, the Office of Medical and Tobacco Products, the Office of Global and Regulatory Policy, the Office of Operations, the Office of the Chief Scientist, and central services for these offices: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of this amount shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Commissioner: *Provided*

further, That any transfer of funds pursuant to section 770(n) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379dd(n)) shall only be from amounts made available under this heading for other activities: *Provided further*, That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

In addition, mammography user fees authorized by 42 U.S.C. 263b, export certification user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 381, priority review user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360n, outsourcing facility fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-62, prescription drug wholesale distributor licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 353(e)(3), and third-party logistics provider licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360eee-3(c)(1), may be credited to this account, to remain available until expended.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of or used by the Food and Drug Administration, where not otherwise provided, \$8,788,000, to remain available until expended.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), including the purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles, and the rental of space (to include multiple year leases) in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, \$217,578,000, including not to exceed \$3,000 for official reception and representation expenses, and not to exceed \$25,000 for the expenses for consultations and meetings hosted by the Commission with foreign governmental and other regulatory officials, of which \$52,578,000, shall be for the purchase of information technology until September 30, 2016, and of which not less than \$1,885,000 shall be for the Office of the Inspector General: *Provided*, That the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall develop and report to the Committees of jurisdiction of both Houses of Congress within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, a schedule of implementation and sequencing of all rules, regulations, and orders under section 716 or 722(d) of Public Law 111-203, section 1a(49)(D) or 4m of the Commodity Exchange Act, or any of the amendments made by section 737 of Public Law 111-203, including all Commission cost benefit analyses and studies relied upon in the formulation of any regulations issued in implementing any of such sections or amendments.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 57, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$17,578,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the gentlewoman from Connecticut and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, currently this bill mandates that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission spend \$52.6 million of its already lim-

ited budget on information technology. My amendment, put forward with my colleagues Congresswoman WATERS of California and Congressman HIMES of Connecticut, reduces this IT set-aside back to its current level of \$35 million.

Americans want to see more accountability from Wall Street and oil speculators and fewer reckless transactions, market failures, and bailouts. That is the CFTC's job, to rein in gambling with risky derivatives on Wall Street and prevent undue speculation on oil.

Republican and Democratic experts both have argued that the current funding level purposefully sets the CFTC up for failure. The current bill leaves CFTC dangerously underfunded, 22 percent below the President's request. This increased IT set-aside is equivalent to reducing their budget by another 7 percent below last year's level.

By returning this set-aside to \$35 million, our amendment gives the Commission more flexibility to spend the budget they have on enforcement and examinations, to put more "cops on the beat," as it were, if they see fit.

This represents neither a cut nor a rise in the current level of CFTC funding. While I think we should fund them higher, this amendment merely lets them use their budget to do their job, and they manage to do a lot, even with the limited resources we have given them.

Last year, the Commission's enforcement division brought in just over \$1 billion to the Treasury. That is more than the Congress has provided the Commission in the last 5 years.

According to Acting Chairman Wetjen:

The unfortunate reality is that, at current funding levels, the Commission is unable to adequately fulfill the mission given to it by Congress.

The agency's enforcement staff is already smaller than it was in 2002, when the Commission was just responsible for the futures and options market.

Today, this smaller staff has additional important and extremely complex oversight responsibilities. They must now also oversee the \$400 trillion swaps market, and they are responsible for pursuing cases against reckless, manipulative, or deceptive schemes. We need to give the Commission the flexibility in allocating resources that it needs to do its job, to oversee risky market behaviors, protect consumers, and enforce the law. This amendment will allow them to do that, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would severely starve the very regulator charged with overseeing

the swaps, futures, and options markets of desperately needed information technology resources.

The bill I brought before the House this afternoon would return information technology investments to just below the FY 2012 level, and this amendment would reduce IT by 33 percent.

This amendment would only accomplish one objective, to grow the size of our government bureaucracy by hiring unneeded personnel to write more overreaching rules and regulations. Staff at the CFTC is already at a record high.

The CFTC is preparing to regulate high-frequency trading. This amendment would ignore the reality of a regulator whose 82 percent of its employees make more than six-figure incomes, and staff enters by hand almost 20,000 paper forms per year. This is an exhaustive and costly exercise. This amendment would reward those misplaced resources.

CFTC has seen a 166 percent increase in the amount of data it takes in. It takes in hundreds of millions of records per day and does not have the capability to store that data internally.

The amendment ignores the advice of former CFTC chief economist, who was the recipient of the Chairman Gary Gensler's award for excellence in 2010, who stated:

Financial regulation should recognize that automation and increasingly higher transaction speeds make it nearly impossible for humans to provide effective layers of risk management.

Regulators need to change their surveillance and enforcement practices to be more cyber-centric rather than human-centric.

Therefore, based on that information, I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, the fact of the matter is that this amendment gives the CFTC flexibility. That is all it does. It could spend all of that money on IT. If they want to spend it on enforcement staff, they would be able to do it. This leaves them the flexibility to make the determinations based on what the needs are.

With that, I yield the balance of my time to my colleague from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES).

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Chairman, I rise to join happily in the amendment offered by my neighbor and close friend from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) and the gentlewoman from California, Ranking Member WATERS.

One of the crucial achievements of the Dodd-Frank bill, of course, was to drag a massive and, in some cases, very dangerous derivatives market into the light of day by giving CFTC authority to look at the instruments which brought down AIG, which were involved in the London Whale, which when used incorrectly can create a systemic risk to the system, and this is a market that has been growing very, very rapidly.

In 2010, the total derivatives market was about \$124 trillion. That is trillion with a t. That is a multiple of the size of the U.S. economy. Today, it has almost doubled that, \$223 trillion. Now, these are securities that can cause all sorts of havoc if not adequately regulated.

This amendment, as Ms. DELAURO pointed out, in no way expands bureaucracy. We are not saying spend more money, though there is a very powerful argument for spending more money on an agency that has been tasked to take on a massive new market. It is simply providing flexibility.

The question before this House on this amendment comes down to a very simple question: We are either going to provide discretion to the CFTC to run to where they think the danger is—and if they think that their IT is insufficient, they can spend this money on the IT—they are either going to run to where the danger is or we, as a House, are going to decide that we are such crack IT professionals that we should tell the CFTC that they must spend this money on their system. Folks, that doesn't make any sense.

Therefore, I urge support for this amendment to provide the CFTC the flexibility that they need in regulating this market.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman from Connecticut has expired.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, let's be very practical about this. I think you have to put it in the context of what has happened.

We passed the Dodd-Frank bill because of an incredible financial disaster in this country, and what we found out is that the regulators weren't regulating. We found out they couldn't regulate because they didn't even have regulations or any provisions about all of these derivatives swaps. They were inventing new things that weren't even in law.

The Federal Commodity Futures Trading Commission is right at the heart of all these new instruments and all these derivatives swaps and so on. In fact, we learned from Director Gensler—who came before our committee and pointed out the massive amount of trading that goes on, \$300 trillion dollars.

We couldn't even figure out in the committee how to explain how many millions trillions were. It is so much, and it is scary. We have got to have people on the job to do this and the technology to do it.

Now, just to make sure that people are carrying out the law, you have got to have people review that process. In fact, because the industry doesn't want

to be regulated, they go to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and say: cut this, don't give them the tools to implement it, don't allow them to be the referees they have to be by law.

We approved, last year, \$315 million, and we criticized that. The President came back for \$280 million this year, and we have cut that. Even when he went along with knowing that he wouldn't be able to get all the things he asked for, we cut it again, so this bill fences off part of that. It seems to me a reasonable amendment to adopt, and I urge the adoption of it.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California, MAXINE WATERS, the ranking member of the committee.

Ms. WATERS. I would like to thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, as the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee, I feel it is extremely important to support this amendment. It is extremely important because we know that the work that we did on the reform measure, the Dodd-Frank measure, is so important to try to correct the lack of attention we were giving to our consumers and the fact that we needed to strengthen our financial services agencies.

So when I see there is an attempt to weaken something such as the CFTC or the SEC or the OCC or any of our regulatory agencies, it is important for me to speak out and help people to understand what is being attempted.

I urge support for this amendment to ensure our derivatives cop can protect our financial markets and economy.

Make no mistake, even with this amendment, inadequate Republican funding for the CFTC furthers a larger effort to undermine the oversight of derivatives.

□ 1800

While more funding is needed, this measure will at least prevent layoffs.

The CFTC thwarts Wall Street from manipulating the price of things like oil, corn, and gold. Without it, every American will feel the pain at the pump and the dinner table. The CFTC enforces laws Democrats enacted to rein in companies like AIG, whose activities led to the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Despite overwhelming need, Republicans would undercut the CFTC under the guise of a modest IT increase, believing that if it just had the right computers, the CFTC could eliminate employees.

What they don't understand is that it takes real people to bring about justice and accountability. With funding far below the requested amount, the CFTC cannot operate without temporarily closing or sacking valuable talent, causing immediate harm to our markets with delays to agency guidance, to investors and businesses, examinations

of companies entrusted with your funds, punishment of bad actors, and recovery of victims' money.

This is a continuation of an effort by Republicans and special interests to undercut laws and regulations that protect our consumers. I am not going to stand for it, and I urge Members to support this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from California has expired. The gentleman from Alabama has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Again, Mr. Chairman, I just rise in opposition to the amendment. Again, this bill is important. The bill that we have before the House would return the information technology investments to just below that of FY 2012, and this amendment will reduce IT by 33 percent. We feel like IT is very important. We think that the bill, as written, should stand, and therefore we would oppose the amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$54,000,000 (from assessments collected from farm credit institutions, including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses as authorized under 12 U.S.C. 2249: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not apply to expenses associated with receiverships: *Provided further*, That the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

An amendment by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. ROYCE of California.

An amendment by Mr. GRAYSON of Florida.

An amendment by Mr. GARAMENDI of California.

An amendment by Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

An amendment by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

An amendment by Ms. DELAURO of Connecticut.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 178, noes 243, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 300]
AYES—178

Amash	Gibson	Mica
Amodei	Gingrey (GA)	Miller (MI)
Bachmann	Gohmert	Mullin
Barber	Goodlatte	Mulvaney
Barletta	Gosar	Murphy (PA)
Barr	Gowdy	Neugebauer
Barrow (GA)	Graves (GA)	Nugent
Barton	Graves (MO)	Olson
Benishek	Griffin (AR)	Palazzo
Bentivolio	Griffith (VA)	Paulsen
Bilirakis	Guthrie	Pearce
Bishop (UT)	Hanna	Perry
Black	Harris	Petri
Blackburn	Hartzler	Pittenger
Boustany	Heck (NV)	Pitts
Brady (TX)	Hensarling	Poe (TX)
Bridenstine	Herrera Beutler	Pompeo
Brooks (AL)	Holding	Posey
Brooks (IN)	Hudson	Price (GA)
Broun (GA)	Huelskamp	Reed
Buchanan	Huizenga (MI)	Renacci
Bucshon	Hultgren	Ribble
Burgess	Hunter	Rice (SC)
Byrne	Hurt	Rigell
Camp	Issa	Roe (TN)
Campbell	Jenkins	Rogers (AL)
Cantor	Johnson (OH)	Rohrabacher
Capito	Johnson, Sam	Rokita
Cassidy	Jones	Roskam
Chabot	Jordan	Ross
Chaffetz	Kelly (PA)	Rothfus
Coble	King (IA)	Royce
Coffman	Kingston	Ryan (WI)
Conaway	Labrador	Salmon
Cook	Lamborn	Sanford
Cotton	Lance	Scalise
Davis, Rodney	Lankford	Schock
Denham	Latta	Schweikert
DeSantis	Long	Sensenbrenner
Duffy	Luetkemeyer	Sessions
DesJarlais	Lummis	Shimkus
Duffy	Marchant	Shuster
Duncan (SC)	Marino	Sinema
Duncan (TN)	Massie	Smith (MO)
Ellmers	Matheson	Smith (NE)
Farenthold	McCarthy (CA)	Smith (TX)
Fincher	McCaull	Southerland
Fleischmann	McClintock	Stivers
Fleming	McHenry	Stockman
Forbes	McKinley	Stutzman
Fox	McMorris	Terry
Franks (AZ)	Rodgers	Thornberry
Garcia	Meadows	Tipton
Gardner	Meehan	Upton
Garrett	Messer	Wagner
Gibbs		

Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)

Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)

Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho

NOES—243

Aderholt
Bachus
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gerlach
Granger
Grayson

Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McIntyre
McKeon
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem
Nolan
Nunes

O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reichert
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—10

Collins (GA) McGovern Rangel
 Davis, Danny Miller, Gary Ryan (OH)
 Hoyer Moran
 LaMalfa Nunnelee

□ 1830

Messrs. CLEAVER, HALL, BACHUS, and HINOJOSA changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. KING of Iowa and REED changed their vote from “no” to “aye.” So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WOODALL). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 130, noes 290, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 301]

AYES—130

Amash Gosar Pearce
 Amodei Gowdy Perry
 Bachmann Graves (GA) Petri
 Barr Graves (MO) Pittenger
 Barton Griffith (VA) Pitts
 Bentivolio Harris Polis
 Bilirakis Heck (NV) Pompeo
 Bishop (UT) Hensarling Price (GA)
 Black Herrera Beutler Ribble
 Blackburn Holding Rice (SC)
 Boustany Hudson Roe (TN)
 Bridenstine HuiZenga (MI) Rohrabacher
 Brooks (AL) Hultgren Rokita
 Broun (GA) Hunter Roskam
 Buchanan Hurt Ross
 Burgess Issa Rothfus
 Byrne Johnson (OH) Royce
 Campbell Johnson, Sam Jones
 Cantor Jones Ryan (WI)
 Cassidy Jordan Salmon
 Chabot Kingston Sanford
 Chaffetz Kline Scalise
 Coble Labrador Schweikert
 Coffman Lamborn Sensenbrenner
 Cook Lance Sessions
 Crenshaw Lankford Smith (MO)
 DeSantis Long Smith (NE)
 DesJarlais Lummis Smith (TX)
 Duffy Massie Southerland
 Duncan (SC) McCarthy (CA) Stewart
 Duncan (TN) McCaul Stockman
 Ellmers McClintock Stutzman
 Fincher McHenry Thornberry
 Fitzpatrick McMorris Tipton
 Fleischmann Rodgers Upton
 Fleming Meadows Walberg
 Forbes Messer Webster (FL)
 Foxx Mica Wenstrup
 Franks (AZ) Miller (FL) Westmoreland
 Garrett Miller (MI) Williams
 Gibbs Mulvaney Wilson (SC)
 Gingrey (GA) Nugent Wittman
 Gohmert Palazzo Woodall
 Goodlatte Paulsen Yoho

NOES—290

Aderholt Gerlach Nadler
 Bachus Gibson Napolitano
 Barber Granger Neal
 Barletta Grayson Negrete McLeod
 Barrow (GA) Green, Al Neugebauer
 Bass Green, Gene Noem
 Beatty Griffin (AR) Nolan
 Becerra Grimm Nunes
 Benishek Guthrie O'Rourke
 Bera (CA) Gutierrez Olson
 Bishop (GA) Hahn Owens
 Bishop (NY) Hall Pallone
 Blumenauer Hanabusa Pascrell
 Bonamici Hanna Pastor (AZ)
 Brady (PA) Harper Payne
 Brady (TX) Hartzler Pelosi
 Braley (IA) Hastings (FL) Perlmutter
 Brooks (IN) Hastings (WA) Peters (CA)
 Brown (FL) Heck (WA) Peters (MI)
 Brownley (CA) Higgins Peterson
 Bucshon Himes Pingree (ME)
 Bustos Hinojosa Pocan
 Butterfield Holt Poe (TX)
 Calvert Honda Posey
 Camp Horsford Price (NC)
 Capito Huelskamp Quigley
 Capps Huffman Rahall
 Capuano Israel Reed
 Cárdenas Jackson Lee Reichert
 Carney Jeffries Renacci
 Carson (IN) Jenkins Richmond
 Carter Johnson (GA) Rigell
 Cartwright Johnson, E. B. Roby
 Castor (FL) Jolly Rogers (AL)
 Castro (TX) Joyce Rogers (KY)
 Chu Kaptur Rogers (MI)
 Cicilline Keating Rooney
 Clark (MA) Kelly (IL) Ros-Lehtinen
 Clarke (NY) Kelly (PA) Roybal-Allard
 Clay Kennedy Ruiz
 Cleaver Kildee Runyan
 Clyburn Kilmer Ruppertsberger
 Cohen Kind Rush
 Cole King (IA) Sánchez, Linda
 Collins (NY) King (NY) T.
 Conaway Kinzinger (IL) Sanchez, Loretta
 Connolly Kirkpatrick Sarbanes
 Conyers Kuster Schakowsky
 Cooper Langevin Schiff
 Costa Larsen (WA) Schneider
 Cotton Larson (CT) Schock
 Courtney Latham Schrader
 Cramer Latta Schwartz
 Crawford Lee (CA) Scott (VA)
 Crowley Levin Scott, Austin
 Cuellar Lewis Scott, David
 Culberson Lipinski Serrano
 Cummings LoBiondo Sewell (AL)
 Daines Loeb sack Shea-Porter
 Davis (CA) Lofgren Sherman
 Davis, Rodney Lowenthal Shimkus
 DeFazio Lowey Shuster
 DeGette Lucas Simpson
 Delaney Luetkemeyer Sinema
 DeLauro Lujan Grisham Sires
 DelBene (NM) Slaughter
 Denham Luján, Ben Ray Smith (NJ)
 Dent (NM) Smith (WA)
 Deutch Lynch Speier
 Diaz-Balart Maffei Stivers
 Dingell Maloney, Carolyn Swalwell (CA)
 Doggett Doggett Carolyn Takano
 Doyle Maloney, Sean Terry
 Duckworth Marchant Thompson (CA)
 Edwards Marino Thompson (MS)
 Ellison Matheson Thompson (PA)
 Engel Matsui Tiberi
 Enyart McAllister Tierney
 Eshoo McCarthy (NY) Titus
 Farr McCollum Tonko
 Farenthold McDermott Tsongas
 Fattah Farr McIntyre Turner
 Flores McKeon Valadao
 Fortenberry McKinley Van Hollen
 Foster Meehan Vargas
 Frankel (FL) Meeks Veasey
 Frelinghuysen Meng Vela
 Fudge Michaud Velázquez
 Gabbard Miller, George Visclosky
 Gallego Moore Wagner
 Garamendi Mullin Walden
 Garcia Murphy (FL) Walorski
 Gardner Murphy (PA) Walz

Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Waxman
 Weber (TX)

Welch
 Whitfield
 Wilson (FL)
 Wolf
 Womack

Yarmuth
 Yoder
 Young (AK)
 Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—11

Collins (GA) LaMalfa Nunnelee
 Davis, Danny McGovern Rangel
 Grijalva Miller, Gary Ryan (OH)
 Hoyer Moran

□ 1835

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 223, noes 198, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 302]

AYES—223

Amodei Delaney Hudson
 Bachmann DeLauro Hultgren
 Bachus Dent Issa
 Barton DeSantis Jackson Lee
 Bass Deutch Jeffries
 Beatty Diaz-Balart Johnson (OH)
 Becerra Dingell Johnson, E. B.
 Bentivolio Doggett Jolly
 Bilirakis Doyle Jordan
 Bishop (NY) Duckworth Kelly (IL)
 Bishop (UT) Duffy Kennedy
 Black Duncan (SC) Kirkpatrick
 Blackburn Duncan (TN) Kuster
 Blumenauer Edwards Lamborn
 Bonamici Ellison Lance
 Brady (PA) Engel Langevin
 Bridenstine Eshoo Larson (CT)
 Brooks (IN) Esty Lee (CA)
 Burgess Farr Levin
 Butterfield Fattah Lewis
 Cantor Florio, Sam Fleischmann
 Capps Fortenberry Lynch
 Capuano Foster Lowey
 Cartwright Foxx Lujan Grisham
 Cassidy Garrett (NM)
 Castro (TX) Gibb Luján, Ben Ray
 Chabot Gingrey (GA) (NM)
 Chaffetz Gohmert Lynch
 Chu Gosar Maloney,
 Cicilline Gowdy Carolyn
 Clark (MA) Grayson Marino
 Clay Green, Al Matsui
 Clyburn Green, Gene McCarthy (CA)
 Coffman Grijalva McCarthy (NY)
 Cohen Gutierrez McCollum
 Cole Hall McHenry
 Conyers Hanna Meadows
 Cooper Harper Meeks
 Courtney Hastings (WA) Meng
 Cramer Heck (WA) Messer
 Crenshaw Hensarling Miller (FL)
 Crowley Himes Moore
 Cuellar Holding Mulvaney
 Cummings Holt Nadler
 Davis (CA) Honda Napolitano
 DeFazio Horsford Nolan
 DeGette Hoyer O'Rourke

Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Paulsen
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Perry
 Peters (CA)
 Petri
 Pingree (ME)
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Pocan
 Polis
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Reichert
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Richmond
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruiz

NOES—198

Aderholt
 Amash
 Barber
 Barletta
 Barr
 Barrow (GA)
 Benishek
 Bera (CA)
 Bishop (GA)
 Boustany
 Brady (TX)
 Brooks (AL)
 Broun (GA)
 Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA)
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Bustos
 Byrne
 Calvert
 Camp
 Campbell
 Capito
 Cárdenas
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Carter
 Castor (FL)
 Clarke (NY)
 Cleaver
 Coble
 Collins (NY)
 Conaway
 Connolly
 Cook
 Costa
 Cotton
 Crawford
 Culberson
 Daines
 Davis, Rodney
 DeBene
 Denham
 DesJarlais
 Ellmers
 Enyart
 Farenthold
 Fincher
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Frankel (FL)
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garcia
 Gardner
 Gerlach
 Gibson
 Goodlatte

Ruppersberger
 Rush
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanford
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schock
 Schwartz
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Sewell (AL)
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Sinema
 Sires
 Slaughter
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA)
 Stewart
 Stockman
 Stutzman

Takano
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tonko
 Tsongas
 Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walorski
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waxman
 Welch
 Wenstrup
 Williams
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wolf
 Yarmuth
 Young (IN)

Whitfield
 Wittman
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (OH)

NOT VOTING—10

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
 The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1839

Messrs. POMPEO and WESTMORELAND changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. CROWLEY changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) on which further proceedings were postponed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 150, noes 272, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 303]

AYES—150

Barrow (GA)
 Bass
 Beatty
 Becerra
 Bera (CA)
 Bilirakis
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Brady (PA)
 Brown (FL)
 Burgess
 Capps
 Capuano
 Cárdenas
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Crowley
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett

Polis
 Quigley
 Richmond
 Rohrabacher
 Ruiz
 Ruppertsberger
 Rush
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schwartz
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Sherman
 Sinema
 Sires
 Smith (TX)
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Stockman
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)

NOES—272

Aderholt
 Amash
 Amodei
 Bachmann
 Barber
 Barletta
 Barr
 Barton
 Benishek
 Bentivolio
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Bishop (UT)
 Black
 Blackburn
 Boustany
 Brady (TX)
 Braley (IA)
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Broun (GA)
 Brownley (CA)
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Byrne
 Calvert
 Camp
 Campbell
 Cantor
 Capito
 Carter
 Cassidy
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Clyburn
 Coble
 Coffman
 Cole
 Collins (NY)
 Conaway
 Cook
 Costa
 Cotton
 Courtney
 Cramer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Cuellar
 Culberson
 Daines
 Davis, Rodney
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DeBene
 Denham
 Dent
 DeSantis
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Duncan (TN)
 Ellmers
 Engel
 Enyart
 Esty
 Farenthold
 Farr
 Fincher
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foxx
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garcia
 Gardner
 Gerlach
 Goodlatte
 Griffith (VA)
 Guthrie
 Hall
 Hanna
 Harper
 Harris
 Hartzler
 Hastings (FL)
 Hastings (WA)
 Heck (NV)
 Hensarling
 Herrera Beutler
 Himes
 Hinojosa
 Holding
 Hoyer
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurt
 Issa
 Jenkins
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Joyce
 Keating
 Kelly (PA)
 Kind
 King (IA)
 Kingston
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline
 Kuster
 Labrador
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Lankford
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latham
 Latta
 Lewis
 Loeb sack
 Long
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lujan Grisham
 (NM)
 Lummis
 Marchant
 Marino
 Massie
 Matheson
 McAllister
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McHenry
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 Meadows
 Meehan
 Messer
 Mica
 Michaud
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Moore
 Mullin
 Mulvaney
 Murphy (PA)
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 Nolan
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Olson
 Owens
 Palazzo
 Paulsen
 Pearce
 Perlmutter
 Peterson
 Pingree (ME)
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poe (TX)
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Rahall
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Runyan
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Sanford
 Scalise
 Schock
 Schrader
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Sessions
 Shea-Porter
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Slaughter
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Southerland

Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao

NOT VOTING—9

Bachus
Collins (GA)
Gutiérrez

Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield

Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)
T.

Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Quigley
Reed
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda
Takano

NOES—276

Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schwartz
Serrano
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swallowell (CA)
Wilson (FL)

Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garcia
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Fleming
Marino
Massie

Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)

Simpson
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry

NOT VOTING—7

Collins (GA)
LaMalfa
McGovern

Tiberi
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1847

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DUNCAN OF
TENNESSEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUN-
CAN) on which further proceedings were
postponed and on which the noes pre-
vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.
The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 119, noes 303,
not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 305]

AYES—119

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1843

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from California (Mr.
GARAMENDI) on which further pro-
ceedings were postponed and on which
the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.
The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 148, noes 276,
not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 304]

AYES—148

Amodei
Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Deutch
Dingell

Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Eshoo
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Garamendi
Gardner
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hudson
Huffman
Hunter
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kennedy

Kildee
Kilmer
Langevin
Lee (CA)
Levin
LoFgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McDermott
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Pallone
Pascarell
Pelosi
Perlmutter

Amash
Bachmann
Barr
Barton
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Conyers
Cotton
Crenshaw
Culberson
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Elliott
Engel
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes

Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Issa
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Long
Lummis
Massie

McCarthy (CA)
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McMorris
Rodgers
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schock
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster

Scalise
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shuster
Smith (TX)
Southernland

Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Walberg
Walorski
Wenstrup

Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Woodall
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—303

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah

Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibson
Goodlatte
Gosar
Granger
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Hunter
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei

Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McKeon
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Renacci
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter

Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)

Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner

Walden
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—9

Cole
Collins (GA)
Johnson (GA)

LaMalfa
McGovern
Miller, Gary

Nunnelee
Rangel
Ryan (OH)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1851

Mr. SOUTHERLAND changed his
vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF
GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN)
on which further proceedings were
postponed and on which the noes pre-
vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 62, noes 358,
not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 306]

AYES—62

Amash
Barr
Bentivolio
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Byrne
Chabot
Chaffetz
DeSantis
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Fleischmann
Fleming
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gohmert

Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Hastings (FL)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Issa
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kaptur
Labrador
Lamborn
Long
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McClintock
McHenry

Meadows
Messer
Miller (FL)
Mulvaney
Palazzo
Price (GA)
Rice (SC)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Royce
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Woodall

NOES—358

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber

Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty

Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buchson
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi

Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Granger
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Hunter
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (NY)

McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)

Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southernland
Speier
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)

NOT VOTING—11

Collins (GA)
DeFazio
Ellison
LaMalfa

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1854

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms.
DELAURO) on which further proceedings
were postponed and on which the noes
prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 194, noes 227,
not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 307]

AYES—194

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brady (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu

Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards

Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz

Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Larsen (WA)
McGovern
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Rangel
Ryan (OH)
Tiberi

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers

Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson

NOES—227

Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston

Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Owens
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush

Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert

Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock

Collins (GA)
Conyers
Graves (GA)
LaMalfa

Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Titone
Turner

NOT VOTING—10

Larsen (WA)
McGovern
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Rangel
Ryan (OH)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1900

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I
move that the Committee do now rise.
The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose;
and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr.
BISHOP of Utah) having assumed the
chair, Mr. WOODALL, Acting Chair of
the Committee of the Whole House on
the state of the Union, reported that
that Committee, having had under con-
sideration the bill (H.R. 4800) making
appropriations for Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Adminis-
tration, and Related Agencies pro-
grams for the fiscal year ending Sep-
tember 30, 2015, and for other purposes,
had come to no resolution thereon.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I ask
unanimous consent that when the
House adjourns today, it adjourn to
meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gen-
tleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate
by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, an-
nounced that the Senate has passed
with amendments a bill of the House of
the following title:

H.R. 3230. An act making continuing appro-
priations during a Government shutdown to
provide pay and allowances to members of
the reserve components of the Armed Forces
who perform inactive-duty training during
such period.

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Customs and Border Protection currently possesses a very large fleet of unmanned aerial systems, or UAS's. Certainly, this technology can be a valuable asset. We want them to use it to our benefit on the border to enforce border security.

Between 2010 and 2012, the CBP flew nearly 700 missions on behalf of other Federal, State, and local agencies. They were not flying the border, in other words. As a matter of fact, some agencies have absolutely nothing to do with border security, such as the U.S. Forest Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

I have researched this issue, Mr. Speaker, and found no codified procedures for how DHS loans their drones out. Certainly, the use of drones for unapproved purposes is unacceptable and poses a myriad of civil liberty concerns, not to mention the fact that it potentially abuses taxpayer dollars, Mr. Speaker.

We need to ensure proper oversight is conducted, civil liberties are upheld, and taxpayer dollars aren't squandered.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
ALBERTO SANTIAGO

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor U.S. Army Reserve Master Sergeant Alberto Santiago from Homestead, Florida, who has served our country with courage and honor for over 40 years.

During his career, Master Sergeant Santiago has deployed to Kuwait, Iraq, Djibouti, Niger, Somalia, and many other countries in the Horn of Africa and is a veteran of Operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, Desert Shield, and New Dawn.

For his service, he received the Bronze Star, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Combat Action Badge. Master Sergeant Santiago and his family have made tremendous sacrifices in the defense of our country.

As Master Sergeant Santiago retires from the U.S. Army Reserve, I would like to honor his service and wish him the best in all his future endeavors and extend the thanks of a grateful Nation.

THE WATERS OF THE UNITED
STATES RULE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers' proposed regulation "the waters of the United States rule."

Undoubtedly, we all want and rightfully deserve clean water and healthy watersheds, especially those that make their living off the land, whether through farming, natural resource development and harvesting, or recreation and tourism.

The EPA suggested that expanding the reach of the Clean Water Act is necessary, yet they have not illustrated a clear end of the jurisdiction they seek. As a result, many are concerned about the threat to private property rights, active land management, agriculture, and energy development—especially in rural communities.

Without direct input from stakeholders and the legislative process, these new regulations would circumvent congressional approval, with limited transparency.

Economists have suggested the EPA has systematically underestimated the economic impact that may occur. Counties across the country are concerned about losing control over their ability for local planning and fear additional mandates from Washington, with little guidance or economic incentives.

Mr. Speaker, the American people elected the representatives of this body to preside over the making of law. An agency cannot rule by fiat.

The American people deserve better.

CELEBRATING NEW JERSEY'S
350TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the State of New Jersey, which is celebrating her 350th anniversary this year.

Tomorrow, I will introduce in the House a resolution with all the members of the New Jersey House delegation commemorating our State's rich heritage and this 350th anniversary milestone. It is my understanding that Senator MENENDEZ will be introducing a similar resolution.

Since its founding in the year 1664, New Jersey has played an instrumental role in the establishment of our country, serving as the location of more military engagements than any other colony and becoming the first State to ratify the Bill of Rights.

New Jersey authors and artists have forever enhanced our country's cultural landscape. Of course, the charm of our State's physical landscape and shoreline cannot be overstated.

New Jersey has long served as a cauldron of innovation, supporting leading scientists and innovators in the devel-

opment of groundbreaking technologies and medicines.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating New Jersey's history of innovation, liberty, and diversity this year and every year.

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF
ASIAN CARP

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the bipartisan action that Congress has taken recently to stop invasive species like Asian carp from jeopardizing Minnesota's ecological and economic health.

The invasive Asian carp is more than a nuisance. It is a danger to over 158 different species of fish and is threatening Minnesota's thriving tourism industry, an industry that generates \$11 billion in annual sales and supports thousands of jobs.

In addition to the economic impact, continued expansion of the Asian carp into our waterways will mean less recreational opportunities to enjoy Minnesota's beautiful lakes, rivers, and waterways.

Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, Congress took action to help stop the spread of this invasive fish by passing legislation requiring the closure of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, helping prevent Asian carp from swimming upstream into Minnesota's northern waterways.

While more can be done, Mr. Speaker, to solve our problems with invasive species, this provision is an important step in preserving our aquatic ecosystems. I would like to thank my colleagues in the Minnesota delegation for coming together on this issue.

TERRORIST ACTIVITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MASSIE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, a great deal has been going on in the last 24 hours—a lot of surprises—which help make life interesting.

Mr. Speaker, I want to call to attention, again, the human tragedy that has arisen in Africa—and Nigeria specifically—as I was there at the end of last week for a couple of days meeting with some of the mothers of girls who were kidnapped.

There was an excellent story in *The Blaze* done by Sara Carter today where she says:

Precious and Hope—two girls' names—ran for their lives through the thick brush of the Nigerian forest. They could feel their hearts pounding, their bare feet scraped from the

rocks, and their legs throbbing from the thorns that penetrated their skin as they crawled low through the tangle to avoid detection.

□ 1915

They were running from the armed Islamist fighters who had seized them and approximately 300 other schoolgirls from what they had believed was the safety of their boarding school in Chibok, Nigeria, in one of the most brazen mass kidnappings in history. Only the night before, the two 15-year-olds had been sleeping peacefully. It was mid-April, and many of the girls had chosen to try to stay cool by sleeping underneath the night sky in only their shirts and undergarments while others left the windows of their dormitories wide open to stave off the humidity. What they didn't expect shortly after they closed their eyes was that their world would soon be turned upside down.

This is the story of the night that Precious and Hope were taken by Boko Haram and about their against-all-odds escape the next day while so many of their classmates remain missing.

I have met those girls, Mr. Speaker, and they are precious, hopeful girls, but their hearts have been quite broken. Even though they have escaped, they have had many nightmares when they have lain down, because they have realized that what happened to them is happening to their friends every day.

I did ask one of the pastors from Chibok, whom I met there—who was trying to assist the families, the mothers and the three girls who had escaped—what happened to the men? What happened to the fathers? I was told that so many of them feel so helpless and that they feel so guilty because now they don't even know where their girls are, but they know what is happening to them every day, and they can't stand the thought of what is happening to their daughters every day and what they know is happening. Many of the fathers don't feel worthy to be sleeping in their own homes, so they have gone into the bush to sleep, to be there while their daughters are suffering at the hands of these radical Islamists who think, somehow, they serve a god who thinks it is cute and it is funny, as one leader was laughing, talking about the sexual slavery of the girls and that they should be sold into sexual slavery.

It is just sheer evil.

I understand that moderate Muslims do not approve of this activity. I met and was with some moderate Muslims in Nigeria who understand how appalling and outrageous this activity is, but it is time moderate Muslims around the world actually stood up to the radical Islam that is doing so much damage in this world and is purveying so much evil. It is time they stood up.

Counselors told me that they have had so much trouble in trying to help these mothers because they are so distraught, and what they have been told over and over and over again is that nobody cares; and if America ever came up, it was made clear that nobody in

America cares and that they were certainly not going to come. So it has been very rough for them. I got an email today from one of the principals of the NGO unlikely heroes who is helping the families and the girls who have been able to escape so far, and she said even just one person from America coming has opened the doors to their having hope.

Now, if one lowly, bald-headed guy from east Texas, just by going over and meeting with these women and children and meeting with the pastors and counselors, could provide hope sufficient to open the doors to so many more who have been victims—who thought it was hopeless and nobody cared now today and in the last few days coming forward—just think what could have happened if our beautiful First Lady had made a trip to Nigeria or if our President had even taken actions that got back to the families so they knew there was hope.

The United States has no business going to war in Nigeria—we should not—but there are things that could be done without declaring war on a country when you find out that there is such a pervasive evil as Boko Haram, as al Qaeda, as radical Islam that wants to wipe the United States off the map and doesn't mind killing, repeatedly raping young girls, burning churches, burning homes, terrorizing people all because they had this sick, perverted idea that their god thinks that is good fun. It is time for moderate Muslims to stand up and to stand for the god they believe in. That would give even more hope.

I took some pictures while I was there. I wasn't sure it was a good idea, but they said this is part of providing hope that somebody will take this to America and that others will understand, and then if they could see pictures of its being presented in Congress, that that would add even more hope and would help good people to rise up who have been victims for so long.

America doesn't have to fight everybody's war, but they certainly have to do more than a hashtag and a Twitter. 43 and Twitters, as we saw, were not sufficient to stop Putin from invading the Crimea. Hashtags and Twitters were not sufficient to keep Boko Haram leaders from laughing at the sexual and horrible abuse of young girls who were kidnapped from school—girls they are still holding. At least President Clinton was willing to send a missile from time to time to try to send a message. In this administration, we have sent hashtags instead. It doesn't provide a whole lot of hope. They don't follow Twitter in the jungles of Nigeria.

Mr. Speaker, these are many of the mothers of the girls who were kidnapped by the radical Islamist group Boko Haram. They were anxious, actually, to have a picture taken so that

people could actually see and they wouldn't be forgotten. The faces of the minor girls have been blurred out. This woman here, Mr. Speaker, had two daughters who were kidnapped. She had great difficulty in talking about what happened the night they were kidnapped without falling to the floor and weeping bitterly. Their pastor over here on the far right is a devout Christian leader and is doing all he can to help the victims' families.

This is that mother, Mr. Speaker, and the pastor. The counselor said just having someone come from the United States, put an arm around them, hug, and hold a hand has changed the outlook. Imagine what would happen if the authority of our administration did something besides Twitter.

The pastor is a sweetheart of a man. He seemed so grateful. He said he knew what it meant that someone came all the way from America to show he cared.

The face is blurred, but this is one of the children. They said she has had trouble doing a whole lot of anything but weeping and is in a deep, deep depression for her friends.

Mr. Speaker, I do believe it is true—to whom much is given, of them much will be required. We have been blessed like no nation in the history of the world. Now, in one of the ways you provide hope—and it is throughout the Book of Proverbs, throughout the Bible, itself—government is supposed to show impartiality and take care of those within its country.

Some wonder, Well, gee. Aren't we supposed to help our neighbors? Neighbors could be from other countries. That is absolutely correct. As individuals, we are supposed to help our neighbors, and our neighbors can be from other countries, but there is a sworn obligation of government to help protect and keep the people safe within the country's borders.

One of the reasons that it is helpful in a government role to reach out to people and give them hope to defeat their enemies and to stand up to their enemies is that, as President Bush used to say, I would much rather fight our enemies somewhere else instead of around our own homes. I would think that, as has been done in different places around the world, we can go to war, but you send a little help. For heaven's sake, in Libya, when we knew there were rebels who were supported by al Qaeda, we ended up having some kind of operation to send weapons in—getting weapons to people we knew included al Qaeda.

I have been wondering: How many of those weapons were being bandied about the night Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, Ty Woods, and Glen Doherty were killed?

Yet we have nations that are friendly nations, that we know are not evil, are not possessed by evil, but are wanting

to fight evil—radical Islam—that is a threat to people in this country. Anywhere radical Islam exists, it exists with the belief that there should be a worldwide caliphate and that everyone, particularly in the Great Satan of America, should be destroyed or subjugated or, at the very best, made to pay a tax for the right to exist in another religion within Muslim country—if not killed or wiped out altogether.

□ 1930

I certainly won't forget those families in Nigeria. It is startling to think how much could be helped by doing something more than Twitter. That is no substitute for a foreign policy.

Our moderate Muslim friends, our international atheist friends, our Christian friends, they feel like we ought to stand up against evil that ultimately would be a threat to us.

I think people should not forget that the Taliban was defeated within a matter of short months in Afghanistan, without a single American loss of life, up to and including that famous ride uphill led by the Northern Alliance leader, General Dostum, whom I have met a number of times. The Taliban was routed and defeated. No American blood was shed to that point.

There are ways to fight evil without going to war. But if you are not going to fight, for our soldiers, for our military members' sake, don't leave them stranded telling them to hold what they got when it may include IEDs.

The lesson from Vietnam should have been, we are not going to send our military anywhere that we don't give them all of the weapons they need to fight, to win, and come home.

We are not, never have been empire builders. Never have been. That is why the people in France still speak French. In Germany they speak German. In Italy they speak Italian, because we have never been about building an empire. We have been about liberty, freedom.

We want to be left alone, but when evil raises its head, it is time to speak up.

But the only way a nation can remain a nation very long and be effective, without giving way to complete corruption or chaos, is if the rule of law is observed impartially, across the board.

And you can't have a law-abiding, effective nation where there are immigration laws that say, here is the process you must go through in order to get into our country. Over a million people a year go through that legal process, and more millions are standing in line to go through that process.

All they see and hear is that America is no longer a nation of laws. America now just lets anybody come in who comes. And we ignore the law. We become as a temporary Third World nation, saying we are going to ignore the

laws that have helped make us the greatest nation in the world.

I still haven't heard from this administration any explanation as to why they might think that unaccompanied minors under 18 are flocking to our border like never before.

As I have explained, Mr. Speaker, before, when the word spreads through Central America, South America that if you just come to America, we are not sending anybody home, and story after story says that people come and they get word back home, we came, and sure enough, they are not sending people home.

For those in the administration who are not stupid, but are ignorant of what is going on, here is an article, translated from an El Salvadoran newspaper dated June 7. The headline, Mr. Speaker, is: "USA Will Give Legal Assistance to Children Migrating Alone."

Well, that is incentive. Wow. It is really true. The newspaper said if you can just get your kids to the United States, the U.S. Government will give them legal assistance.

The story is going back. It is not comfortable. Some people are lying in large rooms together, but food is being provided. Now they are going to provide legal assistance. Medical care, medical needs are provided because that is who we are.

The problem is, you have to stop the humanitarian crisis by continuing to lure people into the United States by saying the United States law is United States law.

Each of us in the Federal Government, Congress, and the administration, we have taken an oath to support and defend our Constitution, which means we follow our Federal laws, which means you have got to come into the United States legally.

Some estimate that maybe a billion, billion and a half people want to come into the United States. That would overwhelm, destroy the United States. We have an obligation to make sure we bring people in in a rational, methodical way so that we don't destroy this great nation.

So it seems to be a bit hypocritical for countries that don't allow near as many people in to their countries as we do, percentagewise or otherwise, to complain about unfair U.S. immigration laws.

Well, there are some things that certainly need to be reformed, and we could get that done immediately once the President ever gets around to securing the border.

But we have got to get back to following the law, to enforcing the law, or we are going to lose the country. With what is happening on our southern border, with what it is happening with the lawlessness in this city, people not only refusing to follow the law and follow their oath, but actually coming up

with ways to encourage people to come violate our law even more by the thousands.

Here's another article from an El Salvador newspaper from June 5: "Extension of Suspension of Student Deportation." So, the article here is making clear, yes, some came into the United States illegally, but the President is suspending enforcement of the laws he is sworn to uphold.

He just did it by fiat. He announced it. So is it spoken, so is it written, so shall it be.

That is what happens in a monarchy. That is not supposed to happen here. And if our friends down the other end of the hall in the Senate would stand with us, we could get back to observing the Constitution and protect the constitutional powers that are afforded to Congress and not to the other end here of Pennsylvania Avenue.

It is time to stand up. And perhaps, if people in this administration were not so busy luring people in by their words and actions, luring them to violating U.S. law, then maybe they would have more time to send more than a Twitter to evil radical Islamists wreaking havoc around the world that will ultimately end up on our doorstep because they still consider us the Great Satan.

Here is from a Honduran newspaper: "U.S. Military Base in California Used to House Children." The article is translated from June 7. Going through and explaining how these kids came up unaccompanied. We didn't turn them back. We brought them in. We are taking care of them.

Here is another article, though, from Houston. "Breitbart Announces Border Security and Public Corruption Tip Line":

The U.S. Border Patrol has been overwhelmed. The Federal Government is releasing thousands of illegal immigrants per week.

The information Washington, D.C., shares about the border with the American people is often at odds with reality in the region, and scores of foreign children were found to be packed into holding cells on U.S. soil.

Breitbart News has reported a near-steady stream of Mexican cartel activity and criminal efforts across the United States, reported on a plethora of corrupted U.S. officials and law enforcement along or near the U.S.-Mexico border, and reported countless tales of human suffering due to an often wide open and unsecured border.

Breitbart Texas is introducing a new tip line for Border Patrol agents, Customs and Border Protection officers, other law enforcement, and other citizens to expose the reality of conditions along the U.S. Mexico border.

"The new tip line is for law enforcement or anyone who wants to speak out on discrepancies between what Washington, D.C., is saying and what is actually occurring on the ground."

Breitbart Texas Managing Director Brandon Darby said: "Whether you know of Mexican cartel-related corruption occurring on U.S. soil, people or government officials helping human trafficking, foreign children being kept in horrible conditions or exploited, or simply feel the moral obligation

to tell Americans what is really occurring in the region, this tip line is for you.”

“We are competent and able to handle and research these matters,” Darby said. “Anyone can call in and email with information, and we will do all we can to investigate and get the word out.”

The tip line number, the article says, is 877-204-2033. Breitbart Texas Managing Director Brandon Darby can be reached. Somebody is trying to make a difference.

So then here is a story from The Washington Times by Cheryl Chumley: “Border Agents Warn of Chicken Pox, MRSA, Staph From Illegal Child Crossings.” Border patrol agents who have already experienced scabies infestation from illegal border crossers now fear that thousands of children who are sweeping into the United States are bringing a host of new diseases and ailments of even more serious nature.

“We are starting to see chicken pox, MRSA, staph infections. We are starting to see different viruses,” said Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol Agent Chris Cabrera.

Meanwhile, agents are still fighting off the scabies, a highly contagious skin disease that causes massive itching due to burrowing mites.

The article goes on: “We have an obligation to our oath to this country, to those we are supposed to provide a common defense for, and it is pretty tragic what it happening now.”

Here is a situation report from Thursday, May 29, RGV Sector Unified Coordination Group, EOC, and it goes through numbers, UACs, unaccompanied children, running through numbers of kids coming into the country illegally.

Then as U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen has reported, the Department of Homeland Security has been engaging in human trafficking.

□ 1945

Come into the country, we will take you to your parents, even if they are illegally here. Leave your aunt, uncle, family. Come with human traffickers to the United States, and we will get you to wherever your parents will be. If you are coming and your parents are not with you, and they are not in the United States, hey, we will find somebody to take care of you.

That is not the message that is literally being sent out by this administration, but that is certainly the message that is being communicated by our actions. As a result, the number of what this human smuggling report says cause illegal alien apprehensions by southwest border sector shows to be skyrocketing, skyrocketing.

It is incredible the number of people that are now flooding into the United States because they have heard nobody is following their oath with this administration. They are not enforcing the law. They have become like our country, basically. They are ignoring the law. It is great. Come on now.

Here’s a sitrep report from 9 June, 1600 hours, regarding unaccompanied children, the UC influx. It reports, Mr. Speaker, for the entire month of May, there were 5,595 children screened by the Border Patrol, but just in the first 8 days of June, there had been 6,956 children screened by the Border Patrol. As I understand it, May was far bigger than April, and April was bigger than March.

I mean, this is increasing because the administration has not gotten serious about abiding by its oath, by not providing a common defense, not enforcing our borders, not enforcing our immigration laws.

A Nation that refuses to enforce such important laws is going to find that, when it gets around to deciding the Nation is at risk, it will find that it is quite possibly too late.

Instead of being concerned about following an oath, enforcing immigration laws, making sure that people have filled out the proper documents, gotten a visa legally—properly—coming in the proper way, we had many officials who were brought in, made aware of this Bergdahl swap, except for the people the law required to be told—yes, the Members of Congress—the lawlessness goes on. We have got to stand up and say enough is enough.

This is an article under U.S. news titled, “Officials Predicted Detainees in Bowe Bergdahl Swap Would Rejoin Taliban,” from Julian Barnes, dated June 10, from Washington.

Before the U.S. transferred five Afghan Taliban detainees to secure the freedom of Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, American intelligence officials predicted that two of the men would return to senior positions with the militant group, according to U.S. officials.

The classified assessment, a consensus of spy agencies compiled during the prisoner-swap deliberations, said two others of the five were likely to assume active roles within the Taliban, while only one of the five released detainees was considered likely to end active participation in the group’s effort to undermine the elected government of Afghanistan.

Make no mistake—it is not here in this article—but these people do not just believe in being hostile to the Government of Afghanistan. They consider the United States the Great Satan.

While this is going on and we are releasing terrorists, who will ultimately kill Americans—and mark my words, there will be Americans who die unnecessarily because of the release of these murderous thugs.

For anyone who says, well, you know, they didn’t technically stab anybody or actually cut off their heads—they believe, they are complicit, they support, they assist, and under every State’s law, I am aware of—and every Federal law—that makes them a principal. That makes them guilty of the crime, itself.

I would think, under the logic of those who say, well, we don’t think

they actually murdered somebody, themselves—well, under that scenario, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed’s admission that he planned 9/11/2001 and that he glorifies Allah if he has terrorized Americans, he is not really a murderer because he didn’t actually fly the plane in that killed them himself. He just planned it and made sure that it was carried out. That is some pretty weak reasoning.

This is going to cost American lives, letting these five Taliban go.

There was a bill that my friend from California, DANA ROHRBACHER, filed—some of us signed onto—that would have prevented the executive branch from taking any action to release four of these five that were released. That is how serious we took it, but the administration seems to think: hey, it was a good deal, we made a good deal.

Well, it wasn’t a good deal. You can’t release people who have engaged in evil this serious, who have not recanted their evil, who want to go back and commit atrocities against nonradical Islamists—whether moderate Muslims, but especially Christians and Jews—and not expect that to come back on you and hurt you.

This is an article from FOX News, published June 11, today, “Hagel admits administration mishandled aspects of Taliban swap.” You think?

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, June 11, 2014, to testify before the House Armed Services Committee.

Defense Secretary Hagel, on Wednesday, sought to ease concerns about the controversial swap of five hardened Taliban leaders for Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, but under pressure from lawmakers, acknowledged that the administration mishandled the announcement.

“We didn’t handle some of this right,” Hagel admitted to the House Armed Services Committee, toward the end of the first public hearing on the prisoner exchange.

The hearing lasted more than 5 hours, as lawmakers from both sides of the aisle voiced concerns about the trade—while some also accused Republicans of exaggerating the security threats.

It is unfortunate that names aren’t mentioned as to who said Republicans were exaggerating the security threats because, Mr. Speaker, when Americans are killed because of this ill-advised swap, we need to be able to come back to the floor and say: these are the people that thought it was exaggerated to say that releasing murderous, evil thugs who hate America was not going to come back to bite us and cost American lives.

This other article, all of this going on at the same time, “U.S. Watches As Iraq Speeds Toward Disaster.”

Fighters for the al Qaeda-linked Islamic State of Iraq and Syria took Mosul today, giving the militant group control of Iraq’s second largest city and setting the country on a path toward chaos.

ISIS militants already control Fallujah, a city that American Marines took in 2004 in what was the bloodiest battle of the Iraq

war. Now, with both Mosul and Fallujah under their control, nearly half of Iraq is in the grips of a group that is a formal affiliate of a terrorist group.

Equally troubling are the circumstances under which the city fell. Iraqi security personnel simply abandoned their posts, according to reports.

It sounded like the Bush administration had teed up a security forces agreement—sometimes called SFA—with Iraq, could have gone ahead and signed it, but thought—because this is the way George W. Bush thinks—even though he is a Republican and a Democrat was coming in, like his father, he feels like: I will do something nice. I will leave this teed up. He can come in, sign it, get a lot of credit. It will help him start off a good Presidency.

Well, guess what, it didn't work out. It turns out Bush should have gone ahead and signed the agreement. Because of the mishandling by this administration, now all of those precious American lives and the blood that was shed at Mosul and Fallujah now has radical Islamists back standing on those spots where the blood was shed.

It is time for what in east Texas is called common sense and here in Washington is just sense because it isn't common. It is time for us to listen to the American people, to read the law and follow it, to keep our oaths to the American people because a failure to be vigilant costs liberty.

I still think, Mr. Speaker, because to whom much is given—which is the United States, given more than any nation in history—of them, much is required.

As we allow lawlessness to continue on our borders here in Washington without encouraging law-abiding, decent activity in places where evil radical Islam is reigning supreme, we will be held accountable. This country will suffer for its negligent and intentional neglect in following the law that has made us so great.

To those who want to descend to Third World status, this is how you do it: you just stop following your own laws, you start ruling by how you feel about things, instead of what the law says.

We have an oath to do better. We have an obligation to the past generations who have sacrificed the last full measure of devotion, as Lincoln said, and our failure will cause future generations to rise up and curse our names if we don't start forcing people to follow the law.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, I yield back the balance of my time with a broken heart.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 37. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol in commemoration of the Shimon Peres Congressional Gold medal ceremony; to the Committee on House Administration.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 12, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5913. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Kentucky; Stage II Requirements for Hertz Corporation facility at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in Boone County [EPA-R04-OAR-203-0794; FRL-9911-24 Region-4] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5914. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revision to the Washington State Implementation Plan; Update to the Solid Fuel Burning Devices Regulations [EPA-R10-OAR-2013-0707; FRL-9910-54 Region-10] received May 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5915. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of States' Requests to Relax the Federal Reid Vapor Pressure Volatility Standard in Florida, and the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill and Greensboro/Winston-Salem/High Point Areas in North Carolina [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0787; FRL-9911-12-OAR] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5916. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-048, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5917. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-034, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5918. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-012, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5919. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-037, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5920. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-016, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5921. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of the determination of a waiver under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Belarus; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5922. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination and certification pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5923. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification to Congress regarding the Incidental Capture of Sea Turtles in Commercial Shrimping Operations, pursuant to Public Law 101-162, section 609(b); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5924. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Traverse City, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0175; Airspace Docket No. 13-AGL-12] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5925. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30952; Amdt. No 3585] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5926. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30958; Amdt. No. 513] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5927. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Effective Date for the Helicopter Air Ambulance, Commercial Helicopter, and Part 91 Helicopter Operations Final Rule [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0982; Amdt. Nos. 91-330, 120-2;135-129] (RIN 2120-AK47) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5928. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Prohibition Against Certain Flights in Simferopol (UKFV) Flight Information Region (FIR) [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0225; Amdt. No. 91-331] (RIN: 2120-AK50) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5929. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0829; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-085-AD; Amendment 39-17814; AD 2014-06-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5930. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes

[Docket No.: FAA-2013-0363; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-031-AD; Amendment 39-17769; AD 2014-04-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5931. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Alexander Schleicher, Segelflugzeugbau Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0019; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-045-AD; Amendment 39-17811; AD 2014-06-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5932. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0975; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-082-AD; Amendment 39-17813; AD 2014-06-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5933. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0419; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-129-AD; Amendment 39-17800; AD 2014-05-28] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5934. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2006-24777; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-19-AD; Amendment 39-17809; AD 2014-06-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5935. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1202; Directorate Identifier 2012-NE-38-AD; Amendment 39-17816; AD 2014-07-02] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5936. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0674; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-217-AD; Amendment 39-17817; AD 2014-07-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5937. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1069; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-197-AD; Amendment 39-17827; AD 2014-08-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5938. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turbohaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2007-27009; Directorate Identifier 2007-NE-02-AD;

Amendment 39-17820; AD 2014-07-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5939. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0865; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-199-AD; Amendment 39-17819; AD 2014-07-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5940. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0668; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-017-AD; Amendment 39-17826; AD 2014-08-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5941. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0884; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-31-AD; Amendment 39-17829; AD 2014-08-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PETRI (for himself and Ms. NORTON) (both by request):

H.R. 4834. A bill to authorize highway infrastructure and safety, transit, motor carrier, rail, and other surface transportation programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Science, Space, and Technology, Natural Resources, Oversight and Government Reform, the Budget, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 4835. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to stop abusive student loan collection practices in bankruptcy cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 4836. A bill to prohibit the transfer of unprivileged enemy belligerents to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 4837. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each

case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FATTAH (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. ROTHFUS, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. DENT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4838. A bill to redesignate the railroad station located at 2955 Market Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commonly known as "30th Street Station", as the "William H. Gray III 30th Street Station"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BASS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 4839. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to provide for the calculation of the minimum wage based on the Federal poverty threshold for a family of 4, as determined by the Bureau of the Census; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4840. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to preclude use of the social security account number on Government-issued identification cards issued in connection with Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BARBER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona):

H.R. 4841. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 4842. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require certain companies to disclose information describing any measures the company has taken to identify and address conditions of forced labor, slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor within the company's supply chains; to the Committee on

Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Mr. COLE, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. ISSA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KLINE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 4843. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a limitation under the Medicare program on charges for contract health services provided to Indians by Medicare providers of services and suppliers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 4844. A bill to take certain property in McIntosh County, Oklahoma, into trust for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 4845. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for mortgage insurance premiums; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 4846. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 4847. A bill to facilitate effective research on and treatment of neglected tropical diseases through coordinated domestic and international efforts; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 4848. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the gas tax and rebuild our roads and bridges; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DELANEY:

H. Con. Res. 101. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Warren Weinstein should be returned home to his family; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Ms. EDWARDS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. MATSUI, and Mrs. NOEM):

H. Res. 619. A resolution recognizing that cardiovascular disease continues to be an overwhelming threat to women's health and the importance of providing basic, preventive heart screenings to women wherever they seek primary care; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. SIRES):

H. Res. 620. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Mexico should immediately release United States Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi and provide for his swift return to the United States so Sgt.

Tahmooressi can receive the appropriate medical assistance for his medical condition; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself and Mr. POE of Texas):

H. Res. 621. A resolution reaffirming the commitment of the House of Representatives to the First Amendment to the Constitution and the vital freedom of speech protections it provides for Americans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. PETRI

H.R. 4834

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1, Clause 3, Clause 7 and Clause 18.

By Mr. CONYERS

H.R. 4835

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN

H.R. 4836

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 permits Congress to make all laws "which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States."

By Mr. REICHERT

H.R. 4837

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution

By Mr. FATTAH

H.R. 4838

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I Section 8 Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the United States Congress shall have power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes".

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas

H.R. 4839

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority to enact this legislation can be found in:

Commerce Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 3)

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 18)

By Mr. ISRAEL

H.R. 4840

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK

H.R. 4841

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws

which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York

H.R. 4842

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment 13 to the U.S. Constitution—Abolition of Slavery "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

By Ms. McCOLLUM

H.R. 4843

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers."

By Mr. MULLIN

H.R. 4844

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. NUNES

H.R. 4845

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. POLIS

H.R. 4846

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2, (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey

H.R. 4847

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: Commercial Activity Regulation

By Mr. DeFAZIO

H.R. 4848

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 499: Mr. HORSFORD.
- H.R. 621: Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HALL, and Mr. SESSIONS.
- H.R. 713: Mr. KENNEDY.
- H.R. 778: Mr. JONES.
- H.R. 920: Mr. GIBSON.
- H.R. 1030: Mr. LOEBSACK.
- H.R. 1084: Ms. KAPTUR.
- H.R. 1252: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 1309: Mrs. BLACK.
 H.R. 1362: Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 1462: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 1507: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. COBLE.
 H.R. 1563: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.
 H.R. 1728: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
 H.R. 1750: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico and Mr. JOYCE.
 H.R. 1755: Mr. LOBIONDO.
 H.R. 1771: Mr. MULLIN.
 H.R. 1830: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. TIPTON.
 H.R. 1851: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 1920: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
 H.R. 1979: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
 H.R. 2084: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. GARDNER.
 H.R. 2130: Ms. BASS.
 H.R. 2146: Mr. PETERS of California.
 H.R. 2283: Mr. COBLE, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SALMON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 2415: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 2595: Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 2619: Mr. FOSTER.
 H.R. 2663: Mr. PAULSEN.
 H.R. 3086: Mr. FARR.
 H.R. 3112: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 3369: Mr. MORAN.
 H.R. 3377: Mrs. WALORSKI.
 H.R. 3419: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
 H.R. 3426: Mr. LANCE, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. MATHESON.
 H.R. 3531: Mr. POSEY.
 H.R. 3665: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 3698: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
 H.R. 3707: Mr. STOCKMAN.
 H.R. 3708: Mr. SCALISE and Mr. VALADAO.
 H.R. 3717: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 3723: Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. FLORES.
 H.R. 3899: Mr. TURNER.
 H.R. 3991: Mr. ENYART, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 3992: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. SALMON.
 H.R. 3997: Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 4060: Mr. ROTHFUS.
 H.R. 4079: Mr. ROONEY.
 H.R. 4090: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
 H.R. 4092: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 4162: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 4178: Mr. DENT and Mr. GALLEGRO.
 H.R. 4188: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
 H.R. 4190: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 4208: Mr. HECK of Nevada.
 H.R. 4221: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
 H.R. 4290: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 4320: Mr. KING of Iowa.
 H.R. 4351: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 4357: Mr. PALAZZO.
 H.R. 4365: Mr. NOLAN.
 H.R. 4383: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
 H.R. 4385: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 4423: Mr. JONES.
 H.R. 4446: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 4447: Mr. TERRY.
 H.R. 4450: Mr. POSEY and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 4510: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. SALMON, Mr.

VARGAS, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. PASCRELL.
 H.R. 4524: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 4541: Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 4577: Mrs. NOEM.
 H.R. 4578: Mr. LEVIN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 4582: Mr. DINGELL, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
 H.R. 4612: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
 H.R. 4622: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
 H.R. 4629: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 4630: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. RUNYAN.
 H.R. 4631: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
 H.R. 4646: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
 H.R. 4679: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 4717: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. COFFMAN.
 H.R. 4723: Mr. POLIS.
 H.R. 4732: Ms. DELBENE, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 4741: Mr. BARROW of Georgia.
 H.R. 4743: Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 4749: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
 H.R. 4756: Mr. HONDA and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 4783: Mr. COHEN, Mr. FARR, and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
 H.R. 4784: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 4790: Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 4792: Mr. LONG, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. ROHRBACHER.
 H.R. 4805: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
 H.R. 4808: Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. MARINO, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. KING of Iowa.
 H.R. 4813: Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. POSEY.
 H.R. 4832: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. VARGAS.
 H.J. Res. 34: Mr. PALLONE.
 H. Con. Res. 16: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mr. DEFazio.
 H. Con. Res. 78: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H. Con. Res. 84: Mr. COHEN.
 H. Con. Res. 85: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H. Res. 416: Ms. ESTY.
 H. Res. 538: Mr. LANCE.
 H. Res. 562: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H. Res. 606: Ms. CHU, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. LEWIS.
 H. Res. 607: Mr. OLSON, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. GRIMM, and Mr. POE of Texas.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: Ms. FUDGE

AMENDMENT No. 9: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____ For the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out section 243 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6951 et seq.) relating to the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, as authorized by the amendment made by section 4206 of Public Law 113-79 (128 Stat. 824), there is hereby appropriated, and the aggregate amount otherwise provided by this Act for "AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS—Production, Processing, and Marketing—Office of the Secretary" is hereby reduced, by \$13,000,000.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: Mr. KIND

AMENDMENT No. 10: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide payments (or to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to provide payments) to the Brazil Cotton Institute.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: Mr. KIND

AMENDMENT No. 11: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries of any officers or employees of the Department of Agriculture to implement, enforce, or otherwise carry out section 502(c)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1502(c)(1)).

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: Mr. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT No. 12:

Page 19, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,500,000)".

Page 20, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$5,500,000)".

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: Mr. GOODLATTE

AMENDMENT No. 13: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to construct, fund, install, or operate an ethanol blender pump or to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel of the Department of Agriculture to award a grant for the installation of an ethanol blender pump.

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: Mr. DUNCAN OF TENNESSEE

AMENDMENT No. 14: Page 26, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 82, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

H.R. 4800

OFFERED BY: Mr. ELLISON

AMENDMENT No. 15: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code, in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term "Fair Labor Standards Act."

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PROTECTING OUR OCEANS

HON. SUZAN K. DeIBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Capitol Hill Ocean Week to highlight the critical role our oceans play in our lives, our economy, and for so many marine species.

In 2012, the Pacific Region's seafood industry generated \$7.5 billion in sales for Washington state while seafood processors and dealers accounted for 16,000 jobs.

The Magnuson Stevens Act, the law which governs sound stewardship and management of our fisheries is due for reauthorization. Unfortunately, the reauthorization bill moving through the House would take us backwards at a critical time.

The bill would roll back a number of conservation provisions at the expense of numerous efforts to increase fish populations. In fact, the bill would allow overfishing on already depleted populations. In my district, a commercial fishery disaster declaration was made for the Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery this year. Our tribes have been good stewards of the fishery, but due to a changing climate beyond their control, fish populations are decreasing.

This bill does not address our changing climate, such as the increasing acidification of our oceans. I urge my colleagues to instead pursue policies that will preserve our oceans for generations to come.

HONORING MR. DICK BUTLER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Richard (Dick) Butler on the occasion of his retirement celebration on June 5, 2014, after a long and distinguished career with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Early in his service with NOAA, Dick spent several years as a tuna-porpoise observer and under difficult working conditions he and his fellow observers brought back new information about the magnitude of dolphin mortality, setting the stage for profound changes in fishing practices management of incidental marine mammal take.

While serving as the North Coast Branch Chief, Mr. Butler led several notable efforts such as addressing gravel mining in the Russian River, and he would go on to play an important role in the development of the Russian

River Biological Opinion, leading to the successful establishment of Warm Spring hatchery and other key conservation actions in the Russian River. Mr. Butler also helped build a strong conservation partnership with the Sonoma County Water Agency resulting in direct conservation benefits on-the-ground.

Mr. Butler's leadership and expertise have greatly benefitted NOAA and USFWS and will have lasting impacts on our ecosystem and natural resources for years to come. Please join me in expressing deep appreciation to Dick Butler for his long and impressive career and his exceptional record of service to our community.

OPPOSITION TO H. AMDT. 757 TO H.R. 4660, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the amendment offered by my colleague and friend from Florida.

First, I want to commend the gentleman from Florida for his tireless efforts on behalf of his constituents. I recognize and appreciate the challenges many of his constituents are having with the Gulf of Mexico Council and the mismanagement issues plaguing the Red Snapper fishery.

As a member of the authorizing committee and someone who has spent decades dealing with fisheries issues, I am concerned about the implications of this amendment to fishermen in my district and in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Virginia Waterman's Association has contacted me to express their opposition to this amendment, which would limit future catch share programs. Fishing has always been a key component of Virginia's economy, and the health of the resource is vital to its future. There are enormous benefits to the proper management of fisheries.

Fisheries management, however, is a complex issue. It requires good science. It requires good analytics. And, more importantly, it requires good management tools. Catch shares can be a useful management tool, and they have proven to be an effective management program in many fisheries, including striped bass, surf clam, quahog, golden tilefish, and scallop. Additionally, in Virginia there is interest in new catch shares for tautog and blue crab.

But the decisions over whether to use them are best left to the regional fishery management councils, which were established by Congress for this very purpose. The participants on those regional fishery management councils have extensive knowledge of their

local fisheries and are better equipped than Congress to make decisions on what management regimes to use in their regions.

I understand the concerns of my colleagues about the way some fisheries are managed in the United States. I share some of those concerns and look forward to continuing working through the House Natural Resources Committee to address them during reauthorization of Magnuson-Stevens. I do not believe that this amendment is the right approach to solving fishery management problems, nor is it good for the Commonwealth of Virginia. I am therefore opposed to the amendment.

HONORING BARBARA KELLEHER FITZGERALD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the service and dedication of Mrs. Barbara Kelleher Fitzgerald, who is being honored as an integral part of the community at the 6th Annual Mount Mercy Academy 5K in Buffalo, New York.

Barbara is a Mount Mercy alumna from the class of 1978, and has since been completely committed to several volunteer event committees at Mount Mercy Academy and has served on the Mount Mercy Academy Alumnae Board.

As a teacher for over 30 years she has touched the lives of many. She began her career at St. Thomas Aquinas school. For the past 22 years she has worked as a Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher at Hamlin Park School #74. The dedication she shows to the children she serves is unmatched.

Among her many community action roles, Barbara has been the president of the Mercy League of Mercy Hospital, the St. Thomas Aquinas Home School Association, Bishop Timon St. Jude Parent Guild, Mount Mercy Academy Parent Guild, and continues to be an active member of the Notre Dame Academy Parent Guild and Sports Committee. Barbara has volunteered as a coach for St. Thomas Aquinas and Notre Dame Academy as well as the South Buffalo Soccer Association.

In addition to these great works, Barbara is a founding member of the Women's Conclave, a discussion group in the local community designed to empower women to handle their unique challenges of life.

Amid her involvement in these influential leadership positions, Barbara identifies her children as her greatest accomplishment. Their family—Barbara, Barry, Barry Jr., Kevin, and Mary Kate—resides in South Buffalo. Barb credits her commitment to community service to the example set by her parents,

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Patrick and Barb Massett Kelleher and her late aunt Sister Mary Annunciata Kelleher.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize the incredible legacy of Barbara Kelleher Fitzgerald. I am inspired by her boundless capacity to give of herself to the community and to her family. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Kelleher Fitzgerald for her years of service to the Western New York community and wishing her and her family the best in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING RABBI AVI AND TOBY
WEISS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, there is a saying that "talent does what it can, while genius does what it must." The inner strength and spirit which moves Rabbi Avi Weiss and his wife Toby cannot be contained. The genius of their shared vision and commitment to social justice shines brightly and for all to see.

Rabbi Weiss' work isn't limited to the confines of any city or synagogue, nor has he shied away from raising his voice to lift the oppressed. He says that he is an activist because he has no other choice; it is something he must simply do.

I believe that my dear friend responds to the calling laid out by his faith. Rabbi Weiss is compelled to act in the service of others and to live by the spirit of tzedakah. It is reflective in all that he has done and all that he strives to do.

It is why his voice will always be heard in support of the oppressed. It is why he participated in a hunger strike urging the release of Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky. It is why he protested for the right of Soviet Jews to leave their homeland and seek haven elsewhere and it is why he denounced horrendous acts of genocide in Darfur.

Rabbi Weiss founded Yeshivat Chovevei Rabbinical School in order to train a new generation of Orthodox rabbis to live with the spirit of openness that he himself exemplifies. Under Rabbi Weiss' guidance, students learn how to serve not just the Orthodox community, but also the larger Jewish diaspora. Yeshivat Chovevei Rabbinical School is a family that continues to grow as each graduate takes their place in the rabbinate. I have watched its legacy grow and pray for its continued prosperity.

Rabbi Weiss is so well-known, that whenever I tell people I am from the Bronx they immediately ask if I know Rabbi Weiss. I cannot be any more pleased to say that not only does he live in my District, but he is also my neighbor and dear friend.

I would be remiss if I neglected to say that behind every good Rabbi is an equally strong woman who supports him. Toby Weiss has been both his guiding light and the foundation that gives him the strength to carry forth his work.

Religious leaders embody our hopes, aspirations and even our trepidations and fears.

We look to them for guidance—for a path in which to follow—so that we might overcome the challenges before us in our own lives.

Rabbi Avi Weiss and his wife Toby are truly exemplary individuals and leaders within the Bronx community. Please join me in celebrating their legacy as Yeshivat Chovevei Rabbinical School honors them for their service and enduring commitment to making the world a better place to live.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 277, the Nadler Amendment to H.R. 4745. As a strong supporter of this amendment, my intent was to vote "yes."

IN MEMORY OF DON DAVIS AND
HIS REMARKABLE IMPACT ON
THE GREATER DETROIT COMMU-
NITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great citizen of the State of Michigan, Mr. Don Davis, a pioneer in music and business. Mr. Davis passed away on Thursday, June 5, 2014, at the age of 75. He is survived by his wife, Kiko, and his three children.

A three-time Grammy winner, Don knew that he had a passion for music at an early age and once told the Detroit News, "The music industry chose me. If there is a gene for music, I had one."

Don began his music career as a session musician in the early sixties for Detroit based Motown Records. He played guitar on their hits, "Money (That's What I Want)" by Barrett Strong, a song that would later be covered by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and The Doors, and "Bye Bye Baby" by Mary Wells, reaching number 45 on the Billboard Charts.

As a songwriter, Don experienced his first major hit in 1968 with Johnnie Taylor's "Who's Making Love," which peaked at number 5 on the Billboard Charts. In 1976, he collaborated with Johnnie Taylor again, producing the song "Disco Lady," the first single to be certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America.

Twenty years later, Don would expand beyond his outstanding music career to become the CEO and Chairman of the First Independence Bank, the only African-American owned bank in Michigan.

First Independence Bank, which operates a number of Detroit branches, has been named by Black Enterprise Magazine as one of the top 15 African-American owned banks in the country. In 2012, coming out of the Great Recession, First Independence Bank was able to

record the most profitable year in its history and increase its total assets to \$185 million.

As CEO, Don took his responsibility to his community seriously. In his 18 years as CEO, Don made it a priority to improve his community by focusing on its housing needs and providing excellent banking services to small business owners and families in Southeast Michigan.

Over many years, Don grew First Independence Bank into a trusted financial institution with loyal customers. Don believed that First Independence Bank could provide quality services to communities and customers who were previously overlooked by other banks. He was successful in advancing this mission.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss Don greatly and I know he will be missed by many in our community. I ask that you all join me in honoring his lifetime achievements and service. He will remain in our thoughts and his legacy will live on in Michigan and across our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 254, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN RECOGNITION OF SCHUYLKILL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2014
AWARD WINNERS CINDY PET-
CHULIS, BOB GREENE, MARIA
ROWLANDS, THERESA POTHE-
RING, JOSEPH JONES, SR., THE
COTLER GROUP, AND THE SEX-
UAL ASSAULT RESOURCE &
COUNSELING CENTER OF
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY (SARCC)

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce 2014 Award Recipients. Each year the Chamber selects several individuals and organizations that have contributed to economic and community development in Schuylkill County. The honorees this year are Cindy Petchulis, Bob Greene, Maria Rowlands, Theresa Pothering, The Cotler Group, and the Sexual Assault Resource & Counseling Center of Schuylkill County.

Cindy Petchulis of the Providence Place Retirement Community is the 2014 Business Woman of the Year. Cindy was critical in helping expand the Providence Place Facility, and is well known for her positive attitude and love of community. A caring people-person, Cindy excellently maintains Providence Place as a peaceful community where its patients can live and its employees can be productive.

Bob Greene of Pioneer Pole Buildings, Inc. is the 2014 Business Man of the Year. Bob treats all his employees as family, which encourages retention and helps the company

grow. He strives to be on the cutting edge of his business and wants his company to be the best. Bob is always willing to help the people of Schuylkill County. He is a sponsor for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Wounded Warrior Project, Pottsville Lions Car Cruise, 4-H, and his local community Easter Egg hunt. Under his leadership, his company has been recognized by the National Frame Builders Association with the Building of the Year award.

Theresa Pothering and Maria Rowlands are the Entrepreneurs of the Year, as they established an accounting firm, Rowlands and Pothering. With their strong leadership skills and expertise, they were able to turn a dream into a successful business. Clients enjoy that Rowlands and Pothering is a place where "everybody knows your name," and clients do not hesitate to recommend them.

The Cotler Group is the 2014 For Profit Organization of the Year. The Cotler Group has been family-owned for over 60 years and has contributed significantly to Schuylkill County's quality of life and economic vitality. Through its various holdings, the multifaceted business group provides employment for many in the County. The Cotler Group is well known for the development and expansion of one of Schuylkill County's premier golf courses, Mountain Valley. Their ventures bring out-of-county businesses and individuals into the area, enhancing sales for many local vendors. This company and its owner, Steve Cotler, work quietly behind the scenes and are involved with a wide and varied number of organizations and charities.

The Sexual Assault Resource & Counseling Center of Schuylkill County (SARCC) is the 2014 Non-Profit Organization of the Year. This non-profit engages all individuals, families, and communities in healing from sexual violence plus advocates and educates to eliminate sexual violence. It has served approximately 7,500 individuals within Schuylkill County who turned to them for support. SARCC works hard to make Schuylkill County a better and safer place to live. This organization serves its clients on a person-to-person basis and is instrumental in prevention education in schools throughout the county. All of their services are available for free to all men, women, and children in Schuylkill County.

Lastly, the 2014 James Stine Lifetime of Service Award honoree is Joseph Jones, Sr. Mr. Jones exhibits outstanding commitment and achievement, and his efforts have dramatically benefited Schuylkill County. After graduating from the Shamokin public schools, Mr. Jones served three years in the Navy during World War II as a Lieutenant, JG in the Pacific Theater. He then went to Ursinus College, Dickinson School of Law, and New York University law school for an LLM. He served as the editor-in-chief of the Dickinson Law Review and graduated first in his J.D. class. Mr. Jones was admitted in 1950 into the Pennsylvania Bar Association and moved to Pottsville where he began practicing law with Hicks, Williamson & Friedberg. He is now a senior partner with the firm, which is now known as Williamson, Friedberg & Jones, LLC.

Mr. Jones has also chaired successful capital fund raising campaigns for the Schuylkill United Way, Greater Pottsville Industrial Development Corporation, Salvation Army, Boy

Scouts of America, Pottsville Free Public Library, Good Samaritan Hospital, Pennsylvania State University—Schuylkill Campus, Ursinus College, Hawk Mountain Council B.S.A., Pottsville Hospital, Pottsville Area Development Corporation, and Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation.

It is a great honor to recognize the Schuylkill County Chamber of Commerce 2014 Award Recipients. These leaders are creating opportunity and raising the quality of life for others in Schuylkill County. May they continue to flourish for many years to come, and may they continue giving back to the community that supports them.

HONORING RABBI DR. JONATHAN
AND TZIPPORAH ROSENBLATT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Riverdale Jewish Center has fostered spiritual development and sought to nurture strong bonds between the Shul and the greater Riverdale community for 60 years. Anchored by his wife Tzipporah, Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Rosenblatt has been at the helm of the RJC for nearly 30 years, and their guidance can be felt throughout the lives of those whom they have touched.

Rabbi Rosenblatt is a true scholar. He was ordained by the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University in 1982 after having studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel. Rabbi Rosenblatt earned both a B.A. and M.A. in Comparative Literature from Johns Hopkins and a PhD in Modern British Literature from Columbia University.

Rabbi Rosenblatt has invested in the next generation of Jewish leaders, by training and mentoring young Rabbis. Under this direction, RJC is now a major training center for Rabbinic interns. Rabbi Rosenblatt is also an instructor at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), as well as programs in Israel that train Rabbis to serve in Jewish communities throughout the world.

He was the first Orthodox Rabbi to serve on the UJA-Federation National Young Leadership Cabinet, and has lectured widely in the United States, the United Kingdom, Israel, and South Africa. Rabbi Rosenblatt also directs Spiritual Care at the Jack and Mollie Zicklin Jewish Hospice in Riverdale.

Tzipporah Twersky Rosenblatt developed a love and passion for Jewish faith and culture at a very young age. Her late father Isadore Twersky was a renowned rabbinical scholar who later taught at his alma mater, Harvard University. Tzipporah is a noted trusts and estates attorney who is very active in the RJC community. Together, the Rosenblatts have four children.

My connection to the Rosenblatts is personal. Rabbi Rosenblatt is a dear friend who was a great comfort to both me and my family after my mother passed away. Rabbi Rosenblatt is truly one of the kindest and most sensitive people whom I have met. He has never proven otherwise, in each and every encounter we have had.

The Riverdale Jewish Center is fortunate to have Rabbi Rosenblatt at the helm of the Shul, and I am fortunate to call him my friend.

DOROTHY IRENE HAWKINS
FRYSON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Dorothy Irene Hawkins Fryson, and to honor the many contributions to her family and community throughout her 102 years here with us on Earth.

Dorothy was born on November 28, 1911 in Belmont, West Virginia to Will and Cora Ross. The family later relocated to Charleston, West Virginia, where Dorothy would spend most of her life. Affectionately known to those who loved her as "Big Momma," Dorothy was renowned for her cooking, which included specialties such as blackberry cobbler, sweet potato pie, and pineapple upside down cake. Remembered for her hard work, Mrs. Fryson was the first black female taxi cab driver in Charleston and worked as a popular elevator operator for several retail establishments and the State Capitol. She remained active throughout her life; taking the mound as a pitcher in baseball games, learning to swim at the age of 47, driving her own car until 96 years old, and living independently until 2013.

Dorothy not only left her mark on her family and all who knew her, but she impacted the lives of many people throughout the community who might not have known her at all. Everyone from the communities of Dunbar, Nitro, and Institute are familiar with the I-64 entrance and exit underpass, but not many know the interstate almost passed up their communities. When Dorothy heard her community would be left without immediate access to the new interstate, she went all the way to the top, writing President Johnson to express the concerns of her community. Sure enough, the construction plan was altered to include direct access to the interstate through an underpass at Institute, which her husband Sim affectionately referred to as "Dot's Tunnel." Dorothy continued to give back to her community throughout her life and at the age of 80 volunteered to teach reading at Dunbar Elementary School.

She had been a member of multiple community churches, including Ferguson Baptist, Young Street Baptist, and finally the Berea Seventh-day Adventist in South Charleston, West Virginia.

On Sunday, April 23, 2014, Dorothy Irene Hawkins Fryson passed away at the age of 102. She is survived by daughters Janice Corbett, Cora Heath and her husband Harry; sons John Hawkins and his wife Barbara, Sim Fryson and his wife Susan, Paul Fryson, and David Fryson and his wife Joy. In addition, Dorothy leaves behind a host of extended family, including 31 grandchildren, 61 great grandchildren, and 77 great great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the state of West Virginia owes Dorothy Irene Hawkins Fryson a debt of

gratitude for her devotion to her family and community. It is caring people like Dorothy who make serving West Virginia's Second Congressional District such an honor!

HONORING JEFFERY M. CONRAD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jeffery M. Conrad, who will be recognized at the 6th annual Mount Mercy Academy 5k in Buffalo, New York for his tireless commitment to the local community.

Jeff Conrad has been involved in community service since the age of 19, when he gave his time to serve on the Connor-Kait-Harrity Race Committee. This experience led to his founding of the Jack's 5k. He has served as a dedicated committee member of the Mount Mercy 5k since its inception. Jeff has also played a vital role as coach of both Varsity Cross Country and Track and Field teams at Mount Mercy.

In addition to his invaluable volunteer work, Jeffery is a former South District Council member in the City of Buffalo, and served as a valuable member of my staff when I served as a Member of the NYS Assembly.

Currently, Jeffery is the Western New York Regional Director for the Center for Employment Opportunities, which assists individuals on parole and probation to find employment. He also holds the position of the Chair of the Erie County Legislature's Safe Neighborhood Committee.

In addition to these great works, Mr. Conrad has been recognized many times over by community organizations. In 2011, he was selected to the 20th Anniversary Business First "40 Under 40" class for his work within the public and in government. In 2008, Jeffery was awarded the Tom Sands Community Service Award and the Goin' South Civic Pride Award for his efforts with Mount Mercy, Bishop Timon-St. Jude School, and myriad other worthy regional groups.

A lifelong resident of Buffalo, Jeff is married to Lisa (Nasca) Conrad, and they are raising two wonderful children together—Jeffrey and Giada.

Mr. Speaker, Jeffery Conrad is an exemplary citizen and his service is worthy of our highest recognition. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Conrad and thanking him for his utmost dedication and continuing service to our local community.

A WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT FOR KATHRYN DUNBAR—A FELLOW COASTIE

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Coast Guard Commander Kathryn Dunbar. Commander Dunbar, or KD as we affectionately call her, is

a native of Columbia, South Carolina, and was graduated from the University of the South and entered Officer's Candidate School in 1992.

A true sailor, she is a Coast Guard Cutterman, having served aboard three Buoy Tenders including USCGC *Sweetgum* in Mobile, Alabama, and USCGC *Red Birch* in Baltimore, Maryland. She also served as the commanding officer of Coast Guard Cutter *William Tate* in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 2001–2003.

I was privileged to travel to the City of Brotherly Love to attend her Change of Command when she assumed command of the cutter in 2001. I was pleased to be accompanied by my staffers Missy Branson and Ed McDonald at the ceremonies. Missy and KD were such good friends that they climbed Mount Everest together all the way to the base camp on the Nepal side.

CDR Dunbar also served in the Coast Guard Recruiting Command, the Office of Cutter Forces at Coast Guard Headquarters, and at both the National and District Seven Director of Auxiliary Offices. She is best known in Washington, DC, for her exceptional performance of duty in the Coast Guard House of Representatives Liaison Office from 1997–2001. This is where many of my colleagues, my staff and I, came to know KD.

She is a true friend, an outstanding Coastie, and as fine a representative of our service as I have seen. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish KD, Commander Dunbar, fair winds and following seas.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF EASTERN OREGON AND HONOR FLIGHT OF PORTLAND, OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Friday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon and Honor Flight of Portland, Oregon. On behalf of a grateful State and country, we welcome these heroes to our Nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are: Eldon Ashmore, U.S. Army; Joseph Bakkensen, U.S. Army; Elvin Ballou, U.S. Army; Marceline Clark, U.S. Army; William C. Eggiman, U.S. Army; William Gaddie, U.S. Army; Clarence Giebelhouse, U.S. Army; Donald Gourley, U.S. Army; Roy Haley, U.S. Army; Harold Johnston, U.S. Army; Edward Lapp, U.S. Army; Phillip Leveque, U.S. Army; Charles Marshall, U.S. Army; Jack Morse, U.S. Army; Vernon Charles Newton, U.S. Army; Charles B. Wilkins, U.S. Army; Robert Blomquist, U.S. Army Air Corps; Atlee Hawes, U.S. Army Air Corps; Donald Manwiller, U.S. Army Air Corps; Gustave Mohr, U.S. Army Air Corps; Robert Perrin, U.S. Army Air Corps; Harold Pickrell, U.S. Army Air Corps; Robert Schuberg, U.S. Army Air Corps; Norman Bailow, U.S. Army Signal Corps; John F. Kra-

mer, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps; Robert Wing Eisenhart, U.S. Marine Corps; Ellery Marvel, U.S. Marine Corps; George Vukich, U.S. Marine Corps, William Adams, U.S. Merchant Marine; Charles Bergseng, U.S. Navy; William Copp, U.S. Navy; Robert Goss, U.S. Navy; Richard Graham, U.S. Navy; George Hamlin, U.S. Navy; James Holland, U.S. Navy; James Hurd, U.S. Navy; Robert Jurgens, U.S. Navy; Melvin Leak, U.S. Navy; Jack Marsicano, U.S. Navy; Clarence William McDonnell, U.S. Navy; Leo Miner, U.S. Navy; John Orloff, U.S. Navy; Richard M. Page, U.S. Navy; Harlie Peterson, U.S. Navy; Arthur Ragan, U.S. Navy; John Ervin Rice, U.S. Navy; Jack Royle, U.S. Navy; Benjamin C. Webb, U.S. Navy; Jack Yaggie, U.S. Navy; Carl Duyn, U.S. Navy; Lois Raftshol, U.S. Navy Wave.

These 50 heroes join more than 81,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these brave Americans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon and Portland, Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize U.S. Army veteran Dick Tobiason and the Bend Heroes Foundation, whose tireless work will result in over 100 World War II veterans from Oregon visiting the memorials and U.S. Capitol.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 20th anniversary of National Men's Health Week (NMHW), which was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton in 1994. NMHW was legislation sponsored by Senator Bob Dole and Congressman Bill Richardson and is celebrated each year during the week that ends on Father's Day.

Recognizing that many health problems that affect men can be prevented, the week was designed to encourage men, boys and their families to develop positive health attitudes, engage in preventive behaviors, lead healthy lifestyles, and seek timely medical advice and care.

As co-chair of the Congressional Men's Health Caucus, I am proud to celebrate this week and help raise awareness of health issues that affect men, boys, and their families.

This week I participated in the Men's Health Network's health screenings that were being offered to Members and their staff. It is so important that we encourage men to be proactive about their health so that they can

live longer and healthier lives. I applaud the Men's Health Network for helping to raise awareness right here on Capitol Hill.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of National Men's Health Week, we are reminded of how far our country has come in improving the health and well-being of men and boys, but there is still a lot of work left to be done.

Mr. Speaker, this week, along with the entire month of June (Men's Health Month), provides an excellent opportunity to focus on ways that we and our loved ones can live healthier, longer lives.

COMMENDING MALAYSIA & WELCOMING AMBASSADOR AWANG ADEK HUSSIN

HON. ENI F. H. FALDOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. FALDOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2014, President Barack Obama arrived in Malaysia—the first American President to visit since 1966. President Obama's visit to Malaysia is indicative of Prime Minister Najib Razak's leadership in building a nation which has become a pivotal player globally and regionally.

Malaysia's growing contributions to security and prosperity cannot be underestimated, and I am pleased that the United States and Malaysia have formalized a comprehensive partnership to include trade, defense and maritime cooperation.

With Malaysia set to chair ASEAN in 2015, the nation is set to propel itself further in the region. Malaysia has a good human rights record and a stable government and, given that ASEAN member countries are looking forward to Malaysia assuming the chair, Malaysia will be in a strong position to bring multilateral parties together to address very serious issues, including South China Sea disputes.

As a major U.S. trading partner, Malaysia is one of 12 nations negotiating the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), a potential trade agreement that is a high priority for the U.S. and Asia. Malaysia is a strong partner for U.S. security and economic initiatives. Malaysia works closely with the United States on counter-terrorism, participated in stabilization efforts in Afghanistan, and also supports United Nations' peacekeeping missions, many of which are led by America. Malaysia is also a multi-ethnic, multi-religious society, a member of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, and an advocate of moderation.

I am pleased to associate myself with Malaysia, and I am proud to welcome Malaysia's new Ambassador to the United States. Prime Minister Najib personally appointed Ambassador Awang Adek Hussin ahead of President Obama's visit to Malaysia to bolster the U.S.-Malaysia partnership. Progress stalled between the two nations in the absence of a Malaysian ambassador to the United States since August 2013, and particularly when former Ambassador Jamaluddin Jarjis completed his term. With the presence of Ambassador Awang to fill the void left by Ambassador Jamaluddin Jarjis, I have every confidence relations will improve significantly.

Ambassador Awang Adek Hussin holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. He has served as Deputy Finance Minister, Senator, Assistant Governor, and in other notable positions. His first son was born in the United States. He is married to Madam Latifah Mohd Yusof and they have five children—Abd Aziz, Norjasara, Ahmad Azran, Nur Ain and Nur Nadira—and one grandchild, Lora. Lora accompanied her grandparents for the Ambassador Credentialing Ceremony on May 21, 2014 in the Oval Office where President Obama received the credentials from His Excellency Awang Adek bin Hussin. Three-year old Lora won the hearts of those in attendance with an impromptu dance and a playful back-and-forth exchange with President Obama in which she exclaimed "you rock" while the President kept saying "no, you rock."

Without a doubt, Ambassador Awang will carry forward the work of Prime Minister Najib and President Obama in pushing for greater economic and business ties with the United States, and I look forward to working closely with him as he does so. Once more, I welcome Ambassador Awang to the United States, and I commend Prime Minister Najib for his leadership in bringing about growth, development, investment—and a visit from the President of the United States.

HONORING MARY V. LAURO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Mary V. Lauro was a wonderful example of someone who had continually given back to her community over the course of her 87 years. Her commitment to her Bronx neighborhood was nothing short of inspirational.

Mary was born on May 4, 1926 and spent 50 years of her life living on Matilda Avenue in the Bronx. She graduated from Hunter College in 1947 and later went to work for Adhesive Products Corporation where she co-invented Monzini; a synthetic casting compound used by many museums in dinosaur skeletons as well as by sculptors and makeup artists.

During her employment, she also found time to be an influential and prominent figure in her community. She was the president of the Wakefield Taxpayers and Civic League (WTCL) for 25 years and wrote about the community in a weekly column for The Bronx News.

The WTCL is one of the oldest community organizations in the city and under the strong leadership of Ms. Lauro the organization took on a variety of pressing issues facing the community. These included fighting for more police officers—a 10 year battle to shut down a drug and prostitution infested OTB parlor—and the completion of a study that resulted in new zoning regulation for motels in residential areas.

Mary established strong relationships with neighboring communities and worked closely with the Woodlawn Taxpayers Association. In addition, Mary was a former member of Com-

munity Board 12, an active parishioner at Saint Francis of Rome, a member of the Wakefield Civilian Patrol and the Safe Way/Safe Home Program, and a participant in the 47th Precinct Community Council who held multiple positions throughout her membership.

Although we lost Mary last year to her battle with lung cancer, my wife and I will fondly remember Mary, as she was truly one of a kind. I remember her from the beginning of my career, over 40 years ago. She was a constant in the community—it was her whole life, and the community was like her own family. She lived a full life and will be sorely missed.

Last December the New York City Council voted to honor Mary Lauro by re-naming the street she used to live on for more than 50 years as "Mary V. Lauro Way."

Mary's dedication to improving the community and the lives of its inhabitants through her various public service efforts will hopefully inspire and remind residents of her legacy and I am proud to be a part of the celebration of a woman who had brought so much progress to a community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 9, 2014 I was not present for 3 votes. I wish to submit my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 272, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present for rollcall No. 273, I would have voted "no"; had I been present for rollcall No. 274, I would have voted "no."

HONORING SHANNON MATHEW

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Shannon Mathew, a graduating senior from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School who has received the Miami VA Healthcare System's James H. Parke Memorial Fund Youth Scholarship for her commitment to the veterans of South Florida. As a public servant and the son of a World War II veteran whose bravery motivated me to serve in Congress, I am so proud of Shannon's dedication to our community.

Shannon has devoted every summer of high school volunteering at the Physical Medicine and Rehab Unit of the William "Bill" Kling VA Clinic. In addition to providing encouragement, emotional support and a warm smile to all the veterans receiving treatment at the clinic, Shannon also assists administratively in keeping the physical therapy department running smoothly. Her supervisors describe her as spirited and helpful and veterans seeking treatment at the center have said that her presence encourages them to push through

their pain. Shannon will begin her undergraduate career at the University of Florida this fall and plans to volunteer at the VA clinic in Gainesville in her spare time.

Representing a district home to veterans of every major conflict since World War II, I know very well the sacrifices that our military men and women and their families have made for our country and the importance of honoring them. Shannon Mathew's passion for serving our veterans is an inspiration to me and my district, and I have no doubt that she has a bright future in store.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT AT ROGER DEAN STADIUM

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Military Appreciation Night at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Florida. This event serves to honor and recognize all those who serve and who have served in our military to protect our great nation. The event will be held the day before Independence Day when we celebrate our nation's freedom, which we owe to the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces. The Stadium will hold a ceremony recognizing veterans on the field and present a special color guard for the occasion. This event allows us to demonstrate our respect for the men and women who serve in our military and all that they do for us and our country, and to honor those who sacrificed everything and lost their lives in the line of duty. This event allows us not only to celebrate our nation's freedom and independence but also to remember all those who don a uniform signifying the protection of our country's citizens by means of protecting our freedoms.

Over Memorial Day weekend, I was humbled to have had the opportunity to spend this most solemn holiday with our troops stationed in Afghanistan. A few weeks later, I was honored to greet local veterans at the World War II Memorial while they were on their Honor Flight to D.C. for the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. From active duty to WWII veterans, our country is forever indebted to the sacrifices they have made in service to our nation. From an unacceptable benefits claim backlog, mistreatment at the VA, and the disgraceful high rates of unemployment, homelessness, and suicide among our nation's heroes, it is clear that our nation has been failing these heroes once they return home. We must—and will—do better.

That is why I have been pleased to see bipartisan support for my efforts to help reduce the backlog and increase mental health and suicide prevention efforts for our veterans. I hope to see the same support for my recent proposals to reduce the appeals claims backlog and expand educational opportunities for veterans and military families. Our nation's heroes should not have to wait years to receive the benefits they have earned or have to fight for a job after fighting for our nation and these common sense proposals will help address

these serious issues, reassuring our veterans, troops, and their families that we will be there for them as they have been there for our nation.

While we rededicate ourselves to better serving our veterans, troops, and military families, we must do so always remembering the ultimate sacrifice that many of their comrades, friends, and families made for our nation. This is one of the best ways we can pay tribute to our fallen heroes, including the 18th District's own Marine Corps Corporal Ian T. Zook of Port St. Lucie, Army Captain Adam P. Snyder of Fort Pierce, Marine Corps Lance Corporal Justin J. Wilson of Palm City, Army Specialist Jordan C. Schumann of Port St. Lucie, Navy Chief Petty Officer Aaron C. Vaughn of Stuart, and Army Sergeant Justin R. Johnson of Hobe Sound. All of these men were selfless heroes whose sacrifices will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, as Military Appreciation Night is recognized at Roger Dean Stadium, I encourage my colleagues to join me and the residents of Jupiter, Florida in pausing to appreciate all that these brave men and women have done for our country by encouraging similar local events of recognition across the nation.

HONORING JOHN H. GLOSE, JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize John H. Glose, Jr., who will be honored at the 6th annual Mount Mercy Academy 5K Race in Buffalo, New York for his admirable community involvement and dedication to Mount Mercy Academy.

John has played sports since grammar school, and pursued soccer, volleyball, and track through high school and college teams. After earning his bachelor's degree in 2005 and a master's degree in 2010, John translated his passion to volunteer coaching and cultivating the talents of young people.

John serves as a vital part of the Erie II BOCES Baker Road Alternative High School as a Physical Education and Health teacher. Here, John founded the Goodwill Transition Basketball League that gives the students at alternative high schools a chance to be a part of a school basketball team and learn the life lessons that team sports can teach them.

In addition to these commitments, John was the Head Coach of the varsity soccer, basketball and tennis teams at Mount Mercy Academy. At Mount Mercy, he conceived of and implemented the Wounded Warrior Game to raise awareness of the sacrifices of members of the armed forces. This endeavor has raised over \$5,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project Foundation.

Among the teams lucky enough to receive his guidance are the travel soccer teams of the South Buffalo Soccer Club, Mount Mercy basketball teams' summer leagues, and Mount Mercy basketball summer camp. John runs the Councilman Chris Scanlon Summer Basketball and Soccer Camps as a community outreach program for South Buffalo boys and girls.

John continues to be very active playing in adult basketball, soccer, kickball, football, and volleyball leagues; he is an avid runner and participates in many road races across WNY.

In addition to John's good works, I am proud to call this tireless educator, coach, mentor, and rising leader in the community my nephew. John is the son of my sister Trish Glose and her husband John Glose of West Seneca, New York.

John helps students and athletes develop their full potential in sports, in academics, and in life. He promotes excellence in all aspects of life, expecting sportsmanship, a strong work ethic, community service, and a commitment to education from his team members.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize the incredible and relentless work of John Glose, Jr. His dedication is inspiring, and I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest thanks for his efforts and accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE 2014 LEADERSHIP JACKSON SCHOLARS

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three high school seniors from the 8th District of Tennessee who have been named Leadership Jackson scholars as a result of their academic success and commitment to excellence.

I am so proud of Wyatt Woeltje, Jennifer Cantrell, and Leland Williamson who have been selected for this honor. I commend the three of them for being positive influences to young people across our state and our nation through their academia and honorable actions. Both Woeltje and Cantrell completed high school with a grade point average of 4.0.

The Leadership Jackson Alumni Association selected the three recipients based on academic achievement and community service. More than fifty students applied for the award, but only two were selected as recipients.

Once again, congratulations to Mr. Woeltje, Miss Cantrell, and Mr. Williamson for their outstanding achievements. I am very proud of all of you.

HONORING SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF NAPA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Soroptimist International of Napa, which on June 12, 2014, is holding its Diamond Anniversary to commemorate 75 years of service to the women and girls of Napa County.

"Soroptimist" is a term derived from Latin that means "best for women." As such, the mission of Soroptimist International is to improve the lives of women and girls through

programs that aim to empower women and girls economically.

Soroptimist International of Napa has awarded \$250,000 in grants to programs that support, protect and empower women and girls throughout Napa County over the past 20 years alone. Such programs include Napa Emergency Women's Services, Community Resources for Children, Girls on the Run, and the Mariposa Project. The collective impact of these programs has expanded opportunities and enriched the lives of countless women and girls in Napa County.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 75 years Soroptimist International of Napa has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of women and girls in Napa County. On behalf of a grateful community, I honor and thank Soroptimist International of Napa today for their important work.

HONORING RIVERDALE JEWISH CENTER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, religious institutions often play a major role in our communities, by fostering spiritual development and offering solace to those in need. I am pleased to recognize Riverdale Jewish Center, one of the leading Modern Orthodox synagogues in my Congressional district as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary.

Riverdale Jewish Center was founded under the auspices of the Yeshiva University as its first suburban outreach. Founding Rabbi Jack Sable raised the money to build the Center, brick by brick, until it was completed.

Over 700 families have chosen Riverdale Jewish Center as their spiritual home. Steeped in tradition, Riverdale Jewish Center provides a welcome and supportive to all those who walk through their doors.

It serves as an anchor in the community in many important respects. Members inspire one another to deepen their understanding of the Jewish faith, and raise money to assist others as well as show their support for Israel.

Riverdale Jewish Center is fortunate to have Rabbi Jonathan Rosenblatt at the helm of the Shul, and I am fortunate to call him my friend. Rabbi Rosenblatt is an educator and community builder who has served as Senior Rabbi for nearly 30 years.

I congratulate the Riverdale Jewish Center for 60 years of devoted service to its members and the greater community. I have visited the Shul several times and have always felt inspired by its warmth and welcoming spirit. It has truly served as a guiding light in the Riverdale community.

RECOGNIZING FOSTER FARMS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Mr. DENHAM and Mr.

VALADAO to honor Foster Farms, a poultry company with 75 years of business experience in California's Central Valley. Foster Farms is not only a significant employer in the community but also a national leader in high quality poultry production.

Foster Farms was founded in 1939 by Max and Verda Foster, a couple who dreamed of selling better, safer farm products to consumers. By taking out a small loan the young couple invested in an 80-acre farm near Modesto, California, and their business quickly grew. The Fosters' commitment to raising high quality poultry led to their purchase of a feed mill in 1950. By 1959, Max and Verda added a processing plant in nearby Livingston.

The expansion of Foster Farms continued into the 1960s when the company consolidated its corporate headquarters in the small Central California town of Livingston, where it still resides today. Increasing demand for fresh poultry led Foster Farms to continue its expansion into southern California. By 1973, consumers across the state from Del Norte County to San Diego could access Foster Farms' high quality fresh poultry.

Today, Foster Farms' poultry and dairy operations employ more than 9,000 hardworking Americans. The company has sales in excess of \$1 billion, and their profits have made possible significant financial contributions to agricultural education in the state of California. Foster Farms has given grants to UC Davis, Fresno State, and California Polytechnic State University. Foster Farms' efforts have been recognized throughout the state's educational system. The company's Chief Executive Officer, Ron Foster, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for 15 years of leadership as an educational advisor, fundraiser, benefactor, and collaborator.

Since 2005, Foster Farms has consistently received the highest animal welfare ratings from various independent auditors. In 2013, Foster Farms became the first major poultry producer to be certified by the American Humane Association, which is the nation's first national humane organization for children and animals. The company continued to demonstrate their appreciation for high quality chicken through their "Say No to Plumping" campaign, which began in 2009. Thanks in large part to Foster Farms, plumping is no longer found in retailers on the West Coast.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join Mr. DENHAM, Mr. VALADAO, and myself in recognizing Foster Farms for 75 successful years in business.

IN MEMORY OF COLONEL BERRY LIVINGSTON GAMBRELL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on June 8, 2014, the following obituary was published by The State of Columbia, South Carolina, honoring the memory of an American hero, Colonel Berry Livingston Gambrell.

Berry Livingston Gambrell LEXINGTON—A memorial service for Berry Livingston Gambrell, 63, will be held at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church with inurnment to follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday, June 9, 2014 at Caughman-Harman Funeral Home, Lexington Chapel. Pastor Wade Roof and Colonel Steve Shugart will conduct the services. Honorary Pallbearers are members of the South Carolina Army National Guard and the Lands End Gang. Mr. Gambrell was born October 26, 1950 in Columbia, SC and passed away at his home surrounded by his loving family on Friday, June 6, 2014. He was a son of the late Berry Humphrey and Kathryn Livingston Gambrell. Berry was a graduate of The University of South Carolina with a BS in Business and Finance in 1973 and later received his MBA. He was a member of the SC Army National Guard for 34 years, retiring as a Colonel in 2004. Some of his distinguished honors include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal. He excelled in many areas throughout his career and was highly regarded for his accomplishments as the state's Recruiting and Retention Manager. He was a member of the Palmetto Military Academy Hall of Fame. Berry was an active member of Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church where he served on Church Council, drove the bus for the children's programs, and lovingly cooked with Chuck for his church family. He always looked forward to his fishing trips with his Lands End Gang. Berry always said he had three families: His family, church family and work family; however to him, his greatest accomplishment in life was his family. He is survived by his girls, including his loving bride of 39 years, Patsy Riddle Gambrell, their two daughters with husbands; Summer and Peter Insabella of Charleston, Whitney and Ricky Glass of West Columbia. He was a loving Gam-B to his granddaughters, Brooklyn Layne Glass and Everly Kathryn Insabella. He is also survived by his sister, Vicki Witt and brother, Greg Gambrell, both of North, SC. He was dearly beloved by his in-laws, including special nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his loving Uncle Floyd Livingston. The family has been deeply moved by the outpouring of love and support they have received during Berry's illness and death. The family would like to extend a special thanks to his loving sister-in-law, Lynn Cain, who nursed him throughout his illness and was among those by his side during his final hours. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church Capital Fund Family Life Center, 1000 B Avenue, West Columbia, SC 29169.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MAYFIELD AND FAYE ROBERTSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today—the 50th wedding anniversary of Mayfield and Faye Robertson.

Mayfield Robertson and Faye Bowling met on September 8, 1963. Mayfield Robertson, who had returned home from serving in Germany just two years earlier, was playing baseball that day, and Faye Bowling was in attendance.

On June 11, 1964, Mayfield and Faye got married. Together, Mayfield and Faye Robertson raised three children, Ryan, Lana, and Chad. They have six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Mayfield is now retired from the Anniston Army Depot, and Faye is retired from Sewell Manufacturing. The Robertsons have been very blessed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Robertsons on 50 years together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 295 on H.R. 4745, I voted “yes.” My recorded vote should reflect my intention to vote “no.”

HONORING RICHARD OUYANG

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Richard Ouyang from Collierville, Tennessee on being selected to attend the 31st annual Research Science Institute sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education as a result of his outstanding academic performance.

I am particularly proud of Mr. Ouyang, a senior in high school, for being chosen as one of fifty top academic achievers and also for representing the top one percent of high school students in the United States. I commend him for being a positive role model to young people across our great state and the country through his commitment to academic excellence.

The Center for Excellence in Education has a mission to nurture students into the best careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and to encourage international collaboration among leaders in the global community.

Once again, congratulations to Mr. Ouyang for his outstanding accomplishment. I am very proud of him and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING ALBERT COVELLI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and exemplary life of Mr. Albert Covelli who passed away at 94-years-old at his home in Florida.

Mr. Covelli was a pillar in our community. He was a giant in the city of Warren, Ohio, and a great and generous benefactor of John F. Kennedy High School and his beloved church, Blessed Sacrament Parish. Mr. Covelli was involved in many other worthy endeavors known by few and for which he sought no credit.

Albert proudly served his nation during World War II and was decorated as a lieutenant. Mr. Covelli was the founder of Covelli Enterprises the nation's largest franchisee of Panera Bread and the 4th largest restaurant franchisee in the country. Before his acquisition of Panera franchises Covelli Enterprises had been the largest franchisee of McDonald's restaurants in the nation.

A dedicated philanthropist, Albert donated millions of dollars over the years to hundreds of charitable organizations. Albert helped organize the Ronald McDonald house and he was our community's largest local sponsor of the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots. He served on numerous boards of banks, hospitals, universities, and nonprofit organizations.

Albert lived the American dream and is a reminder that one man can make a difference. He started his business from scratch and built an empire. He is a magnificent example to the rest of us that hard work and determination can change a community for the better.

Albert is survived by his wife Josephine, his daughter, Annette Ford, his son, Sam Covelli, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. It gives me great pride to honor the life of Albert Covelli. I extend my most sincere condolences to Albert's entire family. His contributions to our community will not be forgotten. Northeast Ohio is a better place because of his service, his dedication, and his life.

CELEBRATING TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND THE TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES IT PROVIDES TO COUNTLESS CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Trinity Catholic School in Spokane, Washington, and the new opportunities made available by the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Edmund and Beatriz Schweitzer

in honor of Mrs. Schweitzer's mother, Ms. Lupita Sandoval.

Trinity Catholic School has impacted the lives of countless children in the Spokane community, be it by fostering an environment rooted in academics, values, faith, and service, or by providing encouragement and structure to those boys and girls who need it most. Their mission to serve students and their families with a community rich in opportunity and possibility is moving. Ms. Sandoval shared Trinity Catholic's vision for education and determination leading the path to a better life, and is an inspiration to all of us. She educated herself and encouraged all four of her children to not only pursue an education, but absorb all that it had to offer.

Like Trinity Catholic School, Ms. Sandoval shared a great esteem for the limitless value of the power of knowledge, and knew meaningful education was the best investment for a better future. The endowment made possible by the Schweitzers will bring new opportunity to the boys and girls of Trinity Catholic School, and further enriches our community's own quest for knowledge and for doing good by others.

Regardless of their own circumstances, the Trinity Catholic community, led by Father José Millan and Ms. Sandra L. Nokes, gives back to our community at times of Thanksgiving and Christmas year after year, and they have raised funds to help ensure our veterans could travel to Washington, DC to see the monuments dedicated to their sacrifice. This school teaches students not only to love thy neighbors, but to help them through difficult times. Through the generosity of the Schweitzers, and through Ms. Sandoval's belief in the power of education, Trinity Catholic will continue to thrive and change the lives of so many of our children.

Again, I applaud Father José, Ms. Nokes, and the entire Trinity Catholic community for their tireless dedication to bringing new opportunities to their students.

HONORING BISHOP C. NATHAN EDWERS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, religious institutions often play a major role in inspiring communities to provide comfort for its most vulnerable residents and to serve all of mankind. Religious leaders such as Bishop C. Nathan Edwers do more than say prayers—they offer a path to practice one's faith in the community through social justice.

Bishop Edwers first answered God's call to serve when he was a just a teenager, preaching his first sermon at age 16. Bishop Edwers has followed in the footsteps of his father, showing an exemplary level of commitment to lead on the frontlines of social justice. There can be no greater honor than serving your community and Bishop Edwers and his family should be commended for the generations of service they have provided.

Beginning in 1983, Bishop Edwers served at Calvary UFW Baptist Church. Since this time

Bishop Edwers has responded to the call for further responsibility within the church community. Bishop Edwers was elected by members of the Middle Atlantic Annual Conference of the Unified Freewill Baptist Church to follow his father's path and succeed him as Presiding Bishop. It is clear that Bishop Edwers is motivated to serve the community through the love and support of his family, a trait he no doubt learned from his father.

Religious service often goes hand in hand with social justice, and Bishop Edwers is no exception. Bishop Edwers has led his congregation in confronting and responding to social injustices within the community. He has opened the doors of his church to house numerous community organizations, such as the BOCES Alternative Special Needs School. The Bishop continues to serve as a member and former Vice President of the United Black Clergy of Westchester and is the current President of the Mount Vernon, New York Civil Service Commission. He is also a former member of the Mount Vernon Hospital Advisory Board.

Bishop Edwers has built a legacy of continual social engagement and support. He embraces the challenges within the Mount Vernon community and inspires others to embody their religious values through practice. So long as Bishop Edwers recognizes social injustices, we can be certain he will not rest until he has reconciled such inequalities. The Bishop even has his sights set on bridging the gaps between communities around the world, through developing global community oriented projects.

His devotion to his congregation and to the community is more than admirable; it is inspiring. I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Bishop Edwers' legacy and leadership. I want to thank the Bishop for all he has given in the name of service and I look forward to hearing about his continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JIM F.
KILCUR

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, James F. Kilcur, 62, of West Chester, Pennsylvania died Wednesday, February 19, 2014. Born in Northeast Philadelphia, Jim was a proud Philadelphia native and pillar of his community.

Jim was a labor lawyer admired for his trusted counsel and respected by all for his ability to broker a deal. Jim stood out at Saul Ewing LLP, as partner, and at South Eastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority or SEPTA, as General Counsel for nearly a decade. Then, just as now, everyone knew Jim.

I had the pleasure to work with Jim during his time at SEPTA. Jim was a confident, intelligent man, and while tolerant of others positions, was steadfast in his own. He was decisive, and there was no waffling or ambiguity in his thinking.

Jim was chairman of the board of trustees of his alma mater, DeSales University in Cen-

ter Valley and proud alumni of Cardinal Dougherty High School.

Last week I attended the Transportation Management Association of Chester County for their annual legislative breakfast. At breakfast, the Transportation Management Association of Chester County posthumously named Jim as Executive Director Emeritus. I cannot think of someone more deserving of this distinction than Jim and I join the Transportation Management Association of Chester County in honoring Jim's service.

I would like to commend Jim on his devoted service to the Catholic Church, impressive career history, and life of love and caring concern for his family especially his wife Maria Theresa; three sons, James Francis III, wife Kristen and granddaughter Annabel Katherine; Patrick and fiancé Julie; and Matthew.

Let me end by suggesting we remember that Jim left us too soon. But we know—because this was Jim—he left a lasting legacy. Jim's spirit, and example of a good life, well lived, helping others, will always be with us.

REGARDING THE MAGNUSON-
STEVENS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Capitol Hill Ocean Week to highlight the importance of oceans to our country and to my state of California.

Important industries in California rely on a healthy ocean ecosystem. In California alone, more than 145,000 jobs are supported by the commercial and recreational fishing industry, which generate more than \$25 billion in sales annually.

Proper management is critical to ensuring the survival and success of these industries, and the Magnuson-Stevens Act plays an important role in conserving and managing our fishery resources.

Unfortunately, the current legislation to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act, H.R. 4742, rolls back key conservation provisions that have been working to increase fish populations and improve our coastal communities. Further, this bill does nothing to address the emerging challenges facing our fisheries.

I join my colleagues in urging the House to pursue a reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act that is based on the best available science, builds on the progress that we have already made, and will preserve the health of our oceans and fisheries for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOREES OF
THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINIS-
TRATION'S ANNUAL AWARDS
LUNCHEON

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the Small Business

Administration's Annual Awards Luncheon. Each year, the Maine District Office of the Small Business Administration recognizes businesses and business leaders who make significant contributions to the business environment and economy of our region.

This year's award recipients include: Alan Spear and Mary Allen Lindeman of Coffee By Design, recipients of the Maine Small Business Persons of the Year Award; Brian and Kimberly Plavnick of G-Force Laser Tag Corp., recipients of the Maine Micro-Enterprise of the Year Award; Cyndi Price of LooHoo LLC, the Home-Based Small Business Champion for Maine and New England; Mitch and Ray DeBlois of DeBlois Electric, Inc., recipients of the Jeffrey Butland Award; Terry Trickey of Bangor Savings Bank, the Financial Services Champion; Peter McVety of McVety's Hearth and Home, the Maine Veteran Small Business Champion; Amy Bouchard of Isamax Snacks, Inc., the Maine Woman in Business Champion; Joshua Davis and Bruno Tropeano of Gelato Fiasco, the Young Entrepreneurs of the Year for Maine and New England; and Eric J. Smith of EJ Drywall, the Region 1 Prime Contractor of the Year.

The following businesses are also recognized for receiving District Director Awards for Fiscal Year 2013: Bangor Savings Bank, Overall Top Performing SBA lender; Katahdin Trust Company, Top 7(a) Dollar Volume Lender; People's United Bank, Top Performing 3rd Party Lender; Granite State Economic Development Corp., Top Performing 504 Lender; NorState Federal Credit Union, Top Performing Credit Union; CEI, Top Performing Microlender; and Eastern Maine Development Corp., Top Community Advantage Lender.

These recipients are among the best that Maine and New England have to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities, Maine and New England are better places in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the honorees of the Small Business Administration's Annual Awards Luncheon on their outstanding service and achievement.

RECOGNIZING DIA DE PORTUGAL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Mr. NUNES of California, Mr. CICILLINE of Rhode Island, Mr. VALADAO of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. LOFGREN of California, and Mr. HONDA of California to recognize Dia de Portugal. On this day, we celebrate the heritage of the Portuguese people and underscore the importance of the strong relationship between the United States and Portugal.

From California to Massachusetts and Rhode Island to Hawaii, Portuguese Americans have made positive contributions to our communities for many years. According to the U.S. Census, more than one million individuals living in the United States are of Portuguese ancestry. These vibrant Portuguese communities are a reflection of the ties that bind our two nations.

Since the founding of our nation, the United States has had few allies as reliable as Portugal, which was among the first countries to recognize the United States following the Revolutionary War. The oldest continuously operating U.S. Consulate in the world is located in Ponta Delgada on the island of Sao Miguel in the Azores. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry recently said, "The strong partnership between our two countries is more vital than ever." We wholeheartedly agree.

Mr. Speaker, on this Dia de Portugal, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthening the economic, cultural, and security relationship between Portugal and the United States, and we join with the people of Portugal and our Portuguese American constituents in wishing everyone a joyous Dia de Portugal.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "BUSINESS SUPPLY CHAIN TRANSPARENCY ON TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY ACT OF 2014"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation along with my colleagues on the Human Trafficking Caucus, Rep. CHRIS SMITH.

Very few Americans are aware that many of the goods they use everyday are tainted by human trafficking or the worst forms of child labor. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's 2012 List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor, 134 goods from 74 countries were made by forced and child labor. This bill will increase transparency in supply chains in order to remove slavery from business operations and products.

The Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act doesn't tell businesses what to do, but rather to tell consumers what they are doing to end human slavery.

This bill will give consumers the tools they need to know where and how their goods are being made. While there are good actors, there are businesses operating in parts of the world that rely on enslaved humans to produce their products. We believe American consumers have a right to know who these companies are.

This legislation creates a market-based solution rather than relying on prescriptive action by the federal government. Large global companies already reporting to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) simply need to include what they are doing to rid their supply chains of human slavery. This information will then be posted on the company, SEC, and Department of Labor (DOL) websites for easy public access. Consumers will be able to research a company and determine their purchasing decisions based on the information provided. Very simply, this bill creates competition to improve practices to end slavery by providing the public with information about what companies are doing to address slavery.

Human trafficking is the 21st century slavery. It is estimated that over 20 million people

are working in some form of forced labor worldwide. We must use every tool available to help men, women, and children around the world who fall victim to the scourge of human trafficking, forced labor, and the worst forms of child labor.

HONORING MARTI MICHAEL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Riverdale YM-YWHA is fortunate to have had Marti Michael at its helm. Deeply rooted in Jewish culture, the Riverdale Y is open to all within the community and promotes an environment of inclusion and diversity.

Marti's involvement with the Riverdale Y started long before she became its Executive Director and even before the first bricks were laid. While working at UJA-Federation in the early 1980s, Marti worked with the Riverdale community to raise the necessary capital to build the Y.

Marti has worked for the Riverdale Y for 28 years, and since taking the helm as Executive Director, she oversees a thriving community center that offers athletic, artistic and enrichment for children, adults and seniors. The Riverdale Y also offers after-school programs at PS24 and Kinneret, and Marti wants to expand that scope even farther.

The Riverdale Rising Stars' Broadway Gala will honor Marti for all that she has done at the Riverdale Y, particularly her dedication to the performing arts. There is something magical about the theater. Audiences become enraptured by the performances as actors make their characters come to life.

Children and teens who participate in theater programs through the Riverdale Y grow too. Marti enjoys watching once-shy children and timid teens develop greater confidence in themselves. There is indeed magic in the theater and all that Marti does to encourage our youth to flourish.

Her devotion to the Riverdale Y and the greater community is inspiring. I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Marti Michael's leadership and achievements. We are saddened that she is leaving but I wanted this opportunity to thank her for all that she has done and continues to do in our beloved community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 10th, 2014, I mistakenly voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 277. I meant to vote "aye" on the Nadler Amendment to H.R. 4745 to increase funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program (HOPWA) by \$29.1 million. HOPWA is a program that I have supported throughout my tenure in Con-

gress. HOPWA provides much needed housing assistance to low-income persons with HIV/AIDS in my Congressional District and throughout the Country. I will continue to work with my colleagues as this bill moves through the Senate and onto the Conference process to advocate for increased funding for HOPWA.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MR. BYRON PIGG

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the House's attention today to recognize Byron Pigg who is retiring from the position of Public Safety Director with the East Alabama Water, Sewer and Fire Protection District.

Mr. Pigg is retiring after 33 years and 10 months of service. Prior to his service as a full-time employee, Byron served as a volunteer firefighter. He served as fire chief for 25 years of his full-time employment.

During his tenure as fire chief, Byron worked to significantly upgrade the fire department. In 2005, he oversaw the construction of a new headquarters fire station. He received over \$1 million in grant money to help improve the fire department. He also has served in numerous local, regional and statewide organizations.

Mr. Speaker, we join his family and friends in celebrating Mr. Pigg's retirement and wish him the very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on June 9, 2014 and June 10, 2014 as I participated in a primary election on June 10th. Listed below is how I would have voted had been present.

Roll Number 272—H.R. 4412—To authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes—"aye."

Roll Number 273—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Broun of Georgia Amendment—"aye."

Roll Number 274—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Chabot of Ohio Amendment—"aye."

Roll Number 276—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Gohmert of Texas Amendment—"aye."

Roll Number 277—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Nadler of New York Amendment—"nay."

Roll Number 278—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Capito of West Virginia Amendment—"aye."

Roll Number 279—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Broun of Georgia First Amendment—"aye."

Roll Number 280—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Broun of Georgia Second Amendment—"aye."

Roll Number 281—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Broun of Georgia Third Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 282—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Hartzler of Missouri Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 283—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Daines of Montana Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 284—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Gosar of Arizona First Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 285—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Gosar of Arizona Second Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 286—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Fleming of Louisiana Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 287—H.R. 4810—To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts for the provision of hospital care and medical services at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for Department of Veterans Affairs patients with extended waiting times for appointments at Department facilities and for other purposes—“aye.”

Roll Number 288—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Denham of California Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 289—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Blackburn of Tennessee Amendment No. 1—“aye.”

Roll Number 290—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Schock of Illinois Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 291—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Gosar of Arizona First Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 292—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Gosar of Arizona Second Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 293—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Schiff of California Amendment—“nay.”

Roll Number 294—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Sessions of Texas Amendment—“aye.”

Roll Number 295—H.R. 4745 on agreeing to the Gingrey of Georgia Amendment No. 29—“aye.”

Roll Number 296—H.R. 4745 on Motion to Recommit with Instructions—“nay.”

Roll Number 297—H.R. 4745—Making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes—“aye.”

HONORING AL AND DEE DELBELLO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, countless communities across our great nation thrive thanks in part to the selfless service and dedicated commitment of individuals like Al and Dee DelBello. The DelBellos epitomize the very meaning of the words “public service.”

I have known Al and Dee for many years. Al is a distinguished public servant who represented our community with dignity and integrity. His record of hard work and commitment to ensuring that government serves all is truly remarkable; he’s a leader whom I have strived to emulate.

Al started serving our country in the National Guard after graduating from Fordham

Law School. He returned to New York once he completed his service, and later ran for City Council in Yonkers. His sense of civic duty did not end there. He was elected as Mayor of Yonkers in 1970, served as the Westchester County Executive for three consecutive terms, and then became Lieutenant Governor in 1982.

While serving in public office, Al worked together with those on both sides of the aisle to the benefit of his constituents. Al was fundamental in building a medical center in Westchester, creating the first State Office for the Disabled and an Office for Women, and establishing a countywide bus system, among other things. Al continues to serve his fellow New Yorkers as the Chairman Emeritus of the Westchester County Association.

Dee DelBello joins her husband in being an exemplary public servant, dedicating her life to lend a helping hand. Dee received her Master’s Degree from Seton Hall University, and while her husband was in office, she advanced the cultural aspects of Westchester County through her amazing work advocating for the arts.

Dee impressively served as Commissioner of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct for 17 years, and continuously breaks the glass ceiling for women with her service on the advisory board of The Women’s Business Development Center, her membership in The National Association for Female Executives, and as a co-founder of Women in Communications.

Al and Dee DelBello have both won numerous awards throughout the years for their immense work on behalf of all New Yorkers, and I want to continue recognizing them by expressing my gratitude and appreciation for all of the contributions they have made.

HONORING ANDY AND BETTY BECKSTOFFER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andy and Betty Beckstoffer, the recipients of the Land Trust of Napa County’s Acre by Acre Award. Andy and Betty have dedicated their lives to the preservation and conservation of land in Napa County, which is both honorable and deserving of recognition.

Andy is the founder and owner of Beckstoffer Vineyards and its subsidiaries, which own approximately 1,000 acres of vineyard land in Napa County, 1,000 acres in Mendocino County, and 1,000 acres in Lake County. Andy and Betty have permanently preserved over 400 acres of Napa County land by placing nine separate properties in conservation easements with the Land Trust. From the 44-acre Carneros Creek and Las Amigas conservation easements, which protect rural viewshed and watershed areas in the Carneros area, to 181 acres of their Georges III vineyard in prime Agricultural Preserve area, the Beckstoffers have provided us with outstanding examples of the use of con-

servation easements to preserve the natural values of land. Andy once said of his work, “we started as farmers, then became grape growers, and now are stewards of the land.”

Andy and Betty Beckstoffer are the recipients of numerous awards for their grapegrowing, including Grower of the Year from Napa Valley Grapegrowers and Agriculturist of the Year from the Napa County Farm Bureau. They were also awarded the Award for Wine Industry Leadership by the U.S. Congressional Wine Caucus, and the Wine Award from Copia, the American Center for Food, Wine and the Arts. Andy and Betty Beckstoffer have five children together, David, Dana, Tuck, Kristin, and Steven.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Andy and Betty Beckstoffer for their commitment to our community and to preserving our beautiful lands. Their unyielding dedication to philanthropy and land conservation is inspirational and a testament that two people can make a significant difference in our community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,555,165,805,212.20. We’ve added \$6,928,288,756,299.20 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RABBI SANDY EISENBERG SASSO FOR 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE INDIANAPOLIS COMMUNITY

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Sandy Sasso for her 36 years of service to the Indianapolis community. The people of the Fifth Congressional District and the entire City of Indianapolis are forever grateful for Rabbi Sasso’s nearly 4 decades of community leadership and spiritual guidance.

Over the years, Rabbi Sasso’s leadership has been a critical part of so many people’s religious journey. Her dedication in guiding Congregation Beth-El Zedeck is a model for community and religious leaders everywhere. As the first female to be ordained from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Rabbi Sasso has been a trailblazer for women of faith all over the country. Her journey proves to young women everywhere that through hard work and discipline, their dreams can become reality.

Rabbi Sasso's path to becoming an accomplished theologian wasn't without critics. Many thought that the traditional role of men in the rabbinate should be upheld. However, Rabbi Sasso never let the naysayers deter her from fulfilling a lifelong dream. After completing both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Temple University, she continued to relentlessly pursue her goal, eventually becoming just the second female ever to be ordained in the United States.

However, Rabbi Sasso's accomplishments are not just limited to her admirable work in the synagogue. She is also a mother, an award-winning children's book author, a major organizer for the Indianapolis Spirit and Place Festival, and so much more. While her time as the leader of Beth-El Zedeck may be coming to a close, I am certain that her tenure as a pillar in the Indianapolis community is nowhere near its end.

On behalf of the grateful constituents of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I congratulate Rabbi Sasso on the occasion of her retirement. Thank you, Rabbi, for your decades of dedicated leadership with Beth-El Zedeck. Best wishes to you as you pursue new challenges in the many bright years ahead of you.

HONORING TRAVIS TAYLOR FOR
HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LOGGING
INDUSTRY

HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Travis Taylor of Winn Parish for his numerous accomplishments and contribution to the logging industry.

Mr. Taylor, a Louisiana native, became a successful logging contractor after earning a degree in forestry from Louisiana Tech University.

Mr. Taylor's devotion of time and effort to the logging industry is second to none having been recognized at the national level for his progressive influence in the United States Forest Service. Aside from being the founder of Southern Loggers Cooperative and Wood Products Development Foundation, Travis has also been recognized as "Louisiana Logger of the Year," served as President of the Louisiana Logging Council, and served on the board of directors of The Timbermen's Self-Insurance Fund.

Mr. Taylor exemplifies a strong character of leadership, hard work and dedication. He has earned the respect and admiration of everyone he has met along his journey. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Taylor and his years of commitment and achievements.

IN MEMORY OF DON DAVIS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazer in business, music, and philanthropy from the great City of Detroit: Mr. Don Davis.

Mr. Davis—who passed away on Thursday, June 5—at the age of 75, was the CEO of the First Independence Bank as well as a Grammy-winning record producer and a celebrated musician. He brought both joy and prosperity to his community and to all those around him.

Mr. Davis started his career as a session guitarist for Motown in the 1960's and eventually rose to become owner of the legendary studio known as United Sound. While his musical career spanned numerous studios and labels, Mr. Davis's musical legacy will forever be associated with Motown. This musical legacy includes guitar work in Barrett Strong's "Money (That's What I Want)" and Mary Wells' "Bye Bye Baby". Since its founding, Motown has been a cultural cornerstone of the United States, and it has been an honor to call Mr. Davis—one of Motown's original musicians—a friend.

As a Detroit and a public servant, I have admired Mr. Davis not only for his music but also for his trailblazing accomplishments in business and philanthropy. After retiring from his career as a professional guitarist in 1970, he founded what would become Michigan's only African-American owned and operated commercial bank: the First Independence Bank. Over time, this institution would rise to become the 12th largest African-American owned bank in the nation, holding nearly 5 percent of all assets in the nation's African-American banking community.

Mr. Davis never saw business as a means to advance personal interests. Instead, he led his business to maximize the expansion of economic opportunity for underserved people. He was a fervent believer in bringing entrepreneurial prospects and quality jobs to people in desperate need. A renaissance man, Mr. Davis brought the passion he displayed as a Motown musical artist to the fields of finance and economic development.

I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of my dear friend, Mr. Don Davis. He will live on through his exceptional music and his extraordinary investments in the Detroit community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and

any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 17

- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine conflicts of interest, investor loss of confidence, and high speed trading in the United States stock markets. SH-216
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine creating jobs through bio based manufacturing. SR-328A
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Julian Castro, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Laura S. Wertheimer, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. SD-538
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance
To hold hearings to examine protecting consumers from false and deceptive advertising of weight-loss products. SR-253
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
To receive a closed briefing on the major threats facing Navy forces and the current and projected capabilities of the Navy to meet those threats. SVC-217
- 3 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Nicholas Stivers, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and Joan A. Polaschik, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Department of State. SD-419
- 4 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies. SD-138

JUNE 18

10 a.m.
 Committee on Appropriations
 Subcommittee on Department of Defense
 To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Defense. SD-192

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment
 To hold hearings to examine high frequency trading's impact on the economy. SD-538

Committee on Environment and Public Works
 Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety
 To hold hearings to examine climate change, focusing on the need to act now. SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the intelligence community, focusing on keeping watch over its contractor workforce; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session. SD-342

2 p.m.
 Joint Economic Committee
 To hold hearings to examine empowerment in the workplace. SH-216

2:15 p.m.
 Committee on Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine United States policy in Afghanistan and the

regional implications of the 2014 transition.

SD-419
 Special Committee on Aging
 To hold hearings to examine the reduction in face-to-face services at the Social Security Administration. SD-562

2:30 p.m.
 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold hearings to examine e-cigarette marketing and potential consequences for youth. SR-253

Committee on Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine S. 1948, to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program, S. 1998, to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to reserve funds for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Tribal College or University adult education and literacy, and S. 2299, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages. SD-628

3 p.m.
 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
 To hold hearings to examine growing small business exports, growing United States Jobs. SR-428A

JUNE 19

9:30 a.m.
 Committee on Armed Services
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Laura Junor, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Gordon O. Tanner, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Miranda A. A. Ballentine, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy, all of the Department of Defense, and Monica C. Regalbuto, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management. SH-216

JUNE 25

2:15 p.m.
 Special Committee on Aging
 To hold hearings to examine brain injuries and diseases of aging. SD-562

2:30 p.m.
 Committee on Armed Services
 Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
 To receive a closed briefing on United States nuclear deterrence policy. SVC-217

Committee on Indian Affairs
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine economic development, focusing on encouraging investment in Indian country. SD-628

SENATE—Thursday, June 12, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

The Rabbi Daniel Ginsberg, associate dean, Ohr Somayach-Tanenbaum College, Jerusalem, and rabbi of Yeshiva Ateres Shmuel, of Waterbury, CT, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, bless the United States of America and the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who have left their loved ones in defense of freedom.

Bless our lawmakers—men and women who love to serve and who will serve with love. Place into their hearts and into the hearts of their counselors a moral compass to guide them to the right decisions. O Lord, protect and inspire these good, gifted, and gracious people. Endow them with courage, fortitude, wisdom, and crown them with humility and compassion. May the eternal teachings always be with them—to act with accountability, to relate with respect, to be diligent and devoted, to be a friend of truth.

May our beloved United States be a place where dreams are worth dreaming, a place where sacrifices are worth enduring and where our tomorrows can be even better than our today's.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 12, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHATZ thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 428.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 428, a bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield to my friend the distinguished Senator from Connecticut.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

WELCOMING RABBI GINSBERG

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I thank both Majority Leader REID and Chaplain Black for allowing Rabbi Ginsberg to open our session with what I thought was a very beautiful prayer challenging us to action and to conscience.

Just a word about Rabbi Ginsberg's leadership. For the last decade Rabbi Ginsberg has been helping to organize one of the most robust religious communities in Connecticut.

In 2000 Rabbi Judah Harris conceived a yeshiva in Waterbury. It began with about 38 students and today has grown to service 600 students and 180 families who have settled in a neighborhood just off the center of Waterbury that 10 to 20 years ago had become pretty run-down but today is thriving and has been rebuilt because of the community surrounding the yeshiva.

We have had a wonderful Jewish community since the mid-1800s, but it is stronger today than ever, in large part because of the efforts of Rabbi Ginsberg.

In addition to building this wonderful community and being amongst its leaders, he has been of great counsel to me, Senator BLUMENTHAL, and Governor Mallow as a moral guide but also as someone on whom we can rely when it comes to the tough policy choices we have to make.

I again thank Chaplain Black and Leader REID, and I thank Rabbi Ginsberg for accepting our offer to lead us this morning.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m. During that time the Republicans will control the first 30 minutes and the majority will control the second 30 minutes.

At 11:30 a.m. there will be up to four rollcall votes on the confirmation of several nominations, although we are confident and somewhat hopeful that only one rollcall vote will be necessary.

We will move forward to confirm Crystal Nix-Hines to be U.S. Permanent Representative for UNESCO; Michael J. McCord to be Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller; R. Jane Chu, Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of 4 years; and then we will move forward on Todd A. Batta to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

At 1:45 p.m. this afternoon there will be three rollcall votes on the confirmation of three Federal Reserve nominations: Lael Brainard to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Jerome H. Powell to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and Stanley Fischer to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time being equally divided or controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the next 30 minutes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum, and I ask unanimous consent that the time be charged equally.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. McCONNELL. Yesterday the Senate passed bipartisan legislation to address the VA scandal. The Sanders-McCain bill will increase patient choice, it will infuse some much needed accountability into the VA system, and it was important for us to show some urgency in addressing the crisis. That is why I voted for it, and that is why I am glad that the majority leader decided to move forward on this effort, even if it took a vote to set aside a partisan bill in order to take up this important bipartisan legislation.

It will now go to conference so it can be improved further. The sooner the bill managers begin negotiations with their colleagues in the House, the sooner we can get a bill on the President's desk. I am optimistic they will do just that.

As I have said all week, the systemic failures and scandals we have seen within the administration are a national disgrace. When you see 100,000 veterans—100,000 of them—waiting for care, that is a national disgrace. When you see so many veterans waiting 3 months or longer just to get an appointment, that is a national disgrace. And when you see veterans dying before they even receive care they were counting on, it is completely unacceptable.

So this problem needs to be solved, and there is more to be done. A lot of the responsibility here resides with the President himself. He still needs to nominate a capable manager who possesses the necessary skills, leadership, and determination to fix this scandal. He needs to support the thousands of VA workers committed to serving our veterans and to provide all those who serve bravely with the timely care they deserve, and he needs to use all the tools in his toolbox to address the systemic management failures—both the tools he already has and the new ones we can provide him, such as those contained within the legislation we passed yesterday. Our veterans have waited long enough for care, and they shouldn't be made to wait any longer.

90TH BIRTHDAY OF PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. McCONNELL. Obviously much of Washington's focus this week has been

on doing right by our veterans. That is exactly what we should be doing. We owe so much to the men and women who protect us. In that spirit I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge an important milestone just reached by one of America's most famous veterans.

Today our Nation's 41st President, George H.W. Bush, turns 90. It is a rare milestone. Only 4 other presidents have ever reached it: Herbert Hoover, John Adams, Gerald Ford, and the man President Bush once served under, Ronald Reagan.

Beyond wishing him a very happy birthday, I want to acknowledge President Bush's extraordinary record of service. On his 18th birthday the future President volunteered as a World War II Navy pilot, going on to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery. From there he would go on to excel in a dizzying number of fields as a businessman, a Congressman, a diplomat, CIA Director, leader of his party, Vice President and President, and Commander in Chief during Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

Even his post-Presidency has been marked by continuing and gracious willingness to serve. Yet for all of his professional distinction, I know President Bush's favorite job never appeared on his resume. It was his role as proud husband to Barbara, who also turned a year older this week, and as the father of five adoring children and proud grandfather and great-grandfather. Maybe that is why every time you see him these days he always has a big smile on his face and a lively pair of socks on his feet. With a loving family like that, it is not hard to see why.

So I am proud to cosponsor the resolution we agreed to yesterday honoring this good man and former President for such a long lifetime of service. I know my colleagues join me in sending President Bush the warmest of birthday wishes.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA J. CASSITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, one final note concerning our Nation's veterans. I want to honor an exemplary citizen of my home State, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, who has devoted her life to service of our country. Martha J. Cassity is a veteran of the U.S. Army, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and this Saturday she will be named the first female veteran State commander of the Kentucky VFW. Her ascension to this post is an accomplishment I believe is deserving of recognition and praise here in the Senate.

Martha was born on September 29, 1957, in my hometown of Louisville. She was raised there by her parents Joan and Charles Blanford. While attending Western High School, Martha joined the Ladies Auxiliary to the Vet-

erans of Foreign Wars in 1974, thus beginning her life of devoted service to her country.

The stated mission of the Ladies Auxiliary is to serve "the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform." For 9 years Martha worked tirelessly to advance this mission, holding multiple chairmanships in the organization.

Martha joined the U.S. Army in October of 1984 as a track vehicle repairer and gave 10 years of honorable service to the Army, including postings in Germany and South Korea. She became eligible to join the VFW while stationed in South Korea, and she did so in 1991.

Upon returning from South Korea, Martha was stationed at Fort Stewart, GA, where she was injured during the battalion's preparations for Operation Desert Storm. She was honorably discharged in 1994. After leaving the Army, Martha earned her associate's degree in applied science from Alabama Southern Community College. Although her days in the military were behind her, Martha's service to America and her fellow veterans would continue. Since 1999 Martha has been heavily involved in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. She has held numerous chairmanships and chairs on the post and district levels. She has served as VFW post and district commander. She has held chairmanships on the national level and has been on the National Women Veterans Committee for the past 3 years. She currently serves as senior vice commander of the Kentucky VFW, and this Saturday she will be named the first female veteran State commander of the Kentucky VFW.

We owe our veterans an unimaginable debt for their service to our country. In this new post Martha will continue to serve her Nation by advocating on veterans' behalf. Martha works to make real the VFW's vision: ensuring that veterans are respected for their service and recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of a grateful America.

So today I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in recognizing Martha J. Cassity's lifetime of service to our country and wishing her well in her new post as veteran State commander of the Kentucky VFW. She is a true friend to Kentucky veterans, to the Commonwealth, and to our country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

HONORING TWO GREAT MEN

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I want to join our Republican leader in recognizing the birthday of the 41st President of the United States, George H.W. Bush. It is possible that nobody ever

came to the Presidency with a preparation that exceeded his in both diplomacy—he served as the first U.S. emissary to China in those decades and he served as the head of the CIA. He served as Vice President.

I was just reading a few days ago another and new retelling of what happened as the Soviet bloc fell apart—the importance of both President Reagan and President Bush, who brought his unique background to that time when it was so unpredictable what might happen. Frankly, the results turned out to be carefully managed by this President as the Berlin Wall fell, as these countries came together, and President Bush's skills were in great evidence, as they were when the coalition was put together to push back what the Iraqis had done in Kuwait.

But probably his greatest example to all of us is an example of a man of kindness and generosity—some would say an almost too forgiving nature to have risen in politics as he did. But on his 90th birthday it is a good time for Americans to reflect about his service to the country. His wife's birthday was just a few days ago, and on her birthday we also want to think about their family and what their family has meant to the country.

My understanding is that President Bush has announced that he intends to jump out of an airplane for the third decade in a row as he did on his 70th birthday and 80th birthday, and will do on this 90th birthday. I am not sure the judgment to do that is quite as good as the judgment he showed in managing the future of the country. But if you are 90, you only get to be 90 once, and I am sure he is the only 90-year-old President to have jumped out of an airplane in 3 different decades. We appreciate the service of George H.W. Bush to his country, from signing up to be the youngest pilot in World War II until the service that he continues to provide as a former President of the United States.

I was thinking about him and the other World War II veterans as we see them leave us as heads of families, as examples we could turn to, and of the thought of another veteran whom one of my colleagues was mentioning just a few days ago, Senator MORAN's father Raymond Moran.

Raymond Moran died on D-day at 98 years old. Senator MORAN and I have been good friends for a long time. I know we speak on this floor in the Senate about "my good friend, our long time relationship." This is a case where we really have been close friends. We have been so close that in the couple of decades now that we have known each other, I have heard a lot about JERRY MORAN's father and his mother.

JERRY was lucky enough to have both of his parents until just a couple of years ago, and his mom and dad were

together until just a couple of years ago. JERRY's father was a staff sergeant in North Africa and in Italy. He was not part of the D-day invasion, even though his death on June 6, the 70th Anniversary of D-day, is a significant day for all the veterans of that conflict.

The stories I heard about Senator MORAN's father were the stories that you would think a man from Plainville, KS, would be part of—quiet, unassuming, church-going, passing along the values that he stood for to his family, and working hard and believing in some way that somehow his children could do anything they wanted to do. Then he had the opportunity to see his son in the Congress of the United States representing that huge district in western Kansas and then in the Senate of the United States.

These two stories are very different—the stories of George H.W. Bush and Raymond Moran. But the lives that these two men led are very similar in the values that they stood for and the values of their generation—the generation that Tom Brokaw called "the greatest generation." These are fundamental and foundational values to what we are all about as a nation.

HEALTH CARE

This week the Senate stepped up united as we seldom are these days to talk about the veterans of that war and our other wars and the obligation that we have to our veterans. The bill that the Senate passed yesterday, which I cosponsored and I voted for, can be better and, frankly, it will be better after we get a chance to have a conference with our House colleagues—maybe a conference similar to the conferences we used to hold. It is time we get back to the normal way of doing business.

But the underlying approach and key significant change this bill the Senate passed yesterday brings to the veterans is more options and more opportunities. Particularly our younger veterans want to see more choices. They want to have more information.

When Senator STABENOW and I sponsored and initially put the bill forward in early 2013, the Excellence in Mental Health Act, the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans were among our greatest supporters along with law enforcement and the mental health community. This was for an act they thought had the potential to provide more options for treatment, more places to go, more ways to get the mental health treatment and access you would like to have that worked with family, that worked with jobs. These are young veterans who left the military but still have lots of obligations that they want to, need to, and should be trying to fulfill for themselves, their families, and the work they have chosen to do, so the assistance we can give them with more options is important.

This bill will give veterans more options. If the Veterans' Administration fails to meet their needs in an appropriate way or if a veteran is 40 miles or an hour away—or any way you measure traffic and time—from a veterans facility, that veteran will have the ability to permanently get the care they need at any facility that accepts Medicare patients at the Medicare rate, and that would be the reimbursement rate the government and the VA will be obligated to pay.

Even if a veteran lives next door to a VA hospital, if that hospital could not see that veteran within the time the law will ultimately decide is the critical time—by the way, there are occasions when the critical time is right away. For a veteran suffering from a heart attack or contemplating suicide, there is no waiting period for them. If a veteran can't be seen within 14 days for routine medical care, that veteran will get a card that says they can go wherever they want to go.

I hope that is the way this final bill works out so veterans will have lots of options. I think the Veterans' Administration is going to be better if they have to compete. I have thought that for a long time.

I was at the Truman veterans facility—I stand here at one of the desks Harry Truman used when he was in the Senate. His name is carved in the desk drawer. Anyway, I was at the Truman veterans facility in Columbia, MO, with my longtime good friend Dewey Rehms, who advises me on veterans issues with the VFW, and we were meeting with the people who run that hospital. Dewey Rehms said: As Senator BLUNT has been saying for at least 10 years, we need to have more options for veterans, and I am here today to say that I think he has been right. Even though defenders and advocates of veterans hospitals and veterans systems want to make it better, we have been slow to embrace the idea that they want more options, but they, along with Congress, are now willing to accept more options, and this system will be better because veterans will have more choices.

There are some issues that the Veterans' Administration is clearly better at than other facilities, and if they are not better than anybody else in dealing with those issues, we need to ask why. They are better at dealing with injuries that result from IEDs and explosive attacks, and so they should be better at dealing with eye injuries, loss of limb, and rehabilitation than anybody else in America. They should also be better at dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder than anybody else in America. But there is no reason they would be better at dealing with cancer or a heart problem or a lung issue. There is no reason to believe that at all.

This is the time to really rethink not what is best for the Veterans' Administration but what is best for the veterans. Our goal should be doing what is best for veterans, not what is best for the Veterans' Administration.

We have all seen the list, and too many Missouri facilities are high on that list with veterans waiting to get service. We have all heard about the lists and heard the stories about supervisors from one facility after another. And I am sure not every facility is telling the people they supervise: Here is how we are going to manage the people who want to be here so that it appears we are doing a better job than we are doing.

We have had enough of that. We have had enough with appearing to be doing a better job than they are doing. Now is the time to insist that they do a better job. I think we took a big step in that direction yesterday.

I look forward to this bill improving as the House and Senate work together to bring the two bills to a final vote so it can get on the President's desk to be signed into law and ultimately change the way we deal with veterans.

While I am on the floor, I have a few additional items to mention. My office continues to get more letters about the unintended consequences when government thinks it can better manage people's health care than they can themselves. I have three examples with me today that have come into my office over the last few days.

Brandon from St. James, MO, said:

I purchased a separate health insurance policy for my college-aged son because it was cheaper than continuing to carry a family policy. It was a good policy with a decent deductible through Blue Cross Blue Shield. We received a notice that his insurance was going to be cancelled. This was alarming to us and just plain wrong. The goal of Obamacare was supposed to get more people insured. Instead it was doing the opposite, it was cancelling his insurance.

Brandon goes on to say:

Then we got another notice later saying that he could keep his current insurance after the President decided to extend the mandate for another year.

Brandon says now he is concerned about what will happen—as many people are—at the end of that year.

The more we postpone and delay and say the law doesn't mean what the law says, the more we are confused. When you have a bad law, postponing and delaying it has some merit.

Jerry from Jefferson City says he has a plan with really good benefits. Under the President's health care plan, his plan will now and in the future be subject to an additional tax because he was fortunate enough to have a really good plan.

If they are really trying to get people the insurance they want—and hopefully as good an insurance plan as they could have—that is not something you would expect them to do.

The third example is from Earl, who resides in Palmyra, MO. He said he is a senior citizen and found that his long-time preferred doctor is no longer in the network, so he has to pay to see the doctor he has always seen. His doctor visits have gone from \$20 a visit to \$45 a visit. So much for the pledge that if you like your health insurance, you can keep it or if you like your doctor, you can keep him.

I hope we can find a way to rally around the health care challenge for everybody the way we figured out a way to rally around the health care challenge for veterans. We need a system that doesn't create all kinds of unintended consequences but just makes it easier for people to have access to the insurance they want, not the insurance the government says they should have.

I see my colleagues are joining me, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WALSH). The Senator from Maine.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great American, President George Herbert Walker Bush, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. As I reflect upon his remarkable life, I am amazed that he has managed to pack so many accomplishments into just 90 short years. In fact, today President Bush will mark this milestone by doing what he has done on other birthdays so many times: He will jump out of an airplane—or as Barbara Bush once put it, he will jump out of a perfectly good airplane.

President Bush has spent every summer of his life—except during the war years—at the family home in Kennebunkport, ME. A few years ago his neighbors in Kennebunkport came together to acquire a Navy ship's anchor in his honor. It is a fitting tribute to President Bush, who so often describes Walker's Point in Maine as his anchor to the windward. It is fitting in another way. As a Navy aviator in World War II, as a Member of Congress, as U.N. Ambassador, as an envoy to China, as Director of the CIA, as Vice President, and as President, George Bush embodies the values that are the anchor of American society. Courage, duty, honor, and compassion define our Nation and his life.

I am sure it is a great joy for him to share this special day with his First Lady Barbara Bush, who also recently celebrated a birthday and who has done so much to promote family literacy in this country.

Last night our Senate colleagues unanimously passed a resolution that I submitted with dozens of our colleagues, including Maine Senator ANGUS KING, the two Senators from Texas, and our two leaders, wishing

both President and Mrs. Bush the happiest of birthdays and honoring them. The love within this extraordinary family anchors their commitment to one another, to their community, to their two home States, and to their Nation.

Another great President, Abraham Lincoln, spoke a great many eternal truths that still inspire us today. Nothing he said was ever truer than this:

It's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

President George H.W. Bush has filled his years with a lifetime of service and contributions marked by integrity and humility. I wish him and his family many more years of celebration, and I thank him for his extraordinary service and dedication to the country he loves so much.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. WYDEN. Last night the Senate passed the Intelligence authorization bill, and it contains some very important provisions relating to whistleblowers. While Senator COLLINS is on the floor, I wish to commend her for her extraordinary work on this issue. She has been at this for years, and it is a pleasure to be able to team up with her in this effort. I think it is fair to say both of us are very appreciative of the work done by our chair, Senator FEINSTEIN, who did so much to make this possible.

I am going to be very brief. Chairman HARKIN has some important remarks to make this morning. He graciously allowed me to go ahead of him.

I wish to reflect a little bit on where we are with respect to whistleblowers and the ability of intelligence agency employees to speak out on matters that do not affect national security but are important to the debate about how to ensure our country resolutely fights terror and protects the public's right to know.

I think it is fair to say—and I make this judgment on the basis of having been on the intelligence committee for 13 years now—that the very important and worthwhile efforts to protect our national security after the terrorists murdered more than 3,000 of our people on 9/11 were also accompanied by a lot of overreaching by the intelligence leadership.

In recent years I think it is fair to say reformers have made some real progress in our efforts to address that overreach, and now with the PATRIOT Act and other measures coming before us—and the country truly understanding what is at stake—I think it is going to be possible to make additional progress.

The reason I have come to the floor to discuss whistleblowers and the ability of intelligence employees to speak out is a lot of the progress we have seen recently would not have happened without whistleblowers and without some of the intelligence agency employees who are willing to risk their very careers to draw attention to real and serious problems. I also make note of the fact that there were journalists, journalists who worked hard to report the facts responsibly to ensure an informed public debate that is so essential to our democracy.

Here is why the whistleblower issue is so important: There are existing laws and regulations that say employees of American intelligence agencies who are concerned about possible misconduct, such as waste and fraud and illegal activity, are allowed to report that, and these laws and regulations lay out channels for doing it.

The reality is these principles—and the idea is that if there is misconduct reported to one of these entities, the oversight entity would have some opportunity to do something about it. Unfortunately, reporting misconduct by your colleagues or by your agency does not always work out so well. That is why rocking the boat and reporting misconduct can sometimes be hazardous for an individual's career.

If a government employee thinks about blowing the whistle on possible misconduct, but can see that their supervisor or someone in their chain of command is condoning or participating in that misconduct, the employee is rightly going to be concerned about possible retaliation and will not get that promotion and might not even be able to retain their security clearance.

So title VI of this year's Intelligence Authorization Act strengthens the ability of those whistleblowers to come forward. It prohibits retaliation against intelligence whistleblowers who report misconduct using approved channels, and it includes disclosures to the Congress or to an inspector general. It requires the executive branch to establish an appeals process for whistleblowers who have their security clearance unjustifiably revoked. Establishing these protections in statute—in my view is an important advance forward. So we are making some progress there with respect to whistleblowers, but we are not doing so well with respect to making sure we are protecting the ability of our employees in the intelligence field to speak out.

Recently the head of National Intelligence issued a new policy directive regarding agency employees' contact with the media. I will tell you, I am troubled by how sweeping in nature this is. At the outset, this is supposed to prevent disclosures of genuinely sensitive information. That is obviously an important goal, but it is also impor-

tant to make sure that as we carry out that provision, we do not keep employees, for example, from being able to talk about nonclassified matters.

The new policy makes it clear that intelligence agency employees can be punished for having "contact with the media about intelligence-related information." Make no mistake about it, that is so broad it could cover unclassified information. It does not lay out any limits on this extraordinarily broad term that I have described.

For example, is an employee's opinion about the scope of the NSA's domestic surveillance activities intelligence-related information? Are publicly available assessments about developments in Syria or the Ukraine intelligence related? This new directive does not say that, but it certainly points in that direction.

It becomes even more problematic if we read further down into this new policy and review the definition of the word "media." It includes any person or entity "engaged in the collection, production or dissemination to the public of information in any form related to topics of national security, which includes print, broadcast, film and Internet." This is extraordinarily broad. It goes well beyond professional news gatherers to include anyone who uses the Internet—the Internet—to disseminate any information at all relating to national security topics. So if someone is an employee of an intelligence agency and if they have a family member who likes to post or retweet articles about national security, suddenly having a conversation with that family member about important issues, such as NSA surveillance or the war in Afghanistan, could lead to them getting punished for having unauthorized contact with the media, which this directive says "will be handled in the same manner as a security violation" regardless of whether any classified information is disclosed.

So I am willing to give everyone the benefit of the doubt; that some of the authors of this policy did not intend to have this happen. I know that trying to make definitions of who is and is not a member of the media is going to be a challenge with these new media technologies, but that does not remove the fact that this policy is too broad, is too sweeping. It incorporates too much of what we want in Montana, in Oregon, which is to make sure our people can talk about the policy issues that afford them the information so they can cast a ballot.

My hope is we can get this corrected because I think it is going to have a chilling effect on intelligence professionals who simply want to talk about unclassified matters on important national security issues—such as how to reform domestic surveillance or whether our country should go to war.

In closing—and I thank my colleague from Iowa—we have made progress.

Back in 2012 there was an overly broad antileaks bill reported by the intelligence committee. It came out of the committee on a 14-to-1 basis. I was the opposing vote. At that time I knew it was a flawed policy, but I did not even know how flawed it was because we were not able at the time to talk to outside parties. When it was ready for the floor, the country and journalists and citizens saw how sweeping it was, saw how flawed it was and the damage it would have done, again, to discussing nonclassified matters, and we got it corrected, but suffice it to say, we are going to have a host of challenges in the years ahead. While we have won victories—such as against that overly broad antileaks policy, when we were able to derail what would have been the biggest invasion of privacy in our country's history, the Total Information Awareness Program, which was derailed because a young person in our office found a memo that demonstrated how sweeping it was—while we have made progress, we have a lot to do.

We are in better shape this morning because of the passage of that intelligence authorization bill and the additional measure of protections for whistleblowers, and Senator COLLINS and the chair of the committee, Senator FEINSTEIN, deserve enormous credit. But make no mistake about it; we have a lot of work to do, and certainly that new media policy that has come from the Director of National Intelligence—that is so broad, so broad it could make it difficult to talk about unclassified matters on the Internet—is just one example of the kind of issue we are going to have to zero in on in the days ahead.

I also note that our next speaker, Chairman HARKIN, has been a great advocate on these kinds of issues as well.

I thank him for his courtesy so I could go ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today, June 12, 2014, is the day set aside by the International Labor Organization to bring attention to the tragic predicament of millions of children across the globe who continue to be trapped in forced and abusive labor, often in extremely hazardous conditions.

So today is the World Day Against Child Labor. It is a day set aside every year globally for people to take a look at what is happening to kids around the globe who are forced into very abusive and exploitative labor conditions.

I think we should obviously think about these children more than just 1 day a year. We should think about them every day.

In my travels I have seen the scourge of forced and abusive child labor firsthand. Previously on the floor—going

back for almost 20 years—I have spoken about how shocked I was to see the deplorable conditions under which some of these kids are forced to work. I have witnessed this personally in places from South Asia to Latin America, to Africa.

These pictures I have in the Chamber are, as a matter of fact, pictures I took myself. This picture was taken in a rug-making place in Kathmandu, Nepal. We were told there were no children being forced into this kind of labor, but under the cover of darkness, on a Sunday night—it was probably after about 8 o'clock in the evening—we were able to make entry into one of these back-alley places, and this is what we came across: young people, girls and boys, some as young as 8 years of age, working at these looms. I remind you, this is at 8 p.m. on a Sunday night. They lived in barracks. They were housed, kind of stacked in barracks, so they could not leave, they could not go anywhere, they could not see their families.

Here is another picture of some older girls. These are young teenage girls working at the same place. I did not take that picture because this is me in the picture. This picture was taken by Rosemary Gutierrez, my staff person.

So I witnessed this firsthand. Even though we were told no such thing existed, we found it did exist.

This witnessing I have done in all these places has also been a call to action, a call to become a voice for these kids. Since 1992, when I first introduced the first bill to ban all products made by abusive and exploitative child labor, I have been leading this effort in the Senate.

Since the introduction of the bill in 1992, we have made progress in raising awareness about abusive and exploitative child labor, and we have significantly reduced the number of kids working in these hazardous conditions.

This effort received a big boost through the International Labor Organization's Convention 182, a treaty calling for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor.

In June 1999, President Clinton traveled to Geneva to support and sign this treaty. I was proud to accompany him on this historic trip when, for the first time in history, the world spoke with one voice in opposition to abusive and exploitative child labor. Countries from across the political, economic, and religious spectrum came together to proclaim unequivocally that abusive and exploitative child labor is a practice that will not be tolerated and must be abolished.

After returning from that trip with President Clinton, I worked with Senator Jesse Helms in the Senate—he was then chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—to bring this treaty before the full Senate. Just 5 months later, the Senate unanimously

gave its advice and consent, in a 96-to-0 vote, to ratify this treaty.

I have to digress for a minute. We have another treaty that hopefully we will be bringing up soon; that is, the U.N. treaty on the rights of people with disabilities—the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. There has been a lot of talk about sovereignty, that we can't give up our sovereignty. That is just a red herring. I would say that many Senators who are here today voted on that 96-to-0 vote and nobody ever raised an issue about sovereignty. Have we lost our sovereignty since we joined that treaty? Not one speck. So why is it we are so concerned about some sovereignty issue when it deals with people with disabilities but we weren't in 1999 when we voted unanimously, Republicans and Democrats, when it dealt with exploitative child labor? So I just want to make that point for people to consider when we, hopefully, bring up the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities sometime this summer.

With that historic treaty on exploitative child labor, the global community rejected the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is a practice that can be excused by a country's poor economic circumstances.

In pushing the United States to lead by example, I worked with the Clinton administration to issue Executive order 13126, the "Prohibition of Acquisition of Products Produced by Forced and Indentured Child Labor." This Executive order, in effect since 1999, prohibits the U.S. Government from procuring items made by forced or indentured child labor.

I have always believed that trade agreements—on the right terms—promise many broadly shared benefits and opportunities for all. That is why I have worked hard to improve the labor provisions in various trade measures, concentrating particularly on combating abusive and exploitative child labor.

Thereafter, in 2000, during consideration of the Trade and Development Act, I again worked with Senator Helms to amend the Generalized System of Preferences—GSP—so that "efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor" would be included as a criterion and condition for receiving trade benefits. That is in the law.

Additionally, that amendment also mandated that the Department of Labor's International Labor Affairs Bureau—called ILAB—the U.S. Government's foremost authority on child labor, must produce an annual report in which our government formally monitors and documents the effort or lack of effort of 144 countries and territories receiving U.S. trade benefits to meet their international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. This amendment enshrined into law something I had been working on

for years through the previous Department of Labor reports.

I intended for this report to bring countries to account, to shine a spotlight on their need to reform their national laws, and to put in place safety nets for those trapped in the worst forms of child labor. The aim is not punitive but, rather, to jump-start individual and collective action. I wanted this report to be equal in stature—and in impact—to the State Department's human rights report, and we are well on our way to achieving that status.

On the technical assistance side, ILAB has funded 269 technical cooperation projects to combat exploitative child labor in over 90 countries around the world. Think about that. We have funded 269 projects to combat child labor in over 90 countries around the world. As a result of these efforts, about 1.7 million children have been rescued from child labor through the provision of education and training services and livelihood support for their families.

Let's be clear. Whether we are talking about trafficking of children for sexual exploitation or for purposes of forced labor in dangerous, abusive circumstances, the outcome is the same. These children are robbed of their childhood, robbed of their education, robbed of their future. And in the countries where this takes place, the cycle of poverty is perpetuated.

A nation can neither achieve nor sustain prosperity on the backs of its children. In the global economy, the exploitation of children must not be tolerated under any circumstances or for any reason.

When children are exploited for the economic gains of others, everybody loses—the children lose, their families lose, their country loses, the world loses. When even one child is exploited, every one of us is diminished. That is why in 2001, after reading investigative reports by Knight-Ridder exposing the magnitude of forced child labor on cocoa farms in West Africa, I resolved to do what we could to end this tragic exploitation of children.

Together with Congressman ELIOT ENGEL of New York, we engaged the major chocolate companies in lengthy, intense negotiations. The result is what has become known as the Harkin-Engel Protocol—a public-private partnership to tackle the problem of child labor on nearly 1.5 million small cocoa farms in four African countries, beginning with Ghana and the Ivory Coast.

One might ask why we are so interested in that. Think about this: 60 percent of all of the chocolate consumed in America—think about our Hershey bars, the chocolates we eat, the cocoa we make, chocolate that goes into cakes, whatever it is—60 percent of all of that we consume in America comes from two countries: the Ivory Coast and Ghana. How many people, when

they bite into that chocolate or eat that chocolate bar or that piece of chocolate cake or drink some cocoa in the morning, know they got that through abusive child labor—kids 10 years of age with knife cuts, machetes taking off their fingers, not being allowed to go to school, forced to work in terrible conditions in these cocoa fields just so we can have chocolate to eat. Is that something we are proud of?

So we developed this protocol to begin the process of getting them out of this kind of work.

Again, we have made some progress. The joint efforts of the stakeholders failed to rise to a level to match the magnitude of the challenge. This is what an independent study by Tulane University in 2010 concluded:

Despite the concerted efforts of the various stakeholders—

One of them being us—

it is evident that much more work is required and the majority of children exposed to the worst forms of child labor remains unreached by the remediation activities currently in place.

That was reported by Tulane University. The study noted that over 1 million children were trapped in exploitative labor in the cocoa sector of just those two countries.

I was determined to take steps to accelerate our progress. To that end, in September of 2010 we worked—again with ILAB—to develop a framework of action that sets the goal of reducing the worst forms of child labor in the cocoa industry in those two countries, Ivory Coast and Ghana, to reduce it by 70 percent by 2020. The framework is a cooperative effort by the governments of the United States, Ivory Coast, Ghana, the international labor organizations, the cocoa industry, and civil society groups, including labor unions. To initially fund this effort, the U.S. Government agreed to provide \$10 million in new funding. In turn, the international chocolate and cocoa industry has committed an additional \$20 million toward this endeavor.

This is truly a historic step with the key stakeholders—the national governments, the industry, the Department of Labor—working as partners to intensify efforts to combat the scourge of child labor in the cocoa fields. Together, key stakeholders have undertaken a sustainable remediation process that includes better schooling and training opportunities for these young people, measures to improve occupational safety and health related to cocoa production, and livelihood services to vulnerable families.

Additionally, the framework creates true accountability. It establishes benchmarks with audits and puts in place a credible, transparent monitoring system in 100 percent of cocoa-growing regions in the two countries. The stakeholders also produce an annual report documenting programs in the field.

I am proud of ILAB's determined work in reducing the worst forms of child labor. We should all be proud of these efforts. We and our partners around the world have made significant progress in the monumental task of eliminating this scourge of child labor. Since the year 2000, we have reduced the number of child laborers from 246 million to 168 million—a reduction of almost one-third, or 78 million.

I especially wish to thank former Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis for her great leadership during this period of time that we were hammering out these agreements and these frameworks. I also thank the present Secretary of Labor Tom Perez for his continued support and leadership of ILAB. I might also mention Carol Pier, who heads the International Labor Affairs Bureau, for her dynamic leadership in working to reduce these worst forms of child labor not just in Ghana and the Ivory Coast but around the world.

I might also add that we began, annually—actually, sometimes semiannually—with the governments of Ghana and the Ivory Coast, as well as with the cocoa industry—and I must say I am very encouraged by both of these countries.

I might especially point out Ghana. Ghana has done remarkably well. They are moving in the right direction in reducing this child labor and providing support for education. The Ivory Coast has now come—Cote d'Ivoire, as they call it, is now coming along really well. They have had some problems in the past. They have had some civil wars, disruptions in their economy. Now the new President and especially the First Lady of the Ivory Coast have really taken on this goal of reducing child labor in the Ivory Coast. I compliment both countries for their work with us and with the cocoa industry.

I compliment the cocoa industry as well. They are working as a true partner to try to meet that goal of reducing child labor by 70 percent by the year 2020.

I thank Tulane University for their investigations—for their monitoring, I should say, more than investigations—their monitoring of this process and getting us the true picture of what is happening.

I think all of this demonstrates that when we work together in a bipartisan way, we can confront some of the worst human rights abuses that exist. On the issue of forced and abusive child labor, we are resolved to act without regard to party affiliation and with high regard for the interests of children trapped in abusive labor.

As we are all aware, I am retiring from the Senate next year, but I assure my colleagues that I am not retiring from this fight. I will find some way to continue to be involved, to help make sure we reach those goals of reducing child labor by 70 percent by 2020 in

both of those countries, and to use that also as a springboard for further kinds of cooperative efforts with governments around the world to get kids out of this terrible scourge of child labor.

Again, we have to ensure that ILAB has the resources to continue effective U.S. efforts. I look forward to working with my colleagues later this year to finally authorize ILAB so that it has the tools it needs to get children out of these abusive circumstances and into schools where they can gain the knowledge and skills they need not only to build a decent life for themselves but to break the cycle of poverty in the countries in which they live. It has been a vicious cycle of poverty and using and exploiting these kids. They don't learn, they don't go to school, they become impoverished, and the cycle just continues and continues. We have to break that.

In countries where they break that cycle, we have seen they then enter a virtuous cycle where the kids go to school. They learn. They become educated. They are then able to perform jobs with higher skills. They then bring in people to do some of these jobs that are paid a decent wage. They are adults. And we find that the whole country progresses because it is a virtuous cycle, not a vicious cycle.

Again, on this day, June 12, which is, as I said, called World Day Against Child Labor, it is good for us to pause and think about our own policies in this country and what we are doing to help the rest of the world, not in a punitive way of hitting someone over the head but by working together to solve what people thought was an intractable problem of kids not going to school, being forced into terrible labor conditions. It is time for us to think about how we work with other countries to help solve this problem.

If we read the history of the United States, we know we had terrible child labor problems in this country back in the 19th century. In the 1800s we can see all kinds of pictures of kids working in our mills, working on road crews. Again, when we finally stopped it—and it is amazing that the arguments we heard then against stopping child labor are some of the same arguments we hear now about stopping it in other countries. We entered a virtuous cycle of educating our youth, getting them into schools. That led to higher incomes, led to a better gross national product, enabled us to become the most powerful, well-educated country in the history of the world. There are so many countries that would like to do that. They need our help. They need our support. Through our Department of Labor and the International Labor Affairs Bureau we can give them that kind of help and that kind of support so other countries can finally put an end to this scourge of child labor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator GRAHAM be allowed to engage in a colloquy with me and that we may take such time as we may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAQ

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor this morning with great sorrow and great concern and an even deeper alarm about the events that are transpiring rapidly in Iraq.

ISIS, the most extreme Islamist organization, radical terrorist organization, now controls at least one-third of Iraqi territory. It is rapidly gaining more. The areas of Fallujah, Mosul, Tikrit, they are on the outsides of Samarra. With these victories, ISIS controls a swath of territory that stretches from the Syrian-Turkish frontier in the north, down to the Euphrates River, all of the way down to the Iraqi city of Fallujah, just 40 miles west of Baghdad. Of course, hourly they are experiencing greater gains while the Iraqi military and police seem to be dissolving before our very eyes.

ISIS social media published pictures of their fighters demolishing the sand berm which hitherto marked the border between Syria and Iraq, an interesting symbolic gesture. ISIS released footage of large numbers of weapons and armored military vehicles being received by members in eastern Syria, confirming fears that the looted weapons would fuel the insurgency on both sides, both Syria and Iraq.

Sources in the Syrian city of Hasaka confirmed that large numbers of trucks, convoys of trucks, carrying weapons, arrived late on Tuesday and were met by a senior ISIS figure Omar al-Chechani. General Keane, the architect of the surge said:

This organization [speaking of ISIS] has grown into a military organization that is no longer conducting terrorist activities exclusively but is conducting conventional military operations. They are attacking Iraqi military positions with company—and battalion—size formations. And in the face of that the Iraqi security forces have not been able to stand up to it.

The most frightening part is that ISIS's strength will only grow after today. It will use the cash reserves from Mosul's banks, the military equipment seized from military and police bases, and the release of 3,000 fight-

ers from local jails to bolster its military and financial capacity.

ISIS has now become the richest terrorist group ever, even after looting \$429 million from Mosul's central bank. The governor confirmed Kurdish television reports that ISIS militants had stolen millions from numerous banks across Mosul.

Most disturbing is as the Iraqi security forces are collapsing, Kurdish and Shia militias are, to some degree, filling the vacuum.

The story goes on and on, including the fact that the International Organization for Migration says that as many as 500,000 citizens have fled Mosul. There are reports of tens of thousands of citizens forced from their homes in other areas as fighting escalates across northern and central Iraq.

Then the question arises: Could all of this have been avoided? The answer is absolutely yes—absolutely yes.

I think it is probably the height of ego to quote one's self, but I think it is important to have again on the record what I said during this whole process when the only goal of the President of the United States was to leave Iraq and Afghanistan—and he is about to make the same mistake in Afghanistan that he did in Iraq.

Those of us who knew Iraq, who knew Al Qaeda, who knew how vital and how fragile the Iraqi Government is—the day the President announced that all U.S. troops would leave Iraq by the end of the year, I said on October 21, 2011:

Today marks a harmful and sad setback for the United States in the world. I respectfully disagree with the President: this decision will be viewed as a strategic victory for our enemies in the Middle East. . . . Nearly 4,500 Americans have given their lives for our mission in Iraq. Countless more have been wounded. I fear that all of the gains made possible by these brave Americans in Iraq at such grave cost are now at risk.

On November 15, 2011, in the Senate Armed Services Committee, when Ambassador Crocker said it was a mistake, I said—and I will not give the whole statement, but I said:

We cannot avoid the fact that Iraq's progress is now at greater risk than at any time since the dark days before the surge, and that it did not have to be this way.

Finally, on December 14, 2011, the day the President triumphed, visited Fort Bragg to mark the end—in his view, the end of the Iraq war—I said:

Over 4,000 brave young Americans gave their lives in this conflict. I pray that their sacrifice is not in vain. . . . Unfortunately, it is clear that this decision of a complete pull-out of United States troops from Iraq was dictated by politics, and not our national security interests. I believe that history will judge this President's leadership with the scorn and disdain it deserves.

Of course, we know the United States rebuffed, according to the New York Times today, in an article by Michael Gordon and Eric Schmitt, the United States refused Maliki's request to

strike against the militants' strategic disaster, assisted by withdrawal from Iraq.

Iraq's terrorists are becoming a full-blown army.

One of the smartest guys I have encountered, a man named Dexter Filkins, has great experience. He has an article in the New Yorker, "In Extremists' Iraq Rise, America's Legacy."

When the Americans invaded, in March, 2003, they destroyed the Iraqi state.

He continues:

The negotiations between Obama and Maliki fell apart, in no small measure because of a lack of engagement by the White House. Today, many Iraqis, including some close to Maliki, say that a small force of American soldiers—working in non-combat roles—would have provided a crucial stabilizing factor that is now missing from Iraq. Sami al-Askari, a Maliki confidant, told me for my article this spring, "If you had a few hundred here, not even a few thousand, they would be cooperating with you, and they would become your partners." President Obama wanted the Americans to come home, and Maliki didn't particularly want them to stay.

The trouble is, as the events of this week show, what the Americans left behind was an Iraqi state that was not able to stand on its own. What we built is now coming apart. This is the real legacy of America's war in Iraq.

If I sound angry, it is because I am angry, because during this whole period of time, for example, the Washington Post, in an editorial this morning called "The Iraq success."

Denis McDonough, then deputy national security adviser and now White House chief of staff, told reporters in 2011 that Mr. Obama "said what we are looking for is an Iraq that's secure, stable and self-reliant, and that's exactly what we got here. So there's no question this is a success."

Sometime we are going to hold people responsible for their policies as well as their words. To declare that a conflict is over does not mean it necessarily is over.

There is a great piece by Daniel Henninger this morning in the Wall Street Journal entitled, "While Obama Fiddles."

Meanwhile, Iraq may be transforming into (a) a second Syria or (b) a restored caliphate. Past some point, the world's wildfires are going to consume the Obama legacy. And leave his successor a nightmare.

What needs to be done now? Every hour the options become fewer and fewer as ISIS, the most radical Islamist terrorist group alive, sweeps across Iraq and now, according to the latest reports, is even threatening Baghdad, that there are signs of further deterioration of the Iraqi military.

What do we need to do now?

Obviously, the first thing I think we need to do is call together the people who succeeded in Iraq, those who have been retired, and get together that group and place them in positions of

responsibility so they can develop a policy to reverse this tide of radical Islamist extremism, which directly threatens the security of the United States of America, and it is time the President got a new national security team.

It is time he got a group of people together who know what it is to succeed in conflict. I would say the leader of that would be General Petraeus. I would say General Mattis is one. I would say General Keane is another one. I would say Bob Kagan is another one.

There is a group of people, along with myself and the Senator from South Carolina, who predicted every single one of these events because of an American lack of reliability and American weakness—and the President of the United States declaring that conflicts are at an end when they are not—an exit from Iraq and now an exit from Afghanistan without a strategy and without victory.

So drastic measures need to be taken. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is one who has gone along with this policy for a long time. We need a new Chairman. We need a new National Security Adviser. We need a new team. We need a new team that knows what America's national security interests are and are more interested in national security than they are in politics.

I come to this floor with great sadness because all of this could have been avoided. There is no inevitability about what is taking place in Iraq.

Iraq is a faraway place, but ask any intelligence leader in this country and that leader will tell you this poses—a takeover of Iraq in the Iraq-Syria area—which is now the largest concentration of Al Qaeda in history—is a direct threat to the United States of America.

Our Director of National Intelligence, General Clapper, has said in open testimony that this concentration of Al Qaeda-oriented and Al Qaeda-affiliated groups will be planning attacks on the United States of America.

The saddest part about all of this to me is the fact that 4,400 young Americans lost their lives, thousands lost their limbs. Thousands are scared for life because of the experience they had serving in Iraq. They had it won. In the words of General Petraeus: We won the war and lost the peace.

That is a direct responsibility of the President of the United States, who is the Commander in Chief. But I grieve for those families who lost their loved ones, who fought so bravely, and made such sacrifices.

To see all of that, all of that success, where the surge succeeded, thanks to one of the finest generals in history, GEN David Petraeus, we see this all now torn asunder because of a policy of withdrawal without victory.

When those withdrawals and that policy were being orchestrated, the Senator from South Carolina, I, and others, stood and said: Please don't do this. Please leave a small force behind in Iraq. We are begging now, please leave a small force in Afghanistan.

The Afghans have no air capabilities. The Taliban will come back and all of the sacrifice in Afghanistan will be made in vain. So at least take immediate action to try to break the advance of ISIS across Iraq today but also revisit the decision to completely withdraw from Afghanistan because the Taliban is still alive and well.

Because the President of the United States declares a conflict is over does not mean, in the eyes of the enemy, it is over. Conflicts end when the enemy is defeated. The Iraq war did not end because the forces within Iraq were still undefeated.

The conflict in Afghanistan will not be over 2 years from now in 2017, when the final American is scheduled to leave Afghanistan.

Please learn the lessons.

I say to the President of the United States: Get a new national security team in place. You have been ill-served by the national security team and the decisions that you have in place now and the decisions that you made, and have that new national security team come up with a strategy, a strategy to do whatever we can to prevent this direct threat to the national security of this Nation, the security of this Nation.

Of all the visits the former Senator from Connecticut, Joe Lieberman, LINDSEY GRAHAM, and I made every Fourth of July, two or three times a year, traveling the country, and having been in the company of not just great leaders such as General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker but the young men and women: the privates, the corporals, especially the sergeants—these brave men and women who were serving and who were willing to sacrifice on behalf of somebody else's freedom they believe they had won, the surge succeeded. Any military expert will tell us the surge succeeded. But it was won at great sacrifice.

Among other cities, the black flags of Al Qaeda fly over the city of Fallujah today. Ninety-six brave soldiers and marines were killed and 600 wounded. What do we tell their families? What do we tell their mothers?

So it is not too late. America is still the most powerful nation on earth. We still have the finest and strongest military ever. We have the finest young men and women who are serving in it ever.

It is not too late. But we have to have a dramatic reversal of course before the situation gets to the point where, as the Director of National Intelligence has stated, this will be an area where attacks on the United States of America will be orchestrated.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the referenced articles be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New Yorker, June 11, 2014]
IN EXTREMISTS' IRAQ RISE, AMERICA'S LEGACY
(By Dexter Filkins)

First Falluja, then Mosul, and now the oil-refinery town of Bayji. The rapid advance of Al Qaeda-inspired militants across the Sunni heartland of northern and western Iraq has been stunning and relentless—and utterly predictable. Here's a forecast: the bad news is just beginning.

The capture of Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, by Sunni extremists on Tuesday is the most dramatic example of the resurgence of the country's sectarian war, which began almost immediately after the withdrawal of the last American forces in December, 2011. The fighters who took Mosul are attached to an Al Qaeda spawn called the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, or ISIS, which is now poised to carve out a rump state across the Sunni-dominated lands that stretch from western Baghdad to the Syrian border and beyond.

As I detailed in a recent piece for the magazine, Iraq's collapse has been driven by three things. The first is the war in Syria, which has become, in its fourth bloody year, almost entirely sectarian, with the country's majority-Sunni opposition hijacked by extremists from groups like ISIS and Jabhat al-Nusra, and by the more than seven thousand foreigners, many of them from the West, who have joined their ranks. The border between the two countries—three hundred miles long, most of it an empty stretch of desert—has been effectively erased, with ISIS and Nusra working both sides. As the moderates in Syria have been pushed aside, so too have their comrades in Iraq.

The second factor—probably the dominant one—is the policies of Nuri Al-Maliki, Iraq's Prime Minister. Maliki is a militant sectarian to the core, and he had been fighting on behalf of Iraq's long-suppressed Shiite majority for years before the Americans arrived, in 2003. Even after the Americans toppled Saddam, Maliki never stopped, taking a page—and aid and direction—from his ideological brethren across the border in Iran. When the Americans were on the ground in Iraq, they acted repeatedly to restrain Maliki, and the rest of Iraq's Shiite leadership, from its most sectarian impulses. At first, they failed, and the civil war began in earnest in 2006. It took three years and hundreds of lives, but the American military succeeded in tamping down Iraq's sectarian furies, not just with violence but also by forcing Maliki to accommodate Sunni demands. Time and again, American commanders have told me, they stepped in front of Maliki to stop him from acting brutally and arbitrarily toward Iraq's Sunni minority. Then the Americans left, removing the last restraints on Maliki's sectarian and authoritarian tendencies.

In the two and a half years since the Americans' departure, Maliki has centralized power within his own circle, cut the Sunnis out of political power, and unleashed a wave of arrests and repression. Maliki's march to authoritarian rule has fueled the reemergence of the Sunni insurgency directly. With nowhere else to go, Iraq's Sunnis are turning, once again, to the extremists to protect them.

Which brings us to the third reason. When the Americans invaded, in March, 2003, they destroyed the Iraqi state its military, its bureaucracy, its police force, and most everything else that might hold a country together. They spent the next nine years trying to build a state to replace the one they crushed. By 2011, by any reasonable measure, the Americans had made a lot of headway but were not finished with the job. For many months, the Obama and Maliki governments talked about keeping a residual force of American troops in Iraq, who would act largely to train Iraq's Army and to provide intelligence against Sunni insurgents. (They would almost certainly have been barred from fighting.) Those were important reasons to stay, but the most important went largely unstated: it was to continue to act as a restraint on Maliki's sectarian impulses, at least until the Iraqi political system was strong enough to contain him on its own. The negotiations between Obama and Maliki fell apart, in no small measure because of a lack of engagement by the White House. Today, many Iraqis, including some close to Maliki, say that a small force of American soldiers working in non-combat roles—would have provided a crucial stabilizing factor that is now missing from Iraq. Sami al-Askari, a Maliki confidant, told me for my article this spring, "If you had a few hundred here, not even a few thousand, they would be cooperating with you, and they would become your partners." President Obama wanted the Americans to come home, and Maliki didn't particularly want them to stay.

The trouble is, as the events of this week show, what the Americans left behind was an Iraqi state that was not able to stand on its own. What we built is now coming apart. This is the real legacy of America's war in Iraq.

[From the Washington Post]

THE IRAQ 'SUCCESS'

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION NEEDS A STRATEGY AS DANGERS MOUNT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

For years, President Obama has been claiming credit for "ending wars," when, in fact, he was pulling the United States out of wars that were far from over. Now the pretense is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain.

On Monday, a loathsome offshoot of al-Qaeda, the self-styled Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, captured Mosul, one of Iraq's most important cities, seizing large caches of modern weaponry and sending half a million civilians fleeing in terror. ISIS, which can make the original al-Qaeda look moderate, controls large swaths of territory stretching from northern Syria into Iraq. On Tuesday, militants advanced toward Baghdad, capturing Tikrit and other cities.

If Iraq joins Syria in full-fledged civil war, the danger to U.S. allies in Israel, Turkey, Jordan and the Kurdish region of Iraq is immense. These terrorist safe havens also pose a direct threat to the United States, according to U.S. officials. "We know individuals from the U.S., Canada and Europe are traveling to Syria to fight in the conflict," Jeh Johnson, secretary of homeland security, said earlier this year. "At the same time, extremists are actively trying to recruit Westerners, indoctrinate them, and see them return to their home countries with an extremist mission."

When Mr. Obama defended his foreign policy in a speech at West Point two weeks ago, he triggered some interesting debate about the relative merits of engagement and re-

straint. But the question of whether Mr. Obama more closely resembles Dwight D. Eisenhower or Jimmy Carter is less relevant than the results of his policy, which are increasingly worrisome.

In Syria, where for three years Mr. Obama has assiduously avoided meaningful engagement, civil war has given rise to "the most catastrophic humanitarian crisis any of us have seen in a generation," Mr. Obama's United Nations ambassador Samantha Power said in February.

In Libya, Mr. Obama joined in a bombing campaign to topple dictator Moammar Gaddafi and then declined to provide security assistance to help the nation right itself. It, too, is on the verge of civil war.

In Iraq, Mr. Obama chose not to leave a residual force that might have helped keep the nation's politics on track, even as the White House insisted there was no reason to worry. Denis McDonough, then deputy national security adviser and now White House chief of staff, told reporters in 2011 that Mr. Obama "said what we're looking for is an Iraq that's secure, stable and self-reliant, and that's exactly what we got here. So there's no question this is a success."

Now Mr. Obama is applying the same recipe to Afghanistan: total withdrawal of U.S. troops by 2016, regardless of conditions.

At West Point, the president stressed that "not every problem has a military solution." That is obviously true. In fact, a goal of U.S. policy should be to help shape events so that military solutions do not have to be considered. The presence of U.S. troops in South Korea, for example, has helped keep the peace for more than a half century.

Total withdrawal can instead lead to challenges like that posed by Iraq today, where every option—from staying aloof to more actively helping Iraqi forces—carries risks. The administration needs to accept the reality of the mounting danger in the Middle East and craft a strategy that goes beyond the slogan of "ending war responsibly."

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for 10 minutes to 15 minutes, as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We have an order to go to executive session at 11:30.

Mr. GRAHAM. I ask unanimous consent to speak until 11:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. GRAHAM. Senator McCain was on the floor, and I am sorry I missed him. I was in a briefing.

To the American people, the situation in Iraq is dire. Syria has become a launching pad for attacks against the Iraqi people.

The ISIS—we don't know who these people are, but we are going to get to

know them—are Islamic jihadists based in Syria and Iraq. They are an army, and they are not a bunch of hoodlums.

They have a very specific game plan. They want to create an Islamic caliphate and basically dominate Iraq and Syria. Some want to go to Lebanon and want to create an Islamic state that will be ruled under the most extreme version of Islamic law one could imagine—hell on earth for women, not good for us, the end of modern thought in that part of the world. The people of Iraq and Syria are not by their nature radical Islamists. The people who are beginning to win the day on the battlefield come from all over, and they truly are radical Islamists who would put the world in darkness if they could.

The next 9/11 is in the making as I speak. These people are using Syria and now Iraq as a training ground for international jihad. There are European jihadists and American jihadists over in the Syria as I speak. Over 2 weeks ago, the largest truck bomb explosion by a suicide bomber in Syria was by an American citizen. And, I hate to say it, but there are more over there today.

The question for the United States is: Does it really matter if the ISIS dominates Syria and Iraq or any part thereof? I think it does. I think it is a very bad scenario for us. I think it directly impacts our security here at home, and it will throw the region into chaos.

It is clear to me, after the briefing, there is no scenario by which the Iraqi Security Forces can stop the advancement of this group toward Baghdad. I don't think they go much beyond Baghdad, because then they get into the Shia areas of Iraq. That would be one hell of a fight. But Mosul has fallen, Tikrit has fallen, Fallujah has fallen. Now they are marching to Baghdad. Unless something changes, they will be successful.

They are sending the military equipment they are seizing into Syria to help their cause there. This is a very dangerous situation.

I urge President Obama to go on national television, explain what is going on in Iraq and Syria, and make the case to the American people why we should stay out or why we should do something.

I think American air power is the only hope to change the battlefield equation in Iraq. I know no American wants to set boots on the ground, and I don't feel that is a solution worthy of consideration at this point. But I have been told by our military commanders the Iraqi army is in shambles, and without some kind of intervention, Baghdad is definitely in jeopardy, most of the Sunni areas of Iraq will be run by ISIS, and they will join forces with their colleagues over in Syria.

I worry about the King of Jordan. I worry about Lebanon being next. God knows, if we lose the King of Jordan,

the last moderate force in the Middle East surrounding Israel, what a calamity that would be.

I end with this thought. I remember discussing Iraq with President Bush as if it was yesterday. I went over on numerous occasions with Senator McCAIN early on after the fall of Baghdad and every trip it was worse.

I remember the Bush administration telling us: These are just a few dead-enders. Everything is fine. The media is hyping all the problems because they don't like President Bush.

The soldiers on the ground were telling us: I am driving around every day. I don't know why I am driving around, but I am getting my ass shot off—pardon my French here—without purpose.

I remember sitting down with President Bush, his administration and his team, and Senator McCAIN, and we candidly told President Bush: If you don't adjust your strategy, if you don't reinforce Iraq, we are going to lose.

To his credit, he did, and the surge actually worked. We left Iraq in a very good spot. The security forces had won the day. We had driven out Al Qaeda. Politics was beginning to take over. Violence had been reduced tremendously. The surge worked. Our military did their job, fighting alongside their Iraqi counterparts.

But the decision to withdraw from Iraq created a crisis of confidence, a capability crisis. When there is a vacuum in the Middle East, people go back to their corners—and that is exactly what has happened in Iraq with the lack of an American presence.

Here is what is so heartbreaking. Some 10,000 or 15,000 U.S. soldiers strategically placed would have held this together and politics would have taken over. But it is hard to do political agreements when you are subject to being killed by people on the other side. You need a certain level of security to advance society.

That security has completely been lost in Iraq, and Syria is a contagion for the entire region.

Our indecision and indecisive action in Syria—it was bipartisan, by the way. Plenty of Republicans said: Stay out of Syria; it is none of our concern. What Senator McCAIN and I have been worried about in Syria for about 3 or 4 years is that Iran and Russia were behind Assad. It is not in our interest for Iranians to be in Syria because it is very hard to get them to abandon their nuclear program if they think we are weak in Syria, and it is in our national security interest for Syria not to become an Islamic state.

About 3 years ago there were 500 foreign fighters. Today there are 26,000. So to those Republicans and Democrats who said stay out of Syria, don't use airstrikes or air power, I am sad to say that I think you were wrong. I think Syria has become an absolute breeding ground for radical Islamists, and the

next attack against our country could very well originate from the people who are fighting in Syria today. And I have never been more worried about another 9/11 than I am right now.

So, Mr. President, if you are willing to adjust your policies, we will sit down with you. If you are willing to sit down with your generals and get some good, sound military advice, we will stand with you because what happens in Iraq and Syria does matter. I don't think we need boots on the ground. I don't think that is an option for consideration. But if our military leaders say that we need to stop ISIS because it is in our national security interests through the use of our air power, count me in if that is what our generals say.

I will stand with you, Mr. President, if you correct your policies. If you continue to be delusional about the world, I will be your worst critic.

With that, I yield back.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair thanks the distinguished Senator from South Carolina for yielding the floor.

Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CRYSTAL NIX-HINES FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS THE UNITED STATES PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination as follows:

Nomination of Crystal Nix-Hines, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate on the nomination equally divided in the usual form.

Who yields time?

No one having yielded time, the time will be charged equally to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I rise to oppose the nomination of Crystal Nix-Hines to be the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, otherwise

called UNESCO. I wanted to speak on this nomination and once again express my firm opposition to the administration's stated intention to circumvent U.S. law—the law that was passed by this body regarding funding of UNESCO—and an intention repeated by Ms. Nix-Hines at her hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last year.

I have nothing personal against this individual. I have not met her. I am sure she is a woman of good character and qualified for the job. But nevertheless I think it is important that we understand before we take this vote what we are doing here and why we shouldn't be doing it and that Ms. Nix-Hines's previous statement is relevant to her confirmation to this organization.

If confirmed, this nomination will result in the administration sending a representative to an organization which we do not fund and in which we have no vote. That is right. We will be sending a confirmed U.S. Ambassador to an organization which we do not support and in which we have no vote. That contradiction can only mean the administration is still attempting to change those circumstances by seeking waiver authority, and that is the reason why I am speaking today and why I am opposing this nomination.

Let me provide some context. In late 2011 UNESCO offered membership to the Palestinian Authority. This was a consequence of a Palestinian campaign to achieve recognition as a state by appealing unilaterally and directly to the United Nations and its agencies. UNESCO's decision to admit Palestine as a full member has further dimmed prospects for negotiated peace in the Middle East.

My fear is that this step—which the Palestinians regard as a success—will encourage them to press for membership in other U.N. bodies as well, achieving a legitimacy through the U.N. that they don't deserve as a state and that they need to understand presents major obstacles to ever achieving some type of reconciliation between the Israelis and the Palestinians. This will harm Israel, it will harm the Palestinians' own interests, harm the U.N. agencies involved, and damage our own national interests.

To prevent this sort of unilateral maneuver by the Palestinians, U.S. law—it is the law—has long prohibited funding to any U.N. agency that admits Palestine as a member. The purpose of this termination and the will of Congress regarding it was to discourage such reckless behavior by the U.N. and by the Palestinians.

Let me repeat that. The harm that is done through this has caused us—brought us to a point where we passed a law signed by the President that said we will not support any agency that acknowledges and admits Palestine as a recognized state. That is our policy.

So funding UNESCO or even providing a waiver for that would be a clear violation of U.S. law.

We have seen the administration try to work around Congress in a number of ways, neglecting to check the law in terms of what they are required to do. We are currently in an embroiled situation here with this detainee release from Guantanamo of five of the top leaders of the Taliban—a blatant violation of the law that exists on the books in terms of consultation with Congress before this is done. Nevertheless, that is not what I am here for today. That is another issue.

Our laws require the United States to cut off budget support to UNESCO, and we will do the same to other agencies that also circumvent the correct path to negotiated settlement. I think that is good policy.

When some administration officials spoke publicly soon after the UNESCO vote about finding a “work-around” or seeking a waiver, I introduced legislation not to tolerate such alternatives and said I would not support the waiver. I repeated those efforts in subsequent State and Foreign Operations appropriations bills when the administration included appropriations for UNESCO in its budget request and Secretary Kerry said in his testimony that they would be “seeking to change or repeal the law.”

In his comments on the subject, Secretary Kerry spoke about the value he saw in this U.N. agency but said nothing about the value of discouraging Palestinian efforts to circumvent negotiations and change its status at the U.N. before there is an agreed settlement.

Similarly, in Ms. Nix-Hines statement for the Foreign Relations Committee, she spoke forcefully about her views on UNESCO and its importance to U.S. interests. Maybe it is true, maybe it is not true, but nevertheless she said nothing about how the Palestinian end run at the United Nations has harmed our quest for a Middle East settlement. She repeated the administration’s intention to seek a waiver of existing law to resume contributions to UNESCO, declaring, “We are not a country that turns tail when decisions do not go our way. We are not a people who shrink from challenge.”

Well, that is true, we are not. But in stating that, she has equated a principled stance on an important issue—a stance she does not agree with—as an act of cowardice. It is an act of law. It is an act that was passed by this body with support from the House of Representatives and signed by the President of the United States. So her statement makes no sense unless you come to the conclusion that she was handed talking points—as other members of the administration have been—and told: Go ahead and go down and say this if this question comes up. Don’t worry about the facts.

I can understand why a nominee to UNESCO would want to restore U.S. funding to the organization and thus restore the U.S. vote there, but to purposely ignore or misconstrue the opposing view—one stated in U.S. law and supported by this Congress for 20 years—and then to go on and imply that such a view is cowardly—that is offensive. That is offensive to those Members who have supported this law, who enacted this law. It is offensive to the President who signed this law. It is offensive to the American people who sent us here to pass laws and to enforce those laws as passed. To call that action cowardly is something that is offensive as well.

The laws that are designed to discourage U.N. bodies from admitting Palestinian authority before a comprehensive settlement are essential if negotiations are to have any chance at all. Far from being anachronistic, as some connected with UNESCO are claiming, they are more current and important now than ever. It is now that the Palestinians are trying to change their status at the U.N. unilaterally, and it is now that we must use the available tools to prevent it.

If we were to grant waiver authority to the administration as they have requested, the floodgates would open. The existence of waiver authority—not to mention the actual exercise of a waiver—would embolden the Palestinians to make even greater unilateral efforts to achieve membership in U.N. bodies, and the result would present repeated funding dilemmas for us and would make a true negotiated peace that much more difficult to achieve.

The nomination of a candidate for the UNESCO position at least gives me this opportunity to restate clearly and unambiguously once again that I remain firmly opposed to providing funds to UNESCO or any other U.N. agency that repeats this serious error, and I hope my colleagues would understand this and support it also. Thus, I cannot support funding UNESCO while Palestine is a member, nor will I support a waiver of existing restrictions, and I don’t think anyone else should either because it violates U.S. law.

To repeat, this nomination means the administration wants to send a representative to an organization which we do not fund and in which we have no vote. That contradiction can only mean the administration still wants to change those circumstances by seeking waiver authority, and therefore I will oppose this nomination and hope my colleagues will support the same.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Dr. Stanley Fischer to be Vice Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. I also urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Mr. Jerome Powell and Dr. Lael Brainard to be mem-

bers of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

Each of these individuals has a unique set of skills and experiences to provide the Board of Governors a diverse perspective on how to continue to help the economy recover and promote a more stable financial system.

Dr. Fischer’s background is impressive. In May, he was confirmed by the Senate to be a member of the Federal Reserve. Between 2005 and 2013, he was the head of the Bank of Israel. Prior to his service at the Bank of Israel, Dr. Fischer held positions as the vice chairman of Citigroup and the First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. Before the IMF, Dr. Fischer was the Killian professor and Head of the Department of Economics at MIT, where he taught some of the most preeminent economists of our time, including former Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, former Council of Economic Advisers Chair Greg Mankiw, and European Central Bank President Mario Draghi. Former Fed Chairman Bernanke said of Dr. Fischer: “Stan was my teacher in graduate school, and he has been both a role model and a frequent adviser ever since. An expert on financial crises, Stan has written prolifically on the subject and has also served on the front lines.”

Mr. Powell became a member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in 2012. He has served during a period in which the Fed tackled a number of important issues, including implementing the Wall Street Reform Act and maintaining strong monetary policy that promotes job creation and economic recovery. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Powell was a visiting scholar at the Bipartisan Policy Center, where he focused on Federal and State fiscal issues. Mr. Powell also served as an Assistant Secretary and as Undersecretary of the Treasury under President George H.W. Bush.

Dr. Brainard previously served as Under Secretary for International Affairs at the Treasury from 2010 to 2013. She also served as Deputy Director of the National Economic Council and as the U.S. Sherpa to the G8. She was vice president of the Brookings Institution and an Associate Professor of Applied Economics at MIT Sloan School of Management.

The Federal Reserve Board has many important tasks at hand including effective monetary policy that promotes full employment, continued implementation of Wall Street Reform, and taking steps that will improve financial stability, reduce systemic risk and end “too big to fail.” I am confident these three nominees will be extremely valuable in these endeavors and I hope we can confirm them without delay. I urge my colleagues to support Dr. Brainard, Mr. Powell, and Dr. Fischer.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak in

support of the nomination of Dr. Stanley Fischer to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. I know Dr. Fischer personally and have worked with him over the years, and I am fully confident that he is well qualified to succeed Janet Yellen as Vice Chairman of the Fed, as she begins her tenure as Chair.

Dr. Fischer has had an extraordinarily impressive and well-rounded career thus far. After receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees from the London School of Economics and his Ph.D. at MIT, Fischer served in high-level positions in academia, the private sector, as well as at multiple international financial institutions. His knowledge and expertise of economic policy is world-renowned—in fact some of the most influential economic policy makers today, including former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and the head of the European Central Bank, studied under the guidance and influence of Dr. Fischer.

Most recently, Stanley Fischer served as governor of the Bank of Israel. Appointed in 2005 by then-Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Dr. Fischer led Israel's central bank and steered its economy through the global financial crisis. When the global crisis first hit in 2008, Fischer took decisive action to protect the Israeli economy. His decision to lower interest rates actually came a day before the Fed, the Bank of England or the European Central Bank took similar action.

It is largely due to his leadership that while other countries, including the United States, were still struggling in the depths of recession in 2009, Israel emerged more or less unscathed. In fact, by 2009 the Israeli economy had recovered to the point where central bank assistance was no longer needed, and Fischer actually made the decision to raise interest rates. Furthermore, as the recession spread across the United States and Europe, foreign capital began to flow into Israel, raising the value of its currency, the shekel—which became a big problem for Israeli exports. To offset this inflation, prop up Israeli exporters, and boost the economy, Fischer again had to act quickly to depreciate Israel's currency, buying up \$100 million each day in foreign currency. In less than 1 year, he had reduced the value of the currency by 25 percent and given Israel a trade surplus of \$5 billion.

His quick and intelligent actions in the face of crisis helped maintain financial and price stability and improve employment. These actions shielded the Israeli economy from the recession and produced strong growth. As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated in 2013, "Fischer was a key contributor to Israel's economic growth. His experience and wisdom have helped the Israeli market reach many achievements, even in a time of global crisis."

Prior to his tenure at the Bank of Israel, Dr. Fischer served as the head of the Economics Department at MIT, chief economist at the World Bank, and as the number two official at the International Monetary Fund, IMF. He also spent time in the private sector as vice president of Citigroup from 2002 to 2005.

Throughout his impressive career, Dr. Fischer has undoubtedly learned valuable lessons in responding to global financial and economic crises. His extensive policymaking experience and expertise make him uniquely qualified to serve in the Fed's number two position and navigate the challenges we face as our economy continues to recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression. Most importantly, I am sure we will see soon, Dr. Fischer is a collaborative leader, a visionary, and an absolute joy to work with. We are truly lucky to have a leader of such courage and character up for this position, and I urge my colleagues to swiftly approve his nomination.

Mr. COATS. With that, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Crystal Nix-Hines, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization?

Mr. COATS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second. There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 188 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Harkin	Pryor
Begich	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Landrieu	Tester
Casey	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Coons	Levin	Udall (NM)
Corker	Manchin	Walsh
Donnelly	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	
Hagan	Nelson	

NAYS—41

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Ayotte	Graham	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoehn	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Coburn	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johanns	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Crapo	Kirk	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—7

Boxer	McCaskill	Rockefeller
Burr	Merkley	
Cochran	Moran	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the Majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 9, treaty document 112-1; that the treaty be considered as having advanced through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification; that any committee declarations be agreed to as applicable; and that the resolution of ratification be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that I be recognized immediately following the three voice votes that we expect coming up now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL J. MCCORD TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER)

NOMINATION OF R. JANE CHU TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

NOMINATION OF TODD A. BATTA TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Michael J. McCord, of Ohio, to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller); R. Jane Chu, of Missouri, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts; and Todd A. Batta, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Todd A. Batta of Iowa on his confirmation as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Relations. I can personally attest that he is very well qualified and will undoubtedly do an outstanding job in his new position.

It has been a pleasure for me to know Todd and his family for many years. He grew up in Lanesboro, IA, where his parents, Rick and Wanda, currently reside. His aunt, Bev Schroeder, was a member of my staff for over 20 years, both in Iowa and here in Washington, working on education policy and other matters. In fact, Todd's first political work was to help hand out HARKIN information at parades when he was just three or 4 years old.

Todd began serving on my staff as an intern in the summer of 2001, after receiving his B.A. from Winona State University, and later worked for me as a researcher, deputy scheduler, and scheduler. In 2005, he moved from my personal office to work as a professional staff member on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, during the time I served as either ranking member or chairman.

It is Todd's good fortune to be married to Adrianna Logalbo. They began dating when Todd was on my staff. So, as I say, Todd and his family have been good friends to me for a very long time.

From 2009 to 2011, Todd was a legislative assistant on the staff of Senator Herb Kohl of Wisconsin, handling agriculture and agriculture appropriations for Senator Kohl. He then served as special assistant in the Office of Congressional Relations at the Department of Agriculture, and since 2012, Todd has been senior advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture. In this role, he provides

strategic advice and guidance to the Secretary regarding USDA's budget, legislative, and regulatory agenda.

Given Todd's strong personal qualities, experience, and proven abilities, I could not have been happier when I learned that President Obama had chosen him to serve as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. I look forward to continuing to work with Todd and know that he will do a tremendous job in this new role.

VOTE ON MCCORD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, if there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Michael J. McCord, of Ohio, to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CHU NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of R. Jane Chu, of Missouri, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BATTA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Todd A. Batta, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, with respect to the nominations just confirmed, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business until 1:45 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Michigan.

TAX TREATIES

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, the unanimous consent proposal that I just made a few moments ago that was objected to by the Senator from Kentucky related to the need of the Senate to take up the ratification of five tax treaties that were approved by the Committee on Foreign Relations on a unanimous voice vote, including a revised U.S.-Switzerland tax treaty that was amended in 2009, with a protocol

enabling the United States to obtain more information—more information from Switzerland about U.S. taxpayers with hidden Swiss bank accounts.

We have been trying to close down these offshore tax havens and the way in which they aid and abet American tax avoidance for years. Here we have a tax treaty which will help us get more information about the American taxpayers who are trying to avoid paying their taxes to Uncle Sam, and we get an objection to the ratification, even to taking up the ratification of this treaty.

American taxpayers have had it. I would say have had it up to here, except that will not come across on the record. They have had it with profitable corporations and wealthy individuals avoiding taxes through the use of tax havens, shell companies, and tax avoidance schemes. The American people want us to end it. We ought to legislate an end to it.

By the way, it is long overdue. We ought to close the tax loopholes which are used so the most profitable corporations in this country avoid paying taxes by shifting their intellectual property to shell corporations that they create in tax havens or by other kinds of tax dodging.

We can put an end to it. We can close those tax loopholes. We ought to do it but that is not what should be before us today. What should be before us today but for that objection we had from the Senator from Kentucky, are the tax treaties which have been approved by our Foreign Relations Committee, one of which was signed 4 years ago.

We have all heard about Swiss bank accounts that are used to hide money from Uncle Sam. Back in 2008, in a bipartisan report I issued with then the ranking Republican on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Norman Coleman, with bipartisan support, we disclosed that UBS, the largest bank in Switzerland, had opened as many as 52,000 bank accounts, with about \$20 billion in assets, for U.S. citizens who had hidden their accounts from our Treasury.

UBS later signed a deferred prosecution agreement with the U.S. Treasury and the Department of Justice in which they admitted helping; that is, aiding and abetting, U.S. clients evade U.S. taxes. We are talking about UBS now. They paid a \$750 million fine. They turned over the names of about 4,700 U.S. clients who had hidden accounts in that bank.

UBS was not alone. Earlier this year in a bipartisan report—this is not a partisan issue—in another bipartisan report that I issued with my current ranking member, Senator MCCAIN, the Subcommittee showed that Credit Suisse, Switzerland's second largest bank, had been engaged in the same type of aiding and abetting. Credit

Suisse had opened about 22,000 Swiss bank accounts for U.S. account holders, with up to \$12 billion in assets, that were undisclosed to U.S. tax authorities. After its wrongdoing was exposed, Credit Suisse pled guilty to facilitating U.S. tax evasion and paid a fine of about \$2.6 billion.

In both those cases, the Swiss banks had quietly sent Swiss bankers to do business on U.S. soil, opening accounts, sometimes in the name of offshore shell corporations, arranging all of that; bringing in cash, by the way, from Switzerland; and slipping account statements between magazine pages to their U.S. clients. In order that there not be anything visible at an airport or wherever, they put the statement of their U.S. account holder in a Sports Illustrated magazine and would hand the magazine to their clients. How surreptitious can you get?

We also heard about how U.S. clients who visited Credit Suisse in Switzerland rode in a secret, remotely controlled elevator to a room with no windows and reviewed documents that were then shredded. Why? Why all of that secrecy and surreptitiousness? They wanted to show those U.S. clients, to dramatize, just how secretly the Swiss banks operate and how those Swiss bank accounts would be hidden from U.S. authorities.

But after years and years of effort, we found out what was going on, and we made it public. Even Switzerland could not defend what its banks were doing.

So in 2009, Switzerland agreed to strengthen the U.S.-Swiss tax treaty to enable us to obtain more information about secret Swiss bank accounts opened by U.S. taxpayers.

It is still not voluminous information which we are going to get under that tax treaty, but it is more information. It would give us a better chance of finding the tax dodgers, those U.S. citizens who try to avoid paying their share of taxes and dumping the tax load on all of their fellow citizens, by the way, who have to pick up the added burden.

So with the existing U.S. treaty—we already have a tax treaty with Switzerland, the one that we want to amend—it requires us to establish something which is very difficult to prove; that is, tax fraud, before Switzerland would hand over the information on U.S. account holders with Swiss bank accounts.

We have treaties with all kinds of countries. No other treaty we have has that standard; that we have to show tax fraud before we can get information from a foreign bank. So the revised tax treaty, approved by the Foreign Relations Committee, again unanimously, would enable the United States to obtain information from Switzerland that “may be relevant” to the “administration or enforcement” of U.S. tax laws.

That is the same standard, “may be relevant,” that has been in effect for decades in the United States when the Treasury seeks to obtain information in a tax inquiry about American citizens from their own banks. That standard has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

I am not going to go through all of the cases that have upheld this standard but there are two direct Supreme Court opinions on the subject that say it is proper for Congress to legislate a standard of Treasury getting information from banks about our people that “may be relevant” to the requirement that taxes be paid.

The standard comes from a 1954 Federal statute that authorizes the IRS, for the purpose of examining a tax return or determining a person’s tax liability, “to examine any books, papers, records, or other data which may be relevant or material to such inquiry.” The statute is 26 U.S.C. Section 7602(a)(1).

Thirty years ago, the Supreme Court upheld that standard in a 1984 case called *United States v. Arthur Young & Co.*, 465 U.S. 805. The Supreme Court wrote:

In seeking access to [a corporation’s] tax accrual workpapers, the IRS exercised the summons power conferred by Code § 7602, which authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to summon and ‘examine any books, papers, records, or other data which may be relevant or material’ to a particular tax inquiry. . . .

The language ‘may be’ reflects Congress’ express intention to allow the IRS to obtain items of even potential relevance to an ongoing investigation, without reference to its admissibility. The purpose of Congress is obvious: the Service can hardly be expected to know whether such data will in fact be relevant until it is procured and scrutinized. As a tool of discovery, the § 7602 summons is critical to the investigative and enforcement functions of the IRS. . . .

In short, the Supreme Court upheld the authority of the IRS to request information that “may be relevant” to a tax inquiry, and described the ability to examine that information as “critical to the investigative and enforcement functions of the IRS.”

Last week Senator PAUL indicated on the floor that the IRS can obtain information from a U.S. bank only when it establishes “probable cause” that the account holder was cheating on their taxes. In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected that approach over 50 years ago in a 1964 case called *United States v. Powell*, 379 U.S. 48, in which the Court wrote: “[T]he [IRS] Commissioner need not meet any standard of probable cause to obtain enforcement of his summons.”

The revised U.S.-Swiss tax treaty would instead apply the same statutory standard to Americans with bank accounts in Switzerland as already applies to Americans with bank accounts in the United States. Using the same standard makes perfect sense. Other-

wise Americans with Swiss bank accounts would have a greater right to stymie IRS information requests than Americans with U.S. bank accounts.

In addition, the Senate has already approved other U.S. tax treaties using the relevance standard. They include a 1999 tax treaty with Denmark, a 2007 tax treaty with Belgium, and a 2008 tax treaty with Canada, among others. Those tax treaties already treat Americans abroad in the same way as Americans at home.

In contrast, Switzerland has long been an exception in need of correction. Back in the 1950s, the Swiss somehow managed to get the United States to agree to make it harder for the IRS to scrutinize Americans with Swiss bank accounts than Americans with U.S. bank accounts, which helps explain why so many hidden bank accounts ended up in Switzerland.

The UBS and Credit Suisse bank scandals show it is long past time to end the Swiss exception.

So if we just keep this current treaty, without modifying it, we are actually giving a standard to the Swiss that would allow them to keep information away from our Treasury that is not permitted in our own banks or to banks in any other country that we have a tax treaty with.

Why would we want to preserve a treaty standard that the Swiss themselves have already agreed to replace with a better standard in terms of tax collection? I mean, if the Swiss agree to a standard which gives us better information, why would we want to keep in place a treaty which denies us that information, denies revenue to the Treasury, creates a double standard? If you want to avoid paying taxes, go to Switzerland and you will have a better chance of evading your taxes than if you stay in the United States. Why would we want to give an incentive like that?

That is what we are doing. As long as we have the current treaty in place and do not ratify the proposed treaty, that is exactly what we are doing.

It is so unfair to give special treatment to Americans who send their money to Switzerland, compared to Americans who keep their money right here at home. It is one thing to advocate lower taxes—that is one thing—but it is quite another to advocate policies that would help U.S. taxpayers use Swiss bank accounts to hide their assets and to offload their tax burdens onto the U.S. taxpayers who are not trying to dodge paying taxes.

It has been now 3 years, as Senator MENENDEZ has pointed out, since the U.S. Senate has ratified a tax treaty. Ratifying this treaty would finally bring the Swiss into alignment with U.S. policy and U.S. tax treaties with other countries. Once ratified, it will take effect from the date it was signed in order to help stop tax dodging from

2009 forward. It is long overdue that we ratify this.

I am very disappointed there has been another objection by Senator PAUL to proceeding to ratify—or to at least consider the ratification of this treaty. I believe Senator MCCAIN will try to come later, if he can, to also speak in support of bringing up these treaties for debate.

I yield the floor.

SWISS TAX PROTOCOL

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I am pleased to join Senator LEVIN today in calling on the Senate to take up and pass by unanimous consent the Swiss tax protocol and other tax treaties pending before the Senate. The importance of these treaties cannot be overstated. They would aid U.S. companies by allowing for certainty in tax treatment when those companies engage in international commerce and trade by preventing double taxation and ensuring they have the backing of the Treasury Department in the case of conflicts with foreign tax authorities. Furthermore, they would allow our government to be on stronger footing in holding tax cheats accountable, an issue Senator LEVIN and I are particularly familiar with given our recent investigation, as chairman and ranking member on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, into offshore tax schemes carried out by Credit Suisse. On the heels of that investigation, Credit Suisse recently paid a \$2.6 billion fine and pled guilty to criminal charges, admitting to facilitating tax evasion for their U.S. clients.

Taking advantage of Switzerland's opaque banking practices, Credit Suisse became a safe haven for tax evasion. The clients seeking these services and the bank itself believed that they were, and would remain, outside the reach of U.S. tax authorities. The recent guilty plea proves that this belief was at least partly mistaken. This criminal penalty was a welcome development, but it was also lacking in several ways, including that, as part of the agreement, the U.S. government did not require the bank to turn over the names of the U.S. clients holding secret bank accounts with Credit Suisse. With more than 20,000 unidentified Americans having held accounts at Credit Suisse in Switzerland during the relevant period (most of whom never disclosed their accounts as required by U.S. law) this agreement provided no direct accountability for those taxes owed.

We need to ensure this does not happen again. The Swiss tax protocol we are discussing today would make it easier to get those names and account information. Working under the assumption that the United States would be unable to pierce the veil of Swiss

bank secrecy, U.S. persons have secreted their money away in countries such as Switzerland for far too long. Passing this treaty is necessary to prove this assumption wrong and to deter future attempts at tax evasion. It will send a strong message to those who would consider violating U.S. tax laws that we enforce our laws, fairly and uniformly, and we have the tools at our disposal to do so.

At the Credit Suisse hearing, the bank's CEO, Brady Dougan, said, "Credit Suisse is ready, at this moment, to provide the additional information about Swiss accounts requested by U.S. authorities but has been unable to do so because the U.S. Senate has not yet ratified the protocol." Let's call his bluff and remove anything that may stand in the way of allowing the bank to provide U.S. authorities with information about those accounts.

These routine and important tax treaties were reported out favorably by the Foreign Relations Committee on April 1. For all of these reasons, I urge the Senate to consider and pass these treaties.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I would like to begin by thanking my colleague from Pennsylvania Senator CASEY for his dedication in working with me in a bipartisan manner to resolve the backlog of veterans' benefits claims. The care of our Nation's veterans is truly a bipartisan issue.

I would also like to take this moment to commend my colleagues, the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee Senator SANDERS and also the senior Senator from Arizona for bringing together ideas from both sides of the aisle to address the problems facing appointment wait times, VA scheduling practices, accountability, and the overall quality of our care provided at VA medical facilities across our Nation.

A recent VA audit of VA facilities across the Nation found that appointment wait times for new patients at hospitals and clinics were up to several months. No veteran should have to wait that long to get their first appointment. I have talked with the Las Vegas VA Director, Isabel Duff, about plans to reduce their wait times. I am confident the proposals in the veterans bill passed yesterday will help these facilities make immediate improvements in progress to provide the necessary care to these Nevada veterans.

Addressing the serious concerns of health care at the VA is an urgent issue, one that needs quick action from Congress. I am pleased we were able to pass that bipartisan legislation, but there is another side of the coin separate from the Veterans Health Admin-

istration; that is, the Veterans Benefits Administration. It is the responsibility of VBA to administer benefits to our veterans. The VHA has undergone intense scrutiny in the last few weeks, but the veterans disability claims backlog is another urgent issue that needs action from this Congress.

The legislation we passed helped get the VHA system in order, but this will do no good. It will not do good unless the veterans can actually get their benefits and utilize these hospitals. The problems with accountability, management, and efficiency with the VA health care nationwide are the same problems the Veterans Benefits Administration is facing.

As we speak, nearly 287,000 veterans across this country and nearly 3,700 veterans in the State of Nevada have waited over 125 days for their claims to be processed. In fact, veterans in Nevada have the longest waiting time in the Nation at 346 days. This week the VA inspector general released its report on the inspection of the Reno VA regional office, which processes claims for veterans in our State. The inspection found that 50 percent of the claims the IG reviewed were not accurately processed. Furthermore, many of these inaccuracies were the result of a lack of proper management.

The problems at the Reno VARO are a prime example of why Congress needs to act now to bring reforms and accountability to the VBA. Just as it is unacceptable for veterans to wait months for appointments, it is just as unacceptable for them to wait months for the benefits they have earned.

To address this issue, Senator CASEY and I introduced the VA backlog working group report along with a bipartisan group of our colleagues, which included Senators MORAN, HEINRICH, VITTER, and TESTER. This report outlines the claims process, explains the history of the VA claims backlog, and offers targeted solutions to help the VA develop an efficient benefit delivery system.

To put the report's targeted solutions into action, our working group introduced the 21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act. This comprehensive, bipartisan piece of legislation addresses three areas of the claims process: claims submission, VA regional office practices, and Federal agencies' responses to VA requests.

I am pleased 18 of our Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle have cosponsored this legislation and that it has gained the support of the veterans service organizations such as the VFW, DAV, the American Legion, Military Officers Association of America and the AUN.

Senator CASEY and I recognize that the claims process is complex. There is no easy answer. There is no silver bullet that is going to solve this particular problem, but the VA's current efforts will not eliminate this backlog.

So just as we worked to address the issues at the VHA, I encourage colleagues to work to address some of these issues at the VBA.

I was pleased to see the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs try to move forward with examining our proposal just last week. While I understand that the committee had to cancel this hearing, I encourage the chairman of the committee to reschedule it. Our proposal can no longer afford to wait in the backlog of bills to be considered by this Chamber.

Practical, targeted solutions are needed to address inefficiencies that are keeping veterans from receiving timely decisions on their benefit plans. After all our veterans have sacrificed in service to our country, we owe this to them.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to move this commonsense proposal forward.

With that, I yield for my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. I rise to talk about the issue that my colleague from Nevada just raised.

We had a vote yesterday—which, to say it was overwhelming is probably an understatement—for the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act. That act will create transparency in the VA system, it will result in the hiring of more doctors and nurses, and it will provide resources for veterans and their spouses to obtain a quality education.

We are grateful that happened. We are grateful for the overwhelming vote, and we are certainly optimistic about the results that will flow from that legislation.

We have more to do in addition to that. We need to continue to look for ways to address the claims backlog that my colleague from Nevada just outlined, as well as other issues that will come before us.

I thank the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Chairman SANDERS, who is with us today on floor, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for their work on behalf of veterans.

The claims backlog, which my colleague just talked about, is a critically important issue for veterans and their families in Pennsylvania, Nevada, and all the other States as well.

I commend the work of Senator HELLER and his staff. My staff worked very hard on these issues. I want to commend especially Gillian Mueller in addition to John Richter for their work on the issue itself and the working group collaboration that resulted in this report that Senator HELLER cited. This is a substantial report on a very difficult problem.

Here is what the problem is—the problem that the working group addressed, but also our legislation addressed, which I will talk about in a moment. Here is the problem in terms of days. The backlog is especially high across the country. The average backlog in days is 241.

Unfortunately, in Pennsylvania, it is even longer. In about half of our State, in the western part of our State, it is 316 days, and it is 294 days in Philadelphia in the eastern part of our State.

To have a veteran and his or her family wait that long for the processing claims, is, in a word, unacceptable and should be addressed. That is why we introduced the 21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act, which was developed from the findings of the working group and the report that was produced.

This is a commonsense approach, a bill that focuses on three areas that will ensure a faster and more accurate delivery system.

The bill will help ensure that veterans, the VA, Congress, and all levels of government are working together to bring down the backlog and to get veterans the benefits they deserve in a timely manner.

It does basically three things: one, update the claims submission process; two, improve the VA regional office practices; three, demand more from other VA agencies. This backlog problem is a VA problem, but it is also a problem of other agencies not doing their job to help the VA.

As Senator HELLER noted, we had great support in the working group, as well as 17 bipartisan cosponsors of the 21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act.

I respectfully asked Chairman SANDERS to help us schedule a hearing on the legislation, and we are grateful for his willingness not only to work with us but to help advance this very important legislation.

Let me conclude with one thought. I have often said that one of the obligations of every Member of Congress is to prove ourselves worthy of the valor of our veterans, to make sure that we are keeping the promise to our veterans. You can't prove yourself worthy of their valor by thanking them for their service or patting them on the back and going to public ceremonies. We have to act as we did yesterday. The next problem we should act upon is the claims backlog so that we can truly say that we are worthy of the valor of our veterans and keep our promise to them, to their families, and to our country.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank my colleagues and friends from Nevada and Pennsylvania.

Senator HELLER, a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, has been

a very active member and a very constructive member. Senator CASEY from Pennsylvania has done an extraordinary job in representing the veterans from his State and on overall veterans policy. I thank them both for working in a bipartisan way in addressing one of the significant challenges confronting the VA; that is, the claims backlog.

I thank them for their support in working to advance not only solutions to the claims problems, but comprehensive legislation that would improve the lives of our Nation's veterans and their families. Both of these Senators supported the two major pieces of legislation for veterans that have come to the floor.

Yesterday, the Senate took a step forward in addressing a very significant crisis, and that is making sure that we provide health care to all of our veterans in a high quality and timely way.

However, as I indicated on the floor yesterday, what we did yesterday is only the beginning. We have a lot more work to do if we are going to represent the interests of the men and women who have put their lives on the line to defend us.

I welcome my colleagues' continued support and look forward to working together with them to pass legislation that would address the challenges of the backlog, as well as the many, many other concerns that have been presented to the committee by the veterans service organizations.

We take their concerns seriously. I applaud them both very much for coming up with some concrete ideas as to how we address the backlog problem, and I pledge to them that we are going to work as aggressively as we can to address the issue.

I thank them both very much for helping us on this issue.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, yesterday we debated and voted on the need to lower interest rates for students with college debt.

I consider the issue of the high cost of college and student indebtedness to be one of the very serious problems facing our country, impacting millions and millions of young people and their families.

What I did through my Web site is just ask people from Vermont and around the country to briefly write stories about the impact of college debt on their lives.

What I would like to do very briefly is to read some of the very poignant stories we have received. I believe we have received now over 700 stories from people all over America who are talking about what the student debt they have incurred is meaning to their lives.

Let me very briefly read some of the responses we have received.

Shannon Lucy, 29, is from Essex Junction, VT. She is \$90,000 in debt. She wrote:

I currently live in my boyfriend's parents' basement because I cannot afford to pay both rent and my nearly \$900 per month student loan payments. Despite working two jobs and living rent-free I am barely making ends meet. I can't even dream of buying a house or supporting a child—I can't even support myself. Getting married would mean burdening someone else with my debt so that's not financially possible either. I thought I did everything right. I thought getting an education was an investment in my future. But now there's not a single day when I don't feel like I'm drowning under this massive load of debt. And the worst part is that even though the president is introducing student loan relief measures because my loans are mostly privately funded there's still no relief for me.

I wish to read a statement that I received from Brittany Holman, 29, who is from Portland, OR, and is \$200,000 in debt. She writes:

I'm scared and am desperately in need of help. I'm nearly \$200,000 in debt from student loans all because I wanted to get an education. Was that not what I was supposed to do? I graduated from Syracuse University in 2006 went to Japan for two years to teach English and then came back home to a crashed economy and a bleak job market.

Despite my two B.A. degrees from a great university, I have to settle for underemployment in a minimum wage retail job.

Andrew Englebrecht, 22 years of age from New Lenox, IL, \$80,000 in debt, writes:

It makes me depressed. I have no hope. Nothing will ever get better. I'm scared. I can't go get my masters because my life has already been ruined. I ruined my parents' life. The bank finally was willing to work with us and not take our house; that doesn't mean we can pay the loans back either. I can't move out of the house. I can't propose to the girl I love. I can't live because I can't dream. I'm afraid to have kids because I'm scared they wouldn't have a chance.

This is one from Eric Anders, 29, of Chicago, IL, \$125,000 in debt. He writes:

My law school debt is astronomical. It will keep me from being a homeowner for a long time. I believe serious efforts need to be made to reduce the costs of attending both college and graduate school.

Kelly Weiner, 27, from Brooklyn, NY, is \$134,000 in debt, and says:

I went to law school because I wanted to help people and communities who are underserved by the law. . . . I am currently paying back my loans on an income-based repayment plan with a 7.3% interest rate which means I am not even making a dent in my debt. . . . According to my repayment plan I will be in my fifties before I get out of debt.

Saul Barraza, 23, of Littleton, CO, \$35,000 in debt, writes:

I feel like I'm sinking further and further into debt. The interest rate on my loans is eating me alive. I don't believe that I've ever touched the principal on my loans. I simply pay interest and avoid default. . . . I feel that my debt is holding me back from being able to contribute to society. It is a ball and chain that follows me everywhere I go preventing me from starting the rest of my life.

Lastly, let me read from Dustin Green, 28, of Yukon, OK—\$50,000 in debt between him and his wife:

Between my wife and myself we pay over \$600 a month for our student loans. I have a good job and can barely afford these payments along with normal bills. After graduation dealing with each loan company was a task of its own. They do not care if you have enough money to eat but simply to pay them back. My wife and I are wanting to buy our first home but with so much of our salaries going to monthly student loan payments we can't make that step yet. We have both wondered if the yearly income difference with a college education is worth the extra debt.

So those are just some of the 700-plus stories that we have heard from young people and their families all over this country about the crushing impact that student debt is having on their lives.

We have to address this issue. We have to make college affordable for all Americans regardless of income.

I hope that we can do that sooner rather than later.

Mr. SANDERS. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, this has been an interesting week here in the Senate.

When we began this week, there was a great deal of attention focused on what was happening overseas with the release of a prisoner of war who had been in captivity for some 4 to 5 years, Sergeant Bergdahl.

Conversation moved to education, with a measure that Senator WARREN from Massachusetts had introduced. The thought was we would be discussing education issues—the high cost of college and the burden of college debt on our students.

Then we turned later yesterday to veterans and how we address the real scandal we have seen within the VA in failing to provide that level of care in a timely manner for our veterans who have served us so honorably.

It has been kind of a fast and furious week, and I wish to take a few minutes this afternoon to talk about my perspective on not only the legislation that Senator WARREN had put out for discussion, but, really, the concerns so many in this country have when it comes to the issue of student loan debt.

I am the mom of a recent college graduate. Our number two son is going to be entering his senior year of college. So we are fully embroiled as parents in the understanding as to what the current costs of a college education are, what young students go through in order to achieve their dreams of going

to college and their struggles as they then face the reality of moving into a working world, but starting off saddled with debt that can be almost breathtaking for them.

In addition to being a mom of kids in this generation, I am also a former commissioner of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. This is Alaska's State agency lender. So I am coming at the issue wearing a couple of different hats today.

I know full well people are discussing the issue of the high cost of college and student loan debt—and not just here on the floor of the Senate but talking about it around their kitchen tables. They are very concerned about the cost of college and the burden the debt then places on our young Americans.

Young people who are just starting out after college graduation have an average debt of about \$27,000. Now, some would say \$27,000 is manageable; that is about in the range if you are purchasing a new car. But think about it. For a young person just out of college, starting to make those initial payments, \$27,000 can be a staggering amount. Whether we talk to the young people working the phones in either a State office or here, the young interns that I have—who are excited about the prospects of going to college or are in the midst of college or who have just graduated from college—some of that excitement and that enthusiasm dims when they realize what it is they are taking on. So this debt is daunting.

Keep in mind, that debt then assumes the means to pay it back. So many of our young people of course cannot find a job. For the 18- to 24-year-old age bracket, the unemployment rate is twice the national average. For those graduating with a masters or a doctorate, of course, the debt burden is much more.

Then for the parents and those who have taken out loans to help put their kids through college—many families also struggling. So, again, this is something that families are talking about around their dinner table. And I am hearing about this from parents, from high school and college students in Alaska, and talking with my interns here. They all say the same thing. They are all concerned. They are all concerned about the cost of college and job training and the debt they are going to incur and their ability then to move forward, whether it is to buy that first car, whether it is to purchase a home, the decisions about getting married or starting a family. The debt has an impact, and that is absolutely a given.

I do think it is important to know we in Congress have not turned a blind eye to this and we have been working over the years to help address the cost. The College Cost Reduction and Access Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act are measures that I worked to

craft some years ago, and they address these issues in many ways. We created income-based repayment and public service loan forgiveness. There was Active Military loan deferment, graduate student eligibility for income contingencies, Pell grant increases, TEACH grants, automatic zero expected family contribution for low-income families and much more.

We improved student support programs like TRIO and helped ensure students and parents have access to the kind of information they need to ensure they really do get top dollar for their education dollars and also to help students then persist in college to complete that process to earn the degree. We required counseling for federal loan borrowers prior to the students' graduation on repayment plans, debt management, loan forgiveness, consequences of default, tax benefits, and more. We also required disclosure about the terms and conditions of the Federal Family Education Loan Program. These are the FFEL loan programs before the loans are disbursed, before repayment, and during repayment.

Recently Congress has supported pay as you earn and other programs and just last year enacted a new interest rate structure to protect both students and taxpayers.

Unfortunately, we haven't seen much out of the administration to make Americans aware that these opportunities actually exist, that they are in law. We heard a nominee for a senior policy position at the U.S. Department of Education who tried to justify this lack of action by saying the provisions were just enacted recently. But 7 years ago is not recent when it comes to helping Americans understand the many loan repayment options. Just this week we heard the President give the Department of Education yet another 6 months to figure out how to tell Americans about their loan repayment options. I think we can do better.

I heard just last week a young teacher who was testifying before a Senate committee. She said she was completely unaware of the income-based repayment program which could have saved her about \$4,000. Instead, with her unaffordably high loan payments, she basically defaulted on her loans. So it is important that when we put measures in place, we do make sure that education effort is there on the back end so people understand and can take advantage of some of these initiatives that will help to make a difference.

Obviously we do not have the Warren legislation in front of us for consideration. I am certain that it will be a matter that will be brought back before the Senate. I certainly would hope we would have extended debate about what we as a Senate can be doing to help our young people as they deal

with the burden of college debt, of job training debt, and what we can do to ensure they are well on their way to good strong careers. But I want to raise just a couple of issues that presented themselves with the legislation that Senator WARREN had put out on the floor, because they speak to a program in my State that has considerable impact.

Madam President, I know that I was scheduled to speak for about 15 minutes this afternoon. I have another colleague that is on the floor. I would ask unanimous consent for about another 5 minutes, if that is acceptable to my colleague and to the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Presiding Officer, and I thank my friend from Ohio.

First, I would like to bring up the issue of the Alaska State student aid agency. The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education—or as we call it ACPE—is funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation. It is a public corporation in the State of Alaska and it is an agency that originates Federal loans under the old Federal Family Education Loan Program, FFEL, and for 40 years it has originated State loans. Now, before you dismiss ACPE as just another private lender, let me tell you what this agency does. It is the Alaska agency for authorizing and investigating institutions of higher education. They provide consumer protection for Alaskans. They gather student data to inform policymakers so we know what policies and practices are working and where improvement is necessary. They manage the State's performance scholarships and education grants, which provide both merit and need-based grants to Alaskan students for postsecondary education. They create and manage college readiness and job training programs and help them figure out how to afford it. What ACPE does is promote access to and success in high quality post-secondary education and job training for thousands of Alaskans and non-Alaskans who are attending Alaskan schools. But they also have a special emphasis on outreach to groups that are underrepresented in postsecondary education.

They do such a great job for us in the State that when the late-Senator Ted Kennedy was here, he insisted on creating the College Access Challenge Grant Program to expand what ACPE had been doing for all these years.

But the measure that Senator WARREN has, the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, would potentially put these programs in peril and potentially end them. It would incentivize borrowers who borrowed their FFEL loans and their State loans through ACPE to refinance. But because this opportunity would only be

available to borrowers in good standing on their State loans, it would leave ACPE with only the poorest performing and lowest credit quality loans in its portfolio, leaving behind the borrowers who are the ones the sponsors of the bill say we really need to help so much.

The loss of the FFEL loans would be bad enough, but here is another problem. State student financial aid loans were financed by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation through long-term fixed rate revenue bond issues. These have very restrictive terms with respect to paying them off before their scheduled maturity dates. The impact on the State agencies and the Alaskans they serve and to the corporation's bond rating of having a large percentage of student loan volume prepaid through this refinancing bill would be severe. The money the Treasury would pay ACPE for those loans could not be used to pay off the bonds early, nor can it be reinvested at anywhere near the interest rate on the outstanding bonds. The value of the bonds exceeds \$65 million. It is not only the cost to the agency and its ability to function. Whether the State corporation were to default or to perhaps go to the legislature for a bailout, the consequences are not good. Either situation would be toxic for the Alaska Student Loan Corporation in terms of subsequently being able to issue bonds that really would be palatable to any investor.

In addition to the risk of default or a hefty bill placed on the State and being labeled a toxic risk to bond issuers, the combined loss of income across both old FFEL loans and State loans could very well leave ACPE unable to continue to perform any of the services that it performs really quite well.

This is not the only issue I have as it relates to what we have before us this week. We don't want our students, our young people to be struggling when it comes to debt. We have to work together to try to find the solutions that truly are helpful across the spectrum. One of the problems that we noted, though, was that the bill would prohibit Americans who have private loans from banks or State agencies, and who are having trouble paying as agreed, to refinance to a lower rate—a prohibition that does not extend to those who are having trouble paying their Direct and FFEL loans. I cannot understand why we would treat Americans differently based on the kind of debt they have. The sponsors of the bill I think genuinely want to help struggling borrowers, but with this provision they leave a lot of folks out in the cold. So that is something that needs to be addressed.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the cost of college is going up, but State funding for higher education, which went down during the recession, is not rebounding.

We are seeing exceptions in Alaska and North Dakota. But according to the CBPP, Louisiana is at the top of the list and contributes a little over \$5,000 less per student to higher education than they did prior to fiscal year 2008. Hawaii, New Mexico, and Alabama are seeing \$4,000 per student less. Idaho, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Nevada, Connecticut, and Arizona are in the \$3,000 less per student range. The list goes on.

So when the States are unable to contribute to their public universities and postsecondary education in general, the cost burden then for our students too often goes up. Even when our colleges tighten their belts and cut their internal costs, we see the costs rise.

So obviously there is a great deal to do. I know that so many of my colleagues are committed to working to find that good solution which works not only for students in my State but around the entire country.

We have our work cut out for us. I appreciate the efforts that many have made. I think the discussion will continue, and I look forward to that.

With that I yield to my colleague from Ohio, and I thank the Senator for his indulgence of an additional 5 minutes.

HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE
H.W. BUSH

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. I hear the remarks from my colleagues from Alaska and appreciate her leadership on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where I have the privilege to serve, and she makes a lot of great points with regard to some of the student loan issues that affect our State of Ohio as well as Alaska. But today I am here to talk about something else, and that is the 90th birthday of a mentor of mine, a former boss of mine, and the 41st President of the United States, George H.W. Bush.

In addition to honoring him by wearing some colorful socks today, I also want to make a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, so this statement can go down in the ages and some of the young folks who are in the Chamber today and their kids and grandkids will have this as part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, talking about truly one of our great American patriots and public servants in the history of our country.

Like so many in his generation, President George H.W. Bush, when he heard of the attack on Pearl Harbor, answered the call to serve his country. He was 18 years old. So his service started long before he was sworn in as President of the United States.

At 18 years old he became the youngest naval aviator in the U.S. Navy. He

served greatly in the Pacific, famously completing one bombing after his aircraft was fired upon. In fact, his aircraft was on fire. Yet he completed that mission.

For that and many other examples of heroism he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, one of the highest honors any aviator could receive. But he went home, went out to Texas, had a successful business career, raised a growing family, and started to engage in politics.

He became a successful politician and was an accomplished Congressman from Texas and then became a very respected international figure as Ambassador to the United Nations, and as envoy to China. He also headed up the Central Intelligence Agency at a very difficult time and helped to improve the morale and effectiveness of that agency. He then, of course, became Vice President of the United States. Then on January 20, 1989, he was sworn in as the 41st President.

President Reagan, 27 years ago today, in fact, made the famous statement that Mikhail Gorbachev should tear down the Berlin Wall. It was Reagan's successor, George H.W. Bush who actually saw it done and brought an end to the Cold War. He removed a brutal dictator in Panama and gathered the whole world with the United States in the lead to remove Saddam Hussein and turn back the invasion of Kuwait.

At home in a time of divided government, when at the time one party was in control of the Congress and one party in control of the Executive Branch—as we have now to a certain extent—a divided government—he showed how we could work together, how to reach across the aisle and get things done and he did so.

But of all the things he has accomplished, there is probably nothing he is prouder of than his call to volunteerism. He championed and established the Points of Light Foundation, which has been enormously successful in getting Americans in all walks of life more engaged in helping their fellow citizens. He inspired the Nation when he spoke of a thousand points of light to promote volunteerism and community action by all of us. It turns out that a thousand points of light was not as ambitious as he could have been because he underestimated what he would accomplish. It hasn't been a thousand; it has been a million. The latest year I was able to find information was in 2012. In that year alone, the Points of Light Foundation engaged millions of volunteers. It has supported thousands of nonprofits and volunteer organizations across 250 cities in America, providing volunteer services that have been estimated to be valued at over \$635 million.

That sort of generosity reflects the heart of the man I have come to know since I first had the honor of meeting

him over 30 years ago. That generosity is what I experienced when President Bush took a chance on me—a young, inexperienced lawyer from Cincinnati, OH—when he made me Associate Counsel to the President. The experience I gained in that job was invaluable, and I continue to draw on it today. But even more valuable was what I learned from President Bush. I learned about being a father, being a husband, being a public servant, and serving—serving the folks we are honored to represent in the U.S. Senate.

Today we honor a true American hero, selfless public servant, and a person I consider to be the most honorable and decent person in politics in my lifetime. I wish him the best for a truly happy birthday and blessings on him and his entire family as they celebrate an amazing year.

He is apparently jumping out of an airplane again today on his 90th birthday, and he has received numerous awards this year. It has been a terrific 90th year.

I hope he understands the American response to him, which is one of great appreciation, gratitude, and respect. I hope he has a very happy birthday, and I hope God continues to bless him and his family for years to come.

I thank the Presiding Officer and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, 40 million people in this country—40 million—are dealing with more than \$1 trillion in student loan debt. It is crushing our young people and dragging down our economy. It is a national economic emergency.

Yesterday Senators had a chance to do the right thing. We had a chance to allow young people with high-interest loans to refinance those loans down to a lower rate, a chance to move forward on the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, and a chance to stand for our young people who are just starting their economic lives.

A majority of Senators voted to seize that chance. Every Democratic Senator, every Independent Senator, and three Republican Senators voted to seize that chance. But despite the majority support, despite this bipartisan support, the bill failed. Why? Because Republicans pulled out their favorite tool—the filibuster. They blocked the Senate from even debating this bill.

Over the past few days we have heard a lot of excuses, but yesterday the Republicans said we should not even consider this legislation until we voted on

the Sanders-McCain legislation to address the situation at the VA. The VA legislation is a very good bill. It is a very important bill, and the Senate voted on it yesterday afternoon. So now that the Senate has passed it, where are the Republicans? The veterans vote is over, so where are the Republicans who are now ready to debate the student loan refinancing?

Veterans have spoken out on the student loan bill as well. The spokesperson for Student Veterans of America praised the student loan refinancing bill. He said this bill could provide real relief for his members—veterans who have served our country and who have worked hard to get an education. If the Republicans will let us vote, we can give our veterans that relief.

The Senate can come back to the student loan bill at any point. We can come back today, we can come back tonight, and we can come back tomorrow. We just need the Republicans to let us get back on the important legislation. Democrats are happy to offer a time agreement which would allow for a short debate, would allow for amendments, and would get us to a vote.

Let's be honest. Most of the Senate Republicans made the wrong choice yesterday when they voted to protect billionaires who have already made it instead of the young people who are fighting for a fair shot at a better future. I am still hopeful because despite the rhetoric, despite the excuses, despite the hemming and hawing, a large bipartisan majority of Senators stood for students yesterday. I am hopeful because I know that the minute the Republicans drop their filibuster, this bill will pass the Senate, and I am hopeful because we are just two votes short of breaking that filibuster. Now that we have had a vote on the veterans legislation, let's go back to the student loan bill.

This is not over. We are not done fighting for students. No one is giving up. We just need two more votes to go forward. We are going to push harder than ever for the student loan bill, and we are going to get it passed.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask, through the Chair, if the Senator from Massachusetts will yield for a question.

Ms. WARREN. Certainly.

Mr. DURBIN. First, through the Chair, I thank the Senator from Massachusetts for her leadership and her effort to refinance student loans.

Is it true that what was at stake yesterday was an opportunity for 25 million student loan borrowers—out of roughly 40 million nationwide—to refinance their student loans at a lower interest rate?

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Illinois for his

leadership on this issue, and the answer is yes. This would have permitted 25 million Americans to refinance their student loans down to lower interest rates, thereby putting hundreds, even thousands of dollars back in their pockets.

Mr. DURBIN. Through the Chair, I also ask the Senator from Massachusetts if it is true that the way we paid for this—this loss of interest by the Federal Government—was to impose the Buffett rule, which meant that those who are multimillionaires, for example, would have a higher income tax rate—at least as high as the secretaries who work for them—and that would have meant a tax increase on roughly 22,000 millionaires.

Ms. WARREN. That is exactly right.

Mr. DURBIN. Through the Chair again, the choice yesterday was between helping 25 million student borrowers get a lower interest rate, saving on average \$2,000 a year, and asking 22,000 multimillionaires to pay slightly more in income tax, and sadly only three Republicans would join the Democrats in saying: Let's help the student borrowers. Is that what happened?

Ms. WARREN. That is right.

Mr. DURBIN. I say through the Chair to the Senator from Massachusetts that I have been traveling the State of Illinois, the city of Chicago, and every campus I stop on there are students who come forward and tell me their stories of the debt they have incurred because of their degrees and the impact it has had on their lives. There are student teachers who sadly cannot take jobs teaching because they owe too much money from college.

Is the Senator from Massachusetts hearing that in her State and around the country?

Ms. WARREN. Yes, I am hearing that in my State and around the country.

What really strikes me about this bill—there are a lot of things that happen that we can't fix here in Congress, but this is something we can fix. Right now the Federal Government is charging people who try to get an education 6 percent, 8 percent, 10 percent, 12 percent, and even higher on student loans. We have a very straightforward bill that would bring the interest rate down, put money back in people's pockets, and give people who are just trying to get a fair shot a real opportunity to build an economic future.

Mr. DURBIN. I will ask the last question through the Chair. So yesterday—so everybody can understand what happened—there was a threatened Republican filibuster to stop us from even debating this bill, and in order to stop the filibuster and begin debating the bill so 25 million students could get a lower interest rate on the student loans, we needed 60 votes on the floor. We had all the Democrats and only three Republicans—Senator COLLINS of

Maine, Senator CORKER of Tennessee, and Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska—prepared to vote. No other Republican Senator would join us in starting the debate on lowering the interest rate on student loans.

We need two more Republican Senators to join those three Republicans so we can start bringing relief to student borrowers all across the United States.

Is that where we stand today?

Ms. WARREN. That is exactly where we stand today. We are just two votes shy. What we know now is how the Republicans have voted. So now it is up to all of us to get two more Republicans to agree to just let us bring this bill to the floor. Just let us have the debate. Just let us have the vote.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Massachusetts for her leadership on this important issue.

Madam President, what is the order of business on the floor?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 3 minutes remaining prior to the Senate proceeding to executive session.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I will follow up on the dialogue I just had with Senator WARREN.

These are issues that really hit home for families. We have had four issues on the floor of the Senate in the last several months which really define the difference between the political parties.

The Democrats have argued and urged that we extend unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed in America so they can find work, save their homes, pay their utility bills, and have a cell phone to go look for work. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough support on the other side of the aisle when it came to extending unemployment benefits.

The next issue was to raise the minimum wage—which we have not done for a long time—so that those who are struggling—primarily women—will have a basic minimum wage so they can get by from paycheck to paycheck. Many of us believe that if you are willing to get up and go to work every morning, you should not live in poverty in America.

The third issue was gender equality. If my daughter and my son work the same job, they should get the same paycheck. There should not be discrimination against women. Republicans opposed us on that.

Now comes the fourth issue: renegotiating college student loans so that some 40 million student loan borrowers across America have a chance to pay less interest on their student loans, their monthly payments would go down, and they would be able to pay off their loans sooner so they could get on with their lives. We could only get 3 Republicans out of 45 to join us in an effort to start the debate on the bill yesterday, so we fell short. We needed

two Republican Senators to join Senator WARREN, myself, and others—Senator FRANKEN of Minnesota and Senator REED of Rhode Island—to join us in initiating this conversation.

I say to my Republican colleagues, when you go home this weekend, try to find some college students and their families and engage them in this conversation. You will find what we found out on the Democratic side. If you listen to working families who are struggling to put their kids through school, they will tell you they need help. We offered help yesterday, but we fell short by two Republican votes.

I hope the Republican filibuster will be overturned next week when we return.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LAEL BRAINARD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

NOMINATION OF JEROME H. POWELL TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

NOMINATION OF STANLEY FISCHER TO BE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System?

Mr. HELLER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 189 Ex.]
YEAS—61

Alexander	Hagan	Murphy
Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Hatch	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Portman
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Pryor
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Johanns	Reid
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Kirk	Stabenow
Collins	Klobuchar	Tester
Coons	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Corker	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Crapo	Levin	Walsh
Donnelly	Manchin	Warner
Durbin	Markey	Warren
Feinstein	McCain	Whitehouse
Flake	Menendez	Wyden
Franken	Mikulski	
Gillibrand	Murkowski	

NAYS—31

Ayotte	Grassley	Rubio
Barrasso	Heller	Sanders
Blunt	Hoeven	Scott
Boozman	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Isakson	Shelby
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Paul	Wicker
Fischer	Risch	
Graham	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—8

Boxer	Cochran	Moran
Burr	McCaskill	Rockefeller
Chambliss	Merkley	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System?

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Oregon

(Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 190 Ex.]
YEAS—67

Alexander	Hagan	Murray
Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Hatch	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Brown	Isakson	Schatz
Cantwell	Johanns	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Sessions
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Shaheen
Casey	Kaine	Shelby
Coats	King	Stabenow
Coburn	Kirk	Tester
Collins	Klobuchar	Udall (CO)
Coons	Landrieu	Udall (NM)
Corker	Leahy	Walsh
Donnelly	Levin	Warner
Durbin	Manchin	Warren
Feinstein	Markey	Whitehouse
Flake	Menendez	Wicker
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murkowski	
Grassley	Murphy	

NAYS—24

Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Heller	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Cornyn	Inhofe	Sanders
Crapo	Lee	Scott
Cruz	McCain	Thune
Enzi	McConnell	Vitter

NOT VOTING—9

Boxer	Cochran	Moran
Burr	McCaskill	Rockefeller
Chambliss	Merkley	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Stanley Fischer, of New York, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System?

Mr. COATS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from North Carolina (Mr. BARR), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 63, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 191 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Alexander	Franken	Menendez
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Begich	Hagan	Murkowski
Bennet	Harkin	Murphy
Blumenthal	Hatch	Murray
Booker	Heinrich	Portman
Brown	Heitkamp	Pryor
Cantwell	Hirono	Reed
Cardin	Isakson	Reid
Carper	Johanns	Schatz
Casey	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Coats	Johnson (WI)	Shaheen
Coburn	Kaine	Stabenow
Collins	King	Tester
Coons	Kirk	Udall (CO)
Corker	Klobuchar	Udall (NM)
Cornyn	Landrieu	Walsh
Donnelly	Leahy	Warner
Durbin	Levin	Warren
Feinstein	Manchin	Wicker
Flake	Markey	Wyden

NAYS—24

Ayotte	Grassley	Roberts
Barrasso	Heller	Rubio
Blunt	Hoeben	Sanders
Boozman	Inhofe	Scott
Crapo	Lee	Sessions
Cruz	McConnell	Shelby
Enzi	Paul	Thune
Fischer	Risch	Vitter

NOT VOTING—13

Boxer	McCain	Rockefeller
Burr	McCaskill	Toomey
Chambliss	Merkley	Whitehouse
Cochran	Moran	
Graham	Nelson	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, with respect to the nominations just confirmed, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I was unable to attend the rollcall votes on the following nominations: Crystal Nix-Hines to be Ambassador to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; Lael Brainard to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Jerome H. Powell to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and Stanley Fischer to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted aye. •

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JIM BUNNING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to a great friend of mine and a friend of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, former Senator Jim Bunning. Jim has been an inspiration to Kentuckians for decades in many different roles—as a public servant, a man of integrity, a devoted father of 9 children, grandfather of 35, and a great-grandfather of 12, with 1 more on the way. But few public servants or family men can also claim to be in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Jim Bunning can, for his extraordinary Major League pitching career with the Detroit Tigers and with the Philadelphia Phillies.

With Father's Day approaching this weekend, I thought it appropriate to remember what Jim Bunning accomplished on Father's Day 1964. The date was June 21, and in front of his wife Mary, his eldest daughter Barbara, and more than 32,000 cheering fans, Jim Bunning delivered the perfect Father's Day gift by pitching a perfect game.

Let me take a moment to explain, for those who do not spend their youth playing baseball and collecting baseball cards as some of us did, what pitching a perfect game means and why it is such a legendary feat. To pitch a perfect game, a pitcher must pitch a full nine innings without allowing a batter to get on base for any reason—no hits, no walks, no hits by a pitch, and no errors. Twenty-seven batters must step to the plate and all 27 must sit down. It is an achievement that has been accomplished only 23 times in more than 135 years of Major League Baseball history—23 times in the history of Major League Baseball.

At the time Jimmy's pitching perfection was only the seventh perfect game in Major League Baseball history. It was the first perfect game in regular season play in more than 42 years and the first in the National League since 1880. As the Philadelphia Phillies were the visitors against the New York

Mets, it was also the first-ever perfect game pitched in Shea Stadium.

Jimmy's day started as did any other Sunday. He went to 9 a.m. Mass and had a breakfast of eggs and sausage. He was worried about getting tickets for his wife and daughter to attend the game. He showed up at Shea Stadium to warm up for the first game of a doubleheader. "I felt good and loose," Jim recalls. "I realized right away that I had exceptional stuff."

With a combination of fastballs, curveballs, and sliders, Jim began to make short work of the Mets' batting order. By the sixth inning, he began to consider that he was on the cusp of history.

"Everyone is supposed to do perfect work, but perfection in the game of baseball is a rarity I never expected to accomplish." That is what the big right-hander had to say about that.

The final Met at bat was John Stephenson, a lefty. Here is how the Philadelphia Inquirer described the game's dramatic conclusion:

The rookie swung at a low-breaking ball and missed, took a pitch for a second strike, then took two balls, one low outside and the other high and away. Bunning came back with a curve at the knees on the outside part of the plate. Stephenson swung and missed and the Phillies made a bee-line for the mound. They came running from their positions and streamed out of the dugout to pound the former American Leaguer on the back and escort him to the dugout.

The story continues:

A few minutes later, [Bunning] went on television for an interview during which his wife and daughter rushed up to kiss him. It was the thrill of a lifetime for the pitcher, who richly deserved it.

That he did.

For baseball fans, the statistics on Jim's perfect game are truly numbers to behold. He threw only 90 pitches in the Phillies' 6-to-0 victory—an average of only 10 per inning. He struck out 10. He did not miss the strike zone more than four times in any inning. And he went to a three-ball count on only two batters. Statistically, it may be the most perfect of perfect games ever pitched.

Acclaim was instant. Jim appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show" that night. This man, who was always a fierce competitor both on the pitching mound and in the Halls of Congress, had reached the pinnacle of his profession. But it won't surprise any of my colleagues who know and worked with Jim that he did not let this sudden rush of fame go to his head. "Fame is fleeting as far as the next hitter at the plate is concerned," says Jim. I admire my friend and former colleague's ability to keep such a momentous event in perspective.

It is fitting that his perfect game occurred on Father's Day because family is really what Jim Bunning is all about. The Bunning family celebrated their dad's perfect game not at a fancy

Manhattan restaurant but at the Howard Johnson's on the New Jersey Turnpike. And I know his lovely wife Mary has been his rock and his foundation for his entire career in both baseball and politics.

Jim Bunning was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996. But for any baseball fan, including this Senator, the thrill of Jimmy's perfect game is as fresh as if it happened yesterday, not 50 years ago.

Jim Bunning always stood tall, firm, and unafraid, whether in sports, politics, or life. That is how he became one of Kentucky's favorite sons. That is how he became an inspiration to his family and his friends and his colleagues. And that is how he threw that perfect game on Father's Day 1964. It is his strength of spirit that has enabled Jim to succeed. Kentucky is honored to have had Jim Bunning pitching for our home team for so many years.

I am sure that every Father's Day brings back special memories for the Bunning family. I am proud to wish my friend and former colleague well on the eve of this Father's Day and to extend my best wishes to him and to his family.

Thank you, Jim. Thank you for the example you have set for how to compete, how to win, and how to live a good and full life.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. MANUFACTURING

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, American manufacturing has taken quite a hit in the last 15 years in this country. Some 30 years ago, U.S. manufacturing made up some 25 percent of gross domestic product. Today that number has declined to somewhere in the vicinity of 10 or 11 percent of gross domestic product. That has meant literally millions of jobs paying good wages in cities and suburbs and rural America that have simply disappeared. Some have been lost to technology. Far too many have been lost to unfair trade practices, as jobs are moved overseas. Some of that responsibility lies with this Congress, which has written laws or refused to change laws that encourage companies through trade agreements and through tax laws to shut down production in Worcester, MA, or Wooster, OH, and move to Wuhan, China.

But we have seen some good news. From 2000 to 2010, we lost about 5 million manufacturing jobs; 60,000 plants closed in this country. The good news we have begun to see is that since the

auto rescue in 2008 and 2009 and since this President has been relatively aggressive—better than his predecessors—in enforcing trade laws, we have seen growth in manufacturing. Since 2009—again, because of trade enforcement, because of the auto rescue—about 500,000 manufacturing jobs have been created.

We see new investments in advanced manufacturing. We see new investments in clean energy. Natural gas production is providing domestic manufacturers with an affordable energy source. Natural gas prices have remained pretty constant at \$4 or \$5, with a likely predictable, stable price for the next several years—maybe for a decade.

This production in natural gas has also increased demand for world-class tubular steel. Nearly 8,000 workers across the United States make what we call oil country tubular goods. That is the steel pipes that are some of the strongest steel ever invented, ever developed, because that steel needs to be able to absorb high-speed, high-rotation deep drilling into water and into stone. Only the best kind of hardened steel can withstand that kind of pressure. These jobs—these 8,000 jobs making oil country tubular goods—support another 7 jobs in the supply chain.

We have an opportunity to grow the economy by investing in manufacturing to create more good-paying jobs. But here is the problem: When foreign steel is dumped into our country, American workers pay the price. What that means simply is that when South Korea—which literally has no domestic market. South Korea has begun to produce oil country tubular goods. They do not use this kind of steel in their domestic economy. So they began this production, they started up, they ramped up this industry all for export, which they are free to do. But global oversupply is a major challenge facing our domestic steel industry. It threatens thousands of steel jobs.

OCTG—oil country tubular goods—imports have doubled since 2008. Imports account for more than 50 percent of the pipes being used by companies drilling for gas and oil. If that were done through fair competition, it would be one thing, but here are some things we know:

We know that in South Korea they need to go to mostly Australia and Brazil to get the iron ore and the coal and the limestone for their steel production. Plants in Ohio, in the Midwest, go to Minnesota to get iron ore or they go to Indiana for their coke, which is made from coal. Their coal is processed into coke. They may go to Ohio to get their limestone. So the Koreans, obviously, to get their raw materials—their raw materials have to travel much longer distances for their Korean steel industry than the U.S. steel industry, No. 1.

No. 2, American workers are paid only slightly more than Korean workers, so there is not much difference in the cost of labor.

No. 3, the U.S. steel manufacturers have upgraded and invested many billions of dollars in their production. There is a 2-year-old steel mill in Youngstown, OH. There are major investments in Lorain and Cleveland to make oil country tubular steel—major investments. I was at the Wheatland steel plant north of Youngstown in Warren, OH. There is a \$20 million new investment there. So our mills are just as modern—maybe more modern—than the Korean mills.

Lastly, after this oil country tubular steel is produced in Ohio or in Pennsylvania, it is transported maybe 50 miles to use in the oil and gas fields at the Marcellus or Utica shale in Ohio or in the region. Korean steel tubes, on the other hand, are transported maybe 10,000 miles to the fields in this country to use in oil and gas drilling.

So clearly we know that the Koreans simply are subsidizing their steel. We call it steel dumping. Call it whatever technical or nontechnical term you want, it is clear that the Koreans are not playing fair.

If they can design an industry—think about this—if Korea can decide: Well, there is a market in the United States for this kind of steel; we will just design an industry, we will subsidize that steel, we will sell into that market, and we may put some of them out of business—if we as a government accept this kind of behavior from Korea, it will show the rest of the world a blueprint on how you take jobs from the United States of America, how you start a business, how you invest in this business, how you illegally subsidize this business, how you export from your country into the United States, throwing American workers out of work, undercutting American companies, and in the end making our manufacturing in the United States of America experience even more decline than we have seen over the last 30 years.

We are asking the Department of Commerce to reconsider its preliminary decision to make sure they look at what, in fact, has happened in this industry. There is no question that the deeper you look—or there is no question on the surface—that Korea is subsidizing its steel, that it is breaking trade rules.

There is clear evidence that our workers and manufacturers are being cheated in another way; that is, by currency. My bipartisan legislation—I have worked with Senator SESSIONS and Senator GRAHAM and others, Senator STABENOW on the Democratic side—our bipartisan legislation would crack down on China's currency manipulation. It would treat currency manipulation as an unfair trade subsidy and require the Commerce Department to

investigate that currency manipulation.

If you cheat on currency, if you devalue in playing this game with currency at the rate of 30 percent, what that means is when China exports a product to the United States, it is 30 percent cheaper, making it very hard for U.S. companies to compete—another way of subsidizing is through currency—or if U.S. companies try to sell into the Chinese market, our goods cost 30 percent more than the Chinese goods. So, again, we simply cannot play on a level playing field.

A report released earlier this year said that 254,000 Ohio jobs would be created if currency manipulation were eliminated by 2015.

When foreign steel is dumped into our country, American workers pay the price. When foreign steel is dumped into our country, American businesses pay the price. When foreign steel is dumped into our country, the communities where these mills are, these communities that supply, feed into, and sell items and sell goods into the supply chain, pay the price too. So it means fewer teachers, fewer police officers, fewer people working, less income, less prosperity in those communities.

Again, when foreign steel is dumped into our country, workers pay the price over and over.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAQ

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to talk about an emerging issue of the highest order for our country's national security. I say that because I believe the coverage in the news over the last few days about Iraq has missed the greater point about the importance of the issue we are now facing.

Much of the attention—and I understand why—has been paid to the fact that the United States invested a tremendous amount of money and unfortunately lost many, many lives in the efforts to liberate Iraq from Saddam Hussein. These views we now see of Al Qaeda-linked groups taking over cities in Iraq rightfully trouble us. We hear the question being asked of why did we do all of this. This is without a doubt a legitimate concern and one I will touch upon in a moment, but the issue of what is happening in Iraq at this moment is much deeper and more serious than simply just that.

Let me begin by describing the emerging situation. There is a radical Islamic group by the name of ISIL, as it is called, or ISIS according to some. It has different terminologies. But it is

a group linked to Al Qaeda that emerged in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein in western Iraq. They were involved in efforts against Americans after we liberated Iraq. They killed and maimed countless Americans. However, thanks to the assistance we provided, the Iraqis were able to put that group on a defensive posture.

After the United States left Iraq, however, many of this group were able to reorganize. They did so increasingly with new leadership, and they were able to do it in parts of Syria that became largely ungoverned after the Assad regime began to lose control over large swaths of land in Syria, and they grew stronger. They grew stronger still when foreign fighters from all over the world, who sympathized with their Islamic jihadist cause, began flowing into Syria, providing them new fighters.

Over the last few months, as I warned, by the way, in a hearing that we had late last year when we debated the issue of the use of force in Syria, this group, based largely now in Syria, began to conduct operations in Iraq, initially to limited success, and then limited operations that had some success. But now, over the last 72 hours, they have begun to make dramatic gains in Iraq. In fact, they have overrun the second largest city, and there are expectations that they are on the way toward Baghdad.

The goal of this group is pretty straight forward: to establish what would be known as an Islamic caliphate, basically an Islamic fundamentalist area, country—a terrorist government. By the way, this group does not necessarily respect any borders. They are looking to carve out pieces of land that they can use to train terrorists and to plan operations.

If we look at the situation in Iraq over the last 72 hours, we have legitimate concerns that, in fact, that is what they are on the verge of doing, if they have not done so already. When you add up the land they now control in Syria and the land they now control in Iraq—by the way, in many parts of the towns they are now taking over in Syria, they have already began imposing Sharia law. They have banned music; they have forced women to wear full veils. This is a radical Islamic group. It has shown what it is capable of in its conflict in Iraq when Americans were there and thereafter. This is a brutal and murderous group that has shown what they are capable of doing to those who oppose them. Unfortunately, this is a military-capable group that has made dramatic gains over the last few years in Iraq.

Most startling of all, by the way, has been what has happened with the Iraqi military, which we spent money to train and equip. In many instances the reports are they just abandoned their

posts. They took off their uniforms, they put on civilian clothes and just walked away. Our fear should be that even as I speak to you now, emerging in the center of the Middle East, emerging in this area of the world is an Islamic caliphate controlled by the most radical group in that area of the world today. That is saying a lot.

Why should this matter? Well, first, as was pointed out earlier, Americans sacrificed greatly so that Iraq could be freed from tyranny. Now those gains seem to have evaporated almost overnight. But the most concerning long-term aspect of this is that in this part of the world, using territory in what was Syria and now Iraq, is the emergence of a safe haven. A safe haven is what made 9/11 possible. Al Qaeda was able to go into Afghanistan, then controlled by the Taliban, another radical Islamic group, and use it as a place to train and plan 9/11 and other terrorist acts against the United States.

Perhaps one of the greatest successes in the post-9/11 efforts has been the denial of safe havens where terrorists could do this. But suddenly, rapidly a new safe haven is emerging where radical jihadist fighters from all over the planet are able to go and be trained. They will not simply be satisfied with conducting efforts in that part of the world. Rest assured that their targets and ambitions include us, including right here in the homeland, right here in the United States.

If, in fact, they are able to hold on to this territory, Jordan, an extraordinary ally of the United States in the region and an ally of Israel, is directly threatened. They are the next country—right next door. Already Jordan is facing tremendous challenges because of the conflict in Syria. Beyond Jordan, you can foresee where Israel could be threatened by the existence of the safe haven for a terrorist organization right next door—but ultimately us here in the United States.

The goal of these groups is to carry out Western operations. The goal of these groups is to attack Americans here, to terrorize. They believe and know that perhaps the most effective way to terrorize Americans is to not strike us in remote areas of the world, although they will do that as well, but to strike us right here in the United States. If they have an area where they are able to do this, a piece of land where there is no government to drive them out, where in fact they are the government, where they can attract the most radical people on the planet to come, to train, and to prepare to carry out these attacks, it puts in grave danger the security of every American living here in the United States.

This is the risk before us now emerging in Iraq. It is not simply the fact that we have lost the gains that were

once made. That is important and worthy of outrage, but what is most startling and concerning of all is the emergence of this safe haven and what it can mean to the long-term security of every single one of us.

What can we do about it is the next question? I must say that while national security issues should never be of a partisan nature, I am concerned that despite this emergence, we have yet to hear a cohesive policy pronouncement from the White House. In fact, a number of my colleagues on the other side of aisle—Democrats—have shared the same frustration.

I want to make a couple of brief points with regard to the sorts of measures we should be thinking about in outlining a response to prevent the creation of a safe haven. The first good news is that this group is not invulnerable. This group is vulnerable. No. 1, they have not proven to be very good at controlling territory for long periods of time. This creates a vulnerability. Here is the other point. This is a Sunni Muslim group. But they are not popular among the Sunni population in Iraq. Sunnis feel terrorized by them, and they certainly do not like the Maliki government. But this is not a group that is popular among them.

Beyond that, I would say the first action we need to take is to make sure our personnel are protected, particularly in Baghdad and in the Green Zone in Baghdad, the international area, which is vulnerable to suicide attacks. We must ensure that our personnel there are protected. I understand that steps have been taken and continue to be taken to do that. I am encouraged by that. We need to make sure that happens, that the men and women who are representing us and are working on our behalf in Baghdad are protected.

One of the reasons why this is happening is because the Maliki government has been so terrible. It is not just corruption. It is the way this government has created no space for Sunnis living in Iraq that has created the possibility of this occurring. This Maliki government must be worth saving. Right now the Maliki government is a dysfunctional government as evidenced by the collapse of their military forces, but also as evidenced by the way they treated their Sunni population, giving them no space or voice in their government. That must change. That must change.

The third step is that if in fact that begins to change and conditioned upon that change, the United States must continue to provide lethal assistance, to the extent possible, to help these Iraqi forces, particularly those concentrated in Baghdad, to repel and push back against this group. Right now it is my opinion, based on everything I know that they are not capable of doing that and in many instances are not willing to do that. Without our

assistance, they will have no chance of doing that.

Ultimately, while the use of force is never popular around here, I want to be blunt and clear about something. We are going to have to take some sort of action against this radical group. That is not the choice before us. The choice before us will be whether we take action now or we take action later, because what we can never allow is for another safe haven like pre-9/11 Afghanistan to emerge anywhere in the world, where terrorists can plan, practice, and ultimately conduct attacks against us here in the homeland or on our interests around the world.

Therefore, I believe that we should not rule out and, in fact, conduct, to the extent they are effective, military actions from the air against this group wherever they are located.

I do not take that lightly. I am not one to come to this floor and call for military engagement as a response to every conflict. I have opposed them in the past when they have made no sense or there was no clear plan moving forward. But this issue rises to that level of urgency. We must never forget the lessons of September 11, 2001, where a group of radical jihadist terrorists used a safe haven in Afghanistan to murder innocent Americans and carry out the most devastating attack in the history of our Nation.

It was not that long ago that this happened. There are groups around the world that aspire to that now. What they need is a place to do that from. We cannot allow that place to emerge. There is no greater responsibility on the Federal Government than to provide for the security of our people. The choice before us will be whether we prevent it now or whether we deal with the consequences of it later. I urge the White House to take this matter with the importance that it deserves and to come to this Congress as soon as possible with a clear and concrete plan on how we are going to deal with it and engage in this emerging emergency situation that we now face and that threatens the national security of the United States and places a grave threat to the national security of our country in the years to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I appreciate an opportunity to speak on a bill we passed here yesterday, the veterans access reform bill. We passed it 93 to 3, which is amazing when you think about it—in this body—as we struggle to get issues in front of us and work on them. What we saw was an incredible bipartisan piece of legislation basically saying: We are for vets. We want to make sure that veterans have the best care they deserve and they earned fighting wars—not only the recent ones but in the past.

I want to talk a little bit about the piece of legislation, and then I am going to talk about some pieces that are important to Alaska. I will show some examples here in a second. But I ultimately want to talk about what is left still ahead of us. As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, it is not just about passing one bill and saying: We are done; we have done our chore; we have done our job. No, there is a lot more work ahead of us.

This bill we passed is a bipartisan bill, with Democrats and Republicans coming together because veterans are not a partisan issue; it is an American issue. In my State it is an American-Alaskan issue; in the Presiding Officer's State, a Massachusetts issue. It is important for all of us to step to the plate and make sure we do the right thing.

This now provides the VA Secretary the authority to dismiss those senior executives who are not performing, are not doing the jobs. But also it ensures that if there are situations, as we have heard and seen and then had shown to us, where there are people who falsified data, then they are going to be held accountable. As we know, recently we have heard the FBI is now reviewing some of those situations.

Whoever is at fault and has done anything to falsify needs to be held accountable and brought to justice. But it also brings out an issue that we have been dealing with in Alaska for several years—an issue that when I ran for office I remember I called the "Heroes Health Card" because I thought it was important, no matter where you were as a veteran, you should be able to go and access health care all throughout Alaska. My State is a very rural State, very vast in its size, and where people are and where they live. It is not easy to describe until you see it or are there.

Just for example, here in Anchorage, flying up here to Barrow is 700 miles, a long distance. But if you lived in Barrow, and you were a veteran, you could not get health care there. A VA facility does not exist. You would have to come down here to Anchorage, and that is just for a clinic, because we do not have a VA hospital in Alaska. So then if you need hospital services, you would have to go to Seattle—long distances.

So for several years we have worked on this issue. I continue to push. I brought General Shinseki out to Alaska, to rural Alaska, to show him the impact on veterans who live in rural Alaska. But yet across the street medical services provided by Indian Health Services through our Native health clinics were being delivered by our tribes—incredible health care. But veterans could not utilize it.

So I tried to show him that the care there is incredible, high quality. We need to be able to access this. It is all

paid with Federal dollars so why not figure out how to access it. Why not figure out how to maximize our public resources for the betterment of not only our Alaska Natives but also our veterans in Alaska? So we worked on an idea where today we have now agreements with 26-plus tribes. All of these black dots on this map show all the new areas that veterans can access health care if they want.

This is another choice. It is not a requirement, but if they want to stay in their region, stay close to their homes, be part of their own health care system there, they can and the VA will reimburse them, reimburse the clinic so it is no money out-of-pocket for the Indian Health Service or tribes that deliver health care.

For example, in Nome I was very proud when we debated a big issue a few years ago, trying to figure out how to deal with the stimulus bill and how to bring economic revival to our economy. One of those in that bill I voted for brought a new hospital to Nome, AK, run by a tribe—a \$170 million hospital, but again 800 veterans in Nome, AK, could not access that hospital. They still had to fly to Anchorage or Seattle.

But now those 800 veterans, Native or non-Native, can access that hospital, get care, and end up staying closer to home. All throughout Alaska now people can access Indian Health Services run by our tribes and delivering incredible services.

Along with that, in Anchorage, we have a federally qualified health center that now also allows access for our veterans. Again, the bill we passed, the veterans access reform bill, took some of these examples we have been doing in Alaska and showing great success—not perfect but improving.

To give an example of this next item—and these numbers fluctuate a little bit, but I want to give a general understanding of where we were and where we are. Before we had all of this integrated within the Indian tribal system—the Alaska tribal system delivering health care—it used to be 1,000 people, almost 1,000 people on the waiting list; today, a few dozen. This changes, this fluctuates, don't get me wrong. So when people call me and say it is not 10, it is 50 or 5, it does fluctuate, but it is no longer the 1,000.

In the waiting period, in the audit that was just done, as we all know in the 140 facilities they audited throughout the country, we, Alaska, our VA, was tied for first in the best response in regard to appointments on the waiting list. Because that was the big debate, how to improve the number of people who are on the waiting list because it is appalling—appalling—what has been happening in Arizona and other places. I have seen the list now through this audit, in some cases 2,000, in some cases 3,000 on the waiting list, waiting for care.

The bill we passed yesterday will help improve that, and the numbers for Alaska show we have an example, not perfect but yet improving significantly the care for our veterans.

No. 1, appointments, appointments scheduled within 30 days or less.

When we look at a couple of other pieces, for example, mental health, which is a new issue, growing significantly, new patient mental health average wait time in Alaska is in the top 6 percent. Again, it is a great record for us, but we would love to be No. 1 in that category, to be frank, and we are going to continue to strive to do that, but the way we have improved the system was to make sure we had more opportunities to access.

The bill we passed yesterday, again, takes some of the great things we are doing in Alaska to show access. I think this will enhance the capacity for veterans all around the State.

This is something that, again, when I campaigned on the Heroes Health Card, I believed we had this resource we could maximize, that we could move forward on, that we could make a difference for our veterans, and we are seeing it. When we look at this issue 1 year from now, we hope the model we have laid out in Alaska is not only in Alaska but across the country.

I will say we need to also keep track, because when you deliver health care through our Indian Health Service Program—in our case the tribes of Alaska or through our federally qualified clinics—they can provide the health care per patient at a cheaper rate, and no disrespect to the private doctors who are out there whom we do contract with, the VA does. They are more expensive because they work in a different model, a different business model. That is understandable. But this is a more cost-effective way.

Hopefully, by passing the bill we don't just say we passed the bill and we are done, but 6 months from now or 1 year from now we review the cost of delivering this health care to make sure we are getting the most cost benefit but also delivering quality care to our veterans, no matter where they live.

As a matter of fact, 25 percent of veterans live in rural America. That means we have to make sure our federally qualified clinics have the right resources they need so that when a veteran walks in that door, they can get the care.

I will say in the Anchorage ones—again, for people who don't know Alaska—the Federal clinics there, the one Anchorage neighborhood health center—when someone is enrolled as a veteran to utilize that facility for their primary care appointment, it is almost same day, in most cases almost same-day service—incredible. It is the same thing with our Southcentral facility health services. These are incredible clinics run by Alaska Native tribes in

the Southcentral region. Again, same thing—same-day service if you are on the list. We want to make sure it is clear that once someone is on the list, they can get pretty good service, very direct service.

Let me put that aside a minute and give a general comment about veterans and veterans services we need. Again, I am going to leave this up so people see it, but the veterans access reform bill was just another step for us to improve the services to veterans. This is just one of many things.

One thing we did do on health care, the President and other Members remember when we had the shutdown, government services all stopped except VA health care, because when I first got here, there was a bill I cosponsored that gave advance appropriations.

Why were advance appropriations important? So when government shutdowns occur, health care still gets delivered for our veterans. They shouldn't be subject to the politics of this place, and we made sure of that.

But to be frank, we still have more work to do. I hear Members come down and start talking about disability claims, which still is a challenge for us. We still have a lot of work in this area to make sure we increase the capacity.

I know as an appropriator we put more money into this system so we can have more capacity to shorten the time of disability claims and make sure we get these done in a fast manner.

But we have to keep in mind, if we don't have advanced appropriations on that side of the equation, the benefits side of the VA, and there is a government shutdown, guess what happens: GI benefits stop, disability payment claims may not be processed in a timely manner, other benefits that individuals receive as a veteran get stopped.

There is a bill pending, which I am very proud to be one of the prime sponsors of with the Republicans, both the House and the Senate, is a bipartisan bill. Every single veterans group supports it. It is important to improve the delivery system of the benefits side.

The health care side, we did some work yesterday. We have been doing work in Alaska for the last few years. Now we need to work on the benefits side.

There are many different bills out there, and a long list, working on homelessness that we need to keep focused on and making sure our benefits for our GI bill continue to move forward, helping our veterans. But I give you examples of a couple of people, and I want to speak about these case stories and then I will end. It is important to remind people of the work we did yesterday, the work we have been doing for years in Alaska, the results we are getting.

This example is now woven into the veterans access reform bill we passed yesterday—and Alaska is a great example—but here are a couple of cases in Anchorage I received recently.

One Anchorage veteran was in touch with my office and had been trying to get help from the VA since 1995 for an undiagnosed condition related to jet fuel exposure. Last week my office was able to get him an appointment immediately in order to get him service and have this looked at. He called to thank us. He is getting care and the appointments he needs and he appreciates this.

I will say it is the job for our offices—all of our offices as Members—to do everything we can for veterans. But we want to make sure this veteran—when he walks into that clinic or facility, doesn't have to wait this long or be in these situations.

Another veteran in Soldotna, with a back condition, about 150 miles away from Anchorage, which again is where we had the clinic for the VA—about a 3-hour drive in the mountains—needed to be seen closer to home. Again our office helped arrange it so he could get service right there, so he can get service closer to home.

It is important we look at these, and I see these examples all the time that we are working on every single day. I run into veterans all across Alaska who thank us for the work we do to make sure they have the access and capacity to get their benefits or their health care.

I am going to end by saying that there is no better job here than working with the veterans. It is something I enjoy—77,000 veterans in Alaska, the highest per capita in the Nation. Every day I run into a veteran who may have an issue or is just thanking us for the work or thanking this country for the service—what they get and the benefits they receive.

Yesterday was an example of what the Senate can do with veterans, come together unified, negotiate but never forget our principal job is to take care of the American people the best we can in the services we should render, and in this case it is for our veterans.

Again, Alaska is an incredible example—not perfect, let me be clear about that, and the numbers fluctuate, but at the end of the day the trend lines are the right trend lines. They are moving in the right way.

The bill we passed yesterday had some aspects of what we are doing in Alaska. It makes me proud to say Alaskan veterans should be proud that we are doing not only the best we can, but we are using our examples to help veterans all across this country, and I think that is a great statement.

We have more work to do. It is an honor to be here and explain once again what we are doing in Alaska and also yesterday being able to vote on that piece of legislation.

I know the House bill is very close to ours and we will have a compromise bill and veterans will get better care tomorrow than they are getting today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARKUP

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am on the Senate floor, but I should have had the opportunity today to be at an Appropriations Committee meeting.

We were scheduled this morning to mark up—that means to consider and vote on—the labor, health and human services bill for the next fiscal year. The labor, health and human services bill is one of the most important pieces of legislation we have.

It is the bill that spells out the priorities of the American people as worked out by their elected officials on everything from National Institutes of Health to Pell Grants for college students.

Passing an appropriations bill is an appropriate and important check on executive spending. It is one of our most important constitutional responsibilities. It is one we haven't been exercising very well over the last 4 years. Even though the Appropriations Committee has approved most of the bills to go to the floor, the majority leader has not brought most of the bills to the floor for our consideration.

In 2 of the last 4 years we considered zero appropriations bills on the floor. One of those years we considered one and another year we considered five.

I wasn't at the committee meeting this morning because our markup was indefinitely postponed. I asked why, and I couldn't get a clear answer, but apparently it was because some Senators don't want to vote on difficult or tough amendments.

I have repeated a certain line a lot in the past couple of years. I am from Tennessee, so I have said that being in the Senate and not being allowed to vote on amendments is like being asked to join the Grand Ole Opry and not being allowed to sing. That is what we do. I mean, this body, described as the one authentic piece of genius in the constitutional system of the United States, was created to have 100 men and women who come to the Senate and who have the opportunity to have extended debate on important issues until we come to a consensus. Sometimes we do that in a terrific way.

Even recently we have done that in important ways; for example, on the student loan agreement that we reached last year which cut nearly in half interest rates on all undergraduate loans, which are 85 percent of student loans. That was the result of an extended debate, working with the Republican House and a Democratic President. The government worked the way it was supposed to.

Coming to the Senate floor and having a say, offering a bill, offering amendments, and having a vote is the job of Senators. It is not so important that it is my say or my vote, it is the

fact that this is what I was hired to do by my constituents, each one of us was. So we have a right to have our say on the issues—whether it is Iran, student loans, Ukraine, or health care. It is what we are expected to do. So I have objected to the fact that we have fallen into a pattern in this body of not having amendments. Senator BARRASSO of Wyoming has actually counted the number of rollcall votes on amendments since last July. He has discovered that Republicans offered only nine amendments that actually had a rollcall vote in that entire period of time. Then he counted what the Democrats have offered. Our friends on the other side of the aisle have offered more than 600 amendments, and they have only had 7 rollcall votes.

But today we have reached a new level of obstruction because it seems that our friends in the Democratic majority are moving the gag rule—which has existed on the floor of the Senate—from the Senate floor to the committee room. They have said we are going to indefinitely postpone a markup of a bill from one of the most important subcommittees in the Senate to decide how to spend more than a hundred billion dollars, apparently, because some Senators don't want to vote on tough amendments.

These aren't extraneous amendments. These aren't political exercises. These are relevant amendments critical to the process of setting spending priorities, and well within the scope of the bill.

So I have no alternative but to bring my tough amendments—the amendments that I planned to offer this morning at the markup—to the Senate floor, at least to talk about them in the hope that soon I will have a chance to offer them in the committee.

I am going to talk about four amendments I had planned to offer this morning—important, relevant amendments, part of what we are supposed to do. Senators shouldn't be afraid to vote on them. If so, we shouldn't be here, because that is what we do.

Amendment No. 1. My first amendment would reverse the trend toward a national school board for elementary and secondary education by protecting a State's control over its academic standards and tests.

My amendment does this by prohibiting the U.S. Department of Education—where I used to be the Secretary—from exercising any influence over the academic standards States use to define what students should know and be able to do, as well as the test States use to determine whether students have met those standards.

It also prohibits the Department from requiring or incentivizing States to adopt common standards and tests as a condition of an award of a Federal grant or a contract, or by providing additional points or a preference in a

competitive grant program, or as a condition of approval for waivers of requirements under No Child Left Behind or any Federal law.

In other words, this amendment directs the Federal Government to keep its sticky fingers off State standards and not to interfere with the hard work States are doing to raise expectations for our students.

This is not a new issue. In 1992, 22 years ago, I was the U.S. Secretary of Education for President George H.W. Bush—who celebrated his 90th birthday today by jumping out of an airplane once again—a remarkable event. Happy birthday, President Bush. Democrats in Congress wrote an education bill in 1992 that would have set Federal standards not only for academic content but also for how that content should be delivered to students.

As Education Secretary, I wrote a memo to the President. I advised him to veto the bill if it came to his desk, because, I said then, it:

. . . creates at least the beginnings of a national school board that could make day-to-day school decisions on curriculum, discipline, teacher training, textbooks, and classroom materials. . . . A federal recipe dictating how to operate a local school board does not make schools better.

I wrote this to President Bush in 1992. The President told the Congress he would veto the bill if it reached his desk. Fortunately, it never did.

The amendment that I would like to have offered this morning should not be necessary because Federal law already includes a number of specific limitations on the Federal Government's involvement in education standards and curriculum.

For example, section 9527 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act prohibits any employee of the Federal Government from mandating, directing or controlling a State, local school district or school's curriculum, program of instruction or allocation of State and local resources.

The Department of Education is prohibited from using any funding, says the law, to endorse, approve or sanction any curriculum of instruction used in the elementary or secondary school. That is the law today.

Furthermore, the law today prohibits requiring any State to have academic content or student academic achievement standards approved by the Federal Government in order to receive funding under the law, with the exception of the requirement that States must demonstrate that they have adopted challenging standards in their title I plan.

By including these prohibitions Congress has made it clear that it does not want a national school board—that primary responsibility for decisions relating to educating students rest with States and local communities, teachers, and parents.

But this administration has used the combination of No Child Left Behind, Race to the Top, and waivers from No Child Left Behind to in effect convert itself into a national school board, making decisions that States and local communities ought to make for themselves—particularly decisions about standards and tests.

Under Race to the Top, the Department gave additional points to States which participated in the development of and adopted the Common Core standards, using the prospect of receiving Federal funds to coerce States into joining the Common Core.

Now, the Department might say it didn't write the words "Common Core" into their grant application, but Common Core then was the only game in town that could meet the requirements for those points.

More recently, the administration has used its waiver authority under No Child Left Behind to impose on States new requirements about standards that are not contemplated in and, I believe, prohibited by Federal law. So this amendment would strictly prohibit that overreach.

My second amendment would avoid the creation of a taxpayer-funded popularity contest by preventing the Department of Education from developing a rating system for our Nation's 6,000 colleges and universities.

So my first amendment would prevent the Secretary from becoming chairman of a national school board, and my second amendment would prevent the Secretary from claiming the role of national czar of higher education. It is a simple amendment to end what I see as a misguided errand initiated by the President and underway at the Department of Education. That is the rating of our colleges and universities by the Federal Government.

This amendment would prohibit the Department of Education from using any Federal funding to develop, refine, publish or implement a college rating system. In August of 2013, President Obama directed the Department of Education to rate each of our Nation's more than 6,000 colleges and universities based on their affordability and outcomes such as graduation rates and earnings. I am all for ensuring that parents and students have the information they need to make good college choices, but picking winners and losers with a rating system is not an appropriate role for the Federal Government in Washington, DC. Here is what an expert in education policy at the Brookings Institution—not exactly a hotbed of rightwing propaganda—had to say:

There is a clear case to be made for the federal government using its authority to gather data like these for postsecondary institutions that receive taxpayer funding, but little precedent for the government producing ratings.

The Brookings scholar goes on to say:

The Securities and Exchange Commission regulates stocks and bonds, but leaves it to private organizations to rate them. The Department of Transportation sets standards for the calculation of cars' gas mileage, but it doesn't opine on whether a Ford is better than a Toyota. The Food and Drug Administration decides which pharmaceuticals can be sold in the U.S., but it does not say whether Advil is better for a headache than Tylenol.

In other words, this is not the job of the Federal Government.

We don't need the Federal Government making these judgments for 22 million college students. What we need is the information so Americans can make these judgments for ourselves.

I also have serious practical concerns about the Department's ability even to begin this effort. I believe it will fall on its face when they try to write it. We already know the Department is struggling. They have had to delay the release of the draft ratings system from the spring to sometime in the fall. If they ever do move forward, I have little confidence in their ability to get it right.

The Federal Government simply can't develop ratings that account for the diversity of our higher education system. We have 6,000 institutions of higher education of all kinds Nashville's auto diesel college, Notre Dame, Randolph-Macon, Yeshiva, Berea College, Dyersburg Community College, Harvard. All of these are different. We need information. We don't need the government issuing ratings.

My third amendment would rein in the Obama administration's out-of-control National Labor Relations Board by stopping it from requiring employers to give labor unions their employees' personal email addresses and cell phone numbers and from forcing employers to let employees use employer-owned and operated email systems to campaign for a union.

Since 1966 the NLRB has required employers to provide a union with a list of names and home addresses of employees eligible to vote in a union representation election. This is called an Excelsior List.

In February of this year, the NLRB repropose expanding the Excelsior List in its ambush elections proposed rule. Now, ambush elections are another Obama administration initiative which would shorten the time from the union's request to call an election to when the election is held to as little as 10 days.

But here is the NLRB's Excelsior List proposal: It would require employers to include voter-eligible employees' personal telephone numbers, email addresses, work locations, shift times, and job classifications on the Excelsior List. They rejected a suggestion I made that at least an employee ought to be able to opt out of sharing this information.

We have had many examples of unions violating people's privacy and even harassing them.

For example, in 2010, agents of Communications Workers of America Local 1103 in Connecticut used personal information they obtained about one woman who did not support the union to sign her up for hundreds of unsolicited and unwanted magazines and consumer products.

This NLRB-proposed rule has a lot of opposition. Senator GRAHAM was intending this morning to offer in our markup a similar amendment that would prevent funds from going to implement any of the so-called ambush election rule which this is a part of.

As I have said before, the NLRB has become far too politicized under recent administrations. It didn't start with the Obama administration, but it has gotten worse with this administration, as it has moved toward the side of union advocacy with such things as ambush elections and micro-unions and undermining State right-to-work laws.

The National Labor Relations Board should be an umpire rather than an advocate.

The fourth amendment I would have offered this morning—had our subcommittee markup proceeded as it had been scheduled, and had it not been postponed apparently because some Senators didn't want to take "tough votes"—would simply require the Obama administration to be straightforward with the public about the Affordable Care Act by reporting basic facts on the Federally-run insurance exchange, which is running the exchange for 36 States—facts such as the number of people signed up and making premium payments.

I introduced similar legislation last year. The House of Representatives passed that legislation in January by a bipartisan vote of 259 to 154. A total of 33 House Democrats voted for it. It is very simple, noncontroversial, and shouldn't be considered tough.

It would simply require the Obama administration to provide weekly reports during open enrollment—which now runs from November to February—reports to Congress, to States, and to the public about the Federal exchange, including such easily tracked data as the number of individuals who have visited the site, the number who have successfully enrolled, their zip codes, the level of coverage they have obtained, and also at least monthly a list of the navigators and the brokers operating in each State. This is important especially to serve disadvantaged Americans.

This isn't complicated. This is the Internet age. Even before the Internet age, McDonald's could tell us how many hamburgers it made each day, and RCA could tell us how many Elvis Presley albums it had left on their shelves.

In May Politico reported the administration stopped releasing the barebones reports it had been providing the public every month. This is troubling.

Many Americans can continue to sign up for coverage through special enrollment periods, but we won't know how many Americans have continued paying their premiums after the first month of coverage. We will have no way of knowing the final number of confirmed enrollments.

So these are the four amendments I had expected I would be offering and debating today in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Instead, I am here late in the afternoon on the Senate floor because some Senators must be more worried about their reelection campaigns than about the process of governing and setting priorities.

If we are not willing to do what we are elected to do—no one is making any of us be here.

I hope the markup we had planned today will be rescheduled. I plan to offer these amendments then. I hope they will be voted on by the committee, and I hope I will have the opportunity to represent the people of Tennessee who have sent me here to represent their views.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, for the first time in our Nation's history the total amount of student loan debt has exceeded the total amount of credit card debt. This very real problem weighs heavily on families in my home State of New Mexico.

Last year Congress narrowly stopped the student loan interest rate hike from going into effect—a rate hike that would have doubled student loan interest rates. As a result, undergraduate students borrowing this year are able to take advantage of reasonable student loan rates. But students who borrowed before this agreement could be paying rates as high as 9 percent. Those who pursued an education to get ahead are literally starting out from behind.

Student loan debt is proving to be a debilitating impediment to achieving the American dream.

Recently, I met a working mother in southern New Mexico who told me about her family's struggle to raise their children while paying her husband's student loans from a degree he had earned more than two decades ago.

Another woman shared her story of going back to school to become a teacher. She is a single mom who wanted to make a better life for herself and her daughter. She got a degree but not without acquiring more than \$40,000 in student loan debt. She worries that she will be paying her loans off well into retirement. As a parent, she worries for

her daughter who will be entering college and fears that she has no choice but to take out loans to pay for her education.

Unfortunately, these stories are all too common today. Outstanding student loan debt in America totals more than \$1.2 trillion—trillion with a "t." In New Mexico, students are graduating with an average of nearly \$18,000 in debt.

Outstanding balances not only affect families working to pay those loans, it affects the entire American economy as well. Because of this debt, many are unable to buy a home, to start a business, to save for retirement or even start a family. In today's economy we should be eliminating the obstacles that keep Americans from earning the education they need to get ahead. College should not be a luxury; it should be an opportunity all Americans can at least afford to pursue.

The student loan refinancing legislation that was on the floor this week would have helped address this problem of skyrocketing student loan debt by allowing graduates to refinance and put more money into productive use and strengthen our economy as a whole. However, our colleagues across the aisle decided to filibuster this legislation. They don't seem to understand that crushing student loan debt is a serious issue that forces many Americans to put their American dreams on hold.

Higher education is one of the most important investments any person can make in their own future. From my perspective, making college affordable is an investment in America's future. Republicans should know this and even recently helped to do something about it. Just last year Democrats and Republicans came together in Congress to prevent a student loan interest rate hike that would have doubled student loan rates. This was a great money-saving piece of news for students taking out new loans. However, there are still approximately 134,000 New Mexicans—just in my small State of 2 million people, there are 134,000 New Mexicans who would benefit from passing this newest legislation which would allow them to access those same student loan rates.

We had an opportunity to come together to address skyrocketing student loan debt, and instead our colleagues on the other side of the aisle chose to leave families, students, and really the American economy behind.

A college education opens the doors of opportunity. It provides an avenue into the middle class for families. College graduates are nearly twice as likely to find work as those with only a high school diploma, and they will earn nearly \$1 million more over the course of a lifetime.

We should be willing to give our aspiring college students a fair shot. Senate Republicans should reconsider their

priorities and allow us to at least debate this student loan refinancing legislation, to end their filibuster so that we can move forward, so that we can provide immediate relief to student loan borrowers and put that money to work in growing the American economy.

I would yield back the rest of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TAX EXTENDERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Just last week the majority leader gave his view that tax extenders as an issue is dead in the Senate until the lameduck session. I presume that means we will have a lameduck session. The majority leader blames this on Republicans, the minority in the Senate, but as you all know, the majority leader is uniquely situated under our Senate rules to determine what legislation will be considered on the Senate floor.

The majority leader's excuse that was given for not proceeding to extenders before a lameduck session is that we Republicans are seeking to offer amendments unrelated to tax extenders. Of course, this excuse simply does not fly. Even an introductory report on Senate procedure from the Congressional Research Service will tell all Senators that there is no "standing rule or general requirement that the amendments offered by Senators on the floor must be germane or relevant to the bill being considered."

The CRS report states:

The right to offer non-germane amendments is extraordinarily important because it permits Senators to present issues to the Senate for debate and decision without regard to the judgments of the Senate's committees or the scheduling decisions and preferences of its majority leader.

The majority leader has sought to circumvent the open amendment process by blocking amendments by filling the amendment tree. This allows the majority leader to effectively decide what, if any, amendments ought to receive consideration here on the Senate floor. Essentially, this allows the majority leader to impose his own will at the expense of the will of the Senate as a whole. Another way to say it: The majority leader decides what 99 other Senators can offer as amendments.

The real reason the majority leader does not want to bring extenders back is that he is concerned that Members of his party might have to take tough votes in an election year. Of course, in a parliamentary system, this is a poor excuse for putting off considering legislation that has broad bipartisan support, and this extenders bill does have broad bipartisan support. This approach puts politics before constituents.

Delaying tax extenders legislation until the lameduck session has real consequences for our constituents. We

know from previous years what has happened when tax legislation is not passed in a satisfactory amount of time. Late action on tax extenders poses significant tax administration burdens that cause headaches and hardships for millions of taxpayers. When we fail to act in a timely manner, tax forms are not ready and refunds are delayed. We owe it to our constituents to see to it that these added complications are not a factor this year. Tax season is already unpleasant enough without our adding to it by failing to do our job in a timely fashion.

While many view tax extenders as benefiting businesses, the truth is the delay of widely used individual tax provisions will impact millions of taxpayers. I will give a few examples.

Three of the most widely used tax provisions are the State and local sales tax deduction, claimed by over 11 million returns in the latest year for which we have statistics—2011; the above-the-line deduction for teachers' expenses, claimed on over 3.8 million tax returns in that year, 2011; and the college tuition deduction, which was claimed on about 2 million tax returns. These 3 provisions alone give us over 16 million reasons—because of 16 million taxpayers being affected—to act now to ensure that we don't subject these taxpayers to needless delays and complications this coming filing season.

These 16 million tax filers should provide more than enough reason for not putting off tax extender legislation until the lameduck, but if you are in need of another reason, think of the small businesses that are anxiously looking on and wondering what we are going to do about the expiration of the enhanced expensing rules under section 179. I am sure I am not the only one hearing from small business owners and from farmers who are putting off purchasing that new truck or tractor because they do not know the fate of this provision. This is bad for economic growth, bad for jobs.

Then there is the lapse in the renewable energy incentives that support millions of jobs not only in my State of Iowa but in many other States across our country. The expiration of these provisions has already hampered the strides made toward a viable, self-sustainable renewable energy and fuel sector. Delaying extension of these important provisions is hurting the economy and costing jobs.

A biofuels organization found that nearly 80 percent of the U.S. biodiesel producers have scaled back production this year. Sixty-six percent of the biodiesel producers have reduced their workforce and anticipate cutting jobs. This is a direct result of the policy uncertainties here in Washington, DC, including the expiration of the biodiesel tax incentive.

The only thing standing in the way of passing the extenders package here

in the Senate is decisions made by the majority leader and getting an agreement on a handful of reasonable amendments.

The delay in passing the extenders package is harming a whole range of renewable energy efforts. A letter delivered to every Senator from about 200 clean energy businesses urged quick passage of the bill.

The letter stated:

The lack of timely action to extend these provisions injects instability and uncertainty into the economy and weakens confidence in the employment marketplace. Moreover, the extension of the expired provisions should not be delayed until the end of the year since companies are making decisions right now related to taxes that will have an immediate impact on the economy.

I would encourage all of those who support this bill to urge the majority leader to bring it back and allow for a fair amendment process. Could the Senate majority leader possibly argue that it is more important to protect Senators from tough votes than to move forward on clean energy and job creation? For such an important piece of legislation, there is no legitimate reason for the majority leader to refuse to bring extenders to the floor for an open and honest debate.

It has been quite a while since we have had a relatively open amendment process on major tax legislation. Because of this, many Senators view this bill as their one shot at getting tax priorities they have considered on the floor. There is no reason that an agreement cannot be reached that will provide opportunities to Members on both sides of the aisle to offer those amendments. As a former chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee, this Senator knows this can be difficult, but it is more than doable.

I remember when Senator Baucus and I regularly worked out an amendment process on tax bills. Usually this would consist of alternating votes on a block of 10 or so Democratic and Republican amendments so each side was treated fairly. A tax bill that comes to my mind as an illustration of this process is a bill entitled Jumpstart Our Business Strength Act or, as we use the acronym, JOBS.

Like the extenders package, the JOBS Act had broad bipartisan support and ultimately passed the Senate 92 to 5. Though it had bipartisan support, there was no shortage of Members from the other side seeking to offer their amendments. Many of these amendments were in no way related to tax, although the JOBS Act was a tax bill.

As the bill's chief sponsor and floor manager, I had hoped to keep amendments somewhat relevant—at least related to tax. However, the then Democratic minority pushed for votes on everything from overtime laws to trade adjustment assistance to unemployment insurance.

All of these amendments were political in nature. They were intended to

make Republicans take tough votes. At the time, then minority leader—now Majority Leader—REID vigorously defended the right of the minority to get votes on these and other amendments that were entirely nonrelevant and nongermane. We Republicans took those votes because we wanted to get things done. We wanted to get a very important tax bill passed. That is what the American people need right now—new leaders who want to get things done.

Yet today we were told Republicans are unreasonable for even seeking tax amendments to tax legislation. But it is not just Members of the minority who would like to offer amendments. Members on the other side filed nearly as many amendments as Members of the minority, but under the procedure set by the majority leader, even Members of his own party were not able to offer amendments. We could have been debating amendments to an extender bill this week. Instead, we wasted time on other pieces of legislation that were designed to fail, so the other side could score political points.

We were all sent here by our constituents to represent them in the legislative process. So let's legislate, which means debating and offering amendments. A bipartisan bill, such as the tax extenders bill, would be a perfect opportunity to show our constituents our ability to work together and get things done.

I call upon the leadership of the Senate to bring the tax extenders bill back to the floor and to allow for reasonable amendments that permit individual Senators of both parties to have a say in crafting this legislation.

KADZIK NOMINATION

Madam President, I wish to speak about an issue I spoke to earlier this week that I feel is so important I want to remind colleagues of its importance to me and what I think is an important issue for the oversight work of the Senate.

On Monday I explained my opposition to the nomination of Peter Kadzik to be the Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs at the Justice Department.

In my view, the nominee's record demonstrates contempt for congressional oversight. He has made a habit of providing evasive, nonresponsive, and plainly insufficient answers to congressional inquiries over the years. That practice alone disqualifies him from heading up the Legislative Affairs Office. That office has had a chronic problem with credibility in recent years—going back and forth with Mr. Kadzik as well.

Specifically, I am referring to the false denials regarding Operation Fast and Furious, which Mr. Kadzik's predecessor made and eventually had to retract. So it is pretty evident to me that this administration is sending a

message to all of us in the Senate by nominating an individual with a track record as abysmal as Mr. Kadzik. That message is this: Expect more of the same. That is quite a message from the self-professed most transparent administration in history which, quite frankly, has not turned out to be so transparent.

But there is a lot more at stake regarding Mr. Kadzik's nomination than restoring credibility to the Legislative Affairs Office—a lot more. As we all know, at the beginning of this year the President boasted that he had "a pen and a phone" and that he intended to use it. What he meant, of course, was that he would bypass the legislative process and proceed with aggressive and unilateral executive action.

So in January I called on the Attorney General to disclose the opinions and memoranda from the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, providing the legal justification for this President's unilateral executive action.

Four months later, Mr. Kadzik replied to me in a 1-page response. He said, in short, he would not disclose those legal opinions. But he said if I had additional questions regarding the legality of the President's actions, I should let him know. That was May 20. Well, 11 days later, on Saturday, March 31, we learned that the President had flouted the congressional notification provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act.

This latest example of the administration's flagrant disregard for its legal obligations to submit to congressional oversight has dominated the headlines. I am referring, of course, to the administration's failure to notify Congress of its plan to release the so-called "Taliban Dream Team" from Guantanamo last week.

As every Senator knows, the National Defense Authorization Act—a law this President has signed—required the administration to notify key congressional committees at least 30 days before arranging the release of a prisoner from Guantanamo. The law enumerates exactly what that notification needs to address.

Specifically, the administration was legally required to explain to Congress why the release is in the national security interest of our country. The administration was legally required to explain to Congress what action it had undertaken to mitigate the risk of re-engagement of such terrorists by re-releasing the detainees.

The law requires these explanations and other disclosures because the Members of this body have an independent responsibility to ensure the national security of the United States. And, of course, we take this responsibility seriously. Each one of us swore an oath to protect and defend the Constitution—the same oath that the President took.

Unfortunately, this administration has locked us out of the process that the National Defense Authorization Act requires. I know I need to be more clear for most of you.

The history of section 1035 and the negotiations surrounding it make it plain that Congress included those provisions because it wanted to avoid release of prisoners like this one. So congressional opposition should not exactly come as a surprise to this administration.

This administration broke not only the law but also the promise it made in 2013 when White House Press Secretary Jay Carney promised that the administration "would not make any decisions about the transfer of any detainees without consulting with Congress and without doing so in accordance with U.S. law." The administration knows it broke the law. Certain Senators on our Select Committee on Intelligence have even reportedly received apologies from the administration officials for not notifying them.

I don't think apologies are enough, and I don't think this administration takes seriously its legal obligation to consult with us before acting. Take the recent statement made by the Deputy White House Press Secretary on June 9. He said that "this administration continues to be committed to coordinating with our partners in Congress." But the law doesn't require mere "coordination." Coordination under the law is not good enough.

The President is required by law to meet certain obligations, and he recklessly ignores those obligations. The President is required by the Constitution—a document the President claims to know a lot about because he was a constitutional law professor—to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed." Yet we all know by now that this President picks and chooses which laws to enforce.

This is not how our constitutional system is designed. The President is not in power to ignore the law. So "coordination," as the Deputy Press Secretary said, is not good enough. We need compliance with the law. This administration needs to commit—on the record—that going forward it intends to comply with the National Defense Authorization Act so that another one of these stealth detainee releases never happens again.

With the exception of the majority leader, this administration has kept every Member of the Senate and the House in the dark about releasing five of the most dangerous terrorists we were holding at Guantanamo. Even the majority leader was not given the 30-day notice the law requires. So it is clear that not a single Senator was notified in compliance with the law prior to the release of the Taliban Five. It is likewise clear that not a single Senator received an explanation regarding national security and risk mitigation

that the law requires in advance of releases.

But the failure to notify us in Congress in accordance with the law does not relieve this administration of its responsibility to justify the releases. There is a lot about this ordeal that is extremely concerning. Part of what is so troublesome is that this administration can't even seem to get its story straight regarding why it ignored the law. The justifications the administration has offered publicly thus far have shifted dramatically from one day to the next day.

I will show how the shift has taken place and the justifications that have been presented to the public.

Shortly, after the release of the Taliban Five on June 1, the administration sent—of all people—National Security Advisor Susan Rice back to the Sunday talk shows—in Benghazi fashion—to explain the administration's rationale.

Adviser Rice told CNN that the "acute urgency" of an unspecified "health condition" that Sergeant Bergdahl was suffering from had forced the President to act without notifying Congress. We haven't heard much publicly about the acute medical emergency since then. In fact, a number of my colleagues have expressed skepticism at what little information the Pentagon has provided publicly regarding Sergeant Bergdahl's physical condition. But since the administration has said it was an emergency because the terrorists had threatened Bergdahl's life, apparently that was the medical emergency.

But now the story has changed. First, on Monday, following the releases, according to press reports, the White House called the chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to apologize for its so-called oversight in failing to consult with Congress. So they meant to inform Congress about the releases but didn't because it was an "oversight."

Is that the story now? No. It didn't take long for the story to change. The White House then offered a new explanation.

On Tuesday, the Deputy White House Press Secretary said that the release was "a secret military mission in which disclosures of the mission could put into jeopardy not just the life of Sergeant Bergdahl but also the lives of the American servicemen who were involved in the mission, so discretion on this matter was important."

Let's think about the new justification—this one I just quoted—let's think about it for a moment. The White House is saying essentially that disclosure of the operational details concerning the physical transfer of Sergeant Bergdahl could have jeopardized the mission. But the White House's justification is totally beside the point. To my knowledge, no Sen-

ator has claimed that the administration had a legal obligation under section 1035 to disclose the specific operational details of the transfer to our relevant committees. Section 1035 doesn't even require that. On the contrary, the law requires the administration to explain its rationale for the release in terms of national security and risk mitigation, not operational details.

So this particular justification is, of course, a colossal red herring, and it wasn't the last of the shifting justifications this administration has offered. Listen to the next one.

The administration claimed it simply ran out of time to notify us. On Tuesday the administration reportedly claimed that it knew only 1 day in advance that the transfer would take place and only an hour in advance about where it would happen. And then on Wednesday Defense Secretary Hagel told the House Armed Services Committee that the administration had only 96 hours from the time the deal was made to actually release Sergeant Bergdahl.

Again, both of these justifications miss the point. It is clear that the negotiations preceding the deal were in motion for months. According to the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, the administration reported that it had been engaged in negotiations with the Taliban since January 2014. So the administration had weeks—maybe even months—to communicate to Congress that it was in active negotiations that might result in the exchange deal in the near future. That, of course, never happened.

But even that wasn't the last of the shifting justifications. On Wednesday Defense Secretary Hagel told the House Armed Services Committee that the administration couldn't notify Congress because of the risk of a leak. Secretary Hagel said that the Qatari Government—which apparently was acting as a middleman in these negotiations with the Taliban—threatened to end all negotiations if details of the deal leaked.

It is pretty obvious that this justification doesn't wash either. Press reports indicate that the administration told Congress that anywhere between 80 to 90 members of the executive branch knew about the release of the Taliban five before it happened. That number includes officials in the State Department, the Department of Homeland Security, the White House, and the Department of Defense. If that many individuals—80 or 90 people in this town—are in the loop, the administration's stated concern about a leak just doesn't make any sense. The White House could keep all of those officials in the loop, but somehow it couldn't pick up the phone and call the chair and vice chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Frankly, as we have seen over the last few years, when information is leaked to the press, the leak usually originates in the executive branch and more often than not from the White House itself. So it seems pretty clear that the administration is not being candid with us or with the American people about why it broke the law and locked the representatives of the people of the United States out of the process, contrary to what the law says.

So the bottom line is this: The White House ignored a Federal law that the President signed and that the White House Press Secretary promised it would follow. Yet the White House can't even get its story straight regarding why the law was ignored.

It is for these reasons—getting back to the point about the Office of Legal Counsel and Mr. Kadzik's nomination to be head of the Office of Legislative Affairs—it is for these reasons that I wrote to the Attorney General last week and called on the Office of Legal Counsel to release any and all materials concerning the legal justification for the detainees' release that the Department of Justice provided to the administration. It is the Office of Legal Counsel's job to look at every Presidential action and Executive order and decision to see if it complies with the law. And then it is my approach that if some lawyers are telling the President what he can legally do or not do, constitutionally do or not do, according to the Constitution, why shouldn't the American people know about it?

So this all becomes more important with each passing day, as the White House keeps offering new explanations for why it broke the law.

We know the Justice Department provides legal advice on this question to the Defense Department because that is one of the very first things the administration said publicly about the deal. On June 1 Susan Rice told CNN that the Defense Department consulted with the Justice Department before the decision to move forward was made. We need to know about the nature of that consultation. We need to know what legal justification the Department of Justice provided that would permit the administration to ignore its legal duties to notify Congress and to inform us of the reasons for the release. And, importantly, we need to know what specific facts on which the Justice Department based its legal analysis.

In other words, with all of these shifting explanations we have been hearing about the factual basis for the decision, which one of those many was provided to the Justice Department? Did they tell the Justice Department: We don't have time to tell Congress. If so, did they tell them that these negotiations had been ongoing for months, as they appear to have been? Did these executive branch people tell the Justice Department that Sergeant

Bergdahl was, as Susan Rice claims, suffering from an acute condition that required the administration to take immediate action? Did the Justice Department take the view that the administration did not have to comply with the law because of the President's powers under article II of the Constitution, notwithstanding the fact that the White House had already promised it would comply or was none of this even considered? Was all of this just an "oversight," as the White House apparently told the chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence or was it that they didn't have to comply because they didn't trust the members of the select committee to keep a secret or should we expect that yet another justification will be forthcoming?

The bottom line is that Susan Rice went on CNN and said the Justice Department was consulted. But we don't know whether there was a written opinion provided by the Office of Legal Counsel and, if there was, what it concluded and what facts that conclusion was based on.

The General Counsel of the Defense Department testified yesterday that the administration had received legal advice from the Office of Legal Counsel in the form of an email chain. The administration needs to provide us with whatever written advice it received before it decided to contravene Federal law.

Given their failure to respond to my previous requests and considering Mr. Kadzik's track record in this regard, I am not optimistic. As I have stated previously, Mr. Kadzik's nomination embodies this administration's philosophy that it is OK to ignore its obligations with respect to congressional oversight—a constitutional responsibility of the legislative branch of government, by the way.

Let me conclude by saying that this nominee's record is emblematic of the administration's sorry record in complying with congressional oversight. And, of course, both have been abysmal.

If this administration is serious about honoring its legal obligations, the Attorney General would direct Mr. Kadzik to disclose the Office of Legal Counsel's legal reason for why the administration was entitled to ignore the law's requirement to notify Congress. No Senator should cast a vote on this nomination before Mr. Kadzik provides that legal reasoning to us.

If not now, when are all Senators—Republican and Democrat alike—going to take a stand against this President's unilateral decision to ignore the Congress and his obligations under law? If not now, when will Members of this body stand together in defense of our legislative prerogatives and assert our rights as part of a coequal branch of government under the Constitution?

In this Senator's view, a vote for this nominee is a vote endorsing this ad-

ministration's contempt for our oversight authority and will lend support to the deal that released the Taliban five without adhering to the law. As my colleagues know, I will vote against this nominee. I encourage my colleagues to vote against this nominee as well.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SALVADOR MENDOZA, JR., TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 740.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is a cloture motion at the desk and I ask it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie K. Hirono.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF STACI MICHELLE YANDLE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 741.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Staci Michelle Yandle, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is a cloture motion at the desk and I ask it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Staci Michelle Yandle, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Menendez, Barbara A. Mikulski, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF DARRIN P. GAYLES TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 778.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Darrin P. Gayles, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is a cloture motion at the desk and I ask it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Darrin P. Gayles, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Menendez, Barbara A. Mikulski, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PETER JOSEPH KADZIK TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 572.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Peter Joseph Kadzik, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is a cloture motion at the desk and I ask it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Peter Joseph Kadzik, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie Hirono.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, is the motion to proceed to H.R. 4660 now pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate needs to proceed to legislative session.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

That motion is now pending.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask that the cloture motion at the desk be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 428, H.R. 4660, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Re-

lated Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara Mikulski, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Menendez, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, June 16, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session, and that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 740, 741, and 778; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at 11 a.m., all postcloture time be expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that following Senate action on these nominations on Tuesday, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Calendar No. 572; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RUSSIA

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, of the many global challenges we face, protecting the environment should find support in all corners of the world.

Similarly, we should support those who work on behalf of the environment.

Unfortunately, in some countries, environmental activists are threatened and imprisoned. Such is the case in Russia, where, in the shadow of the Olympic Games in Sochi this past winter, Suren Gazaryan and Evgeny Vitishko were ruthlessly harassed by government officials for their investigative work on the large-scale construction of Olympic facilities that caused significant environmental damage to protected lands. Both were convicted in 2012 of damaging a fence in a forest near the city of Krasnodar, a charge they both deny, and sentenced to 3 years in a labor camp, suspended.

Mr. Gazaryan, a recipient of the prestigious 2014 Goldman Prize for grassroots efforts to protect and enhance the environment, has sought political asylum in neighboring Estonia. Evgeny Vitishko, however, was not fortunate enough to escape and is still paying the price for his work. On February 12, a Russian judge, upholding a decision that Mr. Vitishko violated a curfew clause in his parole agreement, ordered him to serve his 3-year prison sentence. Perhaps not coincidentally, this came as he and his organization, Environmental Watch of the North Caucasus, were preparing to release a report on the damaging effects of construction in Sochi.

I want other Senators to know of Mr. Gazaryan and Mr. Vitishko, and hope that calling attention to them and their work might cause the Russian authorities to recognize that their responsibility is to uphold the law and protect the environment on behalf of the Russian people, not to persecute Russian citizens who have the courage to do so themselves.

LOVING v. VIRGINIA ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, on June 12, 1967, during a period of significant political and racial tension in our Nation, the Supreme Court issued a unanimous landmark decision in *Loving v. Virginia* that overturned laws banning interracial marriage. This decision ushered in a transformative moment in American history. As we approach the first anniversary of another landmark Supreme Court decision in the *Windsor* case, we should remember the foundational work that was laid when the Supreme Court came together nearly 50 years ago to uphold the civil rights of all Americans to marry the person they love.

In writing for the majority in *Loving*, Chief Justice Earl Warren declared “the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual, and cannot be infringed by the State.” My wife Marcelle and I had been married just 5 years at the time, and on that June day, we were over-

whelmed with pride and joy for the many couples affected by this historic decision. Now married for over 50 years, I cannot bear to imagine a world where I would have been prohibited from marrying the person I love because of something beyond my control.

As I reflect on the landmark *Loving* decision, I am filled with pride for my home State. Throughout history, Vermont has taken a leadership role in America’s journey to build a more just society. Vermont was the first State in the Union to outlaw slavery, and Vermonters offered shelter to runaway slaves seeking refuge while in transit to Canada—serving as one of the last stops on the Underground Railroad. Vermont was also the first to adopt universal manhood suffrage, regardless of property ownership.

It is because of this history that it is not surprising that Vermont has been at the forefront of our Nation’s march toward marriage equality: Vermont was the first State to provide civil unions back in 2000, and on April 7, 2009, Vermont once again led the Nation by granting marriage equality for the first time through democratically elected officials on a bipartisan basis instead of through the courts.

This is not to say that it was easy. The initial move toward civil unions fomented heated debate among Vermonters and throughout the Nation. But several courageous leaders, such as the late Republican U.S. Senator from Vermont Bob Stafford, showed us the way, and their advocacy for equality was powerfully moving. Like many Vermonters, I listened to advocates, friends, and neighbors who reminded me that love and commitment are values to encourage and not to fear. I continue to be inspired by the inclusive example set by Vermont.

Five years ago Vermont’s State Legislature passed the Marriage Equality Act, which provided marriage equality for all Vermonters. Since then, more than 3,700 same-sex couples have married in the State of Vermont, 19 States and the District of Columbia have marriage equality, and the Supreme Court has decided a landmark case on the issue of same-sex marriage.

One year ago this month, the Supreme Court struck down section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage for purposes of Federal law as “only a legal union between one man and one woman.” The Court concluded that the law deprived couples of equal liberty as protected by our fifth amendment. All Americans deserve equal justice under the law, and Marcelle and I celebrated this important decision, which honored the *Loving* decision and pushed the Nation farther on its path toward equality.

In 2007, on the 40th anniversary of the *Loving* decision, Mildred Loving reflected on her life and weighed in on the issue of marriage equality. She said:

Surrounded as I am now by wonderful children and grandchildren, not a day goes by that I don’t think of Richard and our love, our right to marry, and how much it meant to me to have that freedom to marry the person precious to me, even if others thought he was the ‘wrong kind of person’ for me to marry. I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry. Government has no business imposing some people’s religious beliefs over others. Especially if it denies people’s civil rights.

I am still not a political person, but I am proud that Richard’s and my name is on a court case that can help reinforce the love, the commitment, the fairness, and the family that so many people, black or white, young or old, gay or straight seek in life. I support the freedom to marry for all. That’s what *Loving*, and loving, are all about.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have made civil rights a priority of our Committee’s agenda and a priority in the Senate. I often hear from those who think that the struggle for civil rights is over—that this issue is one for the history books. If only that were true. If only every American could marry the love of their life and have that union recognized. If only hate groups stopped targeting communities based on their sexual orientation, race, religion, or national origin. If only racial discrimination in voting was a thing of the past, but it is not. We must keep up the fight on our path toward a more perfect union.

This month we celebrate and honor the real love behind both the *Loving* and *Windsor* decisions. Their fight to be with the one they loved spans decades, but their lessons stand the test of time. They are the kinds of Supreme Court rulings that future generations will point to when they consider the Supreme Court’s most notable decisions. The march toward equality must and will continue until all individuals—regardless of sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, or disability—are protected and respected, equally, under our laws.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. WILLIAMS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, for several years now I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing Robert L. “Bob” Williams. Bob hails from Independence, KY, and is a member of our Nation’s Greatest Generation. Like so many in that generation, he answered the call of duty and fought valiantly in the Second World War. I rise today to honor his service to this country.

Early on the morning of June 6, 1941, Bob was among the first Allied paratroopers dropped into Normandy as a part of Operation Overlord, on the historic day of D-day. Several hours later, the largest amphibious assault in the history of war would commence. For the time being, however, Bob and his fellow paratroopers fought behind

enemy lines, securing the roads and bridges that were vital to the operation's success. You could say that these men constituted the tip of the sharpest sword this Nation has ever thrust into battle.

The airborne soldiers' mission that day was extremely dangerous—simply making it to the battlefield through the barrage of German anti-aircraft fire was a feat in itself—yet Bob displayed remarkable courage under fire. Upon landing, an enemy machine-gunner placed 12 bullet holes in his baggy pants pockets. Undeterred, Bob continued to fight that day, and for 10 more days until he was seriously wounded on June 16.

Since the war's conclusion, Bob has done his part to keep alive the memory of those who served. On the 50th anniversary of the D-day invasion, he joined 18 fellow veterans in re-creating their parachute jump into Normandy. He has also written a book containing his, and other veterans' stories from the war. Most recently, Bob was honored to be inducted into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame in March of this year.

As the Second World War drifts further and further into the past, it becomes increasingly important that we remember the sacrifices made to secure victory. So today, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring Robert L. Williams and his service to his country during the great battle to make the world safe for democracy that was World War II.

Mr. President, the Lexington Herald-Leader recently published an article detailing Bob Williams' and other Kentucky World War II veterans' stories from the war. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, June 5, 2014]

VETERANS FROM LEXINGTON, LOUISVILLE AREAS MARK D-DAY ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEKEND

(By Jim Warren)

On D-day morning, 70 years ago Friday, Winchester's Jonah Thomas was an Army combat engineer in one of the first landing craft to hit Omaha Beach.

German shells obliterated the boat almost the instant it touched the sand.

"I didn't see anybody else there when we hit the beach, so maybe they didn't have anybody else to shoot at," Thomas recalled. "They blew that boat to smithereens."

A soldier in front of Thomas was struck in the face. Thomas was covered with his blood.

"I would have been hit if he hadn't been there," Thomas said. "There were 44 men crammed in that boat, and hardly anybody survived."

Thomas, now 89, was one of the few who did.

He'll be among about 80 veterans from the Lexington and Louisville areas who are flying to Washington early Friday, the 70th an-

niversary of D-day. They'll visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Iwo Jima Monument, and the National World War II Memorial before returning Friday evening. A public welcome is planned at Blue Grass Airport when they return.

D-day, June 6, 1944, was when roughly 160,000 American, British and other Allied troops stormed into Nazi-held France along a 50-mile stretch of beaches in Normandy.

It was one of history's biggest military operations. More than 5,000 ships and 11,000 planes supported the landings, which launched the final campaigns that ended World War II in Europe in May 1945.

Within five days after D-day, more than 300,000 soldiers, 54,000 vehicles and 104,000 tons of supplies had come ashore.

But for the first few hours, the D-day invaders struggled just to survive a wave of bullets and shells from German guns. About 12,000 Allied soldiers were killed, wounded or captured, including roughly 6,000 Americans.

London's Owen Edwards, then 18, was a Navy coxswain, steering one of the landing boats headed for Omaha. His job—delivering a 20-man medical team to the beach—looked impossible.

"Eighty-eight millimeter shells were hitting so close they were throwing water into the boat," Edwards remembers. "It was so intense, that I finally turned the boat toward another part of the beach where the shelling wasn't as heavy. I probably wouldn't have made it if I hadn't done that."

Edwards, now 88, is another veteran who'll be making the trip to Washington Friday. He eventually landed the medical team safely on Omaha, one of two runs he made to the beach that day.

"It was complete chaos," Thomas said. "There were bodies everywhere, wrecked equipment, tanks that never made it, soldiers that drowned going in. It's a miracle that we took that beach."

Thomas visited Omaha Beach in 1993, and stood on the spot where he landed his boat.

"The beach was so quiet and peaceful then, but I could visualize what it was like on June 6, 1944," he said. "It was pretty emotional."

The French invited Robert L. Williams to visit Normandy for the 70th D-day anniversary. But Williams, 91, decided to stay home in Kenton County.

"I'm getting too old for nine hours on an airplane," he said. "Besides, I've been there and done that."

Williams, a 101st Airborne Division paratrooper, had one of D-day's most dangerous jobs. He was among about 13,000 Allied paratroopers who parachuted into Normandy to seize and hold strategic roads and bridges before the invasion.

Williams survived days of heavy fighting in Normandy, but was seriously wounded on June 16, 1944.

Fifty years later, he helped organize a recreation of the original parachute jump for the 50th D-day anniversary on June 6, 1994. Williams and 18 other original D-day paratroopers parachuted into Normandy from a World War II era C-47.

"The government said, 'There's no way we're going to let you do that, you're all too old,'" Williams recalls. "We did it anyway."

He says the 1994 jump was one of the most satisfying things he's ever done.

"People were beginning to forget about World War II back then," Williams said. "I think that jump kind of brought it all back. To me, it was more exciting than D-day."

The boat carrying Lexington infantryman John A. Palumbo was blown out of the water

100 yards off Omaha Beach on D-day. It was his first taste of combat.

Palumbo splashed shore. But a bullet destroyed his BAR light machine gun and left shrapnel in his right arm.

Eventually, he hooked up with some more experienced soldiers, helped them get through a minefield, and found cover on a bluff behind the beach. He never fired a shot on D-day, but saw much heavy fighting later.

Palumbo, now 93, landed on a sector of Omaha Beach code-named "Easy Red."

"There was nothing easy about what we went through there," he recalls. "No one on that beach was rear-echelon. Everybody was a front-line soldier on D-day. Period."

Palumbo often says that every day of his life since D-day has been a bonus, because he didn't expect to survive.

"I'm glad I went through it," he said, "rather than having any of my heirs go through it."

Ray Swafford, now 88, of Manchester, was a sailor on the minesweeper YMS-247, destroying underwater mines to clear a safe path for ships taking troops to Normandy.

It was dangerous work. The night before D-day, another minesweeper hit a mine and exploded.

"We had to leave the survivors in the water, and that hurt real bad," Swafford remembers.

After clearing mines, Swafford's ship spent D-day guiding landing craft toward shore, picking up survivors, even trying to draw German gunfire away from soldiers on the beach. They also went to assist the destroyer USS *Corry*, which was sinking.

But Swafford was most unnerved by German "E-boats," small fast craft that fired torpedoes.

"We couldn't shoot back at them because we might hit our own ships," he said. "Those torpedoes still bother me today. I really don't like to think about it."

Swafford isn't going on Friday's Washington trip, but he said he might mark the 70th anniversary by cooking out with some friends.

"The captain of my ship stopped here to visit me once about 20 years ago," Swafford said. "He asked what I thought about D-day, and I said, 'It seems like a bad dream.'"

"He said, 'That's the way it seems to me too.'"

FY14 INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I am pleased to speak today on the Senate's passage last night of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. I would like to speak briefly on the bill itself, as well as the process for its passage.

As Members know, the intelligence committee produces an authorization bill every year that both authorizes funds for the intelligence community and sets out legislation that authorizes and limits intelligence activities. This is the primary vehicle for legislation on intelligence matters and serves as one of the most important tools by which the intelligence committee, and indeed the Congress, is able to carry out its oversight duties.

From the committee's formation in 1976 through 2004, the Congress passed intelligence authorization legislation

every year. Unfortunately, that streak came to an end during the last decade, and there was no Intelligence bill signed into law from 2005 to 2009. It is no coincidence that during this period the congressional oversight was also at a low point.

When I became chairman of the committee in January 2009, one of my top priorities was to reinstitute the annual authorization bill process. Fortunately, I was joined in that goal by then-vice chairman of the committee Kit Bond and by the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Silvestre Reyes. We also, importantly, had the support of the majority and Republican leaders in the Senate and the leaders of the two committees with the greatest shared interest in the bill, the Armed Services Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

I am proud that the Congress has passed and the President has signed Intelligence authorization bills each of the past 4 years. With the Senate's action yesterday, we stand ready to pass a fifth.

The committee's preparation of the Fiscal Year 2014 Intelligence Authorization Act last summer was disrupted by the leaks, beginning in June 2013, of materials taken from the NSA by former contractor Edward Snowden. The committee held roughly a dozen hearings in the following months on NSA programs like the bulk phone metadata program conducted pursuant to title V of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, and the targeted collection of electronic communications of non-U.S. persons outside the United States under section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. These were programs that had already been the subject of considerable committee oversight and discussion over the past several years.

The committee also received briefings on the extent of damage caused by the leaks and on the shortcomings of the internal security measures to prevent someone from accessing, downloading, and leaving NSA with classified information.

We marked up a separate bill, the FISA Improvements Act, last October and then marked up the Intelligence authorization bill last November.

After approving the authorization bill, we worked with the House Intelligence Committee to produce the legislation that the Senate passed yesterday. We have pre-conferenced these bills over the past couple of years in order to move them through the process, with good results.

Let me describe a few of the provisions in the bill, as well as one that was not included.

First, the classified annex to the bill authorizes sufficient funding for the intelligence community to collect and

analyze intelligence for our national security. Among other intelligence activities, the bill funds counterterrorism, counterproliferation, counterintelligence, and covert action programs.

While classification prevents me from getting into specifics, the bill also continues the committee's practice of adding funding for intelligence agencies to implement a better insider threat detection system. We have been pushing the intelligence agencies to shore up their safeguards before Mr. Snowden and continue to do so afterwards.

The bill recognizes that the intelligence community's funding has been reduced significantly due to budget cuts and sequestration. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper has testified that while the challenges facing the intelligence community have grown, its resources have declined. He has made clear that the community can not do "more with less"—it is going to have to do less, and that means accepting additional risk.

On the legislative side, the bill contains numerous provisions to strengthen intelligence oversight, protect whistleblowers, and enhance authorities for intelligence operations. Let me describe just a few of them here.

Two provisions in the bill are intended to enhance congressional oversight of significant legal interpretations affecting intelligence activities, particularly when such interpretations result from opinions of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel.

Section 321 amends the National Security Act to require that the general counsel of each intelligence agency notify the congressional intelligence committees, in writing, of any significant legal interpretation of the U.S. Constitution or Federal law affecting intelligence activities conducted by that agency.

While the committee generally is kept apprised of the legal basis for intelligence activities of the U.S. Government, as required by sections 502 and 503 of the National Security Act, there have been times when we have not gotten enough information in this regard for us to provide oversight. This provision is intended to ensure that, in the future, the committee receives a detailed, written notification of significant legal interpretations from these general counsels in a timely manner, to include significant interpretations resulting from opinions of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, OLC.

Section 322 requires the Attorney General to establish a process for the regular review for official publication of significant OLC opinions that have been provided to any part of the Intelligence Community.

Section 322 also requires that if any OLC opinion would have been selected

for official publication but for the fact that the publication would reveal classified or other sensitive information relating to national security, the opinion shall be provided or made available to the appropriate committees of Congress.

The committee regularly conducts oversight of intelligence activities that are the subject of one or more OLC opinions. These opinions often represent the best and most comprehensive legal analysis of intelligence activities. Further, the opinions are sometimes cited by intelligence community officials as the basis for executive branch policy. The committee regards access to these legal opinions as necessary to the performance of its oversight functions and often requests access to such opinions, or the legal analysis contained in such opinions, when the committee is made aware of their existence.

Unfortunately, the Department of Justice and the intelligence community routinely decline to provide the committee with access to OLC opinions that are relevant to the committee's oversight functions, even when access is specifically requested by the committee. At times, the Department and intelligence agencies will not even advise the committee that relevant OLC opinions exist. Generally, when refusing to provide access to OLC opinions, the executive branch asserts that the information sought by the committee is subject to privilege.

The committee recognizes that, in certain limited cases, OLC opinions or information concerning OLC opinions may be entitled to executive privilege and withheld from Congress on that basis. Nonetheless, the Supreme Court has found in *United States v. Nixon*, 418 U.S. 683, 1974, that executive privilege is a narrow and qualified privilege that may be overcome by an adequate showing of need.

Section 322 is intended to codify an agreement between the executive branch and the legislative branch with respect to access to OLC opinions provided to an intelligence agency. Specifically, section 322 is intended to ensure the committee is, at a minimum, granted access to all OLC opinions provided to an element of the intelligence community, or information concerning such OLC opinions, that would have been made available to the public had it been unclassified. Section 322 does not alter and is not intended to alter the responsibilities of the executive branch under the National Security Act, the Freedom of Information Act, or any other statute establishing a requirement for the disclosure of information to Congress or to the public, and there remain areas of disagreement between the branches with respect to the scope of the executive branch's responsibilities under such statutes. In particular, the rule of construction set

forth in section 322(d) is intended to apply only to official publication under this section and should not be interpreted as congressional affirmation of a “deliberative process” privilege or any other privilege as the basis for withholding information from Congress or the public under any other statute.

Title VI of the intelligence authorization legislation includes a number of provisions to enhance whistleblower protections for intelligence community employees. These provisions prohibit taking a personnel action against an intelligence community employee as a reprisal for making a protected whistleblower disclosure to the DNI or his designee, the inspector general of the intelligence community, the head of the employing agency or his designee, the appropriate inspector general of the employing agency, a congressional intelligence committee, or a member of a congressional intelligence committee. In addition, title VI prohibits agency personnel with authority over personnel security clearance or access determinations from taking or failing to take or threatening to take or failing to take any action with respect to any employee’s security clearance or access determination in retaliation for a protected whistleblower disclosure. Finally, the title directs the DNI to create procedures to allow appeals of adverse security clearance and access determinations.

These provisions strengthen and reaffirm the mechanisms already in existence for legitimate whistleblowers to bring information regarding violations of law or other concerns to one of several inspectors general throughout the government or to Congress. Importantly, these channels exist because it is not for any one person to decide on his own which intelligence methods are wise or effective.

I would like to note my appreciation for Senator COLLINS for her work on this portion of the bill and for Senator CHAMBLISS and Congressman MIKE ROGERS for engaging in lengthy negotiations to find the workable compromise included in this bill.

Title IV of the bill requires Senate confirmation for the directors and inspectors general of the National Security Agency, NSA, and the National Reconnaissance Office, NRO. The individuals appointed to fill these positions perform critical roles in managing and/or overseeing technically complex, highly expensive programs, with significant implications for national security. These individuals also play a vital role in ensuring that intelligence activities carried out by the NSA and NRO are conducted in full compliance with the law and in a manner that protects the privacy and civil liberties of Americans. By requiring Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of these four positions, Congress will be better able to fulfill its responsibility

for providing oversight of the activities of these intelligence agencies.

A separate Senate resolution will govern the process for handling the confirmation of individuals nominated to these four positions. I am cognizant that the confirmation process in the Senate is time consuming, and it is my intention to continue the intelligence committee’s practice of considering nominees quickly and moving them through the Senate on a swift and bipartisan basis.

Title V of the bill includes a number of provisions that are intended to improve the process for investigating persons who are proposed for access to classified information and adjudicating whether such persons satisfy the criteria for obtaining and retaining access to such information. Recent events, including the Snowden disclosures and the navy yard shooting, have highlighted the shortcomings of existing security clearance processes. The provisions in title V continue the committee’s practice of seeking improvements to these processes. In particular, section 501 requires the DNI to ensure that the background of each employee or officer of the intelligence community, each intelligence community contractor, and each individual employee of such a contractor who has been determined to be eligible for access to classified information is monitored on a continual basis under standards developed by the Director.

Finally, section 309 continues Congress’s push for financial auditability within the intelligence community by requiring key agencies to undergo full financial audits, beginning with their fiscal year 2014 financial statements and to take all reasonable steps to achieve an unqualified opinion on financial statements by fiscal year 2016.

With the budget reductions of the past couple of years, we simply cannot afford to mismanage Federal funds. Achieving financial auditability is a key tool to identify and eliminate wasted funding, and I am pleased to say that intelligence agencies are making progress in this regard—though they still have work to do.

In addition, I want to note one provision that does not appear in the bill as passed by the Senate. During the intelligence committee’s consideration of this legislation, I moved an amendment, which was adopted by the committee, regarding U.S. counterterrorism operations. Specifically, the provision would have required that the President issue an annual public report that sets forth the total number of combatants and noncombatant civilians killed or injured during the preceding year through the use of targeted lethal force outside the United States by remotely piloted aircraft.

While the amendment was approved in committee, there was sufficient op-

position to its inclusion in both the Senate and the House that the bill would not have passed with the provision included. I agreed to remove the provision from the bill but have engaged with the executive branch on the issue. I received a letter from Director of National Intelligence Clapper, dated April 18, 2014, that says the executive branch is “currently exploring ways in which it can provide the American people more information about the United States’ use of force outside areas of active hostilities” and is “committed to . . . sharing as much information as possible with the American people and the Congress.”

I continue to believe that it is important to release these figures concerning the number of people killed or injured by the use of targeted lethal force outside the United States by remotely piloted aircraft, as the public estimates of the number of casualties are so different from the official figures we have received. This will continue to be of interest, and I will continue to address the issue in the Senate and with the administration.

Today, though, I am very pleased that the Fiscal Year 2014 Intelligence Authorization Act has been approved by the Senate and is on its way to the House of Representatives. I believe that the bill includes a number of important measures and that by continuing to enact legislation, the intelligence committee will further strengthen its oversight role of U.S. intelligence activities.

Finally, I would like to thank, as always, the vice chairman of the committee, Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS. We have worked together on this bill, and both of us support the package. We have also had to work both sides of the aisle to achieve unanimous support for the measure, and I thank him for his work and partnership.

I would also like to thank the staff who put the bill together. On the Democratic side, that is principally Eric Losick, SSCI counsel, Jon Rosenwasser, SSCI budget director, deputy staff director Lorenzo Goco, and counsel Mike Buchwald.

On the Republican side, I thank Jack Livingston and Kathleen Rice, our minority counsels, and Hayden Milberg, minority budget director.

I thank my colleagues for their support.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM MACK WATKINS

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, the world lost an amazing man last week. William Mack Watkins was a wonderful husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend. After a lengthy battle with progressive supranuclear palsy, PSP, Mack passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 5, 2014, with his beloved wife Julia and other family by his side.

Mack was born in Tremonton, UT, on May 30, 1936, to Clifford Charles and Lois Oswald Watkins. Rising from humble beginnings, Mack was proud of his rural Northern Utah roots, often saying he was “just a poor peach picker from Brigham City.” Those who had the privilege of knowing Mack knew that he was so much more.

Mack was a stern believer in the power of education, evidenced by his own studies at Box Elder High School and his degree in history from the University of Utah, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

A proud and loyal member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mack served in a variety of capacities including a proselyting mission in the Swiss-Austrian Mission from 1956–1959. Later, he was called to serve as president alongside his wife over the Czech-Prague mission from 1998–2001. He undoubtedly left a lasting legacy at both missions.

Mack had a unique ability to bring people together, and he connected with people of all walks of life. He continued and valued continuing relationships. He created lifelong friendships with missionaries he served with, the Austrian people, business partners and members of the LDS church and community. Mack’s keen insight in finances led to his professional success in the finance industry. After working for two renowned Utah companies, Mack formed his own financial services business, WMW Management Inc.

But for all his professional success, Mack’s proudest achievements came as a loving husband and proud father of nine children whom he loved dearly.

Mack’s love for music and fine arts was evident through the 10 years he sang in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir as well as his talents with the trumpet and guitar. He served as president of the Utah Opera Company and enjoyed his season tickets to the Utah Symphony and The Pioneer Theater Company. And his patience and perseverance was displayed in his love for one of the most humbling hobbies any person can enjoy—golf.

While Mack was taken from us, his legacy will live on. It is my honor to stand with the Watkins family this week and pay tribute to this remarkable Utahn we are so proud of, and who we all loved. He will never be forgotten.

CELEBRATING THE ARMY’S 239TH BIRTHDAY AND FLAG DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, this Saturday—June 14—marks the Army’s 239th birthday. For 239 years, the Nation has entrusted the Army with preserving freedom and defending our democratic values. Commencing on June 14, 1775, the Continental Army led our historic revolution and has continuously served America at home and

abroad defending the cause of liberty. As the greatest land force this world has ever known, I firmly believe that the U.S. Army will maintain this proud duty.

The Continental Army had humble beginnings. It was originally comprised of rebellious colonists who had little to no experience in soldiering. Under the leadership of GEN George Washington, the soldiers of the Continental Army overcame overwhelming odds against them to defeat the more seasoned and well-equipped British military and mercenary forces. Since then, our Army has become the standard that all other nations use to measure their forces.

The Army’s birthday coincides with Flag Day, a holiday that commemorates our Nation’s adoption of the U.S. flag. This is a fitting marriage, as our Nation’s flag would not exist were it not for the bravery and sacrifice of our Army; and since the adoption of our flag in 1777, the Army has always carried the flag, the symbol of our most sacred values, into battle. I am reminded of Francis Scott Key’s hallowed words after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British ships in the Chesapeake Bay during the War of 1812. In describing the sight of Old Glory still flying after the bombardment, Key wrote, “Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

In celebrating the Army’s birthday, I would like to highlight a particular Army unit that served our Nation with distinction under the most challenging of circumstances. The unit that I am referring to is the segregated 726th Transportation Truck Company, a part of the Maryland National Guard. The 726th existed as a segregated unit within the Guard well after President Truman integrated the U.S. armed services in 1948 because Maryland, like many other States at the time, had not yet integrated its National Guard units. The 726th was the only Maryland National Guard unit that served in Korea during the Korean war. While in Korea, the 726th Transportation Truck Company was attached to the 70th Transportation Truck Battalion as an integrated unit and served with distinction.

Upon returning to Maryland, the members of the 726th Truck Battalion learned that their unit would be reverted back to its original segregated status. Unwilling to return to segregation, the officers and enlisted personnel of the 726th Truck Battalion resisted, and worked to end segregation within the Maryland National Guard. In November of 1955, the men of the 726th achieved their goal when Maryland’s then-Gov. Theodore McKeldin issued an order to end racial segregation in the Maryland National Guard. This order made Maryland the first State below

the Mason-Dixon line to integrate its National Guard. The united efforts of the men of the 726th Transportation Truck Company marked an important step towards realizing equal rights in our military and in our society.

With the withdrawal of our military forces in Iraq and the departure of those forces in Afghanistan by the end of 2016, I am concerned that our heroes who have recently entered or who are about to enter—civilian life will not be provided with the tools they need to adapt to life here at home. My concerns have been exacerbated by the recent discoveries of substandard care in the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). Millions are helped each year by the VA health care system, but more than a decade of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has overwhelmed a system already bursting at the seams. Veteran unemployment, post-traumatic stress, and suicides continue to be serious issues that require immediate action. Maryland is home to over 30,000 military members and 460,000 veterans. The Army gives our soldiers the focus and diligence to excel in any and every field they choose, but we have to provide our servicemen and women with the tools they require to recover and adapt to civilian life. Doing so is not just a good idea, but rather our solemn obligation that strengthens our great Nation. As these heroes serve and defend our citizens, rights and values, it is our duty to return the service, as it is the least we can do. Ultimately, we have to continue to give these men and women a stake in their own country, the country they are so willing to dedicate their lives to serving.

I am eternally thankful for our brave men and women, both active and retired, for their willingness to serve domestically and internationally. For 239 years these patriots have been the strength of the Nation. Their steadfast dedication to duty, to our country, and to all Americans is embodied in the Army motto, “This We’ll Defend.” For 239 years, our Army has lived by these words, protecting our most revered values: freedom, equality, independence, and democracy. Let us remember and celebrate our Army soldiers for this achievement today, and wish them a happy 239th birthday.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING LEWIS KATZ

• Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I wish to remember and honor Lewis Katz, a business and civic leader, who passed away tragically on May 29, 2014. Mr. Katz was a man of great integrity and ambition, and his contributions to the City of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the entire Nation leave a lasting legacy. I was honored to join his family, friends, colleagues, and admirers in celebrating

his extraordinary life last week at his memorial service.

Throughout his remarkable career, Lewis Katz ventured in to the fields of law, business, sports, education and media. After graduating from Temple University and the Dickinson School of Law, Mr. Katz established the New Jersey based law firm Katz, Ettin, and Levine. He found further success by investing in and leading a number of enterprises, including Kinney Parking Systems, the YES Network, the New Jersey Nets, the New Jersey Devils, and most recently Interstate General Media, which owns the Philadelphia Inquirer and Philadelphia Daily News. In pursuing these endeavors, his ingenuity and proficiency was without equal.

Yet this professional career was only a segment of the larger work Lewis Katz embarked on in his life. A dedicated family man and a deeply charitable patron, Mr. Katz's most important contributions came through his boundless interest in helping others. He gave generously to a number of causes and institutions, notably Temple University and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. He also directed the Katz Foundation, which continues to support a number of charitable, educational, and medical causes. To these efforts, Lewis offered not only money, but a great portion of his energy and spirit.

Mr. Katz came from humble roots, yet he was grateful for all that he had been given. He honored his own life and the life of those around him by living with passion and purpose. Although we mourn his passing, I find solace in knowing that Lewis leaves behind a substantial legacy that will allow us to honor him back for many years to come. My thoughts and prayers are with his son Drew, and his daughter Melissa during this difficult time.●

JEFFERSON COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful

farm bills, but I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Jefferson County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Jefferson County worth over \$5 million and successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$11 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the community's success in obtaining over \$10 million for airport improvements since 2001. As a strong supporter of small community airports, I have long fought for funding from programs that support service to small communities and infrastructure support to keep these airports modern.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Jefferson County has received \$171,231 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Jefferson County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$227,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through var-

ious programs authorized through the farm bill, Jefferson County has received more than \$2 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Jefferson County has recognized this important issue by securing \$358,847 for community wellness activities.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf, but I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly one-quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Jefferson County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Jefferson County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Jefferson County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives, and, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always

be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

WASHINGTON COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills, but I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Washington County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Washington County worth over \$2 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$10 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the great work the community has done revitalizing the Triune Block building and to make way for a new fitness center in downtown Washington.

Among the highlights:

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Washington to use that money to leverage other investments to jump-start change and renewal. I am so pleased that Washington County has earned \$70,500 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Washington County has received \$1,971,496 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Washington County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$367,796.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Washington County has received more than \$3 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Washington County's fire departments have received over \$776,144 for firefighter safety and operations equipment and over \$335,967 in assistance to law enforcement.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-

free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Washington County has recognized this important issue by securing \$35,549.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf, but I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly one-quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Washington County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Washington County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Washington County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives, and, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

REMEMBERING MARV TEIXEIRA

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I rise in remembrance of my friend, mentor, and coach, Marv Teixeira, a true Nevada statesman and dedicated public servant.

Mayor Teixeira's legacy as the longest running mayor in Carson City exemplifies his commitment and dedication to the betterment of his community. Marv served three terms as mayor and was always willing to listen to the voice of the people and base his decisions on what citizens wanted. His

leadership and exemplary contributions to the State of Nevada are, and continue to remain, unmatched.

There was no disguising Marv's love of Carson City, often referring to it as "Nevada's best kept secret" and he was right. Carson City is a wonderful place to live and raise a family, and Marv's mayorship has contributed greatly. There is a long list of accomplishments that he achieved for Carson: the Pony Express Pavilion, the V&T Railway Reconstruction Project, and the Carson freeway. As mayor, he brought new companies and jobs to the area. He was an outstanding public servant. He always supported me, and we were able to work together on a bipartisan basis for the good of Nevada.

Born in 1935, Marv led a long life dedicated to selflessly serving his country and the community. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean war, who bravely served in South Korea. As one of our Nation's servicemembers, he made exceptional sacrifices for our country and deserves our deepest gratitude. After his time in the Air Force, Marv attended college and eventually settled in Carson City. He had a long career of 30 years as an IBM Corporation Representative in Carson and after retirement, focused on giving back to the community by becoming mayor. Marv spent much of his free time coaching Pop Warner football and Little League and was active in the development of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Nevada. His service to his country, as well as his bravery and dedication to his family and community, earn him a place in history among the many outstanding men and women who have contributed to our Nation and to the great Silver State.

His motivation and selflessness embodies the Battle Born State. With his passing, Nevada lost a great man who is immortalized for his service to our Nation and to the Carson City community.

My entire family extends our thoughts and condolences to Marv's wife Elizabeth and his loved ones, and we thank them for their service as well.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Mayor Teixeira for his unwavering loyalty and dedication to Nevada.●

CONGRATULATING NIA SANCHEZ

● Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I wish to congratulate Nevada's own, Nia Sanchez from Las Vegas, on being crowned Miss USA 2014. Nia is the first beauty queen in the competition's history to ever win from the great State of Nevada, and I am truly honored to congratulate her on this great achievement.

The Miss USA pageant had its start in 1952 as a local "bathing beauty" competition that transformed into an

international and annual tradition that has been a part of American history for the past 62 years. The women who are awarded the crown and named Miss USA are goal-oriented, knowledgeable and aware of what is going on at home and abroad. These characteristics are exemplified in Nia's everyday life, as a woman who is constantly seeking to improve the lives of others and her local community.

Nia truly is an example of a person who overcame great obstacles to achieve her dreams. When she was 8 years old, she and her mother were forced to live in a women's shelter, and that is one of the driving forces behind her choice to dedicate her life to serving others. As a fourth-degree black belt and instructor, Nia spends her time teaching martial arts to women and "Stranger Danger" classes to children in the community. She also volunteers her time teaching Sunday school at the Shade Tree shelter in Las Vegas, which serves the needs of women, children, and their pets in Southern Nevada. Her volunteerism within the community is just one part of how she serves others. Her service extends far beyond our Nation's borders through her travels to work on mission trips to Mexico, Thailand, and the Great Wall of China. She is an exemplary Nevadan, and we are honored that she calls the Silver State home.

I know the citizens of the Silver State are proud to see a fellow Nevadan succeed in making their dream of winning Miss USA come true. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nia Sanchez on this incredible honor and wish her the best of luck as she pursues the crown for Miss Universe and serves as a global ambassador.●

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL THOMAS P. OSTEBO

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I wish to thank RADM Thomas P. Ostebo for his leadership as commander of the U.S. Coast Guard's 17th District. In this role Rear Admiral Ostebo was responsible for all Coast Guard assets and operations in Alaska—operations that were safely executed in some of the country's harshest and most demanding conditions. From May 2011 to June 2014, Rear Admiral Ostebo was the head Coast Guard official in Alaska, leading 2,500 Active Duty, Reserve, civilian, and auxiliary personnel, all charged to keep the largest State, with over 44,000 miles of coastline, safe, secure, and prosperous. Under his leadership, Rear Admiral Ostebo's crews successfully executed this mission by conducting over 1,600 search and rescue cases, saving 519 lives and assisting more than 2,200 individuals.

In addition to commanding this courageous cadre of Coast Guard men and women, Rear Admiral Ostebo remained

a consistent champion for the State of Alaska. He was a leader on Arctic issues on many different levels. He recognized the importance of the Arctic trade routes and launched operation Arctic Shield, the Coast Guard's seasonal Arctic operation, to ensure the safe transit of commercial shipping routes, maintain Alaska's wild and sustainably managed fisheries, and sustain a ready response to any rescue mission at a moment's notice. Further, Rear Admiral Ostebo fostered many important partnerships with Alaska Natives and leadership that shared best practices and traditional knowledge of those that rely on the Arctic for subsistence.

On behalf of all Alaskans I want to personally thank Rear Admiral Ostebo for the great work he has performed during his command in Alaska. I wish him the best of luck as he transitions to the next phase of his career. He will be greatly missed in Alaska.●

CONNECTICUT'S AWARD-WINNING TALENT

● Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, we have a lot to be proud of in my home State of Connecticut, and that includes our thriving arts community. Our small but vibrant theatrical arts industry is often overshadowed by that of its more renowned next-door neighbor, New York City. But this week, a homegrown production—"A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder"—took home the top honors at the 2014 Tony Awards, demonstrating the incredible talent and artistic skill that comes from our State's theaters and schools. I could not be prouder of these individuals' historic achievements.

Not only did "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" win "Best Musical" of the year, but director Darko Tresnjak of Connecticut's Hartford Stage took home "Best Direction of a Musical;" Yale Drama School graduate Robert L. Freedman won "Best Book of a Musical;" and Linda Cho, also a graduate of the Yale Drama School, won "Best Costume Design of a Musical."

The musical originally premiered under Mr. Tresnjak's direction in 2012 at the Hartford Stage in Hartford, CT. The musical follows the story of a British commoner, Monty Navarro, who discovers he is ninth in line to inherit an earldom and great wealth, and decides to eliminate the other eight heirs who stand in his way. The musical stars only three actors, all with Connecticut ties. The talented lead actor Jefferson Mays of Clinton, CT plays an incredible total of eight characters throughout the course of the musical. He is supported by Bryce Pinkham and Lauren Worsham, both graduates of the Yale Drama School.

In 2013, the musical and its Connecticut cast moved to Broadway, where it became the most Tony Award-

nominated musical of the 2013–2014 season and ultimately took home the night's top honors. Their victories are not only wins for their careers and productions, but also for the State of Connecticut.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these incredible artists on their Tony Award-winning performances, and I wish the company of "A Gentleman's Guide" all of the continued success in the world as it goes on to enrich the lives of many more audiences for years to come.●

REMEMBERING TOMAS VILLANUEVA

● Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I would like to pay tribute to an incredible advocate for farmworker rights from the State of Washington, Tomas Villanueva.

Tomas's family immigrated to the United States from Mexico when he was 14 years old. They settled in Toppenish in 1958, where Tomas was able to earn his GED, allowing him the opportunity to enroll in Yakima Valley College. After being inspired by César Chavez's United Farmworkers moment, Tomas and classmate Lupe Gamboa traveled to California in 1967 to learn more about organizing. Upon their return to the Yakima Valley, Tomas and Lupe formed the United Farm Worker Cooperative, one of the first activist Chicano organizations in Washington State. Out of Tomas's activism came the Yakima Valley Farmworker's Clinic and the United Farmworkers Service Center.

After a brief break to focus on a family business, Tomas became the first president of the United Farmworkers of Washington State.

Tomas dedicated his life to improving working conditions and health care standards for farmworkers, and I could always rely on Tomas's wisdom, guidance, and advocacy on the important issues of justice, human rights, and comprehensive immigration reform.

Tomas was gifted in his ability to translate the challenging issues farmworkers face to community leaders and politicians, inspiring their support and work on behalf of farmworker rights.

While Tomas was informed and passionate, he was also pragmatic about how we as a State—and as a nation—can do a better job of caring and advocating for farmworkers and their families.

He will be so missed, but his legacy will live on.

Mr. President, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Tomas Villanueva. During this difficult time my thoughts are with his friends, family, and all whom he inspired.●

TRIBUTE TO ADRIANA ALVAREZ

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Adriana Alvarez, a 2013

press intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Adriana is a sophomore pursuing a major in Public Relations at Florida International University. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Adriana for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL CREW

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Rachel Crew, a 2013 intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Rachel is a senior at the University of Central Florida, where she is majoring in political science pre-law. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Rachel for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS DELLAPORTA

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Chris Dellaporta, a 2013 intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Chris is a sophomore at the College of Southern Maryland where he is majoring in Business Administration. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Chris for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD KINKOFF III

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Richard Kinkoff III, a 2013 intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Richard is a graduate of the University of South Florida, where he received a degree in finance. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Richard for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN PATRICK

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Stephen Patrick, a 2013 intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Stephen is a senior at Georgetown University majoring in government. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Stephen for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRADLEY PUFFENBARGER

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Bradley Puffenbarger, a 2013 intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Bradley is a graduate of Georgetown University in Washington, DC, where he majored in English. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Bradley for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE RIVERA

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Stephanie Rivera, a 2013 intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Stephanie is a rising junior at American University in Washington, DC. Currently, she is a public communication and Spanish double major. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Stephanie for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL SZCZESNY

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Daniel Szczesny, a 2013 intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Daniel is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Daniel for

all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES UTHMEIER

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize James Uthmeier, a 2013 legal extern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

James is a graduate of the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL. Currently, James is in his second-year of law school at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to James for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO RAY GROSSMAN

● Mr. WALSH. Madam President, today I wish to honor of Ray Grossman, a World War II veteran from Missoula, MT.

It is my honor to share the story of Ray Grossman's service as we remember the fateful events of June 6, 1944.

On that day, which forever changed the course of our history, Grossman and his fellow paratroopers were waiting in the air above Nazi-occupied France. Grossman was 1 of over 20,000 paratroopers who jumped that day.

Then a 24-year-old first lieutenant in the newly formed 82nd Airborne Division, Grossman and his unit fought to protect a small town in France to stop the enemy from attacking the Allies arriving on the beach.

The 82nd Airborne maneuvered to avoid anti-aircraft fire, and Grossman's unit finally jumped, landing at approximately 2 a.m. and reaching their rendezvous point 6 hours later.

In the days that followed, Grossman encountered heavy German attacks while fighting to protect a small town and fellow Allied service members.

After serving in France, Grossman's unit freed prisoners from a concentration camp where only half of the prisoners were alive upon his unit's arrival.

Grossman returned to Montana, choosing to continue his life of service as an educator at the University of Montana in Missoula.

For his bravery during World War II, Grossman was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

To Ray Grossman, and each of the 160,000 Allied troops that invaded that 50-mile stretch of coastline, you truly are the "greatest generation."

Ray, we thank you for your dedication to our country and the ideals we hold dear. May the memory of all who

have served our country and who currently serve, and the events of that momentous day never be forgotten.●

BELGRADE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

● Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I wish to recognize the efforts of a remarkable group of high school students from my State of Montana.

The students volunteered at the Gallatin Valley Food Bank and then came up with a plan to raise money for the organization. Together, these students raised \$2,000 for the food bank.

Hunger is something that affects far too many members of our community. It is a testament to the initiative and commitment to community that these young adults saw a need and then came up with a plan to raise money.

First, the students wrote and illustrated a children's book, "One Garden at a Time," depicting people growing foods in their gardens to help ease the hunger of their neighbors. The book was printed and sent to every elementary school in the Belgrade School District.

Next, the students bought wheelbarrows that they dubbed "mealbarrows," had them decorated by local artists, and then used them to collect food items. The subsequent auction of the wheelbarrows raised additional money for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank.

Thanks to the efforts of the high school sophomores and juniors from Belgrade High School, they raised awareness and funds for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. These students also won \$25,000 for the food bank through the Lead2Feed World Hunger Leadership Challenge.

I commend the students—John Burkenpas, Krista Callantine, Karlissa Dagele, Kaitlin Haglun, Raquelle David, Albert Koenig, Ashley Koenig, Cassie Meccage, Naomi Peterson, John Tatarka, and ag teacher Ashley Newell for their work.

It is because of exemplary young people like this group that we can have faith in a bright future for Montana and for the United States of America.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:05 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4745. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4745. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6087. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Reports from the Department of the Treasury Inspector General and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration for the period from October 1, 2013, through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6088. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6089. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-345, "Transportation Infrastructure and Public Space Impact Mitigation Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6090. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-347, "Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Consumer Protection Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6091. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-348, "Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6092. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-344, "Traffic Adjudication Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6093. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-346, "Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6094. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "504 and 7(a) Loan Programs Updates" (RIN3245-AG04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-6095. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “[alpha]-alkyl-[omega]-hydroxypoly (oxypropylene) and/or poly (oxyethylene) polymers . . . Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9910-87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6096. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Tricuclozole; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9910-39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6097. A communication from the Management Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Scales; Accurate Weights, Repairs, Adjustments or Replacements After Inspection” (9 CFR Part 201) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6098. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Continuation of Conservation Reserve Program, Including Transition Incentives Program” (7 CFR Part 1410) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6099. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Kiwifruit Grown in California; Order Amending Marketing Order No. 920” (Docket No. AMS-FV-12-0008; FV12-920-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6100. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Definition of ‘Congressional Defense Committees’” ((RIN0750-AI23) (DFARS Case 2013-D027)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6101. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Private Sector Notification Requirements of In-Sourcing Actions” ((RIN0750-AI05) (DFARS Case 2012-D036)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6102. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report on Proposed Obligations for Cooperative Threat Reduction”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6103. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, “2011 Workplace and Equal Opportunity Survey of Reserve Members”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6104. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List” (RIN0694-AF86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6105. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to the Congress on the Profitability of Credit Card Operations of Depository Institutions”; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6106. A communication from the General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Director of the Peace Corps, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6107. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-045); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6108. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-027); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6109. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences: Fiscal Year (FY) 2013”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6110. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans Alabama: Volatile Organic Compounds” (FRL No. 9911-90-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6111. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District” (FRL No. 9912-03-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6112. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans—Maricopa County PM-10 Nonattainment Area; Five Percent Plan for Attainment of the 24-Hour PM-10 Standard” (FRL No. 9912-01-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6113. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities; New York; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units” (FRL No. 9912-05-

Region 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6114. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Tennessee; Knoxville; Fine Particulate Matter 2008 Base Year Emissions Inventory” (FRL No. 9911-97-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6115. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Application of the General Welfare Exclusion to Indian Tribal Government Programs That Provide Benefits to Tribal Members” (Rev. Proc. 2014-35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6116. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Mid-Year Amendments to Safe Harbor Plans Pursuant to Notice 2014-19 with Respect to the Windsor Decision” (Notice 2014-37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6117. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Alternative Simplified Credit Election” ((RIN1545-BL79) (TD 9666)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6118. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Requirements for Taxpayers Filing Form 5472” ((RIN1545-BK00) (TD 9667)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6119. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Priority; Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program” (CFDA No. 84.016A) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6120. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Priority; Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program” (CFDA No. 84.015B) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6121. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Priorities; National Resource Centers Program” (CFDA No. 84.015A) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June

11, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6122. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priorities; Centers for International Business Education Program" (CFDA No. 84.220A) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6123. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priority; Language Resource Centers Program" (CFDA No. 84.229A) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6124. A joint communication from the Executive Director and the Chair of the Board of Governors, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Institute's 2013 Annual Report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6125. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priority. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers" (CFDA No. 84.133B-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6126. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priority. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers" (CFDA No. 84.133E-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6127. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2009 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-249. A Senate substitute for a Senate concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Missouri urging the United States Congress to enact legislation to preserve natural resources and provide recreational development and other improvements for the public use; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, in 1959, Senate Resolution No. 33 and House Resolution No. 19, recognizing the importance of the extraordinary manifestations of nature and recreational attributes of the Current and Jacks Fork Riverways, re-

quested Congress to enact legislation to preserve the natural resources and provide recreational development and other improvements for the public use; and

Whereas, in 1964, Congress answered Missouri's request by enacting legislation to establish the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and

Whereas, the riverways within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways are, and remain, public highways of the State of Missouri, subject to concurrent jurisdiction between the State of Missouri and the United States under Missouri Senate Bill No. 362 enacted in 1971; and

Whereas, in 2005, the National Park Service began researching for the purpose of drafting a new general management plan for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and

Whereas, the National Park Service is advocating the "Preferred Alternative" option of the general management plan; and

Whereas, the goal of the "Preferred Alternative" option of the general management plan is to shut down public access points to riverways, eliminate motorized boat traffic from certain areas, further restrict boat motor horsepower in other areas, close several gravel bars, and propose that additional areas be designated as federal wilderness; and

Whereas, the "No-Action Alternative" option of the general management plan is an appropriate balance between resource preservation and opportunities for recreational use; and

Whereas, the general management plan will guide decisions related to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways for the next 15 to 20 years; and

Whereas, tourism is one of the most critical components of our rural economy; and

Whereas, thousands of hikers, campers, boaters, hunters, fishermen, and horseback riders visit these areas annually generating irreplaceable tax revenue; and

Whereas, any further limitations on the access to these riverways would severely impact this local economy;

Whereas, the Missouri Conservation Commission is charged with the control, management, restoration, conservation, and regulation of bird, fish, game, forestry, and all wildlife resources of the state, including hatcheries, sanctuaries, refuges, reservations, and all other property owned, acquired, or used for such purposes; and

Whereas, in September of 2009, the Missouri Department of Conservation recommended that "hunting, fishing, and trapping continue to be allowed through the Ozark National Scenic Riverways except in highly developed areas where a reasonable safety zone for public protection may be required": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service to pursue one of the following three options in regard to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways:

1. Choose the "No-Action Alternative" option of the general management plan;

2. Enter into negotiations with the State of Missouri, Department of Conservation for the return of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to the State of Missouri so that the land will continued to be used for its original and intended purpose; or

3. Enter into a contract with the State of Missouri, Department of Conservation for

the management, operation, and maintenance of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and be it further

Resolved That the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, each member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation, the Director of the National Park Service, the Superintendent of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, the Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, and Governor Jay Nixon.

POM-250. A Senate concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Missouri urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

Whereas, insurance protects the United States economy from the adverse effects of the risks inherent in economic growth and development while also providing the resources necessary to rebuild physical and economic infrastructure, offer indemnification for business disruption, and provide coverage for medical and liability costs from injuries and loss of life in the event of catastrophic losses to persons or property; and

Whereas, the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, produced injured losses larger than any natural or man-made event in history, with claims paid by insurers to their policyholders eventually totaling some \$32.5 billion, making this the second most costly insurance event in United States history; and

Whereas, the sheer enormity of the terrorist induced loss, combined with the possibility of future attacks, produced financial shockwaves that shook insurance markets causing insurers and reinsurers to exclude coverage arising from acts of terrorism from virtually all commercial property and liability policies; and

Whereas, the lack of terrorism risk insurance contributed to a paralysis in the economy, especially in construction, tourism, business travel, and real estate finance; and

Whereas, the United States Congress originally passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-297 (TRIA), in which the federal government agreed to provide terrorism reinsurance to insurers and reauthorized this arrangement via the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-144, and the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007, Pub. L. 110-160 (TRIPRA); and

Whereas, under TRIPRA the federal government provides such reinsurance after industry-wide losses attributable to annual certified terrorism events exceed one hundred million dollars; and

Whereas, coverage under TRIPRA is provided to an individual insurer after the insurer has incurred losses related to terrorism equal to twenty percent of the insurer's previous year earned premium for property-casualty lines; and

Whereas, after an individual insurer has reached such a threshold, the insurer pays fifteen percent of residual losses and the federal government pays the remaining eighty-five percent; and

Whereas, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program has an annual cap of one hundred billion dollars of aggregate insured losses, beyond which the federal program does not provide coverage; and

Whereas, TRIPRA requires the federal government to recoup one hundred percent of the benefits provided under the program via policy holder surcharges to the extent the aggregate insured losses are less than twenty-seven billion five hundred million dollars and enables the government to recoup expenditures beyond that mandatory recoupment amount; and

Whereas, without question, TRIA and its successors are the principal reason for the continued stability in the insurance and reinsurance market for terrorism insurance to the benefit of our overall economy; and

Whereas, the presence of a robust private/public partnership has provided stability and predictability and has allowed insurers to actively participate in the market in a meaningful way; and

Whereas, without a program such as TRIPRA, many of our citizens who want and need terrorism coverage to operate their businesses all across the nation would be either unable to get insurance or unable to afford the limited coverage that would be available; and

Whereas, without federally provided reinsurance, property and casualty insurers will face less availability of terrorism reinsurance and will therefore be severely restricted in their ability to provide sufficient coverage for acts of terrorism to support our economy; and

Whereas, unfortunately, despite the hard work and dedication of this nation's counter terrorism agencies and the bravery of the men and women in uniform who fought and continue to fight battles abroad to keep us safe here at home, the threat from terrorist attacks in the United States is both real and substantial and will remain as such for the foreseeable future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress and the President of the United States to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President of United States, the President Pro tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

POM-251. A Senate joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alabama urging the Congress of the United States to propose a federal balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution and applying to the Congress, pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention for proposing a balanced budget amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 100

Whereas, the reluctance of the federal government to incur debt and other obligations was established early in American history, with deficits occurring only in relation to extraordinary circumstances such as war; yet for much of the 20th century and into the 21st, the United States has operated on a budget deficit, including the 2010 budget year, which surpassed an astounding \$1,300,000,000,000, an annual deficit that exceeded the entire gross state product of many of the states; and

Whereas, an exception to this pattern was at the turn of the 21st century; in FY 2001, America enjoyed a \$128 billion budget surplus; and

Whereas, since FY 2001, America has been burdened with 10 consecutive years of deficits, to-wit:

FY 2002: \$158 billion deficit
 FY 2003: \$377 billion deficit
 FY 2004: \$413 billion deficit
 FY 2005: \$318 billion deficit
 FY 2006: \$248 billion deficit
 FY 2007: \$161 billion deficit
 FY 2008: \$459 billion deficit
 FY 2009: \$1.4 trillion deficit
 FY 2010: \$1.3 trillion deficit
 FY 2011: \$1.5 trillion deficit (estimated); and

Whereas, as of January 2011, America's accumulated national debt exceeded \$12 trillion now estimated at over \$13 trillion; and

Whereas, the Congressional Budget Office projects that, if current trends continue under the White House's proposed budget, each of the next 10 years has a projected deficit exceeding \$600 billion; and

Whereas, the budget deficits of the United States of America are unsustainable and constitute a substantial threat to the solvency of the federal government as evidenced by the comments of Standard and Poor's on April 18, 2011, regarding the longer term credit outlook for the United States; and

Whereas, Congress has been unwilling or unable to address the persistent problem of overspending and has recently increased the statutory limit on the public debt and enacted a variety of legislation that will ultimately cause the federal government to incur additional debt; and

Whereas, the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform in its report *The Moment of Truth* includes recommendations to reduce the federal deficit that have not been considered by the United States Congress; and

Whereas, the consequences of current spending policies are far-reaching; United States indebtedness to governments of foreign nations continues to rise; costly federal programs that are essentially unfunded or underfunded; mandates to states threaten the ability of state and local governments to continue to balance their budgets; moreover, future generations of Americans inevitably face increased taxation and a weakened economy as a direct result of the bloated debt; and

Whereas, many states have previously requested that Congress propose a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, but Congress has proven to be unresponsive; anticipating situations in which Congress at times could fail to act, the drafters of the United States Constitution had the foresight to adopt the language in Article V that establishes that on application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, Congress shall call a convention for proposing amendments; and

Whereas, in prior years the Alabama Legislature has called on Congress to pass a Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment, many other states have done the same, all to no avail; and

Whereas, a balanced budget amendment would require the government not to spend more than it receives in revenue and compel lawmakers to carefully consider choices about spending and taxes; by encouraging spending control and discouraging deficit spending, a balanced budget amendment will help put the nation on the path to lasting prosperity: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of Alabama, both Houses thereof Concurring, That the Legislature of the State of Alabama hereby respect-

fully urges the Congress of the United States to propose and submit to the states for ratification a federal balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution, and be it

Resolved, That, in the event that Congress does not submit a balanced budget amendment to the states for ratification on or before December 31, 2011, the Alabama Legislature hereby makes application to the United States Congress to call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to that Constitution requiring that, in the absence of a national emergency (as determined by the positive vote of such members of each house of Congress as the amendment shall require), the total of all federal appropriations made by Congress for any fiscal year not exceed the total of all federal revenue for that fiscal year, and be it further

Resolved, That, unless rescinded by a succeeding Legislature, this application by the Alabama Legislature constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the United States Constitution until at least two-thirds of the Legislatures of the several states have made application for a convention to provide for a balanced budget, and be it further

Resolved, That, in the event that Congress does not submit a balanced budget amendment to the states for ratification on or before December 31, 2011, the Alabama Legislature hereby requests that the legislatures of each of the several states that compose the United States apply to Congress requesting Congress to call a convention to propose such an amendment to the United States Constitution, and be it further

Resolved, That this application is rescinded in the event that a convention to propose amendments to the United States Constitution includes purposes other than providing for a balanced federal budget, and be it further

Resolved, That the copies of this resolution be provided to the following officials:

1. The President of the United States.
2. The Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.
3. The President of the United States Senate.

4. All members of the Alabama Delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as an application to the Congress of the United States of America for a convention to propose an amendment to provide for a federal balanced budget in the event that Congress does not submit such an amendment to the states for ratification on or before December 31, 2011, and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be provided to the Secretaries of State and to the presiding officers of the Legislatures of the other states.

POM-252. A House bill adopted by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota rescinding all previous applications of the State of South Dakota for the calling of a federal constitutional convention to amend the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE BILL No. 1135

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota:

Section 1. The Legislature finds that it is not, at the present time, desirable to call a federal constitutional convention to amend the Constitution of the United States.

Section 2. The specific provisions of the following Joint Resolutions, all making application for the calling of a federal constitutional convention, are hereby repudiated and rescinded:

- (1) Chapter 309, 1953 South Dakota Session Laws;
- (2) Chapter 259, 1955 South Dakota Session Laws;
- (3) Chapter 344, 1963 South Dakota Session Laws;
- (4) Chapter 345, 1963 South Dakota Session Laws;
- (5) Chapter 276, 1965 South Dakota Session Laws;
- (6) Chapter 1, 1977 South Dakota Session Laws;
- (7) Chapter 1, 1979 South Dakota Session Laws;
- (8) Chapter 1, 1986 South Dakota Session Laws;
- (9) Chapter 1, 1989 South Dakota Session Laws; and
- (10) Chapter 1, 1993 South Dakota Session Laws.

The repudiation and rescission provided for in this Act is strictly limited to the portions of the Joint Resolutions making application for the calling of a federal constitutional convention and do not apply to the alternative call embodied in the Joint Resolutions for Congress to propose specific constitutional amendments to the states for adoption.

POM-253. A Senate joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma rescinding all previous applications by the Legislature to the United States Congress to call a constitutional convention; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma, acting with the best of intentions, has, at various times and during various sessions, previously made applications to the Congress of the United States of America to call one or more conventions to propose either a single amendment concerning a specific subject or to call a general convention to propose an unspecified and unlimited number of amendments to the United States Constitution, pursuant to the provisions of Article V thereof; and

Whereas, Warren E. Burger, former Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Arthur J. Goldberg, former Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and other leading constitutional scholars agree that such a convention may propose sweeping changes to the Constitution, any limitations or restrictions to the contrary imposed by the states in applying for such a convention notwithstanding, thereby creating an imminent peril to the well-established rights of the citizens and the duties of various levels of government; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States of America has been amended many times in the history of this nation and may be amended many more times, without the need to resort to a constitutional convention, and has been interpreted for more than 200 years and has been found to be a sound document which protects the lives and liberties of the citizens; and

Whereas, there is no need for, and in fact, there is great danger in, a new constitution or in opening the Constitution to sweeping changes, the adoption of which would only create legal chaos in this nation and only begin the process of another two centuries of litigation over its meaning and interpretation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 1st Session of the 52nd Oklahoma Legislature:

Section 1. The Legislature does hereby rescind, repeal, cancel, nullify and supersede to the same effect as if they had never been passed, any and all extant applications by the Legislature to the Congress of the United States of America to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America pursuant to the terms of Article V thereof, regardless of when or by which session or sessions of the Legislature such applications were made and regardless of whether such applications were for a limited convention to propose one or more amendments regarding one or more specific subjects and purposes or for a general convention to propose an unlimited number of amendments upon an unlimited number of subjects.

Section 2. The Legislature urges the legislatures of each and every state which has applied to Congress to call a convention for either a general or a limited constitutional convention to repeal and withdraw such applications.

Section 3. A copy of this resolution shall be distributed to the Secretary of State, to the presiding officers of both houses of the legislatures of each state in the Union, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to all members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and to the Administrator of the United States General Services Administration.

POM-254. A Senate resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia making renewed application to the United States Congress calling for a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution for the purpose of proposing a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION 371

Whereas, in 1976, by House Resolution 469-1267, Resolution Act No. 93 (Ga. L. 1976, p. 184), the Georgia General Assembly applied to the Congress to call a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require a balanced federal budget and to make certain exceptions with respect thereto; and

Whereas, in 2004, by House Resolution No. 1343, Act No. 802 (Ga. L. 2004, p. 1081), the Georgia General Assembly rescinded and repealed all prior applications for constitutional conventions, including but not limited to said 1976 application; and

Whereas, the need for such a balanced budget amendment remains and has become far more apparent and urgent: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Georgia That this body hereby applies again to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention for proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States and recommends that the convention be limited to consideration and proposal of an amendment requiring that in the absence of a national emergency the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year; and be it further

Resolved That the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this application to the Presi-

dent and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and members of the Georgia congressional delegation and to transmit appropriate copies also to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses of the several states, requesting their cooperation; and be it further

Resolved That this application is to be considered as covering the same subject matter as the presently-outstanding balanced budget applications from other states, including but not limited to previously adopted applications from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas, and this application should be aggregated with same for the purpose of reaching the two-thirds of states necessary to require the calling of a convention, but should not be aggregated with any applications on any other subject; and be it further

Resolved That this application shall constitute a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until:

(1) The legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject and Congress has called for a convention for proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(2) The Congress of the United States has in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States proposed an amendment to said Constitution which is consistent with the balanced budget amendment referenced in this application; or

(3) January 1, 2020, whichever first occurs.

POM-255. A Senate resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia applying to the United States Congress calling for a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution for the limited purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution related to fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 736

Whereas, the founders of the Constitution of the United States empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the federal government; and

Whereas, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

Whereas, the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our people, particularly for the generations to come, by proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States through a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution to place clear restraints on these and related abuses of power: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Georgia, That the General Assembly of the State of Georgia hereby applies to Congress, under

the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That this application shall be deemed an application for a convention to address each or all of the subjects herein stated. For the purposes of determining whether two-thirds of the states have applied for a convention addressing any of the subjects stated herein, this application is to be aggregated with the applications of any other state legislatures for the single subjects of balancing the federal budget, limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, or limiting the terms of federal officials; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit copies of this application to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate and to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to transmit copies to the members of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives from this state, and to transmit copies hereof to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several states, requesting their cooperation; and be it further

Resolved, That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1603. A bill to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1799. A bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Geoffrey W. Crawford, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2467. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from altering available health care and wait times for appointments for health care for certain veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2468. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for reimbursement for emergency medical treatment and to require that the Department of Veterans Affairs be treated as a participating provider for the recovery of the costs of certain medical care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2469. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to require that the Administrator of General Services verify that a building to be leased to accommodate a Federal agency is located a certain distance from public transportation before entering into the lease agreement; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2470. A bill to provide for drought relief measures in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2471. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to provide bankruptcy protections for medically distressed debtors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2472. A bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBT Peoples; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2473. A bill to reallocate Federal Government-held spectrum for commercial use, to promote wireless innovation and enhance wireless communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 2474. A bill for the relief of Meriam Yahya Ibrahim, Martin Wani, and Maya Wani; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CRAPO:

S. Res. 473. A resolution celebrating the 20th Anniversary of National Men's Health Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HAR-

KIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PRYOR, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. REID, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. PAUL, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. LEE):

S. Res. 474. A resolution designating June 19, 2014, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the day on which slavery legally came to an end in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 475. A resolution congratulating the Alaska Aces hockey team on winning the 2014 Kelly Cup as champions of the East Coast Hockey League; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 476. A resolution recognizing the 350th Anniversary of the founding of the State of New Jersey and honoring the valuable contributions of people of the Garden State; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 316

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 316, a bill to recalculate and restore retirement annuity obligations of the United States Postal Service, to eliminate the requirement that the United States Postal Service prefund the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, to place restrictions on the closure of postal facilities, to create incentives for innovation for the United States Postal Service, to maintain levels of postal service, and for other purposes.

S. 961

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 961, a bill to improve access to emergency medical services, and for other purposes.

S. 1027

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1027, a bill to improve, coordinate, and enhance rehabilitation research at the National Institutes of Health.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1114

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1114, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

S. 1188

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1188, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of the individual mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1332

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1368

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1368, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of volunteer income tax assistance for low-income and underserved populations, and for other purposes.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 1733

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1997

At the request of Mr. WALSH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1997, a bill to authorize the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2004, a bill to ensure the safety of all users of the transpor-

tation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, as they travel on and across federally funded streets and highways.

S. 2094

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2094, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2295

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2295, a bill to establish the National Commission on the Future of the Army, and for other purposes.

S. 2320

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2320, a bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building".

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2336

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2336, a bill to eliminate the payroll tax for individuals who have attained retirement age, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to remove the limitation upon the amount of outside income which an individual may earn while receiving benefits under such title, and for other purposes.

S. 2373

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2373, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 2400

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2400, a bill to provide for improvement of field emergency medical services, and for other purposes.

S. 2434

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2434, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that working families have access to affordable health insurance coverage.

S. 2436

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2436, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that agencies may not deduct labor organization dues from the pay of Federal employees, and for other purposes.

S. 2443

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2443, a bill to direct the Attorney General to make grants to States that have in place laws that terminate the parental rights of men who father children through rape.

S. 2462

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2462, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain educational institutions from the employer health insurance mandate.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S.J. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 37, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to parental rights.

S. RES. 303

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 303, a resolution declaring that achieving the primary goal of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease of the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025 is an urgent national priority.

S. RES. 469

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 469, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the May 31, 2014, transfer of five detainees from the detention facility at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 473—CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

Mr. CRAPO submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 473

Whereas, despite advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of 5 years less than women, and African-American men have the lowest life expectancy;

Whereas 9 of the 10 leading causes of death, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, affect men at a higher percentage than women;

Whereas, between ages 45 and 54, men are more than 1½ times more likely than women to die of heart attacks;

Whereas men die of heart disease at 1½ times the rate of women;

Whereas men die of cancer at almost 1½ times the rate of women;

Whereas testicular cancer is one of the most common cancers in men between ages 15 and 34, and, when detected early, has a 96 percent survival rate;

Whereas the number of cases of colon cancer among men will be over 48,000 in 2014, and more than half of those men will die from the disease;

Whereas the likelihood that a man will develop prostate cancer is 1 in 6;

Whereas the number of men who develop prostate cancer in 2014 is expected to reach more than 230,000, and an estimated 29,480 of those men will die from the disease;

Whereas African-American men in the United States have the highest incidence of prostate cancer;

Whereas significant numbers of health problems that affect men, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, colon cancer, and infertility, could be detected and treated if awareness among men of those problems was more pervasive;

Whereas more than half of the elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands;

Whereas educating both the public and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems will result in reducing rates of mortality for those diseases;

Whereas appropriate use of tests such as prostate specific antigen exams, blood pressure screens, and cholesterol screens, in conjunction with clinical examination and self-

testing for problems such as testicular cancer, can result in the detection of many of those problems in their early stages and increase the survival rates to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas women are 2 times more likely than men to visit their doctors for annual examinations and preventive services;

Whereas men are less likely than women to visit their health centers or physicians for regular screening examinations of male-related problems for a variety of reasons;

Whereas Congress established National Men's Health Week in 1994 and urged men and their families to engage in appropriate health behaviors, and the resulting increased awareness has improved health-related education and helped prevent illness;

Whereas the Governors of all 50 States have issued proclamations declaring Men's Health Week in their respective States, as have Mayors of over 40 cities;

Whereas, since 1994, National Men's Health Week has been celebrated each June by dozens of States, cities, localities, public health departments, health care entities, churches, and community organizations throughout the United States that promote health awareness events focused on men and family;

Whereas the National Men's Health Week Internet website has been established at www.menshealthweek.org and features Governors' proclamations, Mayoral proclamations, and National Men's Health Week events;

Whereas men who are educated about the value that preventive health can play in prolonging their lifespans and their roles as productive family members will be more likely to participate in health screenings;

Whereas men and their families are encouraged to increase their awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, and medical checkups;

Whereas June 9 through 15, 2014, is National Men's Health Week; and

Whereas the purpose of National Men's Health Week is to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 20th anniversary of National Men's Health Week;

(2) supports the annual National Men's Health Week; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups to observe National Men's Health Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 474—DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2014, AS "JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY" IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DAY ON WHICH SLAVERY LEGALLY CAME TO AN END IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PRYOR, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. REID, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. PAUL, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. PORTMAN,

Mr. BEGICH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. LEE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 474

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth Independence Day", as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest, for nearly 150 years, have continued the tradition of observing "Juneteenth Independence Day";

Whereas 43 States, the District of Columbia, and other countries, have designated "Juneteenth Independence Day" as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas "Juneteenth Independence Day" celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and their descendants remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution in January 1865;

Whereas Frederick Douglass, born in the State of Maryland in 1818, escaped from slavery and became a leading writer, orator, publisher, and one of the United States' most influential advocates for abolitionism and the equality of all people;

Whereas Frederick Douglass was recognized for his accomplishments with a statue that was unveiled during a ceremony on June 19, 2013, in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol;

Whereas 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.), signed into law on July 2, 1964, a milestone in providing equal protections for African-Americans, including former slaves and their descendants; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2014, as "Juneteenth Independence Day";

(2) recognizes the historical significance of "Juneteenth Independence Day" to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of "Juneteenth Independence Day" to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is a part of the history and heritage of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 475—CONGRATULATING THE ALASKA ACES HOCKEY TEAM ON WINNING THE 2014 KELLY CUP AS CHAMPIONS OF THE EAST COAST HOCKEY LEAGUE

Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 475

Whereas on June 9, 2014, the Alaska Aces hockey team claimed the championship of the East Coast Hockey League with a 4-0 series-clinching win over the Cincinnati Cyclones, which resulted in the Alaska Aces winning the East Coast Hockey League's Kelly Cup trophy;

Whereas the June 9 victory gave the Alaska Aces a 4-2 series win in the championship round and resulted in a 16-5 win-loss record for the Alaska Aces in the 2014 playoffs;

Whereas the 2014 East Coast Hockey League championship is the 3rd championship for the Alaska Aces in the past 9 years, making the Alaska Aces only the 2nd East Coast Hockey League team to win more than 2 East Coast Hockey League championships;

Whereas in 2014, the Alaska Aces set an East Coast Hockey League record by winning the team's 4th straight Brabham Cup, which honors the East Coast Hockey League's best regular-season record and guarantees home-ice advantage throughout the entire postseason;

Whereas the East Coast Hockey League is a premier "AA" hockey league featuring 22 teams from around the country playing a 72-game regular season schedule;

Whereas the Alaska Aces are affiliated with the Calgary Flames of the National Hockey League, opening a pathway to allow promising players to advance to the top tier of professional hockey in the United States and Canada; and

Whereas the people of the State of Alaska are proud of the dedication, hard work, and gritty determination of the players, coaches, and management of the Alaska Aces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Alaska Aces hockey team for winning the 2014 Kelly Cup as champions of the East Coast Hockey League;

(2) recognizes the players, coaches, students, staff, and fans whose dedication helped the Alaska Aces win the East Coast Hockey League championship; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the managing owner of the Alaska Aces, to be shared with the other team owners;

(B) the head coach of the Alaska Aces; and

(C) the assistant coach of the Alaska Aces.

SENATE RESOLUTION 476—RECOGNIZING THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND HONORING THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PEOPLE OF THE GARDEN STATE

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following reso-

lution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 476

Whereas, in 1664, the parcel of land between the Delaware and Hudson Rivers came under the control of the English, who named the land New Jersey;

Whereas the State of New Jersey played an instrumental role in the success of the 13 original colonies during the American Revolutionary War, serving as the location of more military engagements than any other colony during the American Revolutionary War, including 2 pivotal colonial victories at Trenton and Princeton in the winter of 1776;

Whereas, in 1789, the State of New Jersey became the first state in the United States of America to ratify the Bill of Rights, which is the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution;

Whereas men and women of the State of New Jersey, such as Thomas Mundy Peterson, Alice Paul, and Paul Robeson, bravely challenged our country to recognize and support equal and just rights of citizenship for all people of the United States;

Whereas the State of New Jersey has been a veritable cauldron of culture, contributing iconic and talented artists in literature, film, theater, dance, music, and visual arts;

Whereas world renowned scientists and scholars, including Thomas Alva Edison and Albert Einstein, conduct their research and launch their discoveries in laboratories and institutions throughout the State of New Jersey, resulting in the State of New Jersey serving as a birth place for inventions and innovations that fundamentally change the way humans interact with each other and the world around them;

Whereas the State of New Jersey has been a leader in developing and engineering formative infrastructure and transportation accomplishments, from the Morris Canal and the Delaware and Raritan Canal to the iconic Garden State Parkway, as well as the now ubiquitous "Jersey Barriers" that provide for the safety of drivers and passengers on roads throughout the United States;

Whereas, in 1954, the New Jersey State Legislature passed legislation for the State of New Jersey to officially adopt the nickname of the "Garden State", a proud acknowledgment of the State of New Jersey's strong agricultural heritage and reflection of the continued abundance of blueberries, cranberries, peaches, and other produce that contribute to the State of New Jersey's robust agricultural industry;

Whereas New Jerseyans take pride in enjoying and preserving the State of New Jersey's vast natural resources, including the 130 miles of sandy beaches along "the shore", as well as the 1,000,000 acres of Pine Barrens that constitute the United State's first National Reserve; and

Whereas it is fitting and desirable that the people of New Jersey and the United States celebrate the current and historic role of the State of New Jersey in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and celebrates the 350th anniversary of the founding of the State of New Jersey.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3240. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3241. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3242. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2450, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3243. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3240. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 41, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 109. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AT UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUAL.—The term "authorized individual" means an individual that possesses—

(A) a valid resident big-game hunting license issued by the appropriate State agency; and

(B) any other qualification that the Secretary, in consultation with the appropriate State agency, may require.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) WILDLIFE REDUCTION.—Nothing in section 4 of the Act of March 2, 1929 (16 U.S.C. 198c), or any other provision of law, prohibits the Secretary from permitting an authorized individual—

(1) to use lethal means to reduce the population of wildlife at a unit of the National Park System that the Secretary determines is causing habitat or culture resources damage; or

(2) to remove the full animal harvested under paragraph (1) from the unit of the National Park System.

SA 3241. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 41, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 109. MITIGATION FISHERY ACTIVITIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL WATER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.—The term "Federal water development agency" means—

(A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

(B) the Corps of Engineers; and

(C) the Tennessee Valley Authority.

(2) MITIGATION HATCHERY.—The term "mitigation hatchery" means a facility owned and operated by the Secretary through the National Fish Hatchery System, a purpose of

which is the rearing and stocking of native and nonnative fish to replace or maintain fishery resources or harvest levels lost as a result of a Federal water resource development project.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service).

(b) PRIORITY CONSIDERATION.—Annually, the Secretary, in consultation with affected States, Indian tribes, and other relevant Federal agencies, shall—

(1) determine the needs of the National Fish Hatchery System; and

(2) for purposes of the determination under paragraph (1), give equal priority consideration to—

(A) the rearing and stocking of native and nonnative fish; and

(B) the propagation of species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(c) REIMBURSEMENT.—Consistent with the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the heads of Federal water development agencies shall fully reimburse the Secretary, on an annual basis, for the operation and maintenance of mitigation hatcheries.

SA 3242. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2450, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE —HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

SEC. 01. INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR VETERANS BENEFITS FOR A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 223(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS BENEFITS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), an individual shall not be treated as covered under a health plan described in such subparagraph merely because the individual receives periodic hospital care or medical services for a service-connected disability under any law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs but only if the individual is not eligible to receive such care or services for any condition other than a service-connected disability.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3243. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. SINGLE STANDARD MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR PRIVATELY OWNED AUTOMOBILES OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

(a) INCORPORATION OF IRS RATE AS SINGLE STANDARD MILEAGE RATE APPLICABLE TO AUTOMOBILES.—Section 5704(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “established by the Administrator shall not exceed” in the last sentence and inserting “shall be”.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATES.—

(1) ELIMINATION OF AUTOMOBILES FROM PERIODIC INVESTIGATIONS OF COST OF TRAVEL.—Paragraph (1)(A) of section 5707(b) of such title is amended—

(A) by striking “, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Defense, and representatives of organizations of employees of the Government,”; and

(B) by striking “vehicles to” and inserting “airplanes and privately owned motorcycles by”.

(2) REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR AUTOMOBILES.—Paragraph (2)(A)(i) of such section is amended by striking “prescribe a mileage reimbursement rate which reflects the current costs as determined by the Administrator of operating privately owned automobiles, and which shall not exceed,” and inserting “provide that the mileage reimbursement rate for privately owned automobiles,”.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a business meeting has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The business meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the business meeting is to consider the five nominations and eight bills listed on the attached agenda.

Because of the limited time available for the business meeting, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to Sallie_Derr@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Sallie Derr at (202) 224-6836.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 12, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SR-328A of the

Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “A National Priority: The Importance of Child Nutrition Programs to our Nation’s Health, Economy and National Security.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 12, 2014, at 10:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 12, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Regional Implications of a Nuclear Deal with Iran.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 12, 2014, at 3 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled “Thailand’s Political Crisis.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 12, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Securing Raiological Materials: Examining the Threat Next Door.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 12, 2014, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 12, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Elizabeth Larson, Casey Brynn DiNino, and Jackson

O'Brien, interns in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I request that the following interns from my office be given privileges of the floor for the balance of the day: Emily Hartley, Alfonso Sitenga, Rachel Tougas, Michaela Spaulding, Deirdre Creed, Maria Villa, Lyndsey Brollini, Nicole Eldred, Austin Ramsay, McKenzie Stepovic, Kendall Eilo, Ben Gilman, Gabrielle Gilbertson, and Luke Hopkins.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Casey Scott, a detailee, and Douglas Wiitala, Grant Loftesnes, Betsy Silverstein, and Julia Sferlazzo, interns for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, be granted privileges of the floor for the session today, June 12, 2014.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by me, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 538, 770, 766, and 712; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on each nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of that time the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that all rollcall votes after the first be 10 minutes in length; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that

the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration en bloc of the following resolution, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 473; S. Res. 474; S. Res 475; and S. Res. 476.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions en bloc were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.
(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that at 5:30 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session as provided for under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, there will be three rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:47 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 16, 2014, at 2 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 12, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CRYSTAL NIX-HINES, OF CALIFORNIA, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS THE UNITED STATES PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MICHAEL J. MCCORD, OF OHIO, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER).

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

STANLEY FISCHER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

LAEL BRAINARD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2012.

JEROME H. POWELL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2014.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD A. BATTA, OF IOWA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

R. JANE CHU, OF MISSOURI, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, June 12, 2014

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 12, 2014.

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

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

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Ronnie Floyd, Cross Church, Springdale, Arkansas, offered the following prayer:

Our God, as Your prophet Daniel spoke to the king in his day with humility and honor as recorded in the Book of Daniel 4:37: "The God of Heaven has given you sovereignty, power, strength, and glory."

Lord, as these gifted men and women serve the people of the United States, may they know You have them here by divine appointment, giving to them the influence, strength, and recognition they receive.

As they make decisions that influence the entire world, I pray that You will fill them with supernatural insight, compassionate sensitivity, convictional kindness, and abounding wisdom.

The needs are many, and the tasks are overwhelming. They need You, and they need each other, in order to provide hope for the American people and the entire world. So use them today to change the world for Your glory and for Your Name, I pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. RONNIE FLOYD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, it is a personal honor this morning to welcome to the House Chamber the Reverend Dr. Ronnie Floyd, elected this week president of the Southern Baptist Convention in Baltimore.

Dr. Floyd is the senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, a multicampus ministry in one of America's fastest growing regions. His commitment to evangelism, discipleship, and the advancement of the Gospel to America and the world is remarkable.

He has authored a number of books, founded and hosts a businessperson's luncheon called The Summit, and has been a strategic leader in the Southern Baptist Convention for decades.

His lovely wife, Jeana, joins us in the gallery today, as does his son, Nick, himself an associate pastor at Cross Church, and his beautiful wife, Meredith. His other son, Josh, is a championship football coach who just took the head coaching position with Hewitt-Trussville High School in Birmingham, Alabama.

He is a dynamic leader, a dynamic visionary, and minister. I am proud to call him president of the Southern Baptist Convention. But more than anything, Madam Speaker, I am proud to call him my pastor and friend.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as National Dairy Month. As a means to promote increased milk sales and consumption, the dairy in-

dustry began National Milk Month in 1937.

Over the years, National Milk Month evolved into National Dairy Month in order to recognize the importance of all American-made milk and dairy products. The dairy industry has had great success with just promotions—particularly with the "Got Milk?" campaign over the years.

With over 8,300 dairy farms throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, dairy production remains the single-largest sector of Pennsylvania's agriculture industry—the number one industry in Pennsylvania. This makes Pennsylvania fourth in dairy production nationally.

The 2014 farm bill makes numerous positive changes to the former dairy programs. The new law repealed a number of outdated programs and replaced them with a free-market margin insurance program. Now, I was proud to support this new farm bill and the reforms that the law legislates.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to support our Nation's dairy industry and celebrate June as National Dairy Month.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, in the past 3 weeks, our Nation experienced three shootings in Isla Vista, California; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Troutdale, Oregon, for which we remembered the victims with a moment of silence. These shootings that resulted in 14 senseless deaths received national media coverage and sparked a national discussion on the need for better mental health policy. Mental health is a factor, but only one factor, in the gun violence epidemic.

In the same 3 weeks, 175 people were shot on the streets of Chicago, with a number of deaths. None of these shootings made national headlines, sparked a national debate, or received a congressional moment of silence. As a Nation, we have become unfazed by urban violence.

But I am not asking for more silence. We have been silent enough. We need action. I have introduced three bills that promote commonsense gun reform and that don't infringe on Second Amendment rights. These bills would highlight the public health risk associated with gun violence, help the Consumer Product Safety Commission set

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

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

gun safety standards, and prohibit high-risk individuals from possessing guns.

I urge my colleagues to be a voice for American safety. Gun violence is more than mental, and Americans can no longer afford our silence. Lastly, I want to know just who and how many more must die or be shot before we take action?

CELEBRATING FATHER'S DAY

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

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, over a century ago, a Spokane woman named Sonora Smart Dodd thought up a way to honor her dad, a Civil War veteran who raised her and her five siblings after their mother passed away. Little did Sonora know that her thoughtful idea would one day become a national holiday honoring fathers from across the country.

A source of pride for Spokane and for all of eastern Washington, Sonora's vision for celebrating her dad—and all dads—will continue this Sunday as we take time to celebrate Father's Day.

As families in eastern Washington and all across our Nation recognize the role fathers play in our lives, I celebrate the impact my own dad has had in shaping who I am today. I celebrate him and all dads for their sacrifices, their guidance, and their support.

Our sons and daughters learn so much from their parents, and it is fitting that we honor all dads who have devoted time to be with their children.

Parenthood comes with its own unique set of challenges. My husband and I know this firsthand. But fathers play an essential role in making our families and our communities strong.

Today, I honor Sonora Smart Dodd for her vision, and I honor fathers from eastern Washington. From that first Father's Day in Spokane back in 1910 to the 104th one this Sunday, let's celebrate fathers.

NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this is National Men's Health Week. Each year, for the last 20 years, we have used the week before Father's Day to encourage men of all ages to play an active role in living healthier lifestyles.

The important thing for men to remember, not just this week, but every day, is that many of the illnesses that affect us can be prevented or successfully treated. I am living proof of that. Thanks to early detection, I was able to beat prostate cancer, which used to

be one of the worst diagnoses a guy could get.

This week, the members of the Congressional Men's Health Caucus are encouraging men, boys, and their families to develop positive habits, take preventive measures to combat illness, and do your best to lead healthy lifestyles.

I know all too well the importance of early prevention and early detection, and how they can mean the difference between life or death. As a leader of the Prostate Cancer Task Force, I encourage men of all ages to do the smart thing: know your number, know your condition, and stay healthy.

T-HUD

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, this week, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives approved their version of the fiscal year 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. Instead of investing in America's future, this legislation slashes investments in our Nation's transportation and housing infrastructure.

Funding for Amtrak is cut by \$200 million. Funding for the Public Housing Capital Fund is cut below sequester levels, and funding for HOME investment partnership is cut to its lowest level in history.

Sadly, it gets worse. The bill practically eliminates the TIGER grant program that funds innovative highway, port, and rail projects.

At a time when America's infrastructure is crumbling, why on Earth would Congress slash funding for critical infrastructure investments that support jobs?

To compete in the 21st century economy, we must bet on America's future and dedicate resources to infrastructure projects that support jobs in the construction sector, grow our economy, and rebuild America. Our competitors are investing in infrastructure. It is time we do, too.

JOLIET PUBLIC LIBRARY STAR WARS DAY

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

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, as a scientist, it is not often that I come to the floor to speak out on works of science fiction, but I rise today to recognize the Fifth Annual Star Wars Day, hosted by the Joliet Public Library on Saturday, June 7, 2014.

The event not only brings the community together into the historic and welcoming streets of downtown Joliet, but also promotes literacy, science, technology, engineering, and math in a

fun and exciting atmosphere that captivates young minds.

Thanks to the library's Star Wars Day, no Jedi mind tricks are needed to get children to read over the summer. In its 5 years, Star Wars Day has grown to over 7,000 attendees, thanks to the hard work of many people.

And as the Star Wars parade marched proudly down Ottawa Street, with Imperial Storm Troopers, Jedi Knights, and Ewoks in full costume, I would like to especially recognize the Sand People who, of course, march single file to hide their numbers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Joliet Public Library for their efforts to promote library services, literacy, and STEM education with their Fifth Annual Star Wars Day.

DEFENDING SERGEANT BOWE BERGDAHL

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I was a Navy psychiatrist during the Vietnam war. I treated men who believed they were doing the right thing, but who, having witnessed the obscenity of war, came home shaken, brutalized, and lost. These men were demonized for their experience. Today, we are making the same mistake with Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl.

Yesterday, I watched as members of the House Armed Services Committee attacked a U.S. citizen who volunteered to serve his country and who was held in the most deplorable of conditions for 5 years. In my time in Congress, I have never seen a more disgraceful, purely political attack on a U.S. soldier.

How many times have we heard from our generals and our admirals that we never leave a warrior behind? We sent Sergeant Bergdahl to war. We gave Sergeant Bergdahl his gun and his orders. We must bring Sergeant Bergdahl home and take care of him.

□ 0915

CONDEMNING ABDUCTION OF FEMALE STUDENTS BY BOKO HARAM

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on the legislative day of June 12, 2014, to consider in the House, House Resolution 617, if called up by the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, or his designee; that the resolution be considered as read; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the preamble and the resolution to adoption without intervening motion.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 617) condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the terrorist group known as Boko Haram in northeastern provinces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the title of the resolution.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the resolution is considered read and the previous question is ordered on the resolution and on the preamble.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 617

Whereas, on the night of April 14, 2014, 276 female students, most of them between 15 and 18 years old, were abducted by Boko Haram from the Government Girls Secondary School, a boarding school located in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Whereas, all public secondary schools in Borno state were closed in March 2014 because of increasing attacks in the past year that have killed hundreds of students, but the young women at the Government Girls Secondary School were recalled to take their final exams;

Whereas, Boko Haram burned down several buildings before opening fire on soldiers and police who were guarding the Government Girls Secondary School and forcing the students into trucks;

Whereas, according to local officials in Borno state, 53 students were able to flee their captors, and the rest remain abducted;

Whereas, there are reports that the abducted girls have been sold as brides to Islamist militants for the equivalent of \$12 each;

Whereas, the group popularly known as "Boko Haram", which loosely translates from the Hausa language to "Western education is sin", is known to oppose the education of girls;

Whereas, on April 14, 2014, hours before the kidnapping in Borno state, and on May 2, 2014, Boko Haram bombed bus stations in Abuja, Nigeria, killing at least 94 people and wounding over 160, making it the deadliest set of attacks ever in Nigeria's capital;

Whereas, Boko Haram has kidnapped girls in the past to use as cooks and sex slaves, and has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping in Borno state on April 14, 2014;

Whereas, late May 5, 2014, suspected Boko Haram gunmen kidnapped an additional 8 girls, ranging in age from 12 to 15, from a village in northeast Nigeria;

Whereas, on May 7, 2014, Boko Haram killed at least 336 people in Gamboru Ngala and burned hundreds of houses and cars;

Whereas, on June 5, 2014, Boko Haram kidnapped an additional 20 women from northeastern Nigeria, near the town of Chibok;

Whereas, reports estimate that more than 500 students and 100 teachers have been killed by Boko Haram and have destroyed roughly 500 schools in northern Nigeria, leaving more than 15,000 students without access to education;

Whereas, Boko Haram has targeted schools, mosques, churches, villages, and ag-

ricultural centers, as well as government facilities, in an armed campaign to create an Islamic state in northern Nigeria, prompting the President of Nigeria to declare a state of emergency in three of the country's northeastern states in May 2013;

Whereas, human rights groups have indicated that the Nigerian state security forces should improve efforts to protect civilians during offensive operations against Boko Haram;

Whereas, according to nongovernmental organizations, more than 1,500 people have been killed in attacks by Boko Haram or reprisals by Nigerian security forces this year alone, and that almost 4,000 people have been killed in Boko Haram attacks since 2011;

Whereas, the enrollment, retention, and completion of education for girls in Nigeria remains a major challenge;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), some 4,700,000 children of primary school age are still not in school in Nigeria, with attendance rates lowest in the north;

Whereas, studies have found that school children in Nigeria, particularly those in the northern provinces, are at a disadvantage in their education, with 37 percent of primary-age girls in the rural northeast not attending school, and 30 percent of boys not attending school;

Whereas, women and girls must be allowed to go to school without fear of violence and unjust treatment so that they can take their rightful place as equal citizens of and contributors to society;

Whereas United States security assistance to Nigeria has emphasized military professionalization, peacekeeping support and training, and border and maritime security;

Whereas, the Department of State designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in November 2013, recognizing the threat posed by the group's large-scale and indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including women and children;

Whereas Boko Haram is one of a number of radical Islamist terrorist organizations and extremist groups that pose a growing threat to United States interests in the region as well as broader peace and security; and

Whereas these radical Islamist groups, which include Ansar al-Sharia, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, the National Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, and others have carried out deadly attacks in the region and constitute a growing threat to North and West Africa: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its strong support for the people of Nigeria, especially the parents and families of the girls abducted by Boko Haram in Borno state, and calls for the immediate, safe return of the girls;

(2) condemns Boko Haram for its violent attacks on civilian targets, including schools, mosques, churches, villages, and agricultural centers in Nigeria;

(3) encourages the Government of Nigeria to strengthen efforts to protect children seeking to obtain an education and to hold those who conduct such violent attacks accountable;

(4) commends efforts by the United States Government to hold terrorist organizations, such as Boko Haram, accountable;

(5) supports offers of United States assistance to the government of Nigeria in the search for these abducted girls and encourages the government of Nigeria to work with the United States and other concerned governments to resolve this tragic situation;

(6) recognizes that every individual, regardless of gender, should have the opportunity to pursue an education without fear of discrimination;

(7) encourages the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to continue their support for initiatives that promote the human rights of women and girls in Nigeria;

(8) urges the President to immediately strengthen United States security, law enforcement, and intelligence cooperation with appropriate Nigerian forces, including offering United States personnel to support operations to locate and rescue the more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram, and to support Nigerian efforts to counter this United States designated foreign terrorist organization; and

(9) calls on the President to provide to Congress a comprehensive strategy to counter the growing threat posed by radical Islamist terrorist groups in West Africa, the Sahel, and North Africa.

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

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE PROCEEDINGS ON MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair may postpone further proceedings today on a motion to recommit as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

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

There was no objection.

S CORPORATION PERMANENT TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 616, I call up the bill (H.R. 4453) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee print 113-46 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 4453

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “S Corporation Permanent Tax Relief Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. REDUCED RECOGNITION PERIOD FOR BUILT-IN GAINS OF S CORPORATIONS MADE PERMANENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (7) of section 1374(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(7) RECOGNITION PERIOD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘recognition period’ means the 5-year period beginning with the 1st day of the 1st taxable year for which the corporation was an S corporation. For purposes of applying this section to any amount includible in income by reason of distributions to shareholders pursuant to section 593(e), the preceding sentence shall be applied without regard to the phrase ‘5-year’.

“(B) INSTALLMENT SALES.—If an S corporation sells an asset and reports the income from the sale using the installment method under section 453, the treatment of all payments received shall be governed by the provisions of this paragraph applicable to the taxable year in which such sale was made.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. PERMANENT RULE REGARDING BASIS ADJUSTMENT TO STOCK OF S CORPORATIONS MAKING CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1367(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the last sentence.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4453.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for H.R. 4453, the S Corporation Permanent Tax Relief Act of 2014.

Since we started the tax reform process in January of 2011, one of the main

themes coming up again and again is the need for certainty for individuals to plan and businesses to thrive. Nowhere is this more true than for small businesses.

Pass-through businesses, like S corporations, account for more than half of all jobs in the United States. In my home State of Washington, they are particularly important, providing 1.4 million jobs, with S corporations providing more than one in four private sector jobs.

Permanence in the tax law is especially important for these privately-held businesses because they can't go to the public markets every time they want to invest in new equipment or hire workers. They need certainty to plan how to most effectively deploy their capital.

A perfect example of an area of the Tax Code that is ripe for permanence, so that S corporation businesses can plan to access and redeploy their own capital, is the built-in gains, or BIG, relief provision that is before us today.

The BIG tax, as it is called, is a double tax on S corporations that want to sell their assets after converting from C corporation status. Currently, S corporations have to wait 10 years after converting before selling their assets to avoid the punitive double tax.

Traditional year-to-year tax extender legislation has reduced this holding period to 5 years, holding to the original anti-abuse intent of the rule, yet providing significant relief for businesses nationwide. H.R. 4453 would permanently reduce that holding period to 5 years.

As we heard from Jim Redpath, a small business witness who is an accountant—he testified before one of our Ways and Means hearings several weeks ago—the BIG tax causes S corporations to hold on to unproductive or old assets that should be replaced.

He gave the example of a road contractor that is holding onto old equipment and trucks that are sitting in the junkyard that he can't sell. He can't even sell them for parts. Rather than selling them, if he did, they would be subject to the BIG tax, the double tax that I talked about earlier.

The other impact here is, if businesses are allowed to sell these assets and used equipment, it would benefit other small businesses, starting businesses, for example, that may not be able to afford the newest and the latest equipment and technology, but they can start their businesses with used equipment.

Instead of selling assets and using the proceeds to hire new workers or invest in new equipment, businessowners sit on the sidelines. This is a perfect example of Tax Code influencing business decisions, and this needs to stop.

According to the IRS, tens of thousands of corporations convert to C corporations each year. We can't continue

to leave this capital locked up. We need to give it back to the small businesses that make this country thrive.

The second part of this bill is also a commonsense provision that will give S corporations certainty in the value of their charitable donations. The S corporation charitable basis adjustment provision simply ensures that S corporations get the same value for their deductions as all other small businesses.

These two commonsense provisions will give S corporations the certainty they need to create jobs and grow our economy in this country.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, the tax extenders being considered today are important to small businesses and have been supported by Democrats.

The first two bills impacting S corporations regard the gain on the sale or distribution of appreciated assets and how charitable contributions of an S corporation are taken into account by shareholders. Over the years, we have modified these provisions and extended them on a bipartisan basis.

The section 179 expensing provision which we will consider second has been in the Tax Code since 1958. It was expanded and nearly quadrupled to a maximum expensing allowance to nearly \$100,000 in 2003.

In 2008, as another recession took hold, that allowance was increased to \$250,000; and in 2010, we again expanded the provision, this time to \$500,000, as we continued action to spur the economic recovery. This level was in effect through 2013, and this bill before us would make these significant expansions permanent—unpaid for.

When these expansions were first enacted in 2003, House Republicans noted that these expansions “reflected the need for an economic stimulus and growth package.”

Republicans want to talk about certainty. Well, this much is certain: the expanded 179 provision will be extended again. Our economy still needs it, and if Republicans had any interest in working on a bipartisan basis on comprehensive tax reform, we could discuss how best to make a stimulus effort a long-term part of the Tax Code.

The opposite is being done today. It is tax reform in reverse. The S corporation provisions surely also will be extended, but in reality, we are not here to make law. I think that is evidenced by the atmosphere about these provisions as we take them up today.

The President has indicated he will veto the approach—permanent, unpaid-for tax cuts—taken in the Republican bills before us today, and importantly, the Senate Finance Committee has approved, on a bipartisan basis, legislation to extend all tax extenders for 2 years.

The total inability of the House Republican majority to take action to help our recovery, to bolster small businesses, and to grow our economy has resulted in smoke-and-mirror votes, like the ones before us today. They want to signal that they support small business, but their action is so inconsistent with their past positions that it is rendered hypocritical.

Ways and Means Republicans put forth a comprehensive tax reform proposal and received accolades—the chairman did—for making it revenue neutral. Chairman CAMP included these extenders in his comprehensive tax reform proposal fully offset, the opposite of today.

The measures in front of us today add up to \$75 billion in deficit increases—\$75 billion more. When you add in the R&D credit that passed the House last month and the eight other provisions that have moved through Ways and Means Committee, it adds up to—everybody take notice—\$614 billion, unpaid for and permanent.

There are still more than 40 tax provisions left unaccounted for. When all is said and done, Republicans are well on their way to increasing the deficit by \$1 trillion, and we all know where it will lead—to future Republican demands to cut vital domestic priorities that have been on the chopping block for the GOP: funding for education, public health, and transportation—as we saw yesterday—to name a few.

Chairman RYAN put forth a Republican budget resolution, which the Republican majority passed through this House. That budget that you all here today on the Republican side voted for stipulates that any change in tax law must be offset. These bills today shred that principle. You are shredding it.

□ 0930

You are inconsistent. You moved in one direction with some praise and now you are essentially moving in the opposite site.

And the final hypocrisy is one that hits home for 3 million unemployed Americans, I must say, for their families and for millions of Americans who care. The Republican majority insists that unemployment insurance be paid for, but when it comes to tax cuts, they can simply be added to the deficit. The bill before us today is seven times more expensive than the cost of extending Federal unemployment insurance for the remainder of the year. And I should note that we have simply already agreed to offset the cost of such unemployment extension.

Democrats stand ready—more than ready—to extend these provisions for small businesses. We stand ready—more than ready—to act on all of these expired tax provisions. We stand ready—more than ready—to act on comprehensive tax reform. And we certainly stand ready—more than ready—

to extend unemployment insurance for 3 million job-seeking Americans and be paid for. But we will not be silent in the face of the Republican hypocrisy on display today. What they are doing today is reckless and irresponsible. Once again, here they go again.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP), the distinguished chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I would just say to my friend from Michigan, yes, there is a Senate bill. It is a bipartisan bill that extends many tax policies. And guess what. It is not offset, because it has never been offset. And I would just remark that my good friend from Michigan has voted to extend this exact policy unoffset for 12 years.

So I know the gentleman referred to “hypocrisy.” Let’s talk about honesty. Let’s be honest about this. This policy will not be offset. Let’s give some certainty to the small businesses in America.

Let me just say that I appreciated his comment that the economy needs help. With negative GDP growth in the last quarter, a contracting economy, certainly we do. With more kids living at home with their parents than ever before rather than pursuing careers, with median incomes declining, yes, we certainly do.

Let me just say, small businesses and their workers, they are hit hardest by the burdens and regulations of an overly complicated Tax Code. Tax compliance costs are 65 percent higher for small businesses than for large businesses, costing them \$19 billion a year. We need small businesses doing the best they can, creating jobs and growing our local economies, not buried under mounds of paperwork.

The bill we have before us today is the right step forward to level the playing field between small businesses on Main Street and big businesses. If a small business chooses to operate as an S corporation for tax purposes, we should ensure that they have the ability to access certain capital without penalties.

Under current law, an S corporation is subject to an entity-level tax at the highest corporate rate on certain built-in gains of property that it held while operating as a C corporation. The tax applies to gain recognized within 10 years from the date that the C corporation elected to be an S corporation, and in the past, Congress has shortened this period to 5 years. This bill would make permanent the 5-year period, eliminating a significant deterrent that often discourages closely held C corporations from electing the S corporation status, thus subjecting them to a double tax.

Additionally, we should ensure that S corporations receive the same treat-

ment as partnerships when it comes to charitable donations. By achieving parity between different businesses, we can encourage all small businesses to continue their generous support of charitable activities.

This legislation is supported by 35 groups representing thousands of small businesses and their workers, who wrote that this legislation will allow small businesses to “make decisions based on what is best for the company rather than the dictates of the Tax Code. At a time when our economy badly needs increased investment, allowing more companies to access their own capital is an important step.” Additionally, they write, this legislation would “allow America’s S corporations to be more active and supportive of much-needed charitable activities.”

This is a bipartisan, commonsense bill that will give small businesses some much-needed relief from the burdens of the Tax Code and allow them to make new investments and create new jobs, and I urge its support.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Let this be very clear to our distinguished chairman. These bills being brought up here unpaid for come to \$75 billion. The total of the bills that have come through Ways and Means comes to \$614 billion. So 75 today, we had 300-and-some a week or so ago. The train is on the track as you have positioned it, 614 just to start. To extend these provisions for 2 years is \$3.4 billion. That is why it is irresponsible to simply go off into the wild deficit, irresponsible yonder. That is where you are.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself an additional minute.

There is a tremendous difference between 3.4 and 75 in these bills and 614 when you add this together with more to come. It also means it gives us time to look to see whether they should be permanent under what conditions.

So that is why it is reckless, it is irresponsible, it is contrary to your tax reform bill where you lauded it and we applauded that aspect that you paid for it. You called it revenue neutral. We wanted something beyond that. We didn’t want deficit wild.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT), an active member of our committee.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I am here today to speak for the citizens of Florida, Texas, Washington, Tennessee, Nevada, Alaska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and New Hampshire. These are States without an income tax. They do not have a State income tax. They are allowed to deduct their sales tax that they pay from their Federal

income tax and receive a credit for it this year. Now, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee spent 3 years working on putting a bill together; and in that bill—it is called tax reform—it repealed, it didn't just sort of leave unmentioned or anything else, it directly repealed that provision in the law.

We are out here today—nobody denies that small business needs some help. We certainly think that is a good idea. But where are the priorities of the ordinary taxpayers in Florida, Texas, Washington, Tennessee, Nevada, Alaska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and New Hampshire? They are going to pay an extra thousand dollars next year in taxes. They are going to get a tax increase from the Republicans by failing to give them this deduction.

It costs \$6.5 billion. We are going to spend 75 or 71—or whatever it is today—billion dollars. One-tenth of that would cover the tax exemption for the people in these States, the ordinary tax citizens that everybody says they are worried about, the middle class, the middle class who is struggling in this society. But this Congress says, no, we have to take care of business. That is all we have taken care of is business so far.

When the chairman had the possibility, he repealed this. Now, he is from Michigan. Why not? Who would care? They wouldn't affect his State.

What is hard for me to understand is how anybody can come out here and not defend the interest of their own citizens. If you represent Florida, Texas, Washington, Tennessee, Nevada, Alaska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and New Hampshire and you vote for these tax bills today and say to your people back home we don't care what happens to you, it ought to be an interesting experience to go on the stump running for election this year.

Everybody's talking about taxes, but we are taking away a tax deduction for the people of these States. And why? I guess we haven't got the money, or maybe the chairman doesn't live in one of those States, or I am not quite sure how all this works, but I'm here to say that people from the State of Washington need to have a tax deduction for the sales tax that they pay in lieu of an income tax.

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), who is also a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, every dollar that Washington takes from small businesses is a dollar they don't have to invest in new equipment, expand operations, hire a new employee, or provide higher pay and better benefits. Particularly, in the Obama economy, businesses are already pinned down by uncertainty and need all the flexibility they can get to adapt and grow.

This legislation will strengthen our economy and spur greater investment by permanently giving small businesses organized as S corporations the ability to access capital without tax penalties. As noted at our committee hearing earlier this year, a permanent 5-year built-in gains period would provide greater flexibility in the day-to-day operations of S corporations that have built-in gain assets in order to make new investments and create jobs.

I urge support for H.R. 4453, the S Corporation Permanent Tax Relief Act, so we can create an America that works by fixing the Tax Code to provide permanent tax relief for small businesses.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), a distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am a longstanding supporter of S corporations, pass-throughs, and small businesses. In my State, as well as around the country, S corporations are a cornerstone of the business community. These corporations span a broad range of industries and employ a large percentage of our country's workforce. In my State alone, there are more than 235,000 S corporations providing more than 1.5 million jobs and bolstering the Illinois economy through their taxes paid.

In the name of fiscal responsibility, the Republican leadership has justified refusing to help 3 million Americans, including 116,000 Illinoisans, who were unemployed through no fault of their own.

□ 0945

Yet the Republican leadership abandoned its fiscal responsibility to balloon our deficit to \$614 billion for permanent tax breaks for corporations while refusing to aid hardworking struggling Americans in the name of fiscal responsibility.

My track record is very clear on my strong support of small businesses. My track record is also very clear that I cannot and will not prioritize over half a trillion dollars in deficit spending for business tax breaks and tell struggling Americans that they are not worth the expense. I very much want the small businesses in my State to benefit from the tax benefits contained in H.R. 4457 and H.R. 4453. However, I cannot support the Republican approach of unpaid for, permanent cuts for businesses while the needs of our unemployed and working poor go ignored.

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

Mr. Speaker, I insert in the RECORD a letter of support signed by 35 different organizations in support of this legislation. These signees include organizations as diverse as the National Grocers Association, the National Electrical Contractors Association, and the

Association for Manufacturing Technology.

JUNE 11, 2014.

PASS THE S CORPORATION PERMANENT TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2014

DEAR MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: As representatives of America's closely-held businesses, we ask that you support legislation (H.R. 4453) making permanent the 5-year recognition period for built-in gains, as well as the basis adjustment for charitable giving by S corporations.

Small businesses are the engine of America's economic growth and S corporations are the cornerstone of the small business community. There are more than 4.5 million of them nationwide. They are in every community and every industry and, according to Ernst & Young, they employ one out of every four private sector workers.

Unlike public corporations, these closely-held businesses have little or no access to the capital markets. Instead they rely on banks, relatives, and their own savings to fill their investment and working capital needs. An overly long built-in gains recognition period makes this disadvantage worse by preventing companies that have chosen to become S corporations from accessing their own capital and putting it to better use.

Locking up a company's capital for an entire decade is simply unreasonable. Past Congresses have recognized that a decade is too long and voted to reduce the recognition period on three separate occasions, but those temporary measures have expired and the 10-year rule is back in effect.

Enacting a permanent shorter recognition period would sustain the original intent of the rule while providing S corporations with much needed certainty. It would allow them to make decisions based on what is best for the company rather than the dictates of the tax code. At a time when our economy badly needs increased investment, allowing more companies to access their own, locked-up capital is an important step.

Furthermore, making permanent the basis adjustment to stock of S corporations that make charitable contributions of property would help bring consistent treatment among flow-through businesses, and would allow America's S corporations to be more active and supportive of much-needed charitable activities.

On behalf of America's Main Street business community, we respectfully ask that you vote in favor of the S Corporation Permanent Tax Relief Act of 2014.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aeronautical Repair Station Association, Air Conditioning Contractors of America, Agricultural Retailers Association, American Council of Engineering Companies, American Institute of Architects, American Rental Association, American Supply Association, American Trucking Associations, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Associated Equipment Distributors, Associated General Contractors of America, Auto Care Association, Financial Executives International, Food Marketing Institute, Heating, Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Distributors International, Independent Community Bankers of America, Independent Electrical Contractors.

Metals Service Center Institute, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors, National Beer Wholesalers Association, National Electrical Contractors Association, National Federation of Independent Business, National Funeral Directors Association, National Grocers Association, National

Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association, National Roofing Contractors Association, National Small Business Association, S Corporation Association, Small Business Council of America, Small Business Legislative Council, Subchapter S Bank Association, The Association For Manufacturing Technology, Truck Renting and Leasing Association, United States Business and Industry Council, Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America.

Mr. REICHERT. Small businesses across the country recognize just how crucial it is to give access to capital to businesses in our struggling economy today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the ranking member on the Budget Committee.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, for all his work on this.

The bills that we are seeing today on the floor of the House are part of a series of bills that have come out of the Ways and Means Committee from our Republican colleagues that run up our national debt by putting hundreds of billions of dollars on a credit card by permanently extending a number of business tax credits. In the process, they are actually violating their own budget that they had on the floor just a few months ago.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, this is not a serious attempt to help small businesses. By bringing these measures up one at a time in a rifle-shot fashion, our Republican colleagues are abandoning what they said we should do, which we agree we should do on a bipartisan basis, which is to tackle tax reform in a fiscally responsible way.

After all, Mr. Speaker, we are not helping small businesses by running up our national debt. It was just about a month ago when our Republican colleagues told us that the biggest threat to future economic growth in this country was projected deficits in the out years. We have said to our Republican colleagues we need to work together to reduce that long-term deficit. It is not a question about whether we should do it, it is a question of how we should do it.

But this bill, and these bills on the floor today, take us in the opposite direction. Together, they are going to add over \$614 billion to our credit card if you add up all these rifle-shot bills that have come out of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Speaker, what happened to all the rhetoric about fiscal discipline, about getting our deficits in order? Out the window.

Just to put these numbers in perspective, that \$640 billion on the credit card is 30 times what it would cost to extend emergency unemployment compensation to 3 million Americans who are

out of work today through no fault of their own.

So contrasting these bills with the budget rhetoric we heard a few months ago about reducing our deficits is total doublespeak. Our Republican colleagues know it doesn't meet the laugh test.

When we had the debate on this very floor about the Republican budget, we pointed out that the claim that it balanced in 10 years was based on all sorts of Enron-like accounting gimmicks. For example, they assumed all the revenues that would come in over the next 10 years from the Affordable Care Act at the same time they said they were repealing the Affordable Care Act. Both things can't happen at the same time.

Yet today, even if you take the Republican budget gimmicks, as they would have us do, even if you do that, their budget no longer balances in 10 years, it no longer balances in 10 years. In fact, if you look carefully at the rules governing this debate, our Republican colleagues had to change their own rules to allow this bill to be on the floor today because otherwise it would have violated their claim of a balanced budget. So, that is the kind of gimmickry we have going on here.

If our Republican colleagues were really serious about reducing the long-term deficit, as they claimed to be a month ago, they would be willing to close some of those special interest tax breaks in order to help reduce the deficit, and yet their budget doesn't close a single special interest tax break. It keeps the big subsidies for Big Oil companies, it keeps tax breaks for hedge fund owners. The bills before us today are under a rule that doesn't allow us to pay for them by closing some of those tax breaks. Mr. LEVIN and I would have loved to have the opportunity to say: let's pay for this business expensing provision by shutting down some of the unproductive tax breaks, tax breaks that are there not because they have economic value but because a powerful political interest got that tax break in the Code. Yet our Republican colleagues have a rule that says we can't touch those.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I thank my friend.

I really think this goes to the heart of the matter, because whether it was the R&D tax credit, the research and development tax credit, or the business expensing provision, I support those provisions, but I support doing them in a fiscally responsible way that doesn't add over \$600 billion to our deficit and debt.

How can we do that in a fiscally responsible way? But shutting down

some of the unproductive special interest tax breaks in the Tax Code. Yet, the rule before us says we are not allowed to do that. We can't even have a vote, Mr. Speaker, on shutting down some of those special interest tax breaks. That is how far our Republican colleagues are willing to go to keep those special interest tax breaks, not even allowing a vote to close one of them to pay for an R&D tax credit.

So what is this really all about? By running up our national credit card with these business tax provisions you add to the deficit. Then our Republican colleagues will be back here with their budget saying: do you know what, now that we have this big deficit you've got to cut funding for our kids' education, which is what they did in their budget; you have got to voucherize Medicare, which is what they did in their budget; we are not going to have enough funds for our national infrastructure and our highway program, which under their budget goes dry in September, people out of work.

So by providing permanent, unpaid for tax extenders in the business area and running up that deficit, they will come right back to us and say: Do you know what? Now we care again about the deficit, and here is what we want to do about it: cut early education, cut our investment infrastructure, cut the National Institutes of Health research into finding cures and treatments for diseases.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, this is not a serious effort. The chairman of the Ways and Means Committee made an honest effort at tax reform. I don't agree with a lot of what is in his tax reform bill, but it was an honest, professional effort. That is not coming to the floor today. In fact, this bill before us runs directly counter to the chairman's own tax reform effort, just as it violates the Republicans' own budget.

So, let's get serious, Mr. Speaker. Let's deal with these in a manner that provides the incentives we want to businesses. We can do that by extending these on a short-term basis while we work together to come up with a reasonable tax reform plan in a way that is responsible from a budget perspective. That is the way we should be doing the people's business here in the House. Because we are not doing it that way, I urge our colleagues to vote "no" on the provisions that are before us.

I thank my colleague, the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

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

The gentleman from Maryland spoke very eloquently on this topic. I just want to note that his past action shows something a little bit different. He has voted for this provision three times in the past.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REICHERT. No, I will not.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Because I am in favor of a short-term extension, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. REICHERT. I will not yield my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. My point of order is this:

The gentleman said that I had voted on this measure before. That is not true, and so I am asking what my recourse would be.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a valid point of order. It is a matter for debate.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington controls the time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. A parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If the gentleman from Washington will yield, the gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. My inquiry is this:

The gentleman from Washington, who is a friend, made a statement that is inaccurate. He stated that I had voted for the provision in this bill before. This bill provides a permanent unpaid for extension of business expensing. I have not done that.

So my question to you is: What recourse do I have to set the record straight?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously stated, that is a matter for debate.

The gentleman from Washington controls the time.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I would still say that the gentleman from Maryland—to clarify my point—has voted for the extension of these policies three times for a total of 8 years, and that is a fact. That is part of the voting record.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Washington yield?

Mr. REICHERT. I do not yield.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington is recognized.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry. I have a parliamentary inquiry on this.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington is under recognition.

The Member having the floor needs to yield for a parliamentary inquiry to be entertained.

The gentleman from Washington is recognized.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. My point of order now is, I have asked for a parliamentary inquiry to make it absolutely clear that I have not voted for a permanent unpaid extension of the business expensing provisions in the past, which is what this bill does and which is the root of my objection to this bill, that it runs up the deficit in the way it does.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The gentleman has not stated a point of order. The gentleman is engaging in debate.

The gentleman from Washington controls the time.

The gentleman from Washington is recognized.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I would just reiterate that the gentleman has voted for this extension of this policy three separate times for a period lasting 8 years.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Well, since you stated how many times I have voted to extend temporarily, I will now yield some time to Mr. VAN HOLLEN and then I will continue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). I don't think it will take very long to refute the statement made by the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. LEVIN.

As the gentleman from Washington knows, these issues come up every year as to whether or not we should extend certain tax provisions, in this case the business tax provision, earlier the R&D tax provision. Those are provisions that we support, but we support doing them in a fiscally responsible way.

In fact, the motion to recommit we will have will also say we should extend them for one more year while we get our act together here, Mr. Speaker, and do it in a way that doesn't run up the credit card by \$600 billion, which is what the Ways and Means Committee has done in a period of 2 weeks—2 weeks—after spending days on the floor of this house a few months ago saying that the biggest threat to economic growth in the future was our budget deficit.

□ 1000

They say that 2 months ago, and then they waive their own rules to bring up these bills that increase our credit card debt to the tune of \$600 billion total from what came out of the Ways and Means Committee, in violation of your own budget.

That is what I object to.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP), the chairman of the committee.

Mr. CAMP. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would just say, as the gentleman from Maryland said, we are probably going to do this again.

As the majority whip in the Senate has said—to paraphrase—when we do these policies over and over again, we ought to have an honest debate about what should be permanent.

If we do accept the motion to recommit—which I understand is going to be offered—that extends this one more time, that means we have extended this for a full budget window, unpaid for, so I understand why there is some defensiveness about the voting record over there, in terms of how many times they have voted to extend these policies unpaid for, but if we are going to do that, let's do this in a permanent way, so we can bring some certainty to small businesses.

We know that is where most of the jobs get created in any recovery. Let's give small business in America some certainty, so that the job creation can start and they can understand exactly what their tax obligations are.

This is something that, as I have said, many small business groups are behind and support.

I urge adoption of this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Is the gentleman ready to close?

Mr. REICHERT. I am. I have no other speakers.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. I am glad the chairman spoke because this back-and-forth really illustrates what this is all about.

The chairman made these three provisions permanent and paid for. This bill here doesn't pay one dime. We have voted to continue these programs on a short-term basis for a variety of reasons.

For example, on bonus depreciation, the notion to make it permanent was contrary to its purpose. The chairman left it out of his reform and then comes here to vote to make it permanent.

We need an honest debate about tax reform and what provisions should be made permanent. You have prevented any kind of an honest debate. You don't even allow us to bring up some way to pay for any of this.

I previously pointed out the difference. It is so striking. If you extend these provisions, as the Senate does, for 2 years, the cost is \$3.4 billion. These two bills are \$75 billion.

There could be no more dramatic example of irresponsibility and of recklessness, and the mystery is: Why in the world are you doing this?

As you can see, there aren't huge numbers of Members here for the debate. You are going through the motions. These are rifle shots, and you are shooting yourselves in the foot.

Don't bring up the number of times that someone has voted to continue these on a temporary basis as you argue to make them permanent. That is dishonesty.

I want to emphasize the path that is being followed here is not only contrary to the tax reform proposal, contrary to the Ryan budget. It is also going to lead to the Republicans, as Mr. VAN HOLLEN said so eloquently, raising this huge amount of deficit—\$614 billion, going towards a trillion—and then the Republicans are going to come back here and say: wow, look at how much the deficit has increased.

So you now need to cut these critical programs relating to the lifeline of all of the people in this country, the middle class and all who need some help.

So I strongly urge a "no" vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 18½ minutes remaining.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, just to be honest, I also might want to mention that Mr. LEVIN has voted five times to extend these policies, for a total of 12 years.

Congress—Democrats and Republicans—have repeatedly reauthorized these tax policies without paying for them. Democrats have agreed with the policy of these bills before us today. Making them permanent gives businesses certainty that they will always be a part of the Tax Code, and it is a more honest way of budgeting. Increasing taxes to pay for these policies makes no sense.

We all agree that small businesses impacted by my bill need more access to their capital, which my bill gives them. Making the policies in this bill permanent, while raising taxes in the area of the economy, defeats the purpose of freeing up capital in a way that encourages job creation and moves the economy ahead.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this legislation will give businesses what they have been asking for since I came to Congress, and that is the certainty in the Tax Code, so that the Tax Code is working for them and they are not working for the Tax Code, so they can plan ahead, so they can grow their business, so they can hire more workers, and so that we can get this economy moving again and get people back to work.

In order to do that, Mr. Speaker, they need the ability to access their capital, so they can invest, again, in their businesses; reenergize their businesses; buy new equipment; sell new

equipment; create jobs; and, again, grow the economy.

So I urge my colleagues to vote for the bill before us today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H.R. 4453, The Permanent S Corporation Built-In Gains Relief Act of 2014.

Identical to a provision contained in the discussion draft of the "Tax Reform Act of 2014" released on February 26, 2014, the bill, H.R. 4453, reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, provides a permanent five-year recognition period for built-in gains of an S corporation.

I support sound tax policy which allows small businesses in Houston to grow and invest in their people—which is exactly what this bill would do.

And supporters of the bills argue that they would eliminate a significant deterrent that can discourage C-corporations from electing to be S-corporations and will provide additional flexibility for S-corporations to access capital by selling unproductive assets to finance expansion of their businesses.

Of course Democrats support permanent treatment of S-corporation taxes but we must again take our Republican friends to task for not offsetting the cost of the bill, noting again that permanently extending six tax provisions that GOP leaders want to act on would add \$310 billion to the deficit. That's \$310 billion which could go to Head Start, Student Loans, or feeding the needy.

Because we are the party of Small Business, Democrats understand that by making the provision permanent, businesses have more certainty and they can make better, more fluid decisions—but the process by which we are doing it is unseemly.

But the GOP has made paying for every bill a prerequisite—except in this case. Where is the consistency, I ask?

In moving forward with a permanent extension of a select group of tax extenders, the Majority is once again leaving to an increasingly uncertain fate critical provisions like the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, the American Opportunity Tax Credit, the New Markets Tax Credit, the Mortgage Relief Debt Forgiveness and the renewable energy tax credits, as well as the long-range status of the EITC and the Child Tax Credit.

The Democrat's Motion to Recommit would extend the S Corporation shorter Built-in Gains Recognition Period and Charitable Contribution Adjusted Basis for only two additional years, through the end of 2015, as opposed to the underlying bill's permanent extension. It would prevent these tax cut extensions from permanently adding to the deficit, undermining comprehensive tax reform, and putting further pressure on the United States' discretionary priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to vote for a two-year extension but these bills must be paid for—because if they are not—future generations will suffer because of the unsustainable debt. Let us get back to being fiscally responsible.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the bill in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Neal moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4453 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

Amend section 2 to read as follows:

SEC. 2. TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF REDUCED RECOGNITION PERIOD FOR BUILT-IN GAINS OF S CORPORATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 1374(d)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "2012 or 2013" and inserting "2012, 2013, 2014, or 2015".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

Amend section 3 to read as follows:

SEC. 3. TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF RULE REGARDING BASIS ADJUSTMENT TO STOCK OF S CORPORATION MAKING CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The last sentence of section 1367(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "December 31, 2013" and inserting "December 31, 2015".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

Mr. NEAL (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

Mr. CAMP (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my objection to the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to dispensing with the reading?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order against the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I think what I would like to offer to the chairman at this moment is to pose the following question: Are you going to surrender this morning, or are you going to surrender in November? Because, really, those are the two options that are before us today.

Let me retrace where we have been on tax reform. The chairman gets credit for a valiant effort at tax reform. Mr. LEVIN has acknowledged it; Mr. VAN HOLLEN has acknowledged it. For 3 years, we studiously and aggressively undertook a genuine effort to do tax reform.

Now, what is interesting about it is the Democratic response to the chairman's draft was fairly tepid. Let's continue the conversation. Republicans released letters to the media, the Speaker poured cold water on the initiative, and a pretty good effort was cast aside. So we are back here this morning.

Let me offer a couple of, I think, economic facts that might defy consideration around here because, sometimes, they don't square with opinion.

There has been little wage growth for the average American worker since 2002. Downward pressure on wages is what we should be discussing.

In addition, a company located not far from where I live submitted a tax form last year of 19,000 pages. They have 11 full-time Internal Revenue agents on site daily. If this isn't a reason to go back to the table and negotiate tax reform, I don't know what is.

The chairman kind of cleverly suggested here this morning that, if we were to accept what is being proposed by the Democratic minority, might that be a path forward? It is a path forward. We are offering a 2-year extension of these provisions.

I hope Mr. REICHERT or Mr. CAMP returns and says: indeed, Mr. NEAL has voted for these repeatedly. We are counting on you, Mr. Chairman, to point out how many times I voted for them.

Guess what? You are right, and we are going to vote for them again in November. This exercise in futility ill-serves the American people, other than to perhaps get to some messaging points.

I don't disagree with these. I disagree with the idea of breaking the budget to make them permanent this morning, but I, more importantly, disagree with the whole notion that we are giving up on tax reform if we make these permanent.

Some of the provisions in the Code need to be discarded. Mr. Chairman, I would remind you and the Republican staff that you removed 300 provisions, exclusions, deductions, and preferences from the Code. So we come back here this morning in this ill-conceived effort to embrace a couple of favorites?

The Tax Code in America has not been touched since 1986. I would remind you this morning, for all of you out here today, that was before the Internet was invented.

That is the question before us. A Tax Code for a modern economy, or do we go back to, well, Mr. NEAL voted for this 8 times? Yes, he did. In fact, Mr. NEAL has been on the Ways and Means

Committee longer than the three previous speakers, so you can probably say Mr. NEAL has voted for them 11 times because I think many of them work, in the absence of fundamental reform.

The last point, the chairman said he was going to 25 percent. The Democrats said go to 28 percent on the corporate side. We could have done all of this, had we gone to 28 percent, but ideology reigns, so we go to 25 percent. Even President Obama was at 28 percent.

This is not the way this institution is supposed to function, Mr. Speaker. The Ways and Means Committee is a privileged perspective on complicated issues. You don't do them like this when it comes to items in the Code.

So accept the notion that everybody dislikes the Code. Specificity in terms of what we are going to wean out becomes the problem.

□ 1015

Here is our last position—a 2-year extension.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to seeing you after the elections. You and I are going to shake hands, and as much as we all like to say, "I hate to say, 'I told you so,'" I am going to say, "As much as I hate telling you this, I told you so."

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my point of order, and I seek time in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of order is withdrawn.

The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, frankly, this motion to recommit is absurd. It is absurd in this economy to threaten small business with higher taxes.

The gentleman referred to favorites. Yes, I do have favorites. Those are the small businesses all across America that hire and to which people go to work every day. The margins are tight. You know the testimony we have had before the Ways and Means Committee. We need growth in this economy, certainty, and long-term tax policy. We are the only nation in the world that allows its tax policy to expire.

Instead of threatening small businesses with higher taxes, we should give confidence to small businesses—confidence to know what the tax policy is. Look, it has been extended so many times it may as well be permanent. This is the point—so that they will grow, so that they will invest, so that they will hire workers. People will have higher wages as a result of a stronger, growing economy because families and middle class Americans will have jobs.

Reject this threat of higher taxes, particularly on small businesses. Reject this motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 616, I call up the bill (H.R. 4457) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in House Report 113-472, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 4457

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. EXPENSING CERTAIN DEPRECIABLE BUSINESS ASSETS FOR SMALL BUSINESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—Paragraph (1) of section 179(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "shall not exceed—" and all that follows and inserting "shall not exceed \$500,000."

(2) REDUCTION IN LIMITATION.—Paragraph (2) of section 179(b) of such Code is amended by striking "exceeds—" and all that follows and inserting "exceeds \$2,000,000."

(b) COMPUTER SOFTWARE.—Clause (ii) of section 179(d)(1)(A) of such Code is amended by striking "to which section 167 applies, and which is placed in service in a taxable year beginning after 2002 and before 2014" and inserting "and to which section 167 applies".

(c) ELECTION.—Paragraph (2) of section 179(c) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking "may not be revoked" and all that follows through "and before 2014", and

(2) by striking "IRREVOCABLE" in the heading thereof.

(d) AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING UNITS.—Paragraph (1) of section 179(d) of such Code is amended by striking "and shall not include air conditioning or heating units".

(e) QUALIFIED REAL PROPERTY.—Subsection (f) of section 179 of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking “beginning in 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013” in paragraph (1), and

(2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4).

(f) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Subsection (b) of section 179 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2014, the dollar amounts in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

“(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(c)(2)(A) for such calendar year, determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2013’ for ‘calendar year 2012’ in clause (i) thereof.

“(B) ROUNDING.—The amount of any increase under subparagraph (A) shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10,000.”.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4457.

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

There was no objection.

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

The tax burden that small businesses, farmers, ranchers, and their workers face is too high. Every dollar Washington takes from small businesses is a dollar that they don't have to invest in equipment, to start a new production line, to hire a new employee, or to provide more in wages and benefits. Businesses aren't growing, and hardworking Americans are seeing stagnant wages and fewer work hours. This is unacceptable.

These days, it seems that Congress can rarely agree on much, so when we can find some common ground to help grow the economy and get businesses to invest and hire new workers, we should act immediately. The legislation we have before us today, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014, would do just that by providing a permanent extension of section 179 expensing at a level of \$500,000. Section 179 is a bipartisan provision that has been in place since the 1950s, but busi-

nesses, farmers, and ranchers cannot reap the full benefits when they have no idea if this provision is going to be around the next year or what it may look like. This hurts their ability to plan for the future and expand their businesses.

The Farm Bureau recently stated:

This practice makes it very difficult for farmers and ranchers to plan, and it adds immense confusion and complexity to the Tax Code.

It is time to make section 179 permanent at an expensing level of \$500,000 so American farmers, ranchers, and small businesses can invest in new equipment, grow their businesses, and plan for the future.

Sure, House Democrats, many who have sponsored this legislation before, are now demanding that we pay for an extension of these policies despite voting year after year to extend these job-creating policies without their being paid for. Frankly, the millions of Americans searching for jobs or for a few extra dollars in their paychecks know that pro-growth policies like this pay for themselves in the form of new investments, new jobs, and higher wages. I think we can all agree this is the right policy, and we should set the rhetoric aside so we can have an America that works, with a strong and vibrant economy.

By supporting permanent policies, Washington can promote certainty for American businesses and generate additional economic growth. We have become too accustomed to poor jobs reports, anemic growth, and just accepting things as they are. Small business expensing has been a bipartisan policy for decades, and it is time to make it a permanent part of the Tax Code. Washington needs to wake up, to start listening to the American people, and to act on real policies that strengthen the economy and help hardworking taxpayers. Today's legislation will do just that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Small business can have full confidence that this provision will be extended—period. Indeed, the fact that I have voted for it many times in the past, as pointed out, is confidence that it will be continued. As to the suggestion that we have made to continue it for 2 years, we are already well into the first year, and if we don't act until the end of the year and extend it for 2 years, that would be another one not even for another full year, but there would be a 2-year extension. So small business can be fully confident this will be extended. There is no threat to it. There is zero threat to its extension.

When it was said earlier by the chairman that small business can have no idea as to whether this will be extended next year, that simply is not correct. The Senate has before it a bill to ex-

tend it for 2 years. At some point, that will pass, and that is the bill that will be taken up in the House.

The chairman did extend permanently this provision—not many others. He paid for that. The chairman extolled the fact that he paid for it, and now they have gone in reverse and now suggest that we proceed unpaid for permanently. The cost of this is far different than a 2-year extension, as I have mentioned—far different. We are talking about over \$70 billion compared to a few billion dollars.

Let me just say that everybody has to be mystified as to why in the world the Republicans are doing this when it violates their budget, when it violates the chairman's and the Republicans' Ways and Means tax proposal, and when, if this is done, it is going to be part of a ratcheting up of the deficit of \$614 billion and will have major ramifications for so many programs.

Essentially, what they are doing is, on the one hand, increasing this deficit dramatically—through the ceiling. Then they are going to come back on the other hand and say, ah, the deficit went through the ceiling, so we need to take away, with the other, education programs, health programs—all kinds of programs that are necessary—transportation programs. They are going to say, well, we just don't have the money when, essentially, the reason is that they have tried to pass a bill that throws money out the window.

We are going to extend the small business tax cut. We are going to do that—Democrats will stand together to make sure that that happens—but not in a way that is part of a reckless, irresponsible approach. That is a major, major reason we simply have to say: extend it for 2 years. Then let's sit down and talk about what we are going to do with these provisions as part of a tax reform effort that is serious and is bipartisan.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI) control the remainder of the time.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your leadership on the Ways and Means Committee. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with you. You have been a great leader, and we look forward to allowing you to lead us the rest of this year on our committee as we continue the debate on the extenders and making some permanent.

H.R. 4457 would permanently extend the small business expensing for equipment and property outlined in section 179 of the Tax Code.

As many of you know, section 179 first came into existence in 1958. I

wasn't yet born. My parents were not yet married. They got married in 1958, so they didn't see the debate here in Washington. It may not have been quite like the debate today, though, I would say, because, ladies and gentlemen, Members of Congress, this is a mystifying debate. This shouldn't be this difficult. No wonder Congress has a low approval rating.

Section 179 of our Tax Code is very simple, and as the chairman said, it has been very bipartisan over the years. It allows businessowners to immediately deduct the cost of the investments of property and computer software rather than depreciating such cost over time.

In fact, on January 1, what had been an extender that allowed for the maximum expensing of \$500,000 and the deduction phased out of investments exceeding \$2 million went back to what is current law today. That is why this is so important. It is the essence of this debate, and it is the essence of what my bill does because it went down. The limit went down to \$25,000 and up to \$200,000 of investments.

If you talk to Tom and Judy Price, who are from my district, they think that what we do here is just crazy and mystifying because they have to make real decisions in real time and with real money, not make-believe, not theory. They have to make decisions that impact real lives and real costs and real jobs. This is a jobs bill. That is what this is about. If you ask Tom and Judy Price, we have had expensing, and we have had higher limits than \$25,000. We don't today. We had them before, but they weren't paid for. We have had them for the 10 years since I have been here, and they haven't been paid for.

But do you know what? Here is the reality of life.

In Delaware County, Ohio, I talked to Tom Price this morning. He has a mulching business. He needs to buy a loader. Is Congress going to provide certainty? Oh, 2 years is fine. Retroactivity is fine. That is the narrative around here, Mr. Speaker. We've done it before. Let's do it again this way.

□ 1030

The Senate won't accept it. Let's surrender our card today. Let's surrender my voting card, Mr. Speaker. It is somewhere here. Let me give it to the Senate.

My daughter, going into sixth grade, understands there are two Houses. We shouldn't be surrendering this card, Mr. Speaker, to the Senate because, oh, the Senate is going to do it their way; have always done it that way.

Ladies and gentlemen, a bill becomes a law this way. The House passes a bill. That is what we are trying to do today, Mr. Speaker, add permanency.

Tom and Judy Price, in their mulching business, they would like certainty to plan, not oh, we will make it retro-

active and we will go out a year. Oh, by the way, Mr. Price, we are going to do it in November. We are going to make it retroactive to January.

Are you kidding me? Are you kidding me?

You guys couldn't survive running a business in Washington, D.C. You couldn't survive.

That is what this debate is all about. It is about reality.

My daughter knows that the Senate has the right to do anything they want, but we have our right with our card. Guess what?

There is supposed to be a conference committee. There is supposed to be a real debate and oh, my God, compromise between the House and the Senate. That is what this is supposed to be about. That is what I tell my daughter who is going into sixth grade.

But no, let's surrender to the Senate right now. Let's just surrender. We have surrendered before.

And oh my goodness, these deficits. These businesses pay taxes. You all want to raise taxes on them.

When we had a debate on this floor, and I was here in 2009, we passed a \$1 trillion stimulus bill. \$1 trillion. Nobody cared about the deficit then.

But Mr. Price and Mrs. Price are trying to buy a loader for \$200,000, and we are debating over the deficit and temporary Tax Code and retroactivity and surrendering to the Senate. That is what this debate is about. That is what this has come to.

And you wonder why, Mr. Speaker, Americans think Washington is broken; because we don't understand what real-life Americans who are trying to run a business and hire employees and raise their wages, they don't understand why we are having these mystical debates because they are living in the real world, the real world.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill, but I am constrained to respond to the remarks, the emotional remarks, the perplexed remarks of the gentleman who preceded me.

I have a voting card too. And I don't know whether either Tom or Judy Price have been unemployed, or whether their brother or their sister have run out of unemployment insurance and have been left twisting in the wind. But this voting card could give them extended unemployment insurance.

I don't know whether Tom and Judy Price have employees who are making the minimum wage and living in poverty. This card could change that and up the minimum wage, but it hasn't been brought to the floor.

I tell my friend from Ohio, this card could fix what everybody agrees is a

broken immigration system, but we are not using this card, I tell my friend from Ohio, because we are dabbling in the unrealistic.

This card, this card could pass export-import. He wants to grow jobs. Export-import is absolutely critical, and it phases out, and you will not bring it to this floor.

This card, and your card, joined together with 216 other cards, could pass all of those pieces of legislation. This card could make sure that Tom and Judy Price have an economy that is more resilient.

And this card—my friend from Ohio is distracted, but I tell my friend from Ohio, this card helped pass the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, without which Tom and Judy Price might not be in business today because your tax policies of 2001 and 2003, unpaid for, which were supposed to grow this economy, resulted in more loss of jobs than any policy since Herbert Hoover.

This card ought to be used today for fiscal responsibility. This card ought to be used to say to your chairman that you praised, DAVID CAMP, yes, we want to do comprehensive tax reform, not just little item by little item by little item, which destroys tax reform, which exacerbates our deficit, and will destroy investment in education, infrastructure, and growing our economy.

This card, I urge my colleagues to use responsibly this day.

All of us here support helping small businesses expand operations so they can hire more workers, all of us. Our Tax Code ought to encourage small businesses to do so.

But the Republican majority's approach to tax policy, evidenced by the two bills on the floor today, is simply the wrong path.

Do not use your card, given to you by the American people, trusting that you will do the responsible, commonsense thing, don't use this card irresponsibly today.

The bills we are considering today are the latest examples of Republican hypocrisy, Mr. Speaker, hypocrisy on deficits, as their approach would raise deficits by hundreds of billions of dollars.

There is no free lunch. This pretends there is a free lunch.

Hypocrisy on tax policy is a representative rejection of the comprehensive approach to tax reform Republicans' own Ways and Means Chairman, DAVID CAMP, that the gentleman from Ohio just praised, put on this floor, or at least put on the table, not on the floor.

And the response of the Speaker of this House was, and I quote, "Blah, blah, blah, blah."

What a shame. How unserious.

While I have serious concerns about some of the policy changes that Chairman CAMP's proposal contains, it made the difficult choices and it was paid for. It was responsible.

Republicans and Democrats all say we want a comprehensive tax reform. This undermines tax reform. So if you say you are for comprehensive tax reform, don't do little, itty-bitty pieces that are unpaid for, exacerbate the deficit, and undermine tax reform.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. These bills today reject that approach and, instead, take the easy way out by irresponsibly adding their cost to the deficit, a deficit that my friends on the other side of the aisle, with whom I join, lament on a daily basis but, somehow, disconnect their policies from their lamentations.

In doing so, these bills will put even more pressure on a discretionary budget facing the return of sequester next year, undermining our ability to invest in critical priorities like veterans care, highways, education, bills to make sure that we grow our economy and create jobs.

Democrats are ready to make the hard choices so that we leave America a better country, not a poorer country, not a deeper in debt country, but a better country for our children and our grandchildren.

Rather than waste our time on these individual bills, Congress ought to debate and amend comprehensive tax reform, allowing us to face up to our responsibility to make the tough decisions the American people expect from their representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I don't live in a perfect Congress, none of us do, or in a country that always makes the right decisions. So I will vote for an MTR which says we are not going to permanently exacerbate our deficit, but we will make sure that business does have the opportunity to have these tax benefits, as we have in a bipartisan basis done in the past.

So I will vote for the MTR. I will vote to make sure that we extend these for 2 years, as the Senate suggests. I don't think that is the best policy. It is not the policy I would choose. The policy I would choose is comprehensively giving permanent, long-term R&D, paid for so that we don't exacerbate the deficit, but we do give confidence so businesses can grow.

So I tell my friend from Ohio, we both have a card. The responsible step for us to take is to vote "no" on temporary and come with fiscally responsible legislation to this floor.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the Hoosier State, Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), a great member of the Ways and Means Committee and a member of the Select Revenue Subcommittee. He has provided great leadership on the subcommittee, and I appreciate his work.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4457,

America's Small Business Tax Relief Act.

I want to thank my colleague, PAT TIBERI, for his hard work on this initiative, which is vital to the small businesses and farmers across my district.

I would be remiss if I didn't respond to the last speaker's comments, the distinguished gentleman from Maryland who, with a straight face, indicated that this card, his card, was a vehicle for fiscal responsibility when, consistently he has confused this card with this card, a credit card.

We have continued to rack up debts, over and over again, and we have not engaged in growth-oriented public policy, and that is what this bill is intended to do.

This bill increases the amount a small business taxpayer may immediately deduct when she buys operating materials for her business.

The ability of small businesses to immediately deduct the cost of qualified investment in the year purchased, rather than having to recover the cost through depreciation over several years, has been essential to the survival of thousands of firms over the past decade.

Higher expensing limits will encourage businesses to invest in new computers, tractors, and other types of business equipment and grow.

Such investment will have, of course, important second-order effects—economists tell us this—on the economy as these purchases are magnified throughout the nation.

The version of section 179 we are considering today expired at the end of 2012, and since then, back home I have heard from a parade of constituents, businessowners and workers alike, about the need to restore the provision.

I have heard from Indiana NFIB, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Manufacturers Association, Indiana Farm Bureau, and countless individual businesses and workers, and I am glad we are working in the House, hopefully on a bipartisan basis, to help unleash the ability of our Nation's small businesses to grow.

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

Mr. TIBERI. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. These small businesses are the engine of American job creation. They create roughly three out of five American jobs that have been created over recent years. And one critical means of supporting American small businesses and working Americans is through business tax incentives like section 179.

This is a proven success. It has proven itself over the last several years. And it is evident that these small businesses are one bright spot of job creation, personal opportunity, and upward mobility during these troubled times.

I support this commonsensical bill that is going to help small businesses grow and restore a measure of hope and opportunity to rank-and-file Americans during these troubled times.

I would like to thank Chairman TIBERI for his important work in offering this legislation.

I would ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reconsider their partisan reservations to supporting this measure.

□ 1045

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself 1 minute and yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The gentleman from Indiana raised his credit card. He apparently is going to use his vote as you would use a credit card, to incur an additional \$73 billion in unpaid for debt.

Mr. LEVIN. The whip is so correct.

The gentleman from Indiana is very confused. He is using his voting card as a credit card. \$73 billion on this bill. Our voting card is not a credit card, but the Republicans are turning this into a credit card, with calamitous results.

I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Republicans would dig our country into another trillion dollars of debt, borrowing from the Chinese, the Saudis, whoever will lend it to us.

They have already approved borrowing \$614 billion for business tax breaks, and they have told us that there are more on the way, more tax privileges, more tax exceptions, more tax advantages.

This bill today is just another chapter in their ledger of accounts payable for the American taxpayers. Such fiscal irresponsibility doesn't represent a plan for genuine tax relief for small businesses or for anyone else.

I will say that I agree with them, that small businesses have every reason to complain, as do individual taxpayers, because the Tax Code that they have done so much to write is riddled with special treatment for those who pay more to their lobbyists here in Washington than they do to the U.S. Treasury.

It has been a wise investment for them, but a pretty sorry outcome for small business and individual taxpayers. We have some multinational companies who have set up hundreds of offshore subsidiaries to shift their profits out of America and into a place where they don't pay a dime.

I can tell you that the cleaning crew at the headquarters of General Electric pays a higher tax rate than General Electric does. That is not fair. They pay a higher tax rate than Joe's Bakery or Patty's Taco House down in San Antonio.

That is not fair. It ought to be corrected; but instead, they have added almost another \$100 billion in tax loopholes that they have proposed and have approved in committee to help those folks continue dodging their taxes.

At the same time, the proponents of today's bills tell us that America simply cannot afford more to educate its children. Only the day before yesterday, the Senate refused to address the problem of soaring student debt, now bigger than credit card debt, exceeded only by the giant debt they want to incur for more tax breaks.

They tell us: we can't afford to do the research necessary to cure Alzheimer's or to find new solutions to cancer and AIDS and other dreaded diseases.

This is not about borrowing to raise small business up. This is just an excuse to reduce the government investment that we need to grow our economy.

Apparently, to the Republicans, deficits only matter when asking seniors and students and others to sacrifice, but not when it comes to adding one tax break after another.

Now, how did we get to the situation that we are in today? Well, there has been a convenient amnesia about the history of tax reform in this Congress. Last January, the gentleman from Ohio—the Speaker—and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) came to this floor and they said: America, have we got a deal for you.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman from Texas an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DOGGETT. We have got a great deal for you. This big old fat Tax Code that is bigger than the Bible many times over, that we helped expand to resolve the needs of our special interest supporters, we are going to put it on a diet. We are going to thin it down.

We are going to give you a simple Tax Code that is easy to comply with. In addition to that, we are going to lower your rate; and you know what, we are going to do all that, and we are not going to add a penny to the national debt, and we will keep the rates relatively the same for everybody.

They reserved H.R. 1. They said: it is so important, we are going to make it the number one priority here. Where are we on that bill, I would ask the gentleman today; and I can tell you it is still reserved for the Speaker.

They have never brought it out, put it on this table, and given the American people a chance to vote on it because what happened was they went through a long process, they produced their draft bill, and the lobby went wild against it. They could not stand up to the very people that helped them write the complex, unfair Tax Code that we have today.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman from Texas an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DOGGETT. They couldn't stand up to those special interests, so that bill, 18 months later—not the result of anything the Democrats did, not the result of anything the President did—they couldn't agree among themselves about how to respond to all those special interest pressures.

So they are back today, going one little bill at a time to add a few hundred billion here, a few hundred billion dollars there, and not provide the comprehensive tax reform they told us, themselves, they would be providing, and that is why we find ourselves in the predicament we are in today.

I agree with the gentleman, people in Ohio, across America, in Texas, and elsewhere, that they have reason to question this Congress, because a promise is just like that.

Promises to bring reform, to work together in a bipartisan fashion left on the cutting room floor because special interests, the people that don't pay their fair share of taxes today, they want to keep it that way. They want to continue to disadvantage small business and individual taxpayers.

Today, we need to say “no” to this measure and “no” to their other temporary measures and demand real reform.

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

Just for the record, the gentleman from Texas has voted for the policy of either increasing or extending section 179, without offsets, six times on a temporary basis for a total of 8 years.

Mr. DOGGETT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TIBERI. The gentleman from Michigan has time to yield to the gentleman from Texas.

The motion to recommit that the minority keeps talking about today will add billions to the deficit as well, and as I explained earlier, the problem with the narrative of We have done it this way, we are going to do it again, and the problem with surrender, as was talked about by the gentleman from Massachusetts, who I have a great deal of respect for, is the fact that we are missing the point of what is happening in the real America.

Real Americans see that we, on this floor, get a stimulus bill by the other side, in 2009—and I was here—jammed down our throats that added \$1 trillion to the deficit.

Today, the minority is concerned about the deficit, and I assume they want those same small business owners who are trying so hard to create jobs with additional regulations—like Tom and Judy Price face—and they want them to pay more taxes, that is the bottom line; but when they have increased the debt before—whether it is for temporary tax policy or additional spending—there was no concern about the deficit and the debt.

It is interesting, Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Secretary Lew, in a speech at the Economic Club in New York, said, “The U.S. could face a permanent downturn in economic growth without increased business investment.”

How timely—because if you go to my district and talk to Tom Price or talk to Gary Skinner, who owns a farm—and I had the privilege of being in his combine, that combine costs \$250,000—guess what: it is about this provision today.

The reality with our unpermanent extender policy, with respect to the investments that Mr. Lew talked about yesterday, is that real job creators who are trying to grow their businesses, hire more people—so people like my dad, when I was in high school—wouldn't have to get unemployment, like he did or my dad—who was an immigrant, so I understand a little bit about immigration—despite the fact that the gentleman from Maryland might not think so—and mom, another immigrant—could get jobs. That is what this is all about.

All you have to do is go talk to these job creators who are looking at us with a whole lot of perplexed looks as to: Why can't we change the narrative? Why can't the House have a position to negotiate with the Senate? Why does it have to always be, well, this is the way we have done it retroactively for 2 years, this is the way we will do it again?

That gives no certainty to these job creators, to these farmers. That is what this debate is all about, ladies and gentlemen.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy.

Mr. Speaker, I listened to my friend from Ohio talk about his concern for small businesses and the economy. I am reflecting on the thousands of businesses that were represented here on Capitol Hill this week, calling on Congress to get its act together, dealing with transportation funding.

We are facing a crisis in transportation in this country. The majority, because they couldn't put together a transportation bill last year, drove the highway trust fund down to zero. They milked every single dime to be able to get a 27-month extension.

What has happened? Well, actually, what has happened is that it is not even going to last until October 1. All across the country, States are cutting back on funding contracts now because the Department of Transportation is going to run out of money late this summer.

These people were rallying on Capitol Hill, large business, small business, environment, unions, from all across

America, saying: Congress, get your act together.

I will note, with some small amount of irony, that my friends on the Ways and Means Committee have approved over \$600 billion of tax breaks added to the deficit that would have fully funded not one 6-year transportation bill, but two robust transportation bills.

Did you listen to those small businesses? Did you listen to the contractors? Did you listen to the equipment rental people, the asphalt, the gravel, the concrete? To those people, we have turned a deaf ear.

The Ways and Means Committee, in 42 months, has not had a single hearing on transportation finance. We had one misguided work session on a bill that had never had the benefit of a hearing that collapsed. They passed it out of committee, but they couldn't even bring it to the floor, so we got this 27-month extension.

We are facing, this summer, losing 700,000 construction jobs because Congress refuses to act. My friends on Ways and Means won't even have a hearing on transportation, will approve \$600 billion worth of tax cuts; but we are not dealing with a crisis for your State, for my State, red States, blue States, union and nonunion, big business, small business, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the building trades. Let's get a grip.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman from Oregon an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. If you care about small business, if you care about the health and welfare of your community, if you care about the future of the economy, read the Standard & Poor's report that pointed out that the investments we make will pay for themselves many times over.

It is not just saving those 700,000 jobs. It is an opportunity to grow the economy in the future in something that doesn't have to be conservative, liberal, red State, blue State. It is an opportunity to bring America together to rebuild and renew our economy.

That is what we should be focusing on, rather than this sideshow today that is going to make long-term tax reform harder, add to the deficit, and not deal with the fundamental problems that our constituents were asking us to deal with this week.

There were thousands of them here rallying before the Congress. We turned a deaf ear. Is this really the best we could come up with?

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter addressed to me and the gentleman from Wisconsin, Representative RON KIND, dated June 9, from many employers. In fact, it represents millions of job creators throughout America and their support

for making permanent this provision of section 179 of our Tax Code.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF MANUFACTURERS,

June 10, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 4457, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014, introduced by Reps. Pat Tiberi (R-OH) and Ron Kind (D-WI). This bipartisan legislation restores and makes permanent the enhanced Section 179 expensing provisions that expired at the end of 2013.

Enhanced Section 179 expensing allows small and medium-sized manufacturers to immediately write off up to \$500,000 of investments in new property and equipment in the year purchased, rather than depreciating the cost of the investment overtime. Making this provision a permanent part of the tax code will provide these job creators with the certainty needed for effective business planning. In reducing the after-tax cost of investments, the legislation will help spur much-needed investments in new property and sales of capital equipment. Since 2003, Congress has steadily increased the amount of investment that small businesses can expense, from \$25,000 to \$500,000.

Capital investment is key to economic growth, job creation and competitiveness. Thus, NAM members strongly support H.R. 4457 and urge Congress to pass this important legislation.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 4457 may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 113th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

JUNE 9, 2014.

HON. PAT TIBERI,

House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

HON. RON KIND,

House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES TIBERI AND KIND: The undersigned organizations, representing millions of businesses from every state and from every industry sector, are writing in strong support of H.R. 4457, the America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014. This vital legislation would restore the small business expensing—sometimes called Section 179 expensing—level to \$500,000, including limited improvements to real property and permanently index the level to inflation.

Small business expensing allows business owners to immediately deduct the cost of a qualified investment in the year that it is purchased, rather than being forced to depreciate the cost of the investment over time. Since 2003, Congress has steadily increased the amount of investment that small businesses can expense from \$25,000 to \$500,000. Support for this expansion has been longstanding, bipartisan and widespread. Legislation expanding and/or extending small business expensing has been enacted eight times, across two Presidential Administrations and six Congresses, under both Democratic and Republican leadership. These higher expensing limits were temporary, however, and beginning in 2014 they reverted to \$25,000 and will remain there unless Congress acts.

While expensing provides important relief to small business owners, it is not a "tax cut" or a "tax loophole." Small business expensing simply gives companies the ability

to recover the cost of investing in their own businesses more quickly than if they use depreciation. Expensing does not lead to a loss of revenue to the government over the lifetime of an investment—it is not a matter of if revenue is collected, but when. Additionally, small business expensing is available to all small businesses that purchase less than a specified amount of equipment each year.

Small business expensing gives business owners the ability to maximize investment in their companies during years when they have positive cash flow. This provides an incentive for small business owners to reinvest in their businesses, which fuels expansion, growth and jobs. This is particularly important for small businesses because they are more sensitive than larger firms to problems related to cash flow and are more reliant on earnings to finance new investment.

Additionally, small business expensing simplifies record-keeping and paperwork. Under standard depreciation, small business owners must keep records of, and file tax paperwork associated with, eligible investments for up to 39 years. According to a 2007 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) study, each small business devotes, on average, about 240 hours complying with the tax code, and spends over \$2,000 in tax compliance costs each year. An overwhelming share of the time burden is due to record-keeping. Furthermore, high tax compliance costs consistently rank as a top concern of small business owners, and act as a drag on investment, growth and innovation. Small business expensing, as the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) notes, reduces the compliance burden for many taxpayers, freeing up time and resources to better devote to their businesses.

The roller-coaster, ad-hoc changes in the level of small business expensing, which have often been enacted retroactively in recent years, has greatly contributed to uncertainty and prevented long-term planning. Making the higher small business expensing limits permanent and predictable would greatly reduce uncertainty and reduce the incidence of tax policy driving business decisions.

Passage of legislation permanently maintaining small business expensing at \$500,000 will increase investment and jobs, reduce complexity and paperwork and alleviate uncertainty. These are critical issues for small businesses, which continue to experience a challenging business climate in the face of a stagnant economic recovery. We thank you for introducing H.R. 4457, the America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014 and urge all Members of Congress to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry, Advanced Medical Technology Association's Emerging Growth Company Council, Aeronautical Repair Station Association, Agricultural Retailers Association, Air Conditioning Contractors of America, American Apparel & Footwear Association, American Association of Small Property Owners, American Composites Manufacturers Association, American Council of Engineering Companies, American Dental Association, American Farm Bureau Federation.

American Foundry Society, American Loggers Council, American Moving & Storage Association, American Rental Association, American Road & Transportation Builders Association, American Society of Travel Agents, American Sugarbeet Growers Association, American Supply Association, American Truck Dealers, Americans for Tax Reform, AMT—The Association For Manufacturing Technology, Arizona Small Business Association.

Associated Builders and Contractors, Associated Builders and Contractors—Greater Tennessee Chapter, Associated Builders and Contractors Florida East Coast Chapter, Associated Builders and Contractors, Rocky Mountain Chapter, Associated Equipment Distributors, Associated General Contractors, Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc., Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry.

Auto Care Association, Aviation Suppliers Association, California Farm Bureau Federation, Carolinas Food Industry Council, CCIM Institute, Chamber of Commerce Southern, New Jersey, Clean Water Construction Coalition, Colorado Wyoming Petroleum Marketers Association, Construction Industry Round Table, Cotton Warehouse Association of America, Delaware Retail Council.

Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, Foodservice Equipment Distributors Association, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, Heating, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Distributors International (HARDI), Independent Electrical Contractors, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Manufacturers Association, Industrial Supply Association, Inland Pacific Chapter Associated Builders & Contractors, Institute of Real Estate Management.

International Association of Plastics Distribution (IAPD), International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association, International Council of Shopping Centers, International Dairy Foods Association, International Franchise Association, International Warehouse Logistics Association, Irrigation Association, ISSA—The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association, Louisiana Logging Council, Metals Service Center Institute, Michigan Association of Timbermen, Michigan Grocers Association.

Missouri Forest Products Association, Modification and Replacement Parts Association, Montana Equipment Dealers Association, Montana Restaurant Association, Montana Retail Association, Montana Tire Dealers Association, National Apartment Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Convenience Stores, National Association of Electrical Distributors, National Association of Home Builders.

National Association of REALTORS®, National Association of Shell Marketers, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors, National Automobile Dealers Association, National Beer Wholesalers Association (NBWA), National Cattleman's Beef Association, National Confectioners Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council.

National Council of Chain Restaurants, National Electrical Manufacturers Representatives Association, National Fastener Distributors Association, National Federation of Independent Business, National Funeral Directors Association, National Golf Course Owners Association, National Grocers Association, National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association, National Marine Distributors Association, National Multifamily Housing Council.

National Pork Producers Council, National Potato Council, National Propane Gas Association, National Restaurant Association, National Retail Federation, National Roofing Contractors Association, National Small Business Association, National Sorghum Producers, National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, National Utility Contractors

Association (NUCA), NATSO, Representing America's Truckstops and Travel Plazas, New Jersey Business & Industry Association.

Non-Ferrous Founders' Society, North Carolina Retail Merchants Association, North Country Chamber of Commerce, North-American Association of Uniform Manufacturers & Distributors, Northern Arizona Loggers Association, NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies, NTEA—The Association for the Work Truck Industry, Ohio Grocers Association, Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Service Association, Pacific-West Fastener Association, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry.

Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Stores of Iowa, Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors' National Association, Printing Industries of America, Professional Logging Contractors of Maine, S Corporation Association, SC Timber Producers Association, Selected Independent Funeral Homes, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council.

Small Business Legislative Counsel, Society of American Florists, South Carolina Retail Association, SouthWestern Association, Specialty Equipment Market Association, SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association, Tennessee Hospitality & Tourism Association, Textile Care Allied Trades Association.

The Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Service Association (OPEESA), Tire Industry Association, Truck Renting and Leasing Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, United Egg Producers, United Producers, Inc., USA Rice Federation.

Utility & Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey, Western Growers Association, Western United Dairymen, Wichita Independent Business Association, Wisconsin Grocers Association, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, Wisconsin Restaurant Association, Woodworking Machinery Industry Association.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read from the letter that I received from the National Association of Manufacturers. Having certainty over the tax treatment of critical investments will make planning for future investments significantly easier.

Capital investment is key to economic growth, job creation, and competitiveness.

Consequently, enactment of this policy would amount to a major step towards a Tax Code that will promote investment.

□ 1100

Mr. Speaker, again, this is all about jobs. Whether it is on a family farm, whether it is in a mulch business, whether it is a small manufacturer, this is about increasing jobs. Even Mr. Lew said we have a significant problem that we are facing about capital investments. This is, over the last 50 years, a tried-and-true provision that we know creates jobs. And to provide certainty is so critical. If we talk to those job creators—I have talked to them, Mr. Speaker. This is so important to give them certainty over time, not retroactivity like the narrative that we fall into.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), another distinguished gentleman of our committee.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding me this time.

For the record, Mr. Speaker, I was proud earlier this year to introduce the America's Small Business Tax Relief Act with my good friend and colleague from the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. TIBERI, the small business expensing provision that is before us.

I get the feeling that during today's debate we are talking past each other because I fully support the policy goals behind the small business expensing bill. It is important that we find a way to get this done. It is important that we establish permanency in the Tax Code, just as I was supportive of introducing legislation on the S Corporation Modernization bill earlier this year with my friend, DAVE REICHERT, on the committee. Many of those provisions were addressed earlier this morning.

But the difference in today's debate, and really the difference in our party's approach to this policy change, comes down to one simple idea: whether we are going to have the fiscal discipline to pay for these permanent changes in the Tax Code or whether we are going to continue to wrack up the debt and leave a legacy of debt for these children, our children and grandchildren, throughout the country.

That is the only difference that we have in today's debate, not about the policy behind it and the permanent nature and the importance to small businesses and family farmers, but whether we are going to exercise the fiscal discipline to do this the right way rather than continuing to dig this deficit hole deeper and leaving this for future generations to contend with. That is why I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" and continue focusing on comprehensive tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I give the chairman of our committee, DAVE CAMP, credit for introducing a draft discussion proposal on comprehensive reform because we have been guided in the last few years under a simple rule of proposition that if we are going to reduce tax rates, if we are going to broaden the base, and if we are going to simplify the Code and make it more competitive, then we have to find offsets in it so we are not blowing holes in the deficit in the future. And Chairman CAMP stayed true to that discipline.

What is ironic is that now, just a few short weeks after the introduction of that, we are right back into these old bad habits of introducing tax cuts with no pay-fors—with no offsets—just to increase the debt for future generations. And what is especially ironic today is this comes just a few short weeks after they passed their own Republican budget resolution that has

specifically stated in it that if we are going to do permanent change to the Tax Code, they have to be offset. They have to be paid for.

So which is it? A few weeks ago when you were singing the praises of fiscal discipline supporting that budget resolution and talking about how you are going to make the tough choices? Or today, with permanently changing with no offsets? And there is a difference, I tell my friend from Ohio, between some of the short-term extensions that are meant to keep the pressure on permanent changes versus what is being attempted today.

Because he knows, as I do, and as everyone else knows, that the number of times that this Congress has taken a vote for a permanent change in the Tax Code with no pay-for and no offset has been zero. It has been zero.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. KIND. But what we also know around here is what does work. And what does work is pay-as-you-go budgetary rules. That was something that was in place during the 1990s with the support of President George H. W. Bush at the time and President Clinton at the time. And because of a strong, growing, robust economy that created 24 million jobs during that time, and along with pay-as-you-go budgeting discipline, we ended up with 4 years of budget surpluses that we were paying down the national debt rather than adding to it. And that soon was replaced by the next administration and a Republican Congress that supported two wars with no pay-fors, supported two large tax cuts with no pay-fors, and supported the largest increase in Medicare spending—the part D prescription drug bill—without a nickel of it being paid for and supported the largest increase in discretionary spending since the Great Society without paying for any of it.

So when President Obama took office, he inherited—he inherited—a \$1.5 trillion budget deficit. And if the people are wondering how we dig a hole like that, they need only look at bills that are on the floor today. We are talking about permanent changes to the Tax Code with no pay-fors.

We can do better. I know it is hard work to do comprehensive tax reform. It means our having to stand up and saying no to a lot of powerful special interests in this town, but it is exactly what we have to have the courage to do to do it the right way so we are not leaving this legacy of debt to these children and to future generations to wrestle with.

I encourage my colleagues to vote “no” on this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Is the gentleman ready to close?

Mr. TIBERI. I have no further speakers, sir, and I am prepared to close.

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

The fact of the matter is that this provision is going to be extended. And you can vote for Mr. NEAL’s motion to recommit. I guess it is against your creed to vote for it, so you can vote “no.” But you will vote later. And it may be a few months from now, it may not be until after the election. I think it would be better to do it now, if not now then in the next month.

So don’t scare, Mr. TIBERI, the small business people in your district. Tell them what the reality is. We are going to extend this. But we are not going to make it permanent unpaid for. It hasn’t been done before for good reason, including the need to review it now and then, and also to take into account the cost. I think what the Republicans are doing, to kind of use an old slogan, an old way of saying it, you are giving hypocrisy a bad name.

This is contrary to your budget that you voted for. It is contrary to the Republican Ways and Means tax provisions put together under the leadership of Mr. DAVE CAMP. What is going to happen is, when you add all this together, you have an astronomical addition to the debt—\$614 billion, climbing, if you follow this path, to \$1 trillion.

So, I think there is no choice here to avoid hypocrisy, or if you want to continue the hypocrisy on your side, vote for this. We are not going to do that. This is a bad idea to proceed this way. We support continuation of this provision, in a responsible, not an irresponsible way, and in a way that isn’t reckless.

So I strongly urge all the Democrats to look at the full picture here, the hypocrisy on their side and the ramifications, if we continue on this path, for the programs that we believe in, the programs that have helped to make the middle class of America and the programs that need to be continued and not snuffed out because the Republicans, on the one hand, essentially skyrocketed the debt, and then they come back to us and say, we are sorry that we are so in debt that we have to keep cutting the programs that middle America counts on for their livelihood, for their jobs, for their education, and their health.

So I strongly urge a “no” vote, and I look forward to the motion to recommit by Mr. NEAL.

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

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

I will tell the gentleman from Michigan my constituents don’t have to be scared. They watch us. I don’t have to tell them anything. And I am certainly not going to tell Mr. Skinner or Mr. Price, trust us, we will retroactively, we will, ladies and gentlemen, we will retroactively—because we are going to surrender today—we are going to retro-

actively pass a policy in November or December to allow you to expense something that you bought in June, because today Mr. Price needs to buy a loader for his mulch business.

And he scratches his head; retroactively? Retroactively? You guys don’t know what operating businesses are all about if you are talking about retroactively, because that has been the narrative here. The other narrative is that the Senate is not going to do it. Well, with all due respect, after the R&D tax credit debate on this floor when the same argument was used, Senator BARBARA BOXER—not someone who I agree with a lot on things—said that maybe we should look at making that permanent. Senator DICK DURBIN from Illinois, a member of the Democrat leadership, opened up the possibility of maybe we should make some of these permanent. Tom and Judy Price would be proud of Mr. DURBIN. I don’t know if Mr. DURBIN has run a business or not, but Mr. Price does with his wife.

Ladies and gentlemen, this should be about common sense. Nobody is pure here. We have all added to the deficit. I would argue that the deficit was much higher when the other side was in control. Those are numbers. Less today, less last year, a lot more than 2009, I think we would all agree, the deficit, yearly deficit, the debt is certainly higher. The MTR will create debt. According to the Joint Tax, my bill will as well.

But this is about job creators, about allowing them to invest, invest to grow their businesses, to hire more employees, the American Dream that my mom and dad came here to believe and live in, ladies and gentlemen. In a House that my daughter—my daughter in sixth grade understands that we have a right as a House to pass a bill and have a position that might be different than the Senate’s. God forgive us for having a different position than the Senate. But just because the Senate wants to do 2 years doesn’t mean we have to do 2 years.

I don’t understand that narrative. Even some of my colleagues say, well, why are we doing this because the Senate doesn’t agree? Give me a break, ladies and gentlemen. Let’s have a conference committee for once. Wouldn’t that be great? That would be grand. And we can fight it out in conference committee just like the Founders told us we should.

Ladies and gentlemen, with respect to tax policy, there has been no Member of the House, the Senate, and the administration that has provided leadership to get to comprehensive tax reform like DAVID CAMP. He has been bipartisan, he has been open, and he has provided incredible leadership. But as all of us know in looking at history, one House can’t provide leadership. You need an executive at the White

House who is going to provide leadership. And, quite frankly, we have had none.

I credit RON WYDEN, the chairman of the Senate, he has got a bill at least. He has got a draft. I might not agree with his draft, but he has a right to have a draft, and the Senate has a right to have a position. And do you know what? Maybe one day we will get there soon, Mr. NEAL. I know you are for that. I am for that. But we should have a House position. We should not surrender to the Senate.

But to get comprehensive tax reform done, ladies and gentlemen, we have to have leadership in the White House. We can't do it alone.

I thank Mr. CAMP for his service. He has moved the ball on comprehensive tax reform greater than anybody has here since I have been here. But today is not about comprehensive tax reform, unfortunately. It is about providing certainty to small business owners—our job creators in America. This is what they want. This is what they need. This is what has been proven to be successful to allow them to expand their businesses. And today, if Tom Price buys a loader for \$200,000, he has to expense it over 7 years. His cash flow is killed, and I am not going to go tell him, "don't worry. Trust me. We will do it in December retroactively." I will not do that.

□ 1115

We need to have a position. We need to do it today. We need to do it right. This is about policy. This shouldn't be about politics. This should be about the House's position.

I urge each and every one of my colleagues to put the politics aside, quite frankly, and support this bill, have the House have a position, and let's challenge the Senate, and let's do it before November, before December. Let's do it now.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H.R. 4457, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act Of 2014.

H.R. 4457 permanently sets the IRC Section 179 small business expensing maximum limit at \$500,000. In order to remain profitable and be competitive, small business like limousine owners as represented by the National Limousine Association, farmers and ranchers, and others must continually upgrade and replace equipment, buildings, and storage facilities.

This is a very important provision due to its immediacy for small business owners.

With provisions like Section 179, businesses are able to reduce maintenance costs, take advantage of labor-saving advances, become more energy-efficient and adopt technology that is environmentally friendly.

Section 179 allows a taxpayer to deduct the cost of new or used business property rather than depreciating the cost over a longer period of time. The immediate expensing provided by Section 179 allows these businesses increased cash flow for purchases that might

otherwise be delayed or that would require them to incur debt expense.

The bill would make permanent rules that allow small businesses to expense capital investments in new equipment and property, making permanent provisions that provide that the maximum amount that a taxpayer may expense is \$500,000.

Unfortunately Mr. Speaker, this bill is estimated to cost \$73.1 billion over 10 years and it is not paid for, which means that the deficit will necessarily go up as a result.

The Congressional Research Service has reviewed quantitative analyses of the tax break and found that, ". . . accelerated depreciation in general is a relatively ineffective tool for stimulating the economy."

Mr. Speaker, I understand the point that supporters of the bill argue: that it is necessary to ensure that small businesses can continue to make new investments in property and equipment even as costs rise, affecting more than 10 percent of small-business tax returns.

They say it lowers the cost of capital for tangible property used in business, eliminates depreciation record-keeping requirements with respect to expensed property and removes a disincentive to buying more efficient cooling and heating equipment.

Democrats generally support increased expensing under Section 179 but we cannot sit idly by while the party which has made deficit reduction their rallying cry—refuses to offset the cost of the bill.

It must be noted that permanently extending six tax provisions that GOP leaders want to act on would add \$310 billion to the deficit.

With the bills on the floor today, Republicans are continuing their gross double standard of adding billions to the deficit to fund permanent tax breaks for businesses, while insisting on fully offsetting the cost of initiatives for middle class and working Americans, including veterans benefits, student loans, and unemployment insurance.

The Democratic Motions to Recommit would put the brakes on Republicans' deficit-busting spending spree, and shorten these tax extensions. Democrats have always strongly supported expanded "Section 179" expensing for small businesses and tax relief for S-Corporations, but permanent extensions of tax breaks that cost hundreds of billions are hypocritical and irresponsible.

We need comprehensive tax reform that addresses the tax needs of middle class families as well as businesses. In the meantime, Republicans shouldn't be punching hundred billion dollar holes in the deficit.

It is time for Republicans to stop ignoring hard working American families, and work with Democrats to create jobs, invest in innovation, and build an economy that works for everyone not just the wealthy.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to vote for a two-year extension but these bills must be paid for—because if they are not—future generations will suffer because of the unsustainable debt.

Let us get back to being fiscally responsible. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Pursuant to House Resolution 616, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Mr. NEAL. In its current form, I am opposed to this legislation.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Neal moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4457 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Amend section 2 to read as follows:

SEC. 2. TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF EXPENSING LIMITATION.

(a) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—Paragraph (1) of section 179(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking "or 2013" in subparagraph (B) and inserting "2013, 2014, or 2015", and

(2) by striking "after 2013" in subparagraph (C) and inserting "after 2015".

(b) REDUCTION IN LIMITATION.—Paragraph (2) of section 179(b) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking "or 2013" in subparagraph (B) and inserting "2013, 2014, or 2015", and

(2) by striking "after 2013" in subparagraph (C) and inserting "after 2015".

(c) COMPUTER SOFTWARE.—Clause (ii) of section 179(d)(1)(A) of such Code is amended by striking "before 2014" and inserting "before 2016".

(d) ELECTION.—Paragraph (2) of section 179(c) of such Code is amended by striking "before 2014" and inserting "before 2016".

(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR TREATMENT OF QUALIFIED REAL PROPERTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 179(f) of such Code is amended by striking "or 2013" and inserting "2013, 2014, or 2015".

(2) CARRYOVER.—Paragraph (4) of section 179(f) of such Code is amended by striking "2013" each place it appears and inserting "2015".

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

Mr. NEAL (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order against the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit must be pretty powerful with that confab that had to take place on the other side.

Now, Mr. Speaker, my friend, Mr. TBERI—and he is my friend—and I am

going to remind all that Mr. CAMP did a pretty good job with the draft that he put out. That is not what this is about today.

This is about short-circuiting a long tradition in the Ways and Means Committee as to how tax reform ought to be handled. A reminder, again, 1986 was the last time that we spoke of tax reform in an earnest manner. Mr. TIBERI was, indeed, very animated. I understand the point that he is making.

The problem is, if you do a piecemeal approach to tax reform, you will never do fundamental tax reform. It is like the temptation of repatriation. If you repatriate those dollars, you will never do tax reform. People will just wait for another tax holiday. That is the weakness of the argument that we just heard. A 2-year extension makes a good deal of sense—let some of this economic morass clear up.

Now, Mr. TIBERI was correct when he quoted Jack Lew, an old friend. Economic growth is very weak. The number of people working is the real issue; 200,000 jobs a month won't do it. So why can't we find common purpose and expand the runway in terms of economic growth for all members of the American family? Are you telling me that this austerity package has worked?

By the way, Mr. TIBERI's comment when Mr. TIBERI said the investing class in America and the business class, they are looking for stability, they look at this institution every day and think that they are finding stability, with the arguments that take place here?

There are enough men and women in this institution and on the Ways and Means Committee of good will to continue the conversation that Mr. CAMP has begun on tax reform. This is piecemeal. It is an ill-conceived manner and way to do tax reform.

Again, a reminder, the last time we did tax reform, the Internet had not been invented. That ought to tell us the story.

Here is what tax reform might look like: acknowledging that fossil fuel is not going away in the near future, we can still build a path to the renewables by using the Tax Code.

Let's expand the earned income tax credit. Let's embrace new markets tax credits. They have worked in every nook and cranny of this country. Let's take a look and embrace, again, build America bonds.

In reference to Mr. TIBERI's commentary, let me say this as well: yes, we need a permanent R&D credit, but let's make it even more robust. We heard a presentation yesterday in Massachusetts that, in Cambridge and Boston today, you have the greatest concentration of R&D in the world. Do you think I am not for a more robust research and development credit?

Again, good minds ought to be able to find this path forward, and I chal-

lenge the Republicans today: let's get on with renewing the Export-Import Bank. That makes a good deal of sense as well, and you know why—because it is sound economic policy.

This idea that theology takes over all in tax debate is a mistake. Embrace what works, not just the rigid ideology of the intransigence that keeps us from finding a common path.

We started out 3 years ago with Mr. CAMP's work. For 3 years, we sat together, talked, took substantive testimony, and listened to what people had to say. Come in and defend your preference, come in and defend this deduction. Actually, the conversation was very good.

I can't understand the logic of that very sound conversation bringing us to this intersection of public debate. Are we to throw all of that good will over the side? In this simple moment, are we going to cast aside a deliberative process that really was much of the better that I have had a chance to witness in almost 25 years on the Ways and Means Committee?

That is what you are doing today. You adopt these piecemeal approaches to tax reform, you will never get tax reform.

Think of these numbers: there is more than \$2 trillion sitting offshore in cash and tangible assets. The bottom lines of corporate America are stronger than they have been in years.

My last point, downward pressure on wages since 2002 ought to be what motivates us to do tax reform.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my point of order, and seek time in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of a point of order is withdrawn.

The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, you know what I hear from the other side? They are happy with the way things are. They are happy with a contracting economy, negative 1 percent growth in the last quarter. They are happy with fewer people in the workforce than the Carter years.

They are happy with more young people living at home than ever before. They are happy with declining incomes for the middle class because they are saying just keep doing what we have been doing.

In fact, as I think about it, my friend from Massachusetts said:

Let's just wait and let the economic morass clear up.

That is a direct quote.

Let's just wait.

Mr. NEAL. Will the gentleman yield? Mr. CAMP. No, I will not yield. The gentleman has had his time. I have very limited time here.

Let me just say: if we just sit and wait, nothing is going to change. This

policy has been extended many, many times for more than the budget window, unpaid for, with large bipartisan votes. Clearly, at the end of the year, this policy will be extended, unpaid for.

So why not do something good for America? Why not do something good for those employers and those workers who are looking for an economy that starts to recover?

We are the only nation in the world that has temporary tax policy. We are the only nation in the world that lets significant policies that help people invest and create jobs expire. At the end of the year, this will have been expired for a year, and then we will retroactively put it in place, but what we really need is permanent policy.

So let's stop threatening small businesses with higher costs. That absolutely makes no sense. Let's get people back to work. Let's get people earning higher paychecks. Let's do something right for America. Vote against this motion to recommit and vote for the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit on H.R. 4457 will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of H.R. 4457, if ordered; the motion to recommit on H.R. 4453; passage of H.R. 4453, if ordered; and adoption of House Resolution 617.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 180, nays 232, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 308]

YEAS—180

Bass	Clarke (NY)	Ellison
Beatty	Clay	Enyart
Becerra	Cleaver	Eshoo
Bera (CA)	Clyburn	Esty
Bishop (GA)	Cohen	Farr
Bishop (NY)	Connolly	Fattah
Blumenauer	Conyers	Foster
Bonamici	Cooper	Frankel (FL)
Brady (PA)	Costa	Fudge
Braley (IA)	Courtney	Gabbard
Brown (FL)	Cuellar	Gallego
Brownley (CA)	Cummings	Garamendi
Bustos	Davis (CA)	Garcia
Butterfield	Davis, Danny	Grayson
Capps	DeFazio	Green, Al
Capuano	DeGette	Green, Gene
Cárdenas	Delaney	Grijalva
Carney	DeLauro	Gutiérrez
Carson (IN)	DelBene	Hahn
Cartwright	Deuth	Hanabusa
Castor (FL)	Dingell	Hastings (FL)
Castro (TX)	Doggett	Heck (WA)
Chu	Doyle	Higgins
Ciçilline	Duckworth	Himes
Clark (MA)	Edwards	Hinojosa

Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)

NOT VOTING—15

Brooks (AL)
Buchanan
Coble
Granger
Johnson, Sam

Kaptur
LaMalfa
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Pompeo

Quigley
Rangel
Ryan (OH)
Stutzman
Webster (FL)

□ 1157

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

S CORPORATION PERMANENT TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit the bill (H.R. 4453) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations, offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 188, nays 229, not voting 14, as follows:

Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

[Roll No. 310]

YEAS—188

Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
García

NAYS—229

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Byrne

Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
Vela
McGovern
McNerney
Meeke
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal

Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister

NOT VOTING—14

Buchson
Coble
Granger
Harper
Johnson, Sam

Kaptur
LaMalfa
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Pompeo

□ 1203

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 263, nays 155, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 311]

YEAS—263

DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Cole
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)

Barton
Beatty
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bralely (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)

Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Buchanan	Herrera Beutler	Posey	Ellison	Lewis	Roybal-Allard	Boustany	Forbes	Lewis
Bucshon	Holding	Price (GA)	Engel	Lipinski	Rush	Brady (PA)	Fortenberry	Lipinski
Burgess	Horsford	Rahall	Eshoo	Lofgren	Sánchez, Linda T.	Brady (TX)	Foster	LoBiondo
Bustos	Hudson	Reed	Farr	Lowenthal	Bridenstine	Brooks (AL)	Fox	Loeb
Byrne	Huelskamp	Reichert	Fattah	Lowey	Brooks (IN)	Brooks (AZ)	Frankel (FL)	Loeb
Calvert	Huizenga (MI)	Renacci	Frankel (FL)	Lujan Grisham	Broun (GA)	Brooks (AZ)	Frankel (FL)	Long
Camp	Hultgren	Ribble	Fudge	(NM)	Brown (GA)	Brown (FL)	Frelinghuysen	Lowenthal
Cantor	Hunter	Rice (SC)	Gabbard	Luján, Ben Ray	Brown (CA)	Brown (FL)	Fudge	Lowey
Capito	Hurt	Rigell	Grayson	(NM)	Brownley (CA)	Brownley (CA)	Gabbard	Lucas
Cárdenas	Issa	Roby	Green, Al	Lynch	Buchanan	Buchanan	Galleo	Luetkemeyer
Carter	Jenkins	Roe (TN)	Green, Gene	Maloney,	Bucshon	Bucshon	Garamendi	Lujan Grisham
Cassidy	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (AL)	Grijalva	Carolyn	Burgess	Burgess	Garcia	(NM)
Chabot	Jolly	Rogers (KY)	Gutiérrez	Matsui	Bustos	Bustos	Gardner	Lujan, Ben Ray
Chaffetz	Jordan	Rogers (MI)	Hahn	McCarthy (NY)	Butterfield	Butterfield	Garrett	(NM)
Coffman	Joyce	Rohrabacher	Hanabusa	McCollum	Byrne	Byrne	Gerlach	Lummis
Cole	Kelly (PA)	Rokita	Hastings (FL)	McDermott	Calvert	Calvert	Gibbs	Lynch
Collins (GA)	Kilmer	Rooney	Heck (WA)	McGovern	Camp	Camp	Gibson	Maffei
Collins (NY)	King (IA)	Ros-Lehtinen	Higgins	McNerney	Campbell	Campbell	Gingrey (GA)	Maloney,
Conaway	King (NY)	Roskam	Himes	Meeks	Cantor	Cantor	Gohmert	Carolyn
Cook	Kingston	Ross	Hinojosa	Meng	Capito	Capito	Goodlatte	Maloney, Sean
Cotton	Kinzinger (IL)	Rothfus	Holt	Michaud	Capps	Capps	Gosar	Marchant
Cramer	Kirkpatrick	Royce	Honda	Miller, George	Capuano	Capuano	Gowdy	Marino
Crawford	Kline	Ruiz	Hoyer	Moore	Cárdenas	Cárdenas	Graves (GA)	Matheson
Crenshaw	Kuster	Runyan	Huffman	Moran	Graves (MO)	Graves (MO)	Graves (MO)	Matsui
Cuellar	Labrador	Ruppersberger	Israel	Nadler	Carson (IN)	Carson (IN)	Grayson	McAllister
Culberson	Lamborn	Ryan (WI)	Jackson Lee	Napolitano	Carter	Carter	Green, Al	McCarthy (CA)
Daines	Lance	Salmon	Jeffries	Neal	Cartwright	Cartwright	Green, Gene	McCarthy (NY)
Davis, Rodney	Lankford	Sanford	Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke	Cassidy	Cassidy	Griffin (AR)	McCaul
Delaney	Latham	Scalise	Johnson, E. B.	Owens	Castor (FL)	Castor (FL)	Griffith (VA)	McClintock
DeBene	Latta	Schneider	Jones	Pallone	Castro (TX)	Castro (TX)	Grimm	McCollum
Denham	LoBiondo	Schock	Keating	Pascarell	Chabot	Chabot	Guthrie	McDermott
Dent	Loeb	Schweikert	Kelly (IL)	Pastor (AZ)	Chaffetz	Chaffetz	Gutiérrez	McGovern
DeSantis	Long	Scott, Austin	Kennedy	Payne	Chu	Chu	Hahn	McHenry
DesJarlais	Lucas	Sensenbrenner	Kildee	Pelosi	Cicilline	Cicilline	Hall	McIntyre
Diaz-Balart	Luetkemeyer	Sessions	Kind	Perlmutter	Clark (MA)	Clark (MA)	Hanabusa	McKeon
Duncan (SC)	Maffei	Shea-Porter	Langevin	Pingree (ME)	Clarke (NY)	Clarke (NY)	Hanna	McKinley
Duncan (TN)	Maloney, Sean	Shimkus	Larsen (WA)	Pocan	Clay	Clay	Harper	McMorris
Ellmers	Marchant	Shuster	Larson (CT)	Polis	Cleaver	Cleaver	Harris	Rodgers
Enyart	Marino	Simpson	Lee (CA)	Price (NC)	Clyburn	Clyburn	Hartzler	McNerney
Esty	Massie	Sinema	Levin	Richmond	Coffman	Coffman	Hastings (FL)	Meadows
Farenthold	Matheson	Smith (MO)	Coble	LaMalfa	Cohen	Cohen	Hastings (WA)	Meehan
Fincher	McAllister	Smith (NE)	Duffy	Lummis	Cole	Cole	Heck (NV)	Meeks
Fitzpatrick	McCarthy (CA)	Smith (NJ)	Granger	Miller, Gary	Collins (GA)	Collins (GA)	Heck (WA)	Meng
Fleischmann	McCaul	Smith (TX)	Johnson, Sam	Nunnelee	Collins (NY)	Collins (NY)	Hensarling	Messer
Fleming	McClintock	Southerland	Kapture	Pompeo	Conaway	Conaway	Herrera Beutler	Mica
Flores	McHenry	Stewart			Connelly	Connelly	Higgins	Michaud
Forbes	McIntyre	Stivers			Conyers	Conyers	Himes	Miller (FL)
Fortenberry	McKeon	Stockman			Cook	Cook	Hinojosa	Miller (MI)
Foster	McKinley	Stutzman			Cooper	Cooper	Holding	Moore
Fox	McMorris	Terry			Costa	Costa	Holt	Moran
Franks (AZ)	Rodgers	Thompson (PA)			Cotton	Cotton	Honda	Mullin
Frelinghuysen	Meadows	Thornberry			Courtney	Courtney	Horsford	Mulvaney
Galleo	Meehan	Tiberi			Cramer	Cramer	Hoyer	Murphy (FL)
Garamendi	Messer	Tipton			Crawford	Crawford	Hudson	Murphy (PA)
Garcia	Mica	Turner			Crenshaw	Crenshaw	Huelskamp	Nadler
Gardner	Miller (FL)	Upton			Crowley	Crowley	Huffman	Napolitano
Garrett	Miller (MI)	Valadao			Cuellar	Cuellar	Huizenga (MI)	Neal
Gerlach	Mullin	Veasey			Culberson	Culberson	Huizenga (MI)	Negrete McLeod
Gibbs	Mulvaney	Vela			Cummings	Cummings	Hunter	Neugebauer
Gibson	Murphy (FL)	Wagner			Daines	Daines	Hurt	Noem
Gingrey (GA)	Murphy (PA)	Walberg			Davis (CA)	Davis (CA)	Israel	Nolan
Gohmert	Negrete McLeod	Walden			Davis, Danny	Davis, Danny	Issa	Nugent
Goodlatte	Neugebauer	Walorski			Davis, Rodney	Davis, Rodney	Jackson Lee	Nunes
Gosar	Noem	Walz			DeFazio	DeFazio	Jeffries	O'Rourke
Gowdy	Nolan	Weber (TX)			DeGette	DeGette	Jenkins	Olson
Graves (GA)	Nugent	Webster (FL)			Delaney	Delaney	Johnson (GA)	Owens
Graves (MO)	Nunes	Wenstrup			DeLauro	DeLauro	Johnson (OH)	Palazzo
Griffin (AR)	Olson	Westmoreland			DeBene	DeBene	Johnson, E. B.	Pallone
Griffith (VA)	Palazzo	Whitfield			Denham	Denham	Jolly	Pascarell
Grimm	Paulsen	Williams			Dent	Dent	Jordan	Pastor (AZ)
Guthrie	Pearce	Wilson (SC)			DeSantis	DeSantis	Joyce	Paulsen
Hall	Perry	Wittman			DesJarlais	DesJarlais	Keating	Payne
Hanna	Peters (CA)	Wolf			Deutch	Deutch	Kelly (IL)	Pearce
Harper	Peters (MI)	Womack			Diaz-Balart	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	Pelosi
Harris	Peterson	Woodall			Dingell	Dingell	Kennedy	Perlmutter
Hartzler	Petri	Yoder			Doggett	Doggett	Kildee	Perry
Hastings (WA)	Pittenger	Yoho			Doyle	Doyle	Kilmer	Peters (CA)
Heck (NV)	Pitts	Young (AK)			Duckworth	Duckworth	Kind	Peters (MI)
Hensarling	Poe (TX)	Young (IN)			Duffy	Duffy	King (IA)	Peterson
					Duncan (SC)	Duncan (SC)	King (NY)	Petri
					Duncan (TN)	Duncan (TN)	Kingston	Pingree (ME)
					Edwards	Edwards	Kinzinger (IL)	Pittenger
					Ellison	Ellison	Kirkpatrick	Pitts
					Ellmers	Ellmers	Kline	Pocan
					Engel	Engel	Kuster	Poe (TX)
					Enyart	Enyart	Labrador	Polis
					Eshoo	Eshoo	Lamborn	Posey
					Esty	Esty	Lance	Price (GA)
					Farenthold	Farenthold	Langevin	Price (NC)
					Farr	Farr	Lankford	Rahall
					Fattah	Fattah	Larsen (WA)	Reed
					Fincher	Fincher	Larson (CT)	Reichert
					Fitzpatrick	Fitzpatrick	Latham	Renacci
					Fleischmann	Fleischmann	Latta	Ribble
					Fleming	Fleming	Lee (CA)	Rice (SC)
					Flores	Flores	Levin	Richmond

NOT VOTING—13

□ 1209

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING ABDUCTION OF FEMALE STUDENTS BY BOKO HARAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on agreeing to the resolution (H. Res. 617) condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the terrorist group known as Boko Haram in northeastern provinces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 2, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 312]

YEAS—411

Aderholt	Barrow (GA)	Bilirakis
Amash	Barton	Bishop (GA)
Amodei	Bass	Bishop (NY)
Bachmann	Beatty	Bishop (UT)
Bachus	Becerra	Black
Barber	Benishiek	Blackburn
Barletta	Bentivolio	Blumenauer
Barr	Bera (CA)	Bonamici

NAYS—155

Bass	Castro (FL)	Courtney
Becerra	Castro (TX)	Crowley
Bishop (NY)	Chu	Cummings
Blumenauer	Cicilline	Davis (CA)
Bonamici	Clark (MA)	Davis, Danny
Brady (PA)	Clarke (NY)	DeFazio
Brown (FL)	Clay	DeGette
Butterfield	Cleaver	DeLauro
Campbell	Clyburn	Deutch
Capps	Cohen	Dingell
Capuano	Connolly	Doggett
Carney	Conyers	Doyle
Carson (IN)	Cooper	Duckworth
Cartwright	Costa	Edwards

Rigell	Scott, David	Tsongas
Roby	Sensenbrenner	Turner
Roe (TN)	Serrano	Upton
Rogers (AL)	Sessions	Valadao
Rogers (KY)	Sewell (AL)	Van Hollen
Rohrabacher	Shea-Porter	Vargas
Rokita	Sherman	Veasey
Rooney	Shimkus	Vela
Ros-Lehtinen	Shuster	Velázquez
Roskam	Simpson	Visclosky
Ross	Sinema	Wagner
Rothfus	Sires	Walberg
Roybal-Allard	Slaughter	Walden
Royce	Smith (NE)	Walorski
Ruiz	Smith (NJ)	Walz
Runyan	Smith (TX)	Wasserman
Ruppersberger	Smith (WA)	Schultz
Rush	Smith (WA)	Waxman
Ryan (WI)	Speier	Weber (TX)
Salmon	Stewart	Webster (FL)
Sánchez, Linda	Stivers	Welch
T.	Stockman	Wenstrup
Sanchez, Loretta	Stutzman	Westmoreland
Sanford	Swalwell (CA)	Williams
Sarbanes	Takano	Wilson (FL)
Scalise	Terry	Wilson (SC)
Schakowsky	Thompson (CA)	Wittman
Schiff	Thompson (MS)	Wolf
Schneider	Thompson (PA)	Womack
Schock	Thornberry	Woodall
Schrader	Tiberi	Yarmuth
Schwartz	Tierney	Yoder
Schweikert	Tipton	Yoho
Scott (VA)	Titus	Young (AK)
Scott, Austin	Tonko	Young (IN)

NAYS—2

Jones
Massie

NOT VOTING—18

Bralley (IA)	LaMalfa	Rangel
Coble	Miller, Gary	Rogers (MI)
Granger	Miller, George	Ryan (OH)
Grijalva	Nunnelee	Smith (MO)
Johnson, Sam	Pompeo	Waters
Kaptur	Quigley	Whitfield

1215

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 308 and 310 I was not available to cast my vote in person. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 309, 311, and 312 I was not available to cast my vote in person. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

S. 1681. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO HAVE UNTIL 5 PM FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2014, TO FILE PRIVILEGED REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations have until 5 p.m. on Friday, June 13, 2014, to file a privileged report on a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

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

There was no objection.

HR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, one, when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow; and, two, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

A JOB WELL DONE

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

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a recent display of distinguished heroism by the brave men of the fire department of New York.

On the morning of June 5, 2014, a massive five-alarm fire erupted in the Rosebank section of Staten Island. The firefighters from Engine 161/Ladder 81 quickly arrived on the scene and set to work battling the blaze. With choking smoke and rising flames, firefighters Ed Morri, Billy Calderon, and Thomas Verderosa ascended to the second-floor bedroom of the Rivera Family’s burning home and carried the couple to safety just in the nick of time. A mere two more gasps of smoke would have proven fatal for Mrs. Rivera, who was unconscious when fireman Billy Calderon saved her life.

Engine 161’s daring rescue is yet another testament to the enormous dangers faced by our firefighters. It also demonstrates the importance of ensuring that the FDNY continues to receive the proper resources and training and that crucial engine companies like 161 are spared from the budget chopping block.

On behalf of all of the residents of Staten Island, I am proud to recognize and commend Engine 161/Ladder 81—

and all of the firefighters who assisted—for a job well done.

RECIPROCAL ACCESS TO TIBET ACT

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, H.R. 4851. This bipartisan bill promotes access to Tibetan areas of China for U.S. officials, journalists, and average citizens. Currently, travel restrictions on Tibet are more severe than for any other provincial-level entity of China.

These restrictions have negative consequences for both U.S. citizens and Tibetans. After an October 2013 bus crash with Americans on board, U.S. consular officers faced prolonged delays in obtaining access to Tibet, hindering their ability to serve Americans in distress; and restricted access to Tibet leaves Tibetans in virtual isolation from the world community, limiting international exchange and the ability to objectively assess the human rights situation there.

These restrictions are not reciprocal to the access that Chinese visitors generally enjoy in the U.S. As reciprocity is the basis for diplomacy, this bill renders inadmissible to the U.S. Chinese officials who design and implement these restrictions.

I urge my colleagues to join Congressman PITTS and me in promoting freer access to Tibet.

RECIPROCAL ACCESS TO TIBET ACT OF 2014

Purpose: To promote the freedom to travel by U.S. diplomats, journalists, and citizens in Tibetan areas of the People’s Republic of China.

What it does: Prohibits visa access to the United States to Chinese officials in ‘senior leadership positions’ from provinces with Tibetan populations, and others, if the Chinese government allows less U.S. access to Tibetan areas than it gives to non-Tibetan areas of the People’s Republic of China (PRC).

How it works:

1. Report on access and leaders. The State Department is required to give Congress a report on (a) the level of access granted by Chinese authorities to U.S. diplomats, journalists, and tourists to Tibetan areas in the PRC, including a comparison with non-Tibetan areas, and (b) a list of ‘senior leadership positions’ in Tibetan areas, including at the provincial level and some at the national level.

2. Visa ban. Chinese officials are not eligible for visa entry to the U.S., as follows—

‘Senior leaders’ from the Tibet Autonomous Region, if the Tibet Tourism Bureau permit has not been revoked;

‘Senior leaders’ from Sichuan, Qinghai, Yunnan and Gansu, if level of U.S. access to Tibetan areas in these provinces is more restricted than U.S. access to non-Tibetan areas;

‘Senior leaders’ at the regional and national level, if Tibet Tourism Bureau permit has not

been revoked and if U.S. access to Tibetan areas in the four provinces is more restricted than U.S. access to non-Tibetan areas.

National interest waiver. The bill allows the Secretary of State to waive the prohibition if determined to be in the national interest.

Definitions. The report defines Tibetan areas as the Tibet Autonomous Region and the jurisdictions within the provinces of Sichuan, Qinghai, Yunnan and Gansu designated as autonomous for Tibetans. It provides definitions for 'senior leadership positions' at the county, prefecture, provincial, and national level.

Non-binding language on visa reciprocity. Expresses Sense of the House that the Secretary should take into account the level of access granted to Tibetan areas when granting visas to people from the PRC to come to the U.S.

[Prepared by the International Campaign on Tibet, June 12, 2014]

FACT SHEET: ACCESS TO TIBET BY AMERICANS
WHAT CHINA SAYS: TIBET IS OPEN TO
FOREIGNERS

The government of China sees tourism as a pillar of Tibet's economy. Chinese officials have said that Tibet is open to foreign visitors:

"[I]f a foreign official, reporter or scholar wants to go to Tibet as an individual to increase his or her understanding of the Tibetan people and their culture, we will welcome them."—Zhu Weiqun, executive vice minister of the United Front Work Department, 2012.¹

"Many foreigners, including reporters, have traveled to Tibet for work, tours and interviews. I believe we'll see more foreigners coming to Tibet as the region develops and conditions improve constantly."—Padma Trinley, chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region legislature, 2013.²

"We hope that (people) from all fields within the country and outside go to Tibet often to look around, study and travel, but as to some other aspects, we are not that welcoming."—Qiangba Puncog, former chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region legislature.³

WHAT CHINA DOES: RESTRICT ACCESS TO TIBET
BY FOREIGNERS

In reality, American tourists, diplomats and journalists still face many barriers to get into Tibet. All foreigners are required to get a special permit to enter the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR)—a permit that is not required for any other provincial-level entity of the People's Republic of China. Travel to Tibetan areas outside the TAR is also tightly controlled.

Restrictions on U.S. tourists

American tourists are required to obtain the "Tibetan Tourist Permit" to enter the TAR. The permits can only be obtained through a Chinese government-run or -approved travel agency. In some cases, and depending on the area in Tibet one wants to visit, additional permits such as the "Tibet Group Visa", "Alien's Travel Permit" and "Military Permit" are required.⁴

The State Department advises American travelers that "permits are not always granted" and that at "certain times the PRC may not allow foreigners to enter an area it deems restricted."⁵ It adds that the "TAR remains a sensitive area for travel, and even when travel to Tibet is allowed, usually only Lhasa and part of Shan Nan are open to foreigners."⁶

During certain times, the Chinese government closes off the entire TAR to foreign tourists for months, often with no warning.⁷ Usually such closures coincide with what the Chinese government claims are "sensitive periods" such as during March, the anniversary of the Tibetan uprising in 1959,⁸ or during the time of the Communist Party sessions in Beijing.⁹ The Chinese government also imposes arbitrary rules on obtaining the Tibet travel permit. For example in 2012 and 2013 only groups of no less than five people could apply.¹⁰ In 2014, this rule was then said to be no longer in effect, but it was reported that tours to Mount Kailash (a holy mountain and pilgrimage site for Hindus, Jains and Buddhists) and far western Tibet were not permitted at all after May 23, 2014.¹¹

Restrictions on U.S. journalists

American journalists have difficulty reporting from Tibet, and are subject to many of the same restrictions faced by tourists. The Washington Post reported that "[T]here are more foreign journalists in North Korea than there are in Tibet."¹²

The State Department has reported that "[t]he Chinese government severely restricted travel by foreign journalists to Tibetan areas. Additionally, the Chinese government subjected Tibetans who spoke to foreign reporters, attempted to provide information to persons outside the country, . . . to harassment or detention."¹³ In 2013 a few foreign journalists could get into Tibet only because they accepted a government-sponsored tour which made any independent reporting difficult. The State Department quotes Australian Journalist Rowan Callick saying, "I had accepted an invitation from the State Council Information Office—the media arm of China's cabinet—to visit Tibet, since there is no other way in which journalists can enter without subterfuge."¹⁴ During a February 2014 visit to China, Secretary of State John Kerry urged China's leaders to allow journalists, diplomats, and other observers unrestricted access to China's Tibetan areas.¹⁵

Restrictions on U.S. diplomats

Diplomats face similar restrictions on access to Tibetan areas, limiting their ability to do reporting, monitoring and consular work. The State Department reported that its officials submitted more than 16 requests for diplomatic access to the TAR between May 2011 and November 2013, but only two were granted. Its report added, "The Chinese government . . . repeatedly prevented foreign diplomatic personnel from visiting Tibetan areas outside the TAR for which permission was not officially required."¹⁶

The Department also reported "foreign diplomats who legally traveled in Tibetan areas outside the TAR . . . were repeatedly approached by local police and sometimes forced to leave without reasonable explanation."¹⁷

The Chinese government has permitted two visits by two U.S. Ambassadors to Lhasa in recent years—by Ambassador Gary Locke in 2013 and Ambassador Jon Huntsman in 2010. Each was a three-day, government-organized trip, which was highly controlled,¹⁸ and they did not visit areas in the TAR outside of Lhasa. On his visit, Ambassador Locke urged Beijing to open up Tibet to foreign diplomats, journalists and tourists.¹⁹

ENDNOTES

¹"Chinese official talks with EU representatives on Tibet issue," *China Tibet Online*, February 8, 2012, <http://www.chinaembassy.ee/eng/ztlm/zgxz/t903102.htm>

²"Tibet welcomes more visitors from abroad," *China Daily Europe*, March 13, 2013,

<http://ca.china-embassy.org/eng/kxz/t1022572.htm>

³"China says no to foreign rights monitors for Tibet," *Reuters*, November 9, 2012, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/09/us-china-congress-tibet-idUSBRE8A80QP20121109>

⁴"Disneyfication of Tibet," *Washington Monthly*, January/February 2014, www.washingtonmonthly.com/magazine

⁵State Department travel advisory for China, travel.state.gov/content/passports/English/country/china.html

⁶Ibid

⁷"Tibet again off limits to tourists," *Travel Weekly*, September 2012, <http://www.travelweekly.com/Asia-Travel/Tibet-again-off-limits-to-foreign-tourists/>

⁸"China closes Tibet to tourists for anniversary of riots," *The Guardian*, March 7, 2011 <http://www.the-guardian.com/world/2011/mar/07/china-closes-tibet-tourist-visas>

⁹"China says no to foreign rights monitors for Tibet," *Reuters*, November 9, 2012, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/09/us-china-congress-tibet-idUSBRE8A80QP20121109>

¹⁰Ibid

¹¹"Explore Tibet, a travel agency based in Lhasa," <http://www.exploretibet.com/Essential-Info/Tibet-Visa-Permits/>

¹²"North Korea is more accessible to foreign journalists than Tibet is," *Washington Post*, December 17, 2013 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/world-views/wp/2013/12/17/north-korea-is-more-accessible-to-foreign-journalists-than-tibet-is/>

¹³State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013, http://www.state.gov/drl/rls/hrrpt/human_rights_report/index.htm?dynamic_load_id=220187&year=2013#wrapper

¹⁴Ibid

¹⁵State Department Daily Press Briefing, February 25, 2014 <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2014/02/222442.htm#CHINA2>

¹⁶State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013, http://www.state.gov/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?dynamic_load_id=220187&year=2013#wrapper

¹⁷State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2011, <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2011/eap/187481.htm>

¹⁸"Ambassador to China makes rare visit to Tibet," *CBSNews.com*, June 27, 2013, <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-ambassador-to-china-gary-locke-makes-rare-visit-to-tibet-urges-beijing-to-open-region-up/>

¹⁹Ibid

U.S. MILITARY CODE OF CONDUCT

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, the military Code of Conduct reads:

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which

might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

PUYALLUP HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, in Washington State, 67 schools compete in the 4A high school sports division—67 schools, nine spring sports teams and one dream.

For three spring teams representing the Puyallup purple and gold, that dream came true.

This spring, Puyallup High School, located in the 10th Congressional District, captured State titles in baseball, fastpitch softball, and boys golf.

The Vikings baseball team finished their season undefeated, and for the first time in the history of our State, both the baseball and the fastpitch softball teams won their State championships. Boys golf joined them, and three of the top five players were from Puyallup High School.

When I was in high school, it was a thrill beyond measure just to get to the State playoffs. It is inconceivable to win not one, not two, but three State championships. The 10th District is proud of the Vikes, and we congratulate all of the student athletes who made these dreams come true.

FATHER'S DAY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor our fathers—fathers of this country—who have provided the stable, loving atmosphere for children all over the Nation.

I thank, in particular, my late father, the first African American comic cartoonist, Ezra Jackson, who provided me with such stability and love and inspiration; my father-in-law, a Tuskegee Airman, who served in World War II; certainly, my own husband, Dr. Elwyn C. Lee, who integrated the faculty of the University of Houston and its administration.

But the real tribute is to the many fathers across America who have taken children and treated them with love and dignity and who have given them,

even if they did not have it, some semblance of comfort—fathers who have adopted, fathers who have foster cared, fathers who are incarcerated but who still try to maintain the love and connection with their children, poor fathers, working fathers—those who have found their way to claim Sunday as the day when we say, “Happy Father’s Day.”

We honor the fathers of America. We thank you for the foundation that you have given to this Nation.

CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to spend a few moments this afternoon reflecting on the recent order that is being promulgated by President Obama and the EPA dealing with the goals for carbon emission.

Now, even before the President’s announcement of the carbon goals last week, the spin machine was in full battle mode. There was a full-throated expression of outrage for the apologists for pollution. Those who are profiting from what we are doing now and who are investing the least amount of change are making dire predictions that sound eerily familiar.

The reason they sound familiar is that we have, in fact, heard them before. There was similar gloom and doom that greeted the Federal Government during the first Bush administration that was, if you will forgive the phrase—hold onto your hats—a cap-and-trade program to deal with acid rain. There were claims that it was unworkable, that it would be expensive, that it would create far more problems than it would solve; frankly, we just couldn’t afford to move ahead, that we should instead continue the same approach we had for years, the same approach that resulted in minimal progress and contributed to acid rain damage to our waterways, to our forests, and to the health of our people. But the Bush administration argued against the naysayers in that by setting a framework requiring limits to be met and giving flexibility to the States’ utilities on how it would be achieved, we would make progress for relatively minor costs, and it would be worth it.

Almost 25 years later, the verdict is in. It has been a remarkable success. The program didn’t require massive bureaucracy or a huge, unmanageable cost. We have, in fact, dramatically reduced acid rain. We have promoted investment in new technology. Our lakes and forests are healthier, and so are our people. The cleanup was achieved in the regular course of business,

changing the incentives and the signals that were sent.

This success, with bipartisan support, may be one of the reasons that, as we moved into the new century, the 2000s, there was initially broad, bipartisan interest in reducing carbon pollution. In fact, the situation we faced in the United States then was much like the situation I encountered in meeting with British members of Parliament 6 years ago on their approach to climate change.

Now, they acknowledged that there were differences between the three parties in Parliament about the details of what they were planning, about the best approach going forward. Some favored a more command and control, and others were dealing with incentives or taxation or a combination, but they were engaged in a debate about the details of how to achieve the objective of reducing carbon emissions, not the wisdom of doing it, not challenging the climate science.

Maybe this was because Great Britain is an island nation that really couldn’t afford to be indifferent to shifting weather patterns, rising sea levels, the impacts of storm, disaster, and crop patterns.

□ 1230

Maybe it was that the British parliamentary system made it harder for the leaders of government and the parties in opposition to insulate themselves from day-to-day debate, debate that is largely unknown here in this Chamber on an ongoing basis.

Maybe it was because the British Government itself had been involved in such sweeping research and planning. Remember, Sir Nicholas Stern had a seminal report on climate that was widely acknowledged and respected, that served as a prod for action.

During the 2000 election, President Bush, then-Governor Bush, said he would move to limit carbon pollution. During a period shortly thereafter, then-Governor Romney of Massachusetts was one of the leaders in the regional greenhouse gas initiative of the Northeast States that started the limited cap-and-trade program, that put a price on carbon, and used those monies to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It has been relatively successful, despite the massive recession and the Tea Party heat that caused Presidential candidate Romney to repudiate what he helped put in place, and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie pulled back.

In 2008, the Presidential nominee for the Republicans was Senator JOHN MCCAIN, who had been involved, on a bipartisan basis, with legislation to restrict greenhouse gases. And at this point, Senator MCCAIN was not a climate-denier; he was a believer that our government and our economy were not helpless in the face of threats from

human impact on climate change and weather instability, let alone spreading doubt about the scientific consensus.

We are coming to the floor this afternoon debating, discussing impacts on climate, the need for modest steps proposed by the administration, restating some facts, and broadening the conversation.

I would like to turn, if I could, to my colleague from Maryland, Congressman SARBANES, to add his voice. The Congressman has been deeply concerned with the environment, with climate, with energy, playing a key role on the Commerce Committee. I welcome him to this conversation.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for pulling us together this afternoon to talk about this important development that the EPA has taken to address climate change, to reduce pollution across the country.

I want to start by thanking the EPA. I mean, a lot of people are piling on right now, critics of this action, and saying this is going to cost jobs and it is too disruptive and so forth. I have a completely different perspective, and I wanted to mention a couple of things along those lines.

First of all, this is an important step to take, just from a health perspective. In other words, there are many ways you can come at it. You can look at it in terms of climate change, which is kind of a slow-moving crisis, and I will speak to that in a minute, but it is accelerating.

But if you just look at it in terms of protecting the health of the American people, frankly, and beyond, but let's talk about America's interests here. If you cut down on these carbon emissions, particularly from coal plants, you are going to be promoting clean air. You are going to be promoting clean water.

The Chesapeake Bay, which I hold very dear, representing the Third District in Maryland, and having parts of the Third District which touch the Bay, and many tributaries and rivers and waterways that lead into the Bay from across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the Chesapeake Bay, the pollution that comes into the water often is from air deposits that come into the water because of this carbon pollution that we have.

So whether you are talking about breathing clean air, which we all want for ourselves and for our children and for our grandchildren, or drinking clean water and having clean water and high water quality, this is a very, very important step to take, this notion of now setting a goal to cut by 30 percent the carbon emissions from power plants across the country.

But let's look at it through the lens of climate change, which my colleague has already raised. We are seeing the effects of climate change, as I mentioned, accelerating every single day.

So, obviously, there is a warming going on of the planet, generally speaking, and the scientific support for that being connected to the activities of humankind is pretty incontrovertible. We have the opportunity in the Energy and Commerce Committee to get a lot of testimony on that front.

We are seeing violent weather events across the country which are having a tremendous impact on communities, damaging those communities, harming, actually producing harm to individuals, but also having a terrific impact on economic productivity across the country.

So the average American out there, I mean, everyday citizens, when they look at this issue, the great majority of them are saying, we need to do something about this. We can't just sit on our hands. In fact, there is recent polling that indicates that 70 percent of Americans favor stronger limits on the amount of carbon that is emitted by power plants.

Well, okay. That is exactly what the EPA is doing here. It is taking action to reduce the carbon emissions from power plants. The EPA is listening to the American people. The Obama administration is listening to what the American people are saying, day in and day out, about the action that we need to take.

Unfortunately, this Congress, the leadership in this House, in particular, has not, apparently, heard the cry of the American people when it comes to doing something about climate change.

So I congratulate the EPA for taking these measures because this is what the American people want to see, and it is going to have a tremendous positive impact.

On climate change per se, 80 percent of Americans think the U.S. should take action to address climate disruption, 80 percent of Americans. So those are like commonsense people getting up in the morning, going outside, getting their newspaper, opening the newspaper and seeing that there have been violent storms here, or that there is a drought happening here, or that the water supply is in danger there, all connected back to what is happening with the climate and affecting their communities.

So they are saying, okay, the commonsense thing for us to do is to take some considered and reasonable and rational steps to try to address one clear cause of climate change and pollution, and that is the carbon emissions from power plants.

Thank you to the EPA for taking this initiative and responding to what the American people are saying.

Before I hand it back, I do want to touch, though, on what I think is part of the problem here, why it is that the EPA is the one that is having to step up here and take the initiative, and why we are not taking more initiative right here in Congress.

I think it is because the machinery here has sort of gotten gummed up by the influence that some of these polluters have. There was a report recently issued that indicated or estimated, I guess, that the fossil fuel industry is getting a 5,900 percent return on the investment it is making here in Washington through campaign contributions and lobbying expenditures.

That estimate comes from looking at some of the taxpayer subsidies that continue to flow to that industry, even though this is an industry that makes over \$100 billion in profits every year. But the influence is also found, not just in sort of that corporate welfare that that industry is taking out of this Congress, but it is seen in the way in which our efforts to try to address climate change, to try to address the issues of promoting clean air and clean water, keep getting stopped by certain industries. So we need to look at reforms on that front.

What do we do to lift up the voices of everyday Americans in a world where money is speech? How do everyday people and people of modest means have speech in that environment and push back on those influences so that we can actually process their will here in Congress?

Then let me just close with this observation, because it goes to the argument that is made that somehow this is going to harm us economically as a country, to put those goals in place and begin to cut these emissions.

My colleague pointed to the sky is falling narrative at the time when we were going to do something about acid rain. And people said, industries aren't going to be able to handle this. It is going to cause parts of the industry to shut down. Americans are going to lose their jobs.

What happened?

The country, America, stepped up to the challenge and found its way to new opportunities. And I hear a lot of times from industry who say, well, you know, putting these measures in place, particularly when maybe peer nations aren't doing as much on that front as they could, it is going to put us at a competitive disadvantage. We need to have a level playing field and so forth.

I get that, but sometimes it makes sense to push us to go find a new playing field. And I think that is what the EPA is helping us do. It is expressing what the American people want to see. Go innovate, go figure out a way to do these things differently. Find, create a new energy portfolio that makes sense from a health and safety standpoint, makes sense in terms of combating climate change, but also will create tremendous new economic opportunities and generate millions of new jobs across the country.

So these things are not mutually exclusive. Economic productivity and innovation are not mutually exclusive

with doing the right thing with the environment. In fact, if you look back with a clear eye, historically, you will see that when we push ourselves to do the right thing for the environmental reasons, for the health and safety reasons, we often get ourselves to a place of increased economic productivity and innovation.

In closing, and I thank my colleague for giving me a few minutes here today to talk on the topic, I want to thank the EPA for carrying out—listening to what the American people are saying about the steps we need to take to address climate change, to address our health and the environment out there, and taking this very, very important step that I think is going to be productive and positive for the American people. Thank you.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you. I appreciate the gentleman joining us and his observations, in particular, the thought that the sky is falling rhetoric is not necessarily born out.

I am reminded that 3 years ago one of the operators of perhaps the dirtiest coal-powered plant in the country, in Homer City, Pennsylvania, warned that there would be immediate and devastating consequences from the Obama administration's push to clean up pollution from coal.

It was facing the requirement to cut sulfur dioxide pollution by 80 percent in less than a year, and it sought to block the rule. They were unsuccessful. In fact, it was the recent regulation that the EPA's—excuse me—the Supreme Court upholding the EPA's rule in this case was initiated by the Homer City generating station that precipitated all of this.

But today, the Homer City power plant is now a model. It hasn't been shut down. There haven't been devastating consequences for that community. It has been able to adopt new regulations, set them in place. It has dramatically reduced its emissions, and it is operating successfully.

The EPA estimates that about 30 percent of the coal-powered units in the United States are operating without scrubbers. Remember, our friend from Maryland talked about the immediate health benefits, not just environmental. The pollution control equipment is not only for sulfur dioxide but mercury.

□ 1245

It is inexcusable that there are plants still operating without these minimal protections.

Mr. Speaker, we are joined by one of my colleagues who is also from Maryland, Congressman JOHN DELANEY. One of the things I appreciate about the perspective that Mr. DELANEY brings to Congress—being a relatively new Member, but having pursued a successful business career—is that he is often taking an approach from an economic per-

spective that deals with some of these elements.

One of the reasons I am pleased that the EPA is moving forward is that this is an economic solution that can have a huge difference, not just improving the environment, but new technologies and doing so in a cost-effective way.

So we are pleased to have Mr. DELANEY here, and I yield to him for any comments that he may have about the situation.

Mr. DELANEY. I thank my colleague for his leadership on this issue, for organizing our discussion here today, and for his leadership on so many other important issues here in the Congress, and I like the way he introduced this next segment of our discussions around economic policy because I will spend a little bit of time on that.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to start by talking about probabilities and severities—because I think it is important to think about that when we are thinking about climate change—and then move into some market-based solutions that I think work very well with some of the EPA's recent guidance, which I am very supportive of.

Let's start with the view of what experts think of this issue. It is estimated that 97 percent of the serious climate scientists in the world believe that climate change is occurring and that human behavior is contributing to this.

A friend of mine had a very good analogy for this when he said: If you took your child to 100 physicians and 97 of those physicians said that your child had a condition that needed to be treated, would you wait to get the last three? Or would you act on the advice of 97 percent of the physicians?

That is effectively what we have with respect to the advice that serious climate scientists have with respect to the two questions as to whether is climate change happening and is human behavior contributing to it.

Secondly, there is a body of work around what are the consequences if climate change were to continue, and it is similarly overwhelming in terms of the view that, if it were to occur, the costs, both moral—right, in terms of the stewardship of our planet, but we will put that aside for a second—and financial, are very significant.

If you look at the United States, if you look at costs associated with weather—extreme weather along our coasts, extreme weather in the Midwest, droughts in the west, fires that are being caused from that, disruption in people's lives, costs to the Federal Government, these are very, very significant costs.

That is not even counting the geopolitical costs associated with continued climate change. A very large percentage of the poor people in the world live at or below sea level. The effect that rising tides will have in disrupting

their lives, we should understand will have a very significant geopolitical implication.

So let's think about the probabilities and severities. There is some chance—I view it very small, but some chance—that 97 percent of climate scientists are wrong, that, in fact, nothing is happening. I view that as a 10 percent probability.

So whatever we do, the changes in our behavior have to be measured against the 10 percent of the probability. There is an overwhelming likelihood that the scientists are right. That is why 97 percent of them agree.

The fact that they are in accord on this issue would make me think, from a probability-weighted basis, that there is an 80 percent probability that they are right.

Then there is probably a 10 percent probability that they are wrong the other way, that they are seriously underestimating the effects of climate change, and it could accelerate, and the consequences are actually much greater than we had believed.

So if you add up all of those probabilities and multiply them by the severities, you come to a view that this could be one of the central generational challenges of this era, in terms of addressing this issue from a both moral and economic perspective.

I think my colleague from Maryland framed it well when he talked about the economic opportunities because I think we have been presented with a false choice. The choice has been act on this issue, act against the advice of 97 percent of the climate scientists, or, you know, ruin our economy if we do that; and that is the choice we have been presented with.

That is fundamentally not the right choice because, if you have a view that the evidence will continue to mount, you have to assume that, ultimately, humans—both in the United States and around the world—will react to this issue. That is the logical assumption.

If that logical assumption turns out to be true, then we should assume that, in 25 to 50 years, the way this world—and this country in particular—but the way this world produces energy, distributes energy, utilizes energy, and conserves energy will be very, very different than it is today.

As a businessperson, I look at that, and I say big, big opportunity. It is a big opportunity to be the leader in energy production, energy distribution, energy conservation, and energy utilization.

So there is a concept in business known as the first mover advantage. The person who reacts first gets the best technology, gets the best experts, gets the best insights, and that is what I believe, as a matter of economics, this Nation should be doing.

As someone who believes the power of markets is very significant to

change behavior—in fact, I believe there are only two things that really change human behavior: one is their faith, and the other is financial incentives.

We have an opportunity, I believe, as it relates to climate change to not only get the faith community behind this issue—which I believe they will, the faith community cares deeply about the stewardship of the planet, God's greatest gift to us. I believe in the future, we will see the faith community—and it is already there, to a very significant extent—getting behind this more.

I also think there are things that we can do in terms of creating the right financial incentives to change the behavior. I believe things like a carbon tax, where you create a market-based solution and you tax something that we fundamentally shouldn't like—carbon—in exchange for taxing things we should like—like human beings and profits—is a better scenario for our country going forward, which is why, in combination with the new EPA regulations, we are introducing something called the State's Choice Act.

What the State's Choice Act does is require the Federal Government to give every State in this country another option. It is not a requirement. It is an option, and if the State decides to put in place a carbon tax, where they tax something we shouldn't like today—and I am sure we definitely will not like in the future, which is carbon emissions—and they can take the revenues from that carbon tax and deploy them against any priority they have, including lowering other taxes in their State, if a State puts in place a carbon tax, then they are deemed in compliance with the EPA regulations.

So it is providing States with an option—not a requirement, an option—to put in place a mechanism—a market-based mechanism in lieu of a regulatory framework.

Environmentalists believe a carbon tax is the best solution because they understand that financial incentives change behavior most significantly. Business broadly believes this is the right solution because it is a market-based approach.

In fact, the largest energy company in the world, ExxonMobil Corporation, disclosed something last year that I viewed as very consequential, that they will begin, in their financial assumptions—so in other words, when ExxonMobil projects the future and their business against those projections, they are assuming that, at some point, there will be a social cost of carbon imposed through some form of taxing system.

What that means, Mr. Speaker, is that ExxonMobil is, today, making business decisions based on the fact that that will happen. Most major corporations, most of the Fortune 500 is

doing the same thing. They see where this is going.

I believe that, when government and the private sector work well together, we get the best outcomes. So when you see policymakers and people who care about climate change saying their carbon tax approach is the right answer and when you see the overwhelming majority of the Fortune 500 believing a carbon tax is the right answer, I think we should be embracing market-based solutions, which is what we are trying to do with this State's Choice Act.

We applaud the actions of the EPA. This is a serious problem for the reasons I discussed earlier, and I think their actions, particularly in the absence of other actions coming out of Congress, are the right answer.

We believe this is a great opportunity to also start the conversation around market-based solutions, which is why we would like to give every State in this country the option to pursue a market-based solution in exchange for a regulatory solution.

This is an incredibly important topic. Again, I want to thank my colleague for organizing us here today and giving me the opportunity to comment on my views on this.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you, Congressman.

I must say, I appreciated your observations. I personally am intrigued with your State's Choice Act. I look forward to exploring that further with you. I am absolutely convinced that, in the course of the next decade, this country will be moving to a broader carbon tax.

It is a key to ultimately controlling emissions. It is a way to reform our tax system. It is a way to simplify the equation, and what you proposed, I think, is an intriguing way to accelerate that conversation. I look forward to continuing it with you.

Mr. Speaker, there have been certain concerns that have been raised in terms of some of the horror stories. People feel it is just too much hard work, too much risk with being able to move forward with reducing carbon emissions.

I must reflect on my own personal experience on this, and then I will turn to my colleague from Virginia, Congressman MORAN. From his perspective, he has a great deal to offer on this, and I appreciate his environmental leadership.

Over 20 years ago, I was a member of the Portland City Council, and we were involved then with work to deal with carbon pollution. In fact, Portland became the first city in the United States to make a commitment to reduce its carbon emissions. Our plan was to reduce these emissions. We had committed to making a reduction of 40 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050.

It was fascinating to watch as we moved forward with aggressive work, with energy efficiency, with transpor-

tation, bicycles, light rail, streetcar, building design and planning, having a comprehensive effort to tie these pieces together, to change how we did business to meet the carbon objective.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that it is working. As of 2012, our greenhouse gas emissions are 11 percent below the 1990 levels, even though our population has grown 30 percent over that time. It means, on a per-person basis, it has been reduced by a third. Emissions from homes are down 13 percent and are down 16 percent in commercial, industrial, and multi-family sectors.

Now, Portland—anybody who has visited it in the last 20 years—is not impoverished. It is not a place that people are fleeing. Indeed, we are finding that the cohort of well-educated, young professionals—the 20- to 34-year-olds are actually increasing in the city of Portland, while the quality of life has been maintained.

During that same period of time, jobs are up 18 percent, and some of the best-paying jobs are in those areas that deal with innovation, with energy efficiency, with design, with transportation.

So this, from my experience in my hometown, having been involved with it now for a quarter of a century, it is not only within our capacity, but doing it can actually improve the economy and the quality of life.

There is another critical area that we need to address, and that is why I am so pleased that Congressman MORAN is here. He is a senior Member, the dean of the Virginia delegation—who, sadly, has decided that he may move on and retire after this Congress, after a long and distinguished career.

One of the areas in which Congressman MORAN is a powerful and respected voice is in the area of national security, and I am pleased that he is with us here this afternoon and perhaps can have some observations about what this means to the future security of our country, not just in terms of the environment.

Mr. MORAN. I thank the gentleman from Oregon for giving me the opportunity to join my distinguished colleagues, but particularly you, my very good friend, Mr. BLUMENAUER. I just cannot thank you enough on behalf of this country for your leadership on this issue.

This is an important opportunity to discuss the President's proposed standard to limit carbon pollution because, just last week, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy announced proposed regulations that would reduce carbon pollution by 30 percent, below 2005 levels, basically below what they were a decade ago.

So that is going to help many States who have already made substantial progress, such as Oregon, toward that

objective. That is a baseline that most scientists believe is absolutely necessary to prevent irreversible climate change.

□ 1300

The new standard relies heavily on the existing State and Federal Clean Air Act partnership that already exists which enables States to develop their own paths to reduce carbon emissions.

States are going to have the flexibility to cut emissions based on what makes the most sense for their unique situation, including options like reducing demand to encourage production of cleaner sources of electricity, cap-and-trade programs, and a menu of other energy efficiency ideas. States can work collectively with other States to develop multi-State carbon reduction plans. But without this major course correction, our present trajectory on climate change threatens the future of this planet.

As each day passes without action, the more we are destined to harm our environment, our country, and our loved ones. So while this plan may not be perfect, the current public comment period does provide an opportunity to improve on it. And given the inability of Congress to enact meaningful legislation on this or almost any of the other pressing issues our country confronts, I fully support the President's decision directing the Environmental Protection Agency to issue a standard for carbon emissions because it has become clear that this Congress will not do so.

It is no secret that the majority who control this Chamber are in climate change denial. Just 2 weeks ago, the House passed an amendment offered by Mr. MCKINLEY of West Virginia to the National Defense Authorization bill that prevents the Pentagon from using funds to implement climate change assessments. This is a head-in-the-sand amendment, essentially a way to ensure that the realities of climate change are ignored by our national security policymakers.

It is an absurd notion that our military leaders should not react to the unequivocal fact that the planet is warming and that human activities are responsible. The McKinley amendment, and those who voted for it, remind me of the 16th century Catholic Church, Mr. BLUMENAUER, that condemned the work of a scientist by the name of Galileo who dared to claim that the Earth was not the center of the universe but that it, along with the planets, revolved around the Sun.

Now, those who voted for the amendment—and I hate to say the number, it was embarrassingly large—but those who voted for the amendment were telling our military to irresponsibly disregard the findings of the scientific community that our planet is warming. But our military leaders, fortu-

nately, do get it. They do understand that the climate is changing, and they are doing their best with limited resources to be prepared to respond to that changing environment.

Climate change is a national security concern for a number of reasons. First and foremost, it is a catalyst for instability and conflict around the world. The U.S. Department of Defense's own Quadrennial Defense Review—this is the document that defines the Department's strategic objectives and potential military threats—declared the threat of climate change is a serious national security vulnerability that could enable terrorist activity. The Quadrennial Defense Review specifically states:

The pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and governance institutions around the world.

The results will be a higher demand for American troops abroad, even as we struggle to deal with the devastating impacts caused by flooding and extreme weather events here at home.

Climate change is also a new form of stress on our military readiness. The Navy, for example, estimates that 128 of its installations just at the Norfolk, Virginia, Naval Shipyard alone would be affected by a 1-meter rise in sea level which we have to anticipate. It recently had to spend \$240 million to double-deck four of its piers down at the Norfolk Naval Base so that they could harden utility lines and make the structures more resilient to sea level rise and more extreme and more frequent weather events.

Now, as an appropriator, I and my colleagues on the committee are dealing with the reality of climate change in Federal agency budgets. The effects of climate change are ratcheting up Federal expenditures. The 10-year average for wildland fire costs, the basis on which we attempt to budget for fighting wildland fires, is going up every year. We spent more than \$800 million on wildfires just last year.

So, our military gets it, the vast majority of the American public gets it, and the executive branch gets it. It seems that almost everyone—almost everyone—gets the fact that climate change is happening; that is, everyone but a majority here in the House and a filibuster-sufficient minority in the Senate. Perhaps they are in denial because their political base either chooses to be ignorant or is profiting from inaction.

Perhaps it is a generational issue. I have seen a poll that a majority of all self-defined Republicans under the age of 34 think politicians who deny that climate change are either—and I am just quoting now, of course, these are not my words.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Of course.

Mr. MORAN. These are the words of the majority of Republicans under the

age of 34 that they are either “ignorant, out of touch, or crazy.” Ignorant, out of touch, or crazy. Now, we wouldn't use those words, but the majority of Republicans under the age of 34 do use those words towards those who deny that we should do something about climate change.

We, along with the rest of the world, have a duty to protect our children and future generation from the effects of climate change. So I stand here with my colleagues to ensure that the Obama administration's effort to limit carbon pollution is not diminished or blocked by the Congress. For the sake of our national security, and the sake of a better future, the Obama administration's proposal to limit carbon emissions must be allowed to go forward.

I thank you very much, my friend, and I thank you for your leadership. Let's hope things get better.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Well, I appreciate very much your being here, Congressman MORAN, and your voice makes me think that maybe you have been giving diction lessons to Gina McCarthy, but it is not so much how she talks but what she says.

Mr. MORAN. You are making fun of our New England accent, Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I am talking about the distinctive way in which you communicate as well as the power of the words, both of the administrator and of you. I deeply appreciate your putting numbers around some of these threats. The notion that we have the largest naval base in the world, and you are saying we had to invest almost one-quarter of a billion dollars because it has had the greatest increase in sea level on the entire eastern seaboard.

Mr. MORAN. Absolutely. We just were shown a map by naval executives, and I hesitate to say this because it is so scary, but the reality is that the entire Naval Shipyard and the Norfolk shipbuilding base which builds our nuclear carriers within a relatively short period of time, a few decades, is liable to be underwater. So we can't afford to continue to deny climate change, literally.

So I appreciate your leadership, again, on this, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and we have got to continue the fight.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. It was interesting. There was a recent article in The Washington Post about a church on the waterfront in Norfolk. And they are having to vacate because this rising sea level is making it—the pastor of the church was quoted as saying that people shouldn't have to consult a tide table to figure out whether or not they can go to service.

I deeply appreciate your focusing on this, the reference you make to the Defense Department needing to have the best information possible and the outrage that an amendment was approved to the defense authorization that

would have, in effect, locked climate denial into that authorization.

Mr. MORAN. Absolutely. And the executives, the folks who have been involved with the Navy who showed me this map of our naval shipyards, within my son's lifetime are going to be under water. They did say, well, if it is any consolation, Florida is in worse shape. Of course, it is no consolation that Florida is in worse shape than Virginia, but the reality is it is obviously not confined to Virginia; it is all along the low-lying coast. Unfortunately, by the time that some people wake up and accept it, it may very well be too late.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I just had my first two grandchildren, and I would like some day for these two little boys to be able to see Miami and not have to be snorkeling.

Now, your reference to the defense amendment that was passed makes me think of what happened in North Carolina, where the legislature tried to mandate that the State agencies could not use the best science to make choices, the best information to protect the coastline.

Well, I deeply appreciate your joining us this afternoon. I appreciate your leadership and look forward to continuing with you this conversation.

Mr. MORAN. Thank you, Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there are some who claim, well, we really don't need to move forward with this because maybe or maybe not the administration's plan will work as they say. Maybe it is affordable, maybe it will create those jobs, it will improve air quality, and reduce carbon emissions. But they say that it really doesn't matter what the United States does. It is ironic, because some of the same people who are denying climate science are then turning around and saying, but it won't matter what we do because the Indians and the Chinese are building a coal emissions plant every week or two, and so anything that the United States does will really be drowned out, will lose its effect because of other events.

Well, this argument is wrong on all counts. It is not as much as we need to do. I am absolutely convinced, as I stand here on the floor of the House today, I am absolutely convinced that over the course of the next 20 years we will not only implement the requirements of this carbon emission rule, but we will go beyond it. We will go beyond it, and we will find it is not only manageable, but it is the right thing to do.

Even though this modest step will have some short-term pain and some difficulty in changing current patterns of business and politics, it is something we can and should do. Being able to make this pivot to start changing how we do business is in and of itself significant because it is these first steps that are going to make it possible for

us to take other, more important, longer-term steps that will be even more significant.

But it is also critical to demonstrate American leadership. Our failure to lead on reducing carbon emissions will encourage other countries that are poorer and are heavier carbon emitters on a per capita basis to just sit back and wait. Some of them will say, hey, you in the United States are the people who have created most of this problem. The United States has now been passed by China in terms of annual current carbon emissions. But in terms of total carbon in the atmosphere, the United States is the all-time leader and will be for some time.

On a per capita basis, we are still far and away number one. Americans can emit three times as much carbon per person as the Chinese and six times more carbon per person than the Indians. So the United States is the greatest historic carbon emitter, and we are still emitting far more carbon per person. If we don't step up, being rich, powerful, and more technologically advanced, how is it that we are going to expect poorer countries where people are struggling with existential challenges for food and sanitation, how do we expect them to ever follow suit if we are afraid to lead?

Well, I think this rule that is being promulgated is an expression that we are not afraid to lead. As I say, it is an important interim step, it sends an important signal, and it starts a broader conversation internationally.

I was in Copenhagen 4 years ago and watched as the United States shuttled back and forth, the President trying to get people aligned, and dealing with the European Union. But, frankly, we are never going to be able to have one, large multinational organization that is going to put all of these pieces together. It is going to require leadership. It is going to require leadership from the United States, showing the way that we are willing to do this, and then working with not just the Chinese and the Indians, but the Brazilians and the Indonesians. In this political and economic climate, it is wildly unrealistic to expect that the United States is going to assume the entire burden itself, but it is important for us to send the signal that we are moving in the right direction.

□ 1315

The United States, over the course of the next 50 years, is going to be challenged to deal with all that we need to do; plus, as my friend from Virginia mentioned, we are facing serious problems in terms of climate change that is already underway.

If we, in some way, could be able to drop global carbon emissions below the 400 parts per million that we are at now back to 350 parts per million, we are still going to watch the climate ef-

fects unfold. We are still going to watch Florida sink, with oceans rising and problems for its water supply.

We are going to watch large chunks of the Arctic ice sheet collapse. We are going to watch parts of Greenland disappear. Ocean levels are going to continue to rise. This means that the United States is in a race to be able to deal with things to help people adapt with climate change and, for heaven's sake, not to give up because it is going to be a problem. We don't want it to accelerate. We don't want to make it worse.

If we are going to be able to deal with the challenges 50 years from now, it is what we do in the next 5 years in communities all across America that is going to make a difference.

Acting with cleaner technology, cleaner energy, and greater efficiency will save American families money over the next 20 years, compared to the current wasteful patterns. It is an opportunity for us to realign our economy for the economy of the future. It is an opportunity for us to be able to minimize the consequences of climate change.

Frankly, every single use of energy has some negative consequences—every one, but being able to use that energy for efficiently, more effectively, and do it sooner minimizes those negative consequences while we harness the economic power to change the economy.

I want to conclude with just one observation about the way that the administration has proceeded. They have signaled the approach that they are taking going forward. They have taken goals and adjusted those carbon goals based on where States are now, what their energy mix is, and what they can do in a reasonable way in the years ahead.

They have taken those goals and given great flexibility to the individual States. This is not a one-size-fits-all solution. To the contrary, giving them realistic goals and giving them flexibility on how they are going to achieve it is a terrific way to harness market-based solutions and the ingenuity of the individual States.

The administration, I have heard from a number of people in the industry, has reached out, talking to people with electric utilities, gas, and working in terms of large industrial users. Having those conversations with States, red State and blue, regardless of their energy mix, they have made it clear that they are encouraging people to take advantage of the flexibility that has been given to them.

I think this is an ideal model for going forward, not denying the problem, not trying to solve it all overnight, not trying to have one size fits all, but to deal with a minimal standard going forward that sets the base, giving people a range of options to meet it, and inviting their ingenuity and their activity.

Mr. Speaker, there is no issue that is more important than this Congress should be addressing. Sadly, you know we have not done much to deal with it on the floor of the House, but the administration is at least stepping forward to not deny climate change, but to be able to give people choices to meet our objectives.

I commend the administration for the steps they have taken, and I hope that all Members will take the time to familiarize themselves with it and what their States can and should do to be able to meet that objective for America to exercise leadership at home and abroad—meet these minimal objectives and to exceed them in the years ahead.

As we did with acid rain, we can do with carbon emission. I urge my colleagues to focus on how we can do this, so we can make it a great success story to preserve the future of our children and grandchildren. I appreciate the opportunity to share this discussion.

I yield back the balance of my time.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 USC 6431) and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a term ending May 14, 2016:

Ms. Hannah Rosenthal, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

ONGOING STRUGGLE AGAINST BOKO HARAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, I spent four days in Nigeria, and while in Abuja, I met with one of the Chibok girls who escaped after the infamous mid-April Chibok school abduction.

This brave young woman has suffered much, was clearly traumatized, and in deep emotional pain. You could hear it in her voice. You could see it in her eyes, as she sat motionless, recounting her tragic story, yet she spoke of concern not for herself, but for her friends and classmates who remain in captivity. She pleaded for their rescue and for their protection.

In Nigeria last week, I met with a Muslim father of two girls abducted from the Chibok school. Fighting back tears, he said the agony was unbearable. The story of his daughters under-

scored the fact that Boko Haram brutalizes Muslims as well.

Last week, I also met with several other Boko Haram victims, including a Christian mother whose two daughters were abducted in February of 2012.

For the past 2 years, this mom has had no idea where her two girls are or whether or not those two daughters are dead or alive. She told me that her husband was shot on the spot when they raided her home, simply for being a Christian.

Three months later, Boko Haram returned and asked if her son had converted to Islam. When she said no, he was shot and killed.

Mr. Speaker, on another trip to Nigeria, last September, I traveled to the city of Jos and visited churches that were firebombed by Boko Haram and met with survivors, those who lost loved ones and those who have been wounded in those terrorist attacks.

In an internally displaced camp, I met with a man named Habila Adamu. Habila Adamu lived in the north, had fled to Jos, but here was a situation where Boko Haram broke into his home, put an AK-47 to his face and said: If you convert to Islam, I will spare your life. If you don't, I will shoot you.

He told the terrorists: I am ready to meet my Lord.

He was shot immediately, with his wife pleading with the terrorists not to do so. It blew away much of his face. When I met with him, I was so moved by his story, I invited him to a hearing.

When he testified, he told that story to members of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, and you could have heard a pin drop—what courage, what tenacity, what love. I was struck by the fact that he had absolutely no malice for the man who pulled the trigger, who almost turned him into a martyr.

In Jos, I also met with Archbishop Kaigama and Muslim leaders in that city who told me how Christians and Muslims were working together to assist the victims and to try to mitigate the threat, but, Mr. Speaker, the violence has gotten demonstrably worse and shows absolutely no signs of abating.

After the May 20 Boko Haram bombings in Jos that killed 118 innocent people—that is less than a month ago—and wounded at least 56, Catholic Archbishop Kaigama, an extraordinarily brave and compassionate religious leader, reminded the world that Boko Haram is faithful to its target of eliminating and destroying Christianity from parts of the country.

The only difference is that we are not just seeing Christians dying and being abducted, we are seeing attacks on Muslims, as well, who Boko Haram considers not Muslim enough.

The Archbishop said:

The international community can help in a number of important ways. The sale of arms is of grave concern. In short, the government needs help in cutting the supply lines of Boko Haram.

Mr. Speaker, Emmanuel Ogebe, special counsel for the Justice for Jos Project and also a leader in the Jubilee Campaign testified yesterday:

Boko Haram continues to ravage northern Nigeria, killing over 1,000 people in 8 weeks. The terrorists are bolder and more diabolical than ever and have completely overrun several borderline rural communities. Prior to the Chibok schoolgirl abductions, much of the international response was inattention and inaction. Now, it is attention, but inadequate action.

Mr. Ogebe also testified that it took the United States 25 months after the first two Americans were attacked and 1 year after the third and fourth Americans were targeted before Boko Haram was designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Obama administration.

I would note, for the record, that during the last 2 years, I have pushed hard—and I am not the only one in this Congress who has done so—to designate Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organization, or FTO. I introduced legislation, H.R. 3209, the Boko Haram Terrorist Designation Act of 2013, in an attempt to make it so.

On November 13 of last year, I chaired yet another congressional hearing on Boko Haram and was prepared to advance the legislation. However, on the day before the hearing, the Obama administration finally announced FTO designation—late, but welcomed—which is designed, in part, to slow or help interdict the flow of arms and terror financing.

Mr. Speaker, at yesterday's hearing, we also heard from the former American Ambassador to Nigeria, Robin Renee Sanders, an experienced and very distinguished diplomat, who told my committee:

Nigeria is at the beginning of a long war, and they have to realize this. This is no longer a localized conflict or insurgency. There is no easy fix, and every attack and response to Boko Haram cannot be viewed as a death knell blow to it. A long-range security framework to the terrorist threat is what is needed.

Ambassador Sanders said:

The security services need to regroup, reapproach, and readdress it as such, in order to begin to get off their heels on the defensive and get on an aggressive offense. This has not happened yet, and Boko Haram has not only succeeded in terrorizing 60,000 square miles of territory, but it is also evident that, with the late April 2014 attacks, that they have the ability to reach locations just 15 kilometers outside of Abuja, either with sleeper cells or with bombs getting past checkpoints.

Current Nigerian security services have never experienced anything like this, like what it is facing with Boko Haram. Boko Haram is executing asymmetrical warfare, and for the most part, this is outside of the framework of the security forces and their capability to effectively respond.

Among Ambassador Sanders' recommendations were additional materiel, especially mobile communications equipment, vehicles, technologically-based bomb detection equipment; improved control over their very porous borders; improved military planning, logistics, equipment and supplies, including sufficient spare parts and fuel; expanded small Special Forces units and a 24-7 counterterrorism center; establishing a satellite CT center closer to the northeast region, so information doesn't take so long to react to or to be analyzed; and more rapid response forces, or what we call mobile units, and probably more outposts.

Another expert at yesterday's hearing, Dr. Peter Pham, director, Africa Center, Atlantic Council, testified:

A comprehensive strategy is required to respond to the burgeoning threat posed by Boko Haram, including the promotion of specialized training for Nigerian security forces. Undoubtedly, the Nigerian security forces, both military and police, need that assistance in the fight. However, the need is less a matter of personnel and equipment than training, especially in intelligence and investigations.

□ 1330

Mr. Speaker, while some training has begun—and U.S. military personnel deserve high praise and thanks for their professionalism, skill, and commitment—much more needs to be done. Human rights vetting must be improved so that eligible soldiers are not wrongfully excluded and intelligence cooperation needs to be expanded.

Let me also express my gratitude to our Embassy personnel for also working overtime in trying to mitigate this threat and to do the work that the Embassy does so selflessly. They are doing a wonderful job, and I appreciate their work in hosting and helping with my trip there.

Finally, just let me say, nothing has galvanized global opinion and a sense of extreme urgency more than the abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls, and now other girls since. Some 20 more girls were just abducted by Boko Haram.

Despite escalating threats of terrorism, however, many Nigerians, including and especially the faith community—Catholics, Evangelicals, Muslims—have responded with extraordinary courage, resiliency, resolve, and empathy for the victims, and they hope and they are working to ensure that Boko Haram is stopped.

Counterinsurgency training and intelligence capacity are among the highest priorities, and my hope is that more, not less, will be done going forward in order to mitigate this threat and to end the reign of terror that is being promoted by Boko Haram.

I yield back the balance of my time.

TERRORIST ACTIVITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, how much time is that?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There are approximately 53 minutes remaining.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend, CHRIS SMITH. It turns out that he and I were in Nigeria around the same time. And I am so grateful for his work. He cares so deeply about life, about freedom, about religious liberty, as much as or more than anybody I know in all of Congress. I am so grateful to him for his great work.

It is heartbreaking to see people killed, terrorized, kidnapped, sexually abused, abused in all kinds of other ways simply because of their faith. That is going on in Nigeria and all over the world right now.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. GOHMERT, thank you for your trip there and your concern, which has been throughout your entire career for human rights in general, but also for religious freedom.

This is a serious assault on religious freedom, forced Islamization. Again, those Muslims who do not agree with the extremism are also targeted, but Christians by and large.

At yesterday's hearing, Mr. Ogebe said that, of the 60 churches that have been destroyed, three mosques have been destroyed during that same time period. This is an attack on the Christian faith and it is a slaughter of Christians.

I want to thank you for your leadership on this.

Mr. GOHMERT. My friend brings up an interesting point. When I was there last week, a couple of the Christian pastors from Nigeria that were working with the victims, one of them pointed out to me that one of his groomsmen was a Muslim and they are still very, very close friends. Another, who is a Nigerian woman who has done extraordinary work in trying to help victims, particularly Christian victims, one of her sisters that she loves very much is Muslim.

The point that they were making is that Christians and moderate Muslims have been able to live together for hundreds of years, even in Nigeria, but this radical Islam that has come in, especially in the north, is an abomination. It is antithetical to everything that Christians believe. As a result, they don't care how peace loving Christians may be; you either convert or they kill you.

Having visited with a couple of the three girls who escaped—there were a number of girls who were able to get off the truck during the night, and some others who escaped the school that night and were able to run into

the woods in the dark. There were only five or six who actually were in captivity and were able to escape. I have met with three of them. A couple of them were talking about it, and apparently they were telling the girls, you either convert to Islam or your problems get worse—repeated sexual abuse, all kinds of other abuse. They would say: Just convert to Islam and your problems were over.

The trouble is, even when some of these girls at the threat of their very lives converted, which in and of itself is an abomination, their problems were not over. They were still being chided as potential sex slaves for the rest of their lives.

So it is something that ought to concern all peace-loving people everywhere. I have talked to Democrats, friends across the aisle. Republicans, I know, were upset with what is happening.

As I mentioned, these victims, I am not sure about the people my friend Mr. SMITH met with in Nigeria, but the people I met with had no idea that the U.S. Government cared at all because they don't follow Twitter. And if you don't follow Twitter, you don't know that they have been doing #bringbackourgirls and making themselves feel very good. It didn't help the victims one iota. They didn't know. As we are told in Christian churches all our lives, they won't care what you know until they know that you care, and Twitter doesn't seem to convey that.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Again, the great urgent needs for the Nigerian military are actionable intelligence and the capacity to know what is going on where, when, in real-time, and training. There needs to be a reevaluation of the vetting process, the Leahy amendment which I absolutely agree with; but when good troops and good soldiers and, especially, good officers are unnecessarily excluded because of a taint that may be ascribed to their unit rather than their individual performance, that needs to be relooked at so that we can train. There is a battalion that is being trained by the U.S., but there needs to be far more training in counterinsurgency.

I would say to my friend, I remember a trip to Darfur. The Nigeria military has been very robust in their peacekeeping. I remember I met with Major Ajumbo in Darfur who had also been deployed to Sarajevo. I was very active in the terrible Balkan war. I went several times to places, including with FRANK WOLF, to Vukovar and other places that were under siege. When the peacekeepers got there, among them were the Nigerians. So peacekeeping is something they had been very generous in deploying their troops to try to help other countries deal with civil wars or wars of aggression and, of course, terrorist activity as we have seen in

Darfur, but now that kind of training is not applicable to a counterinsurgency effort. That takes a very specialized type of skill set, and that needs to be ramped up exponentially if this horrific threat is to be mitigated and then eventually done away with.

Mr. GOHMERT. I think my friend and I both agree, we are not asking the United States to go to war in Nigeria.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Not at all.

Mr. GOHMERT. That is not necessary.

When you go back to Afghanistan, within 4 or 5 months, the Taliban was totally defeated without one American losing his or her life; and we helped them with the kind of thing the gentleman is talking about: training, aerial reconnaissance—we would drop a bomb every now and then where it was directed by our intelligence—all done without a single American life being lost.

Now, after the Taliban were routed, there were some CIA agents who were killed in one of the confinement areas, but that was after, basically, the Taliban had been routed.

So, as the gentleman points out, some training, but the first thing the gentleman named, actionable intelligence that they can act on. I notice that my friend didn't mention that we have got to provide more tweets in order to overcome Boko Haram. Actionable intelligence, give them training to help them do this.

We have done that in the Philippines. We have trained the Philippines to protect themselves; and they have come along so well, fighting radical Islam in the southern parts of the Philippines which, really, most people are not aware has been a real hotbed for this kind of radical Islamic activity. I think Khalid Sheikh Mohammed had been to the southern Philippines before 9/11. There are just these hotbeds, and the last thing we need is an area like Nigeria where they have been peace-loving and peacekeeping people, and now they are suffering from the abuses and the horrors of radical Islam.

We don't need to lose friends like that. And nothing breaks my heart more, traveling abroad, than to be constantly asked: Why do you appear to be helping our enemies and not helping your allies?

I don't know if the gentleman has heard that.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. There are so many very excellent points from my friend from Texas.

They don't want boots on the ground. The Nigerian military, Goodluck Jonathan, the President, what they need is this kind of specialized training, and they need it fast.

As we have seen in Baghdad—and the threat being posed now to Baghdad—and Fallujah, of course, several months ago and now in Mosul, a highly motivated and capable group of terrorists

can do extraordinary damage unless you have people facing them down who have the kind of training and motivation that can meet and stop it.

Let me just say, too, Africa is now, you know, the Wahhabi sect and others, extremist elements, are trying to influence Africa to the detriment of moderate Muslims, as you have pointed out, who have gotten along and have been best of friends with the Christian community. Even in Nigeria, there have been bishops and imams who have traveled throughout the country. The country is roughly divided in half. It is the most populous country in all of Africa, about 180 million people, and a very, very important friend and ally of democracy and us. They are at risk because of these extremist elements.

We saw it in Somalia with al-Shabaab and the pain that that terrible organization has inflicted on Somalia. Then as they were being defeated—they are not defeated yet, but as their numbers were lessened, they went over to Nairobi and went into a market and killed large numbers of people and terrorized.

These people eat, sleep, and drink brutality and impose it on innocent people. They blow up children and women and men. As a matter of fact, one of the untold stories is how many of the schoolboys are just being summarily executed, particularly in the three northern states. They kidnap the girls, as you pointed out, sexually abuse them and do horrific things to them and kill some of them, but they just summarily execute the young men.

So there is a reign of terror that is underappreciated around the world with regard to Boko Haram. You and I and others have been raising this for years.

Our Ambassador Sanders yesterday talked about—she was Ambassador in 2007–2010—U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, how she had raised so many issues.

In 2011, the U.N. headquarters in Abuja was firebombed by Boko Haram—in Abuja. There was an American there, and yet the Obama administration refused to designate Boko Haram a foreign terrorist organization.

I asked Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Johnnie Carson at a hearing in 2012 and then again a year later, why. This organization meets the test of a foreign terrorist organization, and why not, especially with the tools that are available through an FTO designation, trying to track the terror money and the means and financing for guns and the procurement of weapons, IEDs and the rest, and they just refused. They named three individuals, but they would not do the FTO for the entire organization. A missed opportunity.

Again, like I said, on the day before my hearing in December, the administration announced Boko Haram as an FTO. We welcomed it. Everybody was

glad, but we missed an opportunity for approximately 2 years or more for an FTO designation.

□ 1345

Mr. GOHMERT. If that FTO—foreign terrorist organization—designation had been made earlier on, some might ask, what difference does it make? Well, clearly it could have made a big difference, because if the emphasis had been placed earlier on at just how much of a terrorist organization Boko Haram is they may not have had the power they did to do what they did.

I don't know if my friend is aware, but in talking to these mothers and the three girls that had escaped, as they talked about that night the girls said—and I had not heard this before—but they painted a picture much like my friend had painted of other locations and what Boko Haram and other radical Islamists had done. They came to the school, and it is a bit shocking that their intel was not better, but they kept asking the girls at gunpoint: Where are the boys? Where are the boys? It was a girls school, and they are: Where are the boys? Where are the boys? Well, there are no boys, and they didn't believe them at first. They wanted the boys to do exactly what the gentleman said—they were going to pull the boys out and kill them.

I said: So was it because some radical Islamists do not think that women should be educated? And they said: No, no, the point was it was a Christian school, so if you are a young man they will kill you, because men or women, you should never be educated in a Christian school even if you are not taught about the Bible at all. If it is a Christian-run school, whether it discusses the Bible teachings of Jesus and all, still you should be killed if you are a young man and abused horribly if you are a young woman. So they didn't even know that there were no boys there and were disappointed when all they had were the girls to take off and abuse them.

But just a horrible humanitarian situation. As the gentleman points out—although I have been called an Islamophobe, xenophobe, all kinds of things by people that want to portray something we are not—I was amused at the reaction I saw over my shoulder in Kabul when there were a few of us that went to meet with some Northern Alliance leaders I met with a number of times. DANA ROHRBACHER first introduced me to some, had met others.

But we were going, and they weren't sure I was going to be able to get across the city to meet them, and I was determined, and I told the State Department: You see that gate out here at the Embassy? You are going to have to take me down because I am getting in a car and I am going to see our allies. I was informed: We are not authorized to take down a Member of Congress. I said: Then you won't stop me.

My friend Massoud is sending a car. Having lost his brother, his father-in-law, he knows about security, he will keep me safe, and I am going to meet him.

Well, they arranged for a car from the Embassy that was secured and we went. When we arrived at their compound and I got out of the car, I was surprised this big group of Northern Alliance leaders came rushing down, including General Dostum. But Massoud particularly, I really have high regard for him, came rushing out, they are rushing down the porch, and I notice my other friends from Congress are going: What's going on here, they are rushing to meet each other, are they going to hit each other or what is this?

We embraced when we saw each other. They are moderate Muslims. We disagree on religious beliefs, but they are the enemy of our enemy, and those people successfully defeated the Taliban, our enemy, they want to wipe our Nation off the Earth, and all the Northern Alliance want is to be left alone and let them run their own area. It can be done. Christians and moderate Muslims can live in peace, can embrace, can be in each other's weddings, as happens in Nigeria. But when it comes to radical Islam we have got to call it what it is.

I was a bit surprised to hear from some of the people from Chibok that they honestly believe that the governor is in cahoots with Boko Haram and, if not, is either sympathetic or very afraid of them. They also have grave concern that the principal of that school may have been complicit in assisting in having this happen. That could be an issue because they didn't have enough intel to know there were no boys there, so I am not sure. At least some of the parents were very concerned whether or not the principal may have been complicit. Perhaps the principal was just concerned for the principal's own life, who knows?

But they don't know that we care, and there are some very inexpensive things that will come back as "bread on the water" if we assist others in stopping radical Islam right where it is—as our friend George W. Bush used to say—where they get stopped somewhere else and not right outside or inside our own homes. That is not the place you want to be stopping them.

I am so grateful for the gentleman's heart and for his efforts.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I would just add, finally, that one of the big takeaways—and this was amplified yesterday by Ambassador Sanders—is that there is a huge psychological toll being imposed upon the victims, and that the PTSD experienced by the families, especially with the Chibok abduction, is enormous. The government of Nigeria, obviously, needs to walk point on trying to ensure that psychological assist-

ance, as well as the faith community, which can provide a tremendous benefit to those suffering trauma and the aftermaths of it, be given.

One of the things that Ambassador Sanders mentioned yesterday that I thought was a very good idea is that President Goodluck Jonathan ought to meet with the families of the Chibok girls. One of the things that George Bush did, and he actually did it in my district as well—not George but his wife, the First Lady, but he did it at the White House and other venues—they met with the survivors of 9/11 and let them know not only that the sympathy and the empathy for their plight was real and the harrowing loss that they endured, but that, as President of the United States, George W. Bush, and his wife, said: We are with you, we have got your back, we care about you.

So, respectfully, I would hope that the President, Goodluck Jonathan, would open his arms and meet with the Chibok family members, the parents who are in utter agony—who wouldn't be?—at the loss of their daughters. Again, I met with one of those dads who lost two of his daughters to the abduction, doesn't know where they are, like the others, and this man, tears flowing down his face. In his case, he was one of the Muslims. There were a few Muslim girls, we don't know how many, at the school—it was mostly Christians, overwhelmingly Christian—but his two daughters were Muslim.

This trauma is real. We know from the work that the VA has done for years of posttraumatic stress disorder—PTSD—that those impacts are lifelong and they need to be addressed. When I sat, like you sat, across from some of those young victims, the lucky ones who were able to escape, this poor young 18-year-old girl that I met with was clearly broken and hurting beyond words, and yet she kept uttering and saying: But I care about my friends, what happened to my friends, where are my friends now? And tears welled up in her eyes several times.

So again, I do thank you.

There is one other idea to put on the table: The victims compensation fund. Nigeria does have significant oil wealth. While there are still huge numbers of poor people in Nigeria, there is also the idea that there are resources available. Certainly helping some people get their lives back together—when I went to the IDP camp—the internally displaced camp—in Jos last September I was struck by the destitute, the extreme poverty compounded by the exodus, and there are hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons, obviously in Nigeria but also in adjacent countries like Cameroon.

So a victims compensation fund would be at least an effort, a gesture, to help out, it would seem to me, those who are suffering from, again, loss of

life, abductions, and now no place to live too. It just gets worse and worse and worse.

I also heard harrowing stories of people who leave their homes and hide in the bush at night because Boko Haram at any night can just come knocking on the door, AK-47 in hand, ready to open fire. So the pervasive fear, especially in the three northern states, is bad and getting worse. And again, our former Ambassador yesterday said: This is a long war, and Nigeria needs to understand, and everyone who supports Nigeria, that it is not going to just end with one fell swoop. There needs to be a strategy that takes in a framework to account that this is a long and protracted war, but it has to start now.

Mr. GOHMERT. The gentleman met with fathers. I didn't meet with fathers. I asked a pastor: Why do we not hear more and see more of the fathers of the girls who were abducted, kidnapped, and being brutalized? I was aware, and some of them had talked about, some people choose to leave their homes to sleep so that Boko Haram doesn't invade their home at night.

But some of them were explaining—and these are all mothers of daughters who were kidnapped; she had two daughters kidnapped—but that it is an interesting thing, a deeply troubling thing about evil. Sometimes people who do evil, they intentionally do things that make the victims feel guilty when it is not their fault.

One of the things that counselors constantly have to deal with, and I know from having prosecuted abusive women, you are constantly having to tell them no one deserved this, no one deserved to be beaten or harmed like you were hurt, nobody. There is no excuse, it is not your fault.

There were times that, as a judge, after sentencing, children would feel guilty, and I would say: You have got to understand, please don't leave my courtroom thinking you did anything wrong.

One of the things that some of the fathers and some of the mothers, they were telling me, they feel so guilty about, that night in the middle of the night, they get word the school has been raided and the girls have been taken. Some of the parents went running and they went all the way to where the school was. They had nothing. They were empty-handed. One woman was so appalled that her daughter had been taken she ran out and a little boy had to say: Ma'am, take my shirt, take my shirt, that she wasn't properly clad. But they were so worried about the girls they didn't think of grabbing anything. They ran.

When they got to the area where some girls were being held all of the Boko Haram had AK-47s, they had machine guns, weapons. These people had empty hands. They were told you either walk away or we kill every one of

you, and they would have. They had shown that over and over. They killed people and didn't think twice.

They are thinking, well, if we kill us all here then we have no chance of helping our daughters, but we have got to get them free. We will all be killed right here, so will this do any good?

Well, now they are saddled with the guilt of thinking, maybe if we had gone ahead and ran at them and they slaughtered all of us out there, maybe the world would have listened and our daughters would be safe now.

They have no reason to feel that kind of guilt, none. But this is the kind of insidious evil that Boko Haram is engaged in. It is a travesty to anyone who cares about life or liberty and should be deeply offensive even to moderate or semi-moderate Muslims. They ought to be joining us in this call for an end to the existence of Boko Haram, to the Taliban, to all those who are so pervasive with evil.

□ 1400

This is one of the girls that escaped. It breaks your heart when you start hearing her tell her story.

Unlikely Heroes is the name of the NGO helping these victims. They are helping families. I don't know if you have heard, but just this week, Unlikely Heroes said they are now being contacted like never before from victims who were too afraid and felt like nobody cared and what difference would it make, and now, they are stepping up.

We don't have to go to war for them, but we can help direct their efforts—give them the intel, give them what they need. Then, at some point, we need to help bring pressure on the Nigerian Government to make sure that the people of Nigeria benefit from the massive amount of wealth that is going somewhere.

I sure don't see where it is going in Nigeria, but it is going somewhere. It is not being kept by the oil companies. It is going to somewhere, to somebody in Nigeria, and the people of Nigeria need to begin to enjoy some of the wealth with which their land has been blessed, and I hope we see that in our lifetime as well.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman for his compassion and for bringing these stories forward and for meeting with those families.

I did, too, hear of the false guilt—nevertheless, guilt—shared by some of the families, but what do you do when you are facedown with an AK-47 and you are holding a stick? That is basically what happened.

I have been to Abuja a number of times. I am the author, as you know, of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, America's landmark law in combating sex and labor trafficking, enacted in 2000.

I have been there a number of times, working with members of parliament—

their congressmen and their senators—on trafficking legislation. They have a very, very well-written piece of legislation to combat the scourge of modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

There are many fine members of the House and Senate. Part of the problem has been the corruption in some places—in the military, in some cases—in parts of the government, and we have corruption here; so we know how insidious, as you pointed out, that can be, but when the military units that are deployed lack the skill base and the training to deal with a terrorist organization that is highly adept, coupled with the fact they don't have enough munitions, enough capabilities that any military going to war against this kind of threat need to have, it just so hampers their ability to carry on the fight. So that, too, has to change.

We are told something like \$6 billion in defense spending by the government is what is going on. It seems to me—and I said this at yesterday's hearing—perhaps they need an urgent supplemental—the way we would do here—to significantly upgrade their materiel.

That was one of the first things that Ambassador Sanders said yesterday. They have the money to buy this. They need to procure it—and do it yesterday—certainly, today—and not wait any longer—so that these troops are ready, capable and trained.

So I really appreciate your point. They do have a number of fine laws. Their legislature is functioning in many ways very well. There are gaps that particularly need to be addressed. Three northern states have some serious problems. So I do think we need to be a true ally and friend.

As Professor Pham said yesterday, we will keep our footprint very light. Nobody wants U.S. troops on the ground. That is very clear, but we need to help them help themselves, especially since the Nigerians have been so generous in deploying peacekeepers to troubled areas throughout Africa and, like I said, in places like the Balkans, in Bosnia.

Mr. GOHMERT. As my friend said, there is so much good in Nigeria.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. So much.

Mr. GOHMERT. We should not lose sight of that.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. So much good—the family, the faith community. I spent some time with a number of Catholics and evangelicals. They love God. They really want to do His will on Earth, as it is in Heaven, as we are admonished in the Lord's prayer, but they face many crippling challenges. On the sickness side, malaria is endemic. They have made major gains on the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

They have so many issues that they are trying to address and in comes this horrific Boko Haram organization, which has taken brutality to a new low. They are capable—and let's not

kid ourselves. This is a gang, but it is a well-trained gang that is blood-thirsty.

We have seen it before. Look what happened in Liberia and Charles Taylor, who brutalized Sierra Leone and Liberia. Thankfully, he got a 50-year prison sentence by the special court of Sierra Leone and now is in prison, but the pain that he unleashed through his terrorism—and he was the President of that country.

Here, you have a situation where a group of thugs, well trained, are unleashing hell upon wonderful people. Again, that is why we can be of help, especially in the area of intelligence and in the area of training—of course, on the humanitarian side, sharing best practices, especially psychological trauma type of interventions.

Mr. GOHMERT. As a child growing up in Mount Pleasant, Texas, my mother's first cousins, Gene and Mary Leigh Legg, and their children—Beth, Arnold Lloyd, and Linda Leigh—were missionaries to Nigeria. They would go to Nigeria for 3 years and then come back to Mount Pleasant for a year, and they would normally live close to my house. We were always close. We went to church together. We were at each other's houses all the time.

So I grew up vicariously learning the love of the Nigerian people that the Leggs had.

Mary Leigh later had a brain tumor. There was nothing that could be done. Since it was inoperable and they couldn't fix it and she was going to lose her life, she wanted to die there among the Nigerians that she had spent her adult life helping, but the Southern Baptist Mission Board said: no, we can't have a missionary dying out there in the field, you have got to come back to Texas.

So just a block or so from my house is where she was—we watched her—but she really wanted to die among the people she loved in Nigeria.

Gene later remarried. Jackie and Gene then were missionaries to Nigeria. Beth, Lloyd, and Linda Leigh never lost their love for Nigeria. Jackie and Gene are back in Henderson, Texas, but they still do anything they can for Nigerians.

So I have had the affinity. I have known of the love and the graciousness of the Nigerian people since my earliest memories. It also adds to the heartache when you see what the people are going through these days.

I hope and pray that the Nigerian leaders, the governors in the northeast area and principals of schools, if they are not complicit, they need to come out and make clear that they are an enemy of Boko Haram. Let consequences follow where they may because, when those leaders in those areas stand up and make clear that they do not stand with this kind of evil, then it will give great courage to others.

So I appreciate the gentleman so very much in his efforts around the world. There is much to be done.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. GOHMERT, I want to thank you, again, for your leadership and for taking the time to go to Lagos to meet with all the families and to, again, amplify the message that we must do more. There is more that we can do.

I was extraordinarily impressed with our people that are on the ground. They are totally can-do, both our Embassy, as well as our military people. They want to help. We have got to make sure that we are resourcing them sufficiently as well.

The Government of Nigeria and President Goodluck Jonathan need to listen to the international chorus—the U.K. is there, the French are trying to be helpful on the intelligence side as well—but they own the leadership of this. They need to step up to the plate. Again, I can't emphasize enough the specialized training that could really enable their troops to efficaciously combat Boko Haram.

It needs to be done so urgently and so comprehensively. They need a comprehensive strategy.

I thank my good friend.

Mr. GOHMERT. The former Attorney General of Nigeria has also weighed in and is really working hard to combat radical Islam, and so it is good to see both government officials and former government officials like that weigh in.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Again, I say—and you emphasized it with your lifelong love of the Nigerian people and your knowledge of them—I think most Americans would be very encouraged to know just how strongly faith-filled the Nigerian people are. Whether they be evangelical, Catholic, or Muslim, they take their faith seriously. They are very ethical people, great people, very good business people.

If infrastructure and roads and bridges and the like were to become even more accomplished throughout Nigeria—as Nigeria goes, so goes the rest of Africa, it is often said—they will be a great trading partner. They are already a huge trade partner of the U.S., but that will grow exponentially, going forward.

Again, I have always been impressed with the faith of so many Africans, in general, but the Nigerians' faith in God is extraordinary.

Mr. GOHMERT. There was a press conference we had with all these mothers and the three girls sitting in the back, but it was amazing to hear the comments of all of those Nigerians. All of their comments showed forth faith. It is amazing.

I doubt that I would have said the same things that I said there in a press conference here, but since this is a big group of people who were either committed Christians or Muslims that are

moderate, peace-loving people, I pointed out to them that it was obvious Boko Haram means this for evil.

They mean to harm decent, innocent people just because they are Christians—some are moderate Muslims—but they meant it for evil.

This brought me back to a place a long way from my home in the U.S., but not so far from here in Nigeria—just northeast of here—a place called Egypt, where a brother ended up because his 11 other brothers sold him into slavery.

He cried. He wept. He was thrown into a pit. He was a slave. He couldn't understand why God had deserted him. He ended up being a slave and a servant and imprisoned.

Ultimately, he became the second most powerful man in all of Egypt. Because he was the second most powerful man, he was able to save Egypt during the famine that no one knew was coming, but God revealed to him, Joseph.

When his brothers finally realized who he was and began to weep, Joseph told them: you meant it for evil—because what they did was evil, but God used it for good.

Boko Haram means this for evil, but despite all the evil and all the suffering, God can still work this together for good.

I also looked in the camera there and I said: I have a message for Boko Haram. You think your hate for Christians is so powerful, no one can overcome it. Let me tell you, there is a stronger force than your hate, and that is the love of these parents for their children, that is the Christian love you find in Nigeria, and your hate will never be able, ultimately, to win the day over the stronger force of love.

I believe that with all my heart.

□ 1415

I believe that with all my heart, and I am looking forward to the day when love triumphs over the evil of Boko Haram.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Before you got here, I think, at least, I raised the issue of Habila Adamu. He was a man whom I met in an IDP camp in Jos in September of last year. He did tell the story about how Boko Haram broke into his house, dragged him outside, with a terrorist holding an AK-47 right to his nose area.

With his wife weeping, pleading with this man not to shoot her husband, he said: You convert or else I will shoot you.

He said: I am ready to meet my Lord.

So the trigger was pulled, and he blew his face away. You can see it on the other side that he has had some reconstructive surgery.

Not only was this man a living martyr because he survived it—they left him for dead because he was bleeding so profusely—but when I met him in Jos, he didn't have a scintilla—the

slightest—of malice towards the gunmen. He said he prays for them. I mean, you are talking about Christian love overcoming a terrible hatred, the likes of which we can't even understand. When he testified here—because I invited him to come to Washington to testify before my subcommittee—you could have heard a pin drop. A lot of the press, including the Associated Press, led with his story.

That is transformative, I believe, to see someone who, almost like our Lord from the cross, says: Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do.

Here was this man who was a living martyr, and I couldn't have been more moved, inspired.

I saw him again on this most recent trip, and the joy that he radiates—he radiates Christ; you see it in his eyes when he speaks—was just extraordinary and humbling because none of us know and I don't know if I could ever react like that. I hope I never do. He had that peace that surpasses all understanding. He was there, and he could have died right that day.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank the gentleman.

I want to finish by commenting on the comments of our President, particularly in the context of what has gone on in the world.

The story says that, at a White House event on Wednesday, where the President took questions from Tumblr users, President Obama addressed what he will be doing in the future, but he made these comments that I just feel like we have to address in light of what my friend Mr. SMITH and I have been talking about.

The President said:

I mean, the truth of the matter is that, for all the challenges we face and all the problems that we have, if you had to be—if you had to choose any moment to be born in human history, not knowing what your position was going to be, who you were going to be, you'd choose this time. The world is less violent than it has ever been. It is healthier than it has ever been. It is more tolerant than it has ever been. It is better fed than it's ever been. It is more educated than it's ever been.

With regard, though, to the less violent, one doesn't have to look too far to see the kinds of things that are going on in this world. The latest crime statistics indicate violent crime is up, though property crime has gone down.

Here is a story from January of this year from Reuters. This is Reuters. This is not a group that has ever been particularly kind to me. "Religious Violence Across World Hits 6-year High According to Pew Study."

The story says:

Violence and discrimination against religious groups by governments and rival faiths have reached new highs in all regions of the world except the Americas, according to a new Pew Research Center report.

Social hostility, such as attacks on minority faiths or pressure to conform to certain

norms was strong in one-third of the 198 countries and territories surveyed in 2012, especially in the Middle East and North Africa, it said on Tuesday.

Although this story says, “except the Americas,” we have commented numerous times here that, in recent years, it has come to be that there is really only one group in America that it is politically correct to be absolutely intolerant toward, and that is the Christian faith. It is okay to belittle the Christian faith. It is okay to belittle the position that marriage should be between a man and a woman.

It is the exact same position the President took when he was a Senator in order to become President because that was very important in his becoming President in 2008. He took the position—most people did—that marriage was between a man and a woman, and it is a Christian position. I mean, it is in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Jesus, himself, said that a man shall leave his mother and a woman leave her home, and the two will become one flesh, and what God has joined together let no man put asunder.

That is marriage, Biblical marriage. Anybody who retains the belief that Jesus had and that Moses conveyed as he got it from God was that it was between a man and a woman.

If you hold that position now, it has become widely accepted that, gee, you should lose your job, that you should lose money, that you should have the Nation turn in hatred upon you and your family. Heck, some people want you to go to jail. They want you prosecuted. They want the IRS—they want everybody—after you just because you believe the same thing that Senator Obama said he believed before he became President and that Jesus said was actually the law of God and that Moses said was the law of God. Yet, nowadays, if you take that Christian position, you are a hate monger, and we want to destroy you, which is in direct opposition to the quote that was so often stated during the Revolution. It was attributed to different people. I think more people attributed it to Voltaire:

I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

It used to be that on college campuses they would invite different people so they could get good arguments and good debates among the students. Now they don't want anybody who doesn't fit the cookie-cutter, liberal mode of whoever is in charge at the university. For heaven's sake, who would have ever dreamed at Brandeis University's founding that, when a Muslim woman stood up against the evils of radical Islam, she would be refused to be allowed to come to the university.

It is time we stand up for freedom, liberty here and everywhere.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

HOME RULE FOR THE NATION'S CAPITAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 30 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor this afternoon to take the opportunity to fully inform Members—and, yes, also members of the public—of the actual rights of the people who live in the District of Columbia, who demand respect for their local laws the way every Member would demand respect for the local laws of her own jurisdiction, and yes, if necessary, to call out Members who violate their own principles of local control of government against Federal interference.

I am very pleased that very few bills that trample on the local rights of the people who live in the Nation's Capital have been signed into law and that very few have gotten out of this House even recently. Part of that is because we stand up and fight, but we are at some disadvantage. The District of Columbia delegation consists of me, and we have no Senators. But no red-blooded American would sit down while somebody tramples over her local jurisdiction without getting up and saying something about it and, yes, without doing something about it.

I want to be fair to my colleagues because some of this, I think, has to do with simple ignorance. Some of it has to do with a blind spot. The blind spot is very troubling. The blind spot means that principles that easily soak into them with respect to every single district in the United States somehow haven't made it into their hearts or their heads when it comes to the District of Columbia. It troubles me, but I believe that, when Members think about their own principles, they will think before they simply jump into the jurisdiction of another Member's district.

Particularly when this happens repeatedly, we think that the constituents of the Member should be informed, and we try to inform the constituents. Indeed, we inform the entire State where the constituents are from. If a Member insists upon inserting herself into the affairs of another jurisdiction many miles from home, and if she needs to be called out, that is what we have to do.

Congress 40 years ago passed the Home Rule Act of the District of Columbia. It is too bad it took that long to pass. The culprits there were Democratic and Republican, and indeed, for much of the 20th century, whether they were Democrats or Republicans. The

Democrats finally got understood, and the Home Rule Act of 1973 was passed. That act gave all local affairs of the District of Columbia to the local government—to the council and the Mayor of the District of Columbia. My job is to see to it that Members remember the Home Rule Act of 1973 and do not invade the local jurisdiction of our city, Washington, D.C.

I was a little troubled, although I see no real effect thus far, about a memorandum that came from David Mork—the Chief of Staff of Representative PETER ROSKAM, who is the chief deputy whip for the House GOP—inviting Members to insert special provisions, even of a partisan or an ideological nature, into the upcoming appropriations bills. We have checked, and, actually, we have seen very little of that so far. Our concern, of course, is with such inserts that affect the District of Columbia.

By the way, it is interesting that there would be a whole memo inviting Republicans to do so. They haven't done so very much on the appropriations bills that have come through thus far, but I think that probably has a lot to do with how little policy the Republicans have been able to get through the Congress of the United States. So, when you are driven to appropriations bills for policy, you have been driven to a very low level for a lawmaker. The bait hasn't been much bitten, and I am pleased of that for the Nation. I simply want to say, if such ideological policies attached to appropriations are inappropriate for national appropriations, imagine how totally unsuitable they are for an appropriation that may affect the District of Columbia.

□ 1430

One may wonder, what is the District of Columbia local appropriations bill doing in the Congress of the United States?

Very good question. The District of Columbia wants budget autonomy—but we haven't quite gotten there yet, and I very much appreciate that we have had Republican and Democratic support for the proposition that the \$6 billion we raise in the District of Columbia is for us and us alone to say anything about.

Imagine, in a Tea Party Congress, how they would react if somebody had anything to do with their local funds.

Well, that is exactly how I am going to react. I am not going to stand for it. I am not going to stay quiet for it, and I am going to see that your constituents know you are meddling into somebody else's business, in violation of your own principles.

It continues to happen, but it happens at far less of a rate than it used to. When I first came to Congress, I used to have to stand on the House

floor for hours at a time rebutting attempts to attach to the D.C. appropriation anti-local control amendments. Those are far, far fewer.

Appropriators don't like it. The appropriators simply want to get their appropriation bills done. But occasionally, some of these attachments will come through—to date, only one remains.

. . . Others come through as free-standing bills. And I appreciate that the Speaker doesn't often let those bills get to the floor.

But we feel quite insulted when a Member decides to introduce a bill to, essentially, erase what the local government has put into law. A favorite one of those issues that continues to apparently invite such meddlers is, of course, D.C.'s gun laws.

The District of Columbia has some of the strongest gun laws in the United States. After all, we are a big city. We are the capital of the United States. Foreign dignitaries routinely are in our streets. Every Cabinet official is routinely in our restaurants, and we don't need a lot of guns in a city like this.

We had an even stricter gun law. That was struck down by the Supreme Court of the United States. We believe in obeying the Supreme Court and in obeying Federal law, so the local government rewrote its local gun laws.

We still have among the strictest gun safety laws in the United States, and the courts have upheld these new gun laws every time they have been attacked. They have been attacked in the courts.

Our gun registration requirement was recently attacked in the courts, and the courts upheld the District's gun registration requirement.

The District's ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines was attacked in the courts, and the courts upheld the District's ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

Recently, somebody shot a gun outside of the White House that reached the window, the upstairs, the second-floor window of the White House. You surely wouldn't want a lot of those running around the District of Columbia, and the courts have understood that.

Yet, there will be attempts to go at the city on guns. I don't care about guns in your district. I ask you not to care about guns in mine.

Yet, Representative JIM JORDAN of Ohio has introduced a bill that would wipe out all the gun laws of the District of Columbia. Can you imagine that?

Take every last one of them and wipe them off the books.

Those are local laws passed to protect our local citizens. What is he doing in this?

We keep winning in court, and this Member, Representative JIM JORDAN of

Ohio, has introduced only five bills in this Congress. He needs to think about national bills, not bills that trample on the rights of the citizens of the District of Columbia.

We have made a decision, the courts have upheld our decision. I thought that is what the Framers founded the United States of America for, to allow local governments to remain local, to have a Federal Government that took care of things that were not local.

This is local. The gun laws of the District of Columbia protect 650,000 people who live here and visitors who come here. They have nothing to do with Representative JIM JORDAN's district.

Now, to the credit of the majority, this bill has not moved. It hasn't moved in committee, and it certainly hasn't moved to the floor. But we resent that it was filed at all because it didn't have to do with anybody's district except the District of Columbia.

The Member who was just on the floor, Rep PHIL GINGREY of GA has introduced an interesting amendment, Representative PHIL GINGREY of Georgia, expressing the sense of the Congress—now, understand a sense of the Congress measure has no legal effect. And he has, when questioned by the Court, indicated that this was "a message bill." So he is a messaging bill not using his own constituents but using mine.

This messaging bill says that Active Duty military personnel, in their private capacity, should be exempt from the gun safety laws of the District of Columbia, but not from any other district.

For the third year in a row, I am going to get this one taken care of. Twice he introduced it as a part of the defense authorization bill, and twice I have been able to have it taken off.

It got passed again in this House. I am going to get it taken off again.

In this country, we respect local control. If you were to ask me which side of the aisle speaks most vociferously about local control, I will tell you that side of the aisle. So when Republicans interfere with local matters of the District of Columbia, they are in violation of some of their most threshold principles.

Representative JORDAN, interestingly, introduced, and I think this may not have had to do with the fact that it was the 1-year anniversary of the Newtown shooting, but that is when he introduced the bill. There were services all over the country then.

I think he just introduced it because that is when he thought of it, and it was on his National Rifle Association checklist.

Most recently, Representative MARK MEADOWS of North Carolina has introduced a bill that would keep the Federal Government from deducting, as an employer, the union dues of Federal employees. It is a labor right. If you

vote that your employer can deduct your dues, he can do so, private and public employer.

Well, I wouldn't be on this floor if this were only a national bill. That is consistent with Representative MEADOWS' views. But Representative MEADOWS has reached into the District of Columbia.

Now he says, not only Federal employees, but he is saying that the District of Columbia government cannot also deduct union dues, as the union members have asked them to, even though these employees who have asked the District to do that are paid for 100 percent by local funds.

Who would take that in this House? Well, I am not going to take it. And he does so by redefining the District of Columbia to be a Federal agency. And here is the ultimate insult.

Seeing that he has no right to do that, he redefines the District of Columbia as a Federal agency for purposes of this bill.

Well, I am here to tell you that 650,000 people who are number one in Federal taxes paid, number one to the Federal Government, \$12,000 per capita per year and they are not simply going to take that kind of treatment from individual Members of Congress.

You don't redefine us. We have been defined as American citizens, and we are going to be treated that way. We are no more a part of the Federal Government than North Carolina, where Mr. MEADOWS is from, is a part of the Federal Government.

One of the favorites is, of course, abortion. A bill to expand the Hyde amendment treated us as a part of the Federal Government. There has been a 20-week D.C. abortion ban bill.

Now comes marijuana decriminalization. The House had a hearing on D.C.'s marijuana decriminalization law. I objected that there would even be a hearing. There should have been no such hearing.

There had been four prior hearings—and those prior hearings had not mentioned, even the two jurisdictions, there were two of them, that had made marijuana legal, and there are about 18 that are decriminalized.

The only hearing that was held was held on the decriminalization of the District of Columbia.

Who will take that in this House? Well, I asked to testify, and to the credit of Mr. MICA, the chairman of the subcommittee, I was given the right to testify.

When the 20-week abortion bill relating only to the District of Columbia was introduced, I was denied even the right to testify.

Well, I am going to find some place to testify, even if it is on the floor of the House of Representatives because you are not going to treat the 650,000 Americans I represent as second-class citizens. You are not going to do it without protest from their Member.

A Member, Representative JOHN FLEMING of Louisiana, was permitted to sit in on the D.C. marijuana decriminalization hearing. He is not even a member of the committee. It is all right with me. But the first thing he did afterward was to violate his 10th amendment principles.

He went out and said, well, I know what I am going to do. I am going to try to keep this D.C. marijuana bill from becoming law. And then when we called him out on it, and the press went to him, he said, well, wait a minute. I haven't said I was going to really do it. I am really waiting to see whether I should do it.

□ 1445

Well, I am waiting too, Representative FLEMING, because you said you were going to do it because you could do it because you think you have the jurisdiction to do it.

Well, you don't. Technically, of course, Congress can reach into the Home Rule Act and violate the Home Rule Act. You can do that, but who would say that was in keeping with your own 10th Amendment principles, your own principles of small government, your own principles that all that matters is local government, your own principles that the Federal Government shouldn't even be in what the Federal Government is doing?

This is a controversial subject, but that is what we have local jurisdictions and States for, to respect our differences. We are a Union of States, and we are not all the same. At least 18 States also have marijuana decriminalization laws.

Representative FLEMING should not be interfering with a jurisdiction 1,000 miles from his own. He has introduced only 11 bills in this Congress. I have introduced 57, and none of them have interfered with anybody else's business, and I am not going to take it when you come here to interfere with mine.

This is interesting. At the hearing, there was open disagreement among Republican Members in Congress because there are Republican libertarians in this Congress. Sometimes, they don't abide by their principles, but they are more likely to do so.

He was called out by the Member who has since introduced the amendment to the FY 2015 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill that passed this House, that keeps the Federal Government from interfering with medical marijuana laws that have been sanctioned by the local jurisdiction. Guess what? That passed this House with 49 Republicans voting for it.

I want to say here how much I respect my Republican colleagues who try to put their principles into effect when they see such legislation, national or local; and I ask you to put yourself in my position.

Should I sit still when you treat the people I represent as if you could toy with them, use them for messaging, forget that they are number one in Federal income taxes paid to support the government of the United States?

I don't even have the same vote you have on this floor, and no Senators do I have. I have only myself and my will and my determination to call every one of you out, not only on this floor, but to every newspaper in your district, every newspaper in your State, all of those who sent you to Congress because you said you were for small government and local control. Well, if you are for it, I am going to hold you to it.

I don't know what is going to happen with the D.C. marijuana decriminalization bill. I do know this: that I don't expect the District law, which is here now on a so-called layover—what an insult that is. We have to bring our local laws here and let them lie here and if it is a criminal law, for 60 days, to see if anybody wants to jump up and overturn our local laws.

I don't think that is going to happen because I don't think there are that many hypocrites in the Congress of the United States.

There was a bill—and I am not going to call out this Member's name because it was never introduced, but it was passed around for cosponsors. It was a bill that reached into something—I don't even think it was ideological—it was just meddling—that would keep the District of Columbia from using automated traffic enforcement systems.

You know, they are the kind of systems we have in 521 jurisdictions, 24 States, and I don't know if this Member or his staff had gotten a ticket. He didn't say so. All I know is: What in the world are you doing interfering with how we keep people from being struck by cars? Maybe we shouldn't have those in some States. We have them in the District.

The Member did not introduce it, so I am not going to call his name on this floor. I can only thank him for thinking about this bill, and I have come to ask for Members to think very carefully as to what they would do if they were in my place.

You have been sent to the House of Representatives to represent your constituents. You have been sent to protect them, as well as to enable them to have whatever other people in our country have.

Suppose your constituents were number one in Federal taxes paid to the government of the United States. Is there one of you anywhere who would not do as I am doing this afternoon and insist that the people you represent be treated as the fullblooded American citizens that they are?

That is what we are. We intend to be treated that way, and we will never be quiet about it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about the Federal Reserve, and if you want a real stemwinder of a conversation here on the House floor, Mr. Speaker, I recommend the Federal Reserve to you. It is nonstop laughs and giggles and interesting information.

I can't get started without referencing my friend from the District of Columbia who just spoke, and she spoke with such passion. I have the great pleasure of serving on the House Rules Committee, Mr. Speaker. As you know, it meets right behind the wall up there. It is the only committee that meets in the Capitol, and the Delegate from the District of Columbia is often there, speaking just as passionately on behalf of her constituents.

It is hard because, as she spoke with absolute certainty about the role that the District of Columbia plays, the Constitution speaks with similar certainty, and that is what makes it a difficult conversation to have.

The Constitution set up this governing district and gave those responsibilities to the U.S. Congress to administer.

Now, the Home Rule Act—and if folks haven't looked at the Home Rule Act, it is a fascinating read. Like so many things that we do in this Chamber, it was done for all the right reasons and has its fair set of unintended surprises along the way.

Here is what the Constitution says in Article I, Section 8, and it says, in part, this:

Responsibilities of the Congress, to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such district, not exceeding 10 miles square, as may, by cession of particular States—you will remember, Virginia and Maryland both ceded real estate in order to create the District of Columbia, we used Maryland's half, we gave back Virginia's half—and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the State in which the same shall be.

Exclusive jurisdiction granted to the Congress by the Constitution, Mr. Speaker, but then we passed a statute that gave certain home rule rights and responsibilities away.

Now, that statute, of course, is secondary to the Constitution. The Constitution is controlling. The statute is secondary, and that statute grants the rights and the privileges that the Delegate was referencing.

That happens so often here, Mr. Speaker, that we have constitutional

responsibilities, and then we have statutory authorities, and sometimes, those come into conflict.

I happen to have one of those on my mind tonight, and it is the Federal Reserve Act, Mr. Speaker. If you are ever looking for a good read, can't quite get to sleep in the evening, let me suggest the Federal Reserve Act to you.

It is not a fascinating read, but it is an incredibly important read, and it says, in part, this—this is the Federal Reserve Act, Mr. Speaker. You can't see it from where you are, but it says this:

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Open Market Committee shall maintain long-run growth of the monetary and credit aggregates commensurate with the economy's long-run potential to increase production, so as— and this is the important part—

so as to promote effectively the goals of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates.

The authority to control the Nation's money supply lies here in Congress. The authority to control interest rates, as they are related to the money supply, lies here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress delegated that to the Federal Reserve Board through the Federal Reserve Act, and the Federal Reserve Board's mission, again, is to:

Promote effectively the goals of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have had this conversation before. If you have ever been in a high school economics class, you are thinking, hey, wait a minute; can I really promote full employment and interest rate moderation with the same language? Don't I lower interest rates in order to get maximum employment? Don't these things sometimes run countercyclically to one other?

It is a very difficult mandate that we had given the Federal Reserve. I want to talk about how they have handled that because, Mr. Speaker, the frustration I hear from folks back home is: You are the United States Congress, why can't you get things done? Why won't you move together? Why won't you be effective? In what? In growing jobs and expanding the economy.

Now, we have done some things here of which I am very proud—collaborative things, bipartisan things, bicameral things—that have absolutely taken us a few steps in the right direction. I wish we were moving more rapidly in the right direction. I am finding it harder to get agreement here than I expected, 3 years ago, when I came to this body.

The Federal Reserve then has taken it upon themselves, through this Federal Reserve Act mandate that I read earlier, to try to improve, stabilize—insert your favorable word here. They are not villains. They are out to help try to improve our economy.

What I have here, Mr. Speaker—again, you can't see it. I have the Federal Reserve's balance sheet. Now, what is important about the balance sheet, Mr. Speaker—I go back to 2007, and what you see is the Federal Reserve's balance sheet is relatively stable, just over about \$800 billion.

Now, again, if you are working in a high school economics class—this is not the millions with an m. This is billions with a b. \$800 billion is the typical size of the balance sheet at the Federal Reserve, but we enter these financial crises in 2008, 2009, 2010, the size of the Federal Reserve balance sheet doubled, and then it quadrupled. It doubled, and then it quadrupled.

Mr. Speaker, in the period of about 3 months, the Federal Reserve's balance sheet went from \$800 billion up above \$2.4 trillion.

I want you to think about that. The budget of the entire United States of America is about \$3.5 trillion. It goes up. It goes down. It is about \$3.5 trillion. In the span of about 3 months, the Federal Reserve—created by Congress, empowered by Congress—expanded its balance sheet without any additional approval of Congress by about \$1.7 trillion.

The Federal Reserve expanded its balance sheet in 3 months by twice as much as the entire Federal Government spent in that same period of time without a single vote, without a single conversation in this Chamber, without a bit of consent from the Speaker, from the majority leader of the Senate, from the White House, \$1.7 trillion.

Now, you can't see the colors on the chart, Mr. Speaker. The balance sheet, of course, has a variety of components to it. Traditional security holdings that the Federal Reserve has always had, those actually are a smaller part of those holdings today.

What we are looking at is, in this beige area, it is long-term bond purchases. It is Federal Government debt purchases.

It doesn't take a long conversation to begin to get concerned when an entity created by the Federal Government is actually buying all of the Federal Government debt—or at least a substantial portion of it.

What does that mean to our long-term economic growth?

□ 1500

Again, if the Federal Reserve was enacted to promote effectively the goals of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates, then how is doubling the balance sheet, tripling the balance sheet—now we are just almost at \$4 trillion. That is beyond quadrupling the balance sheet. That is coming close to quintupling the balance sheet. What does this mean about the long-term economic security of America?

Again, Mr. Speaker, this is something that happens—\$4 trillion—with-

out a single vote in this Chamber, without a single vote across the Capitol in the Senate, without a single signature by the President, and without any consent by the American people whatsoever. Four trillion dollars in balance sheet expansion with not a single bit of consent of the governed.

Well, why is that important, Mr. Speaker? It is because this doesn't happen by accident. This happens in response to a crisis. Now, this Chamber responds to crises, and the administration responds to crises. But the Federal Reserve responded to an economic crisis. It tried to do what it could do to help the economy grow.

Well, I happen to have in my hand, Mr. Speaker, the testimony from then-Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, February 9, 2011. Now, Mr. Speaker, you won't remember February 9, 2011 here in this Chamber, but that was my first month on the job. I had just gotten sworn in, and they had just given me the voting card for the Seventh District of Georgia. I am sitting in the House Budget Committee, and here comes Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke to talk to me—just a freshman here in Congress—about economic policy and how it is we are going to grow the American economy.

Well, that might have been my first month on the job, but it wasn't Chairman PAUL RYAN's first month on the job. He was a veteran. He was our chairman at that time, as he is today. He was a veteran of the budget process, and he asked Dr. Bernanke: I am looking at the expansion of the balance sheet. The chairman said: I am looking at QE2—quantitative easing 2 at the time it was called—and I am trying to figure out what this is going to do to the economy long term.

I want to quote from Chairman Bernanke because it is important. The clarity is important. Chairman PAUL RYAN was asking whether or not all of this work by the Fed was going to monetize our debt, whether inflation was going to come and we were going to solve our debt problems by just inflating everybody's money right out of existence.

And Chairman Bernanke said:

No, sir. No, sir. Monetization would involve a permanent increase in the money supply to basically pay the government's bills through money creation.

That is not what we are doing, he says.

He says this:

What we are doing here is a temporary measure which will be reversed so that at the end of this process, the money supply will be normalized, the amount of the Fed's balance sheet will be normalized, and there will be no permanent increase, either in the Fed's balance sheet, or in inflation.

In February, 2011, Chairman Ben Bernanke says that the Fed's balance sheet will be normalized. The Fed balance sheet will return to a normal level

because what was happening at the Fed at that time was a temporary measure.

Again, Mr. Speaker, you won't be able to read these numbers, but I want to help you find February 2011 on this chart. February 2011 is right here. Right here.

It was at this point where you see a mild dip, Mr. Speaker, where Chairman Ben Bernanke said that the balance sheet—which has risen not to twice its normal levels but to three times its normal levels—this is a temporary measure, and the balance sheet will begin to return to normal. Mr. Speaker, we are 3 years later, and far from returning to normal, the size of the balance sheet has doubled.

Temporary measure. Don't worry about it. We are on our way, going to return to normal. But rather than return to normal, the size of the balance sheet has again doubled. Not one vote in this Chamber. Not one vote across the Capitol in the Senate. Not one signature by the United States President. Not one bit of consent from the 300 million Americans who are governed. Balance sheet doubled.

What does that mean? Why is this important? Mr. Speaker, I know what you are saying. I promised you a humdinger of Federal Reserve conversation this afternoon. I told you the Federal Reserve was an exciting topic, and you are thinking, Rob, you are talking balance sheets. Balance sheets don't inspire me at all. Well, okay, what about interest rates, Mr. Speaker? Do you remember the interest rates of the 1970s? Because I do. Do you remember when getting a 12 percent mortgage was getting a pretty good deal? Because I do.

Folks don't realize that today. If you were born after the 1970s, you have been in a time of relatively moderate interest rates. This, what I have here is 10-year interest rates, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Treasury 10-year rates. And I go back to about 1960 and we track these rates out. Back in the 1960s, they were about 5 percent, 4 percent. Go right on up there into the end of the Carter years, the beginning of the Reagan years, hit 16 percent on a 10-year Treasury coming out of the Federal Government, Mr. Speaker. And then after those Carter, Reagan years, you begin to see those numbers decline. And you go all the way out now and you are looking at yields under 2 percent.

Mr. Speaker, these are interest rates on money the Federal Government borrows. Now, again, I hate to dwell too much on my high school economics class lessons, but you know how interest works, right? If there is a lot of something and you want to borrow it, you pay a little bit of interest. But if there is not much of something and you want to borrow it, you have to pay more interest. Or, conversely, if there is a lot of debt, in order to get folks to buy that debt, you have to pay higher

interest rates. But if there is only a little debt, to get folks to buy that debt, you pay lower rates.

Well, we have more debt in this country than we have ever had before, Mr. Speaker. Never before in the history of this country have we had as much debt as we have now. Never before have we rolled that debt up above the size of the GDP as we have now. Never before have we borrowed as much from the next generation of Americans sacrificing their future prosperity for our current benefit. Never before. So you would think that we would be paying the highest rates in American history.

Let's go to the chart. No. No. The highest rates in American history were back in the late 1970s, early 1980s, Mr. Speaker. What we are paying are the lowest interest rates in American history. Now, I want you to sort through that with me, Mr. Speaker. We have more debt than we have ever had before. We are borrowing more from the world than we have ever tried to borrow from the world before, and yet interest rates on our borrowing are going down instead of up—going down instead of up.

The debt today in America, Mr. Speaker, is four times higher than it was in the late 1990s. Yet, the interest service on the debt today is the same because we are borrowing at these low teaser rates.

What enables these low teaser rates? Among other things, when the Federal Reserve is willing to buy those bonds, long-term Treasury purchases. You see them right here. They didn't even exist prior to 2009. Now those purchases have grown to over \$1 trillion. It turns out that you can get lower interest rates on your money if you are willing to buy it from yourself and pay yourself back. You can charge less.

But what does that mean to long-term economic security in this country, Mr. Speaker? Because that sounds a little bit like a dangerous Ponzi scheme to me. Maybe there is something aberrant about the 10-year rates.

So, I want to look here, Mr. Speaker. Again, you can't see my colors, but I charted those 10-year yields from 2009 out until today, and I have coordinated them with the implementation of this Federal Reserve policy called quantitative easing. The red squares, Mr. Speaker, indicate when quantitative easing stops. The green squares indicate when quantitative easing starts. Quantitative begins 2009, QE2, QE1 ends.

QE2 begins, QE2 ends. QE3 begins, QE3 not yet quite ended. And you will see that the interest rates directly correspond—directly correspond—to when these Federal Reserve programs begin and end. Dramatic manipulation of interest rates. Again, not a single vote in this Chamber, not a single vote across the Capitol in the Senate, not a single signature by the President, and not a

single bit of consent from the hundreds of millions of Americans who are governed. Interest rates being manipulated.

It is not just the 10-year rates, Mr. Speaker; it is the 30-year rates, too. Again, this is long-term money. If you borrow almost \$18 trillion—as we have borrowed here in this country—you are not going to pay that overnight. That is a long-term promise. So you would expect that these long-term rates would be getting higher and higher and higher and higher because the risk is greater and greater and greater. Again, we threaten America's fiscal security by borrowing from tomorrow's generations to pay for today's benefits. It is fair to question the morality of that, Mr. Speaker.

If you started your small business on the day that Jesus Christ was born, and you lost \$1 million on your first day in business, but you worked hard, you worked 7 days a week, Mr. Speaker, from the day Jesus Christ was born until today, and you lost \$1 million every single day, you would have to work for another 730 years, Mr. Speaker, to lose your first trillion dollars—your first trillion dollars. Another 700 years, \$1 million a day, 7 days a week to lose your first trillion dollars.

We have borrowed from tomorrow's children, from tomorrow's generation, from tomorrow's prosperity almost \$18 trillion. Yet interest rates are going down.

Why is that? It is because, number one, we are the best of all the worst economies on the planet. Let's be clear. Of all the disastrous economies on the planet, ours is the least disastrous. And so folks still want to come and buy American debt. Thank goodness. Forbid the thought that one of these other economies is going to improve one of these days, we are going to have a harder time finding debt service. How much more of our own money can the Federal Reserve buy? Most debt in American history. Highest percent of GDP in American history. Interest rates going down.

Well, Mr. Speaker, maybe this all sounds like a pretty good scheme, then, if I can borrow as much money as I want to beyond historical norms but I can keep interest rates as low as I want to below historical norms. Maybe what this means is I found the secret mechanism for making money—I can just create prosperity for the American people out of thin air.

Well, it turns out that is not quite true. In fact, it is not even close. What I have here, Mr. Speaker, is the dollar index. The dollar index is an index of the value of the American dollar around the globe. Because a dollar is meaningless. What is meaningful is how much a dollar can purchase. If I can only purchase one Coca-Cola, Mr. Speaker, with a dollar, then that dollar is worth one Coca-Cola. If I can purchase 12 Cokes with a dollar, then that

dollar is worth a whole lot more to me. It is still just a dollar. We don't care about the dollar. We care about how much it will purchase. That is what this chart shows.

Again, Mr. Speaker, QE1 goes into effect, QE1 ends. QE2 goes into effect. QE2 is announced, it goes into effect, QE2 ends. QE3 is announced, it goes into effect, it goes out over the horizon. This is what I want you to see, Mr. Speaker: QE1 goes into effect, and in the midst of the QE1 operation, before it begins to wind down, the value of a dollar has dropped by 15 percent.

I want you to think about that. If we tried to pass a bill in this Chamber that looked at everything that everybody had in this entire great country of ours and taxed it all at 15 percent to bring that in immediately, what do you think the chances are we would pass that? What do you think the chances are we would get one vote on that? The Senate wouldn't pass it. The President wouldn't sign it. But, yet, when we devalue our dollar, we devalue everything that everybody has by the exact same percentage.

In the case of QE1, 15 percent reduction before that program decided to wind down. Come over here to QE2. It is another 5 percent reduction in the value of the dollar, Mr. Speaker.

Here is the thing. We can print as much money as we want to. It is our right as a sovereign nation. But the more you print, the less valuable it becomes. That is what Chairman RYAN was asking when he was asking Chairman Bernanke if he planned to monetize the debt. He was asking: Do you plan to print so much money that the money itself becomes less valuable? If you owe \$1 trillion, do you plan to print so much money that you pay back the trillion dollars with these newly printed dollars that are worth only a fraction of what the original borrowed money was worth?

QE1, dollar collapses 15 percent. QE2, dollar down 5 percent. For every action, there is a reaction, Mr. Speaker. The Federal Reserve has these mandates: interest rates, inflation, full employment. There are only so many levers they can pull. And, in fact, the answer is that they have run out of levers, Mr. Speaker. That is why you see the balance sheet looking the way it is today. Look at all these lines that never existed before in the history of the country. Look at these lines. Long-term Treasury purchases. That is new. That is something that has just been implemented in the last 5 years. Folks ran out of tools.

Look at this line, Mr. Speaker. Federal agency debt. Mortgage-backed securities. Whoever thought of the Federal Reserve purchasing mortgage-backed securities—by the billions? Monthly, by the billions never existed before in the history of this country—an expanding part of the balance sheet today.

□ 1515

Mr. Speaker, there are only so many tools that the Federal Reserve has to use in order to try to keep this economy afloat, each one of these tools never approved by the Congress, never approved by the President, never approved by the American people; and yet, the Federal Reserve's balance sheet is now larger than the entire budget of the United States of America. Isn't it time we have this conversation?

Chairman RYAN says: Isn't this monetizing the debt?

Chairman Ben Bernanke says: No, this is a temporary measure. Balance sheet levels will return to level.

When were they going to return to normal? Well, that comment was in February of 2011. Since that time, we have seen another 100 percent increase in the size of that balance sheet.

Mr. Speaker, I am not saying that the Federal Reserve is wrong. I have some grave concerns. We have asked the question: How is it you are going to unwind these giant balance sheets?

The answer is: I don't know. We have never seen it done in the entire history of the United States of America, but don't worry about it, it is going to be fine.

It is a frightening thing. Here we are, in the longest recession of my lifetime, the most stagnant growth coming out of a recession, that we have ever seen coming out of a recession in the history of this country, the Federal Reserve pulling all of the levers it knows how to pull, Congress pulling all of the levers it knows how to pull, the balance sheet getting larger, unwinding it getting harder.

I want you to open up The Wall Street Journal the next time you have a chance, Mr. Speaker, and keep an eye on this dollar index. I can't say it too strongly, that if I tried to pass a 5 percent tax on everything that everybody has, everybody earns, everybody owns, I would be laughed right out of this Chamber; yet through monetary policy, we could devalue all of those exact things by that exact amount, and nobody would even know.

There would be no record of debate here in this Chamber. There would be no record of a vote in the Senate. There would be no bill that the President signs or vetoes. It would happen with the stroke of a pen with the Federal Reserve Governors, and America would be none the wiser. Every day, you can find it. Track that dollar index, Mr. Speaker.

What happens when you start to devalue money, Mr. Speaker, is you start running into inflation, and we see that. I talked earlier about what happened in those Carter years before President Reagan came in.

We were looking at annual inflation way up above 12 percent—back after World War II, again, printing a lot of

money, borrowing a lot of money, economic turmoil, even though people were at work, maximum employment, but inflation rate was up about 18 percent, but here we go. This chart is from 1946 out to 2014.

Folks ask: Rob, why are you so worried? Isn't inflation kind of low today?

Inflation is incredibly low today. Think about that. We have pumped all of this new money into the economy. We have all this additional liquidity. We have all this cash parked on the sidelines, and yet inflation is incredibly low, but ticking up.

The question isn't what is inflation today, Mr. Speaker. The question is: When inflation starts to move, will we be able to control it?

We have spent so many of our tools trying to stimulate the economy, and again, we can question whether or not that was the intent of the Federal Reserve Act when it was passed, to have all of these new levers created and pulled in a time of economic crisis, but they have been created, and they have been pulled; and so when inflation comes, will we still have any tools in the toolbox to control it?

This is not just my fear, Mr. Speaker. You can go this week to The Wall Street Journal. This is June 9:

Inflation is rising in the United States and could become a serious problem sooner than the Federal Reserve and many others now recognize.

Going to the end of that article:

The key to the future is how the Fed will respond when prices steadily rise above its 2 percent target rate, while the overall unemployment rate is still relatively high. A misinterpretation of labor-market slack and a failure to create a positive real Federal funds rate could put the economy on a path of rapidly rising inflation.

In the old days, the Federal Reserve, with all of the power it has and all of the levers it has to pull, all of the tools in its toolbox, focused on inflation and interest rates and employment; but with all of those levers having been pulled, with inflation on the rise, with unemployment stubbornly high, and with interest rates stubbornly low, what levers are left to pull when the next crisis comes?

Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of if the next crisis comes, it is a question of when the next crisis comes, and when we do these extraordinary things to solve today's crisis, we put America at risk for tomorrow's crisis.

I do not fault those folks who are trying to make things better, but I do fault us as an institution if we allow the prosperity of tomorrow to be traded away to treat the ills of today.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Reserve Act, commit it to your reading. We will be down here again because this is an issue that this Chamber must exercise our article I controls.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 13, 2014, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5942. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Milk in the Appalachian, Florida, and Southeast Marketing Areas; Order Amending the Orders [Doc. No.: AMS-DA-07-0059; AO-388-A22, AO-356-A43 and AO-366-A51; DA-07-03] received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5943. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Kiwifruit Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No. AMS-FV-13-0071; FV13-920-2 FIR] received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5944. A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Trafficking Controls and Fraud Investigations [FNS-2012-0028] (RIN: 0584-AE26) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5945. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Labeling of Pesticide Products and Devices for Export [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0607; FRL-9909-82] (RIN: 2070-AJ53) received April 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5946. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5947. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Nitrogen Oxide Combustion Turbine Alternative Control Requirements for the Milwaukee-Racine Former Nonattainment Area [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0206; FRL-9908-93 Region-5] received April 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5948. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Mondelez Global LLC, Inc. — Richmond Bakery located in Henrico County, Virginia [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0179; FRL-9910-04 Region-3] received April 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5949. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan [EPA-R03-OAR-2012-0002; FRL-9910-06 Region-3] received April 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5950. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0216; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-045-AD; Amendment 39-17818; AD 2014-0704] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5951. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1072; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-164-AD; Amendment 39-17828AD 2014-08-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5952. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Centaur Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0018; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-049-AD; Amendment 39-17822; AD 2014-07-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5953. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0042; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-050-AD; Amendment 39-17823; AD 2014-07-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5954. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0255; Directorate Identifier 2014-Nm-056-AD; Amendment 39-17840; AD 2014-09-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5955. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0637; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-030-AD; Amendment 39-17830; AD 2014-08-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5956. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Austro Engine GmbH Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0164; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-10-AD; Amendment 39-17834; AD 2014-08-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5957. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Air-

worthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0233; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-053-AD; Amendment 39-17825; AD 2014-08-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5958. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace (Operations) Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0020; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-039-AD; Amendment 39-17821; AD 2014-07-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5959. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Jefferson City, MO [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0587; Airspace Docket No. 13-ACE-8] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5960. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace, and Establishment of Class E Airspace, Tri-Cities, TN [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0806; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASO-21] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5961. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Sylva, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0439; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASO-9] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5962. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Nashville, TN [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0932; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASO-24] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5963. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Greenville, ME [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0025; Airspace Docket No. 14-ANE-1] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5964. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Geneva, AL [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1086; Airspace Docket No. 12-ASO-40] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5965. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30950; Amdt. No. 3583] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5966. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures,

and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30594; Amtd. No. 3587] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5967. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30591; Amtd. No. 3584] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5968. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30955; Amtd. No. 3588] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5969. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Revenue Ruling: Retiree Health Benefits Provided Through Employer's Wholly-Owned Subsidiary (Rev. Rul. 2014-15) received May 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5970. A letter from the Chief, Border Security Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — The U.S. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Program [Docket No.: USCBP-2013-0029] (RIN: 1654-AB01) received May 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LANKFORD:

H.R. 4849. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to allow advanced biofuel, biomass-based diesel, and cellulosic biofuel to satisfy the mandates of the renewable fuel program only if domestically produced, to eliminate the corn ethanol mandate under such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 4850. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the regulation of emissions of carbon dioxide from new or existing power plants under certain circumstances; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 4851. A bill to promote access for United States officials, journalists, and other citizens to Tibetan areas of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4852. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to award grants to fund research on

orthotics and prosthetics; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 4853. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow individuals to elect to receive the Medicare Summary Notice electronically, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GIBBS (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PERRY, Mr. RIBBLE, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. JONES, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. MARINO):

H.R. 4854. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify when the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to prohibit the specification of a defined area, or deny or restrict the use of a defined area for specification, as a disposal site under section 404 of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GERLACH (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 4855. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exception from the passive loss rules for investments in high technology research small business pass-thru entities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 4856. A bill to clarify that no express or implied warranty is provided by reason of a disclosure relating to voluntary participation in the Energy Star program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mrs. CAPPS):

H.R. 4857. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify payment under the Medicare program for outpatient department procedures that utilize drugs as supplies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 4858. A bill to establish the San Gabriel National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 4859. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to require that the Administrator of General Services verify that a building to be leased to accommodate a Federal agency is located a certain distance from public transportation before entering into the lease agreement; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 4860. A bill to clarify that a closure of a branch or campus of an institution of higher education may qualify a borrower for loan discharge under the Higher Education Act of

1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HECK of Washington (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 4861. A bill to establish the Commission on Access to Care to undertake a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of access to health care at the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 4862. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to meet with certain advisory committees to receive administrative and policy recommendations to improve the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KLINE (for himself, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. TURNER):

H.R. 4863. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide certain members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are victims of sex-related offenses with access to a special victims' counsel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Mr. COBLE, Mr. WALZ, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 4864. A bill to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. GRJALVA):

H.R. 4865. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that working families have access to affordable health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. THORBERRY, Mr. COLE, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. FLORES, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. BRIDENSTINE):

H.R. 4866. A bill to reverse the Department of the Interior's listing of the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, to prevent further consideration of listing of such species as a threatened species or endangered species under that Act pending implementation of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan and other conservation measures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 4867. A bill to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 4868. A bill to expand the Moving to Work demonstration program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. LAMBORN,

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LATTA, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BARTON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BARR, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H. Res. 622. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the national security interests of the United States and its allies and partners with respect to the Palestinian Authority; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. HIMES, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. STIVERS, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H. Res. 623. A resolution recognizing the importance of dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities and promoting research, education, and awareness; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. PAL-LONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SIREN, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. FRELING-HUYSEN):

H. Res. 624. A resolution recognizing the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey and honoring the valuable contributions of people of the Garden State; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H. Res. 625. A resolution honoring Greyhound Lines, Inc., of Dallas, TX on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEWIS (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. COHEN):

H. Res. 626. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Nonviolence Week" to raise awareness of youth violence in the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

H.R. 4849.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among

the several States, and with the Indian Tribes".

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 4850.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 4851.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4852.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12: To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 13: To provide and maintain a Navy.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14: To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mr. RENACCI:

H.R. 4853.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. GIBBS:

H.R. 4854.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States)

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 4855.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 4856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, cl. 3

The Congress shall have the power . . . to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the states, and with Indian Tribes;

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 4857.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have the Power to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 4858.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 4859.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 4860.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 4861.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 4862.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. KLLINE:

H.R. 4863.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation provides authorization for the Secretary of a military service component to extend Special Victims' Counsel Services to a National Guard and Reserve victim who is assaulted by another member of the military while not in a duty status. Members of the National Guard and Reserve frequently perform military duties when they are not in a military status and the legislation provides SVC legal assistance regardless of their duty status at the time of the assault. Specific authority is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, and 16), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 4864.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 4865.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 4866.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 4867.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 4868.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 "The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . ."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 107: Mr. PERRY.
 H.R. 188: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 259: Mr. MARCHANT.
 H.R. 318: Mr. BENISHEK and Ms. SHEA-POR-TER.
 H.R. 455: Ms. HANABUSA.
 H.R. 485: Mr. VISCOLOSKY.
 H.R. 493: Mrs. BACHMANN.
 H.R. 494: Mr. RICHMOND and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 543: Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.R. 596: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H.R. 855: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 901: Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 1015: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 1020: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. PETERSON.
 H.R. 1070: Mr. RANGEL.
 H.R. 1125: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. MAFFEI.
 H.R. 1136: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 1150: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
 H.R. 1286: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 1416: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
 H.R. 1449: Mr. GARDNER.
 H.R. 1507: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 1518: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1563: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H.R. 1755: Mr. COSTA.
 H.R. 1795: Ms. FUDGE.
 H.R. 1812: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H.R. 1852: Mr. DESANTIS.
 H.R. 1861: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
 H.R. 1918: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
 H.R. 2001: Mr. POLIS.
 H.R. 2028: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. CROWLEY.
 H.R. 2066: Mr. BARBER.
 H.R. 2084: Mr. DENT.
 H.R. 2323: Mr. BACHUS.
 H.R. 2415: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 2453: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. WALBERG,

Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 2504: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 2682: Mr. BYRNE and Mr. MICA.
 H.R. 2807: Mr. FINCHER.
 H.R. 2918: Mr. SHUSTER.
 H.R. 2959: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. MEADOWS.
 H.R. 3045: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 3245: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
 H.R. 3367: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. SCHOCK.
 H.R. 3382: Mr. JOYCE.
 H.R. 3413: Mr. HARRIS.
 H.R. 3485: Mr. MICA.
 H.R. 3505: Mr. DUFFY.
 H.R. 3544: Mr. MCKEON.
 H.R. 3556: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 3680: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. DINGELL, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
 H.R. 3708: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
 H.R. 3722: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 3774: Mr. RANGEL.
 H.R. 3836: Mr. BARBER, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 3839: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 3854: Mr. REED.
 H.R. 3877: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
 H.R. 3991: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. YOHO.
 H.R. 3992: Mr. POSEY.
 H.R. 4060: Mr. POSEY.
 H.R. 4086: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 4136: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. RANGEL.
 H.R. 4162: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 4219: Mr. COOPER.
 H.R. 4240: Mr. RANGEL.
 H.R. 4252: Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 4315: Mr. PEARCE.
 H.R. 4316: Mr. PEARCE.
 H.R. 4318: Mr. PEARCE.
 H.R. 4321: Mr. KING of Iowa and Mr. HARRIS.
 H.R. 4325: Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 4333: Mrs. BLACK.
 H.R. 4351: Mr. DUFFY, Mr. MESSER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Ms. Clark of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 4365: Mr. JEFFRIES.
 H.R. 4410: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 4411: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. FLORES, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GERLACH, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 4446: Mr. CRENSHAW.
 H.R. 4450: Mr. DEUTCH.
 H.R. 4502: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 4510: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. LANCE.
 H.R. 4515: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 4525: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. HANABUSA.
 H.R. 4526: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 4576: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 4577: Mr. GOODLATTE.
 H.R. 4578: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 4582: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ELLISON and Mr. CARNEY.
 H.R. 4612: Mr. YOHO, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. MICA.
 H.R. 4630: Mr. ENYART.
 H.R. 4631: Mr. JOYCE.
 H.R. 4653: Mr. DUFFY and Ms. ROSELEHTINEN.
 H.R. 4664: Mr. CICILLINE.
 H.R. 4680: Mr. COHEN and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
 H.R. 4693: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 4704: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 4714: Mr. SERRANO.
 H.R. 4717: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 4723: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 4731: Mr. MULVANEY.
 H.R. 4749: Mr. MCALLISTER.
 H.R. 4752: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
 H.R. 4756: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 4757: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 4778: Ms. TSONGAS.
 H.R. 4781: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 4782: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 4783: Mr. LEVIN.
 H.R. 4786: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
 H.R. 4790: Mr. MICHAUD.
 H.R. 4805: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mr. ROKITA.
 H.R. 4808: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. RENACCI.
 H.R. 4813: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, and Mr. LANKFORD.
 H.R. 4826: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H. Con. Res. 101: Mr. ENGEL.
 H. Res. 109: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
 H. Res. 171: Mr. WOLF.
 H. Res. 489: Mr. ISRAEL.
 H. Res. 587: Mr. SIREN and Mr. WAXMAN.
 H. Res. 593: Mr. HONDA.
 H. Res. 594: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H. Res. 601: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. KLINE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
 H. Res. 621: Mr. BARR, Mr. BARTON, Mr. FLORES, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PITTENGER, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING MARY SADINSKI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the exemplary life of Mary Sadinski. Sadly, Mary passed away on April 17, 2014, at the age of 80. Mary was born on February 15, 1934, in Youngstown, Ohio to John and Julia Mislai.

Mary led an exemplary life of service and dedication. She was a member of the St. Stephen of Hungary Church in Youngstown along with their Senior Citizen group and choir. Not only did Mary touch the lives of those in the church community, she was incredibly loved by her family and friends, who were the center of her life. Mary always put her family first and enjoyed working part-time for Floral Plus.

I offer my sincere condolences to Mary's family and friends. Mary was an extraordinary woman, and will live on in the hearts and minds of those she has touched. She will be missed by a countless number of people in the community, and most of all by her husband of 58 years, Henry S. Sadinski, her children, Kathleen Basista and Robert Sadinski, her four grandchildren, Amy and Kevin Basista, and Bobby and Leah Sadinski, and her siblings Margaret Tarcy, Julia Italiano and John Mislai.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 WAUKEGAN TOWNSHIP MEN OF DISTINCTION LUNCHEON HONOREES

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize some of the Waukegan community's finest leaders.

In education, business, government, faith and more, these 15 outstanding men embody what is best about Waukegan and demonstrate a deep commitment to strengthening our community.

It is my great pleasure to honor the 2014 Men of Distinction: Dr. Phil Carrigan; Arthur Craigen; Don Elliott; Ronnel Ewing; Chuck Gutman; Kenneth Mayo; Lucious Minor; Greg Moisiu; Joe Moody; Mayor Wayne Motley; Bill Newby; Martin Perez; Pastor Eugene Roberson; Mayor Leon Rockingham; Jose Rodriguez.

It takes strong leaders with vision and dedication to bring a community together and secure a hopeful, prosperous future for the next generation. With no less than their fullest commitment to the people and the township of Waukegan, these 15 honorees work each and every day to enrich their community.

As true Men of Distinction, this year's honorees deserve the highest praise and greatest respect. I know that this honor will merely inspire them to work even harder to strengthen Waukegan and build an even better, closer community.

HONORING MR. GEORGE CARLSON'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE FOR SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY AND THE 17TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life's work of Mr. George Carlson, who will retire in June as a librarian in our Federal Depository Library Program at Santa Clara University, after 25 years of distinguished service providing U.S. Government information to the citizens of the 17th District of California (and previously the 15th District).

Mr. Carlson came to Santa Clara as Head of Government Information in 1989, and became an outstanding and trusted resource for students, faculty, citizens, and library colleagues in the Bay Area. He provided countless hours of skilled and tireless research assistance to library users. He brought Government information into the digital age, making thousands of titles accessible through Santa Clara's online catalog, and worked closely with the Government Printing Office on a long-term project to originate or upgrade cataloging data for hundreds of hearings and documents of both chambers of Congress. Looking to the future, he carefully planned the place and role for Government information in Santa Clara's new library. He taught Government information courses to graduate students at San Jose State University, instilling in them the value and importance of open access to the documents of our democracy.

Daniel Webster said, "Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered." In his career of service to our Government and his university, George Carlson upheld this ideal as he carefully kept and recorded our Government documents and made them available to all.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Carlson for his outstanding service, and in wishing him a happy and well deserved retirement among his cherished California native plants and roses, and pursuing his many volunteer interests.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BING BURTON, PHD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an esteemed doctor in the Denton community, Dr. Bing Burton, who is retiring after 40 years of service with the Texas Department of State Health Services.

After graduating from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1973, Dr. Burton began his career in public health with the Texas Department of State Health Services in Arlington, Texas. There, he was instrumental in implementing the Passenger Seat Loan Program that provided a loaner car seat for patients who did not have them. He took the lead in implementing the State of Texas Seat Belt Program, which provided instruction on the proper use of seatbelts for children in 49 counties across Texas. He also implemented the County Health Profile program, which provided basic data for each county's needs in the realm of public health.

After working for the state of Texas for 18 years, Dr. Burton then went on to serve as Director of the DCHD for 22 years. He worked vigorously to expand and improve public health during his tenure with Denton County. He worked to expand the small health clinic services to include numerous grants that equated to millions of dollars for services to citizens of Denton County. Further, he added seven additional resources including primary care, HIV education, health education, well women/maternity care, diabetes outreach, immunization outreach, Katrina Ambassadors Rebuilding Empowering (K.A.R.E.) team, as well as adding a second health clinic in Lewisville.

Dr. Burton has won numerous awards for his devotion to the noble causes he believes in, including the Health Care Hero Award and the Texas Association of Local Health Officials Service Award, among others.

As a physician, I have tremendous respect for Dr. Burton's work. He is leaving a lasting impression on our community, and his legacy will live on for years to come.

MAJOR GENERAL ANTHONY CUCOLO III RETIREMENT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Anthony A. Cucolo III in recognition of his retirement and commendable military career spanning 33 years.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

In June of 2012, MG Cucolo was appointed as the 49th Commandant of the U.S. Army War College (AWC). During his tenure, he prioritized interaction between the Carlisle community and the AWC and in doing so, positioned the AWC as an important resource for locals and visitors alike. He has worked tirelessly to ensure the AWC remains a relevant and world class institution that continues to produce leaders both at home and abroad. MG Cucolo has truly been an asset and an ally to the base and our community.

Prior to this appointment, MG Cucolo was the Director of Force Development for the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, at the Pentagon where he aided in developing equipment solutions for the Department of the Army. His long career has included assignments with the Joint Staff at the Pentagon from 2001 to 2003 and the Strategy and Policy Directorate working on European issues.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant of infantry in 1979, he served 18 of the past 33 years in infantry and armored divisions. He commanded two companies, a mechanized infantry battalion and an armored brigade combat team, and was a deputy commanding general for a light infantry division. His career has included deployments to Bosnia for the NATO Implementation Force in the Balkans from December 1995 to November 1996 and Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom, where he served as the Deputy Commanding General of the Combined Joint Task Force 180 from 2003 to 2004. From 2004 to 2006, he held the role of Director of the Joint Center for Operational Analysis, US Joint Forces Command, and as the Army's Chief of Public Affairs from 2006 to 2008.

His most recent operational assignment was spent as Commanding General of the 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia from July 2008 to April 2011. From October 2009 to November 2010, he deployed to Iraq to command the US Division North/Task Force Marne. During their 13 months in Iraq, Task Force Marne conducted counterinsurgency and stability operations resulting in Arab-Kurd confidence building measures that were implemented along the interior ethnic fault line and successfully ending Operation Iraqi Freedom and opening Operation New Dawn in northern Iraq.

MG Cucolo holds a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy and a master's degree from the University of San Francisco. He is also a graduate of the AWC Class of 1998. He is married to Ginger Cucolo and together they have three children: Tony-Allen, Mackie, and Abbie.

Mr. Speaker, for his outstanding service to our community and our country, I commend and thank Major General Anthony Cucolo III and wish him the best in his retirement.

HONORING COMMISSIONER DANIEL NIGRO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel Nigro, who was sworn in this

week as the 33rd Fire Commissioner of the New York City Fire Department. Commissioner Nigro is a resident of Whitestone, NY, and a lifelong resident of New York City.

Commissioner Nigro joined the FDNY in 1969 and quickly rose through the ranks; firefighter, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief all the way to the esteemed rank of deputy chief. As Deputy Assistant Chief, he was instrumental in merging EMS into the FDNY, which later led him to become the Chief in Charge of EMS.

In 1999 Commissioner Nigro was promoted to Chief of Operations—the second highest uniformed rank in the FDNY. It is in this capacity that he served on that fateful day of September 11, 2001, when NYC, New York, and the United States would change forever.

Commissioner Nigro was on the ground on September 11, assisting his friend and colleague, former Chief Peter J. Ganci Jr., in establishing an Incident Command site, which coordinated the rescue efforts for the Twin Towers. Upon Chief Ganci's death in the collapse of the North Tower, Commissioner Nigro assumed command of the rescue operations and is responsible for the rescue of hundreds of citizens and first responders.

Commissioner Nigro was named Chief of Department and led the FDNY's officers through those dark days and months following 9/11. He helped heal and rebuild our proud fire service until his retirement in 2002.

It is with my deepest respect and appreciation that I rise to thank Daniel Nigro for his service to New York and our country and I congratulate him on becoming the FDNY's 33rd Fire Commissioner. We are lucky to have a man of his experience and heroism at the helm of the New York City Fire Department and I am honored to represent him here in Congress.

HONORING MR. MATTHEW A. MAYEAUX AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY CLASS OF 2014

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Matthew A. Mayeaux as a member of the United States Military Academy Class of 2014.

Matthew graduated from the U.S. Military Academy with a degree in Human Geography and he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army on May 28, 2014.

His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Matthew's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation. The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

The challenge for this young man will be to retain as much as possible, pass what he learns to others, and live life for every moment.

South Mississippi is proud of Matthew and his accomplishments, and we look forward to

his continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Army officer.

As Matthew embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Military Academy.

I would like to send Matthew my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER OF CHATHAM 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to congratulate the Early Childhood Learning Center in Chatham for its 25 years of service.

The ECLC is an accredited, non-profit organization that strives to educate students ages 5 to 21 with moderate to severe learning and/or language disabilities.

In 1970, a group of devoted parents formed the ECLC of New Jersey as a means of providing early intervention services to pre-school children. By 1983 the ECLC expanded its services to offer classes for children up to age 16. Today the ECLC accepts over 700 students in New Jersey. The Chatham Campus alone educates over 220 students; plus 26 adult clients in enrichment classes. This organization has come a long way from its small six-student pre-school.

The success of this organization can be attributed to its innovative and extensive programs. ECLC takes a unique approach to education by promoting self-sufficiency and success. The pre-vocational program called SKIL (Seeking Knowledge for Independent Living) teaches appropriate work-related behaviors and places students in volunteer jobs in the community. Students have the opportunity to participate in after-school activities, such as bowling, sleepovers, and dinner and a movie, where they can have fun with friends, instead of watching from the sidelines. Because of the small classroom sizes, the students receive the attention they need. The student-teacher ratio at the schools is 4:1 with the maximum number of 12 students per class. As a result of this intimate environment, the students feel comfortable to learn and explore.

Graduates of the ECLC participate in Alumni Activities, which give them a chance to get together with old friends by participating in dances, bingo, or movie night. The relationships made at the ECLC do not end once the students graduate, and the ECLC seeks to promote these bonds. In addition to Alumni Activities, Community Personnel Services, helps graduates find jobs in their home communities and coaches them to success. Evening Adult Enrichment classes are offered to alumni to further their education in subjects, such as computers, cooking, painting, reading, and banking, so they can continue their path of learning for an independent future.

The men and women at the ECLC of Chatham deserve both recognition and praise. Without these hard working and dedicated individuals, the ECLC would not be as successful as it is today. They help our fellow citizens become independent and educated despite mental challenges. For 25 years, these committed individuals have worked both in the classroom and behind the scenes to ensure that their students lead happy and meaningful lives. The Foundation raises money with their annual fund-raising events, which include gala dinners organized by staff and parents; a summer golf outing; and the Chatham Jaycees "Fishawack" 4-mile run. The enthusiasm and dedication of the ECLC teachers and staff ensure the future success of this important organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Early Childhood Learning Center in Chatham as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 10th, 2014, I was unable to cast votes for the following amendments:

Denham Amendment, rollcall vote 288. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Blackburn Amendment, rollcall vote 289. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Schock Amendment, rollcall vote 290. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Gosar Amendment No. 1, rollcall vote 291. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Gosar Amendment No. 2, rollcall vote 292. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Schiff Amendment, rollcall vote 293. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Sessions Amendment, rollcall vote 294. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Gingrey Amendment, rollcall vote 295. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was also unable to cast votes for the following:

Democratic Motion to Recommit. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Final Passage of H.R. 4745, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GINA DUNCAN

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Gina Duncan. She was born into a large family in Cookeville, Tennessee on October 24, 1955. Gina was originally named Greg Pingston at birth by his parents, Edward and

Rae Pingston. Along with his two brothers and two sisters, he lived in 12 states and Europe before the family settled in Merritt Island, Florida in 1964.

At an early age, "Greg" excelled in sports and leadership. At Merritt Island High School in 1973, "Greg" was class president as well as the captain and middle linebacker of an undefeated state championship high school football team. His senior year, he was named to the Florida All-State Team. "Greg" received a football scholarship to East Carolina University and started as strong safety under Head Coach, Pat Dye. While at East Carolina, "Greg" was also elected Student Government Vice President, becoming the first non-fraternity/sorority elected officer.

In 1977, "Greg" returned to Central Florida to start a family and his career in mortgage banking. He was named Central Florida Area Manager for Wells Fargo and Company in 1997, and was promoted to Regional Manager for the firm in 2006, overseeing 26 branches, 250 employees and a multi-million dollar budget. During that time, "Greg" served on the Board of Directors of the Mid-Florida Home Builders Association and as President of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Central Florida.

After a lifelong struggle with gender identity disorder, in 2007, Greg Pingston transitioned to her authentic self, Gina Leigh Duncan.

Since her gender transition, Ms. Duncan has been a visible and articulate advocate for the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender communities. Gina was the first transgender president of a major chamber of commerce in the country, being elected to head the Metropolitan Business Association in 2010. Gina also served on the National Business Council of the Human Rights Campaign and on the Central Florida Steering Committee of Equality Florida.

In 2012, Ms. Duncan retired from mortgage banking and ran for public office. Garnering over 40% of the vote in an unsuccessful bid for the office of Orange County Commissioner, she was the first openly transgender candidate to run for office in Central Florida.

Also in 2012, Ms. Duncan released her first book entitled, *Attraversiamo, "Let's Cross Over": A Story of Gender Transition*.

Gina Duncan is now the Transgender Inclusion Director for Equality Florida, the state's largest LGBT advocacy organization. She is recognized as a national and international corporate trainer and speaker specializing in corporate transgender inclusion. She works with major corporations, elected officials, school boards, colleges, universities and non-profit organizations to improve knowledge and understanding of the transgender journey; and the development of competencies in supporting transgender people in the workplace. She provides firsthand knowledge of the dynamics of the transgender community, with the belief that embracing diversity and inclusion in the workplace allows people to be their true selves. This provides for an open and equal corporate culture, and increases economic well-being in society overall.

I am happy to honor Gina Duncan, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community and to furthering equality in corporate culture.

HONORING MS. KAREN KALLENS, RN, AND THE HUNTERDON COUNTY MEDICATION ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Karen Kallens, RN, for her outstanding contributions to Hunterdon Medical Center and the Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership. Ms. Kallens has been committed to underserved patients in Hunterdon County. As coordinator of the Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership, Ms. Kallens has brought prescription medication assistance and access and disease education to many residents in need.

The Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership is a successful model where dedicated staff assist patients in evaluating their prescription medication needs and educating the community on affordable prescription medication opportunities through programs such as pharmaceutical company patient assistance programs, local pharmacy generic medication programs and Medicaid and Medicare. Ms. Kallens has helped over 4,000 patients thanks to the team at HCMAP who diligently and passionately assist numerous patients who would not otherwise receive the medications they need to live their lives in full.

Ms. Kallens does what most physicians cannot—follow each filed application and appeal the case if it is unjustly rejected and ensure compliance with prescription medicine.

I thank Ms. Kallens and the staff at the Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership for their dedicated public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDY HOOK LIGHTHOUSE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sandy Hook Lighthouse as it celebrates its 250th Anniversary this year. The Sandy Hook Lighthouse has served as a beacon for the New Jersey coastline and the New York Harbor since it was first illuminated on June 11, 1764. Its historical significance is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

The oldest original, operational lighthouse in the United States, the Sandy Hook Lighthouse is one of the 11 lighthouses built during the colonial era. First lit by whale oil, the lighthouse is currently illuminated by electricity, which became the standard for most lighthouses in the 1930s. To accommodate the increased harbor traffic, two beacons were added in 1817, for a total of 3 lights and 32 lamps and reflectors. With the increased work, three assistants were assigned to help the lighthouse keeper in 1857. Also that year, the lighthouse was renovated to include its glass Fresnel lens, an iron lens house, brick interior lining for stability and an iron staircase.

During the American Revolution, the Sandy Hook Lighthouse served as a significant navigational aid. Held under British control for much of the war, it was a target due to its important location. Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Tupper and his troops attempted to destroy the tower in March of 1776. After the attack, the lighthouse was closely guarded by British loyalists with the support of the British Army and Navy.

The Sandy Hook Lighthouse was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. With the introduction of electricity, a lighthouse keeper is no longer necessary. Today, its tower is maintained by the National Park Service and its light is maintained by the United States Coast Guard.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing the Sandy Hook Lighthouse and marking its 250th Anniversary.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 4660, THE FY15
COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE AP-
PROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 4066, the Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2015.

I commend Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for their dedicated work on crafting this legislation. However, I cannot vote for it in its current form. While I can support the overall \$51.2 billion in discretionary spending, a number of specific programs were short-changed. For example, the bill cuts important investments in key areas such as law enforcement, access to justice for the poor, and climate research. In addition, a number of pernicious policy riders were added on the House floor which poisons the overall bill.

With respect to funding levels, I have serious concerns about cuts that were made to a number of programs within the Department of Justice. This bill cuts the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program by \$117.5 million from FY14 and is \$177.5 million below the Presidents' request. And while an amendment was adopted to increase funding for COPS by \$110 million on the House floor this came at the direct expense of the Census Bureau, which was already funded below the Administration's request. This is a false choice that is both unnecessary and arbitrary.

I also oppose reductions in funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), which is the single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans, including many military families and veterans. This bill would reduce funding for LSC by \$15 million in FY15 and would be \$80 million below the President's request. Over 1,000 full time employees have been terminated as a result of cuts to LSC in recent years and a continued lack of funding will result in tens of thousands of Americans being denied vital legal assistance.

I am also disappointed in the arbitrary and short-sighted cuts to climate research at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

tion that will limit our understanding of mid-term weather forecasting, including drought. These damaging cuts will hinder our ability to understand and respond to changing weather patterns across the country.

I also strongly object to many of the policy riders that were included in the final passage of H.R. 4066. I was disappointed that an amendment offered by Rep. MORAN to strike sections 528 and 529 was not adopted, leaving in place the misguided provision to continue funding restrictions on the construction or modification of detention facilities in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees. As the President made clear in his State of the Union Address earlier this year, we cannot wait any longer to lift the remaining restrictions on detainee transfers and close down this facility once-and-for-all.

The legislation also includes language that severely limits the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) to combat illegal gun trafficking. Specifically, the ATF is prohibited from denying an application to import particular models or configurations of a shotgun that do not meet the statutory "sporting purposes" test.

There were also many amendments adopted on the House floor that I strongly opposed. An amendment introduced by Rep. SCOTT GARRETT would prohibit funds from being used by the Justice Department to pursue litigation using the "disparate impact" legal theory. This not only flies in the face of the Civil Rights Act but would prohibit the Justice Department from getting involved in litigation where whole classifications of individuals are being systematically discriminated against.

I was also disappointed that an amendment passed on the House floor that would not allow for funds to be used to transfer or assign employees to the Pardon Attorney's office for the purpose of screening clemency applications. This severely undermines the Justice Department's efforts to scale back prison sentences for individuals incarcerated for non-violent drug offenses. Another ill-conceived amendment offered by Representative STEVE KING would handcuff Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by limiting its use of prosecutorial discretion.

Despite my opposition to the overall legislation, I was encouraged that a bipartisan amendment led by Rep. MIKE THOMPSON and Rep. PETER KING to lift funding for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) was adopted. This increased funding matches the level of funding requested by states for NICS grants in FY14 and will ensure that Maryland has the necessary resources to implement the technology to automate criminal history and mental health records in our background check system.

In addition, I supported the funding levels of many other programs and priorities. Within the Department of Justice, I was encouraged that Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution programs, Byrne-JAG formula grants, and the Youth Mentoring program all received funding at or above the President's request.

I will continue to monitor the progress of this bill and it is my hope that my concerns are resolved in conference with the Senate and I will be able to vote for it in its final form.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,555,165,805,212.20. We've added \$6,928,288,756,299.20 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, June 11, 2014. On rollcall vote No. 302, on the amendment offered by Mr. ROYCE, providing \$10 million for local and regional purchase for international food aid programs, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 307, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall votes No. 298, 299, 300, 301, 303, 304, 305 and 306, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JENNIFER FOSTER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Jennifer Foster. The daughter of Edward and Linda Foster, Jennifer was born and raised in Hicksville, Ohio. She attended the University of Cincinnati where she earned an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. Jennifer went on to the University of Michigan where she graduated Summa Cum Laude, with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Business Administration.

In 1999, Jennifer founded Foster Productions, Inc. after years of freelancing in the Detroit, Michigan video production industry. Jennifer relocated the company to Orlando, Florida in 2001. She has written, produced and directed both industrial and broadcast projects for many of the most prestigious corporations in the world. Jennifer has produced a wide range of media including commercial, documentary, learning development, marketing, animation, and broadcast media. Her award-winning work can be seen everywhere, including Fortune 500 companies, museums, the worldwide web, broadcast television programs, and commercials.

In March of 2013, Jennifer founded Kids' Wellness Alliance, LLC (KWA!), a children's health and wellness "edutainment" company. KWA! is expected to launch its first program, YogaDog!, in the fall of 2014. Jennifer is the Chief Executive Officer and oversees all business and creative aspects of KWA!'s development projects.

Jennifer is a long-time member of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the Co-Founder of the local Orlando HRC community. During her eight years of volunteer leadership, Jennifer helped create one of the most vibrant and politically effective local HRC volunteer communities in the country. Serving on the Board of Governors for the national organization, Jennifer earned numerous awards during her time with HRC including the prestigious Founder's Award.

Jennifer is also a long-time member of the Metropolitan Business Association (MBA) of Orlando, Central Florida's LGBT Chamber of Commerce. She was honored with the 2011 Debbie Simmons Community Service Award and named the 2014 Business Woman of the Year award recipient.

An active member of her community, Jennifer was twice nominated for the Orlando Business Journal "Women Who Mean Business" award. She supports a variety of local non-profit and political organizations including Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Florida, Florida Little Dog Rescue, Hope and Help of Central Florida, Libby's Legacy Breast Cancer Foundation, Planned Parenthood of Central Florida, and the Zebra Coalition.

Jennifer's greatest achievement is her marriage to her long-time life partner, Mary Anne Metaxas. They were legally wed in Washington, D.C. on December 13, 2013—their 10 year anniversary. They reside in Orlando, Florida with their three dogs, Matti, Maci, and Patrick, two cats, Graci and Kevin, and occasionally rescue puppies that they are temporarily fostering. I am happy to honor Jennifer Foster, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida Community.

THANKING CORPORAL KYLE
CARPENTER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following in honor of the presentation of the Medal of Honor on June 19, 2014, by President Obama at the White House to Corporal Kyle Carpenter the United States Marine Corps, a poem in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

IN HONOR, IF?

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

In . . .
In Honor, if?
No greater gift!
Then all of this!
To lay down one's life. . .
No brighter light!
So sacrifice!
I but ones life!
The greatest treasure!
That Last Full Measure!

Whenever brave hearts endeavor!
To turn the dark into the light!
Oh this most brilliant sight!
So sacred rite!
In Honor, if?
As you Devil Dog,
shone bright!
Willingly to give up your life!
As Kyle,
your great heart took flight!
When, who lived and died. . .
so all depended on you!
As the angels cried!
While, watching your courage rise!
All in honor your so divine!
As yours grew!
All in your most brilliant shades of green
this hue!
Ooooh. . . rah. . .
you one fine United States Marine!
Right at the crossroads of death,
as your fine heart would crest!
And grew and grew!
As upon that grenade yourself you threw!
But for the greater good!
In all you could!
All in Honor's Light,
You Devil Dog so bright!
And what child may be born?
From your love now so warmed. . .
Who might save the world,
all in your love unfurled!
In Honor, IF?
We choose this gift!
Because, moments are all we have!
Minutes, to turn the good from bad!
To make a difference with it all,
and answer that clarion call!
America's son,
on earth in Heaven as thy will be done!
And why on this day,
upon your strong shoulders this Medal of
Honor we proudly place!
All In Honor's grace!
For all you saved. . .
For your Valor so ready to die this day!
While, all In Honor you so led the way!
Could we?
Would we?. . .
But such gifts so give?
In Honor, IF?
Ooooh. . . Rah!

HONORING BOB TRUSELA

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bob Trusela, a distinguished restaurateur in San Pedro who passed away on June 6, 2014. As a longtime resident of the Los Angeles Harbor Area, Bob was well-known in the community for his exceptional Italian dishes, his unforgettable smile, and his unique ability to make every customer feel like they were part of the Trusela family. The community's praise of his delicious cuisine attests to the lasting imprint that his positive character will leave on those within the Los Angeles Harbor Area community and beyond.

When he was a young man, Bob's desire to enter the restaurant industry led him to pursue a job as a busboy in Scottsdale, Arizona. He later worked at various restaurants in Nevada and California. In 1992, Bob's love for the restaurant business ultimately led him to meet his

wife, Josephine. That year, both were working at Josephine's uncle's restaurant in San Pedro. In 2007, the couple opened Trusela's restaurant on the same spot where they met sixteen years earlier, a restaurant where I enjoyed countless fabulous Italian meals and memories. Just a few months ago, Bob and Josephine opened their new restaurant in San Pedro, Otto Trattoria, which has already proven to be a local favorite for many residents. Los Angeles is famous for its cultural diversity, which is reflected in the wide array of restaurants that feature cuisines from across the globe. I am proud to say that Bob played a major role in this part of the community while touching so many lives in the process.

He is survived by his wife, Josephine, as well as his five children: Bobby, Louis, Tony, Dominic, and Isabella.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members of the House join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the life of Bob Trusela.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOSEPH
W. GREENE, SR. FOR HIS DEDICATED
CAREER AT KANSAS CITY
POWER AND LIGHT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding dedicated employee of Kansas City Power & Light. On Friday, June 13, Mr. Joseph W. Green, Sr. will officially retire from the electric utility, having served for sixty-eight years. His commitment to the service of KCP&L is unparalleled, as he is the company's longest serving employee. Mr. Greene is a trailblazer, civil rights activist, a devoted family man, and a community leader who has devoted his life to the fight for justice and equal rights for everyone.

Greene, affectionately known as "Mean" Joe Greene, was born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1925. When he was just sixteen years old, he joined the Masonic Lodge where he ascended to the rank of Wisdom Master, 30 degree. Four years later, he joined KCP&L, in 1945, and began as janitor. Through his years he has worked as a machinist, apprentice mechanic, tool room attendant at Hawthorne Station, and Union Steward for IBEW Local 412. An investor-owned, regulated electric utility, Kansas City Power & Light serves more than 800,000 customers in 47 Missouri and Kansas counties. Mr. Greene helps to serve approximately 18,000 square miles, with more than 3,000 miles of transmission lines, 24,000 miles of distribution lines, and more than 400 substations to deliver power to their customers.

Greene joined the NAACP in 1963 where he served in various capacities, including on their Board of Directors and as a delegate to many of the annual conventions. For many years, he was the top membership recruiter for the NAACP. Greene also served on the Board of Kansas City's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"Mean" Joe Greene has never been afraid to speak up and fight for his beliefs. Of his activism, he once said, "It's been a struggle and

I hope I've been able to help lay the groundwork for the acceptance of minorities to come into mainstream America and be given equal opportunities to do what they can and to the best of their abilities." One of the highlights of his life was the election of President Barack Obama, the nation's first African American President.

Greene was married to the late Thelma C. Greene for 56 years. He is the father of three sons, Joseph Greene, Jr., Earl Greene and Dr. Wesley E. Greene, and one deceased daughter, Joan Greene. He also has several grandchildren, including two medical doctors, one attorney, one completing law school, a former NFL football player and an aspiring film producer. He says of his family, "I am going to do everything I can while I'm alive for my family, my community and my people."

Mr. Greene has been a lifelong proponent of education and, in conjunction with KCP&L and the University of Missouri—Kansas City, supported an annual Spelling Bee for fourth and fifth-grade students from an inner city school.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing and honoring Mr. Joe Greene for a lifetime of devoted commitment to Kansas City Power & Light and our community. While he embraces this next phase of life in retirement, I wish to thank him for his tireless service over the last 68 years. His life's motto, "We will get along fine as long as you respect and treat me right," will continue to guide his colleagues and all of us in the days ahead. Demonstrating unparalleled dedication, Joe serves as an inspiration and role model for our community.

IN HONOR OF LGBT PRIDE MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and celebrate the month of June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month. As the proud sponsor of H. Res 416, Encouraging the Celebration of the Month of June as LGBT Pride Month, along with my fellow LGBT caucus members, this is an issue near and dear to my heart.

Too often have the contributions and the struggle of LGBT individuals for full recognition and equal protection under the law been intentionally ignored. That is why I join with my LGBT brothers and sisters this June in celebrating the positive progress we have seen across the country toward full recognition and equal protection for LGBT individuals. I also join with them to recognize the multitude of positive LGBT role models and public figures who are able to live their lives in such a way as to prove it really does "get better" to those around the world who struggle with their LGBT status.

I firmly believe everyone should be treated fairly and equally regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. I believe that Dr. King's words are as true now as they ever were in light of the continued invidious discrimination, hate, and bias we see against LGBT individ-

uals in our world community: 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' An injustice against a member of the LGBT community is a threat to justice in every community.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, as we recognize and celebrate the month of June as LGBT Pride Month, let us recognize the LGBT trailblazers that have made this month possible and let their example guide us as we continue to seek equal protection under the law for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 273 on the Brown Amendment H.R. 4745, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "yes" when I should have voted "no."

ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA (ISIS)

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as the author of the legislation that created the Iraq Study Group, also known as the Baker-Hamilton Commission, which helped lay the groundwork for the successful "surge" strategy that restored security to Iraq in 2007 and 2008, I am deeply troubled by what is unfolding in Iraq today on the Obama Administration's watch.

The rapid fall of multiple Iraqi cities to the terrorist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) brings the militant group notably closer to its declared aim of establishing a caliphate that spans the northern sections of Syria and Iraq.

In essence, this jihadi extremist group, with origins in al Qaeda, is effectively carving out a terrorist state in the heart of the Middle East before our eyes and the Obama Administration appears to have no plan to respond.

Let's be perfectly clear about what this group represents. A June 11 New York Times article describes ISIS in the following way: 'They have attracted the most attention with their draconian enforcement of a fundamentalist interpretation of Islamic sharia law, including crucifixions of Christians and Muslims deemed kufar, or infidels.'

It is inconceivable that places I, and other Members of Congress, visited just a few years ago—and that American men and women gave their lives to help secure—are now falling to hard-lined jihadists.

In an opinion piece in today's Washington Post, veteran John Nagl, who served in both Iraq wars, wrote: "We are reaping the instability and increased threat to U.S. interests that we have sown through the failure of our endgame in Iraq and our indecisiveness in Syria. There is a clear lesson here for those contemplating a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. Having given al-Qaeda a new lease on life in the Middle East,

will we provide another base where it began, in Afghanistan and Pakistan? This is not the end state my friends fought for and died for."

I could not agree more with Nagl's analysis. The swift fall of these strategic cities to this terrorist paramilitary force is quite literally the dividends of the Obama Administration's failed policies in Iraq and Syria. I also fear it could foreshadow what we will see in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the coming years as a result of the administration's actions.

The president's precipitous withdraw from Iraq and continued failure to develop a coherent policy to fight extremists in Syria has undermined the ability of the U.S. and our allies to prevent these troubling developments which have seismic consequences for the region and U.S. national interests.

The utter lack of urgency on the part of the administration with regard to ISIS's efforts to solidify its territorial gains is baffling at best, and inexcusable at worst.

Thousands of innocents will be affected in unimaginable ways, not the least of which are vulnerable religious minorities which for centuries have inhabited these lands. Consider Iraq's ancient Christian community, which has been decimated in recent years. Those who have remained in the country have largely fled to Mosul and the Nineveh Plain. To people of faith, Nineveh is familiar name: the site of a dramatic spiritual revival as told in the biblical book of Jonah.

Where now will these Christians flee? In the words of Nina Shea of the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom, writing in National Review Online this week: "Once upon a time, some of the Mosul Christians might have fled to Syria, but they now have few options. More will give up on the region altogether and join their relatives and former neighbors in Michigan, California, Sweden, and elsewhere in the West. The fall of Mosul is a serious blow for the Iraqi state, and the implications for Iraq's Christian community are devastating."

She lamented: "In other words, the religious cleansing of Christians from Iraq is entering the end game."

Mr. Speaker, it's time for this administration to recognize just how serious this development is and develop a plan to address it. America's credibility and national security depend on it.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF KEITH MORRISON

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Keith Morrison. Born in Jamestown, New York, Keith moved to Central Florida in the late 1970s where he quickly became an advocate for social justice. He became involved with Joy Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), an open and affirming church that reaches out to the LGBT community. Keith worked with Joy MCC on social justice issues

such as feeding the homeless and informing the community of safe spaces for LGBT meetings.

Keith has worked with a variety of community organizations. In the early 1990's he worked with Central Floridians United Against Discrimination. This group fought to stop discrimination based on sexual orientation on a local and state level. He also worked with the Orlando Regional Pride on their early parades. These events gave the community the opportunity to express their pride in themselves and in the LGBT Orlando community.

Keith is a founding member of several local groups. In 1991, he helped found the Metropolitan Business Association (MBA), a LGBT business association. He and Debbie Simmons served as the first co-chairs of MBA. In 1993, Keith helped found the Rainbow Democrats Club of Orange County and served on its Board of Directors for five years. The organization worked to empower the LGBT community by registering residents to vote, educating people about the importance of their vote, and motivating them to get involved. In 1996, Keith worked with the State Democratic Party to form a state-wide LGBT caucus.

Keith is also the founding President of the Triangle Democratic Caucus, which gave the LGBT community a place at the political table in Florida. While serving as President of the Rainbow Democrats and the Triangle Democratic caucus of Florida, Keith worked with Congressman Barney Frank and other LGBT leaders from around the country to found the National Stonewall Democratic Federation. Keith served as the first Executive Director and helped establish offices in Washington, D.C., where the organization served as a voice and advocate within the party for LGBT equality.

Keith has also worked for local candidates that support equal rights for LGBT citizens. He ran the campaign for the first open candidate for Orlando City Council, Patty Sheehan, and the first open candidate for Florida State Representative, Tom Runyan.

Keith returned to Central Florida in 2000, where he remains an active member of Joy Metropolitan Community Church. He also works with Equality Florida and the Zebra Coalition to end discrimination based on sexual orientation, to strengthen women's reproductive rights, and to seek social justice for all without regard to socio-economic status.

For more than 30 years, Keith has worked for justice for his religious beliefs and sexual orientation. He is proudest of his 20 plus years of political work to empower LGBT voters in order to obtain full equality for members of the community.

I am happy to honor Keith Morrison, during LGBT Pride Month, for his tireless work to empower and achieve equality for the LGBT community in Central Florida and around the country.

HONORING MR. EVAN GAINES LADNER AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY CLASS OF 2014

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Evan Ladner as a member of the United States Naval Academy Class of 2014.

Evan graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a degree in Economics and he received a commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy on May 23rd, 2014.

His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Evan's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation. The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

The challenge for this young man will be to retain as much as possible, pass what he learns to others, and live life for every moment.

South Mississippi is proud of Evan and his accomplishments, and we look forward to his continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Navy officer.

As Evan embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Naval Academy.

I would like to send Evan my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID RUIZ, SR.

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our country, state and community are exceptional. In my district, we are fortunate to have dynamic leaders who unselfishly dedicate their time and their talents to make our community, and our country, a better place to live and work. Mr. David Ruiz, Sr., was one of these individuals. David passed away on Saturday, June 7, 2014 at the age of 89. Mr. Ruiz's accomplishments are wide ranging, as he has made his mark in life as a successful businessman, an active supporter of the community, and a dedicated family man. He will most certainly be missed.

Born in Corona, California to Refugio and Beatrice Ruiz on July 18, 1924, David was a life-long resident of the Circle City. David later married Luisa Ruiz, his wife of fifty-one years, and together they raised eight children. David is survived by his loving children, Joe Ruiz, Jesse Ruiz, Sr., Luci Ruiz-Hernandez, Sally Ruiz-Cortez, David Ruiz, Jr., Gloria Ruiz-

Sabatelli, Rufus Ruiz and Mary Lou Ruiz-Statham, eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Not only was David a committed family man, but he was also a vital member to the Corona community. David began his working life in irrigation at Foothill Ranch and as a milk processor at Grand View Dairy. From 1965 to 1978, he went to work at the Circle City Hospital in Riverside County, followed by employment for the Corona Police Department until his much deserved retirement in 1992. All the while, from 1965 to 1980, David had his own janitorial business rooted in Corona.

His tireless passion and love of family has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community and we will all miss David dearly. A funeral mass honoring David's life will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2014. The level of commitment he showed to his community, his work, and his family is truly an example of a life lived well and a legacy that will endure. I extend my condolences to David's family and friends; although David may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remains and will never be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, VINEYARD HAVEN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize War Veterans Memorial Park in Vineyard Haven and the generous contributions by residents of this Martha's Vineyard town that helped to create this memorial to our nation's veterans.

Legionnaires at the General George W. Goethals Post #257 in Vineyard Haven wanted their memorial to be something that could be enjoyed by Vineyarders, and not simply observed by them. Instead of a statue or other traditional sculpted war memorial, these men deemed a park with playing fields and a playground would be a more suitable tribute to their brave service to America. As such, construction began on 10 acres of an undeveloped swamp in 1951.

Construction on the Memorial Park engaged the Vineyard Haven community in a variety of fundraising events such as bean suppers, dances, and auctions. Over the last 8 years, many contributions by Islanders have made possible the leveling and developing of the Park's land, laying down a grass surface, and replacing over a thousand yards of peat with top soil.

The War Veterans Memorial Park in Vineyard Haven will serve as a proactive memorial to the men of Legion Post #257 and General George W. Goethals himself, distinguished nationally for his role in digging the Panama Canal and, locally, as a member of the Martha's Vineyard community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor these veterans as well as recognize the vast and generous contributions by Vineyard Haven residents who made possible this memorial park and engaging community center.

RECOGNIZING FULTON COUNTY
HERITAGE DAYS AND THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAST
CONFEDERATE BIVOUAC

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Fulton County Heritage Days and the 150th anniversary of the last Confederate bivouac, which took place in Fulton County Pennsylvania, and was a pivotal event in the Civil War.

On July 30, 1864, Confederate soldiers descended on Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and burned the town of Chambersburg to the ground when the \$500,000 ransom they demanded was refused. Following this brutal act, the soldiers made their way to McConnellsburg, where the Confederate forces encamped and proceeded to terrorize the local citizens. Though these Confederate soldiers inflicted a brutal toll on McConnellsburg during their time in the town, this moment was a turning point in the course of the war. Indeed, no more battles would take place on Union territory, as it would be the last time that the Confederacy would have troops occupying land north of the Mason-Dixon line. For this reason, the time these Confederate soldiers spent encamped in McConnellsburg has come to be known as the last Confederate bivouac.

Fulton County Heritage Days commemorates this important event, which is so crucial to both the history of Pennsylvania and our nation. We must never forget the lessons of history, or the great sacrifice made by the brave Pennsylvanians who gave their lives to hold the Union together. I wish to thank all those involved with organizing Fulton County Heritage Days, and invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 150th anniversary of the last Confederate bivouac.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. In 1964, our predecessors in the House and Senate passed the Wilderness Act by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote and President Johnson soon followed with his signature making the Act law on September 3, 1964. This action created America's National Wilderness Preservation System that reserves lands in a special status to be, in the words of the Act's remarkable preamble, "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and will provide for the protection of these areas and the preservation of their wilderness character."

50 years later, the wilderness idea is going strong with over 100 million acres of our na-

tion's most spectacular lands preserved for future generations. It is an achievement truly worth celebrating. And while I rise today to recognize it, I also rise to celebrate the Americans who have kept the wilderness idea alive in our national consciousness and who have worked to care for each designated acre and to shepherd new additions to the system.

The people of the Central California Coast region that I am privileged to represent exemplify this ethic. There is a deep commitment to open space conservation in the communities that border the Monterey Bay. From the farmers and ranchers who fuel a dynamic agricultural economy to individual citizens who recreate on the public lands to rural residents who care deeply about the landscapes that surround their homes, the open space ethic runs strong. And when it comes to the wilderness lands of the Santa Lucia Mountains and the Big Sur Coast, no group of people lives that commitment more strongly than the community activists of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

Founded in 1998, the VWA is dedicated to preserving the wild lands of the Northern Santa Lucia Mountains managed by the U.S. Forest Service. VWA members partner with the Forest Service to maintain trails and clean up the debris from illegal marijuana plantations. VWA members lead hikes and education programs. And VWA members advocate. They advocate for better management of existing wilderness, and they advocate for the inclusion of additional wild lands into the wilderness system when those lands warrant such inclusion. I have had the great fortune to work with the VWA in all of these capacities, but most especially in the several wilderness bills that I myself have had the honor of introducing. And while I may claim credit for authoring those bills, I know it is the hard work of VWA members like Gordon Johnson, Tom Hopkins, Nikki Nedeff, and so many others that made those bills possible.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the Wilderness Act's 50th Anniversary, we are not only celebrating the great American landscapes that this idea has preserved, but the great Americans who have done the preserving.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
NONVIOLENCE WEEK RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of establishing a National Nonviolence Week.

Tragedies at school, at home, and in our communities are destroying too many lives. We need to find ways to make our country a beloved community—where the dignity and respect of every person is a clear, common value.

Simply said, Mr. Speaker, no one should have to live his or her life in fear. We must all love each other as brothers and sisters. This resolution will raise awareness of youth violence in our country and encourage all Ameri-

cans to learn how the doctrine of nonviolence can be applied as a successful means of deterring violence.

The National Nonviolence Week resolution is closely related to my other bills, the SAFETY through Nonviolence Act, the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act, and the National Parents Corps Act, which I plan to reintroduce soon. Combined, these are legislative solutions to break the cycle of violence, bullying, and hate in our country by addressing the root causes.

During National Nonviolence Week, Americans should organize and participate in programs and activities that promote awareness and prevention of violence. It is an opportunity, for people of all ages and backgrounds in every corner of our nation, to pause and take a long look inward and reflect on how we all can be vessels of peace in our actions, thoughts, and words.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring and passing this very simple, common-sense resolution of establishing a National Nonviolence Week. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF MIKAEL AUDEBERT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Mikael Audebert. Born in France, Mikael moved to the U.S. at age 18 and has lived in Orlando since 2000.

Mikael has been with Metropolitan Business Association of Orlando (MBA Orlando) since 2008. MBA Orlando, Central Florida's LGBT Chamber of Commerce, is the largest of its kind in the Southeast and a fast-growing entity in Central Florida. Mikael started as Technology Director for the organization and quickly rose to the position of Vice President. In 2012, he became President of MBA Orlando, as well as Executive Director of Come Out With Pride and Converge Orlando, two of MBA Orlando's sister organizations.

Since taking over as President, Mikael has initiated and overseen a vast expansion of MBA Orlando, including a move to larger offices; the launch of a printed directory; the development of a small business initiative program; a marketing campaign to increase the visibility of LGBT businesses; and the creation of a small business start up grant program in partnership with the federal government and the City of Orlando.

In 2008 Mikael joined Come Out With Pride as Marketing Director and quickly rose to become Executive Producer of Development before becoming the organizations' first Executive Director in 2010.

Mikael is also a co-founder of Converge Orlando, a non-profit organization with the mission to develop and expand LGBT tourism to Orlando. Converge Orlando partnered with the Central Florida Sports Commission to bid on bringing the 2018 Gay Games to Orlando.

Converge Orlando is also launching the very first Family Outfest event in Orlando, aimed at bringing LGBT and allies families closer together. In addition, the organization is hosting several LGBT conventions in Orlando and continuing to organize media trips which have generated articles in national LGBT and Brazilian magazines. Converge also recently launched the first LGBT Travel Guide with Visit Orlando, getting Central Florida ready for this emerging market.

In addition to his lifelong passion for travel, Mikael is also an avid event planner and organizes Orlando's annual LGBT Pride event, the largest in Florida. Mikael was named one of the "40 Under 40" in 2013 by the Orlando Business Journal. The same year, he was named one of the most influential men by the same paper and "Most Remarkable Person" of the year by the Watermark.

Mikael was born in France and moved to the U.S. at age 18. He has lived in Orlando since 2000.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "GENERATING RENEWAL, OPPORTUNITY, AND WORK WITH ACCELERATED MOBILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND REBUILDING OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT AMERICA ACT"

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 12, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join Congressman PETRI in introducing, on June 11, 2014, the Administration's \$302 billion, four-year surface transportation authorization proposal—the "Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America Act" (GROW AMERICA Act). With the goal of trying to get greater focus on surface transportation reauthorization before the Highway Trust Fund becomes insolvent, I was in touch with Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx about introducing the Administration's bill. He agreed, and, subsequently Chairman TOM PETRI, as a courtesy, agreed to introduce the bill at the request of the Administration.

Particularly considering that the funding provided in the current authorization, MAP-21, based on the Highway Trust Fund plus an additional \$18 billion from general revenue, has proven unable to get states through the two-year duration of the bill, I believe Congress must act soon on a fully funded six-year reauthorization. Such a bill would provide the funding and the certainty necessary to give the nation a chance to reduce the backlog of needed transportation infrastructure work waiting to be done. This Administration's four-year bill is a timely contribution as Congress works towards passage of a long-term surface transportation authorization, and should provide guidance and ideas as we develop legislation to set the future course of these vital programs.

Mr. Speaker, federal investments in transportation and infrastructure contribute much

more to our economy than they cost the federal government, as they improve the nation's mobility and economic competitiveness and create good-paying jobs. Unfortunately, we have not been providing the investment levels necessary to keep pace with the growing demands on the nation's surface transportation network. The GROW AMERICA Act recognizes that we have fallen behind, and calls for increasing investments in modernizing the nation's roads, bridges, railways, and transit systems. We cannot address our infrastructure deficit by just continuing to provide baseline levels of funding.

Specifically, the GROW AMERICA Act provides:

\$199.2 billion over fiscal year 2015—fiscal year 2018 for highways, compared to \$40.9 billion authorized in fiscal year 2014;

an increase of 70 percent over current investment levels in transit, by providing more than \$72 billion over four years and dramatically increasing investment in all modes of transit, including buses;

more than \$19 billion in freight and passenger rail investments, including \$9.5 billion over four years for Amtrak; and \$9.5 billion to states for investment in high-speed and intercity passenger rail and to eliminate congestion on shared-use track; and

\$5 billion over four years for the TIGER discretionary program.

In addition to these critical investments in the nation's intermodal surface transportation network, the GROW AMERICA Act also includes a number of important policy provisions that ensure that surface transportation investments create good-paying American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the GROW AMERICA Act proposes to strengthen Buy America by closing a major loophole in the application of Buy America requirements for public transportation rolling stock by requiring that transit rolling stock must consist of 100 percent domestic content by 2019. It also applies Buy America to all Federal Railroad Administration grant programs and the Railroad Infrastructure Financing program. These provisions will spur job creation in the United States and foster domestic manufacturing, and should be included in the next surface transportation authorization legislation.

The GROW AMERICA Act also protects truck and bus drivers by changing worker wage and hour laws to ensure that these drivers are compensated at no less than the federal minimum wage for hours spent on duty but not driving.

The proposal also provides \$245 million over four years for workforce development to support and enhance the size, diversity, and skills of our nation's construction and surface transportation workforce.

There are aspects of the bill that may give some of my colleagues pause. For example, eliminating the prohibition on tolling of existing free interstate highways for reconstruction of an existing facility and further streamlining environmental reviews will be subject to significant debate as Congress begins developing its legislation. But, this bill is an important first step in our efforts to craft a bill to move our nation into the 21st century.

I again thank Congressman PETRI for his courtesy in introducing this proposal. I look

forward to working closely with him and Republicans and Democrats on the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit as we begin to develop new surface transportation authorization legislation.

SUPPORT FOR S. 2270 AS PASSED BY THE SENATE

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, last week the Senate passed legislation to address capital requirements for insurers that are supervised by the Federal Reserve Board. The Senate-passed legislation is substantially similar to H.R. 4510, legislation that Rep. CAROLYN MCCARTHY and I introduced earlier this year, and we strongly support it.

The legislation passed by the Senate would ensure that insurance companies that are either nonbank systemically important financial companies (SIFs) or savings and loan holding companies (SLHCs) are not subject to banking capital standards. There is unanimous agreement among policymakers and other experts that it is inappropriate and harmful to subject insurance companies to bank capital standards because of the critical differences between the two business models.

Insurance companies, particularly life insurance companies, make long-term investments to match long-term liabilities such as life insurance, annuities, and pensions. By contrast, banks are subject to immediate calls on assets, particularly under times of economic stress, and must maintain a high level of liquidity to pay out demand deposits. Bank regulatory standards are tailored to that business model, while state risk-based capital standards are tailored to the insurance business model. Imposing bank standards on insurers under Federal Reserve supervision would disrupt insurance markets and hurt consumers by causing insurers to shift into assets that are inappropriate for the insurance business model and asset-liability matching principles. Alternatively, insurers might be compelled to exit certain capital-intensive product lines, which is bad for consumers.

The intent of S. 2270 as passed by the Senate would be to avoid these problems and ensure that regulators do not impose bank capital standards on insurers supervised by the Federal Reserve. The legislation amends section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Act and clarifies that the Federal Reserve may create tailored insurance capital standards, as necessary, for supervised holding companies with insurance operations.

To accomplish the goal of directing the Federal Reserve to tailor rules for insurance, the Senate-passed legislation permits the Federal Reserve to create a tailored, non-bank-centric capital regime for the insurance operations of supervised entities. Under the Senate bill, banking activities of insurers would remain subject to consolidated capital standards under section 171.

In distinguishing between insurance versus non-insurance activities of a supervised entity,

the legislation provides regulators with the flexibility to tailor the rules for subsidiaries of insurance companies that support and are necessary to the business of insurance, including, for example, subsidiaries that support insurance company general and separate accounts. The Senate-passed legislation defines "business of insurance" by reference to section 1002 of the Dodd-Frank Act. Under this definition the business of insurance means "the writing of insurance or the reinsuring of risks by an insurer, including all acts necessary to such writing or reinsuring and the activities relating to the writing of insurance or the reinsuring of risks conducted by persons who act as, or are, officers, directors, agents, or employees of insurers or who are other persons authorized to act on behalf of such persons." The reference to this definition of the "business of insurance" will help ensure that insurance activities of federally supervised companies are subject to tailored capital rules.

Consistent with congressional intent, the Senate legislation would also help ensure that the Federal Reserve use its authority to tailor capital rules for insurance operations of entities under its supervision, regardless of the depository institution subsidiary's size. It would be inappropriate and detrimental to insurance consumers for the Federal Reserve to impose a banking capital regime on the entire enterprise of a large insurer that happens to own a large insured depository institution—the depository institution in that operation will be subject to appropriate banking standards under current law, and the insurance operations should be subject to appropriate insurance standards.

Another important provision of our legislation and the Senate-passed legislation addresses the issue of insurance accounting. Every publicly traded company in the United States is required to prepare consolidated financial statements under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), and all insurance companies in the United States are required by their state insurance regulators to use an accounting method known as Statutory Accounting. In fact, many mutual insurance companies only use Statutory Accounting in preparing their financial statements.

Statutory Accounting Principles are more conservative than GAAP because they are specifically designed to promote insurer solvency and the ability to pay claims rather than measuring an insurer's value as a going concern. Mandating that insurers using only SAP adopt GAAP accounting would impose significant cost and a multi-year time commitment on those insurers with limited, if any, super-erity benefit to regulators.

H.R. 4510 includes a provision prohibiting the Federal Reserve from imposing GAAP accounting on insurers that only prepare and file SAP statements at the holding company level. S. 2270 was amended to include a provision clarifying that nothing in the legislation prevents the Federal Reserve from obtaining any information it is otherwise entitled to obtain from a SAP-only insurer. We support this change, and also support the House passage of the legislation as amended by the Senate, which has the unanimous support of the Senate, as well as other important constituencies. The key purpose here is to ensure that insur-

ance entities affiliated with depository institutions are not subject to the unfair, bank centric capital standards, regardless of the accounting model they utilize.

Mr. Speaker, we and the many other supporters of insurance capital legislation are pleased that S. 2270 as amended passed the Senate and look forward to its passage by the House. We also look forward post-enactment to working with regulators as they develop rigorous, well tailored standards that reflect the insurance business model.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit a clarification of my vote during consideration of H.R. 4745, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. I fully intended to continue my strong support of the Housing for Persons with AIDS program and mistakenly voted "no" on rollcall vote 277, the Nadler Amendment. I intended to vote "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEFFERSON R. VOSS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Jefferson "Jeff" R. Voss. Jeff is a fourth generation Central Floridian and a graduate of the University of Central Florida. Jeff was a Certified Public Accountant with KPMG in Orlando prior to joining the Tavistock Group, an international private investment firm, where he is a Senior Director.

Jeff has provided financial support to many LGBT organizations throughout his life. However, in 2009, he began to turn a life-long dream into reality by creating the concept which has become the Zebra Foundation for Youth, Inc. and the Zebra Coalition.

The Zebra Foundation for Youth and Zebra Coalition's mission is to foster hope, dignity and self-respect in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and all (LGBT+) youth and to provide them an opportunity to grow up in a safe, healthy and supportive environment.

Jeff is the president of the Zebra Foundation, which derives support from diverse sources, including other foundations, businesses, individuals, and grants from government agencies.

In direct partnership with the Zebra Foundation, the Zebra Coalition was established in response to the growing number of LGBT+ youth who are experiencing homelessness, bullying, extreme physical and sexual abuse, isolation from their families, and a wide range of life challenges. The primary goal of the Zebra Coalition is to meet the specialized

needs of these "at-risk youth". This is done by providing each young person being assisted by the Zebra Coalition with an individually tailored program. This focus on the individual helps to ensure that the intervention will ultimately guide them to recovery and stability.

The Zebra Coalition is a unique organization comprised of service groups, government agencies, social service providers, schools, colleges and universities that together provide a continuum of support for LGBT+ youth. Each of these organizations is able to provide essential services including shelter, counseling, and basic necessities to at-risk LGBT+ youth.

It is through the dedication of Jeff and numerous coalition members, volunteers, supporters and Foundation board members, that Zebra Coalition is able to positively impact the lives of so many young people that would otherwise have no place to turn.

I am happy to honor Jefferson R. Voss, during LGBT Pride Month, for his tireless work to support LGBT+ youth in the Central Florida community.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a few moments to recognize June 9th through 13th as National Men's Health Week. I strongly support National Men's Health Week and the participating health organizations that help raise awareness of men's health in our communities. I embrace the spirit of Men's Health Week which maintains that all men need to do our best to take care of our health and our families' health to strengthen our communities. Heart disease is the primary killer of men in our country. Men live an average of 5 years less than women, and men between the ages of 18 and 44 are less likely to visit the doctor than women. I am a firm believer in prevention and the importance of health awareness. A crucial step to maintaining a healthy lifestyle is being aware of your current health status. Increased awareness of our medical needs and preventable health problems will help remedy possible issues before they become life threatening. Taking care of ourselves is crucially important as we age, and regular check-ups with our health providers are important steps to strengthen the health of our communities.

We have many community health centers in the 7th District of Illinois that provide excellent care to Illinoisans. These health centers play critical roles in strengthening men's health. I would like to recognize and commend Near North Health Service Corporation for its efforts during National Men's Health Week. Near North is performing free health screenings for men during this time period. For example, they are conducting screenings for blood pressure, oral health, HIV, diabetes, and prostate cancer. They are conducting informative workshops on healthier eating as well. I applaud the dedication of our community health centers to improving the health and meeting the

medical needs of our communities during Men's Health Week and throughout the entire year.

I also want to recognize the efforts of the Illinois Department of Public Health during Men's Health Week. IDPH partnered with the Chicago White Sox and Bat for the Cure to provide free prostate cancer screenings. Further, the state health agency is leading multiple awareness events and seminars this week, including an African-American Male Health and Fitness Expo at Malcolm X College and the 20th Annual Real Men Cook event at Kennedy King. All of these efforts are important steps in raising awareness and improving the health of citizens in Chicago, Illinois and the Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I submit a clarification of my vote during consideration of H.R. 4745, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. I fully intended to continue my strong support of the Housing for Persons with AIDS program and mistakenly voted "no" on rollcall vote 277, the Nadler Amendment. I intended to vote "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF MARY ELLEN EPPS TO THE
PEOPLE OF COLORADO

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my former colleagues in the Colorado General Assembly, Mary Ellen Epps. Mary Ellen and I served together at the State Capitol in Denver. Mary Ellen was an absolute dynamo of a Representative and Senator who faithfully served her constituents in the Fountain and Widefield region.

Mary Ellen lived a full life and had an intense passion for learning. She received her bachelor's degree from Colorado Christian University and also took courses in French and nursing. She even was a student pilot.

With large portions of Fort Carson in her district, and as a Lifetime VFW member, Mary Ellen was a passionate advocate for our men and women in uniform, their families, and our veterans.

Mary Ellen was a passionate, dedicated, and hard-working legislator. A tough fighter for public safety and law and order, Mary Ellen worked hard to pass legislation increasing penalties on uninsured motorists. She also worked to increase the hardships of prison for our most dangerous criminals.

The range of Mary Ellen's knowledge and expertise was reflected in the committees she served during her time in the General Assembly. She was able to help and assist so many

people while serving on the Criminal Justice, Medically Indigent, Environmental, Arts and Tourism, and Health Care committees.

Mary Ellen was able to represent her constituents so well because she made a conscientious effort to personally connect with as many as possible and learn what motivated them and what issues were their priorities. Her passionate advocacy and tireless work ethic was an inspiration to me and I was honored to call her my friend.

Mary Ellen has passed away, but I know that she is in a better place. Please consider her three children, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild in your thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CARLOS GUILLERMO
SMITH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Carlos Guillermo Smith. Carlos is the son of Luis Ricardo Smith and Johanne Marie Ghyslainé Guay.

Carlos was elected Chairman of the Orange County Democratic Party on December 16th, 2013 and made history as the first openly gay Democratic Party Chair in Orange County at the age of 32. A Latino of Peruvian descent, Carlos has worked closely with leaders in Central Florida to engage the local Hispanic community in the political process and elect more Latinos to hold public office.

An alumnus of the University of Central Florida, Carlos gained political experience working on a number of Democratic races, including his role as Communications Director and Senior Advisor during State Representative Joe Saunders 2012 race.

In 2011, Carlos became a public policy fellow for Equality Florida, where he crafted state and local legislative strategy with LGBT leaders. Equality Florida is the largest civil rights organization dedicated to securing full equality for Florida's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

Carlos currently serves as legislative aide to State Representative Joe Saunders. Prior to his current position, Carlos served as the aide to Former State Representative Scott Randolph from 2011–2012 and Orange County Democratic Party Communications Chair from 2011–2013.

I am happy to honor Carlos Guillermo Smith during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING NORCELL D. HAYWOOD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Norcell D.

Haywood, a leader in my State of Texas who has practiced architecture for over thirty seven years.

Mr. Haywood was one of the first four African American students to be admitted to the University of Texas and was the second African American to graduate from the University of Texas School of Architecture in 1960. Upon graduation, he taught at Prairie View A&M University's school of Engineering. He later gained employment with the City of Austin Planning Department. He also published a local Newspaper, The East Side Reporter, which has a circulation of 20,000 papers weekly distributed on the eastern section of San Antonio.

In 1968, he became the first licensed African-American Architect in San Antonio. He then founded his firm, Norcell D. Haywood & Associates (1968–71) and later in 1971, founded the firm of Haywood Jordan McCown SAT Inc., Haywood Jordan McCowan of Houston Inc and Haywood Jordan McCown of Dallas Inc (HJM). Under Norcell's leadership HJM has been the recipient of the prestigious Merit Design and Honor Awards. The University of Texas—Dallas, Student Union Center was also a design award winner along with numerous housing developments in Houston, Austin, Dallas and San Antonio areas such as the Texas Southern University Physical Education Building and Business Technology Building in Houston, Texas; Lincoln Magnet High School in Dallas, Texas; Alamodome Stadium and the completed Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center both in San Antonio, Texas.

His professional memberships include the American Institute of Architects, Texas Society of Architects, the Society of American Military Engineers. He is also a life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. He was the first African American to be appointed to the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners and served as Vice Chairman of the Board. He was also a Delegate on the White House Sub-Committee on Small Business in 1995. He is the recipient of the 1997 Bank of America—San Antonio, Black History Chronicles Trail Blazer Award and a 1997 Texas Legislative Black Caucus Outstanding Texans at Large Honoree. The San Antonio Chapter of the UT Ex-Students Association awarded him this 1999 Outstanding San Antonio Texas-Ex Award.

In addition to his many professional achievements, Mr. Haywood is a concerned professional who believes that architecture can be a significant part of the healing and problem solving process. His most passionate interests lie in early child training and development. He actively supports the YMCA, Boy's and Girl's Club of San Antonio and many other local youth organizations. He is a life member of both the Ex-Students' Association and the UT President's Associates. Mr. Haywood has personally been cited with many awards for his Humanitarian and civic duties.

Mr. Speaker, our Country is a better one because we have a Norcell D. Haywood and he deserves recognition for his decades of work.

HONORING MS. GABRIELLE MARIE ARANDA AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY CLASS OF 2014

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Gabrielle Marie Aranda as a member of the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2014.

Gabby graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy with a degree in Business Management and a minor in Spanish, and she received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on May 27, 2014.

Her career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Gabby's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation. The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

The challenge for this young woman will be to retain as much as possible, pass what she learns to others, and live life for every moment.

South Mississippi is proud of Gabby and her accomplishments, and we look forward to her continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Air Force officer.

As Gabby embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that she may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Air Force Academy.

I would like to send Gabby my best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors, thank her for her service, and congratulate her on this momentous occasion.

CELEBRATING THE WEDDING OF AMBER GRAY KIRBY AND KEVIN "KIP" TALLEY

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the upcoming wedding of Amber Gray Kirby and Kevin "Kip" Talley. Ms. Kirby is a native of Mt. Olive, NC and graduate of NC State University, Wake Forest Law School, and American University. As a constituent and friend, she is truly an exemplary example of the quality leaders our communities produce. Mr. Talley is a native of Washington, DC and attended The Pennsylvania State University. His advice and council on issues related to premium cigars has been an invaluable asset to my Congressional office.

This is why I am happy to stand here today in recognition of their upcoming wedding on June 14, 2014 in Washington, DC at Western Presbyterian Church. Being incredibly bright individuals, I am confident that Amber and Kip will treat each other with the love, dignity, and

respect that guarantees a long-lasting marriage.

It is a privilege to recognize two individuals who have become friends and well-respected throughout this Congress. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Amber and Kip on their upcoming nuptials and wishing them a bright and happy future together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I submit a clarification of my vote during consideration of H.R. 4745, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. I fully intended to continue my strong support of the Housing for Persons with AIDS program and mistakenly voted "no" on rollcall vote 277, the Nadler Amendment. I intended to vote "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I submit a clarification of my vote during consideration of H.R. 4745, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. I fully intended to continue my strong support of the Housing for Persons with AIDS program and mistakenly voted "no" on rollcall vote 277, the Nadler Amendment. I intended to vote "aye."

THE PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (PHMSA) FUNDING IN FY15 TRANSPORTATION-HUD APPROPRIATIONS BILL (H.R. 4745)

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Mr. GRIFFIN's (the Gentleman from Arkansas) amendment to increase funding for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The amendment was adopted and included in H.R. 4745, as passed.

On March 4, 2014, an incident involving a gas line in Ewing, New Jersey resulted in an explosion damaging dozens of homes—destroying some, injuring seven construction workers, and claiming one life.

Although the investigation of this particular accident is ongoing, it is a reminder of the need to properly inspect and operate safely around our country's expanding pipeline infrastructure.

The pipeline in this instance was only a 2 inch line, however elsewhere in Central New

Jersey, and around the country, pipelines with much greater capacity are aging. Combined with demand for new energy pipeline infrastructure, many pipelines are now being constructed or expanded.

For instance, a 42-inch pipeline expansion project has been proposed along an existing route in my New Jersey district. I have heard from my constituents about their safety concerns with this project which will require excavation and construction work along an existing, more than 50 year old pipeline, which runs past homes and schools.

Nationally, about one-third of our natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines are over 50 years old.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is primarily responsible for reviewing proposals to build interstate natural gas pipelines, but PHMSA has a role in enforcing regulations and standards for design and construction.

The bill before us today recommends \$131,500,000 to continue pipeline safety operations, research and development, and state grants-in-aid, which is \$12,413,000 above fiscal year 2014 but \$26,500,000 below the President's budget request.

I appreciate the Committee's work to increase funding for PHMSA over the previous fiscal years, and I am happy to support Mr. GRIFFIN's amendment to increase funding in the operational expense account, but even with the adoption of this amendment pipeline safety programs will be funded at \$26.5 million less than what the Administration requested.

Fully funding pipeline safety programs at the budget request would support hiring 54 new inspection and enforcement staff, funding for the National Pipeline Information Exchange (NPIX) initiative, and funding for States Pipeline Safety grants.

I hope that the Committee will consider the adoption of this amendment as a sign of Congress' intent to provide more robust funding in support of PHMSA's mission to protect people and the environment from the risks of hazardous materials transportation.

PHMSA has established ambitious goals to reduce pipeline spills and safety incidents, but without the necessary resources we will see past progress halted with more accidents, sometime with deadly consequences, in the future.

I'm glad that the Griffin amendment was adopted without objection by voice vote, and I look forward to working with the Gentlemen on pipeline safety issues in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BILL PHILLIPS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Bill Phillips. Bill believes that success is driven by effectively creating a synergy of strategy and execution in communication and delivery.

Bill has a unique professional background and is fearless about tackling challenges. He began his professional career in the financial services sector, primarily focused on relationship development and sales management. He has worked for Fortune 500 corporations including Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, and Citigroup.

For a brief time in 2004, Bill was a candidate for an open U.S. Senate seat in Florida. While unsuccessful in this endeavor, Bill traveled extensively throughout Florida, meeting voters and discussing their issues and expectations. Through this experience he gained an insight into politics and built a network of contacts that he now utilizes to provide political advice to clients. Since 2007, Bill Phillips has been a leader in reshaping Florida's Democratic/Progressive political capacity.

During Bill's tenure as the Communications Director for the Florida Education Association (FEA), he created a highly successful, nationally recognized campaign: Make Our Schools A Priority. This resulted in a revitalized FEA brand that energized the membership and elevated the profile for FEA and its leadership team. The campaign positioned FEA in an aggressive posture that enabled it to drive its message to key audiences, utilizing web, email, social networking, and television. The campaign reestablished FEA as a political force.

From the success of Bill's tenure at FEA, he founded Defero Advisory Services in early 2010, where he immediately began working to build a network of Florida-based, progressive donors that could work collaboratively.

The centerpiece of the organization's early efforts was a ballot initiative campaign designed to provide guidelines for the reapportionment of Congressional and Legislative districts. These initiatives, collectively known as Fair Districts, were passed by an overwhelming majority of voters.

Bill has helped to create several of Florida's leading progressive groups, including Florida Watch Action, Inc. and Project New America/The Florida Project. He also serves on the Senior Advisory Board of Progress Florida. Bill is active in the movement for LGBT equality, serving as Board Chairman of Florida Together/Florida Together Federation in 2011.

Bill is also nationally respected as a donor advisor aligned with the Democracy Alliance, a network committed to a stronger democracy and a more progressive America.

I am happy to honor Bill Phillips, during LGBT Pride Month, for his work as a progressive champion in Central Florida and nationwide.

HONORING DR. WAYNE A.I. FREDERICK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick, M.D., MBA, FACS, on the occasion of Caribbean-American Heritage Month 2014, for his extraordinary career. As the current interim

president of Howard University and a successful surgeon, teacher and researcher, Dr. Frederick's work and leadership continues to inspire many across the nation.

Born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dr. Frederick came to the United States at the age of 16 to attend Howard University, with the goal of becoming a physician. At Howard University, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology and completed a medical degree by age 22. During his residency in General Surgery, Dr. Frederick received the Outstanding Resident, House Staff and Chairman's Chief Resident of the Year Awards. He later returned to Howard University in 2011 to complete his business degree.

Dr. Frederick's writing and leadership in the field of oncology—especially on addressing and fixing health disparities among African Americans and other underrepresented groups—is legendary. Inspired to become a physician by his own experience living with sickle cell anemia, a hereditary blood disorder which primarily affects people of African, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern descent, Dr. Frederick is recognized as a "Super Doctor" by the Washington Post and one of "America's Best Physicians" by Black Enterprise magazine.

In 2013, Dr. Frederick, who earned three of his degrees at Howard University, was selected to serve as interim president of this historic university. Prior to this appointment, he taught and held leadership positions at the university since 2006.

This month, His Excellency Dr. Neil Parsan, Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Trinidad and Tobago Working Women's Committee will honor Dr. Frederick for his inspirational achievements and outstanding contributions as a Caribbean-American and a son of the twin islands of Trinidad and Tobago. Previously, Dr. Frederick was recognized in 2000 by the government of Trinidad and Tobago for his outstanding medical achievement.

Ten years ago, I recognized the need to celebrate the significance of the contributions of Caribbean-Americans, such as Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick. Personally inspired by Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm (NY), and countless other mentors, trailblazers, and friends who, as Caribbean-Americans, helped shape our great nation's government, politics, business, arts, education, science, and culture, I first introduced the resolution calling for the establishment of a National Caribbean-American Heritage Month in 2004. Today, I join others in congratulating and thanking Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick for his remarkable service to all Americans.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District and on the occasion of Caribbean-American Heritage Month 2014, Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick, I salute you. I commend you for your contributions to our nation and wish you continued success in the next phase of your career.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF SANGERVILLE, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Sangerville, Maine as it celebrates its 200th anniversary.

Located in Piscataquis County, the Town of Sangerville was once known as Amestown Settlement, named for its first settler, Phineas Ames in 1801. When the town incorporated on June 13, 1814, the name was changed to Sangerville, honoring one of its early proprietors, Colonel Calvin Sanger.

Sangerville has been a small lumbering and agricultural community for most of its history; its residents depended on the woods and the land to make their living. During the 1800's, Sangerville was home to a grist mill, saw mill, tannery, and a woolen mill.

The Piscataquis River forms the northern border, and the main village is located adjacent to Guilford.

Sangerville is known as the "Town of Two Knights" and gained this designation for two knights who call Sangerville home; Sir Hiram Maxim who was an inventor and Sir Harry Oakes who was a mining tycoon.

The Town of Sangerville reflects the values of the hardworking people of Maine who take great pride in the rich history they have created over the past 200 years. It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Sangerville in Congress, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to help them commemorate the town's 200th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the people of Sangerville and wishing them well on this joyous occasion.

HOW BOUT DEM DAWGS—IN TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST SAMUEL ISAAC WALLEY OF THE 82ND AIRBORNE

HON. ROB WOODALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, the following poem was written by Bert Caswell to honor a great Georgian, Specialist Samuel Isaac Walley of the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division, who nearly lost his life defending our nation in Afghanistan.

HOW BOUT DEM DAWGS

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

How . . .
How bout dem Dawgs!
And from that Great Georgian State,
have but come all of those Freedom Fighters
and Patriots whose hearts await . . .
So await that call!
Men like a King among men,
Dr. King who the cause of Freedom his life
would take!
And all of those magnificents who so go off
to war!
Freedom Fighters whose hearts so chose to
go Airborne,

to fight the fight our hearts adore!
 Who so hear that most noble of all calls . . .
 That call to freedom and to death!
 Who this our Nation do so bless!
 Who just like them Georgia Bull Dawgs,
 are so very tenacious!
 Who so live and die by such a code,
 and do not ask why as they so bear the load!
 And in any battle . . .
 And in any fight . . .
 There are but all of those men of faith who
 bring their light!
 Who are but such Men of Might!
 Men of Strength In Honor who all those
 wrongs they right!
 Men who all for us are but Airborne this
 night!
 Who jump high out of planes,
 all in the dark and light!
 Who throughout all the darkness of war bat-
 tle bright!
 Yea, these are Bull Dawgs . . .
 who all for God and Country fine hearts ig-
 nite!
 As all of those wrongs they right!
 As these are the Men of The 82nd Airborne,
 who but bring their light!
 Who have so helped win all those wars with
 their might!
 Dropping from up in the skies,
 as this force of nature is so on the rise!
 As all for country tis of thee,
 these brave hearts are so willing to lay down
 their lives!
 The Bull Dawgs who fight the fight!
 Who stand tall in all their light!
 And one such man,
 a true Son of the South!
 Who is a Georgia Bull Dawg throughout!
 Now that's what Samuel is all about!
 Rouuuughhhh . . . Rouuuughhhh as his
 heart pounds loud!
 And when you meet SPC Walley,
 you've met a real American hero no doubt!
 For it was while out on patrol,
 when we almost lost this brave soul . . .
 As he stepped on an IED,
 while moments away from death was he!
 But Bull Dawgs do not run,
 and Bull Dawgs do not hide!
 As this fine man cheated death to somehow
 reach deep down inside . . .
 As he so wiped away all of those tears from
 his eyes!
 As he chose life,
 as this Bull Dawgs heart went Airborne on
 the rise!
 Watching his courage,
 the Angels too up in Heaven cried!
 As his heart went Airborne and began to
 climb!
 His climb to recovery!
 Going Airborne reaching for the skies!
 You see,
 this young man from Georgia has got a life
 to lead!
 And so many people To So Teach!
 And so many people To So Reach!
 And so many souls To Beseech!
 And so many people To Inspire,
 making all hearts Airborne bringing them
 higher!
 For he leads and does not follow!
 As high above all of the rest he so towers!
 Throughout all of that heartache and pain
 throughout the hours!
 Yes arms and legs we all need,
 but we can get by!
 But, without a heart like Samuel's we will
 all so surely die!
 And that's all that Samuel so needs to get
 by!
 Because pity is a town where he does not re-
 side!

As this Bull Dawg fights the fight!
 As his courage brings smiles to faces bright!
 How bout that Dawg,
 who so marches on with all his might!
 As he's the kind of soldier,
 that General Lee would have been proud
 with him to ride!
 And when his recovery is done,
 its going to be hard to keep with this one!
 Because The Army he's staying in my son!
 Because, this Man Is Away Strong!
 And to them this Hero's Heart does so be-
 long!
 And for that good old U.S. Army beats loud
 and long!
 Because in a uniform is where this Bull
 Dawg belongs!
 And if you looked up the word's "Bull Dawg"
 in the dictionary . . .
 You'd see a picture of Walley in uniform
 looking quite fierce and scary!
 As an American who makes us all so proud
 to be!
 And if ever I had a son,
 Dawg gone it I wish that he could be half as
 strong as this one!
 And How About That Dog!
 Georgia Bred and Georgia born!
 And get on your knees,
 and give thanks to all of these who so fight
 on!
 Rouuuughhhh . . . Rouuuughhhh!
 Samuel, How About That Dog!

RECOGNIZING THE
 CONTRIBUTIONS OF BOB POE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA
 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Bob Poe. Bob is a successful entrepreneur, accomplished artist, and longtime political operative.

Throughout his adult life, Bob has been involved in nearly every aspect of the political arena: at age 26, he ran for the Florida Senate; he was Chairman of the Florida Democratic Party in the 2000 and 2002 election cycles; and in 2012, he was Central Florida Finance Chair for the Obama campaign. He has also raised money for many other federal, state, and local campaigns. Currently, Bob serves as Chairman of Charlie Crist for Florida—the national fundraising Political Committee supporting Charlie Crist for Governor.

Bob has been in business for nearly 30 years, managing strategic planning and implementation for several start-up companies in a variety of business segments. He has held various positions in the broadcasting industry and is probably best known for his innovative achievements at WMMO (FM), which was recognized by Billboard Magazine as Radio Station of the Year in 1991. He was also a part of the management team that started the Orlando Magic, Central Florida's NBA franchise.

Most recently, Bob was President of Emergency Communications Network, Inc. (ECN)—the nation's leader in critical communications infrastructure allowing municipal governments to rapidly communicate with their residents in times of emergencies. Bob and his business partners sold ECN in 2011.

Due to his background in creative fields and his drive to discover and imaginatively use innovative products, Bob began experimenting with iPhone photography as soon as it came on the market in 2007. His spontaneous and thought-provoking photographs sparked interest from collectors and gained him international recognition for his groundbreaking art.

Bob and his partner, Ken Brown, live in Orlando, Florida and Beverly Hills, California.

I am happy to honor Bob Poe, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the Central Florida community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECT
 STUDENTS FROM FAILING INSTI-
 TUTIONS ACT

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, this past January, students attending a local for-profit college, Career Colleges of America (CCA), in my district showed up to class only to find the doors of their school locked. CCA's longtime financial troubles had finally overcome the business and it was forced to close, abandoning its students and faculty.

The result was a nightmare for the over 800 students enrolled at the three CCA branches in Southern California. Many of these students are low-income and had taken out up to \$30,000 in federal loans and Pell Grants to put toward an education they thought would lead to a career in the health care industry. These students were working to better themselves, but through no fault of their own are now saddled with a financial headache and no degree to show for it.

Unfortunately, stories like this are not unique. We have seen this happen before in which irresponsible institutions take advantage of their students, aiming to profit off of them rather than educate them, and upon closure, leave their students in financial ruin. More often than not, credits cannot transfer and these students are forced to start over completely at a new institution.

There are steps we can take to make these students whole again. Fortunately, many of these students are often able to have their federal loans discharged, relieving them of tens of thousands of dollars of burdensome debt if their school closes. However, students who attended a campus that closed but was part of a larger institution that remained open often unable to have their loans discharged. Moreover, any Pell Grants that the student had received to attend that institution still count toward their lifetime limit, often making it more difficult and costly when the students make another attempt to earn their degree.

That is why I am introducing the Protect Students from Failing Institutions Act, which would ensure every student who was enrolled in a campus that closed, regardless of whether the institution closes or not, can have their federal loans discharged and their Pell Grants restored. These small changes will mean so much to these victimized students as they continue their education.

IN RECOGNITION OF GORDON HARGROVE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Gordon Hargrove, who will soon enter his fiftieth year of service to the community at Friendly House in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Friendly House opened in 1920. Its mission was to promote the health of Worcester neighborhoods by integrating immigrants into the cultural and civic life of the city. In 1965, after volunteering for several years, Gordon Hargrove was hired as the first Program Director for Friendly House. The following year, Friendly House received its first federal grant, which enabled it to provide social services to 2,000 seniors, teens and needy neighborhood families. While Friendly House remained faithful to its mission of welcoming the stranger, it offered new programs to respond to new needs of the community.

Worcester is so fortunate that Mr. Hargrove was there to guide these new projects. By 1970, Mr. Hargrove assumed the Executive Director position, which he continues to hold. Today, under Mr. Hargrove's direction, Friendly House provides housing, emergency help, food, medical care, after-school and summer programs, day care, senior programs, and counseling to inner-city families.

On behalf of the people of Worcester, I thank Gordon Hargrove for his exemplary selflessness and extraordinary service. I know my House colleagues will join me in congratulating Gordon for reaching fifty years of working at Friendly House, and wishing him continued success in the years to come.

HONORING MR. PAUL J. RUPERT AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY CLASS OF 2014

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Paul J. Rupert as a member of the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2014.

Paul graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy with a degree in Biology, and he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on May 28th, 2014.

His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Paul's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation. The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

The challenge for this young man will be to remain as much as possible, pass what he learns to others, and live life for every moment.

South Mississippi is proud of Paul and his accomplishments, and we look forward to his

continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Air Force officer.

As Paul embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Air Force Academy.

I would like to send Paul my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT CARL MEYER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of Mr. Robert Carl Meyer. Mr. Meyer, a resident of Union Beach, New Jersey, died in the line of duty on June 8, 2014 after responding to a four-alarm fire at a local business. Mr. Meyer should be remembered for his decades of volunteer service to Union Beach and Middletown fire departments.

Robert Meyer was employed as a driver for the United Parcel Service (UPS) in addition to his volunteer fire service. He joined the Belford Engine Company in Middletown in 1979 and was a life member and later became a member of the Union Hose Fire Company in Union Beach.

In 2005, Mr. Meyer was honored by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for selfless actions to help pull an accident victim out of a burning truck. Assisting a New Jersey State Trooper who was already on the scene, Mr. Meyer used a fire extinguisher that he carried with him to abate the flames and then, along with the trooper, extracted the trapped driver safely.

Robert Meyer grew up in Middletown and moved to Union Beach in 1992, where his family currently resides. Along with many in his community, the Meyer's home suffered substantial damage from Superstorm Sandy. They just recently moved back into their home, having lived in a trailer following the storm.

The son of Robert Meyer and Ann Becker, Mr. Meyer was born in Jersey City, New Jersey on June 14, 1959. Mr. Meyer leaves behind a loving family, including his wife Linda Butler Meyer, siblings James Meyer, Steven Meyer and Laura Russo-Kay, in-laws and nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Meyer for his heroism and lifetime dedication to his family and community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JACK LORD

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Jack Lord. Mr. Lord was born in Orlando, Florida where he attended Winter Park High School. He later attended the University of Florida, earning a B.A. in English with a minor in Spanish and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his J.D. from Duke University School of Law in 1994 and served as articles editor for the Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy. During his time in law school, he participated in The AIDS Service Project (TASP).

Mr. Lord is very involved in LGBT community activities. For several years, he was president of the board of directors of the Hope and Help Center of Central Florida. The Hope and Help Center is an AIDS resource network that is committed to saving lives by treating and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS in Central Florida. He has been a member of the Central Florida Gay and Lesbian Bar Association since 2004 and a member of the National LGBT Bar Association since 2007. Mr. Lord is also involved with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), participating in fundraising and other political activities. Mr. Lord was also involved as a community advocate when the City of Orlando amended its anti-discrimination ordinance to include protections for sexual orientation.

Mr. Lord is involved in a number of civic activities including serving as vice president and board member of Orlando Shakespeare Theater; a past board of trustees member of the Orange County Legal Aid Society; past president of the nominating board of the City of Orlando; and Guardian ad Litem for abused and neglected children. Mr. Lord's pro bono efforts also include serving as a pro bono attorney for the AIDS Wills Project of Orange County Legal Aid Society from 1995 to 1999.

Mr. Lord is currently a partner with the national law firm Foley & Lardner LLP. He has worked at the firm since 1994 and is co-chair of the firm's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Affinity Group. Mr. Lord was instrumental in the decision of having Foley & Lardner grant domestic partnership benefits to all of its lawyers and employees. Continually participating in recruiting and retention efforts for LGBT attorneys, he was involved with policy changes aimed to ensure Foley & Lardner received ratings of 100 percent on the HRC's Corporate Equality Index.

In 2005, Mr. Lord received the Orlando Business Journal's "40 under 40" award, which is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to their professions and communities. In 1997, he received Foley & Lardner's Lynford Lardner Community Service Award in recognition of his volunteer work and civic involvement. In 2013, Mr. Lord was selected by the Legal Aid Society Board of Trustees as a recipient of the Guardian ad Litem Award of Excellence. Mr. Lord has been

10112

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS, Vol. 160, Pt. 7

June 12, 2014

peer review rated as AV Preeminent, the highest performance rating in Martindale-Hubbell's peer review rating system for attorneys. In ad-

dition, he was selected for inclusion in the Florida Super Lawyers lists from 2006 to 2013.

I am happy to honor Jack Lord, during LGBT Pride Month, for his tireless work to empower and achieve equality for the LGBT community in Central Florida.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, June 13, 2014

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 13, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You once again that we, Your creatures, can come before You and ask guidance for the men and women of this assembly. Send Your spirit of peace, honesty, and fairness during this long weekend of constituent visits. May their ears and hearts be open to listen to the hopes and needs of those whom they represent.

Bless the people of this great Nation with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, that they might responsibly participate in our American democracy during this primary season.

Please keep all who work for the people's House in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them in their service to the work of the Capitol.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5971. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Modification of the Handling Regulations for Yellow Fleshed and White Types of Potatoes [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0026; FV14-946-1 IR] received May 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5972. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Revisions to Dealer Permitting and Reporting Requirements for Species Managed by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council [Docket No.: 120405260-4258-02] (RIN: 0648-BC12) received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5973. A letter from the Rural Housing Service Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grants (RIN: 0575-AC97) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5974. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Freezers [Docket No.: EERE-2008-BT-STD-0015] (RIN: 1904-AB86) received June 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5975. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Exchange and Insurance Market Standards for 2015 and Beyond [CMS-9949-F] (RIN: 0938-AS02) received May 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5976. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Rear Visibility [Docket No.: NHTSA-2010-0162] (RIN: 2127-AK43) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5977. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Child Restraint Systems [Docket No.: NHTSA-2014-0026] (RIN: 2127-AL35) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5978. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Rules and Regulations Under the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5979. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD261) received May 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5980. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to Implement the Patent Term Adjustment Provisions of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act Technical Corrections Act [Docket No.: PTO-P-2013-0006] (RIN: 0651-AC84) received May 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5981. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Paragould, AR [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0588; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASW-12] received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4870. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-473). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII,

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

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

Mrs. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HALL, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. STOCKMAN); introduced a bill (H.R. 4869) to provide for Department of Energy fundamental science, basic research activities, and applied energy research and development; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. LUMMIS:

H.R. 4869.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority Statement

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with

foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 4870.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congress-

sional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 594: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 1830: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 2084: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 2663: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 2881: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 3543: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 4510: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 4747: Mr. HONDA.

H. Res. 619: Ms. HAHN and Ms. DELBENE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TIANANMEN 25 YEARS LATER:
FIVE LEADERS WHO WERE THERE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 13, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, we recently had the 25th anniversary of when the world watched as students from Beijing's Central Academy of Fine Arts unveiled the replica of the Statue of Liberty in Tiananmen Square. It was an amazing sight to behold, this enduring symbol of liberty standing face-to-face with the dictator Mao Zedong's portrait.

It was a moment when we all dreamed that the Tiananmen Square demonstrations would become a triumph for freedom and democracy. Unfortunately, China's Communist leaders sought to hang on to power through force. They sent tanks and soldiers into Beijing to "clear the Square" on the evening of June 3 and June 4.

The beating, the bayonetting, torture, and murder of students and the ubiquitous display of tanks turned the dream of freedom into a bloody nightmare. At a hearing that I recently held, we had five witnesses to this tragic scene in world history so that this time in China will not fade from memory, but will remind us of the longing for freedom that remains within the Chinese people.

We want to remember the extraordinary sacrifice endured by thousands of peaceful Chinese democracy activists. Some may prefer to look past or even trivialize the slaughter of innocents by Chinese soldiers. But the memory of the dead and those arrested, tortured, and exiled requires us to honor them, respect their noble aspirations for fundamental freedoms, and recommit ourselves to the struggle for freedom and human rights in China.

The government of China continues to go to astounding lengths to erase the memory of the Tiananmen demonstrations and their violent suppression. The Internet is censored, citizens holding private discussions or public commemorations are harassed and detained, and we still have no account of those who died, those arrested, those disappeared or those executed.

It is my promise that we will always remember—always remember—Tiananmen as long as the Chinese people cannot discuss its significance openly without harassment or arrest.

When the tanks rolled down the Square on June 4, 1989, all of China suffered—mothers lost sons, fathers lost daughters and China lost an idealistic generation of future leaders.

China's loss has been America's gain. Our witnesses today—exiles and refugees from their native land—have contributed mightily to the American fabric. Out of tragedy and disillusionment, they have created lives that make America stronger. They are entrepreneurs and

pastors, businesspeople and academics, members of the military and civil society leaders.

The Chinese government may call them criminals and hooligans, but one day soon they will be called heroes.

The people testifying here today are also our conscience—as are all advocates from freedom and human rights such as Chen Guangcheng and Harry Wu and others in the audience today. There will always be those who want to downplay human rights in relations with China. But the people here today remind us that the people of China suffered for freedom, bled for liberty, and demanded justice, democracy and an end to corruption. These demands were made 25 years ago, and they still fire the imagination of the Chinese people today.

More than ever, the U.S. needs a robust human rights diplomacy with China. We need policies that actively promote human rights, freedom of speech, Internet freedom, and the rule of law. We must support the advocates for peaceful change and the champions of liberty and clearly signal our support for those seeking rights and freedoms for all China's citizens, not only for those seeking to pad the economic bottom-line.

Such leadership is needed now because China is in the midst of a severe crackdown on human rights advocates and freedom of speech. Last year was the worst year, since the 1990s, for arrests and imprisonment of dissidents. More than 230 people have been detained for their human rights advocacy. In the past month Beijing has detained two dozen activists for simply seeking to commemorate the Tiananmen anniversary in private.

And China remains one of the world's worst offenders of human rights overall. It remains the torture capital of the world. Religious freedom abuses continue with impunity. And ethnic minority groups face repression when they peacefully seek rights to their culture and language.

Hundreds of millions of women have been forced to abort their precious babies because of a draconian attempt to limit population growth. China's one-child policy, even if it is slightly modified, is a demographic and human rights disaster. The preference for having boys has led to a gender imbalance and a mass extermination of girls. This is not only a massive gender crime, but a security problem as well. Experts are coming to the conclusion that China's gender imbalance will lead to crime, social instability, worker shortages, sex and bride trafficking, and will make the possibility of war more likely.

Despite the country's stunning economic growth over the past two decades, Beijing's leaders still remain terrified of their own people. China's ruling Communist Party would rather stifle, imprison or even kill its own people than defer to their demands for freedom and rights.

Repression has not dimmed the desires of the Chinese people for freedom and reform. There is an inspiring drive in China to keep fighting for freedom under very difficult and dangerous conditions. As our witnesses today will surely attest, the U.S. must demonstrate clearly and robustly that democratic reforms and human rights are a critical national interest.

We want to see a more democratic China, one that respects human rights, and is governed by the rule of law, because a more democratic China will be a productive and peaceful partner rather than a strategic and hostile competitor.

This future also should be in China's interests, because there is growing evidence that the most prosperous and stable societies are those that protect religious freedom, the freedom of speech, and the rule of law.

I believe that someday China will be free. The people of China will be able to enjoy all of their God-given rights. And a nation of free Chinese men and women will honor, applaud, and celebrate the heroes of Tiananmen Square and all those who sacrificed so much, and so long, for freedom.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
MARK RABIN AND HIS WIFE
BARBARA ON THEIR 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 13, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Brigadier General Mark Rabin and his wonderful wife, Barbara, on their 50th anniversary. The Rabins were wed on June 21, 1964, and have never stopped setting an example for which all who know them strive. It is my pleasure today to celebrate these two genuine Americans and the exemplary marriage they shared for the past half century. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring this couple.

Mark and Barbara have lived lives dedicated to their nation, to their community, to their family, and to each other. From 1966 until 2001, Mark served in the Illinois Air National Guard, serving in a wide variety of roles and eventually becoming Chief of Staff in 1996. Concurrent with his military service, Mark pursued a successful career in law, and became the managing director of Rabin, Myers & Hanken, P.C. Matching his work life, Mark sought out challenges in his free time. He is an avid bicyclist, mountaineer, and backpacker, having explored the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains and routinely climbing peaks in excess of 14,000 feet. Barbara is one of the most supportive and understanding people I know. Working as a teacher's aide, Barbara

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

has dedicated her life to the special needs children of Illinois; she has prepared them for success in life, and taught them the value of an outstanding education and a love of learning. She is a longstanding member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mark and Barbara have contributed towards the fight against diabetes, with countless volunteer hours spent in support of this noble goal. Together, the Rabins have raised six wonderful children, and been blessed with ten grandchildren.

The marriage of Mark and Barbara is an example to us all. It exemplifies a healthy partnership, selfless dedication, commitment, and true love. Their marriage is an example to young couples and an inspiration to those that struggle through hard times.

Mr. Speaker, on their 50th anniversary, I am pleased to honor Mark and Barbara Rabin and the remarkable services they have given to our nation and the State of Illinois. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this couple and wishing them continued happiness as they continue their remarkable journey together.

RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT
NORTHERN COLORADO

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 13, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable veterans of Honor Flight Northern Colorado as they make their 12th trip to Washington, DC to visit the memorials that stand in our nation's capital. While they served on different battlefields, they are united in their dedication and sacrifice to protecting the greatest nation on Earth.

The Honor Flight program was founded in 2005 with its original mission to fly veterans of World War II to Washington, DC free of cost, to visit the monuments and statues that symbolize their great sacrifices. Since then, Honor Flight has expanded and now includes every brave individual who has served valiantly in all other American engagements. This venerable program stands as a symbol of this country's gratitude and admiration for our veterans, and will continue to honor the men and women who have answered the call of duty. Of the 121 veterans visiting with its next flight, 34 served in WWII, 69 in Korea, and 18 in Vietnam.

Ours is the greatest nation on Earth, where the inherent values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are preserved through the countless heroic deeds demonstrated by our men and women in uniform. While these memorials and statues resemble the selfless acts and service of our veterans, in truth, the debt that we owe them can never be repaid in stone. Today, we honor these dignified heroes who have guaranteed through their sacrifice the underlying virtues, laws, and freedoms of this exceptional nation:

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Norlin Akers, Joseph Arthur, Donald Carlstrom, William Culp, Robert Davidson, Victor Ebel, Reginald Edwards, Arthur Engler,

John Eschbaugh, Daniel Flanagan, Anthony Gance, Robert Gittinger, Paul Glasgow, Gene Hansen, Dean Hecker, Henry Jesse, Benjamin Jones, Robert King, Virgil Kiser, Fred Knipschild, James McIver, Richard Minges, Jack Moss, Ronald Reidy, Robert Ryan, Herbert Shelton, Jay Spaulding, William Spearman, Charles Sutter, Howard Swartz, Arpad Szallar, Eugene Turnbull, William Worth, George Zuniga, Dean Amdahl, Alfred Apodaca, Jennings Barr, Earl Bartlow, Elmer Bartlow, James Beach, John Bergquist, Eugene Burmester, Larry Carpenter, Glenn Chapman, William Chrismer, Harl Clark, Leonard Cooper Sr., LaVerne Dietz, Alfred Duchene, Emanuel Eckas, Thelma Eckas, Donald Eckert, Jessie Ellis, Edwin Ellstrom, Samuel Evans, Jr., Herman Friesenhahn, Henry Geisert, Paul Gill, Lloyd Gould, George Hare, Eugene Hemmerle, William Hock, Milton Hunholz, Willis Janssen, William King, Dean Kingcade, Wallace Kirchhoff, Lawrence Kopecky, Richard Kounovsky, John Kreman, Kenneth Lamp, Robert Larsen, Dennis Larson, Lawrence Lawler, James Lee, William Leppert, Murdo MacLennan, Philip Mahoney, Charles Markesbery, Gene Mitchell, Robert Nagel, Dale Nelson, George Niedermayr, Willard Nordick, Richard Ochsner, Gerald Pearson, Donald Piermattei, Reid Pope, Paul Shapard, Howard Smallwood, Richard Spaulding, Donald Sterling, Harold Sulzbach, Robert Swanstrom, Betty Taylor, John Waddell, Donald Webb, Louie Wells, Russel White, Norman Wikler, Egbert Womack, Jr., George Woodman, James Yenter, Jon Ackerman, Isidro Arroyo, Ronald Britton, Steven Drake, Vearlon Forbes, James Freeland, Jimmie Garcia, Kenneth Hedger, Kenneth Hollingshead, Kenneth Jacobsen, Mark Kauffman, Terry Keating, Robert Klausner, William Miller, William Ortega, Marvin Pruitt, Robert Taylor, and Gene Thim.

EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR
COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR
CONCERN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 13, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently chaired a hearing on effective accountability for countries that blatantly commit religious or freedom violations or that turn a blind eye to such violations within their borders.

The headlines are filled with examples. A 27-year-old mother, Meriam Yehya Ibrahim, is imprisoned and faces a death sentence in Sudan because she refused to renounce her Christian faith. This case in Sudan mirrors a similar incident in Nigeria in which Boko Haram shot Habila Adamu, who refused to renounce Christianity, just like Mrs. Ibrahim. Also in Nigeria, Islamic terrorist organization Boko Haram is holding over 200 school girls hostage (most of whom are Christian), after kidnapping them from their school dorms in the middle of the night.

Anti-semitism has resurfaced in Ukraine with a series of violent attacks following the ouster of former Prime Minister Yanukovich.

We have also received word that American Pastor Saeed Abedini, who is serving an 8 year sentence in Iran for his faith, was severely beaten and returned to prison. He had been hospitalized due to internal bleeding from beatings previously received in prison. His wife, Naghmeh Abedini, testified before my subcommittee in December and begged that the Administration make securing her husband's release a top priority.

Tragically, many countries of the world are a long way from recognizing the human right of religious freedom set forth by Article 18 of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In the United States, we claim religious freedom as the "first freedom" because of its placement at the top of the Bill of Rights enumerated in our Constitution, and because of its foundational role in the life of a free and democratic nation. Religious freedom is a constant reminder to governments that their power is limited, that governments do not create rights but merely recognize them, and that a man or woman's first duty is to his or her well-formed conscience.

The evidence bears out the importance of protecting and promoting religious freedom. As the Pew Research Center and Berkley Center at Georgetown have shown, governments that protect and promote religious freedom have higher levels of social harmony. Just as importantly for national security, high observance of religious freedom is correlated with lower levels of religious extremism.

In 1998, Congress had the foresight to make the protection and promotion of religious freedom a priority in U.S. foreign policy by creating an Ambassador at Large for Religious Freedom, the Office of International Religious Freedom at the Department of State, which authors the International Religious Freedom Reports on every country in the world, and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, with their watchdog report to Congress.

Importantly, this landmark piece of legislation, the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA), authored by Chairman FRANK WOLF of Virginia, created a system for naming and taking action against Countries of Particular Concern or CPCs.

Sixteen years later, the need for U.S. leadership on religious freedom could not be more critical—but the tools to achieve it are lightly used. The Administration recently announced its intention to appoint two new members to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom—but the post of Ambassador-at-Large is in its seventh month of vacancy. The post has been empty for more than a third of this Administration, and the Ambassador's level of authority within the State Department has been demoted.

Despite the fact that the IRFA called for an annual review of CPC designations, the Administration has not named CPCs since 2011. What few Presidential Actions—like sanctions—have been taken in correlation with the 2011 CPC designation, have now lapsed.

History has shown that when the United States makes religious freedom a priority and that priority is conveyed to countries of particular concern, we have seen conditions

change with minimal harm to security or economic cooperation. For instance, the CPC designation worked as intended with Vietnam—until it was removed prematurely.

In 2004, the Bush Administration designated Vietnam as a CPC as part of the larger bilateral relationship. Vietnam took positive steps toward reforming its laws and practices related to religious freedom and releasing religious prisoners.

Other parts of the relationship—trade and security cooperation—expanded at the same time. Vietnam saw that it was in its interest to take positive steps on religious freedom because it was a priority of the Administration and a prerequisite of a harmonious bilateral relationship.

In 2006, the CPC designation was removed prematurely. In 2007, shortly after Vietnam gained World Trade Organization status, it launched a crackdown on religious leaders, free speech advocates, labor unions, and others that continues to this day.

USCIRF has made a compelling case for why Vietnam should be designated as a CPC, why that designation would again produce results, and why it is in the United States interests to prioritize religious freedom in the bilateral relationship. Seven years later, we are waiting for CPC designation.

The hearing took a close look at the ongoing need for the United States to actively pursue religious freedom as a priority goal of its foreign policy, as intended by Congress in the IRFA, and, specifically, the work of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom in reaching this goal.

NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 13, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of National Men's Health Week from June 9–15, 2014.

Men's Health Week is a time to focus attention and heighten awareness of preventable health problems affecting men and boys and encourage early detection and treatment.

On May 24, 1994, Congress passed S.J. Res. 179, a joint resolution establishing National Men's Health Week (NMHW). The joint resolution was signed into law (Pub. L. 103–264) by President William Jefferson Clinton on May 31, 1994.

Men's Health Month is celebrated across the country with screenings, health fairs, media appearances, and other health education and outreach activities.

I encourage all men, young and older, and their families, to develop positive and proactive attitudes toward health and wellness, engage in preventive behaviors, lead healthy lifestyles, and seek timely medical advice and care.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, afflicting 1 out of every 11 American men and killing 34,000 men every year.

For African-American men, the rate of affliction is even worse; African-American men

have the highest incidence of prostate cancer in the world.

In the past 5 years, the death rate for prostate cancer has grown at almost twice the death rate of breast cancer.

National Men's Health Network has encouraged the development of thousands of health awareness activities as corporations, hospital systems, clinics, faith-based communities, the public sector, and others use the month of June to highlight their services and reach out to men and their families.

Mr. Speaker, much progress has been made in the past 20 years with improvements in the health and well-being of men and boys, with a dramatic improvement in life expectancy and surprising drops in key mortality indicators.

There has been a steep drop among males in overall mortality, and corresponding improvements in the mortality rates for cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

Our goal this month should be to raise awareness about men's health in our communities and to support National Men's Health Week and to rededicate ourselves to providing support for our men by further educating ourselves and our communities on Men's Health and effects.

Recognizing and preventing men's health problems is not just a man's issue because it impacts wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters.

Men's health is truly a family issue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in the recognition of National Men's Health Week, and ask all Americans to take time this month to find out what you can do to help the growing population of the men around you.

HONORING MARY ALLEN LINDEMANN AND ALAN SPEAR

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 13, 2014

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a wife-and-husband team in my District for being selected as the Small Business Administration's Maine Small Business Person of the Year for 2014.

Mary Allen Lindemann and Alan Spear founded Coffee by Design (CBD) in Portland, Maine, 20 years ago with one part-time employee. From its humble beginnings, CBD has become a Maine institution. Today it employs 55 people, sells its coffee wholesale to numerous clients across Maine and the country, and has five locations, including a beautiful new 45,000-square-foot roastery, office, café, and training facility.

All this growth has not detracted one bit from the company's commitment to locally roasting, blending, and brewing a superior cup of coffee.

As much as for the taste of its coffee, though, people in Maine love CBD for its community mindedness—locally and internationally. Giving herself the title of "Community Builder," Mary Allen has made sure that CBD takes great care of its employees, supports and leads many community causes, and cre-

ates a welcoming and compassionate feel for all who come into the company's coffee houses. As "Chief Bean," Alan travels the world seeking coffee sources that use sustainable practices and treat farmers fairly. Under their leadership, CBD has shown that businesses can have a heart without sacrificing success.

I appreciate the SBA for recognizing CBD and other small businesses for their leadership, as well as supporting their growth with the help of local banks and other partners. My sincere congratulations to Alan and Mary Allen as well as all the other Maine businesses being recognized this year.

THE ONGOING STRUGGLE AGAINST BOKO HARAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 13, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, since November 2013, the U.S. government has declared Boko Haram and its affiliate Ansaru to be Foreign Terrorist Organizations. This supposedly provides further tools with which to fight such organizations and their sponsors. However, an Administration that resisted the FTO designation for so long continues to downplay its significance. A hearing that I held earlier this week was intended to provide information on that reluctance and on obstacles to our effective security and/or military assistance to the Nigerian government in this anti-terror fight.

Boko Haram is a Nigerian terrorist group whose full name in Arabic means "people committed to the propagation of the Prophet's teachings and jihad." The name "Boko Haram" is a translation from Hausa meaning that conventional education (boko) is forbidden (haram).

According to various reports, Boko Haram began in 2003 when about 200 university students and unemployed youth created a camp in Yobe State near the Niger border to withdraw from what they considered the corrupt, sinful and unjust Nigerian government, and their community was supposedly founded on Islamic law. The group was then known by the nickname the Nigerian Taliban. Violent clashes with Nigerian security forces nearly destroyed the group several times, but its charismatic leader, Mohammed Yusuf kept the group alive until his death while in police custody in July 2009. Since Yusuf's death, there have been various spokesmen but one person who is believed to be the nominal leader: Abubakar Shekau. Furthermore, a breakaway group known as Ansaru has appeared on the scene, but still coordinates with the original Boko Haram.

Because of its repeated attacks against Christian targets during holy days such as Christmas and Easter, Boko Haram is seen by some as principally an anti-Christian organization. This past year alone, Boko Haram terrorists are believed to have killed more than 1,000 Christians in Nigeria. In fact, it is estimated that more than 60 percent of Christians killed worldwide because of religious intolerance die in Nigeria. However, it would not be

a completely accurate interpretation of the facts to assume that what is happening in Nigeria is just a Muslim-Christian conflict.

The kidnapping of nearly 300 Nigerian schoolgirls in the Borno State town of Chibok on April 14 has caught the attention of the international community, albeit two weeks after the incident. However, the kidnapping of eight additional girls after that has been an afterthought, and the kidnapping of another 20 women last week has yet to receive much notice. Prior to the April kidnappings, Boko Haram had generally killed boys but let girls go, warning them to go home and give up their dreams of education. There have been previous incidents, however, in which girls have been kidnapped, though not in large numbers as in Chibok.

Now Boko Haram leaders realize that kidnapping girls gets worldwide publicity, and whether these girls are recovered or not, they know that they can do this again to get publicity for their group. The very news media used to galvanize pressure on Nigeria to obtain the freedom of the kidnapped girls is being used by Boko Haram to brag of its ability to disrupt society and taunt Nigerians and their government about their ability to take their women and girls away. Several videos, purportedly of the kidnapped Chibok girls, have been released, echoing previously-used al-Qaeda tactics in this regard.

In the past two years, our subcommittee has sent a staff delegation to investigate the Boko Haram threat; this past September, Gregory Simpkins, our subcommittee's staff director, and I visited Abuja and Jos to further look into this matter, and I just returned the other day from Abuja, where I took time out from another human rights mission in Nigeria to further investigate the ongoing struggle against this terrorist threat.

Last week, I met in Abuja with one of the Chibok girls who escaped early on in the ordeal. This brave young woman has suffered much and was clearly traumatized and in emotional pain. You could hear it in her voice and see it in her eyes as she sat motionless, recounting her story. Yet she spoke of her concern not for herself, but her friends and classmates who remain in captivity.

I met with a Muslim father of two girls abducted from the Chibok School. Fighting back tears, he said the agony was unbearable. The story of his daughters underscored the fact that Boko Haram brutalizes Muslims as well.

I also met with other Boko Haram victims, including a Christian mother whose two daughters were abducted in February 2012. She told us her husband was shot on the spot. Three months later, Boko Haram returned and asked if her son had converted to Islam. When she said no—he was shot and killed. We wasted more than a year of not using all our tools because of the specious argument that doing so would provide publicity to terrorists, and now the Administration is downplaying what the FTO designation can accomplish. There must be robust use of the benefits of this designation if we are to be successful in the battle against terrorism in Nigeria.

The three criteria for an organization to be declared a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the U.S. government are: 1) it must be a for-

eign organization, 2) it must engage in terrorist activity, and 3) it must threaten the security of United States nationals, U.S. national security or the economic interests of the United States. Clearly, Boko Haram/Ansaru meets that test. This was why I introduced H.R. 3209 last year to urge the Administration to declare Boko Haram a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

The proliferation of voices speaking for Boko Haram and the new faction lead some to believe this is not a coherent organization, but we have learned that it is actually a very sophisticated organization operating in cells disconnected from each other but coordinating at a high level. Some also believe this group is purely a domestic terrorist group operating in Nigeria. We found that to be a false assumption as well.

Boko Haram/Ansaru does wage attacks on the Nigerian government and other domestic targets. Nevertheless, their actions prove their participation in the global jihad movement that wages violent war worldwide to establish their skewed version of Islam as the prevailing religion globally. Various actions, such as the bombing of the United Nations Abuja office in August 2011, and numerous statements from Boko Haram spokesmen indicate their international intent.

This international focus has been confirmed by American and Nigerian intelligence information. In fact, there was at least one American present during the U.N. bombing, which if the Administration had acknowledged that at the time, would have created pressure to use the FTO designation then. As recently as the Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on May 21st, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Sarah Sewell would neither confirm nor deny that fact. In fact, the State Department has refused to confirm what we now know to be true since the 2011 U.N. building bombing. When then-Assistant Secretary of State Johnny Carson told us in our July 2012 hearing on Nigeria that Boko Haram's attacks were caused mostly by animus against the Nigerian government, he was wrong in his apportionment of cause and effect. There is tremendous animus toward the Nigerian government and an effort to embarrass President Jonathan. However, Boko Haram is determined to convert or kill Christians and Muslims they believe oppose them.

Poverty did not create Boko Haram—religious fanaticism did. Still, underdevelopment in northern Nigeria provides fodder for a level of discontent with the federal government that provides at least tacit northern support for anyone opposing the government. If northern Nigeria were its own country, it would be among the poorest, least educated, least healthy countries in the world.

Largely due to the terrorist violence in the North, an estimated 3.3 million Nigerians are displaced—making Nigeria the world's third largest displaced population, behind only Syria and Columbia. Many of those displaced people are farmers, which will certainly disrupt the next harvesting season and further impoverish Nigeria's suffering people.

Yet the blame for the perennial lack of development in northern Nigeria should not be heaped on the federal government alone. We have been told that northern states have money for development, and one national leg-

islator from the north acknowledged that each member of Nigeria's Parliament has at least \$1 million dollars (not Nigerian naira) at his or her disposal to use for constituent services. National and state governments in Nigeria have to be pushed to do more on development with money they already have. It is imperative that we provide the training and support for Nigerians to develop their own capacity to help Nigeria to end the Boko Haram threat. The Leahy Law, which forbids U.S. support for military and security forces involved in human rights violations, is seen as an obstacle to achieving that goal. We need to examine this matter further if our assistance is to be effective.

We also need to ensure that our investigative capacity under the Foreign Terrorist Organization designation is sufficient to identify those providing material and other assistance to Boko Haram. Without this element, our sanctions on Boko Haram and its leaders will not be effective.

The Boko Haram crisis is complex, but it can be understood and tackled effectively if we know the relevant facts. We had witnesses at the hearing I held who shed significant light on this situation so that we are better able to proceed in helping to end this threat to Nigeria, its neighbors, and the international community.

TRIBUTE TO RUBY DEE LEGENDARY STAR OF STAGE AND SCREEN, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, AND TRAILBLAZER WHO OPENED DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERATIONS OF PERFORMING ARTISTS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 13, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and remember the great Ruby Dee, one of the most talented and influential actresses in American history and a committed activist for social and economic justice for more than 60 years.

Ruby Dee passed away peacefully in her New Rochelle, New York home on June 11, 2014. She was 91 years old.

Born Ruby Ann Wallace in 1922 in Cleveland, Ohio, Ruby Dee moved to New York's Harlem as a small child where she was raised by her father, Marshall Wallace, and his wife, Amelia, a schoolteacher and stickler for elocution and the person who introduced Ruby Dee to poetry, music and dance.

It was in her Harlem school where Ruby Dee first read a passage from a play for her class mates and was met with applause, sparking her passion for acting.

After graduating from Hunter College in 1945, she embarked upon a truly remarkable stage and screen career, one that lasted nearly 70 years. She was a member of the American Negro Theatre where she acted alongside other legends such as Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, and Hilda Simms.

In 1946, Ruby Dee appeared in her first movie, a musical called "That Man of Mine."

She went on to star in several acclaimed films including "The Jackie Robinson Story," "The Incident," "Purlie Victorious," "Do the Right Thing," and "American Gangster," for which she was nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Academy Award, the second oldest person ever to be nominated.

Ruby Dee is perhaps best known for extraordinary portrayals of Ruth Younger in the stage and screen productions of Lorraine Hansberry's timeless classic, "A Raisin in the Sun," for which she received the National Board of Review Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Playing the wife of the main character, Walter Lee Younger (played by Sidney Poitier), Ruby Dee's Ruth Younger was, as the New York Times put it: "a character with far too much on her plate: an overcrowded home, a troubled husband, a young son, an overbearing mother-in-law, a wearying job and an unwanted pregnancy, not to mention the shared burden of black people everywhere in a society skewed against them."

Over her illustrious 70 year career, Ruby Dee was the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Emmy, the Grammy, the Obie, the Screen Actors Guild, and the Drama Desk Awards.

In 1995 President Clinton awarded her the National Medal of Arts and in 2008 she received the Spingarn Medal, the highest honor

bestowed by the NAACP. That same year she also received the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal in recognition for her active engagement and "personal presence at pivotal moments in the tumultuous history of American civil rights."

In 1946, Ruby Dee joined the cast of the Broadway-bound play, "Jeb," where she met Ossie Davis, the play's lead character, and the man who would become her husband and soul mate in 1948.

Over the next 59 years Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis performed together on stage and screen numerous times and were united in their protests against injustice, whether it was speaking out in the 1950s against the executions of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg; McCarthyism; or the revocation of Paul Robeson's passport.

They protested the Vietnam War and marched for civil rights, voting rights, women's rights, environmental justice, and against South African apartheid. In 1963, at the March on Washington, the couple served as the masters of ceremonies at Washington Monument entertainment event preceding the march to the Lincoln Memorial.

Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis counted among their close friends both the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X; Presidents Carter, Clinton, Obama; and Nelson Mandela.

Throughout her life, the husky-voiced Ruby Dee was a profile in courage. She bravely stood up for her beliefs and spoke truth to power when many did not out of fear that association with controversial causes would have an adverse effect on their careers.

But because of her courage and steadfastness, the doors of opportunity would later be opened to future generations of performing artists of all races, creeds, and backgrounds.

It truly can be said that Ruby Dee was an inspiration for African-American performers and women around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Ruby Dee lived a long, fulfilling, storied and consequential life. She made her mark in the world. More important, she made a difference in the lives of untold numbers of girls aspiring to realize their dreams.

I hope that Ruby Dee's family and loved ones are comforted by the fact that so many people all around the world are mourning with them at this difficult time.

So today one of our nation's greatest actress has taken her final bow and the curtain has come down on the extraordinary passion play that is and was the life of the legendary, talented, and supremely beautiful Ruby Dee.

Her next play will be in Heaven, accompanied by a chorus of angels.

SENATE—Monday, June 16, 2014

The Senate met at 2:00 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of all, You loved us before we loved You. Accept our thanksgiving for the gifts of life, love, and laughter.

Come among our lawmakers and manifest Your unifying love. Strengthen them in their work, leading them with Your wisdom. Lord, empower them to do Your work on Earth, even as it is done in Heaven. May they labor with the confidence that they are kept by Your power. Guide them into the future inspired by the knowledge that their times are in Your hands.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 428, the appropriations bill at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 428, H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. this afternoon.

At 5:30 p.m. there will be three cloture votes on U.S. district court judges: Mendoza, from Washington, Yandle from Illinois, and Gayles from Florida.

2014 WORLD CUP

Mr. President, on the lower level of the Statue of Liberty, there is a poem. It says a lot. It was written by Emma Lazarus.

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me.

Those words encapsulate what is good about America. Those few lines represent the very makeup of this great country.

Over its history our Nation has welcomed the tired and poor of the world and made them strong. We have opened our doors to the best the world has to offer, and the United States has become better for it. Our country is a melting pot. Every aspect of our society reflects that, especially our athletes and soccer in particular.

I can remember when my middle son came home one night—he was just a boy; I assume he was maybe 10 years old—and he said, “I want to play soccer.”

I said, “What?”

“I want to play soccer.”

Soccer was not much of a sport in Nevada at that time. I thought, you know, if you are going to be an athlete, you have to play football, basketball, baseball, run track, high jump, long jump.

“I want to play soccer,” he said.

OK. And play soccer he did. That began for me a great education, and it was so good for my son Leif, my middle

boy. They had a great team. My wife and I started going to the games and learning about soccer. It was so much fun. When we moved back here, he was a freshman in high school and suffered a very badly broken leg playing soccer, so his career ended there.

My next boy was a baseball player.

My youngest boy was a gifted athlete. I boasted about him for many years. He was a soccer player, and he also played basketball. He played soccer on two national championship teams for the University of Virginia. By the time he went there, I had watched hundreds of soccer games. For him to play at this premier school with great athletes, playing soccer across the country, was really an experience and, again, an education.

For example, one of my son's teammates was the famous Claudio Reyna. Claudio was so good. It was a team of many great athletes. My son was a gifted athlete and everybody on the team was good, but Claudio Reyna was better than anyone.

Claudio's dad emigrated from Argentina. His mom was from a Portuguese family. They lived in New Jersey, where he was recruited to play for the University of Virginia. My son came from a different background. His grandfather was born in Russia, emigrated to the United States. His grandmother on my wife's side had Lithuanian blood. My grandmother emigrated from England.

So he and Claudio were on that team, and it would be hard to find two young men with more different backgrounds than they. They were teammates.

Their other teammates had backgrounds that were similarly unusual, different—a young man from Spain, one from Jamaica. An All-American named Damien Silvera was from Jamaica. These young men, 11 players—and some who didn't play all the time—came from different cities and different cultures, but they were one. They were a team. They were in rhythm, always united in purpose.

They were coached by the great Bruce Arena, a famous coach who coached the Olympic team—in fact, coached one of the first championships here, playing for the Washington professional team here. He is now coaching for L.A. They won the championship there many times. He was good with a diverse group of men and women playing in sync. It was really beautiful to watch. I guess that is why they call soccer the beautiful game.

Tonight our men's soccer team will play Ghana in its first game—since being twice knocked out by Ghana—in the 2014 World Cup.

The World Cup is special, watched by more people than the Olympics. It comes around every 4 years, and Americans from all walks of life and all backgrounds watch together in support of our Nation's soccer team. But our support for Team USA comes from more than just athletics. It is more than just competition. I think we see a bit of ourselves in the team. Our unique connection to the U.S. men's soccer players stems from the team's composition. The roster is a reflection of America itself. It is diverse, yet it is united. It is a reflection of us.

Our head coach Jurgen Klinsmann was a legendary soccer player. I can remember his playing in the World Cup. He was from Germany and played for West Germany. He has lived in the United States for a number of years.

One of the team's defenders is a man by the name of Omar Gonzalez—Texas-born, Mexican American—who played professionally in Los Angeles for Bruce Arena.

Our striker, Aron Johannsson, is a 23-year-old Alabama-born Icelandic who plays in the Netherlands.

DaMarcus Beasley is the team's 32-year-old veteran defender from Indiana, who plays professionally in Mexico.

Jermaine Jones, who plays midfield, is the German-born son of an American soldier and plays professionally in Turkey.

These are just a number of examples. There are so many more. The entire roster is an illustration of America's diversity. We are, after all, a nation of immigrants.

Under Klinsmann's direction, these players will bring their unique talents and experiences from across the world and coalesce under one flag—the American flag. I wish the team all the best tonight against Ghana. I will be watching and cheering on the team.

Another reason I love soccer: You don't have all those advertisements interrupting the game. It is a free-flowing athletic contest. There is the background of announcers talking about what just took place, and sometimes we don't fully understand it, but the game goes for 45 minutes and then another 45 minutes, for a total of 90 minutes, plus whatever penalty time they get—an extra 3 to 5 minutes after the 45 minutes is up—not interrupted by commercials.

So I admit I will be watching and cheering on the game. I hope our colleagues do the same, and I have confidence they will. When we do watch this team out there, watch what our team represents, what America stands for. See what makes this great country of ours so special. The United States really has given refuge to the tired, the poor, the huddled masses of the world, and they have become strong Americans, and we as a nation are better for it.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. President, I would ask the Chair to announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I hope the Presiding Officer and my colleagues had a great Father's Day this past Sunday. I had maybe the best Father's Day you can imagine because I got to spend part of it with my two sons and my father. We all went out to dinner with my wife, and it was a really special day.

I come to the floor with both a light and heavy heart, light because I got to experience Father's Day in a way I wish thousands of other people across the country could experience it. The statistics of the number of people who are killed by guns every year is pretty stunning. There are tens of thousands of people all across this country who are losing their fathers and sons, in part because the Senate doesn't do anything to try to stem the scourge of gun violence across the country.

As the Presiding Officer knows, I try to come to the floor every week for about 10 minutes or so to try and give voice to the victims of gun violence.

Today, 24 hours having passed Father's Day, maybe we can talk a little bit about those who have lost their fathers and their sons—little boys such as Logan Soldo.

Logan is about to turn 1. He certainly doesn't know what happened to his father Igor, but when he is old enough, unfortunately he will hear a pretty horrific story. His father—having fled war-torn Bosnia as a 13-year-old to settle in the United States—was killed in a shooting at a Walmart, which got a lot of attention about a week or so ago.

Jared and Amanda Miller—fairly well-known radicals in the Las Vegas area—walked into a Walmart and shot Igor Soldo, a police officer, while he was eating at a restaurant.

People talked about Igor and his journey. As I mentioned, he came here from the Balkans when he was 13 years old and graduated from Southeast High School in Lincoln, NE. Following high school, he studied criminal justice at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and worked part time as a corrections officer for 3 years in Lincoln where he met his wife Andrea. The couple were married in 2009. They were planning on celebrating their son's first birthday. His birthday will be on July 7. They were going to return from Las Vegas to Lincoln to celebrate it with friends and family, but instead Igor's family ventured and journeyed from Lincoln to Las Vegas to bid farewell to their son, who was a police officer killed in this episode of horrific violence which killed two others and eventually also led to the death of the two shooters.

One of his fellow officers, who was one of Igor's close buddies, told the story at his funeral about how close Igor was to his son. He said, through tears, to the crowd:

I started getting pictures of Igor and Logan. I would see him with Logan over at the house and it was clear . . . our once epic romance was being replaced.

Logan Soldo will never know his dad, but there are thousands who lose their sons every year.

Over the weekend some of my colleagues might have had a chance to read an op-ed in the Washington Post written by Mark Barden and David Wheeler. Mark and David lost their sons, Daniel and Ben, in Sandy Hook. They talked about what Father's Day has become. They said:

We know Father's Day is meant to be a day when fathers sit back on their couches, watch sports and take it easy. But this Father's Day, we ask you to do one thing differently. Look at your children, your beautiful, growing, pesky children who bring you so much joy and sometimes cause you so much heartache, and ask yourself—really ask yourself—this: Am I doing everything I can to keep them safe? Because the answer to that question, if we all answer honestly, clearly is no.

Of course, that is the answer here in the Senate because we have witnessed over 70 school shootings since Sandy Hook. There were 35 school shootings this year alone, and we are not even halfway through the year. There are 31,000 people a year—2,600 people a month, 86 people a day—who are killed by guns, and we do nothing.

We tried to pass a pretty simple bill that would expand the number of sales that would be subjected to a background check—supported by 80 percent of the American public—on the floor of this Senate, but because of a Republican filibuster, we could not get it to a final vote. The numbers are clearly not moving people, so hopefully the stories will, stories such as that of one particular father who has become the face, in many ways, of the Sandy Hook tragedy, Neil Heslin.

Many people have heard Mr. Heslin talk because he probably talks in the most poignant, open, soul-baring terms of any of the parents.

Twenty-four hours removed from Father's Day—which many of us got to spend with our dads and our kids—I will leave you with the words from Neil Heslin's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee:

On December 14, Jesse got up and got ready for school. He was always excited to go to school. I remember on that day we stopped by Misty Vale Deli. It's funny the things you remember. I remember the hug he gave me when I dropped him off. He just held me, and he rubbed my back. I can still feel that hug.

And Jesse said, "It's going to be alright. Everything's going to be okay, Dad." Looking back it makes me wonder. What did he know? Did he have some idea about what was going to happen? But at the time I didn't think much of it. He was just being sweet.

He was always being sweet like that. He was the kind of kid who used to leave me voice messages where he'd sing me happy birthday even if it wasn't my birthday. I'd ask him about it, and he'd say, "I just wanted to make you feel happy." Half the time I felt like he was the parent and I was his son.

Taking a break from Neil's testimony for a second, this was Neil's only family. He was separated from his wife. Neil has been unemployed, bopping between different housing situations. His entire family—his entire life—was his son Jesse.

Neil went on to say:

Jesse just had this idea that you never leave people hurt. If you can help somebody, you do it. If you can make somebody feel better, you do it. If you can leave somebody a little better off, you do it.

They tell me that's how he died.

When he heard the shooting—at Sandy Hook Elementary School that day—he didn't run and hide. He started yelling. People disagree on the last thing he said. One person who was there said he yelled "run." Another person said he told everybody to "run now."

What I know is that Jesse wasn't shot in the back. He took two bullets. The first one grazed off the side of his head, but that didn't stop him from yelling. The other hit him in the forehead. Both bullets were fired from the front.

I hate to say it but even when you know your community has been hit, you hope and pray it wasn't your boy. They had us all to go to a fire station to wait and see if our kids would make it out of the school. By 3:30, maybe 4 o'clock, they told us there were no more survivors. I should have realized. They'd basically told me my son was dead, but I waited. I told the people what to look for, what he'd been wearing that day. He had this striped shirt and Carhartt jacket, and these pants that fit him in September, but then he hit a growth spurt. I gave the description and I waited some more. I waited and I hoped, until 1:30 in the morning. That's when they told me he wasn't coming.

Breaking away from his testimony again for a second, I was at that fire house, and I will never forget the scene of Neil Heslin sitting by himself hour after hour.

Returning to his testimony, he concludes by saying:

Before he died, Jesse and I used to talk about maybe coming to Washington some

day. He wanted to go to the Washington Monument. When he talked about it last year, Jesse asked if we could come and meet the President.

I said earlier that I can be a little cynical about politicians. But Jesse believed in you.

This is Neil talking to us.

He learned about you in school and he believed in you. I want to believe in you, too. I know you can't give me Jesse back. Believe me, if I thought you could I'd be asking you for that. But I want to believe that you will think about what I told you here today. I want to believe you'll think about it and then you'll do something about it, whatever you can do to make sure no other father has to see what I've seen.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask to be recognized in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

DEFENSE PROCUREMENT CONTRACTING

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, when I first exercised congressional oversight of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program in 2010—at that time I was the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee—I saw a program in turmoil. Perhaps the most significant indication of that was that while the program had exploded from its original overly optimistic development cost estimates by more than \$15 billion and was delayed by 5 years, without the prospect of delivering needed warfighting capability anywhere on the horizon, the program's prime contractor consistently received most of those award fees that were available to it under its contracts with the government. Let me repeat. The contractor continued to receive award fees that were supposed to be given in case of the program meeting certain milestones. In fact, it exceeded the cost estimates by \$15 billion and was delayed by 5 years.

Since 2010 major challenges have continued to arise. Just days ago the Department of Defense grounded the entire F-35 fleet because of an in-flight emergency involving a leak of engine oil. This is the second grounding of the F-35 fleet due to engine problems in the last 16 months.

Much work remains to be done in the program, including validating design and operational performance; installing state-of-the-art flight and combat software programs—those programs are still being written—and making the F-35 affordable, with life-cycle costs esti-

mated at more than \$1 trillion—the first weapons system in the history of this country that is estimated to cost \$1 trillion. While the Government Accountability Office has said the program is "moving in the right direction," this is clearly a program that has had and continues to have major problems.

With this in mind, I was greatly concerned when I read an article last week entitled "Carter: JSF Program Manager Based F-35 Award Fees on Desire to Protect Lockheed Exec." It was on InsideDefense.com. The article describes comments made by former Deputy Secretary of Defense and Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Ashton Carter—a man I admire a great deal—in a speech at Harvard University on May 16, 2014. He revealed that while the Joint Strike Fighter Program was suffering from massive cost growth and scheduling delays, the government's program manager for JSF consistently awarded prime contractor Lockheed Martin most of its available award fees due to concern about the job security of his Lockheed Martin counterpart.

Appropriately, the Department of Defense fired its program manager, a Marine Corps two-star general, in February 2010. While that official had been giving away millions of taxpayers' dollars to his friend in the industry, regardless of how exceedingly poor the Joint Strike Fighter Program was performing, independent cost estimates were briefing the Pentagon that the Joint Strike Fighter Program might exceed its original budget estimates by as much as \$60 billion.

To understand why the cost to procure these fighters exploded, then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Carter requested a breakdown of F-35 costs and challenged the program manager as to why he had been giving Lockheed Martin upward of 85 percent of the maximum award fee it could have earned. As Secretary Carter recounted, that official said:

I like the program manager on the Lockheed Martin side that I work with. And he tells me that if he gets less than an 85-percent award fee, he is going to get fired.

This is totally unacceptable. It is the kind of cronyism that should make us all vigilant against, as President Eisenhower warned us over 50 years ago, the "military industrial complex." In this case, it appears taxpayers paid a massive premium for the friendship between the government's and the contractor's program managers. As disturbing as these recent revelations are, this incident also raises a few other questions. For example, why were award fee criteria that exposed those Joint Strike Fighter Program contracts to the risk of being abused in exactly this way originally negotiated into that contract? Why would the contract allow such a thing?

Where was this program manager's superiors, the Service Acquisition Executive, and particularly on the Joint Strike Fighter Program the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Technology and Logistics? What about his superiors. Were they not supposed to be overseeing how and why he was awarding Lockheed Martin fees throughout the relevant period?

This whole episode underscores the importance of ethics in government contracting. If the program manager or the program executive officers, senior officials in the acquisition chain of command do not recognize the fiduciary responsibility they have to the taxpayer in their stewardship of defense dollars, any attempt to reform the defense procurement process or otherwise exercise vigilance vis-a-vis the military industrial complex will fail.

This episode also emphasizes the importance of the trade craft of government procurement contracting. Those skills and judgment that comprise the trade craft of government procurement contracting provide government acquisition managers with the tools he or she needs to keep the "unwarranted influence" of the military industrial complex at bay and make sure the product or service to be delivered into his or her watch will be delivered on time, with the required capability, and at a reasonable cost.

That starts with structuring government procurement contracts properly so that given the nature of the work and the deliverables being placed on contract, one, exactly the kind of performance that is important to the government in a given program is being incentivized, and, two, the government is incentivizing its industry partner to render that performance effectively. If in a given program the performance that is important to us is cost control, as it should have been in the case of the Joint Strike Fighter Program development contracts, why were we even using an award fee as opposed to an incentive fee contract?

By their very nature, incentive fee contracts provide that the cost of overruns be shared between industry and government and therefore incentivizes prime contractors to minimize them. This, of course, has not been a problem that has been limited to the Joint Strike Fighter Program. For years we have seen a widespread use of award fee contracts, including those that support major defense acquisition programs with subjective measures of award fees not clearly tied to cost control.

Any internal Department of Defense guidance that simply prescribes the use of "appropriate" contract types that are not accompanied by effective guidance and training on exactly how contract types should be tailored to a given product or service should be viewed with skepticism.

This matter, and indeed the broader possibility that the episode that Dr. Carter alluded to in his speech may be more pervasive throughout the whole of government than we realize and should concern all congressional committees of jurisdiction, inspectors general, and Americans who value how their taxpayer dollars are being used.

I repeat: As a proud supporter of our Nation's defense, as an outspoken opponent of sequestration and the damage it is doing to our Nation and our ability to defend it, when we look at a program such as this, where it exceeded its original cost estimates by more than \$15 billion and more than 5 years of delay and there are still problems with the most expensive weapons system in history, and the first time \$1 trillion is being spent on one weapons system, we need to do a lot better.

One of the actions that has to be taken, which has not been taken, is holding people accountable. I remember talking at a hearing and asking the Chief of Naval Operations about the USS *Gerald R. Ford*, their brandnew aircraft carrier. It had a \$3 billion cost overrun. I asked the Chief of Naval Operations who was responsible. The Chief of Naval operations said he did not know. That is absolutely unacceptable.

So what we are doing by these terrible cost overruns—and the list goes on and on. I will come to the floor one of these days with a long list of programs that did not even reach fruition, that were canceled, such as the Future Combat System Program that the Army was touting for many years, for which we got zero return at a cost, as I recall, of over \$3 billion.

Unless we fix this cost overrun problem, the American people will stop supporting spending money on defense. That is just a fact. It is time we in Congress exercised much greater oversight, much greater scrutiny, much greater questioning, both before, during, and after the acquisition process. I strongly recommend the work of inspectors general. I strongly recommend using the Government Accountability Office, which is one of our most important tools. I strongly recommend using committee staffs and sending them to the places where these weapons systems are being assembled to get detailed briefings because this has to stop. I am getting a little bit repetitious over the years saying it has to stop, but when we look at the strains and the challenges around this globe that are taking place now, from the China Sea to Iraq, we are going to have to have a strong national defense. We cannot have that with these outrageous and unacceptable cost overruns.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the cloture vote on Calendar No. 778, Gayles, the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 788, Wells, and the Senate proceed to vote on the confirmation of the nomination; further, that if confirmed the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. We hope this will be a voice vote, but we still expect to have three rollcall votes starting in 15 minutes.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse,

Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie K. Hirono.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 192 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Pryor
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Rockefeller
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cantwell	Landrieu	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Levin	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Udall (CO)
Coons	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Walsh
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	
Heinrich	Nelson	

NAYS—37

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Wicker
Cruz	Lee	
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—8

Begich	Graham	Rubio
Blunt	Harkin	Vitter
Cochran	Roberts	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 55, the nays are 37. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF SALVADOR MENDOZA, JR., TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Staci Michelle Yandle, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Menendez, Barbara A. Mikulski, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Staci Michelle Yandle, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 193 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Cantwell	Donnelly
Bennet	Cardin	Durbin
Blumenthal	Carper	Feinstein
Booker	Casey	Franken
Boxer	Collins	Gillibrand
Brown	Coons	Hagan

Heinrich	Menendez	Schumer
Heitkamp	Merkley	Shaheen
Hirono	Mikulski	Stabenow
Johnson (SD)	Murkowski	Tester
Kaine	Murphy	Udall (CO)
King	Murray	Udall (NM)
Klobuchar	Nelson	Walsh
Landrieu	Pryor	Warner
Leahy	Reed	Warren
Levin	Reid	Whitehouse
Manchin	Rockefeller	Wyden
Markey	Sanders	
McCaskill	Schatz	

NAYS—37

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Wicker
Cruz	Lee	
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—8

Begich	Graham	Rubio
Blunt	Harkin	Vitter
Cochran	Roberts	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 55, the nays are 37. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF STACI MICHELLE YANDLE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Staci Michelle Yandle, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Darrin P. Gayles, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Menendez, Barbara A. Mikulski, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination

of Darrin P. Gayles, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 194 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Pryor
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Rockefeller
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cantwell	Landrieu	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Levin	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Udall (CO)
Coons	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Walsh
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	
Heinrich	Nelson	

NAYS—37

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeben	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Wicker
Cruz	Lee	
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—8

Begich	Graham	Rubio
Blunt	Harkin	Vitter
Cochran	Roberts	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 55, the nays are 37. The motion to invoke cloture is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF DARRIN P. GAYLES TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk reported the nomination of Darrin P. Gayles, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

NOMINATION OF ALICE G. WELLS TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the Wells nomination.

The bill clerk reported the nomination of Alice G. Wells, of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Alice G. Wells, of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I previously filed budgetary aggregates and committee allocations for budget year 2015 pursuant to section 116 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. Today, I am adjusting those levels.

Section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits, while sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. On May 22, the Committee on Appropriations reported one bill that is eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act: the Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, which includes \$100 million in budget authority and \$43 million in outlays that is designated as disaster funding.

Consequently, I am revising the budgetary aggregates for 2015 by a total of \$100 million in budget authority and \$43 million in outlays. I am also revising the budget authority and outlay allocations to the appropriations committee for 2015 by \$100 million in nonsecurity budget authority and \$43 million in total outlays.

I ask unanimous consent that the following tables detailing the changes to the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations and the budgetary aggregates be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BUDGETARY AGGREGATES—PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 311 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

	[\$\$ in millions]	
	2014	2015
Current Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	2,842,558	2,939,993
Outlays	2,819,514	3,004,163
Adjustments:		
Budget Authority	0	100
Outlays	0	43
Revised Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	2,842,558	2,940,093
Outlays	2,819,514	3,004,206

REVISIONS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

[In millions of dollars]

	Current allocation/limit	Adjustments*	Adjusted allocation/limit
Fiscal Year 2015:			
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority	521,272	0	521,272
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	492,356	100	492,456
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	1,160,500	43	1,160,543
Memorandum: Total Discretionary Budget Authority	1,013,628	100	1,013,728

* Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2015 ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

[\$s in billions]

	Program integrity	Disaster relief	Emergency	Overseas contingency operations	Total
Agriculture:					
Budget Authority	0.000	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100
Outlays	0.000	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043
Total:					
Budget Authority	0.000	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100
Outlays	0.000	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043
Breakdown of Above Adjustments by Category:					
Revised Security Category Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Revised Nonsecurity Category Budget Authority	0.000	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	0.000	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043

VETERANS HEALTH CARE—H.R. 3230

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, last week the Senate passed H.R. 3230, Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act. Today, I rise to address some concerns my colleagues raised about whether veterans will be able to choose their own providers. Some may read section 301 of this bill to mean that VA is still in the driver seat. Specifically, that VA will be able to pick and choose which provider to contract with under this section and not offer veterans a true choice of where and from whom they receive their care. However, that is not our intent.

Our intent is to give veterans the choice of where and from whom they receive their care without interference from VA. Beyond that, H.R. 3230 provides that if a doctor or hospital approaches VA and states they want to help alleviate the current access problems, VA would be directed to contract with that doctor provided they participate in Medicare. Because this legislation requires VA to pay these providers at the Medicare rate, VA would be able to implement a standard contract for the care and services veterans receive and would allow VA to expeditiously implement a contract with that doctor and get veterans the care they need as soon as possible.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I wish to state for the record my strong support for S. 2450, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014. I also wish to state for the record that, though I was unfortunately already traveling to my son's high school graduation in Oregon at the time the vote was called, I would have voted aye on this legislation had I been present.

I was among the original cosponsors of this bill because I believe strongly that the VA system must do right by our veterans. Our veterans have stood up for us, and we must stand up for them.

Recent reports highlight the urgent need both for greatly increased accountability within the VA health sys-

tem and for greater resources to meet the needs of increasing numbers of veterans who are turning to the VA for health care. The current situation of extremely long wait times—and in some cases, secret waiting lists—is 100 percent unacceptable and must be fixed. Those who are responsible for these failings or any efforts to cover them up should swiftly lose their jobs. If they broke the law, then they should be prosecuted as well. Going forward, we must ensure that the VA system has the doctors and the resources it needs to give our vets the timely, top-notch care they deserve.

This bill gives the VA the power both to fire the administrators who need to be held accountable and to hire the additional doctors and nurses needed to improve the system. In addition, it contains a bipartisan provision I have worked on with Senator HELLER to expand education benefits for spouses of servicemembers who die in the line of duty. These are important improvements for our veterans and their families, and I am proud to support them.

I am very pleased to see this legislation move forward. I wish to once again state my strong support, and I urge the House to take up and pass this bill without delay.

2014 WORLD CUP

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today the United States men's soccer team begins its quest for World Cup glory in Brazil. The 23 players selected by head coach Jürgen Klinsmann include native New Jerseyans Tim Howard, Michael Bradley, Jozy Altidore, and Alejandro Bedoya. They have dedicated themselves to being the best at their craft, and now have an opportunity to represent the United States of America at the world's premier soccer event.

The World Cup is an extraordinary tournament whose reach extends well beyond the pitch. It has the incredible ability to unify peoples in celebration and even halt civil conflict, as was seen temporarily in Côte d'Ivoire in 2006. I sincerely hope that moving into the future, the institution of the World Cup can be a symbol of increased international cooperation.

While many consider the U.S. a relatively recent addition to the global soccer community compared to our friends in Europe and South America, we actually finished third at the first ever World Cup held in Uruguay in 1930. I hope that this U.S. team will build upon our rich soccer history and represent our great Nation well in our seventh consecutive World Cup appearance. As our supporters say, "onward U.S.A.!"

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CLINTON COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Clinton County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Clinton County worth over \$25 million and has successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought

hard to support, which have provided more than \$26.5 million to the local economy.

Of course, my favorite memories of working together include working tirelessly with local law enforcement, particularly with regard to funding to combat the scourge of drugs in the community, as well as numerous major projects to improve infrastructure and transportation in the community.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Eastern Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Clinton County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Clinton County, I have fought for more than \$13.3 million to redevelop Liberty Square, more than \$2.6 million for the 19th Avenue Connector, \$2.1 million for trails between Clinton and Comanche, and more than \$4 million for sewer infrastructure, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Clinton County has received more than \$1.6 million in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Clinton County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$145,000.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and

property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Clinton County has received over \$2.5 million to prevent tragedy associated with natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Clinton County has received more than \$1.5 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Clinton County's fire departments have received over \$3.1 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment, and the law enforcement community has received more than \$77,000 in Byrne Justice Assistance grants, \$75,000 for drug free communities, \$185,000 in funds dedicated to methamphetamine hot spots, and \$15,000 to assist drug endangered children.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our soci-

ety and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Clinton County, both those with and without disabilities. They make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Clinton County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Clinton County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

WORTH COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Worth County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$95 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be the community's success in obtaining more than \$93 million from funds made available

through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to build the Barton Wind Power Project.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Worth County has received \$234,876 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Worth County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$10,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Worth County has received more than \$740,000 from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as the methamphetamine epidemic. During the mid-to-late 1990s, cities in Worth County received \$186,512 in Community Oriented Policing Services grants. Also, since 2001, Worth County's fire departments have received over \$764,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and

the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Worth County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Worth County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Worth County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

CONGRATULATING KARTHIK ROHATGI

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, Today I recognize one of Nevada's brightest students—Karthik Rohatgi—for earning the prestigious title of Presidential Scholar from the U.S. Department of Education. Presidential Scholars are chosen for outstanding test scores, essays, grades, and community service commitments.

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars named only 141 scholars throughout the United States this year, and Karthik Rohatgi, who attends the Davidson Institute for Talent Development at the University of Nevada, Reno, is among them. Each Presidential Scholar will receive a medallion at a ceremony on June 22 in Washington, DC.

This young man's academic accomplishments serve to reinforce the important role of education in our State. As the father of four and husband to a lifelong teacher, ensuring that all of Nevada's students have access to a high-quality education is important to me. I strongly believe higher education opens the door to more job opportunities and professional fulfillment, as well as increased earning power. For this reason, I will continue working to support educators and students to ensure that Nevadans are well prepared to enter the workforce and begin successful careers.

On behalf of the residents of the Silver State, I am proud to recognize Karthik for his accomplishments and contributions to our State. He undoubtedly represents Nevada's best and brightest. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this exceptional young Nevadan.●

EDEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Eden, SD, on reaching its centennial anniversary. Since its beginning, this small town in Marshall County has embodied the values that South Dakota was founded upon. The residents of Eden will be celebrating this joyous occasion over the weekend of June 27-29, 2014.

Originally known as Eden Park, homesteaders settling the area chose its name because of the area's beautiful scenery and numerous surrounding lakes. Eden itself was founded after residents of Eden Park decided to relocate near the new railroad in 1914. Known for its fertile soil, Eden is surrounded by vibrant farmland and is home to several successful businesses.

Eden exemplifies the hometown community spirit of South Dakota. After 100 years Eden is still thriving, and it is my honor to publicly congratulate its residents on reaching this commendable milestone.●

REMEMBERING EPIFANIA "EPIE" ARCHULETA

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I wish to honor the lifetime contributions of Dr. Epifania "Epie" Archuleta to the cultural heritage of the San Luis Valley of Colorado and northern New Mexico. An internationally recognized weaver of the Rio Grande, Navajo, and Chimayo weaving traditions, Dr. Archuleta passed away on April 11 at age 92.

Born in Santa Cruz, NM, in 1922 to Agueda and Eusebio Martinez, Dr. Archuleta came from a long line of northern New Mexico weavers. In 1940, she married Francisco Archuleta and moved north to the small town of Capulin in Colorado's San Luis Valley, where she and Francisco farmed, ranched and raised eight children.

After the age of 60, Dr. Archuleta was able to focus on her weaving full time. Her passion for her craft extended to teaching the art of wool spinning, dying, and weaving to family, friends, community members, and eager students from distant States. She held classes in the small San Luis Valley towns of Capulin, Alamosa, and Center, at the San Luis Valley Area Vocational School, and 5 hours away in Denver. Through the years, she taught hundreds of eager students. Many of her students went on to establish their own weaving classes and schools throughout the southwestern United States.

By passing on the weaving tradition, Eppie empowered people—especially women—through teaching a valuable trade they could practice at home and remain with their children while making a decent living. When she was nearly 70, she opened a wool mill in Capulin, employing local citizens who could work close to home. Unfortunately, when her husband passed, Eppie closed the mill.

In 1985, Dr. Archuleta received the National Heritage Fellowship Award from the National Endowment for the Arts. She was the first Hispanic woman to receive this prestigious national award. A year later, she spent a 2-week residency at the Smithsonian Institute Festival of American Folklife in Washington, DC, during which four generations participated: Eppie, her mother Agueda Martinez, her daughter Norma Medina and her granddaughter Delores Archuleta. In 1991, she was featured in National Geographic Magazine, and in 1995, was awarded an honorary doctorate in art from Adams State University. Her weavings are on permanent display at the Smithsonian Institute.

A devout Catholic, Eppie donated pieces to churches including a weaving of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to the church in Medanales, NM, and a woven cape depicting Mt. Blanca to the statue of the Virgin Conquistadora in Santa Fe, NM.

Eppie's passing leaves a great loss to all who knew her. Whether picking up a lone traveler walking along the highway and taking them home, providing shelter, meals, and money in exchange for domestic chores and errands, volunteering at local fairs, festivals, and classrooms, or starting a wool mill or weaving school to employ a community, Eppie gave of her time and resources to assist many. She will not be replaced.●

RICHLAND COUNTY, MONTANA

● Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Richland County in eastern Montana as a testament to the strength of the American Dream.

This year, Richland County celebrates its 100th year anniversary. 100 years of ingenuity, 100 years of prosperity, and 100 years of history.

Throughout the years, Richland County has undergone many changes. The past century has seen booms in agriculture, the discovery of oil, the arrival of fracking, and a nation in peacetime and wartime. Through it all, the people who call the county home share the core values of service, honesty, and the willingness to help a neighbor in need.

When pioneers first settled in eastern Montana they were not guaranteed prosperity, but they brought with them a strong work ethic. That resilience was instrumental in the construction of the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation

Project canal that brought water to the area and allowed the pioneers to irrigate crops and develop the plains. The farmers were taming an area of the country many thought could not be tamed.

Today, agriculture producers from Richland County continue to grow the crops and raise the cattle that feed the world—working the land the same way those before them did.

In the 1970s, in a world hungry for oil, Richland County was eager to help supply the country with its resources. Through the decade to follow, the county boomed with energy through an age of prosperity. Now, hydraulic fracking and the development of the Bakken Formation bring Richland once again to the center of an energy boom unmatched anywhere in the United States.

Perhaps the greatest quality of the county is its kind citizens who are always willing to lend a hand to a neighbor. Despite their fast-paced lives, they still exhibit the same generosity, diligence, and spirit the pioneers brought to Richland County 100 years ago.

I congratulate Richland County for its contributions to our State, our Nation, and the world. We look forward to the next century being as exciting as the last.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4453. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations.

H.R. 4457. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker

appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a term ending on May 14, 2016: Ms. Hannah Rosenthal of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 4453. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations.

H.R. 4457. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6128. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's decision to enter into a contract with a private security screening company to provide screening services at Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN), Bert Mooney Airport (BTM), Glacier Park International Airport (GPI) and Yellowstone Airport (WYS); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6129. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Connect America Fund; High-Cost Universal Service Support" (RIN3060-AF85) (DA 14-534) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6130. A communication from the Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2013 Report to Congress on the Disclosure of Financial Interest and Recusal Requirements for Regional Fishery Management Councils and Scientific and Statistical Committees"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6131. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Specifications for the 2014-2016 Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Fishery" (RIN0648-XD069) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6132. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to List Five Species of Sturgeons as Endangered Under the Endangered Species Act" (RIN0648-XC101) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6133. A communication from the Program Analyst, Financial Operations Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth In Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission's Rules" (FCC 14-24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6134. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LLC Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0023)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6135. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Alpha Aviation Concept Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0130)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6136. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lowering Miners' Exposure to Respirable Coal Mine Dust, Including Continuous Personal Dust Monitors" (RIN1219-AB64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6137. A communication from the Executive Director, United States Access Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6138. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Rules Authorizing the Operation of Lower Power Auxiliary Stations in the 698-806 MHz Band; Public Interest Spectrum Coalition, Petition for Rulemaking Regarding Low Power Auxiliary Stations, Including Wireless Microphones, and the Digital Television; Amendment of Parts 15, 74, and 90 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Low Power Auxiliary Stations, Including Wireless Microphones" (FCC 14-62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6139. A communication from the Chief of the Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions" ((GN Docket No. 12-268) (FCC 14-50)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6140. A communication from the President of the United States to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Pow-

ers Resolution, a report relative to the deployment of certain U.S. forces to Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-256. A House joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado urging and requesting members of Congress to increase the federal minimum wage and thereafter tie it to inflation to help ensure that hard-working Americans can earn a fair wage and afford to care for their families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-1012

Whereas, The federal minimum wage was established through the "Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938", in response to the Great Depression, to ensure that workers earned enough to pay for necessities and minimum monthly expenses; and

Whereas, Since then, the cost of living has steadily increased while the federal minimum wage has generally remained stagnant; and

Whereas, Congress has only raised the minimum wage twice in the past 20 years; and

Whereas, The federal minimum wage, adjusted for inflation, has declined from its peak of \$10.72 in 1968 to \$7.25 today, a 33% decrease in purchasing power; and

Whereas, Under the current minimum wage, it is possible to work full time and still be under the minimum federal poverty line; and

Whereas, It is virtually impossible for a minimum-wage worker to afford a two-bedroom apartment in any state while working a 40-hour week; and

Whereas, Raising the federal minimum wage would decrease American dependency on public assistance programs, such as Section 8 housing vouchers and food stamps, in order to pay for living expenses and raising families; and

Whereas, The majority of those who would benefit from a minimum wage increase are full-time workers who are supporting their families in moderate- to low-income households; and

Whereas, For the vast majority of low-skilled or unskilled workers, the minimum wage should be simply a starting salary that gets them employed and gives them a chance to advance; and

Whereas, Increasing the minimum wage would immediately boost the wages of about 15 million low-income workers; and

Whereas, Raising the federal minimum wage is projected to significantly boost the economy at large by increasing purchasing power of workers, thereby increasing the United States' gross domestic product; and

Whereas, In 2006, Colorado voters decisively voted to approve Initiative 42, which raised the state minimum wage and tied it to inflation in order to preserve the purchasing power of Colorado workers and help ensure that they can support themselves and their families; and

Whereas, Colorado raised the minimum wage in 2011 and 2012 over the federal minimum, which contributed to a decrease in the unemployment rate from 8.73% to 7.2% during that two-year period; and

Whereas, Several other states have notably raised their minimum wages during times of high unemployment, including Washington,

Oregon, Ohio, and Arizona, and those states all experienced decreases of at least 1.5% in unemployment during the same two-year period; and

Whereas, Raising the minimum wage not only will stimulate the economy but will also lift millions of Americans out of poverty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein, That we, the Colorado General Assembly, urge and request members of Congress to increase the federal minimum wage and thereafter tie it to inflation to help ensure that hard-working Americans can earn a fair wage and afford to care for their families; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives and Senate, and the Majority and Minority Whips of the United States House of Representatives and Senate.

POM-257. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois urging Congress and the President of the United States to reauthorize the Terrorist Risk Insurance Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1124

Whereas, Insurance protects the United States economy from the adverse effects of the risks inherent in economic growth and development while also providing the resources necessary to rebuild physical and economic infrastructure, offer indemnification for business disruption, and provide coverage for medical and liability costs from injuries and loss of life in the event of catastrophic losses to persons or property; and

Whereas, The terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, produced insured losses larger than any natural or man-made event in history; claims paid by insurers to their policyholders eventually totaled some \$32.5 billion, making this the second-most costly insurance event in United States history; and

Whereas, The sheer enormity of the terrorist-induced loss, combined with the possibility of future attacks, produced financial shockwaves that shook insurance markets, causing insurers and reinsurers to exclude coverage arising from acts of terrorism from virtually all commercial property and liability policies; and

Whereas, The lack of terrorism risk insurance contributed to a paralysis in the economy, especially in construction, tourism, business travel, and real estate finance; and

Whereas, The United States Congress originally passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-297 (TRIA), in which the federal government agreed to provide terrorism reinsurance to insurers and reauthorized this arrangement via the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-144, and the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007, Pub. L. 110-160 (TRIPRA); and

Whereas, Under TRIPRA, the federal government provides such reinsurance after industrywide losses attributable to annual certified terrorism events exceed \$100 million; and

Whereas, Coverage under TRIPRA is provided to an individual insurer after the insurer has incurred losses related to terrorism

equal to 20% of the insurer's previous year earned premium for property-casualty lines; and

Whereas, After an individual insurer has reached such a threshold, the insurer pays 15% of residual losses and the federal government pays the remaining 85%; and

Whereas, The Terrorism Risk Insurance Program has an annual cap of \$100 billion of aggregate insured losses, beyond which the federal program does not provide coverage; and

Whereas, TRIPRA requires the federal government to recoup 100% of the benefits provided under the program via policy holder surcharges to the extent the aggregate insured losses are less than \$27.5 billion and enables the government to recoup expenditures beyond that mandatory recoupment amount; and

Whereas, Without question, TRIA and its successors are the principal reason for the continued stability in the insurance and reinsurance market for terrorism insurance to the benefit of our overall economy; and

Whereas, The presence of a robust private/public partnership has provided stability and predictability and has allowed insurers to actively participate in the market in a meaningful way; and

Whereas, Without a program such as TRIPRA, many citizens who want and need terrorism coverage to operate their businesses all across the nation would be either unable to get insurance or unable to afford the limited coverage that would be available; and

Whereas, Without federally provided reinsurance, property and casualty insurers will face less availability of terrorism reinsurance and will therefore be severely restricted in their ability to provide sufficient coverage for acts of terrorism to support our economy; and

Whereas, Unfortunately, despite the hard work and dedication of this nation's counterterrorism agencies and the bravery of the men and women in uniform who fought and continue to fight battles abroad to keep us safe here at home, the threat from terrorist attacks in the United States is both real and substantial and will remain as such for the foreseeable future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we urge Congress and the President of the United States to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and the members of the Illinois congressional delegation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 632

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish.

S. 1346

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1346, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the alternative tax liability limitation for

small property and casualty insurance companies.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 2154

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2154, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2204

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2204, a bill to establish the Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee.

S. 2291

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2291, a bill to require that Peace Corps volunteers be subject to the same limitations regarding coverage of abortion services as employees of the Peace Corps with respect to coverage of such services, and for other purposes.

S. 2298

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2298, a bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2363

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2440

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from

Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2440, a bill to expand and extend the program to improve permit coordination by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

S. 2445

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2445, a bill to provide family members and close associates of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others new tools to prevent gun violence.

S. 2449

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2449, a bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 2450

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2450, a bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 32, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for investigation and prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, whether committed by officials of the Government of Syria, or members of other groups involved in civil war in Syria, and calling on the President to direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States to immediately promote the establishment of a Syrian war crimes tribunal, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 469

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 469, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the May 31, 2014, transfer of five detainees from the detention facility at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

S. RES. 474

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 474, a resolution designating June 19, 2014, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the day on which slavery legally came to an end in the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 3243

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3243 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year

2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The title of this hearing is: how to harness a game-changing resource for export, domestic consumption, and transportation fuel.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to John_Assini@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact, Jan Brunner at (202) 224-9201, or John Assini (202) 224-9313.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 4453, H.R. 4457

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are two bills at the desk due for a first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4453) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations.

A bill (H.R. 4457) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading on both of these measures but would object to both requests.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the

two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that at 11 a.m. the Senate proceed to executive session as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be four rollcall votes at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:36 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ERICA J. BARKS RUGGLES, OF MINNESOTA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA.

BRENT ROBERT HARTLEY, OF OREGON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA.

DONALD L. HEFLIN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CABO VERDE.

EARL ROBERT MILLER, OF MICHIGAN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA.

DAVID PRESSMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DAVID PRESSMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE JUDICIARY

WENDY BEETLESTONE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE MICHAEL M. BAYLSON, RETIRED.

VICTOR ALLEN BOLDEN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, VICE JANET BOND ARTERTON, RETIRING.

MARK A. KEARNEY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE J. CURTIS JOYNER, RETIRED.

JOSEPH F. LEESON, JR., OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE EDUARDO C. ROBRENO, RETIRED.

GERALD J. PAPPERT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE STEWART R. DALZELL, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. JOSEPH L. VOTEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL BRADLEY A. BECKER
BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL A. BILLS
BRIGADIER GENERAL PEGGY C. COMBS
BRIGADIER GENERAL BRUCE T. CRAWFORD
BRIGADIER GENERAL SUSAN A. DAVIDSON
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES H. DICKINSON
BRIGADIER GENERAL DUANE A. GAMBLE
BRIGADIER GENERAL RYAN F. GONSALVES
BRIGADIER GENERAL WAYNE W. GRIGSBY, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL STEVEN R. GROVE
BRIGADIER GENERAL THEODORE C. HARRISON
BRIGADIER GENERAL DANIEL P. HUGHES
BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL C. HURLEY, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL CLARK W. LEMASTERS, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL RONALD F. LEWIS
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES B. LINDER
BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL D. LUNDY
BRIGADIER GENERAL TODD B. MCCAFFREY
BRIGADIER GENERAL BRIAN J. MCKIERNAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN B. MORRISON, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL A. OSTROWSKI
BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER E. PIATT
BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK R. QUANTOCK
BRIGADIER GENERAL LAURA J. RICHARDSON
BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL C. WEHR
BRIGADIER GENERAL ERIC P. WENDT
BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT P. WHITE
BRIGADIER GENERAL CEDRIC T. WINS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

ROBERT ARIAS
KELLY E. BISHOP
CHRISTOPHER P. BOBB
MICHAEL L. BORNSTEIN
KEVIN D. CHISOM
MANUEL A. CORTES
PAUL A. DISE
JEFFERY N. DUGARD
TOMMY L. EDGEWORTH
RICARDO G. ENRIQUEZ
ERIC B. FINNEY
WILLIAM HENDERSHOT
ROY L. HENKLE
JOSEPH KLAPISZEWSKI
ANGELA K. KOSKO
ANTHONY F. KOSLOSKI
RICKY W. LEE, JR.
CALVIN LOFER
ROBERT A. LUTZ
JAMES W. MACISAAC III
DAVID T. MAGEE
KELVIN B. MCGHEE
JOHN D. MOORE
MICHAEL S. NIELSEN
JASON B. PARMLLY
TERRANCE J. PATTERSON
RONALD L. PUGH
JAMES W. RAYCRAFT, JR.
BLAYN C. REDNOUR
DAVID R. RITTER
CRAIG R. SADRACK
ROBERT R. SAUNDERS, JR.
JAMES G. SCALZO
STEVEN J. SCHULTZ
ALBERT SEARS
CRAIG V. SHILLINGER
ALMOND SMITH III
CRAIG D. SMITH
CHARLES C. SPERRY
NORMAND O. STCYR
RAYMOND SUDDUTH
MICHAEL B. TA
RITCHIE L. TAYLOR
DIANA J. TERSAK
MICHAEL P. THERRIEN
JOHNNY L. TURNER
KEVIN M. WADE
MICHAEL WASHINGTON
LENWARD D. WEAVER
MICHAEL A. WELZ
KENNETH J. WILLIAMS
DONALD V. WILSON
VINCENT J. WOOD
BOBBY L. WOODS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

ADAM L. ALBARADO
JAY P. ALDEA
THOMAS R. ALLEN
MICHAEL P. BAILEY
RICHARD L. BLSWORTH
DERRICK L. CORK
MATTHEW A. CRUMP
JASON H. DAVIS

STAFFAN L. EHRLANDER
 THOMAS J. GILMORE
 NIKOLAUS F. GREVEN
 JOHN B. HANSEN
 PENNY L. HARRIS
 JAMES C. IRELAND
 ADAM K. JOHNSON
 DAVID C. JONES
 JESSICA J. KIMBER
 JEFFERY T. LAUBAUGH
 ERROL M. LAUMANN
 DANIELLE M. LUKICH
 ROBERT V. PEELER, JR.
 WILLIAM D. RICHMOND
 KELLY M. ROBBINS
 DAVID J. SANCHEZ
 WILLIAM T. SAWHILL
 KEVIN A. SHEEHAN
 THOMAS A. SMITH
 DAVID L. SOBBA
 ANDREW T. STEELE
 MARK A. STELIGA
 BRIAN P. STRANAHAN
 MICHAEL S. TERKANIAN
 ANTHONY J. TORIELLO
 DAVID C. VARONA
 JOHNATHAN L. WILLIAMS
 ERIC D. WYATT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JOSHUA J. BURKHOLDER
 ALISSA N. CLAWSON
 RICHARD W. CLEMENT
 TUAN Q. DANG
 CRAIG A. GABRIELLINI
 PAUL G. HUGHES
 BRIAN E. JONES
 BRIAN S. LONG
 DERBY C. LUCKIE
 ROBERT D. MATTHIAS
 THOMAS R. MERKLE
 ROBERT W. MOORE
 ANDREW J. NEBOSHYNISKY
 MICHAEL J. NICKELS
 DONNIE A. QUILON
 FIKRET SARISEN
 ANTHONY T. SAXON
 WILLIAM D. SEEGAR, JR.
 KEVIN J. SMITH
 JIMMY J. STORK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

ADRIAN Z. BEJAR
 JOSE E. BERRIOS
 CHRISTOPHER M. BIGGS
 SCOTT T. BROWN
 FRANK R. COWAN IV
 DEMARIUS DAVIS
 ROBERT T. DUNN
 KALLIE D. FINK
 JOHN M. ISHIKAWA
 LAWRENCE W. KEMPISTA
 TIMOTHY F. KRIPPENDORF
 IRA D. LAMBETH III
 KENNETH W. LASSEK
 DAVID L. MCDEVITT
 BRAD D. MELICHAIR
 SCOTT D. MILNER
 CALVIN NOBLES
 BERNARD T. ONEILL III
 SHARON D. PINDER
 ANDREW T. REEVES
 EDUARDO E. SALAZAR
 MICHAEL S. SALEHI
 JOSHUA J. SANDERS
 CHAD M. SMITH
 IRVIN D. SMITH, JR.
 ROBERT A. WOODRUFF III
 DEBORAH B. YUSKO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

CHARLES R. ALLEN
 ROBIN C. CHERRETT
 ALICIA A. HOPKINS
 THOMAS B. KEEFER, JR.
 TIMOTHY KNAPP
 TIMOTHY P. MCGEEHAN
 CHRISTI S. MONTGOMERY
 ANA L. TEMPONE
 RICARDO A. TREVINO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

GREGORY R. ADAMS
 CHRISTA D. ALMONTE
 ZACHARY A. BEEHNER
 BENJAMIN F. COTE
 DAVID J. EHREDT
 RICARDO A. FLORES

SEAN P. HAYS
 JAMES A. HILTON
 JASON A. NEAL
 MARVIN J. PARK
 RICHARD R. REYES
 KRISTOPHER A. ROBINSON
 MAREK STROSIN
 EDWARD T. WATKINS
 DAVID R. WILCOX

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

DAVID A. BENHAM
 LEWIS T. CROSBY
 JEREAL E. DORSEY
 CLAYTON B. DOSS III
 JOSHUA A. FREY
 RICHARD D. HECHT
 KYLE A. RAINES
 HERLINDA K. ROJAS
 JAMES D. STOCKMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JEFFREY A. BROWN
 HOLLY M. FALCONIERI
 RAYMOND K. HANNA
 BRANTON M. JOAQUIN, JR.
 BENJAMIN J. MOORE
 MICHAEL P. MULHERN
 WILLIAM A. PALMER
 LUIS E. RIVERA
 JOSEPH B. RUFF
 MATTHEW M. SCOTT
 MICHAEL D. WAGNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JEFFERY A. BARRETT
 ROBERT L. BETTS
 JOEL E. COLE
 JOSHUA R. FILBEY
 RICHARD P. FOSTER
 DANIEL R. FUCITO
 JARED D. GOUL
 JOSHUA R. GUERRE
 KYLE L. GULLFOYLE
 JESSICA L. HERMAN
 MICHAEL J. KAUPPERT
 SEAN P. MATHIESON
 JASON W. PATTISON
 LARRY R. SMITH
 LLOYD L. SMITH
 ELIZABETH M. SOMERVILLE
 CECILY E. WALSH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

CHRISTOPHER D. ADDINGTON
 MICHAEL P. AIENA
 JOHN P. BAUER
 JESSE H. BLACK
 GARRETT L. BURKHOLDER
 BRIAN R. DECKER
 JASON R. DEUTSCH
 SUSAN D. FAULKNER
 JASON P. FOX
 JUAN E. HINES
 MARIANNE S. HOLT/PHOENIX
 CLINTON P. HOSKINS
 KATRINA M. HOUSTON
 TIMOTHY L. KING
 MICHAEL W. LOOYSEN
 JASON G. MASSEY
 RYAN D. MCCRILLIS
 BRIAN K. MCLAIN
 SARAH F. MICHAEL
 NATHAN M. MILLS
 GREGORY R. MITCHELL
 OSCAR R. MORENO
 ARTHUR A. MUELLER III
 JOSEPH J. ORAVEC
 ROBERT K. OSWALD
 WENDEL D. PENETRANTE
 DAVID C. SCHAFER
 IL H. SUH
 JAMES D. SZCZEPANSKI
 SCOTT R. THOMPSON
 DAVID M. WOLFE
 KURT A. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

KEITH ARCHIBALD
 NOAH S. BELLRINGER
 WILLIE D. BRISBANE
 JUAN L. CARRASCO
 DAVID T. CLARK
 TRICIA A. CRONAU

KEVIN M. HALFACRE
 DOUGLAS M. JOHNSON
 TERRENCE L. JONES
 JAMES A. KEEN
 PETER T. KELLEHER
 TERRA A. MCINTYRE
 JAMES D. POE
 DELMY M. ROBINSON
 JOSEPH D. SCOTT
 CHRISTOPHER L. WEBSTER
 MCKINNYA J. WILLIAMSROBINSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JEREMIAH V. ADAMS
 KEITH T. ADKINS
 SEAN P. AHEARNE
 MEHDI A. AKACEM
 MICHAEL B. ALBUS
 DAVID M. ALIBERTI
 RONALD E. ALLEN
 RONALD J. ALLEN
 RICARDO ALSTON
 AARON M. ANDERSON
 ZACHARIAH D. APERAUCH
 JOSE A. ARANA
 BENJAMIN F. ARMSTRONG
 MATTHEW T. ARMSTRONG
 TREVOR J. ARNESON
 GREGORY S. ARNOLD
 SEAN M. BABBITT
 DAVID H. BANKART
 JOHN P. BARRIENTOS
 DAVID D. BARRINGTON
 EMILY L. BASSETT
 TY D. BATHURST
 SCOTT C. BEATY
 DANA N. BEERY
 LAWRENCE M. BEHR
 CHRISTOPHER L. BENJAMIN

DANIEL S. BENSE
 BRYCE A. BENSON
 JEFFERY W. BENSON
 EDWARD P. BERTUCCI
 ERIK M. BICKLE
 JONATHAN R. BIEHL
 RYAN B. BILLINGTON
 JASON L. BIRCH
 JERICK C. BLACK
 DAVID K. BLAUSER
 SHAN A. BOGART
 AARON R. BOMAR
 ADAM P. BOOTH
 KENNETH A. BOURASSA
 JOHN R. BOWEN
 JEFFREY M. BOWMAN
 KURT A. BRAECKEL
 HARRY J. BRODEEN
 ERIC H. BROMLEY
 KENNETH R. BROWN
 NATHANIEL H. BROWN
 ROBERT E. BULATAO
 ERICA A. BURFIELD
 MARK C. BURKE
 BRANDON J. BURKETT
 ANDREW V. BYRNE
 ANDREW M. CAIN
 CLAUDINE CALUORI
 KEITH E. CAMPBELL
 TIMOTHY R. CARTER
 ROBERT G. CARTON
 MICHAEL J. CASSIDY
 PHILIP P. CASTELLANO
 RAPHAEL R. CASTILLEJO
 EMILY A. CATHEY
 DAN S. CATLIN
 ORVILLE W. CAVE
 DAVID A. CEARLEY
 MARSHALL W. CHASTAIN
 CAMERON R. CHEN
 RANDOLPH CHESTANG
 KEVIN A. CHLAN
 MATTHEW P. CHOQUETTE
 KEVIN S. CHRISTENSON
 THOMAS E. CLARITY
 JEREMY A. CLARK
 KALOHI R. CLARK
 DAVID S. COLLINS
 JEFFREY M. COLVIN
 CHRISTOPHER M. CONLON
 BRADLEY D. CONVERSE
 MATTHEW K. COOMBS
 SCOTT C. COONAN
 THOMAS J. COOPER
 COLIN CORRIDAN
 PATRICK S. CORRIGAN
 CAROLYN D. CRARY
 JONATHAN A. CRAWFORD
 BRIEN J. CROTEAU
 KIM M. DACOSTA
 JOSEPH O. DAVIDSON IV
 JANET H. DAYS
 CHANLOR C. DEAL
 STEPHEN P. DEAN
 DEAN C. DEBOURGE
 JASON M. DEICHLER
 DANIEL P. M. DELACRUZ
 MICHAEL F. DELANEY
 NICHOLAS C. DELEO
 EARL J. DEMERSSEMAN II

TROY R. DENISON
 GRETA S. DENSHAM
 RYAN P. DEXTER
 NATHAN P. DIAZ
 JOHN E. DOLBY III
 ADAM DRAYTON
 ROSS A. DRENNING
 JOHN P. DROSINOS
 DENNIS M. DUFFY II
 DEREK D. DUFORD
 JEAN J. DUPINDESAINCYR
 SAMANTHA A. DUTILY
 MICHAEL L. DUTTON
 THEODORE R. DYCKMAN
 JOHN R. DYE
 PATRICK M. DZIEKAN III
 DERRICK W. EASTMAN
 ROBERT H. EASTMAN III
 JAMIE L. EDENS
 DAVID K. EDGERTON
 BENJAMIN M. ELPERT
 CHRISTOPHER J. ELLISON
 JOSHUA C. ELLISON
 TRAVIS M. ESTEVES
 JAYSON E. EURICK
 STEVEN C. EVERHART
 JOSHUA D. FAGAN
 JOSEPH E. FALS
 MATTHEW D. FANNING
 GORDON F. FAULKNER
 BRIAN J. FELLONEY
 TIM L. FERRACCI
 WILLIAM N. FILIP
 DOUGLAS G. FITCHETT
 VAN R. FITZSIMMONS
 JONATHAN M. FLOYD
 MICHAEL K. FONTAINE
 ANDREW K. FORTMANN
 JASON D. FOX
 JEFFREY B. FRANZ
 JENNIFER M. FREE
 MARIO T. FREEMAN
 PETER D. FRENCH
 MATTHEW T. FRENIERE
 NATHAN W. FUGATE
 JOSEPH J. FURCO
 JONATHAN M. FUSSELL
 RAYMOND J. GAMICCHIA
 DAVID A. GANCI
 BRADLEY J. GARMS
 CASE W. GARRISON
 VICTOR J. GARZA
 CHRISTOPHER T. GEORGE
 DONALD P. GERHARDSTEIN
 BENNETT J. GIBBS
 CLIFTON M. GIBSON
 CHRISTOPHER J. GIERHART
 PAUL R. GIGUERE
 JAMES M. GILLISON
 RAY A. GLENN
 VICTOR J. GLOVER
 JOHN T. GONSER
 SAMUEL A. GRAY
 JOHN T. GREEN
 JUSTIN P. GRIFFIN
 JASON D. GRIZZLE
 DAVID W. GROGAN
 JEREMY A. GROSS
 STEVEN M. GROVES
 MICHAEL C. GRUBB
 JAMES A. GUIMOND
 RYAN C. HAAR
 BRYAN P. HAGER
 FIONA C. HALBRITTER
 JELANI K. HALE
 BRIAN E. HALL
 BRIAN K. HAMEL
 ALEX L. HAMPTON
 MARC A. HANSON
 CHAD A. HARDT
 WILLIAM M. HARKIN
 ANTHONY J. HARRELL
 STEPHEN D. HARTMAN
 RYAN C. HAYES
 MARY K. HAYS
 JOSEPH K. HAYWOOD
 LYNN N. HAZLETT
 ROBERT B. HEATER
 DUSTIN B. HENDRIX
 JEREMY J. HESSELROTH
 JESSE G. HILL
 ROCHELLE W. HILL
 VICTOR A. HILL
 BRETT W. HOLDIMAN
 JEFFERY D. HOLLENBACH
 YOUNG P. HONG
 JAMIE D. HOPKINS
 THOMAS E. HOYT
 SCOTT H. HULETT
 JAMES F. HURT
 JASON D. HUTCHERSON
 ANTONIO L. HYDE
 JAMES R. IMLAH
 ERIC C. ISAACSON
 AUSTIN M. JACKSON
 RYAN S. JACKSON
 BRIAN M. JOHNSON
 REGINALD E. JOHNSON
 DANIEL E. JONES, JR.
 ROBERT S. JONES
 GREGORY G. JONIC
 ADRIAN W. JOPE

ANTHONY J. JUNGBLUT
 TY C. JURICA
 ERICK R. KAMMEYER
 GABRIEL M. KELLY
 ERIC W. KELSO
 JOHN M. KILLILA
 JEFFREY G. KING
 VINCENT S. KING
 JAMES M. KINTER
 WILL E. KIRBY
 DANIEL J. KITZMILLER
 ANDREW T. KLOSTERMAN
 PHILIP E. KNIGHT
 MITCHELL T. KOCH
 MICHELLE S. KORN
 NATHAN A. KRAEMER
 EDWARD R. KRIBS
 JENNIFER M. KRUG
 KEITH S. KULOW
 THOMAS M. KURUC
 JASON LABOTT
 KRISTOPHER A. LANCASTER
 JOSEPH G. LAUTENSLAGER
 TIFFANIE L. LAWRY
 NICOLAS B. LECLERC
 ROGER A. LECH
 WILLIAM D. LEHNER
 JAMES L. LEMBO
 JOHN D. LEVOY
 STEVEN L. LIBERTY
 JOHN R. LIDDLE
 WAYNE LIEBOLD
 ROBERT W. LIGHTFOOT
 AMY E. LINDAHL
 MICHAEL T. LISA
 STEPHEN M. LOESCH
 PETER A. LOGAN
 GERALD P. LORIO
 THOMAS J. LOUDEN
 KEVIN T. LOUIS
 MATTHEW D. LOVERINK
 THOMAS R. LOVETT
 JOHN S. LUCAS
 CHAD W. LUKINS
 MATTHEW J. MACKAY
 RODERICK D. MAGEE
 JAMES E. MAHONEY, JR.
 ROBERT P. MAJORIS
 MICHAEL P. MANICCHIA
 ANDREW P. MARINER
 BENJAMIN J. MARTIN
 RONALD R. MARTIN
 BRIAN A. MARTINEZ
 PATRICK C. MARZLUFF
 EDWARD J. MASON
 WILLIAM M. MATHIS, JR.
 ANTONIO P. MATOS
 ALLEN L. MAXWELL, JR.
 MICAH D. MAXWELL
 BRIAN P. MAYNARD
 KIERAN P. MAZZOLLA
 KARL F. MCCARTHY
 JOHN A. MCCONNELL
 BRIAN D. MCELWAIN
 MICHAEL L. MCGLYNN
 STACY L. MCILVAIN
 CHARLES N. MCKISSICK
 TERRY P. MCNAMARA
 MATTHEW A. MCNEALY
 DONALD M. MCNEIL
 KEVIN P. MEEHAN
 BRIAN S. MELLO
 STEVEN J. MIELKE
 BENJAMIN B. MILLER
 COURTNEY M. MINETREE
 JESSE M. MINK
 JEREMIAH D. MINNER
 LEROY J. MITCHELL
 JAMES S. MITTAG IV
 DAVID M. MOFFAT
 MATTHEW MOLMER
 LADISLAW R. MONTERO
 COREY A. MOORE
 RUSSELL L. MOORE III
 MICHAEL D. MORENO
 CHRISTOPHER K. MORGAN
 SCOTT M. MORRILL
 CHRISTOPHER J. MORRIS
 JAMES A. MURDOCK
 RILEY W. MURDOCK
 KEVIN P. MURPHY
 PATRICK R. MURPHY
 TIMOTHY J. MYERS
 LAWRENCE D. NANCE
 CHUAN A. NAPOLITANO
 DAVID G. NEALL
 THOMAS J. NIEBEL
 DANIEL E. NIEVES
 BENJAMIN W. OAKES
 JOSEPH M. OBRIEN
 PAUL D. OBRIEN
 MARK E. OCONNELL
 THOMAS P. O'DONNELL
 ERIC S. OEHLECHER
 KRISTIN L. OHLEGER
 ROBERT S. OLIVER
 BARBARA M. ORTIZ
 GEOFFREY B. PAGANO
 DAVID C. PALLONIS
 JESSICA R. PARKER
 WALTER E. PARKER III
 ROBERT I. PATCHIN IV

DANIEL A. PATRICK
 JAN W. PAUL
 JOSE H. PEHOVAZDIEZ
 DERYK B. PETERSEN
 MATTHEW J. PFEFFER
 DAVID A. PICINICH
 TODD A. PIKE
 ANDREW B. PLATTEN
 ZEKE A. POIRO
 JAMES T. POKORSKY
 JOSEPH A. POMMERER
 CHRISTINA PORTNOY
 MATTHEW J. POWEL
 JOSHUA D. POWERS
 CHRISTOPHER M. PRATT
 JAMES H. PRESLER
 NICHOLAS A. PRIMOZIC
 JAMES G. REEVE
 MICHAEL L. REGISTER
 LAWRENCE M. REPASS
 BRYAN D. REX
 JEREMY R. RICH
 KELLY J. RICHARDS
 JOHN T. RIGGS
 VOLNEY F. RIGHTER
 RICHARD A. ROBBINS, JR.
 JASON S. ROBERSON
 ERROL A. ROBINSON
 NATHAN B. ROCKHOLM
 ANGEL F. RODRIGUEZ
 JOSE A. ROMAN
 KENNETH M. ROMAN
 JACOB J. ROSALES
 CASEY T. ROSKELLY
 TAMMY S. ROYAL
 ETHAN M. RULE
 MARIAH J. RULE
 JOHN W. RYAN
 AARON P. RYBAR
 RICHARD D. SALAZAR
 MARK W. SAND
 STIG SANNESS
 ANTHONY C. SAVAGE
 SCOTT R. SAVERY
 IAN J. SCALATIENE
 ERICH U. SCHALLER
 NATHAN W. SCHERY
 RICHARD J. SCHMELING
 STEVEN L. SCHMIDT
 RUDY SCHOEN
 CHRISTOPHER J. SCHWARZ
 THOMAS J. SCOLA, JR.
 MARVIN J. SCOTT
 JON C. J. SEGO
 BENJAMIN J. SELPH
 JEREMY A. SHAMBLEE
 STEVEN J. SHAUBERGER
 VICTOR B. SHELTON II
 JONATHAN C. SHEPARD
 ALLEN M. SIEGRIST
 PAUL B. SIERLEJA
 JOSEPH S. SIMPSON
 JEFFREY R. SIMS
 BARRETT J. SMITH
 PATRICK J. SMITH
 PATRICK J. SNOW
 ALEXANDER P. SOLOMON
 MATTHEW C. SOMERVILLE
 BRENT C. SPILLNER
 MARTIN E. SPRAGUE II
 BRETT J. STERNECKERT
 SEVERN B. STEVENS III
 JOSHUA C. STEWART
 ZANE M. STICKEL
 BRENDAN R. STICKLES
 BENJAMIN M. STINESPRING
 JESSE T. STOFFEL
 SETH A. STONE
 JOHN J. STRUNK
 MAUREEN A. STUDNIARZ
 ISAAC R. STUTTS
 TRAVIS K. SUGGS
 JEAN M. SULLIVAN
 WILLIAM B. SWANBECK
 ADAM I. TAFF
 COURTNEY P. TAFT
 JEFFREY S. TAMULEVICH
 ZACHARY S. TATE
 JEREMIAH J. TETI
 MATTHEW J. THARP
 JAMES R. THOMAS
 STEVEN M. THOMAS
 GREGORY J. THOMPSON
 MICHAEL N. THOMPSON
 JOHN V. TOBIN
 BRANDON E. TODD
 MICHAEL J. TOLLISON
 MICHAEL C. TOMON
 CLIFFORD W. TORAASON
 MIKA B. TORNIKOSKI
 GEOFFREY W. TOWNSEND
 CARL S. TRASK
 CRAIG M. TRENT
 ROBERT C. TRYON
 STEVEN J. TUCK
 KYLE H. TURNER III
 MICHAEL J. UYBOCO
 MICHAEL R. VAAS
 IGNACIO R. VALADEZ
 JASON G. VALDESPINO
 CHAD C. VENETTE
 MATTHEW T. VENTIMIGLIA

BENJAMIN R. VENTRESCA
 BLANDINO A. VILLANUEVA
 JAMES J. VONSTPAUL
 JAKE T. WADSLEY
 JASON C. WALLACE
 DAVID W. WALTON, JR.
 DAVID D. WANER
 ANTHONY L. WEBBER
 FRANK J. WEISSER III
 CARL J. WELLS
 JOSHUA F. WENKER
 CHARLES E. WESTERHAUS
 ROBERT J. WHEAT
 DANIEL P. WHITE
 DAVID C. WHITMER
 WILLIAM H. WILEY
 SHAWN T. WILLIAM
 JAMES M. WILLIAMS
 DAVID J. WILSON, JR.
 JOHN F. WILSON
 ROY L. WILSON, JR.
 JOHN C. WITTE
 KIRT J. WLASCHIN
 MATTHEW J. WOLFE
 SCOTT D. WORTHINGTON
 DAVID P. WROE
 DOUGLAS D. WYMAN
 STEPHEN M. YARGOSZ
 SAMUEL E. YOUNG
 BRANDON G. YOUNGSTROM
 CHIMI I. ZACOT
 JASON R. ZAHARRIS
 CHARLES B. ZUHOSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

KATHERINE E. BOYCE
 KEITH C. CROCKETT
 ANTHONY C. GROW
 JIMMY L. HAHM
 CHARLES KIROL
 FRANCIS M. KRALL
 PETER LAWLESS
 AMY L. LYONS
 CARA G. NEGRETTE
 JOSEPH O. QUINTANA
 JAMES L. SHELTON
 DANNY C. SMITH
 JON C. WATSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

MICHAEL S. GILES

MARTY E. GRIFFIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

ROBERT H. CARPENTER
 SCOTT J. DUNFEE
 JOURDEN T. MOGER
 JOSEPH V. SHELDON III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JAMES F. CROOM
 DAVID DIEFENDERFER
 DANIEL R. HAUBNER
 PETER PITMAN
 TODD L. SMITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

TIMOTHY K. ATMAJIAN
 BRIAN K. BERRYMAN
 ARJUN B. CHATTERJEE
 GREGORY E. CROVETTI
 BRADFORD L. FELKER
 MICHAEL D. LAPPI

EDWARD M. LEITZ
 ADAM D. LICHTMAN
 PETER B. MISHKY
 PAUL J. MOLLERE
 THOMAS W. MOORE
 KEITH R. NICHOLS
 JOHN Y. PHELPS III
 JOHN K. QUIGLEY
 AMY M. REESE
 RONALD K. WILLIAMS, JR.
 RUMEI YUAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

RAMESH S. DURVASULA
 RICHARD J. GRAY
 JAMES T. QUINN
 BEN M. SMITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

FRANCIS F. DERK
 DOUGLAS L. DISTELRATH
 KENNETH L. MCANDREWS
 MARK E. MORITZ
 KATHERINE T. ORMSBEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

THOMAS P. BELSKY
 JENNIFER BLAZEWICK
 CHRISTIAN P. FLEMING
 GEORGE G. GERDING
 LAURIE R. GIBBENS
 RICHARD M. HARPER II
 KIMBERLY D. HINSON
 CHARLES P. KOUTRAS
 WILLIAM S. LARAGY
 MATTHEW P. MUENCHRATH
 MARK R. MYERS
 ARMANDO A. RODRIGUEZPEO
 JEFFREY J. TRUITT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JULIO C. ALBORNOZ
 JOHN K. BEASLEY
 INGRID G. COOK
 MYRIAM V. DIENES
 JERRY L. DOTSON
 TRENT FRIEDEL
 DEBORAH L. GREUBEL
 TERESA L. GULLEY
 TERRY A. LEIN
 MARIA O. MORENOCHOW
 ERIC L. PETERSON

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate June 16, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ALICE G. WELLS, OF WASHINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 18

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine high frequency trading's impact on the economy.

SD-538

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety

To hold hearings to examine climate change, focusing on the need to act now.

SD-406

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Henry J. Aaron, of the District of Columbia, Lanhee J. Chen, of California, and Alan L. Cohen, of Virginia, all to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board.

SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the intelligence community, focusing on keeping watch over its contractor workforce; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 1771, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon, S. 1800, to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets, S. 1946, to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to modify the authorization of appropriations, S. 1965, to amend the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior to extend the contract for certain water services, S. 2010, to amend the Water Conservation and Utilization Act to authorize the development of non-Federal hydropower and issuance of leases of power privileges at projects constructed pursuant to the authority of the Water Conservation and Utilization Act, S. 2019, to reauthorize and update certain provisions of the Secure Water Act, H.R. 1963, to amend the Water Conservation and Utilization Act to authorize the development of non-Federal hydropower and issuance of leases of power privileges at projects constructed pursuant to the authority of the Water Conservation and Utilization Act, an original bill entitled, "To approve the Keystone XL Pipeline", and the nominations of Suzette M. Kimball, of West Virginia, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, and Estevan R. Lopez, of New Mexico, to be Commissioner of Reclamation, both of the Department of the Interior, Monica C. Regalbutto, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management, and Norman C. Bay, of New Mexico, and Cheryl A. LaFleur, of Massachusetts, both to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine empowerment in the workplace.

SH-216

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United States policy in Afghanistan and the regional implications of the 2014 transition.

SD-419

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the reduction in face-to-face services at the Social Security Administration.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine e-cigarette marketing and potential consequences for youth.

SR-253

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 1948, to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program, and S. 2299, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.

SD-628

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights

Business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 19, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

SD-226

3 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine growing small business exports, growing United States Jobs.

SR-428A

JUNE 19

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Laura Junor, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Gordon O. Tanner, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Miranda A. A. Ballentine, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy, all of the Department of Defense, and Monica C. Regalbutto, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management.

SH-216

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 2454, to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010, and the nominations of Julie E. Carnes, of Georgia, and Jill A. Pryor, of Georgia, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Andre Birotte, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, John W. deGravelles, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, Randolph D. Moss, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Robin L. Rosenberg, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Ronnie L. White, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Leslie Joyce Abrams, Mark Howard Cohen, Leigh Martin May, and Eleanor Louise Ross, all to be a United States District Judge

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

for the Northern District of Georgia, and Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, and Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for Energy and Water Development, State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, and the Legislative Branch (H.R. 4487).

SD-106

11 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and its Protocol, signed at Madrid on February 22, 1990 (Treaty Doc. 113-04), and the Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Poland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on February 13, 2013, at Warsaw (Treaty Doc. 113-05).

SD-419

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on an update on Iraq.

SVC-217

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine resources for export, domestic consumption, and transportation fuel.

SD-366

Select Committee on Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH-219

JUNE 24

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine the AT&T and DIRECTV merger, focusing on the impact on competition and consumers in the video market and beyond.

SD-226

JUNE 25

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. 1945, to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, focusing on updating the "Voting Rights Act" in response to *Shelby County v. Holder*.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine how early and absentee voting can benefit citizens and administrators, focusing on election administration.

SR-301

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine brain injuries and diseases of aging.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To receive a closed briefing on United States nuclear deterrence policy.

SVC-217

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine economic development, focusing on encouraging investment in Indian country.

SD-628

POSTPONEMENTS

JUNE 19

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Alfonso E. Lenhardt, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

SD-419

SENATE—Tuesday, June 17, 2014

The Senate met at 10:00 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, because of Your power, monarchs reign and rulers decree justice. Radiate Your light and peace on Capitol Hill today. Help our Senators to understand Your will and make the commitment to follow Your leading. Lord, give them the wisdom to live in harmony with one another so that together they will strengthen America. May the weapons they face fail because of the shield of Your divine favor that protects them. Sustain them in their going out and coming in, in their rising up and lying down. Instruct them in the night seasons, providing them with wisdom to illuminate the darkness of our world.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 428, the appropriations matter we have been working on.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 428, H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks, we will be in morning business until 11:00 this morning. At 11:00 a.m. we will have four rollcall votes to confirm three district court judges and the Assistant Attorney General. The time until 11:00 will be equally divided and controlled by the leaders or their designees.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 4453, H.R. 4457

Mr. President, there are two bills at the desk due for their second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4453, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations.

H.R. 4457, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would object to any further proceedings with respect to these bills, en bloc.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Your objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

APPROPRIATIONS CONSIDERATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today we are going to begin work on three very important appropriations bills. The leader of these bills, of course, will be the chairman of the overall committee, Senator MIKULSKI. Working with her will be other committee chairs—on the transportation subcommittee Senator PATTY MURRAY, who is extremely well versed on matters here on the floor, and on agriculture, the Senator from Arkansas Mr. PRYOR. We hope we can move forward on these bills immediately. There is no reason we cannot. It is something we should be doing to fund our government. Senator MIKULSKI is going to be leading this, as I indicated, along with the senior Senator from Alabama Mr. SHELBY. These bills will provide our government with the resources it needs to serve the American people. The manner in which we handle these very important issues will largely dictate how the appropriations are managed in the coming weeks and months. We need to keep our government operating.

I look forward to a cooperative amendment process and participation from all Senators. If we are successful in passing the bills in a timely manner, we can move to other essential legislation, including the much needed surface transportation bill.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. President, will the Chair announce the business of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be

in a period of morning business until 11:00 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes, with the time equally divided by the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the distinguished senior Senator from Iowa is here to speak on one of the nominations. I am sure that if the Republican leader does come, he would yield to the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

KADZIK NOMINATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. For the third time in a couple weeks, I want to speak about one of the nominees we are going to be voting on today. That nominee is Peter Kadzik. He has been nominated to the Department of Justice's Office of Legislative Affairs. He would have the position of Assistant Attorney General. Today I would like to make a few concluding comments about this nominee's record as well as this administration's record, more broadly speaking, with respect to congressional oversight.

It is hard for me to imagine a nominee who is less suited to head the Office of Legislative Affairs than Mr. Kadzik. It is not a mystery how the nominee will run that office if he is confirmed, and we know that because he has been Acting Assistant Attorney General for well over a year, and he has a long and well-established history of contempt for congressional oversight authority. It is clear to me that when it comes to this nominee, past practice will be an accurate predictor of future performance. Unfortunately, there is a lot of evidence that justifies my conclusion. I will start with the nominee's record of contempt for congressional oversight even before he joined the Justice Department.

When he was a private attorney back in 2001, the House ordered the nominee to testify as part of the Congress's investigation into the eleventh-hour pardon of billionaire tax fugitive Marc Rich. The nominee represented Rich. Not only did the nominee refuse to appear voluntarily, but he got on a plane to California the day before he was scheduled to testify before the House committee. In order to get him to testify before the House, the House had to send the U.S. Marshals to personally serve him with a subpoena in California. Isn't that a cute way to act when Congress is trying to speak to him? When he returned to Washington, he actually claimed that his lawyers had never bothered to mention the subpoena to him before he left on that plane trip to California. We know that

claim isn't true because of handwritten notes that are now part of the record of this nominee's confirmation hearing.

Unfortunately, things haven't improved much since then. The nominee's record as Acting Assistant Attorney General has been completely unacceptable. Senators' letters and questions go unanswered for many months before the nominee provides—most often—a largely nonresponsive reply. So, as I said last week, this administration is sending a message by nominating Mr. Kadzik to the Office of Legislative Affairs. That message is this: You can expect more of the same.

I want to ask my colleagues this: How much more abuse of this body's prerogative by this White House are we willing to accept? How much more stonewalling of our legitimate, reasonable requests for information are we prepared to tolerate as we try to carry out our constitutional responsibility of oversight? How many more times do you intend to look the other way as this administration flaunts the law through illegal and unilateral executive action?

In recent weeks the administration has raised the stakes. Two weeks ago the President approved the release of the Taliban five from Guantanamo without so much as a phone call to the chair or vice chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Disposition of the detainees at Guantanamo is one of the most important issues related to the war on terror, and Congress has a well-defined role under the law when it comes to releasing dangerous terrorists. But the administration doesn't care about the role Congress has assumed for itself under the Constitution and under the laws we write. This administration has shown total contempt for its obligations under the law—a law they took an oath to uphold. I guess the President's view is that it is better to ask forgiveness after the fact than it is to abide by his constitutional obligation to follow the law and take care that law is faithfully executed.

That is one reason why this nomination is so important. It is a perfect example of this administration's contempt for oversight and contempt for the law.

This Senator believes Congress is entitled to learn why the administration thinks it is free to ignore the law. That is why I asked the Attorney General to provide the legal rationale for the President's unilateral executive actions that the Office of Legal Counsel gave to the administration that they could ignore the law that said they had to notify Congress 30 days ahead of time when they were going to release Guantanamo prisoners. But back in May the nominee refused to disclose the Office of Legal Counsel materials.

Given the administration's flagrant disregard for the law governing the release of the Taliban fighters, I think

my request to the Attorney General is all the more important right now. So I renew my request that the administration provide us with whatever advice it received from the Office of Legal Counsel before it decided to violate the National Defense Authorization Act and go forward with the stealth release of the Taliban prisoners.

On June 5 I asked the Attorney General to provide the Justice Department's legal rationale by June 19, which happens to be just 2 days from now. At the very least Senators should wait for a vote on this nomination until then so we can determine whether the Justice Department intends to comply with our request for the legal justification as to why the President could ignore the law when these prisoners were released. That would be a modest first step the administration could take to demonstrate it is serious about respecting oversight authority and the constitutional responsibility of the Congress to do that oversight and whether or not they respect the separation of powers under the Constitution.

I will conclude. My colleagues know this nominee embodies the administration's disregard for oversight authority and its dismissive approach to its legal obligations.

That much is clear. But my colleagues also need to remember this: If they vote for this nominee, they are voting to diminish congressional authority. If they vote for this nominee, they are voting to give the President more of a free pass than he already assumes—and specifically in this case on the unlawful release of Taliban fighters. They are voting also to empower unlawful execution of executive actions by this and future administrations. They are voting to chip away at the network of checks and balances that undergirds the relationship between the executive and the legislative branches—the very signal the Constitution writers sent to the Colonies that they didn't want one person making decisions in our government; they wanted that to be divided authority.

Also remember that one day the shoe may be on the other foot. One day there may be a Republican administration that is just as cavalier about its legal obligations. If that administration ignores our oversight request, any Senator who voted for these people will have no right to complain.

I urge Senators to stand up for the Senate's constitutional responsibilities of oversight and stand up to this administration and vote no.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

IRAQ

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the world is learning of the profound challenge facing our Nation as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant sweeps across Iraq. We hear the names of former battlefields in Iraq and remember the hard-fought gains in places such as Fallujah and Al Qaim and Ramadi.

Just as many Members had not heard of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula before a terrorist attempted to detonate an explosive device on an airliner over Detroit in 2009, they are now learning of ISIL, a vicious terrorist organization that operates across portions of Syria and Iraq. Like AQAP, ISIL consists of an insurgency that threatens stability in the region where it trains and fights, and that presents a terrorist threat to the United States.

The Iraqi security forces that were cowed in the face of ISIL advances are now less capable than when the President withdrew the entirety of our force without successfully negotiating a capable remaining U.S. presence. Such a force would have preserved the gains made on the ground by mentoring our partners and assisting with command and control and intelligence sharing. Now we must grapple with how best to help Iraq meet this threat.

ISIL is a lethal, violent terrorist force, and its activities in Syria and Iraq represent a grave threat to U.S. interests. The administration must act quickly to provide assistance to the Maliki government before every gain made by the U.S. and allied troops is lost and before ISIL expands its sanctuary from which it can eventually threaten the United States.

Several weeks ago the President spoke at West Point, and in that speech he vaguely described a new counterterrorism strategy that he said “matches this diffuse threat” by “expand[ing] our reach without sending forces that stretch our military too thin, or [that] stir up local resentments.” He said that “we need partners to fight terrorists alongside of us.”

The President must quickly provide us with a strategy and plan that address the threat posed by the insurgency and the terrorist capabilities of ISIL, and he must explain that new strategy.

THE IRS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, when the IRS targeting of conservative groups came to light after the last Presidential election, just about everyone denounced the agency's Nixonian tactics. Members of both parties—from the President on down—called it outrageous and inexcusable and just about everyone agreed no stone should be left unturned in figuring out how it happened in the first place.

Well, that was more than a year ago, and despite the President's assurances that he was as mad as everybody else, his administration has been anything but cooperative in the time that has elapsed since then. Instead of working with Congress to get to the bottom of what happened, the President's allies actually went in the opposite direction. They tried to slip a regulation by the American people that would have effectively enshrined the IRS's speech suppression tactics—the kind of tactics at the center of the IRS scandal—as permanent agency practice. It was a brazen move on the administration's part, and administration officials only backed down after Americans rose up and demanded that the IRS get out of the speech suppression business for good. Even some of our friends on the pro-First Amendment left—a dwindling constituency in recent years—joined us in condemning it. But I doubt we have seen the last of the administration's antifree speech efforts.

We have seen a revival in recent weeks of a truly radical proposal to change the First Amendment. When it comes to the IRS scandal, it is now quite obvious we have not seen the last of the administration's stalling either. The latest claim by the IRS is that it somehow lost a full 2 years' worth of emails from the woman in charge of the IRS department at the center of the scandal. They lost 2 years' worth of emails. But Congress submitted a request for these emails over a year ago, and they are suddenly telling us now? The committees investigating the scandal need those emails in order to figure out who knew what and when and to determine whether any coordination was going on between the IRS and anyone outside the agency.

I will be interested to see what the IRS Commissioner has to say about all of this when he testifies next week. But please, let's get past the "dog ate my homework" excuses buried in a late Friday news dump. The President promised to work "hand in hand" with Congress on this matter so his administration needs to live up to that promise immediately.

COAL REGULATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in the Obama administration's latest defensive on the war on coal, it has proposed new regulations that threaten Kentucky's 20 existing coal-fired powerplants while potentially putting thousands out of work. If enacted, the massive new regulations would prove the single worst blow to Kentucky's economy in modern times and a dagger to the heart of the Commonwealth's middle class.

Despite what they are called, the proposed restrictions on Kentucky's coal-fired powerplants amount to little more than a massive energy tax, and

they will have a devastating effect on Kentucky.

The administration announced it would hold four public hearings on the new proposed regulations, and given the dramatic effects they are sure to have on my home State, you would think they would hold one of those hearings in eastern Kentucky or, at the very least, somewhere in Kentucky. But then, of course, you would be mistaken.

Once again, just like last year when the Obama administration held public hearings before proposing this national energy tax, not one of the sessions is slated for a nonmetropolitan area dependent on coal. The session that is the nearest to eastern Kentucky is a 10-hour roundtrip.

Since coal employs 11,000 Kentuckians and is over 90 percent of Kentucky's electricity, I wrote a letter to Gina McCarthy, the EPA Administrator, formally requesting that she convene a hearing in coal country. Of course I have yet to get a response. However, it doesn't appear that Administrator McCarthy is too busy to talk to some people. Imagine my surprise when I found she had time to appear on an HBO late-night comedy show where she admitted that the Obama administration is, in fact, waging a war on coal.

The host asked her this question:

Some people call it a war on coal. I hope it is a war on coal. Is it?

After a moment of indirection, Administrator McCarthy conceded that a war on coal is "exactly what this is." The EPA Administrator said the war on coal is "exactly what this is."

Of course, this talk show was recorded in front of a friendly anti-coal host and audience in a television studio in Los Angeles. It almost sounds like the site of one of her EPA anti-coal hearings.

So why does Administrator McCarthy have the time to appear on HBO but does not have the time to appear on WYMT-TV in Hazard so she can explain her war on coal to the people it is most directly affecting? Why does she have the time to sit down with a TV comedian but not with the editors of the Appalachian News Express in Pikeville so she can look my constituents in the eye and explain how these rules will impact them?

Of course, for those of us who watch this administration closely, this kind of admission is nothing new. A year ago an adviser to the White House acknowledged that "a War on Coal is exactly what's needed."

Last year, because the administration refused to hold any of its listening sessions in coal country, I held one of my own. We heard a lot of riveting testimony from those in the industry and their families, and I brought their stories back to the administration where I testified on their behalf since the Ad-

ministrator would not directly hear from them.

I am committed to making sure Kentucky's voice is heard on this issue even if the Obama administration doesn't want to listen. That is why I immediately responded to the administration's new regulations in my own legislation, the Coal Country Protection Act, to push back against the President's extreme anti-coal scheme. Supported by the Kentucky Coal Association, my legislation would require that the following simple but important benchmarks be met before the rules take effect.

Here is what it would do: No. 1, the Secretary of Labor would have to certify that the rules would not generate loss of employment.

No. 2, the Director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office would have to certify the rules would not result in any loss in American gross domestic product.

No. 3, the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration would have to certify the rules would not increase electricity rates.

And No. 4, the Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the president of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation would have to certify that electricity delivery would remain reliable. That is it.

My legislation is plain common sense, and I urge the majority leader to allow a vote on my legislation.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this morning there was a scene on television I had never seen before. In fact, the commentators said they had never seen it either.

I might preface this by saying I grew up in the Midwest. Tornadoes are a part of our lives. I cannot recall how many times I was rousted out of my bed in the middle of the night as the sirens were going on outside and mom and dad would take me to the basement. That is what we did as I grew up in the Midwest. Tornadoes were part of our lives.

This morning showed what happened in Nebraska yesterday to be a virtually unique occurrence—twin tornadoes came ripping through the State of Nebraska killing people and destroying lives and businesses and homes and farms. There was a reflection on this about how the weather seems to be getting more extreme in this country. Are we getting more and more extreme weather events, many of which are very destructive? I think the clear answer is yes. Don't trust a politician or even an environmentalist for that answer. Go to the people who do this for a living. That is what I did. I held a

hearing and called the leaders from the property and casualty insurance companies. They do this for a living, and they said not only are we getting more extreme weather events, they are much more expensive than ever before. The destruction is much larger. So many insurance companies, because of these extreme weather events, are starting to charge higher premiums and backing off of coverage. They said they can't create a reserve for the possibility of an extreme weather event that would be so destructive.

There are some people who hear what I just said and say: Well, God has his ways—or her ways—and God may decide the weather is going to be a lot tougher for you in this generation than in other generations. I heard that back home. But there are some people who believe—and I am one of them—that this is not just God's work, this has something to do with our work on this planet.

I happen to believe carbon pollution is a challenge, not just for America but for the world, and we need to reduce carbon pollution, which is changing the planet we live on. Because of carbon pollution, this warming climate—this warming planet—is creating situations which are troubling.

There was an article in the paper over the weekend. Norfolk, VA—not a liberal bastion—is now taking steps because of the rising ocean. It is up about a foot and a half from what they knew as the standard and they expect it to grow even more, threatening buildings, commerce, and homes all around that area. The impact of climate change and carbon pollution is evident in every direction of this world.

I have said this on the floor four or five times and I will repeat it: There is only one major political party in the world today that denies climate change and denies these extreme weather events have anything to do with our activity on Earth. The Republican Party of the United States of America is in denial. So when they deny the premise that something is happening on this Earth that we need to think about and worry about, it is easy to dismiss any and every effort to deal with it.

The Senator who spoke before me is from my neighboring State of Kentucky. His coal fields abut my coal fields in Southern Illinois, so we have a common energy resource. But I will say in all honesty, if we want to use the energy resource of coal in Illinois, we have to change the way we use it to reduce pollution. I think we can do that. It will be better technology in the electrical powerplants and uses something that is underway in our State: carbon capturing sequestration. Imagine if we could take the carbon pollution that is headed for the atmosphere that causes the problem and never let it reach the atmosphere.

That is what we are going to do. We are going to dig deep into the Earth over 1 mile down under three levels of shale rock and store compressed CO₂ so it doesn't go into the atmosphere. Carbon capturing sequestration, that is not a war on coal; that is a war on our energy problems and a responsible approach for dealing with coal.

I think that is the honest answer to my friends in Southern Illinois and those who value the coal industry and what it means to our economy. We have to be thoughtful, reflective, and innovative in making certain we use the energy resources we have responsibly and leave this Earth in a situation where our children and grandchildren will say our generation did not ignore the obvious.

Twin tornadoes in Nebraska are an indicator to me that time is not on our side. We have to step up. Both parties have to step up and find solutions that are responsible.

YANDLE NOMINATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of Staci Yandle, who has been nominated to serve as a Federal district court judge in the Southern District of Illinois. She is going to replace a fine Federal judge, J. Philip Gilbert, who took senior status in March. It is a judicial emergency, so I am glad we are moving to it today.

Staci Yandle has the experience, integrity, and the judgment to be an excellent Federal judge. Born in Centreville, IL—incidentally, the hometown of my wife—she currently lives in Carlyle, IL, downstate. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and her law degree from Vanderbilt.

Over the course of her career, Staci Yandle has gained extensive experience in the courtroom. She has her own solo practice based in O'Fallon, IL, which she has operated now for 7 years. She has worked for several outstanding law firms in southern Illinois and handled a wide range of litigation matters, including employment, education, medical injury, civil rights, and nursing home abuse cases. She also worked as an arbitrator for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court in Illinois.

Ms. Yandle currently serves on the board of the Illinois Bar Foundation. She has taught as an adjunct law professor at the St. Louis University School of Law.

Additionally, she has a distinguished record of pro bono service in southern Illinois, representing indigent clients and nonprofit corporations, including the Delta Economic Development Corporation, which operates a childcare center in St. Clair County.

Ms. Yandle's nomination is historic in several respects. Never before in the course of the history of our State has there been an Article III Federal judge

who was openly a member of the LGBT community. Upon confirmation, Staci Yandle will be the first. Upon confirmation, she will also be the first African-American Federal judge ever to serve in the Southern District of Illinois. She will be only the second woman to serve, as she is joining Nancy Rosenstengel, who was approved by the Senate just a few weeks ago.

In short, Staci Yandle's confirmation marks another important milestone in America's journey toward equality of opportunity.

Ms. Yandle was recommended to me by a bipartisan screening committee which I established to take a look at all of the judicial candidates, and I was pleased to recommend her to President Obama. He forwarded her nomination for consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee where it passed with a strong vote. I hope there will be an equally strong vote today in support of her nomination.

In conclusion, Ms. Yandle is an excellent nominee and I hope my colleagues will join me in voting to confirm her.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

NOMINATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about an important vote we are going to be taking today to confirm the next U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Washington State.

It is not every day that I get to support a nominee who also happens to be a former intern in my Senate office, but it is also not every day that a man who is the son of a migrant farmworker and himself worked on farms in the Yakima Valley is called upon by the President of the United States to become the very first Latino Federal judge in the Eastern District of Washington. So I am incredibly proud to stand in support of Judge Salvador Mendoza, Jr., whose confirmation we will vote on shortly.

Through his life story, Judge Mendoza represents the very best of my home State's honest, hard-working spirit. Through his work ethic, his commitment to his community, and his belief in equal opportunity, Judge Mendoza is a leader and a role model for families throughout our State, particularly young men and women born into poverty and difficult circumstances. In fact, in his application to serve as Federal judge, he discussed his own upbringing, and I wish to quote him. Judge Mendoza wrote:

I wrote and studied hard to better myself and my family. I understood then what I believe now, that both the quality of the educational system coupled with a strong system of justice will lift up the entire community.

Those are the words of a man who belongs in our judicial system. It should

come as no surprise that throughout his professional life, Judge Mendoza has stayed true to those words. From serving as a trustee for Columbia Basin College to helping to coordinate the annual Tri-Cities Youth and Justice Conference, to helping create the first drug court for Benton and Franklin counties, Judge Mendoza has given his time and experience, investing in institutions that lift communities throughout our State.

Judge Mendoza is currently a superior court judge, but his judicial career spans private practice, service as an assistant attorney general, and years of experience in superior, district, municipal, and juvenile court. He is an experienced practitioner in Federal court and served from 2010 to 2013 as lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Through his many years of legal practice and judicial experience, Judge Mendoza will come to the Federal bench well prepared.

Judge Mendoza has described his judicial philosophy as guided by the principles of patience, respect, and humility—the same principles that have guided his life and legal career—and principles that will serve him well as a member of the Federal judiciary.

Let me close by thanking him for his willingness to serve Washington State as a Federal judge. I have always believed that as a country we are at our best when good people are willing to give of themselves in service to others. It is that kind of service to others that has defined Judge Mendoza throughout his career and that will continue to define him as he assumes the duties of this new office.

I am proud to support his nomination to be U.S. district judge, and I urge our colleagues to support his nomination as well.

I thank the Chair.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise to support the nomination of Salvador Mendoza, Jr., to be a district judge for the Eastern District of our State. I applaud the Senate Judiciary Committee for favorably reporting Mr. Mendoza's nomination on a bipartisan basis out of the committee with a 17-to-1 vote, so he enjoys a great deal of support. We are happy because we filled one vacancy for the Eastern District bench earlier in April, and now it is time for the Senate to move forward in

filling the last of the two vacancies by voting to confirm Judge Mendoza.

Judge Mendoza is a well-qualified, dedicated judge whose passion and perspective will serve the Eastern District of Washington very well. He has had experience serving as a superior court judge. He has served as a prosecutor, he has been in private practice, and he has been a community leader in the central part of our State. There is no question that he is ready for the challenge of being a Federal judge.

I also wish to speak in terms of the historic nature of this vote. Salvador Mendoza will become the first ever Hispanic Federal judge in Eastern Washington. That is a major step forward and one that is long overdue. One in every nine residents of Washington State is Hispanic. Yet we have not yet had a Hispanic Federal judge in the eastern part of our State. Judge Mendoza is the right man for the job and he is ready to make history.

Judge Mendoza personifies the American dream. Eastern Washington is home to a very large and growing Hispanic population. Many who settled in Eastern Washington did so for the very same reasons Judge Mendoza's family did. He grew up in a family of migrant workers who moved from California to Washington's Yakima Valley when he was just a small child. He went on from working alongside his parents in the fields to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and a law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Coming from very modest beginnings, Judge Mendoza has built a stellar legal resume. Judge Mendoza served as a deputy prosecuting attorney and spent 1 year as assistant attorney general. He has worked in private practice in a partner firm, and he went on to serve as judge pro tempore for Benton County Superior Court and Franklin County juvenile district court. Since 2013 he has served as Washington State's superior court judge for Benton and Franklin Counties.

A few years ago I had the honor of speaking with Judge Mendoza at a roundtable of Latino community leaders in the Tri-Cities. I came away very impressed with his intellect and his ability and keen understanding of our challenges in Central and Eastern Washington and of our legal system. He talked about the importance of an effective drug court to tackle the challenges facing Central Washington, and Judge Mendoza has shown his commitment to making his community a better place to live. He helped found the juvenile drug court program for Benton and Franklin Counties, which provides the opportunities for treatment for juvenile drug offenders. He is the main organizer of the Tri-Cities Youth and Justice Forum, an organization that encourages students from underrepresented communities to seek careers

within the legal system. He also serves on many other boards, including the board of trustees for Columbia Basin College.

I think Judge Mendoza has earned this important position. I hope my colleagues will support him. I know my colleague Senator MURRAY, who just spoke, Governor Jay Inslee, and many other attorneys and judges across the State of Washington enthusiastically support Judge Mendoza's nomination. So I urge my colleagues to confirm him today.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on the nominations of three judicial nominees to serve on the U.S. districts courts: Judge Salvador Mendoza, to serve in the Eastern District of Washington, Staci Yandle, to fill an emergency vacancy in the Southern District of Illinois, and Judge Darrin Gayles, to fill an emergency vacancy in the Southern District of Florida. Each of these nominees has the support of their home State Senators, and each was reported over a month ago with unanimous or nearly unanimous approval of members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. None of these qualified nominees deserved to be filibustered yesterday, and should be confirmed without delay.

The confirmation of these nominees will be historic milestones for diversity on the Federal bench. If confirmed, Judge Mendoza would be the first Latino to serve on the Federal bench in the Eastern District of Washington. The confirmation of Staci Yandle would make her the first African-American woman ever to serve as a Federal judge in the Southern District of Illinois, as well as the first openly gay Federal judge to serve in Illinois. And, if confirmed, Judge Gayles would be the first openly gay African-American man judge to ever serve on the Federal bench. It is important that the Federal bench reflects the diversity of the American people, and we should be proud of the progress we are making today.

Judge Salvador Mendoza has been nominated to fill a judicial vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington. Judge Mendoza has served since 2013 as a Washington State superior court judge in Benton and Franklin Counties. He previously served as a judge pro tempore in Benton and Franklin Counties from 2002 to 2013. In 2002, he helped start the Benton-Franklin Juvenile Drug Court program, a treatment-based program intended to be an alternative to full criminal prosecution. Before his time as a judge, he worked in private practice as the president and managing attorney of Mendoza and Johnson, P.S. from 2002 to 2013. He served as vice president at Haney and Mendoza, P.S. from 1999 to 2002. After graduating from law school, he served as assistant attorney general in the Washington

State Attorney General's Office from 1997 to 1998, and as the deputy prosecuting attorney in the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office from 1998 to 1999. He has the support of his home State Senators, Senator CANTWELL and Senator MURRAY. The Judiciary Committee reported his nomination favorably with near-unanimous bipartisan support to the full Senate on April 3, 2014.

Staci Yandle has been nominated to fill a judicial emergency vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois. Staci Yandle has worked since 2007 in private practice as a sole practitioner, and since 2010 as counsel for the Farrise Firm P.C. She previously served as a partner at The Rex Carr Law Firm from 2003 to 2007 and as an associate at Carr, Korein, Schlichter, Kunin, Montroy, Glass & Bogard from 1987 to 2003. She worked as an adjunct professor at the St. Louis University School of Law from 1991 to 2000, teaching courses in trial advocacy and civil practice. From 1992 to 1996, she served as a member of the Illinois Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Staci Yandle has been active in her community, providing pro bono legal services to indigent clients on issues ranging from tenant disputes to personal injury claims. She has the support of her home State Senators, Senator DURBIN and Senator KIRK. The Judiciary Committee reported her nomination favorably with near-unanimous bipartisan support to the full Senate on April 3, 2014.

Judge Darrin Gayles has been nominated to fill a judicial emergency vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. He has served since 2011 as a Florida State judge on the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court, and previously served as a county judge in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida from 2004 to 2011. Prior to becoming a judge, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Florida from 1999 to 2004, an assistant district counsel in the U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service from 1997 to 1999, and as an assistant State attorney in the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office from 1993 to 1997. He has the support of his home State Senators, Senator NELSON and Senator RUBIO. The Judiciary Committee reported his nomination by voice vote to the full Senate on May 8, 2014.

I commend the majority leader for bringing the nominations of these three nominees up for a vote. With yesterday's cloture votes, the Senate has voted on cloture for judicial nominees 50 times so far this year. This is more than all the cloture votes on judicial nominees during the two preceding administrations combined. This level of partisanship is meritless, and only serves to weaken the Federal courts

and the American justice system. I hope that my colleagues will join me in voting to confirm these qualified nominees, and allow them to get to work for the American people.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SALVADOR MENDOZA, JR., TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

NOMINATION OF STACI MICHELLE YANDLE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

NOMINATION OF DARRIN P. GAYLES TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk reported the nominations of Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Staci Michelle Yandle, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, and Darrin P. Gayles, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Mendoza nomination.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington?

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 195 Ex.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Grassley	Murphy
Ayotte	Hagan	Murray
Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Barrasso	Hatch	Paul
Begich	Heinrich	Portman
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heller	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boozman	Hoeben	Roberts
Boxer	Inhofe	Rubio
Brown	Isakson	Sanders
Burr	Johanns	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Carper	Kaine	Sessions
Chambliss	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Coburn	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Landrieu	Tester
Coons	Leahy	Thune
Corker	Lee	Toomey
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCain	Vitter
Enzi	McCaskill	Walsh
Feinstein	McConnell	Warner
Fischer	Menendez	Warren
Flake	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wicker
Gillibrand	Moran	Wyden
Graham	Murkowski	

NAYS—4

Blunt	Cruz
Crapo	Risch

NOT VOTING—4

Casey	Levin
Cochran	Rockefeller

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON YANDLE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the Yandle nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Staci Michelle Yandle, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr.

CASEY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 196 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Begich	Heitkamp	Reid
Bennet	Hirono	Rockefeller
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Boxer	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cardin	Leahy	Tester
Carper	Markey	Udall (CO)
Coons	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Walsh
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Nelson
Hagan	Nelson	Pryor
Harkin	Pryor	

NAYS—44

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blunt	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeben	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Coburn	Isakson	Scott
Collins	Johanns	Shelby
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cornyn	Kirk	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	Manchin	McCain
Enzi	McCain	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Casey	Levin
Cochran	Sessions

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON GAYLES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there are 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote on the Gayles nomination.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to share with the Senate that this judge has come through the process Senator RUBIO and I have in Florida where we have a judicial nomination commission specifically to try to take the politics out of the selection of judges. He has been through many different iterations. So I encourage the Senate to support him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Darrin P. Gayles, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida?

Mr. HATCH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 197 Ex.]

YEAS—98

Alexander	Graham	Murphy
Ayotte	Grassley	Murray
Baldwin	Hagan	Nelson
Barrasso	Harkin	Paul
Begich	Hatch	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Blunt	Heller	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Boxer	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Brown	Isakson	Rubio
Burr	Johanns	Sanders
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Scott
Chambliss	King	Sessions
Coats	Kirk	Shaheen
Coburn	Klobuchar	Shelby
Collins	Landrieu	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Corker	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	Levin	Toomey
Crapo	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Cruz	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCain	Vitter
Durbin	McCaskill	Walsh
Enzi	McConnell	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Fischer	Merkley	Whitehouse
Flake	Mikulski	Wicker
Franken	Moran	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—2

Casey	Cochran
-------	---------

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the Kadzik motion.

Mr. NELSON. I yield back time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the time has been yielded back.

Under the previous order, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Peter Joseph Kadzik, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse,

Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Harkin, Mazie K. Hirono.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Peter Joseph Kadzik, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 198 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Begich	Heitkamp	Pryor
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Rockefeller
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cantwell	Landrieu	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Levin	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Tester
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Menendez	Walsh
Franken	Merkley	Warner
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Warren
Hagan	Murphy	Whitehouse
Harkin	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—43

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Ayotte	Graham	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Burr	Hoeben	Rubio
Chambliss	Inhofe	Scott
Coats	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johanns	Shelby
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cornyn	Kirk	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—3

Casey	Coburn	Cochran
-------	--------	---------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 54, the nays are 43. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF PETER JOSEPH KADZIK TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Peter Joseph Kadzik, of

New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, following my remarks and those of Senator THUNE, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings and that the time during the recess count postcloture on the Kadzik nomination, with the time during the recess equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

FAMILY FRIENDLY POLICIES

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, Senate Democrats have been focused on a lot of ways to expand opportunity and economic security for women and mothers in today's workforce. We have talked about the need to ensure equal pay for equal work, to make childcare more affordable, and to encourage profamily workplace policies that help workers be good parents and good employees.

We have explained how each of those policies and others would give working women and mothers a better shot at success. It is important to keep in mind that times have changed in the last few decades. Today two-thirds of families with children have two working parents. Dads are taking a more hands-on role in raising their children. This means in many working families fathers are increasingly facing a lot of the same challenges that mothers do. In fact, more and more fathers report they are struggling to balance work and family.

At a time when so many families need both parents to be at work in order to make ends meet, we clearly need to update our policies so that both mothers and fathers can succeed at work and at home. So today, since it was just Father's Day, I asked a few dads to come in and speak with my colleagues and me about how many of the policies often thought of as especially important to working women, such as affordable childcare, paid sick leave, would also do a lot for dads. I want to thank them for taking the time to share their stories and their experiences with all of us, because what we heard was really powerful. We heard fathers speak about how family-friendly policies helped them raise their kids and meet their responsibilities at work.

We heard from a dad who decided to stay home with his twins rather than pay for childcare because it was simply too expensive. We heard from a father and a small business owner who has made fair pay a priority at his business because he knows how fast those lost wages add up and how much equal pay can mean for a working family with a

mortgage or student loans or car payments or all three of those.

What these fathers made clear is the economic barriers we often see as impacting women, such as inflexible workplace policies or the high cost of childcare or unequal pay, are not just holding women back, they are holding 21st century families back. There is no question in my mind they are a drag on our economy. That is why Democrats are fighting for policies that would help hard-working mothers and fathers across the country.

We are fighting to make sure women get equal pay for equal work, just as we made sure women do not get charged more for health insurance because of their gender. We have legislation to expand access to affordable quality childcare and early education so that mothers and fathers can go to work knowing their children are safe and thriving while they are away.

We have also proposed raising the minimum wage so parents are not working full time but still stuck in poverty and struggling to make ends meet. Democrats are also fighting to help our workers compete for good jobs by bringing down tuition costs and ensuring workers can get the training and education they need.

There is much more we can do as well. But any of those policies would go an enormously long way toward helping working families get the fair shot they deserve. This is why it has been so disappointing to see that when it comes to everything from the Paycheck Fairness Act to the raising of minimum wage for millions of our workers, to helping ease the burden of student loans, our Republican colleagues have so far said no, even though these policies are policies that would help millions of our working families and even though we know Americans across the country strongly support these kinds of changes. I know they would certainly mean a lot to many of the fathers I spoke with today.

I came here today to say I hope our Republican colleagues rethink the approach they have taken on all of those issues so far, because I believe if we take steps to break down the barriers working mothers and fathers are facing in today's economy, families across our country will have more opportunity and our country will be stronger now and over the long term.

There is no reason for us not to get to work on these.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

SOUTH DAKOTA FLOODING

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, before I begin my prepared remarks, I wish to acknowledge my constituents in South Dakota who are dealing with unprecedented flooding. We have seen historic amounts of rainfall already in the month of June that dwarf anything

we can compare to throughout our State's history. Hail and winds are causing widespread damage across the State.

It is not just confined to our State. There are States in the region as well that are experiencing some of these same circumstances and tremendous damage to property. So I wanted to express my thoughts and prayers to the people I represent as well as to those in other States who are dealing with some of these circumstances, and to say thank you and express my appreciation to our first responders who have been very much in demand and on call the last few days.

THE ECONOMY

The American people are very tired. They are very weary. They are arguably fed up. The Washington Post headline from last Friday summed it up, "Obama's image hits record lows in trio of polls." Gallup, CNN/ORC, and Bloomberg polls all found that the President's favorable rating had fallen to new lows. It is no wonder. Five years after the recession supposedly ended, most Americans still feel as though they are in the midst of it.

It is not just me saying that. The President's own Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen stated as recently as March, "The recovery still feels like a recession to many Americans, and it also looks that way in some economic statistics."

Let's talk about some of those statistics. Unemployment has spent the past 5½ years at recession level highs. Currently nearly 10 million Americans are unemployed, more than one-third of them for 6 months or longer. The labor force participation rate is at a 36-year low. A USA Today editorial from last week noted that the "decline in the 'labor force participation rate' is one of the most troubling trends of our time." Of course, the labor participation rate being the fraction of the available workforce that is actually working or at least looking for work.

What is driving that trend, Americans so discouraged by their failure to find a job that they have literally given up looking altogether? That is what is driving the trend in the labor participation rate.

Even after accounting for baby-boomers retiring and more people going to college—and this is again from the USA Today piece I mentioned earlier—this translates to 6 million people who could be working or looking for work. As the paper points out, the lack of these workers in the workforce means a weaker economy, lower tax revenue, as well as greater governmental expense.

Young people just getting out of college face a bleak job market. The unemployment rate for young adults is a staggering 13.2 percent or more than

twice the national average. The director of Outreach for Generation Opportunity, a nonprofit advocacy organization for millennials, recently stated that more than four out of five recent graduates do not have jobs. Currently, 36 percent of young adults are living at home with their parents.

It is no wonder that CNNmoney reports that young adults, aged 18 to 34, are most likely to feel the American dream is unattainable, with 63 percent saying it is not only unattainable, it is impossible.

Everywhere Americans look, prices are rising. The price of everything from milk to the refrigerator to hold it has increased over the past several years. Gas prices have almost doubled since President Obama took office. College costs are soaring.

Then there is ObamaCare, which has meant soaring premiums and huge deductibles for way too many American families. Being in the middle class was once associated with financial security. With a little prudence, middle-class families could be expected to see their kids through college and to retire comfortably. No more.

In the Obama economy, the future is less secure. Household income not only failed to rise over the past 5½ years, it has actually dropped by \$3,500 under the President's watch. Wages have remained flat and economic growth has been tepid at best. Middle-class families are no longer looking forward to a future of economic security. Instead, they are praying they do not get hit with any unexpected bills. They are worrying that they will not be able to send their kids to college, and they are wondering how long they will have to work past retirement to the economic security they need.

In a previous America, low-income families could confidently expect that effort and hard work could bring them into the ranks of the middle class. How many of our parents started out living on a shoestring but ended up sending their kids to college and retiring comfortably?

Today, though, opportunities to reach the middle class are few and far between. Fourteen million more Americans are on food stamps today than when the President took office. Democratic policies such as the ObamaCare 30-hour workweek are hitting low-income Americans the hardest. Many of the better paying jobs lost during the recession are not being replaced. Seventy-eight percent of the jobs lost during the recession were high- or mid-wage jobs, but just 56 percent of the jobs recovered have been high or mid-wage jobs. That means almost half of the new jobs that have been created are low-wage jobs. That is not the kind of climate that enables upward mobility.

The worst part is it does not look as though things are going to get better anytime soon. This week the Inter-

national Monetary Fund announced it now predicts the United States economic growth rate will not exceed 2 percent this year. That is not anywhere close to the kind of growth we need for a real recovery.

The New York Times reported last week, "The Federal Reserve, persistently optimistic in its previous forecasts, said in March that it no longer expected a full recovery in the foreseeable future." Let me repeat that. The Federal Reserve said it no longer expected a full recovery in the foreseeable future.

Four years ago President Obama and his administration proclaimed the advent of the summer of economic recovery. President Obama claimed the economy is headed in the right direction. Vice President BIDEN confidently predicted in April of 2010 that sometime in the next couple of months we are going to be creating between 250,000 jobs a month and 500,000 jobs a month. In August of that year, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner published an op-ed in the New York Times entitled, "Welcome to the Recovery."

Well, as the American people know, recovery summer never materialized. Four years later the American people are still waiting. According to the Federal Reserve, they are going to have to wait longer. In 2009, the President's economic advisors predicted that unemployment would fall below 6 percent in 2012. Two years later, unemployment is still firmly stuck above 6 percent. The Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco has suggested that 6-percent unemployment should be considered the "new normal."

I do not accept that. Republicans do not accept that. We do not accept 6.3 percent unemployment, sluggish economic growth, and struggling middle-class families as the new normal, because it does not have to be that way. We can get our economy going again. But it is going to take something a lot different than the policies of the past 5½ years. It is going to take the kind of policies that remove families' burdens, instead of increasing them. It is going to take policies that encourage businesses to create jobs, not to cut jobs. Republicans have a lot of ideas about how to get started, ideas such as repealing the ObamaCare medical device tax that has already killed tens of thousands of jobs and will kill thousands more if it is not stopped or restoring the 40-hour workweek so businesses will no longer be forced to cut employees' hours under ObamaCare's mandates or stopping the President's national energy tax which would make it more difficult for American families, particularly low-income families, to afford gas, heating, and electricity or enacting trade promotion authority to open new markets to American farmers, workers, and businesses, and to create new good-paying jobs for American workers.

The list goes on. These are just a few of the ideas Republicans have to get our economy going again.

If Democrats were serious about wanting to help American families, they would be working with Republicans to help us get legislation passed. We don't have to accept the President's economy as the new normal: chronic high unemployment, sluggish growth, massive amounts of debt. That shouldn't be the norm, and we shouldn't be satisfied with it.

Republicans are going to be working every day to ensure it isn't the new normal, and we will continue working until our economy is flourishing again and every American has the opportunity for a good job and a prosperous and secure future. We hope Democrats will work with us toward that end. It means opening this floor of the Senate to legislation that will grow our economy, create jobs, and allow us to openly debate, allow us to offer amendments, something that hasn't happened for the past year.

Since July of last year, there have been only nine Republican amendments voted on on the floor of the Senate—nine—nine amendments in almost a year. The ironic thing about that is the same procedures that are being used to block Republican amendments are also blocking Democratic amendments. So in that same timeframe Democrats have only had seven amendments voted on in the past year.

In the world's greatest deliberative body, the place where we are supposed to have open debate and an open amendment process, Republicans had nine amendments voted on. We could take that as a personal affront, but that is not what it is about. It is about the people whom we represent because they elect us here to come out, represent them, and to make sure their voices are heard in the political processes in the debates we have in Washington on the big issues that are important to them and their families. So when amendments are blocked and this process is shut down on the floor of the Senate, it is the people's voices who don't get heard and don't get represented. That has to change, and it needs to change soon, because the issues are big, and the problems and the challenges that face middle-income families are consequential.

Many of us in this Chamber come here every single day hoping to offer legislation and amendments that we believe will be solutions to getting the economy growing again and to create jobs. Every single day for the last year, at least, we have been shut down.

We can do better by the American people. They deserve better. I hope we will do better, and we can start now.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:47 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

NOMINATION OF PETER JOSEPH KADZIK TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time? If no one yields time, time will be charged equally to both sides.

The Senator from Idaho.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD N. "BUD" PURDY

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Idaho's legendary ranchers and conservationists, Leonard N. Purdy, who was known to all of us as Bud Purdy. Bud passed away on April 14, at the age of 96, at his home on Silver Creek in Picabo, ID.

Bud never called himself a cowboy, but when I think of an Idaho cowboy, Bud is the one who frequently comes to mind. As many have said, he was the definition of the values we attribute to cowboys—hard work, common sense, persistence, determination, faith in others, honesty, and, to me, a true friend. Bud demonstrated these every day in life on the ranch, at the store and the grain businesses he owned, and especially among family, friends, and in the community.

I think the love of ranching was just in his blood, an inherited trait. After graduating from Washington State University in Pullman, Bud went to work on his grandfather's ranch. He worked his way up to managing the Picabo Ranch and then he bought it. He also bought the Picabo Store and Silver Creek Supply—a grain elevator and seed business.

Bud was known by all for his love of the cattle industry. He enjoyed moving cattle, riding the fences, and moving and checking water, some of which he did long after most would have retired. He was a real Idaho cowboy. In fact, Bud helped get the Idaho Cattle Association started, where he served as president and was a longtime member of the board.

Bud was one of the larger-than-life Idahoans who helped make the Gem State a great place to live, work, and play. Working the land for livestock grazing, Bud recognized the value of conserving for future generations, so some 20 years ago he donated a 3,500-acre conservation easement along Silver Creek to the Nature Conservancy—a contribution valued at \$7 million. Yet Bud—true to his character—did not even take the associated tax deduction.

Clearly, like he valued the land, Bud valued Idaho. He had natural leadership talent which was called on time and again in community and industry

organizations. He served on the Idaho Rangeland Committee and the National Bureau of Land Management Advisory Council. Bud also gave time to foundations of the University of Idaho and College of Southern Idaho and the Blaine County Medical Center. In addition, he helped raise funds for the new St. Luke's Hospital. Bud also helped establish the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, where he also served as chairman. IACI, as it is known, is a strong and well-respected group fostering business interests in Idaho.

Amazingly, Bud found time for hunting, skiing, fishing, and flying. Among those he hosted, hunted, and skied with were Ernest Hemingway, Jimmy Stewart, and Gary Cooper—all frequent visitors to his ranch on Silver Creek.

Flying became a passion. He checked the ranch from the air and piloted to many meetings across the State and Nation. As late as last year, he and his son Nick flew to California to attend a meeting. At the time of Bud's passing, he was the second oldest pilot in Idaho. He once told me he hoped he could fly long enough to be the oldest pilot in Idaho. Unfortunately, he didn't quite make it. But if there are planes in Heaven, Bud is definitely flying one today.

Among the many honors and awards Bud received were an induction into the Idaho Hall of Fame, an honorary doctorate in range science from the University of Idaho, the Idaho Statesman Distinguished Citizens Award, and serving as grand marshal of the 2013 Ketchum Wagon Days Parade.

As busy as he was, Bud was always a family man. He and his first wife Maxine Dahl had three children—Nick, Mark, and Kris. Nick continues the family ranching legacy. In 1952 Bud married Ruth Eccles. Her son Gordon helped manage the Picabo Store. Throughout the years, Bud employed other family members as well. In fact, you could say the town of Picabo is successfully run and managed by the Purdy family.

Idaho has lost one of its most beloved and respected citizens, but Idaho and our great Nation are better places for the accomplishments and contributions of Bud Purdy. The legacy he leaves the world is one we all would do well to emulate.

Bud, a grateful Idaho and nation will miss you.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I am returning to the Senate floor to talk once again about the wave of migrant children who are coming across the U.S.-Mexican border unaccompanied by adults. So far this year, since October, 47,000 unaccompanied minors have been detained at the border, most of them coming not from Mexico, which obviously is closer to the United States, but from as far away as Central America and beyond.

To put this in some context, from Guatemala City, Guatemala, to McAllen, TX, is roughly a trip of 1200 miles. I have spoken many times and I will continue to speak to anyone who will listen about the horrific and dangerous conditions these children and other migrants travel just to get to the United States. Thousands of migrant children, almost all of whom come from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico are currently being held in U.S. military facilities such as Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. While Federal, State, and local officials try to figure out, No. 1, who they are—find out what their identity is, because many of them show up without any identification—they try to figure out, well, do they have any relatives here in the United States or possible legal guardians? Then they have to decide what to do with them while their cases are being processed. Obviously since the majority of them come from countries other than Mexico, they cannot just be turned back, particularly in the case of minor children, some of whom have been reported to be as young as 5 years old. The average age is roughly 14 years old, but still when I describe, as I will today and will continue to do, the horrific conditions under which these migrant children travel from Mexico and up from Central America, no one in their right mind would want to have their child subjected to that sort of potential and reality of abuse and mistreatment.

I am glad the President has asked Vice President JOE BIDEN to travel to Central America, but I worry that so far I haven't heard any plan whatsoever that would stop the flow of these unaccompanied children from Central America and Mexico.

As you can imagine, this is a bureaucratic nightmare, trying to figure out how to deal with this mass of humanity coming across the border. In fact, the Border Patrol is spending so much time trying to take care of the humanitarian crisis that they are neglecting some of their principal responsibilities, which are to stem the flow of illegal immigration and drugs across the border. So this is diverting law enforcement from its assigned role just to deal with the temporary crisis. At least I hope it is temporary.

The authorities in South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley do not have the

resources or the manpower to handle such a massive influx of unaccompanied children. In terms of the children who have been released from U.S. custody, we still don't know how many of their "temporary guardians" are themselves illegal immigrants. We don't know because I assume there is not a background check conducted on them. I hope I am wrong. But I hope we don't find out that some of these unaccompanied minors are being turned over to relatives who are themselves perhaps criminals or sex offenders. In other words, we have no idea, because the President has not spoken out, what kind of plan there is to make sure of the conditions these children are living in or what sort of potential abuse they might suffer. It is an awful situation any way you look at it.

What makes it even more outrageous is it is directly the result of the impression that President Obama is uninterested in enforcing our immigration laws, specifically his refusal to enforce and his granting of so-called deferred action programs he announced in the Rose Garden 2 years ago.

To be fair to the President and the Senators who voted for the Senate immigration bill, it would have, if signed into law, granted a deferred action for a certain class of minors, so-called DREAM Act kids. But none of these children entering the country currently qualify or would qualify for either the President's deferred action order that he issued unilaterally or the Senate-passed DREAM Act provisions. So we know they are entering in violation of American law, but there are no negative consequences associated with it as long as they are basically accommodated in the United States.

As a result, the number of children entering the country, together with the number of adults, is simply skyrocketing. As I said previously, to start with, it was estimated that 47,000 have been detained so far this year, and that this entire calendar year there will be as many as 60,000. Next year the numbers are expected to double to 120,000 children.

The fact is this is not just affecting States such as Texas, a border State, or even Arizona or California. This is affecting States such as Virginia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and other places where the Federal Government is simply looking for a place to warehouse these children while it figures out what to do with them.

Of course, the ensuing crisis has prompted a fresh debate over security conditions at the U.S.-Mexican border. As the debate goes forward, it is worth considering exactly what we mean when we talk about border security, because I fear it is a term that is often misunderstood.

Border security is not just about catching people along the Rio Grande or checkpoints in places such as

Falfurrias or Sarita, it is also about deterring potential illegal immigrants from starting out from their home country on such a dangerous journey in the first place. My friend Congressman HENRY CUELLAR from Laredo said, for example, when you play football you don't just defend at the goal line; you start 20 yards from the goal line, you start at midfield and on the other team's turf. So we need to make sure we have a comprehensive approach and a plan to deal with illegal immigration into the country, as I said, hopefully with the goal in large part of deterring parents from turning their children over to the hands of the drug cartels and other transnational criminal gangs and sending them on this perilous and horrific journey north to the United States.

This journey from Central America to southern Mexico to the U.S. border is one of the most dangerous journeys anywhere in the world. Indeed, every single corridor is controlled by transnational criminal drug organizations, including drug smugglers and cartels. They prey on the weakest and most vulnerable people they find. They will rob them, they will sexually assault them, they will kill them if need be in order to suit their purposes. Not surprisingly, the ongoing surge of Central American migrants has been an absolute gift to the Mexican drug cartels and their gangland affiliates. As an Austin-based immigration lawyer told the L.A. Times recently: "The smugglers are milking this situation for all it's worth." This is money in the bank for the drug cartels and the human smugglers, the people who prey on the most vulnerable people who are smuggled in from Central America and Mexico to the United States. That is how they make their money. That is their business model, so to speak.

President Obama has often defended his immigration policies as a humane response to a broken system. I would be among the first to acknowledge that America's immigration system is indeed broken, but there is nothing humane about incentivizing people who risk their lives and their children's lives by traveling through the most dangerous smuggling corridors in the Western Hemisphere. There is nothing humane about incentivizing people to pay human traffickers for transportation through Mexico.

Yet when the administration deliberately refuses to enforce our immigration laws and talks daily about its investigation into changing repatriation policies, it effectively tells people in Mexico and Central America that if they make it across to the U.S. border they will almost certainly be allowed to stay. When the administration does those things, it is effectively encouraging poor, vulnerable immigrants to embark on a treacherous and often deadly journey.

As I said, the journey is especially treacherous for young migrant women and children. The migrant women are frequently raped, kidnapped, and sold to sex traffickers. Some experts believe that 6 out of 10 of the migrant women who traverse this dangerous territory are sexually assaulted. It is truly appalling and without question one of the worst human rights nightmares anywhere in our hemisphere. For that matter, it is likely getting worse. A new Congressional Research Service memo indicates that girls and children below the age of 13 represent a growing number of unaccompanied minors who are being apprehended at the southern border. Needless to say, as more and more migrant children travel through Mexico, more will be forced into sex slavery and prostitution.

I think we all agree that the status quo is simply intolerable and unacceptable.

So what is the solution? Well, I spent the past couple of days urging the President to take a few basic steps that would help curtail the seemingly endless flow of unaccompanied minors up through this dangerous smuggling corridor. The steps I have outlined I think reflect common sense. For starters, the President of the United States must make it abundantly clear to everyone that his deferred action program on deportation does not apply to the children who are now streaming across our border in floodlike proportions. If the President himself were to make such an announcement, it would get noticed.

Right now Central American newspapers as well as the criminal cartels are actively spreading the word that if you turn yourselves over to us and pay our price to get smuggled into the United States, you can get free passage and stay, because they are saying you will not be repatriated.

If the President also worked with the Mexican Government to help secure its southern border with Guatemala—that border is about 500 miles long and it is currently the place the migrants come from Central America into Mexico to begin that long, perilous journey, many on a train system that has become known as The Beast or The Beast of Death, which has been written about a lot. If the President were to help provide Mexico, in consultation with our Mexican friends, a way to help secure that border, it would help stem more than half the flow of migrants including these unaccompanied children from Central America. And if the President sent the message, contrary to what he has done recently, that he is committed to enforcing all of our immigration laws until Congress and the President can engage in our constitutionally required process of amending those laws, then the tide of children flooding across South Texas might soon be reversed.

I wish I had confidence that President Obama would take the actions I

have described. His record on immigration and border security, unfortunately, inspires no confidence that he will.

To reiterate, once again, solving this crisis isn't simply about securing America's southern border. It is not just about goal-line defense, in the words of Congressman CUELLAR, it is about enforcing our immigration laws. It is about saving mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, from contact with some of the most brutal criminal organizations on the planet.

I hope the President is listening. I am encouraged that Vice President BIDEN is traveling to the region, but, of course, we know that Central America, the government there, has deteriorated to the point that it has become an increasingly dangerous place. That is another one of the arguments that is made, that people are simply fleeing from violence in those Central American countries. I certainly am sympathetic, but the fact is the United States cannot absorb people from every part of the globe who want to come to the United States without imperiling our way of life. So what we need to do is find a way to control immigration through legal channels, and we need to send the message to other countries that you cannot come here with impunity and simply overwhelm our ability in the United States to take care of legal immigrants.

The President can do a lot. Sending Vice President BIDEN to Central America is a start, but what we need is a plan along the lines I have outlined in order to stem this humanitarian crisis that is occurring not just in South Texas but is being spread to Virginia, Maryland, Oklahoma, Arizona, and California, because that is where these children are being sent in the custody of the Federal Government—basically in warehouses or it occurs to me that this is more like a refugee camp on American soil. This is not the way we would want our children to live, and this is not the way we should want other parents' children to live. We will take care of them to the best of our ability while they are here, but what we need is an unequivocal message that says America does not have an open border and that parents should not turn their children over to these dangerous drug cartels and human smugglers in order to come to the United States.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, what the recent crisis at the Veterans' Administration has taught us is that the cost of war does not end when the last shots are fired and the last missiles are launched. The cost of war continues until the last veteran receives the care and benefits that he or she has earned on the battlefield. In other words, the cost of war is very expensive. It is expensive in terms of human life, in terms of human suffering, and in terms of financial commitment.

The cost of war in Iraq and Afghanistan alone is almost 7,000 dead. The cost of war is some 200,000 men and women coming home from those wars with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury. The cost of war from Iraq and Afghanistan is that many of our veterans have come home without arms or legs or eyesight or without their hearing. The cost of war is tragic suicides taking place all over this country from people who have returned from war.

The cost of war is veterans coming home unable to find jobs and get their feet back on the ground financially. The cost of war is high divorce rates and the impact that family stress has on kids. The cost of war is widows suddenly having to start their life anew without the person they married at their side.

Two weeks ago Senator MCCAIN and I hammered together a proposal to deal with the current crisis at the VA, and I thank him very much for understanding the need to move forward expeditiously.

Last Wednesday this legislation passed the Senate by a vote of 93 to 3, and I thank all of the Members in both political parties for voting for this bill. I thank them for understanding that we need to continue moving forward on this legislation as quickly as possible and in a nonpartisan way.

A recent VA audit revealed that more than 57,000 veterans are waiting to be scheduled for medical appointments. They are in facilities where the waiting lists are much too long. That, to my mind, is clearly an emergency situation.

I thank all of those Senators who not only voted to pass this bill but, perhaps more importantly, voted to pay for this bill through emergency funding. I could not agree more with Senator MCCAIN when he said:

If there is a definition of emergency, I would say that this legislation fits that. It is an emergency. It is an emergency what is happening to our veterans and the men and women who have served this country. And we need to pass this legislation and get it in conference with the House as soon as possible.

I fully agree with Senator MCCAIN's sentiment. Madam President, 93 Senators—in a strong bipartisan showing—agreed with Senator MCCAIN and me that this is an emergency, that vet-

erans must get the quality health care they need, and they must get it in a timely manner. We need to provide the funding the VA needs and do it in an expeditious way.

Needless to say, the bill we passed in the Senate is a compromise. It is not the bill I know Senator MCCAIN would have written alone, and it is surely not the bill I would have written if I could have had the power to write it alone. It is a compromise that was hammered out in good faith, which is something we need to see more of in this body.

What this bill does is address the immediate crisis facing the VA of long waiting periods and makes certain that as soon as possible, the veterans of our country get the high-quality care they need and they get it in a timely fashion. That is what our veterans deserve.

I will briefly touch on some of the major provisions in the bill. This bill allows for 26 major medical facility leases, which means improved and expanded care for veterans in 17 States and Puerto Rico. There has been some disagreement about a 27th facility located in Oklahoma. That facility was in the original bill I introduced, and I supported its inclusion in final passage.

This bill also provides for the expedited hiring of VA doctors and nurses and \$500 million targeted to hire those providers with unobligated funds. No medical program can provide quality care in a timely manner if those programs do not have an adequate number of doctors, nurses, and other medical providers.

This bill will provide an opportunity for the VA to immediately increase capacity within their system. It will provide an expedited hiring authority to allow VA to quickly hire doctors and nurses, which is not the case right now. One of the problems with the VA is they have a very complicated process. It takes a whole lot of time, and they often lose their applicants because it takes such a long period of time. We need to change that, and this bill does that.

Right now there are 741 vacancy announcements for physician positions at VA on USAJOBS. My understanding is that is a flaw. In fact, the real number of physicians needed is significantly greater than that. In Phoenix alone there have been estimates that up to 500 new providers in that one facility alone—and those are doctors, nurses, and other health care providers—are needed if the veterans in Phoenix are going to have timely care.

Further, what our legislation also does is say to veterans around the country that if they cannot get into a VA facility in a timely manner, they will be able to get the care they need outside of the VA. In my view, what we need to do is hire those doctors, nurses, and supporting staff so veterans who come to the VA can get timely care there, but if they cannot get to a VA

facility, this legislation is very clear in stating that they can go to private doctors, community health centers, Department of Defense bases or Indian health care facilities.

The goal is to give veterans a wide option to access care in a timely manner through providers in their communities. If the VA is unable to accommodate those veterans, they are going to go outside of the VA and get timely health care, and that is a very important provision in this bill.

This bill also says veterans who live 40 miles or more from a VA facility—if they choose—also have the option of seeking care outside of the VA. For those veterans living in very rural areas—and I have talked to one Senator who indicated that in some cases a veteran has to travel hundreds and hundreds of miles to get VA health care—this provision will also be very important.

The bill also addresses a major crisis we have seen in the military; that is, the tragedy and the outrage of sexual assault. Our bill will significantly increase VA services for those veterans who experienced sexual assault in the military.

This bill also deals with an issue—where there is widespread support across partisan lines—instate tuition for all veterans at public colleges and universities. This bill also importantly provides that surviving spouses—mostly wives who have lost their husbands in battle—will also be eligible for the post-9/11 GI bill, and that is exactly the right thing to do.

This bill also establishes commissions to provide help to give the VA in terms of improving schedule capabilities and capital planning. These are areas, frankly, where the VA has not been strong. They can use private sector and expert help so they can improve their scheduling capabilities and their ability to do capital planning.

Finally, and importantly, this bill gives the Secretary the authority to immediately fire incompetent employees or those who have falsified or manipulated data in terms of waiting periods. All of us have been outraged that people have intentionally manipulated data to make it appear that veterans have been getting timely care when that was not the case.

Our bill gives the Secretary the ability to fire those employees and other incompetent employees and it also provides due process. I think that is important because I do not want to see the VA politicized. I don't want to see a President coming into office with a new Secretary firing 300 or 400 top-level supervisors. We do not want to see the VA politicized. We want the best people regardless of their political views.

The House of Representatives passed legislation last week which covers a lot of the same ground the Sanders-McCain bill covers, and I am very con-

fidant that in working with chairman JEFF MILLER and ranking member MIKE MICHAUD, we can bridge the differences and send the President a bill he can sign in the very near future. I think that is what the American people want. That is what Members of Congress want. We do not want this to drag on and on and on. We want to get this bill done quickly.

Finally, I did want to say a word to the 300,000 employees who work at the VA. These last several months have been a tough time for many of them. The truth is the overwhelming majority of the people who work at the VA are hard-working, honest, and serious people. In fact, many of them are veterans themselves. I know many others who work at the VA look at what they do not as a job—a 9-to-5 job—but they look at it as a mission. They feel very seriously that our veterans have to get the best health care possible, and they are doing their best to make that happen. I thank them very much for that.

Over and over, I hear from my State of Vermont and from across the country that once veterans get into the VA health care system, the care is good. That is not just my view; it is the view of virtually all of the major veterans organizations and independent studies that compare VA health care with care in the private sector.

In the State of Vermont some 98 percent of veterans get appointments into the system within 30 days. That is good, but it needs to be better in Vermont and throughout this country. The goal must be the highest quality care possible and getting people their appointments in a timely manner.

Let me read, interestingly enough, a poll that just came out from Gallup today. It was published today, and it was commissioned by MarketWatch from the Wall Street Journal. The interesting paragraph here—they polled some 42,000-plus Americans regarding their satisfaction with health care in America. Let me quote what the article says:

Despite recent troubles with veterans not having access to prompt medical appointments, current and former military personnel are the most satisfied with their health care, as 77% expressed contentment. That was the highest satisfaction rate among those broken out by method of coverage.

Veterans, obviously, get their health care in other ways—not just through the VA—but it is important to recognize that for many, many veterans the health care they are getting is good, and they appreciate that.

Let me conclude by saying our job right now—and I think the American people are with us on this virtually 100 percent—is to make sure those men and women who have put their lives on the line to defend us—they are now asking us to defend them, to make sure they get the health care and the benefits to which they are entitled. My goal

is to see that we move this legislation as quickly as possible. I hope by tomorrow we will have named conferees to the conference committee. My hope is we can get this legislation on to the President's desk as soon as we possibly can.

It is one thing to give heartfelt speeches about how much we love and respect veterans; it is another to act, and now is the time for action. The Senate and House committee staffs have already begun preliminary discussions. My understanding is the House conferees will be named tomorrow. I believe we will do the same here in the Senate. My job and what I intend to work on as hard as I can is to make sure we pass strong legislation as soon as we possibly can and have the President sign that legislation.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, just a few minutes ago the Senator from Texas, my friend JOHN CORNYN, came to the floor and spoke about immigration and the situation on our border. It was a very moving statement that he has made before and needs to make again. He did it today and identified a serious issue we are facing—not just one but several serious issues. They are dramatized by the fact that we are seeing hundreds of children who are being turned loose on America's border with Mexico crossing the border, being apprehended, and being placed in a humane situation in America—children, some as young as 5, 6, and 7 years of age, not accompanied by adults. You think to yourself, what is going on here?

Senator CORNYN, of course, representing the State of Texas, knows this better than most because they are watching these children.

Eighty percent of these children come from three countries: Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. In these countries there is a state of lawlessness at this point that is so desperate—so desperate—that a family would turn over a child to someone who says: I will get them across the American border.

Some of these kids show up—I do not know how many; I cannot tell you—with little slips of paper with a name and a telephone number of a relative in the United States. Think about that for a second. How desperate would a family have to be to turn over a 5-year-old, a 6- or 7-year-old child to someone and say: Take them hundreds of miles

and enter illegally into the United States of America with my little girl or my little boy. I cannot even imagine the desperation that people are facing that they would do such a thing.

That represents a major problem for the United States at several levels.

First, we are a humane and caring nation. We will not see a child abandoned at the border and turn our backs. What we are doing is taking these children into protective custody, trying to find a way to link them with some member of their family for their own good. Imagine the trauma these kids have gone through at that point and now what they might face. That is why we are stepping forward.

Senator CORNYN came to the floor, and he rightfully said that many of these children do not make these journeys unharmed. Terrible things happen to them. Awful things happen to them—assaults, rapes, beatings, and God only knows. You think to yourself, what impact will that trauma have on that child for such a long period of time?

The lawlessness in these three countries is leading to this outmigration for safety, this desperation by many families and parents.

The second aspect is one that we cannot ignore either. Many children come into the United States, and some of them come in the most extreme situations for a very basic human reason—children who were raised in other countries and their parents are in the United States. They have not seen them sometimes for years. They have received cash to keep them going under the care of another relative, gifts at Christmas, gifts for their birthday. But some of these kids—these little kids—will jump on these freight trains and go through Central America toward the United States in the hope of finding a parent. I cannot tell you the exact numbers.

There is a book that won the Pulitzer Prize called “Enrique’s Journey.” A woman named Nazario who writes for the L.A. Times went down to Central America, got on one of these trains with these kids, who sit on top of these freight cars as they go through these countries trying to get to the United States. Many of them—she believes the majority of them—are simply trying to be reunited with their parents.

Listen to the tragedy in what I have just described. Think about the desperation of families and the desperation of these children and where it puts us in the world today, and reflect for a moment on a political reality that did not come up in the earlier statement. The political reality is that it has been more than 1 year since the Senate passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill with 68 votes, 14 Republicans joining the Democrats in a bipartisan effort.

I know a little bit about this bill because I joined the group who wrote it,

four Democrats, four Republicans, sitting across the table—on our side, CHUCK SCHUMER of New York, BOB MENENDEZ of New Jersey, MIKE BENNET of Colorado; on the Republican side, JOHN MCCAIN of Arizona, JEFF FLAKE of Arizona, LINDSEY GRAHAM of South Carolina, and MARCO RUBIO of Florida. We sat in this room—many rooms, I should say—over a period of months and hammered out a comprehensive bill that deals with many of the issues that are behind the tragedy I just described. That is something we ought to acknowledge is part of our challenge today, that 1 year has gone by and the House of Representatives has refused to even call this bill for consideration.

I am pretty proud of what we did and what we wrote. I do not think there are many pieces of legislation that bipartisan that have the support of business and labor and religious groups of every denomination. They all support our bill. I am proud of that fact.

I served in the House. I know they have some pride of authorship. They may want to do their version of the bill. That is OK. But doing nothing is not OK. It is not acceptable. We have a broken immigration system. Senator CORNYN of Texas said as much himself.

If we are going to deal with the problem at the border with these children, if we are going to deal with the problem of 11 million or more undocumented people in America—many of whom have been here for long periods of time, may live in a household where everyone else in the house is an American citizen, and I know of these cases in Chicago; I have met them—people who are willing to come forward at this point in their lives, register with the government, tell the government where they live, where they work, have a background check so that if they have serious criminal issues they are gone, stay in this country, pay their taxes, pay a fine for being undocumented, learn English, and wait 13 years at the earliest before they can become citizens, and they go to the absolute back of the line—that is what our bill says. That, to me, is a movement toward a solution of what we are facing today.

But I hear many times criticism of this President. I will tell you, this President has been fully supportive of this effort for comprehensive immigration reform. I cannot tell you how many hours I have spent with him and so many others trying to work toward this goal. I know, because he used to be my junior Senator from Illinois and we are pretty close. I know that when he was going through the transition to become President, he invited Senators MCCAIN and GRAHAM to meet with him in Chicago before he was sworn in. They talked about immigration. That is how important it is to this President. So those who would blame him or dismiss him for the current situation, it is not fair. He supports comprehensive immigration reform.

He said to the House of Representatives and the Republican leadership that he will step back in terms of doing anything on an executive level and give them the opportunity to do what they are supposed to do—call this matter for a vote. We are praying they do it before the end of July because we are running out of time. In just a few months there will be an election and then a lame-duck session between the election and the new Congress. Not much can get done in that period of time.

The President has said to Speaker BOEHNER and the Republicans: Move the bill. So when I hear the criticism of some of the terrible injustices in our current immigration system, I think we ought to be very honest. We have passed a bill—a bipartisan bill, a comprehensive bill—in the Senate, and it has been sitting in the House for more than a year. More than a year.

I came to this issue, like most, with a family story. I have told my family story on the floor many times, but I am proud of it, so I am going to repeat it.

My mother was an immigrant to this country. She came to America, brought here at the age of 2. She was brought from Lithuania. My grandmother packed her up with my aunt and uncle and brought them over in a ship. They landed in Baltimore and somehow got on a train to St. Louis. They were headed for their great opportunity in America, their land of opportunity, the town I was born in, East St. Louis, IL. That is where I came from. That is where they landed because the Lithuanians were there working in the packing houses and the steel mills and all of the jobs that immigrants take.

That is my story. That is my family’s story. But that is also America’s story. Those immigrants who come here and take the dirtiest, hardest jobs, work night and day trying to make sure their kids have another chance, create time and again generations of renewal in America.

There is something in our DNA, my friends—all of us who are proud to say we are Americans—there is something in our DNA about that immigrant spirit, to think that my family and millions of others said: We are leaving Jurbarkas, Lithuania, and we are going to America, where we do not even speak the language.

What an adventure. What courage. What Americanism. That is what creates us. That is in our national DNA. Thank goodness it is.

There is something else I would like to note. It has been 2 years since President Obama issued an Executive order. It was known as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, DACA.

Here is the history. Thirteen years ago I got a call in my Chicago office from a Korean mother who said she had a problem. She had brought her daughter to the United States at the age of 2

on a visitor's visa. Her daughter was now grown up, 18 years of age. She had never filed any papers for her. Technically mom, who was here legally as a citizen, had an undocumented child in her house.

The problem was that this undocumented girl had turned out to be a spectacular pianist and had won an opportunity for scholarships to the Juilliard School of Music and the New York Conservatory of Music. She was that good. When she went to fill out the application, they asked her for her citizenship. She turned to her mom and said: What am I?

Her mom said: I don't know.

The girl said: What are you going to do?

Mom said: Let's call DURBIN.

So they called my office. We checked the law. The law was very clear. That little girl who had been in the United States for 16 or 17 years at that point in her life was undocumented and under the law had to leave the United States for 10 years and apply to come back in. That is how the law was written.

I thought to myself: That is not fair. That little girl did not have any say in her parents moving here. She had nothing to say when they failed to file the necessary papers. Now she was the victim of our legal system and her parents' failure to file the papers so she could be here legally.

So I introduced the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act I introduced 13 years ago said: If you are in that kind of a circumstance—brought here as a child by your parents, have lived in the United States, finished high school, no serious criminal record—we will give you a chance. Either enlist in our military or go to college for at least 2 years, and we will put you on the path to citizenship.

That is the DREAM Act. Well, that bill has been around a long time—13 years. It has passed in the Senate as part of a comprehensive bill, and it has passed in the House individually. But it has never passed in both places, which, as we know, is what is necessary to become a law.

So I wrote to President Obama, with 22 of my colleagues—that at one point included Senator Lugar of Indiana, my Republican colleague then—and asked the President: Create an Executive order so these young people eligible for the DREAM Act will not be deported while we debate. Give them a chance to be here in a legally recognized status because they would qualify under this bill that continues to pass—the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. That, of course, was enacted by the President in Executive order 2 years ago.

After it was enacted, Congressman LUIS GUTIÉRREZ and I—in Chicago—said: We want to give all of those eligible to apply for this deferred action

protection under the Executive order a chance to sign up.

So LUIS and I said: We are going to reserve Navy Pier—if you have ever been to Chicago, there is a huge ballroom at the end of Navy Pier, one of the most popular sites in downtown—and we are going to invite any young person who wants to sign up for DACA so they won't be deported to come in and sign up.

I said initially: I hope we get 200 people to come because we have a big room here.

In the end over 10,000 showed up. It overwhelmed us. We had volunteer lawyers there, lots of friends there, and people helping. Parents got in line at midnight the night before, standing with their kids and waiting for a chance to give these kids a chance to be legally in the United States and not deported; that is how much it meant to them.

Some of these parents, sadly, didn't have the same protection, but they wanted to do everything they could for their kids. Well, the time has passed, and in the course of time we have seen 560,000 children across America who signed up for this protection under DACA—560,000.

I have come to the floor and told about 50 or 60 stories about these DREAMers. We call them DREAMers—these young kids. Each time I tell the story, I get responses from people saying: I can't believe that we still haven't resolved this problem.

I want to tell you one of these stories today. I want to update you about one of the DREAMers I have spoken about on the floor.

This is Erika Andiola and her mother Guadalupe Arreola. Guadalupe's husband—Erika's father—abused her for 15 years. In order to escape this abuse and protect her kids, she fled to the United States.

Free from threats of violence, Guadalupe and her children made life in this country. Her daughter Erika graduated with honors from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She is the founder and president of the Arizona DREAM Act Coalition, a group advocating for immigration reform.

After receiving DACA, her protection under the President's Executive order, Erika became the first DREAMer to work for the Congress. She could legally do it under the President's order. She served as district outreach director for Congresswoman KYRSTEN SINEMA of Arizona. I might add that Congressman GUTIÉRREZ also hired one of the earliest DREAMers under DACA on his staff as well.

The same week that Erika was hired to work for a Member of Congress, they received notice that her mother was being placed in deportation proceedings. Why were we trying to deport Erika's mother, Guadalupe? Because

she was pulled over for a traffic violation and she had a deportation order that was 15 years old.

Erika made a difficult decision. She gave up her job with the Congresswoman and started focusing on helping her mom. Her mother wrote me a letter and said:

I have always taught my children that there is nothing more important than the love for our families. . . . I ask Congress and the President to realize that I am a human being who was just looking to protect my children from a life full of violence.

There are 11 million undocumented immigrants like Guadalupe in the United States. They are hard-working men and women with courage who leave everything behind they know to build a better life. They have strong family values, and they make a real contribution to our country and our economy. They serve our food in restaurants. They clean off the tables when we are finished eating. They take care of our small children in daycare, and they watch our parents in nursing homes. That is who the undocumented are in America.

They raise children like Erika and make contributions to our country. They want to be Americans. But under current law, there is no way for them to get in line and legalized.

Last week the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, was kind enough to come to Chicago. I invited him. I wanted him to see the Broadview processing facility, where those who are about to face deportation are held. It is a grim reminder of families that are being broken up right before our eyes. I wanted him also to meet with people in the Muslim community, in the Syrian community, in the Hispanic communities, and talk about immigration in America today. He was kind enough to do that.

Along with my colleagues, Congressmen LUIS GUTIÉRREZ and BILL FOSTER, we visited the center. We met in the detention cells a 51-year-old man who came to the United States at the age of 6. He has three kids who are U.S. citizens. One now serves in the U.S. Army and another is a police officer. In the visitation area outside, we met his mother, who is 80 years old. She was hoping to get a glimpse of her son before he was deported.

This is the human impact of immigration laws and policies. The House of Representatives has a chance to fix this and many other problems. We can move together to stop this horrible humanitarian crisis at the border with children. We can move together to deal with the undocumented among us who will step forward, pay their taxes and their fines, learn English, go to the back of the line and wait their turns. We will be a better country if we do.

I hope the House Republicans will take up this responsibility. If they

have a better idea, bring it to the floor and vote on it but, if not, call up our bipartisan Senate bill. Let's fix this broken immigration system. Let's move this country forward.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEVIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 469

Mr. PORTMAN. I rise today to put the Senate on record on something very important, and that is speaking to the decision by the Obama administration to release five top Taliban leaders from Guantanamo Bay without consulting Congress, as required by law—a decision that I believe endangers the lives of American personnel, not to mention the countless Afghans and the success of our mission in Afghanistan.

It has been well reported in the press that this release was done without consulting Congress or congressional leaders on either side of the aisle—Republican or Democrat, by the way. This was in clear violation of a requirement to provide detailed notice to Congress before such action is taken—a requirement that is contained in both an authorization bill called the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act and a spending bill, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, both of which passed Congress with big bipartisan majorities. Both were bipartisan bills, and there was a bipartisan consensus about having this notification.

Despite several closed-door briefings and public comments from the administration since we learned of the release, the administration has been unable to provide any legitimate justification for violating the requirement and for failing to consult with Congress.

I believe the President's conduct raises a lot of questions—questions which should concern every Member of this body on both sides of the aisle.

This is not a partisan issue, nor is it about what kind of soldier SGT Bowe Bergdahl may have been. I trust the Army will handle that matter appropriately. This is about our role in the Congress, and it is about our national security. It is about protecting our men and women in Afghanistan. It is about ensuring that what they have fought for in the last decade and the gains they have made in our war against terrorism and for the people in Afghanistan will not be squandered, as we are seeing today in the country of Iraq.

Congress enacted the bipartisan notice requirement to secure those inter-

ests and to prevent the release of dangerous terrorists who are likely to re-join the fight if they are freed. It requires the President to give a detailed justification for the release of detainees from Guantanamo Bay, why such a release is in the country's national security interests, and what actions the administration will take to ensure that those released detainees do not return to the battlefield to threaten American lives—basically asking the administration to notify us, but to also provide a justification for the release and the conditions of that release.

Had the President followed the law, I believe many of the dangers posed by this decision could have been avoided altogether. I think he would have heard on a bipartisan basis the concerns of the Congress, which were only voiced after the decisions were made, again, on both sides of the aisle.

Make no mistake, these five men who were released are dangerous. Don't take my word for it. This is what the administration has said repeatedly. I was in a hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee in 2012. I was a member of the committee at that time. Senator LEVIN, my colleague and chairman of the committee, who is here on the floor with us today, was at that committee hearing. In fact, he asked some very good questions, including questions to the President's own Director of National Intelligence James Clapper.

What did Mr. Clapper say? He reiterated a 2010 administration assessment that these five Taliban leaders—these same five who were just released—posed a high risk of returning to the fight.

On this very point, Director Clapper did not equivocate, saying:

I do not think anyone harbors any illusions about these five Taliban members and what they might do if they were transferred.

This was sworn testimony before our committee. Even if, as the President admits, there is "absolutely a risk that these men will return to the battlefield," these men were senior members of the Taliban. They include the Taliban's deputy defense minister, deputy minister of intelligence, administrator of the interior, and some were closely associated with Osama bin Laden or Al Qaeda. Two are wanted by the United Nations for war crimes.

Yet despite these red flags—which, according to reports from the press, were reiterated during internal White House debates of the transfer—President Obama released these men anyway without following the notice provided in the law.

We need to know why. We need to know what security risks these five individuals pose. We need to know what measures have been put in place to mitigate those risks. I don't know why any Member of this body would oppose going on record saying that the law

was violated and seeking answers to these good questions.

In a moment I am going to ask for unanimous consent on a resolution which I have offered and many of my colleagues have cosponsored calling on Congress, through regular order and committee jurisdiction, to investigate the decision to authorize this release. This resolution has a very narrow purpose: It only seeks to ensure that, when Congress speaks, the President listens. I would remind us that this provision on Guantanamo transfer passed in an overwhelming bipartisan manner.

This is not an issue of politics. No matter what party the President is from, our entire constitutional balance depends on adherence to the rule of law. This is about more than the President ignoring Congress. The American people are the ones who deserve these answers. We are their representatives. That is why that provision was put in place, so that we, representing them, could give the President better advice.

The American people deserve these answers. So do, by the way, our men and women in uniform who continue to put their lives on the line for us every single day.

Already this month, since the release of these detainees, eight American servicemen have lost their lives in Afghanistan. We still have over 30,000 troops in the theater—30,000 Americans putting their lives on the line for us every day. I think a lot of them are wondering: What was the justification? Why? What effect will it have on them and their safety? One could hardly doubt that the administration's decision to release these Taliban leaders will put even more Americans at risk.

We should be under no illusions: If we take no action, I do not believe this will be the last unlawful transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay back to the battlefield.

In other words, if we don't speak and go on record to say: Wait a minute; we had a law here; this is wrong; we need a detailed justification—I believe the wrong message will be sent to the administration. The sense is Congress didn't seem to care that we violated the authorization bill, the appropriations bill, and went ahead without providing the appropriate notice.

President Obama has made it clear that closing Guantanamo is one of his top priorities in the waning days of his administration. I understand that. But he has provided no such clarity on what he intends to do with the dangerous men who are housed there—men such as Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the principal architect of the 9/11 attacks. He is there. Will he be released? Into whose custody? The terrorist known as Hambali, the mastermind of the Bali bombing that killed 200 people, including 7 Americans; Ramsey bin Al-

Shabab, a high-ranking Al Qaeda operative who helped coordinate the 9/11 attacks.

We also need to remember why we went to Afghanistan in the first place. Before 9/11, under Taliban rule the country had become a haven for Al Qaeda, a power base for Osama bin Laden, and a place from which to plan and launch attacks against the United States and our allies. We went to Afghanistan to seek justice for those who died on September 11, but we also went to remove the Taliban from power, to free the Afghan people, and to ensure that Afghanistan never again becomes this base, this platform for terrorist activity which threatens us. We must not be blind to the fact that the Taliban aims to regain as much power as they can in Afghanistan and in Pakistan. That means a return to oppression, human rights abuses, the suppression of women's rights and, most importantly to us and our national security, the complicit harboring of their ally Al Qaeda. We have just returned to them the leadership team to help them achieve that goal.

President Obama tells us the war in Afghanistan is coming to an end. We need to ensure that end is one of sustainable victory, not defeat. The deteriorating situation we see unfolding before us on our TV sets in Iraq today demonstrates what can happen when we rush to the exits without preparing for an appropriate exit.

Today, the black flag of radical Islam flies over the second largest city in Iraq, and armed militants are advancing on Baghdad. Proclaiming victory in Iraq did not make it so.

Many made it clear that if we failed to maintain appropriate forces in Iraq to help the government transition and establish its authority, the long-term stability of Iraq would be open to threats and radical groups. We chose not to complete a status-of-forces agreement with the Maliki government. President Obama did not heed the warnings from those who saw these threats, and unfortunately we are seeing some of these predictions come true. Whatever we do in Afghanistan, I hope we learn from the lessons of Iraq.

The decisions to release high-ranking members of the Taliban while the fight against the Taliban continues to this day has shaken the trust of the American people, the trust of the Afghan people, and it opens the frightening possibility that what we are seeing today in Iraq may be a foreshadowing of Afghanistan's future.

In my view, Congress has the responsibility to get to the bottom of how this release happened and to ensure it doesn't happen again. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support the resolution I have submitted so we can fulfill that responsibility.

I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be dis-

charged from further consideration of S. Res. 469; that the Senate proceed to its consideration; that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEVIN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I do intend to object to the resolution for a number of reasons.

First of all, the resolution prejudices the very conclusion that the resolution says it wants an investigation to determine. It calls for an investigation, but then it already concludes that the President violated the law. That is not what I call an impartial investigation. That is a resolution which reaches a conclusion prejudging the very investigation it calls for.

There are other problems here as well. My good friend from Ohio said the President violated the law because he didn't give 30 days notice to Congress. Indeed, the National Defense Authorization Act provides for 30 days notice. But it also is a matter of fact the President said, when he signed the National Defense Authorization Act, that if there were necessary circumstances where there were negotiations going on with foreign countries or foreign people in terms of preserving or saving an American life that he is not going to be bound by 30 days notice. He said that at the signing ceremony.

You can't change a law at a signing ceremony, but what you can do at a signing ceremony is what this President did: At the very signing ceremony for the very act the Senator is relying on, the President put us on notice that there could be circumstances under which he could not give 30 days notice to the Congress.

When he did not give 30 days notice in this circumstance, he did it on the advice of counsel. The Department of Justice told him that he has powers, as Commander in Chief, under article II. That is part of the law of this land. The law of this land includes the National Defense Authorization Act. As a matter of fact, the Presiding Officer is very much aware of the fact that the National Defense Authorization Act, of which he is so important a part, is part of the law of this land. But so is article II of the Constitution, which gives the Commander in Chief certain powers, and the Department of Justice said he could use those powers to not give 30 days notice because it could jeopardize the life of an American citizen.

Maybe there are those who argue that is OK, follow the authorization law instead of article II, because the authorization law somehow or another has precedence over article II, which it

doesn't. Article II is part of the Constitution. But the authorization act itself was said to be subject to article II powers of the President when he signed the very act.

So what happened? The President decided, because of the exigencies of these circumstances—whether you agree or don't agree with the details of the deal, that is one issue. People can disagree with that all they want. But as to whether once the President decided he was going to make that deal and save that life and not jeopardize that life by waiting 30 days, at that point the question is, was that illegal? That is what a court could decide if it so chose as to whether a President could use article II powers in order to act quickly to save an American life.

I think that prejudging this kind of an issue with the kind of investigation that would prejudice it—because that is part of the resolution itself—is not what this Senate should be doing.

By the way, during that 30-day period the President would have had to have not just waited 30 days; he would have also had to have made all kinds of detailed and substantive classified notifications. He would have had to have made certain kinds of findings, detailed statements, the basis for the transfer release, and explanation of why the transfer release is in the national security interest of the United States, a description of any actions taken to mitigate the risks. He would have had to have done all that before he was able to execute the transfer of an American citizen to the safety of this country.

The President did do all of those things immediately after he made the decision to act. So we got all of that notification that is required by law, but we didn't get it 30 days in advance because of the jeopardy it would have created to American life.

Again, people are going to disagree as to whether this agreement should have been reached. That is fair discussion, fair game for debate, but that is a very different issue as to whether we should prejudice as to whether the President, who acted under his article II powers—and told us he might do so when he signed this bill—acted illegally, and that is what this resolution says happened—that the President acted illegally. It prejudices the investigation.

I think for a number of reasons it is inappropriate for us to adopt this resolution, so I will object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. It is unfortunate that we cannot at this point come to a bipartisan agreement on something even, it seems to me, as straightforward as this.

To my friend from Michigan I would say a couple of things. One, this resolution does not prejudice the investigation. The resolution—and I have it in

front of me now—does not talk about the President's article II powers. It very clearly says that transfer of these detainees violated the National Defense Authorization Act—legislation that you brought to the floor—and the appropriations bill. That is what it says. So that is clear by the very language in those bills, that it does violate those bills. It doesn't talk about the constitutional authorities the President may have. It does say that it violates the terms of this legislation. It does not prejudge the investigation, which is in the why, the investigation as to why it happened, with, again, the intent of trying to keep this from happening again.

I do think the President could have used some reasoned judgment from some people who have been around a while, maybe even Senator LEVIN, who has some strong views on these national security matters and was involved earlier in the hearings that I was in where, under oath, the administration official talked about how dangerous these very men were.

Second, Senator LEVIN correctly says the President cannot change the law, and that is all we are saying. He cannot change the law with a signing statement. If he didn't believe this law was appropriate, he should have vetoed it, and he has done that in the past—as have other Presidents—vetoed legislation with which he didn't agree.

So I do believe that under article II, Chairman LEVIN is correct that the President does have certain authorities. That is why we were very careful when we drafted this legislation, this resolution, to say that this says the Congress shall go on record establishing that under the clear terms of these two laws that were passed by the Congress and signed into law by the President, the President did not follow the terms of those laws. That is clear. The investigation, then, is into why, and the Armed Services Committee would have the ability to do that.

By the way, today I know many are celebrating the capture of Ahmed Abu Khattala. Ahmed Abu Khattala was one of the terrorists who attacked the American compound in Benghazi, and I am glad to hear we have captured him and he may be deported back to the United States of America.

It is interesting because we got notice. I don't know if the chairman was notified, but I know the intelligence committee was notified. And that wasn't required by law, by the way. It is just common practice that happens when you have a relationship between the administration and Congress that is confidential.

We were notified, of course, with regard to the bin Laden capture. I cannot imagine the bin Laden capture was any less sensitive or any different in kind to make it something that we could do a notification on when we couldn't do

it on the release of these five detainees from Guantanamo.

So this is something I think is very reasonable. We are asking for justification not after the decision is made—that is not what the legislation says. It says before the decision is made so that Congress can have the opportunity to discuss this with the President and to make sure that, in fact, we are proceeding appropriately with these very dangerous detainees at Guantanamo.

I would again make the point that some of these detainees who are at Guantanamo right now are people who—just as in the case of these five Taliban—have been considered to be extremely dangerous, and I would ask the question, If Congress isn't on record saying that we expect the law to be followed here and that the President ought to notify Congress before we release these people, what is going to happen with Khalid Shaikh Mohammed? What is going to happen with Hambali? What is going to happen with Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an architect of the 9/11 attacks? These are all people who are at Guantanamo. The President says he wants to shut it down.

I think the legislation Senator LEVIN and others crafted—which, by the way, was legislation that changed over time. It evolved. The notification was a relatively slight requirement on the President compared to the previous legislation when I was on the Armed Services Committee with Chairman LEVIN. So this was something we thought about. We decided notification was appropriate, notifying Congress and providing a detailed justification. It is not too much to ask.

Again, we required the President to tell the Congress before releasing Guantanamo detainees. We spoke with one voice in the Congress. The President ignored that legal requirement. He ignored the voice of Congress. He ignored the law. If we are not going to hold him accountable, I don't know who will. Again, what does it say about the separation of powers enshrined in our Constitution, which simply says Congress has a role as one of the branches of government. No declaration, no investigation, no recourse? I don't think that is going to be helpful in terms of ensuring that balance of power continues and that we don't have this situation recur, as the President is talking about shutting down Guantanamo Bay and releasing other detainees.

I hope my friends on the other side of the aisle will reconsider their course of action today and take a careful look at this resolution, which was carefully drafted—including not to impinge on the President's constitutional powers under article II. I think the stakes are simply too high to do otherwise.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

Mr. President, first of all, look at what the resolution says. When you read the resolution, it says: Congress should investigate the actions taken by President Obama and his administration that led to the unlawful transfer of such detainees.

So when my friend says it doesn't prejudge that it was unlawful, by its very terms it says "investigate the actions taken by President Obama that led to the unlawful transfer of such detainees." That is what the resolution says.

Secondly, the point that the resolution makes no reference to article II—my friend says that, and he is accurate in that regard. That is the problem. What is missing is a reference to what the President was advised he could do—which is act under his article II powers—and what the President said he would do when he signed this bill.

Third, the fact that we were notified of the bin Laden capture—I don't know how many of us were notified, but it certainly wasn't 30 days before he was captured, if it was at all. That is the issue here—not whether the President should have notified—by the way, I think he could have done a better job of notifying Congress. That is not the question. The question is whether he acted illegally, as the resolution says he did, because he didn't follow the 30-day notice requirement, which, in his judgment and I think a lot of other people's judgment, including mine, would have jeopardized the life of an American citizen. So he acted under article II powers to avoid that jeopardy, and there is no reference to article II in here. There is no reference to the fact that the Department of Justice informed the President he could act without abiding by a 30-day provision if he acted under his article II powers to save the life of an American citizen.

There are many reasons that this resolution—there are many problems that it seems to me this resolution does not fairly address or resolve, and that is the reason I object.

One other issue; that is, my friend from Ohio made reference to James Clapper, who is the Director of National Intelligence. Well, Director Clapper supports the deal that was made relative to this transfer, as does General Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Admiral Winnefeld, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 4:45 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and that at 4:45 p.m. all postcloture time be expired and the Senate proceed to vote on the confirmation of Calendar No. 572, with all the provisions of the previous order remaining in effect, and

that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, with this agreement there will be two rollcall votes at 4:45 p.m., first on the confirmation of Peter Kadzik to be Assistant Attorney General and second on cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4660, the House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I am coming to the floor today to talk about what is happening in Ukraine, but before I do that, I cannot help but—having heard some of the discussion before this from my colleague from Michigan and my colleague from Ohio—add to that discussion.

First of all, the President didn't even notify the chair of the intelligence committee and the ranking member of that committee. And I think it is clear why he didn't notify the chair of the intelligence committee. Because there was widespread opposition from the intelligence committee to transferring these five particular detainees, and that was made clear to the administration well before this prisoner swap was made.

Moreover, what I find not only shocking—that the chair and ranking member of the intelligence committee weren't consulted about this, but what made my jaw drop was when I learned that our commander in Afghanistan had not been consulted in advance about the impact on the ground of this particular prisoner transfer in terms of the five Taliban detainees—which, make no mistake, what our intelligence community has said is that these five detainees, the five Taliban dream team—on a scale of 1 to 10, how likely will it be that they get back in the fight against us and our allies and against our interests? Four of them, we were told, are a 10 out of 10 that they will get back into the fight. That is why these five detainees were designated as high-risk by the board that is supposed to review these issues and decide whether prisoners can be safely transferred out of Guantanamo or whether they should be indefinitely detained.

I just wanted to add that to this discussion because it is important to understand. I do believe we should bring our men and women home who have served our country, but these five detainees represent a real danger to us and our allies going forward, and that is why even the intel committee on a bipartisan basis didn't think this was a good idea.

The notion that the President couldn't trust, for example, the rank-

ing member of the intel committee, whom I have great respect for, and the chairman of that committee, whom we entrust every day to hold classified information, to ask at least what the intel committee thought, I just think that is absurd, that they would have somehow put at risk our soldier in Afghanistan.

So I wanted to add that to the discussion. And it seems to me that if we really wanted to consult on the ground with our commander in Afghanistan, we would want to know from him in advance what he thought about putting the five detainees back in the battle space, regardless of what he thinks now about it because making a good decision means consulting the people who are knowledgeable about this in advance.

What worries me the most about this transfer is the fact that five out of the five are likely to get back in the fight, and we don't have a good record on this. The estimates are that 29 percent of those who have been detained in Guantanamo have either gotten directly back in the fight or we believe have gotten back in the fight against our interests or the interests of our allies. That is the national security concern about this transfer.

UKRAINE

I am here today to talk about the situation in Ukraine. As we look around the world there is so much happening and so much which is of concern to our country, but today I would like to focus on Ukraine and what Russia is doing in Eastern Ukraine to interfere with the sovereignty of the Ukrainian people, to interfere with their choice of how they want to conduct their country, the choices they have a right to make for their own country.

Of course, this began with the illegal invasion and annexation of Crimea, but it has not stopped there. It has continued in Eastern Ukraine, where essentially we have seen violence and turmoil in parts of Eastern Ukraine.

Make no mistake, the cause of that violence and turmoil in Eastern Ukraine is by the so-called separatists, and the cause is very clear: Vladimir Putin and Russia hold the key to that violence. They hold the key and are as responsible for that violence as they are responsible for the illegal invasion of Crimea.

In fact, I would say Vladimir Putin has operational control of what is happening. He could ask those separatists to stop what they are doing. He could stop giving them arms. He could stop giving them the things he has been giving them, including the capability of shooting down Ukrainian planes, giving them the capability of tanks and arms.

With everything the Ukrainian people are trying to deal with, what do they want? The Ukrainian people want to determine their own future. They

want Vladimir Putin and Russia to butt out. They want Russia to respect their sovereign territory, and unfortunately none of this is happening.

I recently had the honor of leading a delegation to Ukraine to oversee the Presidential election last month. I had the chance to sit down and meet with the now-elected President Boris Plushenko in Ukraine.

I also had the chance to meet many people in Ukraine and see their elections firsthand. One of the events that was very inspiring to me was the first polling place I went to in Kiev. There was an older gentleman, probably in his seventies, who cast the first ballot of the day. As he cast his ballot, he said: "For democracy." That was a very moving moment because that is what we saw throughout the polling places we observed in Ukraine. They had a very high turnout.

The Ukrainian people came out to vote in their elections so they could choose their President, not a President chosen by Vladimir Putin. They came out to vote for a President chosen by the Ukrainian people, and they did it despite what was happening in Eastern Ukraine. They did it despite the threats Russia made against their sovereignty and their country.

I think they did it in spite of Russia and to send a message, as a people, to say: We are going to determine our future. Vladimir Putin, you are not going to determine our future. I found it all inspiring.

Why does Ukraine and what happens there matter to the United States of America? First of all, if Russia believes they can go in and invade the sovereign territory of another country without consequences, what does that mean for the rest of Europe and the security of Europe? Unfortunately, we have seen history such as this before, where countries are invaded and other countries act in an apathetic fashion; there are no consequences as a result of that invasion.

The President gave a moving speech in Warsaw, Poland, on June 4 of this year, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Freedom Day there. In that speech the President said:

Ukraine must be free to choose its own future for itself and by itself. We will not accept Russia's occupation of Crimea or its violation of Ukraine sovereignty.

It means increased support to help our friends such as Ukraine and Moldova and Georgia, all of which are watching what is happening in Ukraine and wondering: Will we be next if there are no consequences for the invasion of Ukraine? To help them provide for their own defense, our free nations will stand united so further Russian provocations will only mean more isolation and costs for Russia.

In fact, as I went to Ukraine to oversee the elections, the President had said—with those impending Presidential elections in Ukraine—along

with Chancellor Merkel of Germany, that if the Ukrainian elections were interfered with, there would be more costs to Russia. Well, guess what. When I was there overseeing the elections in places such as Kiev, where we had a record turnout, the Russians continued to foment violence in the eastern province.

In Donetsk and Luhansk, the people there did not have the free right to vote and exercise their decisionmaking for the future of their country. Where were the costs for that? There were none imposed. In fact, the economic sanctions imposed by this administration have not had an impact on Russia.

In fact, their stock market is back to where it was before the sanctions, and at this point they feel they have gotten away with it because the economic sanctions we imposed prior to those elections were imposed on individuals and some minimal sanctions on sectoral, but very limited, and we have done nothing to actually support the Ukrainians in helping them to defend themselves.

What has happened since the President talked about the costs they would endure if they interfered with the election? Nothing happened even though the Russians continue to foment violence in the east.

Flash forward to the Warsaw speech in Poland, where the President said if there is further aggression by the Russians, there will be costs if they interfere with the sovereignty of Ukraine.

Guess what happened since then. Since that time, the developments have been absolutely shocking, and I think the Russians are trying to take advantage of what is happening in Iraq and other things happening around the world. They are thinking we will lose sight of their illegal invasion of Ukraine and what they are doing in Eastern Ukraine.

On June 12, Russian-backed separatists in Ukraine reportedly acquired T-64 tanks and BM-21 rocket launchers from Russia. These are the types of vehicles—rocket launchers—Russia is supplying to their agents, essentially, in Eastern Ukraine. There have been tanks sighted. This is no grassroots movement. Tanks and rockets have all been provided by Russia to kill Ukrainian people who are trying to defend their sovereignty. This has all happened since the elections, adding on to the violence that was committed in Eastern Ukraine during the elections.

The President said there will be costs. There have been no costs for tanks and missile launchers in Eastern Ukraine. In fact, on June 14 pro-Russian separatists shot down a Ukrainian military transport killing all 49 people on board in the deadliest unrest in months in Eastern Ukraine. This is the type of transport the Russians—the agents they backed—shot down.

In order to shoot down a plane such as this, they have to have the tech-

nology to do it, and guess who is giving them that technology. Russia. Yet there have been no costs to that because at this point the President has just talked. He has not imposed tougher sanctions on the economy of Russia nor has he provided the Ukrainian military with support.

This is what it looked like when they shot down those 49 people who were killed. The Russian agents and the separatists they are giving the arms to did this—shot down that plane, and this is the actual picture of that plane.

At this point what is the State Department's response? What has our administration said? We are highly concerned about the new Russian efforts to support the separatists. We are very concerned. If they don't deescalate, there will be additional costs.

How many times will our President and the State Department say there will be additional costs if the Russians do anything further? How many times will the Russians again shoot down Ukrainian planes by giving these arms to their agents and their separatists? How many more Russian tanks have to cross the Ukrainian border before we will impose such costs?

Words don't mean anything to someone such as Vladimir Putin, and he knows we keep talking and not acting, so he can keep shooting down their planes. He can make sure the tanks roll over the border—the Russian tanks. This is not a grassroots movement. They have tanks and rocket launchers to shoot down aircraft. This is a subversion where the Russians are also trying to repeat the playbook of what happened in Crimea to further take over the rest of Ukraine, and it is time for us to back up our words with actions.

What kind of actions are we talking about? We are talking about legislation we have offered in the Congress. I have worked with Senator CORKER and others on legislation that will impose tougher economic sanctions on Russia and will make a difference to them and their economy. We have financial sector sanctions, energy sector sanctions, military sector sanctions—sanctions that will send the message that, yes, this will hurt your economy if you don't respect the sovereignty of another country or if you continue to escalate the violence by providing not only tanks but also rocket launchers and shooting down planes of the Ukrainian people.

When I had the chance to meet with the new President of Ukraine, he had a request of us. First of all, he wants to make sure we are tougher than we have been on Russia in terms of economic sanctions so Russia doesn't continue to invade their territory and, not only that, so they don't go into other countries in the region. We need to use the economic tools at our disposal so we are forced to use military tools down

the line. We have economic tools this administration is not using to impose costs on Russia and to back up the words of our President rather than continuing to look the other way when tanks roll in and airplanes are shot down.

What else can we do? The President asked me about supporting their military. No one wants to send a U.S. troop to Ukraine. No one wants to send our people to fight their battle, but this is what he asked of us: The former Russian-backed President gutted our military. Can you help get us some basic things for our military—body armor, communication equipment, night vision goggles, in addition, antitank and anti-aircraft capability.

What would that do for them? They could defend themselves from the tanks. They could help push back against their planes from being shot down. So what they want is the ability and the help to defend themselves.

Why should we give it to them? We should give it to them because not only is it the right thing to do so they can help defend themselves and we can push back against the Russian invasion in their country, but it is the right thing to do because we were a signatory to the Budapest memorandum.

In 1994, Ukraine gave up their nuclear weapons. They gave up their nuclear weapons under the Budapest memorandum that the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia signed. Russia has violated this agreement because the agreement required all parties to respect the sovereignty of Ukraine and the agreement required us to respect not only their sovereignty, but they expected some security assurance because they were giving up their nuclear weapons by signing this agreement.

We haven't even given them anti-tank, anti-aircraft equipment so they can defend themselves after they gave up nuclear weapons. What other country in the world is ever going to give up their nuclear weapons when we are not even going to impose tough economic sanctions on a country that has been invaded. We have not even given them basic military equipment when they were invaded.

I would argue, in looking at this playbook, no rational country is going to give up their nuclear weapons again in such an agreement if we don't actually follow through in what our President said, which is: There will be costs if the Russians continue to invade the territory of Ukraine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. AYOTTE. In summary, I do not expect us to go alone. I would ask our

European partners to step up too. It is a shame that the French will continue their recent sale to the Russians to give them further capability of the Mistral class amphibious assault ships. So shame on the French for that because Europe is threatened by the Russian aggression here, and I not only expect our country to follow through, but our allies should be held accountable to follow through as well.

Ukraine matters. We cannot continue to look the other way as Russia thinks they can invade another country without consequences. We can make a difference in this Congress. I urge the President to follow through on his words; otherwise, do not say it if you were not willing to back it up, Mr. President.

The Ukrainian people deserve our support. They love America. All they want is to determine their own future instead of Vladimir Putin determining their future for them.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

EMBASSY SECURITY

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about an important topic, the topic of embassy security. The safety of American embassies abroad and especially our capital "A" Ambassadors and our small "a" ambassadors, who go to work every day in communities across the globe—182 countries where we have embassies—to represent the United States.

Embassy security has been in the news yesterday. The President announced the dispatch of 275 additional marines to Baghdad to protect the American Embassy and embassy personnel in Iraq. Today we received the news of the excellent law enforcement work that has been done by the United States to finally capture one of the leaders behind the raid on Benghazi in September of 2012. Obviously, embassy security is an important and very newsworthy and topical issue.

Mr. President, I think you have noticed what I have, that in the aftermath of the tragic attack on the embassy compound in Benghazi that cost four Americans their lives, there has been much discussion in Congress about Benghazi. But too much of it, in my view, has been focused on trying to play the blame game than trying to talk about what we should do to minimize the chance of such an incident happening again.

We have seen attacks on embassies. From the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in the 1980s, to attacks on embassies in Africa in the 1990s, we have seen this before. But what we ought to be talking about in this body and in the House is how to make our embassies safer instead of trying to play a blame game.

I want to bring in this speech one fact about embassy security that

should trouble us a lot, and especially us in the Senate. Of the 182 countries in the world that have United States Ambassadors, 54 of the U.S. Ambassador posts are currently vacant. Nearly 30 percent of the ambassador posts in the world—where the U.S. Ambassador goes to represent us—are currently vacant. Ten of the posts are vacant because the White House has not forwarded a name to the Senate, which is responsible for the consent to those nominations. One of those 10—Syria—has not been forwarded because of security reasons. Twenty-one posts are vacant because the White House has sent nominees but the nominees are pending in the Foreign Relations Committee, where I serve. The chairman of the committee, Senator MENENDEZ, is doing all he can to move those through but is facing some pretty significant opposition, often from members of the committee. And 23 of the positions are vacant because they have gone through the Foreign Relations Committee, they have received overwhelming votes of support, but they are being held here on the Senate floor with no action on the Senate floor, often for a very long period of time.

Let me tell you about those 23 nations. The ambassador to the nation of Djibouti, which is a critical partner in Africa for the United States in counterterrorism operations—his nomination has been pending in the Senate for 67 days; for the Czech Republic, the nomination has been pending for 95 days; for the Bahamas, the nomination has been pending for 122 days; for the State of Kuwait, in the Middle East—a critical area—the nomination has been pending for 179 days; for Bosnia and Herzegovina, 200 days; for Hungary, 215 days; for New Zealand, 223 days; for Iceland, 223 days; for Zambia, 270 days; for the Gabonese Republic, 270 days; for the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, pending here in the Senate, 272 days; for the Kingdom of Norway, 272 days; for Jamaica, 272 days; for the Kingdom of Lesotho, 312 days; for the Republic of Palau, 313 days; for the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, 313 days; for Cameroon, 314 days; for Namibia, 314 days; for Niger—Niger, critical in issues of terrorism and counterterrorism in Africa—the nomination on this floor, pending for 314 days; for Trinidad and Tobago, 314 days; for Albania, 319 days; for Sierra Leone, 335 days; and topping the list, a strong ally of the United States, the Republic of Peru, the ambassadorial nomination has been pending on the floor of the Senate for 353 days—almost a year.

Again, these vacancies represent nearly 30 percent of all of the in-country ambassadorships that the United States sends around the globe—essentially just hanging a sign out in front of the Embassy of the United States with a big "vacant" sign on it.

I would submit that "vacancies" means an uncertainty about leadership

and that hurts embassy security. Mr. President, you and I were both Governors. We know that our agencies ran a lot better when they knew who the leaders were. An interim, a part-time, a temporary, an acting—that is not the same as a leader. That is not the same as a confirmed ambassador. So our personnel, who are serving in these 54 embassies around the world—often in very dangerous places in the world—are there waiting for their leader to come. Now they have a deputy in charge of the mission, and those people are usually fine, but even that deputy is waiting to find out: Who will our leader be? Times of uncertainty increase insecurity.

So I would say to my colleagues, if you really care about Benghazi and embassy security, you should care about confirming ambassadors in these 54 nations that are waiting for American leadership.

The ability to promptly nominate and confirm these ambassadors is directly connected to our security, and I would argue that individuals blocking or slowing down ambassadorial appointments are not being accurate when they claim to support embassy security.

The effects of these vacancies are not just in the security of our embassies, obviously. I often hear colleagues on the floor of this body or see them on television criticizing America as retreating from global leadership. Well, if you care about America's global leadership, why allow 54 American embassies around the world to not have ambassadors? Why allow those vacancies to exist?

The existence of these vacancies—some for nearly as long as a year—sends a pretty powerful message to the nations where the vacancies exist. And the message could be interpreted one of two ways. Maybe the United States is retreating from global leadership because if the United States cared, the Senate would confirm ambassadors. Or in some countries the interpretation is a little bit different. It is not about global leadership. Some countries interpret it as: Maybe we are not that important to the United States. It is a sign of disrespect to nations as important as Niger, some of the nations in the Middle East I mentioned, France, to not have ambassadors for extended periods of time.

This is a very important issue and I do not think this body, which is constitutionally charged with this responsibility, should be complicit in sending a message to the nations of the world that we are retreating or that we are uninterested in our relationships with them.

Let me conclude by coming back to the subject of embassy security. Mr. President, I know you, like I, in this job have had the opportunity to travel around the world and meet some of our

embassy personnel. What I try to do when I travel—I imagine you try to do the same—is not just spend time with the capital “A” ambassadors—that is important—but I also try to spend time with the small “a” ambassadors: the Foreign Service officers on their first or second tour who have chosen—even though the salary is not great, even though the working conditions can be tough, even though security challenges can be significant—to serve the United States abroad.

I was in Beirut, in Lebanon, in February with Senator ANGUS KING of Maine. Let me tell you about our personnel in Lebanon. Because of the dangers in that country, they all have to live on the embassy compound. They live there in Beirut, which has been subject to some very difficult times. The U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut were bombed in the 1980s. The U.S. Embassy was bombed. Hundreds were killed in those two bombings. The U.S. embassy annex was bombed. Other U.S. Embassy personnel were targeted and killed. Hundreds of Americans serving not just in the military but as Foreign Service officers lost their lives in Lebanon, representing us in the best way they could.

For that reason our embassy personnel live on the embassy compound in Beirut. Guess what kind of personal life they have. They are allowed 6 hours a week personal time to be off the embassy compound, and they have to be escorted by security. They described what it is like. They might want to go to the beach, and traffic is horrible, so in that 6 hours a week, it is an hour and a half to get to where they want to go, and then it is an hour and a half to get back from where they want to go, so what they really get is about 3 hours a week of personal time. That is what these wonderful American public servants do.

I then went to Egypt, and I had a visit with a young first-tour Foreign Service officer there who was talking about needing to finish a meeting we were having because of the Skype date with her husband. I was not familiar with that terminology. She serves in a capacity where, for safety and other reasons, it was not ideal for him to be there with her. So on Friday nights they both dress up, and with a glass of wine they then fire up the Skype and talk across thousands of miles to try to keep their marriage alive. This is a person who is thrilled to serve the United States in a dangerous part of the world. Again, it is not for the salary. It is not for the comfort. It is for the honor of representing this country.

We owe them something. We owe them a secure operation that can make them feel—not completely safe because there is no guarantee of safety for our personnel in many of these countries but at least that we are doing all we can to try to keep them safe.

I stand today because we are not doing all we can to keep these people safe. To the extent that we in the Senate are responsible for the vacancies of nearly 30 percent of the ambassadorial posts around the world—and the absence of ambassadors leads to additional insecurity—we are not honoring our obligation to the brave Americans who want to serve this Nation in very dangerous places.

I urge my colleagues, if you are talking about Benghazi and the need for more embassy security, you should be promptly confirming ambassadors to represent the United States. If you are worried about the role of America in the world, and you are asserting, critically, that America is retreating from global leadership, you should be confirming promptly the ambassadorial nominees who are pending before the Senate.

With that, Mr. President, I thank you and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON KADZIK NOMINATION

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Peter Joseph Kadzik, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 199 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Gillibrand	McCaskill
Begich	Hagan	Menendez
Bennet	Harkin	Merkley
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Mikulski
Booker	Heitkamp	Murphy
Boxer	Hirono	Murray
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Nelson
Cantwell	Kaine	Paul
Cardin	King	Pryor
Carper	Klobuchar	Reed
Coons	Landrieu	Reid
Donnelly	Leahy	Rockefeller
Durbin	Levin	Sanders
Feinstein	Manchin	Schatz
Franken	Markey	Schumer

Shaheen	Udall (NM)	Whitehouse
Stabenow	Walsh	Wyden
Tester	Warner	
Udall (CO)	Warren	

NAYS—43

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Murkowski
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Chambliss	Hoehn	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Collins	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cornyn	Kirk	Vitter
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McCain	
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—2

Casey	Cochran
-------	---------

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 428, H.R. 4660, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara Mikulski, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Menendez, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 428, H.R. 4660, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 95, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 200 Leg.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murphy
Ayotte	Graham	Murray
Baldwin	Grassley	Nelson
Barrasso	Hagan	Portman
Begich	Harkin	Pryor
Bennet	Hatch	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reid
Blunt	Heitkamp	Risch
Booker	Hirono	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Boxer	Inhofe	Rubio
Brown	Isakson	Sanders
Burr	Johanns	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Carper	Kaine	Sessions
Chambliss	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Coburn	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Landrieu	Tester
Coons	Leahy	Thune
Corker	Levin	Toomey
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Crapo	Markey	Udall (NM)
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	McConnell	Warner
Enzi	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Fischer	Mikulski	Wicker
Flake	Moran	Wyden
Franken	Murkowski	

NAYS—3

Heller	Lee	Paul
--------	-----	------

NOT VOTING—2

Casey	Cochran
-------	---------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 95, the nays are 3. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise to speak to the 42 very well-qualified and very patient nominees who, through no fault of their own and certainly no fault of the Foreign Relations Committee and no fault of their records of service to this Nation that have been established, are trapped on the executive calendar, unable to assume their appointed posts because the Republican leadership has chosen obstructionism as a political tool. They have consciously chosen the strategy to do nothing, pass nothing, approve nothing, and leave, most importantly in my view, key diplomatic posts unfilled for months, threatening in many cases national security and our ability to conduct foreign policy.

Those who say that Congress is broken are wrong. The Congress isn't bro-

ken, but if the Republican leadership wants you to believe it is, they use every parliamentary tool to make certain, among other posts, we cannot fill key foreign policy positions. And the world waits, American foreign policy waits, diplomacy waits, and our allies wait to let these nominees and their families have some closure and get to work.

The blame for these posts being left vacant with these people being in political limbo rests squarely on the shoulders of the Republican leadership. It is not a problem with Congress or the Democrats or the President or with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Never, to my knowledge, has this body as a political strategy obstructed en masse the appointments of non-controversial career Foreign Service officers who have worked for both Democratic and Republican administrations. Never.

Never have we held up appointments to so many ambassadorial positions, State Department positions, USAID positions, and representatives to the multilateral development banks. Eighteen of the forty-two pending nominees are ambassadors who would fill important posts in the Czech Republic, Bosnia, Albania, Gabon, Mauritania, Cameroon, Niger, Sierra Leone, Djibouti, and Kuwait. Nearly 20 percent—20 percent—of our total ambassadorial presence in Africa is being held up by the Republican leadership. All of them have waited on average 280 days—280 days—for Senate action. That is unfair to them. It is unfair to their families. It is bad policy. It is unnecessary, irresponsible, and completely unacceptable. And it has to end. It harms our regional coordination on issues such as food, security, and counterterrorism.

We are seeing what is happening across Africa, particularly northern Africa, and we have a challenge. We have a challenge that involves our national interests and our national security. You cannot promote the solutions to those challenges if you don't have an ambassador on the ground in those countries. Let us remember that U.S. leadership plays a major role in supporting peace and security efforts alongside our development, democracy, and humanitarian goals across Africa and around the world, preventing us from being able to project power and leadership, leaving us—in my view—vulnerable from a national security standpoint.

In West Africa, the Nigerian terrorist organization Boko Haram is perpetuating a brutal campaign of violence and fear, kidnapping young women and taking advantage of porous borders with Niger and Cameroon. The United States is leading an effort with our international partners to improve regional coordination to address both this threat and serious development challenges in the region.

Unfortunately, the Senate has yet to confirm the ambassadorial nominees to Niger or Cameroon. We need to fill these ambassadorial positions in order to promote our interests and our coordination in the region in pursuit of some of these goals.

Mauritania has been a key partner in addressing the terrorist threat posed by Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, AQIM, in Africa's volatile Sahel region.

Let's not forget that the East African Nation of Djibouti holds U.S. Africa Command's Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa and is the U.S. military's only enduring infrastructure in Africa, Camp Lemonnier, home to some 4,000 U.S. servicemembers and civilians.

Our cooperation with Djibouti supports counterterrorism efforts against Al-Shabaab in Somalia and Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula in nearby Yemen and anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. Al-Shabaab recently carried out its first terrorist attack in Djibouti, targeting a restaurant frequented by westerners. Yet our ambassadorial nominee, Thomas Kelly, remains unconfirmed.

In addition to supporting peace and security efforts in Africa, the United States also plays a key role supporting democratic governance across the continent, which in turn contributes to greater stability.

Niger and Namibia are set to hold Presidential elections within the next 9 months and both ambassadorial nominees have yet to be confirmed by the full Senate.

At a time when stability in parts of Africa is tenuous, at best, with conflicts, famine, and the ever-increasing threat from criminal and terrorist organizations, it is simply not in our national interest to have the President's nominees—many of them career Foreign Service officers—in many cases held up for political reasons for nearly a year—a year in so many cases.

U.S. leadership in international organizations is being negatively affected. In fact, the nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs was reported to the Senate on March 3. Her nomination is not the least bit controversial, and yet she has not been confirmed.

Nominees for posts at the United Nations have been pending for months, including the nominee to be U.S. Representative to the U.N. Conference on Disarmament, who was reported out on March 11. These gaps have affected our credibility around the world, and they are affecting U.S. national security.

It is worth understanding that this list is not static. We are constantly adding nominees to the Executive Calendar. We held hearings for an additional five nominees last week. Four more had their hearings today, chaired by Senator CARDIN—who is here on the

floor with me and has done an exceptional job in this regard—including our nominees to be ambassador to Korea and Vietnam. Simply stated, the backlog is weakening America's role in the world.

The vast majority of these nominees are uncontroversial. They have passed committee by voice vote, not even a recorded vote, and are nominations that normally would have gone through the Senate en bloc by unanimous consent. Holding them hostage is simply wrong on every level.

Never has one party stood in the way of full and complete conduct of foreign policy, and it is time the American people understand who is to blame for the dysfunction that is holding them hostage for political reasons. And as we hold up action on these nominees, the world is convulsing. The days are filled with a steady stream of breaking-news stories, disheartening images, trending tweets of reports of unrest in Ukraine, Iraq, Venezuela; mass atrocities in Syria, South Sudan, the Central African Republic; heart-wrenching accounts of kidnapped girls in Nigeria and alarming events of violence against women in Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world. That is the daily diet of what we see unfolding across the world.

American leadership is expected by the international community during this challenging period, and it is in fact something that is in our own national interests and national security interests.

Some complain that the United States does too much and others argue that we don't do enough, but always the debate in foreign affairs is centered on our Nation and the vital role we fill within the international system. We live in a new world defined by technological advancement and rapid globalization, but we are history-bound by a deeply imbued duty to provide moral clarity when it appears lacking, of serving as a lighthouse to a community of nations undergoing profound transformation.

In one very particular arena, we are failing this charge. We are leaving our embassies without the tools they need, without the necessary leadership to pick up that metaphorical hammer.

Using obstruction as a political tool, we are being forced to turn from our vital responsibility of confirming ambassadorial nominees to conduct American foreign policy. That means turning from our responsibility in everything from providing emergency services for Americans abroad to responding to humanitarian crises around the world, to supporting U.S. businesses and our commerce agenda overseas. The lack of confirmed ambassadors is crippling our global agenda.

Consider this: Key U.S.-held positions at the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American

Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other international financial institutions are not filled.

Seizing the opportunity, Russia and China are actively lobbying IMF members to reduce U.S. ownership share in the bank. Just recently, Christine Lagarde, IMF managing director said: "I wouldn't be surprised if one of these days the IMF was headquartered in Beijing."

No nation can hear what we have to say if we are not there, if we have no voice. It is not an overstatement to say our national security is affected by Republican noncooperation. One example is the Assistant Secretary of State for Verification, Compliance, and Implementation tasked with monitoring and verifying our arms control agreements remains empty, and that affects our ability to design and implement a potential agreement to halt Iran's illicit nuclear weapons program.

Last week, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing for the nominees to serve in Egypt, Iraq, and Qatar. Imagine those countries not having a U.S. ambassador during a time when they are going through massive turmoil and change—some of them, not all of them, but Iraq is certainly going through turmoil. We will soon vote to approve these Foreign Service officers, but there is no guarantee they will be confirmed expeditiously by the Senate despite the very obvious need for a constant U.S. presence in these Nations. Iraq is on the verge of civil war and we have no way to confirm Stu Jones, a very qualified nominee who is currently serving in Jordan for the post to replace Robert Beecroft, who is headed to Egypt but is currently in Iraq.

That this scenario is even a possibility, given their pending assignments, concerns me and should concern all of us. Perhaps their fate will be similar to the nominee to Kuwait, who has not received a confirmation vote for nearly 200 days.

The Emir of Kuwait recently made a historic visit to Iran. Persistent reports link wealthy Kuwaiti donors to a variety of extremists, including the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria—the ISIS, which is threatening Iraq. Yet we lack the ambassador's ears and eyes on the ground to provide the analysis we need.

Of the 42 unconfirmed nominees, almost half are career ambassadors, who, as I said earlier, have served this Nation for a lifetime on behalf of Democratic and Republican administrations. Some were already confirmed, as I said earlier, in the past by the Senate and served as ambassadors in previous posts.

So let me conclude by saying since becoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, we have debated and voted to approve 125 nomi-

nees, oftentimes unanimously and without discord.

But apparently the pricetag for Leader REID executing what some call the nuclear option to get anything done in the Senate is the Republican leadership's intransigence that gums up the Senate proceedings, particularly holding ambassadorial nominees hostage and in so doing harming our national security objectives. This standoff is having very negative and real implications in the world that is beset by chaos and in need of American engagement. It has to end and it has to end now.

It is not about a Republican or a Democratic divide in terms of importance. This is about the national interests and security of the United States. If we are not in our embassies abroad as a leader, we can do all the diplomacy and efforts from the State Department, but at the end of the day the person on the ground every day and engaging with the leadership of that country and promoting American ideals, values, and interests is the ambassador. In the absence of an ambassador, we cannot be heard. I don't want the United States not to be heard.

I see my colleague from Maryland, a distinguished member of the committee who has held so many of these hearings for nominees and has done a fantastic job on behalf of the committee. He is going to speak next. As the chair of one of our key subcommittees, it is critical, as you will hear from him, that we have our nominees so our interests can be represented.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, first, I thank Senator MENENDEZ for his incredible leadership on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. What Senator MENENDEZ did not bring out is the number of hours our committee has had hearings on each one of these nominees.

We take the nomination process very seriously—the committee does—under Senator MENENDEZ's leadership. We have a complete record on the background and experience of each of President Obama's nominees. We have vetted them, gone over everything, and we have had hearings.

As Senator MENENDEZ pointed out, today I chaired a hearing where we considered the nominations for our Ambassadors to Algeria, Vietnam, and the Republic of Korea as well as an Assistant Administrator for USAID for Asia. That hearing lasted an hour and a half, many questions were asked. The record is open through Thursday so members of the committee can ask additional questions.

Many times additional questions are asked for the record. We get those responses, and we then analyze all of that information and go to a committee markup where every member of

the committee has a chance to debate each nominee. As Senator MENENDEZ has pointed out, in most cases they have been approved by our committee by unanimous votes, and many times it is not recorded because there is no controversy.

In many cases these are career diplomats, and in other cases they are people who have an extraordinary background to add to the service of their country, and we are very blessed that they are willing to step forward to take on the ambassadorship or membership in a key national organization to further U.S. foreign policy. That is the record.

So what happens after we act? Senator MENENDEZ has expedited these nominations as quickly as he could do it in carrying out the responsibilities of the Senate to advise on these nominations. But what has happened afterward is that they cannot get a Senate vote and not because of any meritorious objections to the confirmation. They are just being backlogged in order to gum up the operations of the Senate. There is no policy reason or substantive reason for the delay in the consideration of these nominations.

This is foreign policy for the United States. This is in the best interests of the United States. It is hard for the public to understand and it is hard for this Senator to understand why we would hold up having a confirmed ambassador heading up our embassy in any country in the world but particularly those countries that are critically important to U.S. interests. We should have a confirmed head of our embassy in every country.

As far as it is affecting U.S. interests, let me give you what I think is obvious, and the Presiding Officer understands this. Our national defense strategy depends upon not just our soldiers and our weapons, it depends very much on diplomacy and development assistance. The diplomacy—and to a large extent the development assistance—is managed by our embassy in the host country and the CEO of that embassy is the confirmed ambassador, and in many cases we don't have a confirmed ambassador. We don't have an ambassador because the Senate has not confirmed that position.

For months we have gone without confirming an ambassador after the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has recommended a confirmation, and that is why we have come to the floor to talk about that. This does affect our national security interests.

Senator MENENDEZ pointed out a very obvious fact; that is, the face-to-face interchange of our ambassador and the country he or she is representing that gives the United States the best opportunity in that country. That is how you do diplomacy. You don't do diplomacy through letters; you don't do diplomacy through long exchanges

from one country to another; you do it by being in that country—by your personal commitment to that country. That is why we have our embassies and our ambassadors. When we don't have a confirmed ambassador—when we don't have the CEO of that embassy there—we miss that personal face-to-face interchange which is critically important.

Just think for a moment. Here we are trying to make an important contact in a foreign country, and we may meet with the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister, and we don't have an ambassador to be our representative or to be there to supervise the diplomacy that is taking place.

What many people are not aware of is that our embassies are more than just the ambassador dealing with current foreign policy issues. We have a host of functions that are carried out under the supervision of our ambassador who, as we pointed out in many cases, is not there because we have not acted. Maybe we are interested in what is going on with U.S. business. We have a lot of economic interests around the world.

We are in a global economy. American businesses depend upon our embassy being there for them to fight for the government contracts on a fair, level playing field so they can conduct their business internationally. They depend upon an embassy to be at full strength. Because of global competition, we are fighting every day for job opportunities for Americans and American companies.

In too many countries we don't have that person there fighting for our businesses because the Senate is not active because those on the other side of the aisle have prevented us from taking up these ambassadors for confirmation, even though there has been no controversy surrounding their individual confirmation, and that is hurting U.S. business interests.

There are many citizens who travel abroad. They expect to have the full service of their embassy if they need it or if they get sick or they need the services of our embassy for whatever it might be. They depend on that embassy, and they want the CEO to be present in that embassy in order to fight for their interests.

That confirmed ambassador is not there today because the Republicans have denied the vote in the Senate to confirm that position. We are not at full strength to protect Americans who are traveling abroad. Our participation in environmental opportunities is very much dependent upon the functioning of our embassy.

Our humanitarian efforts depend upon the functioning of the embassy. Our eyes and ears on the ground depend upon the functioning of the embassy. Our development assistance programs are run out of the embassies. In many

cases the CEO is not there because of the obstruction by the Republicans in the Senate who are not allowing a vote on noncontroversial nominees. Because these nominations have not taken place, we are not at full strength.

We are hurting our country. We are hurting our interests. We are hurting our business interests, our security interests, and our leadership on environmental issues. As Senator MENENDEZ pointed out, they are not just ambassadors to countries, they are ambassadors to international organizations.

We are not at full strength on economic international organizations. We are not at full strength on arms control negotiations because we don't have our key person there—not because that person is controversial, not because the President has elected someone who is controversial but to the contrary. Almost all of these nominations are noncontroversial and waiting for months because the Republicans will not allow a vote.

Somebody said: OK. Don't we need a lot of floor time to debate this? Look at the record. Look how much floor debate has been spent on approving these nominations. I am willing to wager—although we can't wager on the floor of the Senate. I am willing to point out that if we bring these nominations to floor consideration, in almost every case there will be virtually no debate, and they will be approved by an overwhelming majority, if not a unanimous vote.

We are hurting our country. We are hurting the reputation of the United States. We are supposedly the major power. Yet we can't get a CEO confirmed to head our embassies abroad.

It is also unfair to the people who are making a sacrifice for public service. As Senator MENENDEZ pointed out, a large number of these nominees were ambassadorships or career diplomats. These are not political appointments, these are career people who have made their career serving their country.

Many have young families. What do they do about school enrollment in September? Do they enroll their children in the school where they are now or do they wait to see if they will be confirmed and enroll them in the country in which they will be serving? Why are we putting people who are serving their country through that type of uncertainty and anxiety? But we are. We are, by failing to move in a timely way the nominations that have been brought forward to us.

I will just mention one other example. I started with the hearing I chaired today on behalf of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee dealing with four nominees. One was the Ambassador to Vietnam. I was just recently in Vietnam. I met with our current Ambassador, Ambassador Shear. I mention that because he has been nominated to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for

Asia, so he is leaving Vietnam. We had a hearing today on the next Ambassador to Vietnam—a well-qualified career diplomat. The question is: Are we going to have the orderly change of command in Vietnam, a country critically important to U.S. interests? We are negotiating a Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. Part of that involves good governance changes that we expect in Vietnam. We expect our Ambassador to be there to negotiate these issues. The question is: Will we have that orderly transfer?

Two career people seeking to move forward in their careers are being held up by inaction on the floor of the Senate.

I come to the last point I wish to make. Yes, we are hurting the United States in not having these confirmed CEOs. It is creating unfairness to the families of people who want to serve our country—and the uncertainty that is there. But it is also hurting the Senate because it is our responsibility to act on Presidential appointments. It is our responsibility to act in a timely, thoughtful way. We are not carrying out that responsibility. By the Republicans obstructing votes on the President's nominations on key foreign policy positions, we are not carrying out our responsibility—an oath that we took to serve in the Senate to protect the interests of this country. It is our responsibility to act on these nominations in a timely way, and we have not done that because of the obstructionism of the Republicans.

I urge my colleagues to put our national interests first. Let us move forward with our responsibility. The committee has carried out its responsibility and, quite frankly, the chairman has carried that out in a very bipartisan way. We have had cooperation between Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. We have carried out our responsibility. Now it is time for the Senate to carry out its responsibility, for the Republicans to allow us to vote in a timely way on this backlog of nominees for critical foreign policy positions. I urge my colleagues to allow us to move forward in the best interests of our country and in respect for those who have stepped forward to serve our country, to carry out the responsibilities we all swore to uphold in the Senate.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, as a sponsor of the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, I am pleased the Senate has risen to the occasion and come together on this critical legislation. Although I was still in Kansas attending to my family, I would have joined my colleagues in voting aye on Rollcall vote No. 187, a bipartisan plan to help make certain veterans receive the access to quality, timely care they deserve. I will continue to work to address the challenges and problems at the Department of Veterans Affairs so our Nation's heroes have a VA worthy of their service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MYLE HAMMOND

• Mrs. HAGAN. Madam President, I wish to honor the service of a great Marine infantryman, Maj. Myle Hammond. Major Hammond will be retiring from the Marine Corps after more than 20 years of dedicated service to our country. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize his contribution to the Marine Corps, the Senate, and the Nation.

Major Hammond's career included three combat tours in Iraq, a tour with the Ceremonial Honor Guard at Marine Barracks, Washington, 3 years in the Marine Corps Senate Liaison Office, and 1 year working as a congressional fellow in my office. A marine's marine, Myle's distinguished service in combat and in garrison is emblematic of the caliber of his character.

I was proud to welcome Myle into my office, and he exceeded every expectation. His indepth knowledge of the Marine Corps and the legislative process made him an invaluable member of my staff. At the conclusion of his fellowship, Myle moved on to be the deputy director of the Marine Senate Liaison. His quick wit and strategic thinking were vital in guiding the Marine Corps senior leadership through the Senate. His efforts were instrumental in ensuring the completion of the MV-22B acquisition program, executing a responsible drawdown of the Marine Corps, and recognizing the contributions of the first African-American marines through the award of the Congressional Gold Medal in tribute to the Montford Point Marines.

A decorated combat veteran and proud father, Myle is a model American to us all. As Myle hangs up his uniform, he will remain in Virginia with his wife Rani and their two young children, Mason and Sydney. Although his absence will be felt in the Marine Corps and in Congress, I trust that his contributions in the private sector will equal those of his public service.

I share the sentiments of many Senators in my gratitude and appreciation to Major Hammond for his outstanding leadership and his unwavering dedication to the Marine Corps and the country. I wish Myle and his family all the best upon his retirement.●

DES MOINES COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Des Moines County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Des Moines County worth over \$45 million and successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$158 million to the local economy.

Of course, my favorite memories of working together include helping to get compensation for sick former nuclear workers at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, improving transportation in the county, and helping area residents access to quality, affordable health care by building a Community Health Center.

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Southeast Iowa, we have

worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Des Moines County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Des Moines County, I have fought for funding for important transportation projects, including \$118 million for the Avenue of the Saints, more than \$45 million for the four-lane highway from Des Moines to Burlington, another \$45 million to replace the Burlington Northern bridge over the Mississippi River, and maintaining Essential Air Service funding to the community, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics; it is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Burlington to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Des Moines County has earned \$130,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings; they build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Des Moines County has received \$717,400 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Des Moines County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$20,000.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me

that the national emergency response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Des Moines County has received over \$1 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Iowa Army Ammunitions workers: When a constituent, Bob Anderson, wrote me a letter to saying that he was sick with lymphoma and believed it was because he had worked at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, which manufactured nuclear weapons during the Cold War, I began looking into his claims. Even though the Army initially denied these accusations, I continued to investigate the situation and discovered that workers there were in fact exposed to massive doses of radiation and that this wasn't an injustice unique to Iowa. Working to get compensation to Bob and thousands of other sick workers throughout the United States involved a massive bipartisan legislative and bureaucratic undertaking, starting with the passage of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Plan Act of 2000. To date, the Department of Labor has paid out over \$10 billion in compensation to workers all over the United States, including over \$239 million to the Burlington workers and more than \$57 million to a special cohort of workers at the Ames Laboratory.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to state-wide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Des Moines County's fire departments have received over \$1.2 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment and more than \$499,000 in Byrne Justice Assistance Grants.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not

only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Des Moines County has worked with me to secure \$2.9 million for the Community Health Center.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. However, I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Des Moines County, both those with and without disabilities.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Des Moines County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Des Moines County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator. ●

SCOTT COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in

Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Scott County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Scott County worth over \$299 million and successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$89.2 million to the local economy.

Of course, in addition to numerous housing, transportation, defense, riverfront development, and arts projects we have worked on together over the years, one of my favorite memories of working with Scott County has to be the outstanding legal aid project in Davenport. Every American, regardless of his or her station in life, deserves equal access to our justice system. Having been a legal aid attorney myself, I can tell you that there are many, many people who would have no access to legal representation if it weren't for programs like this one. This funding will help legal aid lawyers reach out and serve those who otherwise would be disenfranchised from our justice system. That is why, throughout my career, I have fought to improve funding for Legal Aid Services, to expand their scope, and to offer loan forgiveness for attorneys who choose to serve their communities by becoming legal aid attorneys.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Eastern Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects, including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Scott County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in

Scott County, I have fought for over \$256.9 million in defense projects through the Rock Island Arsenal, ALCOA, John Deere, Carleton Life Support Systems, and other local businesses, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Scott County has received \$3.2 million in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Scott County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$336,600.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Scott County's fire departments have received over \$1.5 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment and over \$521,000 for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office, but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Scott County has recognized this important issue by securing over \$9.8 million for the Community Health Center.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by

the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Scott County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Scott County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Scott County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

RECOGNIZING THE RENO RODEO

● Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the 95th year of the Annual Reno Rodeo, the "Wildest, Richest Rodeo in the West". Revered by some as the greatest outdoor rodeo in the world, I, along with my fellow Nevadans, are proud that it has called the great State of Nevada home for so many years.

The Reno Rodeo was started in 1919 by local community leaders and has grown exponentially in the past 95 years, offering Nevadans and rodeo goers nationwide a place to truly experience the gritty, energetic entertainment that the Wild West is best known for. For generations fans have been flocking to Reno to see some of our Nation's toughest cowboys and cowgirls compete in ten days of competition, showcasing their amazing talents, from roping to bull riding. This event has become a yearly tradition for many Nevada families, including my own, and is the source of many cherished memories. As rodeo lovers, my wife Lynne and I have proudly ridden in the Reno Rodeo Parade on our horses, Jackson and Cruise, and Lynne has had the

privilege of singing the National Anthem at the Rodeo's opening several times.

From its start as a charitable organization in 1986, the Reno Rodeo Foundation has focused its mission on benefiting and enriching the lives of Nevada families in need. With the help of over 500 dedicated volunteers in the community, the Reno Rodeo Foundation has made a tradition of giving the annual proceeds of the event back to the residents of Nevada in a variety of ways. The organization has used the proceeds to build a horseback riding facility for Marvin Piccolo, a school for children with special physical or mental needs in Reno, and has created a recreation center on the Kids' Kampus to benefit abused and neglected children in protective custody. These are just a few examples of how the rodeo gives back to the Silver State. I am both humbled and honored to recognize the Reno Rodeo here today for donating over \$1 million in the form of scholarships, children's charities, high school rodeo, literacy programs, and much more.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in recognizing Reno Rodeo, a special event that has proudly called Nevada home for the past 95 years, and I would like to offer the best of luck to all who are participating in this year's events.●

CONGRATULATING STEVE AND SUSAN DUPREY

● Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, I wish to offer my most heartfelt congratulations to Steve and Susan Duprey as they receive the Boy Scouts of America's New Hampshire Distinguished Citizens Award this evening. The Granite State is known for a straightforward and honest approach to politics and life, and a commitment to liberty summed up by its State motto, 'Live free or die.' Through their longtime dedication to community service and active engagement in the public life of their State and Nation, Steve and Susan embody the great spirit of their State and richly deserve this honor.

Steve has been a leader in New Hampshire since he was first elected to the State legislature as a 19-year-old college student. He graduated from law school, built a highly successful real estate development and management company, and served as chairman of the New Hampshire Republican Party for four terms. Susan, a land use attorney, has served in leadership positions at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and United Way, among other organizations, and has been involved in Presidential campaigns going back to 1979. Altogether, Steve and Susan have worked on more than 30 national and State Republican campaigns since the 1970s. Susan most recently served as an adviser to Ann Romney during the 2012

campaign. Steve currently serves as New Hampshire's Republican national committeeman where he promotes and protects the vital role of the Granite State's first in the Nation primary. Wherever one looks, the Dupreys are working to serve their State, country and community.

In some of the darkest days of my Presidential run in 2007 and 2008—when more than a few respected pundits declared my campaign over—I could always count on Steve and Susan to stand with me. Without their steadfast support and wise counsel, I don't know if I would have won the Republican nomination. During the general election, Steve traveled throughout the country with me, serving as a trusted adviser. Steve was officially designated as the 'Secretary of Fun' on the campaign trail, and could always be counted on to lighten the mood in what can often be a tense and stressful experience. While we lost that campaign, I will always cherish the opportunity to travel this remarkable country and gain more than a few friends, few better than my fellow rebel-rouser Steve Duprey.

Congratulations to Steve and Susan—you deserve this recognition. Enjoy the evening.●

ROSLYN, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Roslyn, SD. The town of Roslyn will be celebrating its centennial on June 19-21, 2014. Roslyn will be hosting centennial events which include an antique tractor and car show, an alumnus social and a parade.

Located in Day County, Roslyn was founded in 1914 and was named after the first postmaster's hometown in Scotland. Roslyn has long been known for their vinegar museum, where they show 101 uses of vinegar, as well as being a community with deep ties to South Dakota's agriculture economy. Since its beginning 100 years ago, the community of Roslyn has continued to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Roslyn on its centennial and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries, on June 16, 2014.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, on June 16, 2014.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

NOTIFICATION OF THE DESIGNATION OF MEREDITH M. BROADBENT AS CHAIR AND DEAN A. PINKERT AS VICE CHAIR OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE JUNE 17, 2014—PM 44

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with the provisions of 19 U.S.C. 1330(c)(1), this is to notify the Congress that I have designated Meredith M. Broadbent as Chair and Dean A. Pinkert as Vice Chair of the United States International Trade Commission, effective June 17, 2014.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 17, 2014.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

MR. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will to meet on June 24, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Falling Through the Cracks: The Challenges of Prevention and Identification in Child Trafficking and Private Re-homing."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Ashley Eden of the committee staff on (202) 224-9243.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4453. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the

reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations.

H.R. 4457. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MIKULSKI, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2015" (Rept. No. 113-193).

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1603, a bill to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-194).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. THUNE, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2475. A bill to realign structure and reallocate resources in the Federal Government, in keeping with the core American belief that families are the best protection for children and the bedrock of any society, to bolster United States diplomacy and assistance targeted at ensuring that every child can grow up in a permanent, safe, nurturing, and loving family, and to strengthen inter-country adoption to the United States and around the world and ensure that it becomes a viable and fully developed option for providing families for children in need, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2476. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that prohibit certain preferential treatment or prioritization of Internet traffic; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2477. A bill to prohibit certain foreign assistance to the Government of Egypt as a result of the July 3, 2013, military coup d'etat; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2478. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to partner with industry to strengthen the safety culture and safety practices of short line and regional freight railroads; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2479. A bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2480. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Elko County, Nevada, and to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2481. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide authority for sole source contracts for certain small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2482. A bill to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Tokyo on February 24, 2012, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2483. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. 2484. A bill to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Auckland on November 14, 2009, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2485. A bill to implement the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, as adopted at Lisbon on September 28, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. CORKER):

S. Res. 477. A resolution designating June 20, 2014, as "American Eagle Day", and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 114

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 114, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to certain exceptions to discharge in bankruptcy.

S. 644

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 644, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prevent the abuse of dextromethorphan, and for other purposes.

S. 822

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 822, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 907

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 907, a bill to provide grants to better understand and reduce gestational diabetes, and for other purposes.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 987, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 1012

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve operations of recovery auditors under the Medicare integrity program, to increase transparency and accuracy in audits conducted by contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 1030

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1030, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an energy investment credit for energy storage property connected to the grid, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1335

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1335, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 1511

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1511, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to remove barriers to the adoption of children in foster care through reauthorization and improvement of the adoption incentives program, and for other purposes.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1738, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 1810

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1810, a bill to provide paid family and medical leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1823

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1823, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 2172

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2172, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to improve non-retaliation provisions relating to equal pay requirements.

S. 2187

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2187, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2204

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2204, a bill to establish the Proprietary Education Oversight Coordination Committee.

S. 2234

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2234, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employees who participate in qualified apprenticeship programs.

S. 2244

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2244, a bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 2295

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2295, a bill to establish the National Commission on the Future of the Army, and for other purposes.

S. 2298

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2298, a bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

S. 2464

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2464, a bill to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

S. RES. 462

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 462, a resolution recognizing the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters of Cambodia and Laos for supporting and defending the United States Armed Forces during the

conflict in Southeast Asia and for their continued support and defense of the United States.

S. RES. 469

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 469, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the May 31, 2014, transfer of five detainees from the detention facility at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2476. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that prohibit certain preferential treatment or prioritization of Internet traffic; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr President, in recent months, we have seen an outpouring of public support for maintaining meaningful open Internet rules. Americans are speaking loud and clear—they want an Internet that is a platform for free expression and innovation, where the best ideas and services can reach consumers based on merit rather than based on a financial relationship with a broadband provider. I agree, which is why today I am proud to join my friend in the House, Representative DORIS MATSUI of California, to introduce bicameral legislation requiring the Federal Communications Commission FCC, to ban pay-to-play deals on the Internet.

Since FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler began a proceeding to consider new open Internet rules, nearly 300,000 Americans have commented on his proposal. They are concerned that the Internet will become a place where broadband providers charge tolls to websites or applications in order to reach end users. This would represent a fundamental departure from the way in which consumers and entrepreneurs interact with the Internet. A two-tiered Internet based on ability to pay would harm the innovative and competitive environment we have all come to expect in the online world.

A pay-to-play Internet would allow larger companies to squeeze out their competitors. A small web company in Vermont that develops an idea to rival the largest Silicon Valley titans should not have to worry that its access to consumers could be blocked because its competitors have a paid arrangement with broadband providers. The next generation of Internet companies should have the same protections that allowed a company like Vermont's Dealer.com to become a thriving success.

Such arrangements would also harm consumers, who would not have the assurance that the service they are paying for will provide the speed that they

want. Too many Americans currently lack real choice in broadband providers, particularly those in rural areas. If the FCC clears the way for pay-to-play deals, whole swaths of the Internet could become functionally inaccessible to the customers of certain Internet providers. This is not the Internet we know today and we must act to ensure that it does not come to pass.

The Online Competition and Consumer Choice Act, which I am introducing with Congresswoman MATSUI today, is straightforward. It requires the FCC to establish rules preventing providers from charging websites for priority access. It also requires rules to prevent providers from prioritizing their own affiliated content or services. This legislation should not be used by opponents of meaningful open Internet rules as an excuse for the FCC to not take any action that will protect consumers and innovators. The FCC should act now to ban these deals. I appreciate that Chairman Wheeler is asking whether they should be banned outright in the current open Internet proceeding. The overwhelming response from the American people is that they should be.

The importance of an open Internet is an issue that resonates outside of the Beltway, and with good reason—most Americans interact with the Internet as part of their daily lives. The issue of how we protect and promote an open Internet is crucial to our culture and our economy. I want to make sure that stakeholders from outside of Washington have an opportunity to show policymakers and regulators here that their decisions will have a significant impact throughout the country. That is why I am holding a Judiciary Committee field hearing on July 1 at the University of Vermont.

There should be widespread agreement to prevent special deals that harm consumers and dampen online innovation. The FCC and Congress should rightly focus on this timely and significant issue. I urge the Senate to pass this constructive legislative response.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2476

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Online Competition and Consumer Choice Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. FCC REGULATIONS PROHIBITING CERTAIN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OR PRIORITIZATION OF INTERNET TRAFFIC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate regulations that—

(1) prohibit a broadband provider from entering into an agreement with an edge provider under which the broadband provider agrees, for consideration, in transmitting network traffic over the broadband Internet access service of an end user, to give preferential treatment or priority to the traffic of such edge provider over the traffic of other edge providers; and

(2) prohibit a broadband provider, in transmitting network traffic over the broadband Internet access service of an end user, from giving preferential treatment or priority to the traffic of content, applications, services, or devices that are provided or operated by such broadband provider, or an affiliate of such broadband provider, over the traffic of other content, applications, services, or devices.

(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) CERTAIN TRAFFIC NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as superseding any obligation or authorization a broadband provider may have to address the needs of emergency communications or law enforcement, public safety, or national security authorities, consistent with or as permitted by applicable law, or as limiting the ability of the provider to do so.

(2) CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law, including the authority to promulgate regulations prohibiting or limiting preferential treatment or prioritization of the traffic of an edge provider by a broadband provider under GN Docket No. 14–28 (relating to the matter of protecting and promoting the open Internet).

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—For purposes of sections 503(b) and 504 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 503(b); 504), this section shall be considered to be a part of such Act. With respect to enforcement under this section only, the following modifications of such section 503(b) shall apply:

(1) Paragraph (5) shall not apply.

(2) Paragraph (6) shall be applied by substituting the following: “No forfeiture penalty shall be determined or imposed against any person under this subsection if the violation charged occurred more than 3 years prior to the date of issuance of the required notice or notice of apparent liability.”.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFILIATE.—The term “affiliate” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

(2) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—The term “broadband Internet access service” has the meaning given such term in section 8.11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) BROADBAND PROVIDER.—The term “broadband provider” means a provider of broadband Internet access service.

(4) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(5) EDGE PROVIDER.—The term “edge provider” means an individual, institution, or other entity that provides—

(A) any content, application, or service over the Internet; or

(B) a device used for accessing any content, application, or service over the Internet.

(6) END USER.—The term “end user” means an individual, institution, or other entity that uses a broadband Internet access service.

S. 2478. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to partner with industry to strengthen the safety culture and safety practices of short line and regional freight railroads; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today Senator MURRAY and I are introducing legislation to enhance the safety practices and safety culture of short line railroads. The horrific derailment that occurred in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, last year, just 30 miles from the Maine border, brought to light the importance of ensuring the safe transportation of energy products. Specifically, our bill would authorize the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to a new Short Line Safety Institute for research, development, evaluation, and training efforts.

In the early morning hours of July 6, 2013, a freight train carrying hundreds of thousands of gallons of crude oil was sent hurtling toward the small, picturesque Canadian village of Lac-Mégantic. The train derailed in the center of town, leveling several blocks, and killing 47 residents. Since the accident, the National Transportation Safety Board and the Department of Transportation have been working with American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association to develop new safety guidelines to prevent future disasters.

While this tragedy hit very close to home for us Mainers, there have been several other derailments of crude oil and other hazardous material recently across the country. Despite these incidents, the railroad industry maintains it has a strong safety record. According to the Association of American Railroads, 99.997 percent of rail hazmat shipments reached their destination without a release of product. This underscores the problem we face today we must ensure that we are taking the necessary steps to prevent another Lac-Mégantic, while not overburdening an industry that has a proven track record of safety.

There are 550 short line railroad companies that operate over 50,000 miles of track, or nearly one third of the national railroad network. The tracks can be as short as 2 miles or up to more than 1,000 miles long. Generally, short line railroads must follow the same rules and regulations as the Nation’s major railroads. But railroad safety is about more than just following the rules. Our bill would authorize the Short Line Safety Institute, under the Federal Railroad Administration’s research and development programs, to provide a continuous and active focus on short line safety to assist individual short lines to improve their safety performance. It would allow for the hiring of professional assessment staff who would work with individual short line managers and their employees to assess and improve safety practices.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

Safety training materials and techniques would be developed, and efforts would be made to further increase management and employee focus on creating a safety culture.

Short line railroads are mostly small businesses with far fewer employees than the Class I railroads. In addition, most of the employees have multiple responsibilities, stretching their time and resources thin. Furthermore, a large percentage of short line railroad resources go into track rehabilitation, which limits the resources available for other areas. This bill would allow short line railroad management to continually work with their employees using the most up to date methods to ensure safe operations. It would also improve awareness of industry best practices, both in general and with regard to specific commodities such as crude oil.

For those in rural America, short line railroads are a critical link to the national railroad network. Most are preserving light density lines that otherwise would have been abandoned, leaving thousands of small shippers in the lurch. They do their best to provide an essential service as safely as possible; however, with assistance, they believe they can do better, and establishing a Short Line Safety Institute is a cost effective way to do so. The concept merits our support, and I am pleased to introduce this legislation with Senator MURRAY to help make this concept a reality.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2479. A bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2479

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Moapa Band of Paiutes Land Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Moapa River Reservation Expansion", dated June 16, 2014, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) TRIBE.—The term "Tribe" means the Moapa Band of Paiutes.

SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE MOAPA BAND OF PAIUTES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (b) shall be—

(1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe; and

(2) part of the reservation of the Tribe.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 26,565 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation as generally depicted on the map as "Expansion Area".

(c) SURVEY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a survey of the boundary lines to establish the boundaries of the land taken into trust under subsection (a).

(d) USE OF TRUST LAND.—

(1) GAMING.—Land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall not be eligible, or considered to have been taken into trust, for class II gaming or class III gaming (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

(2) GENERAL USES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Tribe shall use the land taken into trust under subsection (a) only for—

(i) traditional and customary uses;

(ii) stewardship conservation for the benefit of the Tribe;

(iii) residential or recreational development; or

(iv) renewable energy development.

(B) OTHER USES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Tribe uses any portion of the land taken into trust under subsection (a) for a purpose other than a purpose described in subparagraph (A), the Tribe shall pay to the Secretary an amount that is equal to the fair market value of the portion of the land, as determined by an appraisal in accordance with clause (ii).

(ii) APPRAISAL.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of the land under clause (i) based on an appraisal that is performed in accordance with—

(I) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions;

(II) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices; and

(III) any other applicable law (including regulations).

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2480. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Elko County, Nevada, and to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2480

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Nevada Native Nations Land Act".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary.

TITLE I—ELKO MOTOCROSS LAND CONVEYANCE

Sec. 101. Definitions.

Sec. 102. Conveyance of land to county.

TITLE II—CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO INDIAN TRIBES

Sec. 201. Conveyance of land to be held in trust for certain Indian tribes.

Sec. 202. Administration.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.

In this Act, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

TITLE I—ELKO MOTOCROSS LAND CONVEYANCE

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CITY.—The term "city" means the city of Elko, Nevada.

(2) COUNTY.—The term "county" means the county of Elko, Nevada.

(3) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Elko Motocross Park" and dated January 9, 2010.

SEC. 102. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO COUNTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, subject to valid existing rights and this section, the Secretary shall convey to the county, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a) consists of approximately 275 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Elko District, Nevada, as generally depicted on the map as "Elko Motocross Park".

(c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the legal description of the parcel to be conveyed under this section.

(2) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

(A) the map; or

(B) the legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(d) USE OF CONVEYED LAND.—The land conveyed under this section shall be used only as a motocross, bicycle, off-highway vehicle, or stock car racing area, or for any other public purpose consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the "Recreation and Public Purposes Act") (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall require the county to pay all survey costs and other administrative costs necessary for the preparation and completion of any patents for, and transfers of title to, the land described in subsection (b).

(f) REVERSION.—If the land conveyed under this section ceases to be used for a public purpose in accordance with subsection (d), the land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

TITLE II—CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO INDIAN TRIBES

SEC. 201. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR CERTAIN INDIAN TRIBES.

(a) TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE INDIANS OF NEVADA (ELKO BAND).—

(1) DEFINITION OF MAP.—In this subsection, the term "map" means the map entitled "Te-moak Tribal Land Expansion", dated September 30, 2008, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (3)—

(A) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada (Elko Band); and

(B) shall be part of the reservation of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada (Elko Band).

(3) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (2) is the approximately 373 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map as “Lands to be Held in Trust”.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE FORT McDERMITT PAIUTE AND SHOSHONE TRIBE.—

(1) DEFINITION OF MAP.—In this subsection, the term “map” means the map entitled “Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation Expansion Act”, dated February 21, 2013, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (3)—

(A) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe; and

(B) shall be part of the reservation of the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (2) is the approximately 19,094 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map as “Reservation Expansion Lands”.

(c) CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE SHOSHONE PAIUTE TRIBES.—

(1) DEFINITION OF MAP.—In this subsection, the term “map” means the map entitled “Mountain City Administrative Site Proposed Acquisition”, dated July 29, 2013, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(2) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (3)—

(A) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Shoshone Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation; and

(B) shall be part of the reservation of the Shoshone Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (2) is the approximately 82 acres of land administered by the Forest Service as generally depicted on the map as “Proposed Acquisition Site”.

(d) TRANSFER OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE SUMMIT LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE.—

(1) DEFINITION OF MAP.—In this section, the term “map” means the map entitled “Summit Lake Indian Reservation Conveyance”, dated February 28, 2013, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (3)—

(A) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe; and

(B) shall be part of the reservation of the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (2) is the approximately 941 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map as “Reservation Conveyance Lands”.

(e) TRANSFER OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE RENO-SPARKS INDIAN COLONY LAND.—

(1) DEFINITION OF MAP.—In this subsection, the term “map” means the map entitled “Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Expansion”, dated June 11, 2014, and on file and available

for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (3)—

(A) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; and

(B) shall be part of the reservation of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (2) is the approximately 13,434 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map as “RSIC Amended Boundary”.

(f) TRANSFER OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE.—

(1) MAP.—In this subsection, the term “map” means the map entitled “Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation Expansion”, dated June 9, 2014, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (1)—

(A) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; and

(B) shall be part of the reservation of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (2) is the approximately 30,669 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map as “Reservation Expansion Lands”.

(g) TRANSFER OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE INDIANS OF NEVADA (SOUTH FORK BAND).—

(1) RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.—

(A) FINDING.—Congress finds that, for the purposes of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), the Red Spring wilderness study area has been adequately studied for wilderness designation.

(B) RELEASE.—The public land described in subparagraph (A) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)).

(2) TRANSFER OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE INDIANS OF NEVADA (SOUTH FORK BAND).—

(A) DEFINITION OF MAP.—In this paragraph, the term “map” means the map entitled “South Fork Indian Reservation Expansion”, dated June 9, 2014, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(B) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii) and all valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subparagraph (C)—

(I) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada (South Fork Band); and

(II) shall be part of the reservation of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada (South Fork Band).

(ii) EXCEPTION.—The oversight and renewal of all oil and gas leases in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act shall remain the responsibility of the Bureau of Land Management in consultation with the South Fork Band Council.

(C) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subparagraph (B) is the approxi-

mately 28,162 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map as “Reservation Expansion Lands”.

SEC. 202. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) SURVEY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a survey of the boundary lines to establish the boundaries of the land taken into trust for each Indian tribe under section 201.

(b) USE OF TRUST LAND.—

(1) GAMING.—Land taken into trust under section 201 shall not be eligible, or considered to have been taken into trust, for class II gaming or class III gaming (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

(2) GENERAL USES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Indian tribe for which land is taken into trust under section 201 shall use the land taken into trust under that section only for—

- (i) traditional and customary uses;
- (ii) stewardship conservation for the benefit of the Indian tribe;
- (iii) residential or recreational development;
- (iv) renewable energy development; or
- (v) mineral development.

(B) OTHER USES.—If an Indian tribe for which land is taken into trust under section 201 uses any portion of the land taken into trust under that section for a purpose other than a purpose described in subparagraph (A), that Indian tribe shall pay to the Secretary an amount that is equal to the fair market value of the portion of the land, as determined by an appraisal.

(C) APPRAISAL.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of the land under paragraph (2)(B) based on an appraisal that is performed in accordance with—

- (i) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions;
- (ii) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices; and
- (iii) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(3) THINNING; LANDSCAPE RESTORATION.—With respect to the land taken into trust under section 201, the Secretary, in consultation and coordination with the applicable Indian tribe, may carry out any fuel reduction and other landscape restoration activities, including restoration of sage grouse habitat, on the land that is beneficial to the Indian tribe and the Bureau of Land Management.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 477—DESIGNATING JUNE 20, 2014, AS “AMERICAN EAGLE DAY”, AND CELEBRATING THE RECOVERY AND RESTORATION OF THE BALD EAGLE, THE NATIONAL SYMBOL OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. CORKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 477

Whereas on June 20, 1782, the bald eagle was officially designated as the national emblem of the United States by the founding fathers in the Congress of the Confederation;

Whereas the bald eagle is the central image of the Great Seal of the United States;

Whereas the image of the bald eagle is displayed in the official seal of many branches and departments of the Federal Government, including—

- (1) the Office of the President;
- (2) the Office of the Vice President;
- (3) Congress;
- (4) the Supreme Court;
- (5) the Department of the Treasury;
- (6) the Department of Defense;
- (7) the Department of Justice;
- (8) the Department of State;
- (9) the Department of Commerce;
- (10) the Department of Homeland Security;
- (11) the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- (12) the Department of Labor;
- (13) the Department of Health and Human Services;
- (14) the Department of Energy;
- (15) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- (16) the Central Intelligence Agency; and
- (17) the Postal Service;

Whereas the bald eagle is an inspiring symbol of—

- (1) the spirit of freedom; and
- (2) the sovereignty of the United States;

Whereas since the founding of the Nation, the image, meaning, and symbolism of the bald eagle have played a significant role in the art, music, history, commerce, literature, architecture, and culture of the United States;

Whereas the bald eagle is prominently featured on the stamps, currency, and coinage of the United States;

Whereas the habitat of bald eagles exists only in North America;

Whereas by 1963, the population of bald eagles that nested in the lower 48 States had declined to approximately 417 nesting pairs;

Whereas due to the dramatic decline in the population of bald eagles in the lower 48 States, the Secretary of the Interior listed the bald eagle as an endangered species on the list of endangered species published under section 4(c)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)(1));

Whereas caring and concerned individuals from the Federal, State, and private sectors banded together to save, and help ensure the recovery and protection of, bald eagles;

Whereas on July 20, 1969, the first manned lunar landing occurred in the Apollo 11 Lunar Excursion Module, which was named “Eagle”;

Whereas the “Eagle” played an integral role in achieving the goal of the United States of landing a man on the Moon and returning that man safely to Earth;

Whereas in 1995, as a result of the efforts of those caring and concerned individuals, the Secretary of the Interior listed the bald eagle as a threatened species on the list of threatened species published under section 4(c)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)(1));

Whereas by 2007, the population of bald eagles that nested in the lower 48 States had increased to approximately 10,000 nesting pairs, an increase of approximately 2,500 percent from the preceding 40 years;

Whereas in 2007, the population of bald eagles that nested in the State of Alaska was approximately 50,000 to 70,000;

Whereas on June 28, 2007, the Secretary of the Interior removed the bald eagle from the list of threatened species published under section 4(c)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)(1));

Whereas bald eagles remain protected in accordance with—

(1) the Act entitled “An Act for the protection of the bald eagle”, approved June 8, 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940”); and

(2) the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.);

Whereas on January 15, 2008, the Secretary of the Treasury issued 3 limited edition bald eagle commemorative coins under the American Bald Eagle Recovery and National Emblem Commemorative Coin Act (Public Law 108-486; 118 Stat. 3934);

Whereas the sale of the limited edition bald eagle commemorative coins issued by the Secretary of the Treasury has raised approximately \$7,800,000 for the nonprofit American Eagle Foundation of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee to support efforts to protect the bald eagle;

Whereas if not for the vigilant conservation efforts of concerned Americans and the enactment of conservation laws (including regulations), the bald eagle would face extinction;

Whereas the American Eagle Foundation has brought substantial public attention to the cause of the protection and care of the bald eagle nationally;

Whereas, November 4, 2010, marked the 25th anniversary of the American Eagle Foundation;

Whereas facilities around the United States, such as the Southeastern Raptor Center at Auburn University in the State of Alabama, rehabilitate injured eagles for release into the wild;

Whereas the dramatic recovery of the population of bald eagles—

(1) is an endangered species success story; and

(2) an inspirational example for other wildlife and natural resource conservation efforts around the world;

Whereas the initial recovery of the population of bald eagles was accomplished by the concerted efforts of numerous government agencies, corporations, organizations, and individuals; and

Whereas the continuation of recovery, management, and public awareness programs for bald eagles will be necessary to ensure—

(1) the continued progress of the recovery of bald eagles; and

(2) that the population and habitat of bald eagles will remain healthy and secure for future generations; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 20, 2014, as “American Eagle Day”;

(2) applauds the issuance of bald eagle commemorative coins by the Secretary of the Treasury as a means by which to generate critical funds for the protection of bald eagles; and

(3) encourages—

(A) educational entities, organizations, businesses, conservation groups, and government agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate and develop educational tools for use in the public schools of the United States; and

(B) the people of the United States to observe American Eagle Day with appropriate ceremonies and other activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3244. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for

other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3245. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3246. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3247. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3248. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3249. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3244. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

DIVISION A—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for international trade activities of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, to carry out activities associated with facilitating, attracting, and retaining business investment in the United States, and for engaging in trade promotional activities abroad, including expenses of grants and cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting exports of United States firms, without regard to sections 3702 and 3703 of title 44, United States Code; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas and employees temporarily posted overseas; travel and transportation of employees of the International Trade Administration between two points abroad, without regard to section 40118 of title 49, United States Code; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services; rental of space abroad for periods not exceeding 10 years, and expenses of alteration, repair, or improvement; purchase or construction of temporary demountable exhibition structures for use abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code,

when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed \$294,300 for official representation expenses abroad; purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use abroad, not to exceed \$45,000 per vehicle; obtaining insurance on official motor vehicles; and rental of tie lines, \$480,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which \$10,000,000 is to be derived from fees to be retained and used by the International Trade Administration, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided*, That, of amounts provided under this heading, not less than \$16,400,000 shall be for China anti-dumping and countervailing duty enforcement and compliance activities: *Provided further*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities; and that for the purpose of this Act, contributions under the provisions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 shall include payment for assessments for services provided as part of these activities.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY
OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce, including costs associated with the performance of export administration field activities both domestically and abroad; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed \$13,500 for official representation expenses abroad; awards of compensation to informers under the Export Administration Act of 1979, and as authorized by section 1(b) of the Act of June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 223; 22 U.S.C. 401(b)); and purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use and motor vehicles for law enforcement use with special requirement vehicles eligible for purchase without regard to any price limitation otherwise established by law, \$105,549,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities: *Provided further*, That payments and contributions collected and accepted for materials or services provided as part of such activities may be retained for use in covering the cost of such activities, and for providing information to the public with respect to the export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce and other export control programs of the United States and other governments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS

For grants for economic development assistance as provided by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, for trade adjustment assistance, and for the cost of loan guarantees and grants authorized by section 27 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722), \$235,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$20,000,000 shall be for regional innovation programs and loan guaran-

tees under section 27 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980: *Provided*, That \$40,000,000 shall be derived from prior year unobligated balances from funds, or recoveries of funds, previously appropriated for Economic Development Assistance Programs: *Provided further*, That the costs for loan guarantees, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds for loan guarantees under such section 27 are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$70,000,000: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding paragraph (7) of section 27(d) of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722(d)(7)), amounts made available in prior appropriations Acts for guaranteeing loans for science park infrastructure under such section shall be available to the Secretary of Commerce to guarantee such loans after September 30, 2014.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of administering the economic development assistance programs as provided for by law, \$37,000,000: *Provided*, That these funds may be used to monitor projects approved pursuant to title I of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976, title II of the Trade Act of 1974, and the Community Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1977.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Department of Commerce in fostering, promoting, and developing minority business enterprise, including expenses of grants, contracts, and other agreements with public or private organizations, \$28,286,000.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, of economic and statistical analysis programs of the Department of Commerce, \$106,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing and publishing statistics, provided for by law, \$252,200,000: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing and publishing statistics for periodic censuses and programs provided for by law, \$896,744,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, \$1,551,000 shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General" account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the Bureau of the Census.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as provided for by law, of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), \$48,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1535(d), the Secretary of

Commerce shall charge Federal agencies for costs incurred in spectrum management, analysis, operations, and related services, and such fees shall be retained and used as offsetting collections for costs of such spectrum services, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to retain and use as offsetting collections all funds transferred, or previously transferred, from other Government agencies for all costs incurred in telecommunications research, engineering, and related activities by the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences of NTIA, in furtherance of its assigned functions under this paragraph, and such funds received from other Government agencies shall remain available until expended.

PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES,
PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

For the administration of prior-year grants, recoveries and unobligated balances of funds previously appropriated are available for the administration of all open grants until their expiration.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK
OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) provided for by law, including defense of suits instituted against the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, \$3,458,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as offsetting collections of fees and surcharges assessed and collected by the USPTO under any law are received during fiscal year 2015, so as to result in a fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at \$0: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2015, should the total amount of such offsetting collections be less than \$3,458,000,000 this amount shall be reduced accordingly: *Provided further*, That any amount received in excess of \$3,458,000,000 in fiscal year 2015 and deposited in the Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Director of USPTO shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That any amounts reprogrammed in accordance with the preceding proviso shall be transferred to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Salaries and Expenses account: *Provided further*, That from amounts provided herein, not to exceed \$900 shall be made available in fiscal year 2015 for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That in fiscal year 2015 from the amounts made available for "Salaries and Expenses" for the USPTO, the amounts necessary to pay (1) the difference between the percentage of basic pay contributed by the USPTO and employees under section 8334(a) of title 5, United States Code, and the normal cost percentage (as defined by section 8331(17) of that title) as provided by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for USPTO's specific use, of basic pay, of employees subject to subchapter III of chapter 83 of that title, and (2) the present

value of the otherwise unfunded accruing costs, as determined by OPM for USPTO's specific use of post-retirement life insurance and post-retirement health benefits coverage for all USPTO employees who are enrolled in Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), shall be transferred to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, the FEGLI Fund, and the FEHB Fund, as appropriate, and shall be available for the authorized purposes of those accounts: *Provided further*, That any differences between the present value factors published in OPM's yearly 300 series benefit letters and the factors that OPM provides for USPTO's specific use shall be recognized as an imputed cost on USPTO's financial statements, where applicable: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, all fees and surcharges assessed and collected by USPTO are available for USPTO only pursuant to section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 22 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (Public Law 112-29): *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, \$2,000,000 shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General" account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the USPTO.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), \$685,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$9,000,000 may be transferred to the "Working Capital Fund": *Provided*, That not to exceed \$5,000,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That NIST may provide local transportation for summer undergraduate research fellowship program participants.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

For necessary expenses for industrial technology services, \$156,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$141,000,000 shall be for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and of which \$15,000,000 shall be for the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

For construction of new research facilities, including architectural and engineering design, and for renovation and maintenance of existing facilities, not otherwise provided for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as authorized by sections 13 through 15 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278c-278e), \$59,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in the budget justification materials that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Institute of Standards and Technology construction project having a total multi-year program cost of more than \$5,000,000, and simultaneously the budget justification materials shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of activities authorized by law for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including maintenance, operation, and hire of aircraft and vessels; grants, contracts, or other payments to nonprofit organizations for the purposes of conducting activities pursuant to cooperative agreements; and relocation of facilities, \$3,228,964,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, except that funds provided for cooperative enforcement shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That fees and donations received by the National Ocean Service for the management of national marine sanctuaries may be retained and used for the salaries and expenses associated with those activities, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That in addition, \$116,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the fund entitled "Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries", which shall only be used for fishery activities related to the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program, Cooperative Research, Annual Stock Assessments, Survey and Monitoring Projects, Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants, and Fish Information Networks: *Provided further*, That of the \$3,359,964,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading \$3,228,964,000 is appropriated from the general fund, \$116,000,000 is provided by transfer, and \$15,000,000 is derived from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration corporate services administrative support costs shall not exceed \$226,800,000: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the report accompanying this bill, or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That in addition, for necessary retired pay expenses under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plan, and for payments for the medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under the Dependents Medical Care Act (10 U.S.C. 55), such sums as may be necessary.

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

For procurement, acquisition and construction of capital assets, including alteration and modification costs, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, \$2,131,686,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, except that funds provided for construction of facilities shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the \$2,144,686,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading, \$2,131,686,000 is appropriated from the general fund and \$13,000,000 is provided from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the report accompanying this bill, or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in budget justification materials that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a)

of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration procurement, acquisition or construction project having a total of more than \$5,000,000 and simultaneously the budget justification shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years: *Provided further*, That, within the amounts appropriated, \$1,302,000 shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General" account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to satellite procurement, acquisition and construction.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY

For necessary expenses associated with the restoration of Pacific salmon populations, \$65,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That, of the funds provided herein, the Secretary of Commerce may issue grants to the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Alaska, and to the Federally recognized tribes of the Columbia River and Pacific Coast (including Alaska), for projects necessary for conservation of salmon and steelhead populations that are listed as threatened or endangered, or that are identified by a State as at-risk to be so listed, for maintaining populations necessary for exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, or for conservation of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habitat, based on guidelines to be developed by the Secretary of Commerce: *Provided further*, That all funds shall be allocated based on scientific and other merit principles and shall not be available for marketing activities: *Provided further*, That funds disbursed to States shall be subject to a matching requirement of funds or documented in-kind contributions of at least 33 percent of the Federal funds.

FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

For carrying out the provisions of title IV of Public Law 95-372, not to exceed \$350,000, to be derived from receipts collected pursuant to that Act, to remain available until expended.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2015, obligations of direct loans may not exceed \$24,000,000 for Individual Fishing Quota loans and not to exceed \$100,000,000 for traditional direct loans as authorized by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the management of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, including not to exceed \$4,500 for official reception and representation, \$56,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary may use space provided by State, local, and other governmental entities, non-profit entities, or other businesses on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis to engage in activities that provide businesses and communities with information, advice, and referrals to Department of Commerce programs.

RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for the renovation and modernization of Department of Commerce facilities, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$30,596,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SEC. 101. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations and funds made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act shall be available for the activities specified in the Act of October 26, 1949 (15 U.S.C. 1514), to the extent and in the manner prescribed by the Act, and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3324, may be used for advanced payments not otherwise authorized only upon the certification of officials designated by the Secretary of Commerce that such payments are in the public interest.

SEC. 102. During the current fiscal year, appropriations made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act for salaries and expenses shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 103. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Commerce in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall notify the Committees on Appropriations at least 15 days in advance of the acquisition or disposal of any capital asset (including land, structures, and equipment) not specifically provided for in this Act or any other law appropriating funds for the Department of Commerce.

SEC. 104. The requirements set forth by section 105 of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), as amended by section 105 of title I of division B of Public Law 113–6, are hereby adopted by reference and made applicable with respect to fiscal year 2015: *Provided*, That the life cycle cost for the Joint Polar Satellite System is \$11,323,400,000 and the life cycle cost for the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-Series Program is \$10,829,500,000.

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may furnish services (including but not limited to utilities, telecommunications, and security services) necessary to support the operation, maintenance, and improvement of space that persons, firms, or organizations are authorized, pursuant to the Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976 or other authority, to use or occupy in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, DC, or other buildings, the maintenance, operation, and protection of which has been delegated to the Secretary from the Administrator of General Services pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis. Amounts received as reimbursement for services provided under this section or the authority under which the use or occupancy of the space is authorized, up to \$200,000, shall be credited to the appropriation or fund which initially bears the costs of such services.

SEC. 106. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prevent a grant recipient from deterring child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over its networks.

SEC. 107. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

tion is authorized to use, with their consent, with reimbursement and subject to the limits of available appropriations, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, or of any State, local government, Indian tribal government, Territory, or possession, or of any political subdivision thereof, or of any foreign government or international organization, for purposes related to carrying out the responsibilities of any statute administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 108. The National Technical Information Service shall not charge any customer for a copy of any report or document generated by the Legislative Branch unless the Service has provided information to the customer on how an electronic copy of such report or document may be accessed and downloaded for free online. Should a customer still require the Service to provide a printed or digital copy of the report or document, the charge shall be limited to recovering the Service's cost of processing, reproducing, and delivering such report or document.

SEC. 109. In order to carry out the responsibilities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Administrator of NOAA is authorized to: (1) enter into grants and cooperative agreements with; (2) use on a non-reimbursable basis land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities provided by; and (3) receive and expend funds made available on a consensual basis from: a Federal agency, State or subdivision thereof, local government, tribal government, territory, or possession or any subdivisions thereof: *Provided*, That funds received for permitting and related regulatory activities pursuant to this section shall be deposited as offsetting collections under the heading "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Operations, Research, and Facilities" and shall remain available until expended for such purpose: *Provided further*, That all offsetting collections within this section and their corresponding uses are subject to section 505 of this Act.

SEC. 110. The Secretary of Commerce may waive the requirement for bonds under 40 U.S.C. 3131 with respect to contracts for the construction, alteration, or repair of vessels, regardless of the terms of the contracts as to payment or title, when the contract is made under the Coast and Geodetic Survey Act of 1947 (33 U.S.C. 883a et seq.).

This title may be cited as the "Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 2015".

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the administration of the Department of Justice, \$115,000,000, of which not to exceed \$4,000,000 for security and construction of Department of Justice facilities shall remain available until expended.

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses for information sharing technology, including planning, development, deployment and departmental direction, \$25,842,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Attorney General may transfer up to \$35,400,000 to this account, from funds available to the Department of Justice for information technology, for enterprise-wide information technology initiatives: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority in the preceding proviso is in

addition to any other transfer authority contained in this Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEALS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the administration of pardon and clemency petitions and immigration-related activities, \$351,072,000, of which \$4,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the Executive Office for Immigration Review fees deposited in the "Immigration Examinations Fee" account: *Provided*, That of the amount provided:

(1) not to exceed \$10,000,000 is for the Executive Office of Immigration Review for courthouse operations, language services, and automated system requirements and shall remain available until expended;

(2) \$10,024,000 is for the Executive Office for Immigration Review Legal Orientation Program; and

(3) \$5,824,000 is for the Executive Office for Immigration Review to develop, implement, and evaluate a pilot program to provide counsel for unaccompanied alien children: *Provided*, That such pilot program shall be carried out in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security and relevant non-governmental organizations and experts.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, \$88,577,000, including not to exceed \$10,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Parole Commission as authorized, \$13,308,000.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

For expenses necessary for the legal activities of the Department of Justice, not otherwise provided for, including not to exceed \$20,000 for expenses of collecting evidence, to be expended under the direction of, and to be accounted for solely under the certificate of, the Attorney General; and rent of private or Government-owned space in the District of Columbia, \$915,000,000, of which not to exceed \$10,000,000 for litigation support contracts shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided for INTERPOL Washington dues payments, not to exceed \$685,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed \$9,000 shall be available to INTERPOL Washington for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for litigation activities of the Civil Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to "Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities" from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the previous proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, such sums as may be necessary shall be available to the Civil Rights Division for salaries and expenses associated with the election monitoring program under section 8 of

the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973f) and to reimburse the Office of Personnel Management for such salaries and expenses: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading for the election monitoring program, \$3,390,000 shall remain available until expended.

In addition, for reimbursement of expenses of the Department of Justice associated with processing cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, not to exceed \$7,833,000, to be appropriated from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, ANTI-TRUST DIVISION

For expenses necessary for the enforcement of antitrust and kindred laws, \$162,246,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, fees collected for premerger notification filings under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 18a), regardless of the year of collection (and estimated to be \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2015), shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2015, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at \$62,246,000.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

For necessary expenses of the Offices of the United States Attorneys, including intergovernmental and cooperative agreements, \$1,950,000,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed \$7,200 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$25,000 shall remain available until expended.

UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND

For necessary expenses of the United States Trustee Program, as authorized, \$225,908,000, to remain available until expended and to be derived from the United States Trustee System Fund: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, deposits to the Fund shall be available in such amounts as may be necessary to pay refunds due depositors: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$225,908,000 of offsetting collections pursuant to section 589a(b) of title 28, United States Code, shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the Fund shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2015, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the Fund estimated at \$0.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$2,326,000.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

For fees and expenses of witnesses, for expenses of contracts for the procurement and supervision of expert witnesses, for private counsel expenses, including advances, and for expenses of foreign counsel, \$270,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$16,000,000 is for construction of buildings for protected witness safesites; not

to exceed \$3,000,000 is for the purchase and maintenance of armored and other vehicles for witness security caravans; and not to exceed \$11,000,000 is for the purchase, installation, maintenance, and upgrade of secure telecommunications equipment and a secure automated information network to store and retrieve the identities and locations of protected witnesses.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Community Relations Service, \$12,972,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for conflict resolution and violence prevention activities of the Community Relations Service, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to the Community Relations Service, from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND

For expenses authorized by subparagraphs (B), (F), and (G) of section 524(c)(1) of title 28, United States Code, \$20,514,000, to be derived from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Marshals Service, \$1,185,000,000, of which not to exceed \$6,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, and not to exceed \$15,000,000 shall remain available until expended.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction in space controlled, occupied or utilized by the United States Marshals Service for prisoner holding and related support, \$9,800,000, to remain available until expended.

FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION

For necessary expenses related to United States prisoners in the custody of the United States Marshals Service as authorized by section 4013 of title 18, United States Code, \$1,595,307,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$20,000,000 shall be considered "funds appropriated for State and local law enforcement assistance" pursuant to section 4013(b) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the United States Marshals Service shall be responsible for managing the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System: *Provided further*, That any unobligated balances available from funds appropriated under the heading "General Administration, Detention Trustee" shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation under this heading.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the National Security Division, \$91,800,000, of which not to exceed \$5,000,000 for information technology systems shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for the activities of the

National Security Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to this heading from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT

INTERAGENCY CRIME AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT

For necessary expenses for the identification, investigation, and prosecution of individuals associated with the most significant drug trafficking and affiliated money laundering organizations not otherwise provided for, to include inter-governmental agreements with State and local law enforcement agencies engaged in the investigation and prosecution of individuals involved in organized crime drug trafficking, \$505,000,000, of which \$50,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any amounts obligated from appropriations under this heading may be used under authorities available to the organizations reimbursed from this appropriation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes against the United States, \$8,291,233,000, of which not to exceed \$216,900,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$184,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses, to include the cost of equipment, furniture, and information technology requirements, related to construction or acquisition of buildings, facilities and sites by purchase, or as otherwise authorized by law; conversion, modification and extension of Federally-owned buildings; preliminary planning and design of projects; and operation and maintenance of secure work environment facilities and secure networking capabilities; \$93,982,000, to remain available until expended.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Drug Enforcement Administration, including not to exceed \$70,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character pursuant to section 530C of title 28, United States Code; and expenses for conducting drug education and training programs, including travel and related expenses for participants in such programs and the distribution of items of token value that promote the goals of such programs, \$2,018,000,000; of which not to exceed \$75,000,000 shall remain available until expended and not to exceed \$90,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, for training of State and local law enforcement agencies with or without reimbursement, including training in connection with the training and acquisition of canines for explosives and fire accelerants detection; and for provision of laboratory assistance to

State and local law enforcement agencies, with or without reimbursement, \$1,201,004,000, of which not to exceed \$36,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be available for the payment of attorneys' fees as provided by section 924(d)(2) of title 18, United States Code, and not to exceed \$20,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated herein shall be available to investigate or act upon applications for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available to investigate and act upon applications filed by corporations for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That no funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to transfer the functions, missions, or activities of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to other agencies or Departments.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Prison System for the administration, operation, and maintenance of Federal penal and correctional institutions, and for the provision of technical assistance and advice on corrections related issues to foreign governments, \$6,804,000,000: *Provided*, That the Attorney General may transfer to the Health Resources and Services Administration such amounts as may be necessary for direct expenditures by that Administration for medical relief for inmates of Federal penal and correctional institutions: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Federal Prison System, where necessary, may enter into contracts with a fiscal agent or fiscal intermediary claims processor to determine the amounts payable to persons who, on behalf of the Federal Prison System, furnish health services to individuals committed to the custody of the Federal Prison System: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$5,400 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$50,000,000 shall remain available for necessary operations until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That, of the amounts provided for contract confinement, not to exceed \$20,000,000 shall remain available until expended to make payments in advance for grants, contracts and reimbursable agreements, and other expenses: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Federal Prison System may accept donated property and services relating to the operation of the prison card program from a not-for-profit entity which has operated such program in the past, notwithstanding the fact that such not-for-profit entity furnishes services under contracts to the Federal Prison System relating to the operation of pre-release services, halfway houses, or other custodial facilities.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For planning, acquisition of sites and construction of new facilities; purchase and acquisition of facilities and remodeling, and equipping of such facilities for penal and correctional use, including all necessary expenses incident thereto, by contract or force account; and constructing, remodeling, and equipping necessary buildings and facilities at existing penal and correctional institutions, including all necessary expenses incident thereto, by contract or force account,

\$105,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not less than \$91,000,000 shall be available only for modernization, maintenance and repair, and of which not to exceed \$14,000,000 shall be available to construct areas for inmate work programs: *Provided*, That labor of United States prisoners may be used for work performed under this appropriation.

FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

The Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, is hereby authorized to make such expenditures within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available, and in accord with the law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the program set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES,
FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

Not to exceed \$2,700,000 of the funds of the Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, shall be available for its administrative expenses, and for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, to be computed on an accrual basis to be determined in accordance with the corporation's current prescribed accounting system, and such amounts shall be exclusive of depreciation, payment of claims, and expenditures which such accounting system requires to be capitalized or charged to cost of commodities acquired or produced, including selling and shipping expenses, and expenses in connection with acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance, improvement, protection, or disposition of facilities and other property belonging to the corporation or in which it has an interest.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
ACTIVITIES

OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND
PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance for the prevention and prosecution of violence against women, as authorized by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.) ("the 1968 Act"); the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322) ("the 1994 Act"); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-647) ("the 1990 Act"); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-21); the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.) ("the 1974 Act"); the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-386) ("the 2000 Act"); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) ("the 2005 Act"); and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4) ("the 2013 Act"); and for related victims services, \$430,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That except as otherwise provided by law, not to exceed 5 percent of funds made available under this heading may be used for expenses related to evaluation, training, and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided—

(1) \$195,000,000 is for grants to combat violence against women, as authorized by part T of the 1968 Act;

(2) \$26,000,000 is for transitional housing assistance grants for victims of domestic vio-

lence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault as authorized by section 40299 of the 1994 Act;

(3) \$3,000,000 is for the National Institute of Justice for research and evaluation of violence against women and related issues addressed by grant programs of the Office on Violence Against Women, which shall be transferred to "Research, Evaluation and Statistics" for administration by the Office of Justice Programs;

(4) \$10,000,000 is for a grant program to provide services to advocate for and respond to youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; assistance to children and youth exposed to such violence; programs to engage men and youth in preventing such violence; and assistance to middle and high school students through education and other services related to such violence: *Provided*, That unobligated balances available for the programs authorized by sections 41201, 41204, 41303 and 41305 of the 1994 Act, prior to its amendment by the 2013 Act, shall be available for this program: *Provided further*, That 10 percent of the total amount available for this grant program shall be available for grants under the program authorized by section 2015 of the 1968 Act: *Provided further*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this program;

(5) \$50,000,000 is for grants to encourage arrest policies as authorized by part U of the 1968 Act, of which \$4,000,000 is for a homicide reduction initiative;

(6) \$30,000,000 is for sexual assault victims assistance, as authorized by section 41601 of the 1994 Act;

(7) \$33,000,000 is for rural domestic violence and child abuse enforcement assistance grants, as authorized by section 40295 of the 1994 Act;

(8) \$12,000,000 is for grants to reduce violent crimes against women on campus, as authorized by section 304 of the 2005 Act;

(9) \$42,500,000 is for legal assistance for victims, as authorized by section 1201 of the 2000 Act;

(10) \$4,500,000 is for enhanced training and services to end violence against and abuse of women in later life, as authorized by section 40802 of the 1994 Act;

(11) \$16,000,000 is for grants to support families in the justice system, as authorized by section 1301 of the 2000 Act: *Provided*, That unobligated balances available for the programs authorized by section 1301 of the 2000 Act and section 41002 of the 1994 Act, prior to their amendment by the 2013 Act, shall be available for this program;

(12) \$6,000,000 is for education and training to end violence against and abuse of women with disabilities, as authorized by section 1402 of the 2000 Act;

(13) \$500,000 is for the National Resource Center on Workplace Responses to assist victims of domestic violence, as authorized by section 41501 of the 1994 Act;

(14) \$1,000,000 is for analysis and research on violence against Indian women, including as authorized by section 904 of the 2005 Act: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred to "Research, Evaluation and Statistics" for administration by the Office of Justice Programs; and

(15) \$500,000 is for a national clearinghouse that provides training and technical assistance on issues relating to sexual assault of American Indian and Alaska Native women.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by

title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (“the 1968 Act”); the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (“the 1974 Act”); the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771 et seq.); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–21); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (“the 2005 Act”); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–647); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–473); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) (“the Adam Walsh Act”); the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–401); subtitle D of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296) (“the 2002 Act”); the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (“the 2013 Act”); and other programs, \$115,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) \$42,000,000 is for criminal justice statistics programs, and other activities, as authorized by part C of title I of the 1968 Act;

(2) \$38,000,000 is for research, development, and evaluation programs, and other activities as authorized by part B of title I of the 1968 Act and subtitle D of title II of the 2002 Act;

(3) \$30,000,000 is for regional information sharing activities, as authorized by part M of title I of the 1968 Act; and

(4) \$5,000,000 is for activities to strengthen and enhance the practice of forensic sciences, of which \$4,000,000 is for transfer to the National Institute of Standards and Technology to support scientific working groups.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322) (“the 1994 Act”); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (“the 1968 Act”); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–647) (“the 1990 Act”); the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–164); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (“the 2005 Act”); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) (“the Adam Walsh Act”); the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–386); the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180); subtitle D of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296) (“the 2002 Act”); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199); the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–403); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–473); the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–416); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (“the 2013 Act”); and other programs, \$1,149,500,000, to remain available until expended as follows—

(1) \$376,000,000 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program as authorized by subpart 1 of part E of title I of

the 1968 Act (except that section 1001(c), and the special rules for Puerto Rico under section 505(g) of title I of the 1968 Act shall not apply for purposes of this Act), of which, notwithstanding such subpart 1, \$1,000,000 is for a program to improve State and local law enforcement intelligence capabilities including antiterrorism training and training to ensure that constitutional rights, civil liberties, civil rights, and privacy interests are protected throughout the intelligence process, \$2,000,000 is for a State, local, and tribal assistance help desk and diagnostic center program, \$15,000,000 is for a Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officer Resilience and Survivability Initiative (VALOR), \$10,000,000 is for an initiative to support evidence-based policing, \$5,000,000 is for an initiative to enhance prosecutorial decision-making; and \$3,000,000 is for competitive grants to distribute firearm safety materials and gun locks;

(2) \$150,000,000 for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, as authorized by section 241(i)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(i)(5)): *Provided*, That no jurisdiction shall request compensation for any cost greater than the actual cost for Federal immigration and other detainees housed in State and local detention facilities;

(3) \$10,000,000 for competitive grants to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to prevent or combat juvenile delinquency, and to assist victims of crime (other than compensation);

(4) \$15,000,000 for victim services programs for victims of trafficking, as authorized by section 107(b)(2) of Public Law 106–386, for programs authorized under Public Law 109–164, or programs authorized under Public Law 113–4;

(5) \$41,000,000 for Drug Courts, as authorized by section 1001(a)(25)(A) of title I of the 1968 Act;

(6) \$9,000,000 for mental health courts and adult and juvenile collaboration program grants, as authorized by parts V and HH of title I of the 1968 Act, and the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–416);

(7) \$12,000,000 for grants for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners, as authorized by part S of title I of the 1968 Act;

(8) \$2,000,000 for the Capital Litigation Improvement Grant Program, as authorized by section 426 of Public Law 108–405, and for grants for wrongful conviction review;

(9) \$15,000,000 for economic, high technology and Internet crime prevention grants, including as authorized by section 401 of Public Law 110–403, of which not more than \$2,500,000 is for intellectual property enforcement grants, including as authorized by section 401 of Public Law 110–403;

(10) \$2,000,000 for a student loan repayment assistance program pursuant to section 952 of Public Law 110–315;

(11) \$20,000,000 for sex offender management assistance, as authorized by the Adam Walsh Act, and related activities;

(12) \$8,000,000 for an initiative relating to children exposed to violence;

(13) \$17,000,000 for an Edward Byrne Memorial criminal justice innovation program;

(14) \$23,000,000 for the matching grant program for law enforcement armor vests, as authorized by section 2501 of title I of the 1968 Act: *Provided*, That \$1,500,000 is transferred directly to the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Office of Law Enforcement Standards for research, testing and evaluation programs;

(15) \$1,000,000 for the National Sex Offender Public Website;

(16) \$8,500,000 for competitive and evidence-based programs to reduce gun crime and gang violence;

(17) \$58,500,000 for grants to States to upgrade criminal and mental health records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, of which no less than \$12,000,000 shall be for grants made under the authorities of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180);

(18) \$12,000,000 for Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants under part BB of title I of the 1968 Act;

(19) \$125,000,000 for DNA-related and forensic programs and activities, of which—

(A) \$117,000,000 is for a DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program and for other local, State, and Federal forensic activities, including the purposes authorized under section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–546) (the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program): *Provided*, That up to 4 percent of funds made available under this paragraph may be used for the purposes described in the DNA Training and Education for Law Enforcement, Correctional Personnel, and Court Officers program (Public Law 108–405, section 303);

(B) \$4,000,000 is for the purposes described in the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Program (Public Law 108–405, section 412); and

(C) \$4,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, including as authorized by section 304 of Public Law 108–405;

(20) \$41,000,000 for a grant program for community-based sexual assault response reform;

(21) \$6,000,000 for the court-appointed special advocate program, as authorized by section 217 of the 1990 Act;

(22) \$70,000,000 for offender reentry programs and research, as authorized by the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199), without regard to the time limitations specified at section 6(1) of such Act, of which not to exceed \$7,000,000 is for a program to improve State, local, and tribal probation or parole supervision efforts and strategies, and \$5,000,000 is for Children of Incarcerated Parents Demonstrations to enhance and maintain parental and family relationships for incarcerated parents as a reentry or recidivism reduction strategy: *Provided*, That up to \$15,000,000 of funds made available in this paragraph may be used for performance-based awards for Pay for Success projects, of which up to \$10,000,000 shall be for Pay for Success programs implementing the Permanent Supportive Housing Model;

(23) \$5,000,000 for a veterans treatment courts program;

(24) \$7,000,000 for a program to monitor prescription drugs and scheduled listed chemical products;

(25) \$2,000,000 to operate a National Center for Campus Public Safety;

(26) \$22,000,000 for a justice reinvestment initiative, for activities related to criminal justice reform and recidivism reduction;

(27) \$4,000,000 for additional replication sites employing the Project HOPE Opportunity Probation with Enforcement model implementing swift and certain sanctions in probation, and for a research project on the effectiveness of the model;

(28) \$12,500,000 for the Office of Victims of Crime for supplemental victims’ services and other victim-related programs and initiatives, including research and statistics, and for tribal assistance for victims of violence; and

(29) \$75,000,000 for the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, described in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That section 213 of this Act shall not apply with respect to the amount made available in this paragraph:

Provided, That, if a unit of local government uses any of the funds made available under this heading to increase the number of law enforcement officers, the unit of local government will achieve a net gain in the number of law enforcement officers who perform non-administrative public sector safety service.

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (“the 1974 Act”); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (“the 1968 Act”); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) (“the 2005 Act”); the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771 et seq.); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-21); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-647) (“the 1990 Act”); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248) (“the Adam Walsh Act”); the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-401); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4) (“the 2013 Act”); and other juvenile justice programs, \$257,500,000, to remain available until expended as follows—

(1) \$61,500,000 for programs authorized by section 221 of the 1974 Act, and for training and technical assistance to assist small, non-profit organizations with the Federal grants process: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this paragraph, \$500,000 shall be for a competitive demonstration grant program to support emergency planning among State, local and tribal juvenile justice residential facilities;

(2) \$53,000,000 for youth mentoring grants;

(3) \$37,000,000 for delinquency prevention, as authorized by section 505 of the 1974 Act, of which, pursuant to sections 261 and 262 thereof—

(A) \$5,000,000 shall be for the Tribal Youth Program;

(B) \$3,000,000 shall be for gang and youth violence education, prevention and intervention, and related activities;

(C) \$1,000,000 shall be for programs and activities to enforce State laws prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors or the purchase or consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors, for prevention and reduction of consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors, and for technical assistance and training; and

(D) \$8,000,000 shall be for competitive grants to police and juvenile justice authorities in communities that have been awarded Department of Education School Climate Transformation Grants to collaborate on use of evidence-based positive behavior strategies to increase school safety and reduce juvenile arrests;

(4) \$19,000,000 for programs authorized by the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990;

(5) \$11,000,000 for community-based violence prevention initiatives, including for public health approaches to reducing shootings and violence;

(6) \$68,000,000 for missing and exploited children programs, including as authorized

by sections 404(b) and 405(a) of the 1974 Act (except that section 102(b)(4)(B) of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-401) shall not apply for purposes of this Act);

(7) \$1,500,000 for child abuse training programs for judicial personnel and practitioners, as authorized by section 222 of the 1990 Act;

(8) \$1,000,000 for grants and technical assistance in support of the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention;

(9) \$500,000 for an Internet site providing information and resources on children of incarcerated parents;

(10) \$2,000,000 for competitive grants focusing on girls in the juvenile justice system; and

(11) \$3,000,000 for a program to improve juvenile indigent defense:

Provided, That not more than 10 percent of each amount may be used for research, evaluation, and statistics activities designed to benefit the programs or activities authorized: *Provided further*, That not more than 2 percent of the amounts designated under paragraphs (1) through (6) may be used for training and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That the previous two provisos shall not apply to grants and projects authorized by sections 261 and 262 of the 1974 Act and to missing and exploited children programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS

For payments and expenses authorized under section 1001(a)(4) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, such sums as are necessary (including amounts for administrative costs), to remain available until expended; and \$16,300,000 for payments authorized by section 1201(b) of such Act and for educational assistance authorized by section 1218 of such Act, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for such disability and education payments, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to “Public Safety Officer Benefits” from available appropriations for the Department of Justice as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the previous proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS

For activities authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (“the 1968 Act”); and the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162) (“the 2005 Act”), \$224,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any balances made available through prior year deobligations shall only be available in accordance with section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading—

(1) \$7,000,000 is for anti-methamphetamine-related activities, which shall be transferred to the Drug Enforcement Administration upon enactment of this Act;

(2) \$16,500,000 is for improving tribal law enforcement, including hiring, equipment, training, and anti-methamphetamine activities;

(3) \$180,500,000 is for grants under section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (42 U.S.C. 3796dd) for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers under part Q of such title notwithstanding subsection (i) of such section: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding subsection (g) of the 1968 Act (42 U.S.C. 3796dd), the Federal share of the costs of a project funded by such grants may not exceed 75 percent unless the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services waives, wholly or in part, the requirement of a non-Federal contribution to the costs of a project: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 1704(c) of such title (42 U.S.C. 3796dd-3(c)), funding for hiring or rehiring a career law enforcement officer may not exceed \$125,000 unless the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grants a waiver from this limitation: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, \$16,500,000 shall be transferred to the Tribal Resources Grant Program: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, \$7,500,000 is for community policing development activities in furtherance of the purposes in section 1701: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, \$5,000,000 is for the collaborative reform model of technical assistance in furtherance of the purposes in section 1701;

(4) \$10,000,000 is for competitive grants to State law enforcement agencies in States with high seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be utilized for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities, including precursor diversion, laboratories, or methamphetamine traffickers; and

(5) \$10,000,000 is for competitive grants to statewide law enforcement agencies in states with high rates of primary treatment admissions for heroin and other opioids: *Provided*, That these funds shall be utilized for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities, including activities related to the distribution of heroin or unlawful distribution of prescription opioids, or unlawful heroin and prescription opioid traffickers through statewide collaboration.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SEC. 201. In addition to amounts otherwise made available in this title for official reception and representation expenses, a total of not to exceed \$50,000 from funds appropriated to the Department of Justice in this title shall be available to the Attorney General for official reception and representation expenses.

SEC. 202. None of the funds appropriated by this title shall be available to pay for an abortion, except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or in the case of rape: *Provided*, That should this prohibition be declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this section shall be null and void.

SEC. 203. None of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used to require any person to perform, or facilitate in any way the performance of, any abortion.

SEC. 204. Nothing in the preceding section shall remove the obligation of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to provide escort services necessary for a female inmate to receive such service outside the Federal facility: *Provided*, That nothing in this section in any way diminishes the effect of section 203 intended to address the philosophical beliefs of individual employees of the Bureau of Prisons.

SEC. 205. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

SEC. 206. The Attorney General is authorized to extend through September 30, 2014, the Personnel Management Demonstration Project transferred to the Attorney General pursuant to section 1115 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296; 28 U.S.C. 599B) without limitation on the number of employees or the positions covered.

SEC. 207. None of the funds made available under this title may be used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the United States Marshals Service for the purpose of transporting an individual who is a prisoner pursuant to conviction for crime under State or Federal law and is classified as a maximum or high security prisoner, other than to a prison or other facility certified by the Federal Bureau of Prisons as appropriately secure for housing such a prisoner.

SEC. 208. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used by Federal prisons to purchase cable television services, or to rent or purchase audiovisual or electronic media or equipment used primarily for recreational purposes.

(b) Subsection (a) does not preclude the rental, maintenance, or purchase of audiovisual or electronic media or equipment for inmate training, religious, or educational programs.

SEC. 209. None of the funds made available under this title shall be obligated or expended for any new or enhanced information technology program having total estimated development costs in excess of \$100,000,000, unless the Deputy Attorney General and the investment review board certify to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the information technology program has appropriate program management controls and contractor oversight mechanisms in place, and that the program is compatible with the enterprise architecture of the Department of Justice.

SEC. 210. The notification thresholds and procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act shall apply to deviations from the amounts designated for specific activities in this Act and in the accompanying report, and to any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this title in previous years.

SEC. 211. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to plan for, begin, continue, finish, process, or approve a public-private competition under the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 or any successor administrative regulation, directive, or policy for work performed by employees of the Bureau of Prisons or of Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated.

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds shall be available for the salary, benefits, or expenses of any United States Attorney assigned dual or additional responsibilities by the Attorney General or his designee that exempt that United States Attorney from the residency requirements of section 545 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 213. At the discretion of the Attorney General, and in addition to any amounts

that otherwise may be available (or authorized to be made available) by law, with respect to funds appropriated by this title under the headings "Research, Evaluation and Statistics", "State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance", and "Juvenile Justice Programs"—

(1) up to 3 percent of funds made available to the Office of Justice Programs for grant or reimbursement programs may be used by such Office to provide training and technical assistance;

(2) up to 2 percent of funds made available for grant or reimbursement programs under such headings, except for amounts appropriated specifically for research, evaluation, or statistical programs administered by the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, shall be transferred to and merged with funds provided to the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, to be used by them for research, evaluation, or statistical purposes, without regard to the authorizations for such grant or reimbursement programs; and

(3) up to 5 percent of funds made available for grant or reimbursement programs: (1) under the heading "State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance"; or (2) under the headings "Research, Evaluation, and Statistics" and "Juvenile Justice Programs", to be transferred to and merged with funds made available under the heading "State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance", shall be available for tribal criminal justice assistance without regard to the authorizations for such grant or reimbursement programs.

SEC. 214. Upon request by a grantee for whom the Attorney General has determined there is a fiscal hardship, the Attorney General may, with respect to funds appropriated in this or any other Act making appropriations for fiscal years 2012 through 2015 for the following programs, waive the following requirements:

(1) For the adult and juvenile offender State and local reentry demonstration projects under part FF of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797w(g)(1)), the requirements under section 2976(g)(1) of such part.

(2) For State, Tribal, and local reentry courts under part FF of title I of such Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797w-2(e)(1) and (2)), the requirements under section 2978(e)(1) and (2) of such part.

(3) For the prosecution drug treatment alternatives to prison program under part CC of title I of such Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797q-3), the requirements under section 2904 of such part.

(4) For grants to protect inmates and safeguard communities as authorized by section 6 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (42 U.S.C. 15605(c)(3)), the requirements of section 6(c)(3) of such Act.

SEC. 215. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, section 20109(a) of subtitle A of title II of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13709(a)) shall not apply to amounts made available by this or any other Act.

SEC. 216. None of the funds made available under this Act, other than for the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (18 U.S.C. 922 note), may be used by a Federal law enforcement officer to facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to an individual if the Federal law enforcement officer knows or suspects that the individual is an agent of a drug cartel, unless law enforcement per-

sonnel of the United States continuously monitor or control the firearm at all times.

SEC. 217. No funds provided in this Act shall be used to deny the Inspector General of the Department of Justice timely access to all records, documents, and other materials in the custody or possession of the Department or to prevent or impede the Inspector General's access to such records, documents and other materials, unless in accordance with an express limitation of section 6(a) of the Inspector General Act, as amended, consistent with the plain language of the Inspector General Act, as amended. The Department of Justice shall report to the Committee on Appropriations within five calendar days any failures to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 218. Section 8(e) of Public Law 108-79 (42 U.S.C. 15607(e)) shall not apply to funds appropriated to or administered by the Office on Violence Against Women, to subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, and to section 221 of the Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, including funds appropriated in previous appropriations acts that remain available for obligation.

SEC. 219. Discretionary funds that are made available in this Act for the Office of Justice Programs may be used to participate in Performance Partnership Pilots authorized under section 526 of division H of Public Law 113-76.

SEC. 220. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 7606 ("Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research") of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79) by the Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This title may be cited as the "Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2015".

TITLE III

SCIENCE

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

For necessary expenses of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in carrying out the purposes of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), hire of passenger motor vehicles, and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, not to exceed \$2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, \$5,555,000.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE

ADMINISTRATION

SCIENCE

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$5,200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That the formulation and development costs (with development cost as defined under section 30104 of title 51, United States Code) for the James Webb Space Telescope shall not exceed \$8,000,000,000: *Provided further*, That should the individual identified under subsection

(c)(2)(E) of section 30104 of title 51, United States Code, as responsible for the James Webb Space Telescope determine that the development cost of the program is likely to exceed that limitation, the individual shall immediately notify the Administrator and the increase shall be treated as if it meets the 30 percent threshold described in subsection (f) of section 30104.

AERONAUTICS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of aeronautics research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$551,100,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of space research and technology development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$580,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

EXPLORATION

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of exploration research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$4,367,700,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That not less than \$1,200,000,000 shall be for the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle: *Provided further*, That not less than \$2,051,300,000 shall be for the Space Launch System, which shall have a lift capability not less than 130 metric tons and which shall have an upper stage and other core elements developed simultaneously: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available for the Space Launch System, \$1,700,000,000 shall be for launch vehicle development and \$351,300,000 shall be for exploration ground systems: *Provided further*, That hereafter NASA shall provide for the Space Launch System and Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, concurrent with the annual budget submission, 5 year budget profiles and projections that adhere to the 70 percent Joint Confidence Level [JCL]: *Provided further*, That any JCL approved by the NASA Administrator that is less than 70 per-

cent for the Space Launch System and Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle shall be justified and documented, and that the NASA Administrator shall still provide concurrently with the annual budget submission the full cost estimates for both programs to achieve a 70 percent JCL: *Provided further*, That in no case shall the JCL of the Space Launch System or the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle be less than the guidance outlined in NASA Procedural Requirements 7120.5E: *Provided further*, That funds made available for the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle and Space Launch System are in addition to funds provided for these programs under the "Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration" heading: *Provided further*, That \$805,000,000 shall be for commercial spaceflight activities: *Provided further*, That \$311,400,000 shall be for exploration research and development.

SPACE OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of space operations research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support and services; space flight, spacecraft control and communications activities, including operations, production, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$3,830,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

EDUCATION

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in carrying out aerospace and aeronautical education research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$108,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which \$18,000,000 shall be for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research and \$40,000,000 shall be for the National Space Grant College program.

CROSS AGENCY SUPPORT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science, aeronautics, exploration, space operations and education research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$63,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$2,778,600,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

For necessary expenses for construction of facilities including repair, rehabilitation, re-

vitalization, and modification of facilities, construction of new facilities and additions to existing facilities, facility planning and design, and restoration, and acquisition or condemnation of real property, as authorized by law, and environmental compliance and restoration, \$446,100,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That proceeds from leases deposited into this account shall be available for a period of 5 years to the extent and in amounts as provided in annual appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That such proceeds referred to in the preceding proviso shall be available for obligation for fiscal year 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$9,584,100: *Provided further*, That each annual budget request shall include an annual estimate of gross receipts and collections and proposed use of all funds collected pursuant to section 315 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (51 U.S.C. 20145).

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$37,500,000, of which \$500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Funds for announced prizes otherwise authorized shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation, until a prize is claimed or the offer is withdrawn.

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers. Balances so transferred shall be merged with and available for the same purposes and the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

The spending plan required by this Act shall be provided by NASA at the theme, program, project, and activity level. The spending plan, as well as any subsequent change of an amount established in that spending plan that meets the notification requirements of section 505 of this Act, shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

For necessary expenses in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), and Public Law 86-209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.); services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; maintenance and operation of aircraft and purchase of flight services for research support; acquisition of aircraft; and authorized travel; \$5,838,690,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which not to exceed \$520,000,000 shall remain available until expended for polar research and operations support, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for operational and science support and logistical and other related activities for the United States Antarctic program: *Provided*, That receipts for scientific support services and materials furnished by

the National Research Centers and other National Science Foundation supported research facilities may be credited to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That not less than \$159,690,000 shall be available for activities authorized by section 7002(c)(2)(A)(iv) of Public Law 110-69.

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES
CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for the acquisition, construction, commissioning, and upgrading of major research equipment, facilities, and other such capital assets pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including authorized travel, \$200,760,000, to remain available until expended.

EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

For necessary expenses in carrying out science, mathematics and engineering education and human resources programs and activities pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, authorized travel, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, \$889,750,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That not less than \$60,890,000 shall be available for activities authorized by section 7030 of Public Law 110-69.

AGENCY OPERATIONS AND AWARD MANAGEMENT

For agency operations and award management necessary in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.); services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia; and reimbursement of the Department of Homeland Security for security guard services; \$307,000,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$8,280 is for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That contracts may be entered into under this heading in fiscal year 2014 for maintenance and operation of facilities and for other services to be provided during the next fiscal year.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) involved in carrying out section 4 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1863) and Public Law 86-209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), \$4,370,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$14,430,000, of which \$400,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Science Foundation in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers. Any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except

in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

This title may be cited as the "Science Appropriations Act, 2015".

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Commission on Civil Rights, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$9,400,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used to employ in excess of four full-time individuals under Schedule C of the Excepted Service exclusive of one special assistant for each Commissioner: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used to reimburse Commissioners for more than 75 billable days, with the exception of the chairperson, who is permitted 125 billable days: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used for any activity or expense that is not explicitly authorized by section 3 of the Civil Rights Commission Act of 1983 (42 U.S.C. 1975a).

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as authorized by title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act (GINA) of 2008 (Public Law 110-233), the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-325), and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-2), including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by section 1343(b) of title 31, United States Code; nonmonetary awards to private citizens; and up to \$30,000,000 for payments to State and local enforcement agencies for authorized services to the Commission, \$365,000,000: *Provided*, That the Commission is authorized to make available for official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$2,250 from available funds: *Provided further*, That the Commission may take no action to implement any workforce repositioning, restructuring, or reorganization until such time as the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate have been notified of such proposals, in accordance with the reprogramming requirements of section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Chair is authorized to accept and use any gift or donation to carry out the work of the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the International Trade Commission, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and not to exceed \$2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, \$85,000,000, to remain available until expended.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES
CORPORATION

For payment to the Legal Services Corporation to carry out the purposes of the

Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, \$400,000,000, of which \$367,000,000 is for basic field programs and required independent audits; \$4,000,000 is for the Office of Inspector General, of which such amounts as may be necessary may be used to conduct additional audits of recipients; \$19,000,000 is for management and grants oversight; \$4,000,000 is for client self-help and information technology; \$5,000,000 is for a Pro Bono Innovation Fund; and \$1,000,000 is for loan repayment assistance: *Provided*, That the Legal Services Corporation may continue to provide locality pay to officers and employees at a rate no greater than that provided by the Federal Government to Washington, DC-based employees as authorized by section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, notwithstanding section 1005(d) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996(d)): *Provided further*, That the authorities provided in section 205 of this Act shall be applicable to the Legal Services Corporation: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of section 505 of this Act, the Legal Services Corporation shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION—LEGAL SERVICES
CORPORATION

None of the funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be expended for any purpose prohibited or limited by, or contrary to any of the provisions of, sections 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, and 506 of Public Law 105-119, and all funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be subject to the same terms and conditions set forth in such sections, except that all references in sections 502 and 503 to 1997 and 1998 shall be deemed to refer instead to 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Section 504 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (as contained in Public Law 104-134) is amended:

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting after "(1)" the following: "that uses Federal funds (or funds from any source with regard to paragraphs (7), (14) and (15)) in a manner";

(2) by striking subsection (d); and

(3) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Marine Mammal Commission as authorized by title II of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), \$3,431,000.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE
REPRESENTATIVE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and the employment of experts and consultants as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$55,000,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$124,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the State Justice Institute, as authorized by the State Justice Institute Authorization Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10701 et seq.) \$5,121,000, of which \$500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,250 shall be available for official reception

and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of section 505 of this Act, the State Justice Institute shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

TITLE V
GENERAL PROVISIONS
(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress.

SEC. 502. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 503. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 504. If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of each provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 505. None of the funds provided under this Act, or provided under previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2015, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that: (1) creates or initiates a new program, project or activity; (2) eliminates a program, project or activity; (3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted; (4) relocates an office or employees; (5) reorganizes or renames offices, programs or activities; (6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees; (7) augments existing programs, projects or activities in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, or reduces by 10 percent funding for any program, project or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent; or (8) results from any general savings, including savings from a reduction in personnel, which would result in a change in existing programs, projects or activities as approved by Congress; unless the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

SEC. 506. (a) If it has been finally determined by a court or Federal agency that any person intentionally affixed a label bearing a "Made in America" inscription, or any inscription with the same meaning, to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in the United States, the person shall be ineligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds made available in this Act, pursuant to the debarment, suspension, and ineligibility procedures described in sections 9.400 through 9.409 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b)(1) To the extent practicable, with respect to authorized purchases of promotional items, funds made available by this Act shall be used to purchase items that are manufac-

tured, produced, or assembled in the United States, its territories or possessions.

(2) The term "promotional items" has the meaning given the term in OMB Circular A-87, Attachment B, Item (1)(f)(3).

SEC. 507. (a) The Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a quarterly report on the status of balances of appropriations at the account level. For unobligated, uncommitted balances and unobligated, committed balances the quarterly reports shall separately identify the amounts attributable to each source year of appropriation from which the balances were derived. For balances that are obligated, but unexpended, the quarterly reports shall separately identify amounts by the year of obligation.

(b) The report described in subsection (a) shall be submitted within 30 days of the end of the first quarter of fiscal year 2015, and subsequent reports shall be submitted within 30 days of the end of each quarter thereafter.

(c) If a department or agency is unable to fulfill any aspect of a reporting requirement described in subsection (a) due to a limitation of a current accounting system, the department or agency shall fulfill such aspect to the maximum extent practicable under such accounting system and shall identify and describe in each quarterly report the extent to which such aspect is not fulfilled.

SEC. 508. Any costs incurred by a department or agency funded under this Act resulting from, or to prevent, personnel actions taken in response to funding reductions included in this Act shall be absorbed within the total budgetary resources available to such department or agency: *Provided*, That the authority to transfer funds between appropriations accounts as may be necessary to carry out this section is provided in addition to authorities included elsewhere in this Act: *Provided further*, That use of funds to carry out this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That for the Department of Commerce, this section shall also apply to actions taken for the care and protection of loan collateral or grant property.

SEC. 509. None of the funds provided by this Act shall be available to promote the sale or export of tobacco or tobacco products, or to seek the reduction or removal by any foreign country of restrictions on the marketing of tobacco or tobacco products, except for restrictions which are not applied equally to all tobacco or tobacco products of the same type.

SEC. 510. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts deposited or available in the Fund established by section 1402 of chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98-473 (42 U.S.C. 10601) in any fiscal year in excess of \$775,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until the following fiscal year.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available to the Department of Justice in this Act may be used to discriminate against or denigrate the religious or moral beliefs of students who participate in programs for which financial assistance is provided from those funds, or of the parents or legal guardians of such students.

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the

United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 513. Any funds provided in this Act used to implement E-Government Initiatives shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act.

SEC. 514. (a) The Inspectors General of the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Legal Services Corporation shall conduct audits, pursuant to the Inspector General Act (5 U.S.C. App.), of grants or contracts for which funds are appropriated by this Act, and shall submit reports to Congress on the progress of such audits, which may include preliminary findings and a description of areas of particular interest, within 180 days after initiating such an audit and every 180 days thereafter until any such audit is completed.

(b) Within 60 days after the date on which an audit described in subsection (a) by an Inspector General is completed, the Secretary, Attorney General, Administrator, Director, or President, as appropriate, shall make the results of the audit available to the public on the Internet website maintained by the Department, Administration, Foundation, or Corporation, respectively. The results shall be made available in redacted form to exclude—

(1) any matter described in section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) sensitive personal information for any individual, the public access to which could be used to commit identity theft or for other inappropriate or unlawful purposes.

(c) Any person awarded a grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this Act shall submit a statement to the Secretary of Commerce, the Attorney General, the Administrator, Director, or President, as appropriate, certifying that no funds derived from the grant or contract will be made available through a subcontract or in any other manner to another person who has a financial interest in the person awarded the grant or contract.

(d) The provisions of the preceding subsections of this section shall take effect 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, determines that a uniform set of rules and requirements, substantially similar to the requirements in such subsections, consistently apply under the executive branch ethics program to all Federal departments, agencies, and entities.

SEC. 515. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation to acquire a high-impact information system, as defined for security categorization in the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 199, "Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems" unless the agency has—

(1) reviewed the supply chain risk for the information systems against criteria developed by NIST to inform acquisition decisions for high-impact information systems within the Federal Government and against international standards and guidelines, including those developed by NIST;

(2) reviewed the supply chain risk from the presumptive awardee against available and

relevant threat information provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other appropriate agencies; and

(3) developed, in consultation with NIST and supply chain risk management experts, a mitigation strategy for any identified risks.

SEC. 516. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used in any way whatsoever to support or justify the use of torture by any official or contract employee of the United States Government.

SEC. 517. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or treaty, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act or any other Act may be expended or obligated by a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States to pay administrative expenses or to compensate an officer or employee of the United States in connection with requiring an export license for the export to Canada of components, parts, accessories or attachments for firearms listed in Category I, section 121.1 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (International Trafficking in Arms Regulations (ITAR), part 121, as it existed on April 1, 2005) with a total value not exceeding \$500 wholesale in any transaction, provided that the conditions of subsection (b) of this section are met by the exporting party for such articles.

(b) The foregoing exemption from obtaining an export license—

(1) does not exempt an exporter from filing any Shipper's Export Declaration or notification letter required by law, or from being otherwise eligible under the laws of the United States to possess, ship, transport, or export the articles enumerated in subsection (a); and

(2) does not permit the export without a license of—

(A) fully automatic firearms and components and parts for such firearms, other than for end use by the Federal Government, or a Provincial or Municipal Government of Canada;

(B) barrels, cylinders, receivers (frames) or complete breech mechanisms for any firearm listed in Category I, other than for end use by the Federal Government, or a Provincial or Municipal Government of Canada; or

(C) articles for export from Canada to another foreign destination.

(c) In accordance with this section, the District Directors of Customs and postmasters shall permit the permanent or temporary export without a license of any unclassified articles specified in subsection (a) to Canada for end use in Canada or return to the United States, or temporary import of Canadian-origin items from Canada for end use in the United States or return to Canada for a Canadian citizen.

(d) The President may require export licenses under this section on a temporary basis if the President determines, upon publication first in the Federal Register, that the Government of Canada has implemented or maintained inadequate import controls for the articles specified in subsection (a), such that a significant diversion of such articles has and continues to take place for use in international terrorism or in the escalation of a conflict in another nation. The President shall terminate the requirements of a license when reasons for the temporary requirements have ceased.

SEC. 518. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving appropriated funds under this Act or any other Act shall obligate or expend in any way such funds to pay administrative ex-

penses or the compensation of any officer or employee of the United States to deny any application submitted pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2778(b)(1)(B) and qualified pursuant to 27 CFR section 478.112 or .113, for a permit to import United States origin "curios or relics" firearms, parts, or ammunition.

SEC. 519. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to include in any new bilateral or multilateral trade agreement the text of—

(1) paragraph 2 of article 16.7 of the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement;

(2) paragraph 4 of article 17.9 of the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement; or

(3) paragraph 4 of article 15.9 of the United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

SEC. 520. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize or issue a national security letter in contravention of any of the following laws authorizing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to issue national security letters: The Right to Financial Privacy Act; The Electronic Communications Privacy Act; The Fair Credit Reporting Act; The National Security Act of 1947; USA PATRIOT Act; and the laws amended by these Acts.

SEC. 521. If at any time during any quarter, the program manager of a project within the jurisdiction of the Departments of Commerce or Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation totaling more than \$75,000,000 has reasonable cause to believe that the total program cost has increased by 10 percent, the program manager shall immediately inform the respective Secretary, Administrator, or Director. The Secretary, Administrator, or Director shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 30 days in writing of such increase, and shall include in such notice: the date on which such determination was made; a statement of the reasons for such increases; the action taken and proposed to be taken to control future cost growth of the project; changes made in the performance or schedule milestones and the degree to which such changes have contributed to the increase in total program costs or procurement costs; new estimates of the total project or procurement costs; and a statement validating that the project's management structure is adequate to control total project or procurement costs.

SEC. 522. Funds appropriated by this Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence or intelligence related activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414) during fiscal year 2015 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

SEC. 523. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract in an amount greater than \$5,000,000 or to award a grant in excess of such amount unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the contractor or grantee has filed all Federal tax returns required during the three years preceding the certification, has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and has not, more than 90 days prior to certification, been notified of any unpaid Federal tax assessment for which the liability remains unsatisfied, unless the assessment is the subject of an installment agreement or offer in compromise that has been approved by the

Internal Revenue Service and is not in default, or the assessment is the subject of a non-frivolous administrative or judicial proceeding.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 524. (a) Of the unobligated balances available for "Department of Commerce, Departmental Management, Franchise Fund", \$2,906,000 are hereby rescinded.

(b) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Justice, the following funds are hereby rescinded, not later than September 30, 2015, from the following accounts in the specified amounts—

(1) "Working Capital Fund", \$54,000,000;

(2) "Legal Activities, Assets Forfeiture Fund", \$193,000,000;

(3) "United States Marshals Service, Federal Prisoner Detention", \$122,000,000;

(4) "State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Office on Violence Against Women, Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs", \$12,200,000;

(5) "State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Office of Justice Programs", \$59,000,000; and

(6) "State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Community Oriented Policing Services", \$26,000,000.

(c) The Department of Justice shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report no later than September 1, 2015, specifying the amount of each rescission made pursuant to subsection (b).

SEC. 525. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to purchase first class or premium airline travel in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and no funds may be used for premium travel consistent with these sections unless the agency or department has filed its premium travel report with the General Services Administration for the previous 3 fiscal years.

SEC. 526. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees from a Federal department or agency at any single conference occurring outside the United States unless such conference is a law enforcement training or operational conference for law enforcement personnel and the majority of Federal employees in attendance are law enforcement personnel stationed outside the United States.

SEC. 527. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with the principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to trade remedy laws to preserve the ability of the United States—

(1) to enforce vigorously its trade laws, including antidumping, countervailing duty, and safeguard laws;

(2) to avoid agreements that—

(A) lessen the effectiveness of domestic and international disciplines on unfair trade, especially dumping and subsidies; or

(B) lessen the effectiveness of domestic and international safeguard provisions, in order to ensure that United States workers, agricultural producers, and firms can compete fully on fair terms and enjoy the benefits of reciprocal trade concessions; and

(3) to address and remedy market distortions that lead to dumping and subsidization, including overcapacity, cartelization, and market-access barriers.

SEC. 528. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United

States, its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 529. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual described in subsection (c) for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—
(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 530. To the extent practicable, funds made available in this Act should be used to purchase light bulbs that are “Energy Star” qualified or have the “Federal Energy Management Program” designation.

SEC. 531. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall instruct any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving funds appropriated under this Act to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts and include in its annual performance plan and performance and accountability reports the following:

(1) Details on future action the department, agency, or instrumentality will take to resolve undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

(2) The method that the department, agency, or instrumentality uses to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

(3) Identification of undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts that may be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

(4) In the preceding 3 fiscal years, details on the total number of expired grant accounts with undisbursed balances (on the first day of each fiscal year) for the department, agency, or instrumentality and the total finances that have not been obligated to a specific project remaining in the accounts.

SEC. 532. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel to deny, or fail to act on, an application for the importation of any model of shotgun if—

(1) all other requirements of law with respect to the proposed importation are met; and

(2) no application for the importation of such model of shotgun, in the same configuration, had been denied by the Attorney General prior to January 1, 2011, on the basis that the shotgun was not particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.

SEC. 533. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or

establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 534. The Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation shall submit spending plans, signed by the respective department or agency head, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 535. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 536. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 537. All agencies and departments funded under this Act shall send to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at the end of the fiscal year a report containing a complete inventory of the total number of vehicles owned, permanently retired, and purchased during fiscal year 2015 as well as the total cost of the vehicle fleet, including maintenance, fuel, storage, purchasing, and leasing.

SEC. 538. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay for the painting of a portrait of an officer or employee of the Federal government, including the President, the Vice President, a member of Congress (including a Delegate or a Resident Commissioner to Congress), the head of an executive branch agency (as defined in section 133 of title 41, United States Code), or the head of an office of the legislative branch.

SEC. 539. (a) The head of any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this Act shall submit annual reports to the Inspector General or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General, regarding the costs and contracting procedures related to each conference held by any such department, agency, board, commission, or office during fiscal year 2015 for which the cost to the United States Government was more than \$100,000.

(b) Each report submitted shall include, for each conference described in subsection (a) held during the applicable period—

(1) a description of its purpose;

(2) the number of participants attending;

(3) a detailed statement of the costs to the United States Government, including—

(A) the cost of any food or beverages;

(B) the cost of any audio-visual services;

(C) the cost of employee or contractor travel to and from the conference; and

(D) a discussion of the methodology used to determine which costs relate to the conference; and

(4) a description of the contracting procedures used including—

(A) whether contracts were awarded on a competitive basis; and

(B) a discussion of any cost comparison conducted by the departmental component or office in evaluating potential contractors for the conference.

(c) Within 15 days of the date of a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this Act during fiscal year 2015 for which the cost to the United States Government was more than \$20,000, the head of any such department, agency, board, commission, or office shall notify the Inspector General or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General, of the date, location, and number of employees attending such conference.

(d) A grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this or any other appropriations Act may not be used for the purpose of defraying the costs of a banquet or conference that is not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or contract was awarded, such as a banquet or conference held in connection with planning, training, assessment, review, or other routine purposes related to a project funded by the grant or contract.

(e) None of the funds made available in this or any other appropriations Act may be used for travel and conference activities that are not in compliance with Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M–12–12 dated May 11, 2012.

This Act may be cited as the “Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015”.

DIVISION B—TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$108,000,000, of which not to exceed \$2,696,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed \$1,011,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary; not to exceed \$19,980,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel; not to exceed \$10,300,000 shall be available for the Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; not to exceed \$12,676,000 shall be

available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs; not to exceed \$2,500,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs; not to exceed \$27,131,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration; not to exceed \$2,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Public Affairs; not to exceed \$1,714,000 shall be available for the Office of the Executive Secretariat; not to exceed \$1,414,000 shall be available for the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization; not to exceed \$10,778,000 shall be available for the Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response; and not to exceed \$15,800,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent by all such transfers: *Provided further*, That notice of any change in funding greater than 5 percent shall be submitted for approval to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$60,000 shall be for allocation within the Department for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, excluding fees authorized in Public Law 107-71, there may be credited to this appropriation up to \$2,500,000 in funds received in user fees: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for the position of Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses related to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, \$13,500,000, of which \$8,218,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training: *Provided further*, That any reference in law, regulation, judicial proceedings, or elsewhere to the Research and Innovative Technology Administration shall be deemed to be a reference to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology of the Department of Transportation.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

For capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure, \$550,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall distribute funds provided under this heading as discretionary grants to be awarded to a State, local government, transit agency, or a collaboration among such entities on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region: *Provided further*, That projects eligible for funding provided under this heading shall include, but not be limited to, highway or bridge projects eligible under title 23, United States Code; public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code; passenger and freight rail transportation projects; and port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure): *Provided further*, That the Secretary may use up to 35 percent of the funds made available under this heading for the

purpose of paying the subsidy and administrative costs of projects eligible for Federal credit assistance under chapter 6 of title 23, United States Code, if the Secretary finds that such use of the funds would advance the purposes of this paragraph: *Provided further*, That in distributing funds provided under this heading, the Secretary shall take such measures so as to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of funds, an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural areas, and the investment in a variety of transportation modes: *Provided further*, That a grant funded under this heading shall be not less than \$10,000,000 and not greater than \$200,000,000: *Provided further*, That not more than 25 percent of the funds made available under this heading may be awarded to projects in a single State: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of the costs for which an expenditure is made under this heading shall be, at the option of the recipient, up to 80 percent: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall give priority to projects that require a contribution of Federal funds in order to complete an overall financing package: *Provided further*, That not less than 20 percent of the funds provided under this heading shall be for projects located in rural areas: *Provided further*, That for projects located in rural areas, the minimum grant size shall be \$1,000,000 and the Secretary may increase the Federal share of costs above 80 percent: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, the Secretary may use an amount not to exceed \$35,000,000 for the planning, preparation or design of projects eligible for funding under this heading: *Provided further*, That grants awarded under the previous proviso shall not be subject to a minimum grant size: *Provided further*, That projects conducted using funds provided under this heading must comply with the requirements of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall conduct a new competition to select the grants and credit assistance awarded under this heading: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may retain up to \$20,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading, and may transfer portions of those funds to the Administrators of the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Maritime Administration, to fund the award and oversight of grants and credit assistance made under the National Infrastructure Investments program.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CAPITAL

For necessary expenses for upgrading and enhancing the Department of Transportation's financial systems and re-engineering business processes, \$5,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2016.

CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVES

For necessary expenses for cyber security initiatives, including necessary upgrades to wide area network and information technology infrastructure, improvement of network perimeter controls and identity management, testing and assessment of information technology against business, security, and other requirements, implementation of Federal cyber security initiatives and information infrastructure enhancements, implementation of enhanced security controls on network devices, and enhancement of cyber security workforce training tools, \$5,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2016.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$9,600,000.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for conducting transportation planning, research, systems development, development activities, and making grants, to remain available until expended, \$6,000,000.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For necessary expenses for operating costs and capital outlays of the Working Capital Fund, not to exceed \$182,000,000 shall be paid from appropriations made available to the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That such services shall be provided on a competitive basis to entities within the Department of Transportation: *Provided further*, That the above limitation on operating expenses shall not apply to non-DOT entities: *Provided further*, That no funds appropriated in this Act to an agency of the Department shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without majority approval of the Working Capital Fund Steering Committee and approval of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no assessments may be levied against any program, budget activity, subactivity or project funded by this Act unless notice of such assessments and the basis therefor are presented to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and are approved by such Committees.

MINORITY BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM

For the cost of guaranteed loans, \$333,000, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 332: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$18,367,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, \$592,000.

MINORITY BUSINESS OUTREACH

For necessary expenses of Minority Business Resource Center outreach activities, \$3,099,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 49 U.S.C. 332, these funds may be used for business opportunities related to any mode of transportation.

PAYMENTS TO AIR CARRIERS

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

In addition to funds made available from any other source to carry out the essential air service program under 49 U.S.C. 4171 through 41742, \$155,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in determining between or among carriers competing to provide service to a community, the Secretary may consider the relative subsidy requirements of the carriers: *Provided further*, That basic essential air service minimum requirements shall not include the 15-passenger capacity requirement under subsection 41732(b)(3) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act or any other Act shall be used to enter into a new contract with a community located less than 40 miles from the nearest small hub airport before the Secretary has negotiated with the community over a local cost share.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be obligated for the Office of the

Secretary of Transportation to approve assessments or reimbursable agreements pertaining to funds appropriated to the modal administrations in this Act, except for activities underway on the date of enactment of this Act, unless such assessments or agreements have completed the normal reprogramming process for Congressional notification.

SEC. 102. The Secretary or his designee may engage in activities with States and State legislators to consider proposals related to the reduction of motorcycle fatalities.

SEC. 103. Notwithstanding section 3324 of title 31, United States Code, in addition to authority provided by section 327 of title 49, United States Code, the Department's Working Capital Fund is hereby authorized to provide payments in advance to vendors that are necessary to carry out the Federal transit pass transportation fringe benefit program under Executive Order 13150 and section 3049 of Public Law 109-59: *Provided*, That the Department shall include adequate safeguards in the contract with the vendors to ensure timely and high-quality performance under the contract.

SEC. 104. The Secretary shall post on the Web site of the Department of Transportation a schedule of all meetings of the Credit Council, including the agenda for each meeting, and require the Credit Council to record the decisions and actions of each meeting.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
OPERATIONS
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Aviation Administration, not otherwise provided for, including operations and research activities related to commercial space transportation, administrative expenses for research and development, establishment of air navigation facilities, the operation (including leasing) and maintenance of aircraft, subsidizing the cost of aeronautical charts and maps sold to the public, lease or purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, in addition to amounts made available by Public Law 108-176, \$9,750,000,000, of which \$8,595,000,000 shall be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, of which not to exceed \$7,396,654,000 shall be available for air traffic organization activities; not to exceed \$1,215,458,000 shall be available for aviation safety activities; not to exceed \$16,605,000 shall be available for commercial space transportation activities; not to exceed \$765,047,000 shall be available for finance and management activities; not to exceed \$60,089,000 shall be available for NextGen and operations planning activities; and not to exceed \$296,147,000 shall be available for staff offices: *Provided*, That not to exceed 2 percent of any budget activity, except for aviation safety budget activity, may be transferred to any budget activity under this heading: *Provided further*, That no transfer may increase or decrease any appropriation by more than 2 percent: *Provided further*, That any transfer in excess of 2 percent shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 405 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year hereafter, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall transmit to Congress an annual update to the report submitted to Congress in December 2004 pursuant to section 221 of Public Law 108-176: *Pro-*

vided further, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by \$100,000 for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to the Congress: *Provided further*, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year hereafter, the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a companion report that describes a comprehensive strategy for staffing, hiring, and training flight standards and aircraft certification staff in a format similar to the one utilized for the controller staffing plan, including stated attrition estimates and numerical hiring goals by fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by \$100,000 per day for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That funds may be used to enter into a grant agreement with a non-profit standard-setting organization to assist in the development of aviation safety standards: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for new applicants for the second career training program: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the Federal Aviation Administration to finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new aviation user fees not specifically authorized by law after the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections funds received from States, counties, municipalities, foreign authorities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred in the provision of agency services, including receipts for the maintenance and operation of air navigation facilities, and for issuance, renewal or modification of certificates, including airman, aircraft, and repair station certificates, or for tests related thereto, or for processing major repair or alteration forms: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than \$149,000,000 shall be for the contract tower program, of which \$10,350,000 is for the contract tower cost share program: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act for aeronautical charting and cartography are available for activities conducted by, or coordinated through, the Working Capital Fund: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act may be used for the Federal Aviation Administration to issue a job announcement for air traffic control specialists that renders ineligible any applicant who had been included in the air traffic control specialist applicant inventory as of January 15, 2014, and who was born between February 9, 1983 and October 1, 1984.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for acquisition, establishment, technical support services, improvement by contract or purchase, and hire of national airspace systems and experimental facilities and equipment, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including initial acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; engineering and service testing, including construction of test facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; construction and furnishing of quarters and related accommodations for officers and employees of the Federal Aviation Administration stationed at remote localities where such accommodations are not available; and the purchase, lease, or transfer of aircraft from funds available under this heading, including aircraft for aviation regulation and certification; to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund,

\$2,473,700,000, of which \$458,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2015, and \$2,015,700,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, for expenses incurred in the establishment, improvement, and modernization of national airspace systems: *Provided further*, That upon initial submission to the Congress of the fiscal year 2016 President's budget, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to the Congress a comprehensive capital investment plan for the Federal Aviation Administration which includes funding for each budget line item for fiscal years 2016 through 2020, with total funding for each year of the plan constrained to the funding targets for those years as estimated and approved by the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by \$100,000 per day for each day after the initial submission of the fiscal year 2016 President's budget that such report has not been submitted to Congress.

RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for research, engineering, and development, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including construction of experimental facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant, \$156,750,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, which shall be available for expenses incurred for research, engineering, and development.

GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
(INCLUDING RESCISSION)

For liquidation of obligations incurred for grants-in-aid for airport planning and development, and noise compatibility planning and programs as authorized under subchapter I of chapter 471 and subchapter I of chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code, and under other law authorizing such obligations; for procurement, installation, and commissioning of runway incursion prevention devices and systems at airports of such title; for grants authorized under section 41743 of title 49, United States Code; and for inspection activities and administration of airport safety programs, including those related to airport operating certificates under section 44706 of title 49, United States Code, \$3,200,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds under this heading shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the obligations for which are in excess of \$3,480,000,000 in fiscal year 2015, notwithstanding section 47117(g) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, of funds made available in the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2014, under section 48112 of title 49, United States Code, and limited under this heading, \$130,000,000 shall be obligated for facilities and equipment of the

Federal Aviation Administration that are located on airport property, including runway safety areas, runway status lights, landing and navigational lighting systems, and air traffic control tower improvements and replacements: *Provided further*, That the funds limited under this heading shall be deemed reduced by \$130,000,000 for purposes of 47102(6) of Title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the funds under this heading shall be available for the replacement of baggage conveyor systems, reconfiguration of terminal baggage areas, or other airport improvements that are necessary to install bulk explosive detection systems: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 47109(a) of title 49, United States Code, the Government's share of allowable project costs under paragraph (2) for subgrants or paragraph (3) of that section shall be 95 percent for a project at other than a large or medium hub airport that is a successive phase of a multi-phased construction project for which the project sponsor received a grant in fiscal year 2011 for the construction project: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, of funds limited under this heading, not more than \$107,100,000 shall be obligated for administration, not less than \$15,000,000 shall be available for the Airport Cooperative Research Program, not less than \$29,750,000 shall be available for Airport Technology Research, and \$8,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available and transferred to "Office of the Secretary, Salaries and Expenses" to carry out the Small Community Air Service Development Program.

(RESCISSION)

Any amounts made available for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, under section 48112 of title 49, United States Code, are rescinded.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 110. None of the funds in this Act may be used to compensate in excess of 600 technical staff-years under the federally funded research and development center contract between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Center for Advanced Aviation Systems Development during fiscal year 2014.

SEC. 111. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to pursue or adopt guidelines or regulations requiring airport sponsors to provide to the Federal Aviation Administration without cost building construction, maintenance, utilities and expenses, or space in airport sponsor-owned buildings for services relating to air traffic control, air navigation, or weather reporting: *Provided*, That the prohibition of funds in this section does not apply to negotiations between the agency and airport sponsors to achieve agreement on "below-market" rates for these items or to grant assurances that require airport sponsors to provide land without cost to the FAA for air traffic control facilities.

SEC. 112. The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may reimburse amounts made available to satisfy 49 U.S.C. 41742(a)(1) from fees credited under 49 U.S.C. 45303 and any amount remaining in such account at the close of that fiscal year may be made available to satisfy section 41742(a)(1) for the subsequent fiscal year.

SEC. 113. Amounts collected under section 40113(e) of title 49, United States Code, shall be credited to the appropriation current at the time of collection, to be merged with and available for the same purposes of such appropriation.

SEC. 114. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for paying premium pay under subsection 5546(a) of title 5, United States Code, to any Federal Aviation Administration employee unless such employee actually performed work during the time corresponding to such premium pay.

SEC. 115. None of the funds in this Act may be obligated or expended for an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration to purchase a store gift card or gift certificate through use of a Government-issued credit card.

SEC. 116. The Secretary shall apportion to the sponsor of an airport that received scheduled or unscheduled air service from a large certified air carrier (as defined in part 241 of title 14 Code of Federal Regulations, or such other regulations as may be issued by the Secretary under the authority of section 41709) an amount equal to the minimum apportionment specified in 49 U.S.C. 47114(c), if the Secretary determines that airport had more than 10,000 passenger boardings in the preceding calendar year, based on data submitted to the Secretary under part 241 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 117. None of the funds in this Act may be obligated or expended for retention bonuses for an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration without the prior written approval of the Assistant Secretary for Administration of the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 118. Subparagraph (D) of section 47124(b)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "benefit." and inserting "benefit, with the maximum allowable local cost share capped at 20 percent."

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available under this Act or any prior Act may be used to implement or to continue to implement any limitation on the ability of any owner or operator of a private aircraft to obtain, upon a request to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, a blocking of that owner's or operator's aircraft registration number from any display of the Federal Aviation Administration's Aircraft Situational Display to Industry data that is made available to the public, except data made available to a Government agency, for the noncommercial flights of that owner or operator.

SEC. 119A. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than 9 political and Presidential appointees in the Federal Aviation Administration.

SEC. 119B. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to increase fees pursuant to section 44721 of title 49, United States Code, until the FAA provides to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a report that justifies all fees related to aeronautical navigation products and explains how such fees are consistent with Executive Order 13642.

SEC. 119C. None of the funds appropriated or limited by this Act may be used to change weight restrictions or prior permission rules at Teterboro airport in Teterboro, New Jersey.

SEC. 119D. None of the funds in this Act may be used to close a regional operations center of the Federal Aviation Administration or reduce its services unless the Administrator notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 90 full business days in advance.

SEC. 119E. Section 916 of Public Law 112-95 is amended by striking "Advanced Materials in Transport Aircraft" and inserting "Joint Advanced Materials and Structures".

SEC. 119F. Subsection 47109(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding before the period ",", except that at a non-hub airport located in a State as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection that is within 15 miles of another State as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Government's share shall be an average of the Government share applicable to any project in each of the States".

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Not to exceed \$426,100,000, together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Highway Administration, shall be obligated for necessary expenses for administration and operation of the Federal Highway Administration. In addition, not to exceed \$3,248,000 shall be transferred to the Appalachian Regional Commission in accordance with section 104 of title 23, United States Code.

FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Funds available for the implementation or execution of programs of Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs authorized under titles 23 and 49, United States Code, and the provisions of Public Law 112-141 shall not exceed total obligations of \$40,256,000,000 for fiscal year 2015: *Provided*, That the Secretary may collect and spend fees, as authorized by title 23, United States Code, to cover the costs of services of expert firms, including counsel, in the field of municipal and project finance to assist in the underwriting and servicing of Federal credit instruments and all or a portion of the costs to the Federal Government of servicing such credit instruments: *Provided further*, That such fees are available until expended to pay for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amounts are in addition to administrative expenses that are also available for such purpose, and are not subject to any obligation limitation or the limitation on administrative expenses under section 608 of title 23, United States Code.

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For the payment of obligations incurred in carrying out Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs authorized under title 23, United States Code, \$40,995,000,000 derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 120. (a) For fiscal year 2015, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) not distribute from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways—

(A) amounts authorized for administrative expenses and programs by section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) amounts authorized for the Bureau of Transportation Statistics;

(2) not distribute an amount from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways that is equal to the unobligated balance of amounts—

(A) made available from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs for previous fiscal years the funds for which are allocated by the Secretary (or apportioned by

the Secretary under sections 202 or 204 of title 23, United States Code); and

(B) for which obligation limitation was provided in a previous fiscal year;

(3) determine the proportion that—

(A) the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways, less the aggregate of amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection; bears to

(B) the total of the sums authorized to be appropriated for the Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs (other than sums authorized to be appropriated for provisions of law described in paragraphs (1) through (12) of subsection (b) and sums authorized to be appropriated for section 119 of title 23, United States Code, equal to the amount referred to in subsection (b)(13) for such fiscal year), less the aggregate of the amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection;

(4) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2), for each of the programs (other than programs to which paragraph (1) applies) that are allocated by the Secretary under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act and title 23, United States Code, or apportioned by the Secretary under sections 202 or 204 of that title, by multiplying—

(A) the proportion determined under paragraph (3); by

(B) the amounts authorized to be appropriated for each such program for such fiscal year; and

(5) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) and the amounts distributed under paragraph (4), for Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs that are apportioned by the Secretary under title 23, United States Code (other than the amounts apportioned for the National Highway Performance Program in section 119 of title 23, United States Code, that are exempt from the limitation under subsection (b)(13) and the amounts apportioned under sections 202 and 204 of that title) in the proportion that—

(A) amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to each State for such fiscal year; bears to

(B) the total of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to all States for such fiscal year.

(b) EXCEPTIONS FROM OBLIGATION LIMITATION.—The obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways shall not apply to obligations under or for—

(1) section 125 of title 23, United States Code;

(2) section 147 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978 (23 U.S.C. 144 note; 92 Stat. 2714);

(3) section 9 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1981 (95 Stat. 1701);

(4) subsections (b) and (j) of section 131 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 2119);

(5) subsections (b) and (c) of section 149 of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 (101 Stat. 198);

(6) sections 1103 through 1108 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2027);

(7) section 157 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect on June 8, 1998);

(8) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 1998

through 2004, but only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(9) Federal-aid Highways programs for which obligation authority was made available under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (112 Stat. 107) or subsequent Acts for multiple years or to remain available until expended, but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used;

(10) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 2005 through 2012, but only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(11) section 1603 of SAFETEA-LU (23 U.S.C. 118 note; 119 Stat. 1248), to the extent that funds obligated in accordance with that section were not subject to a limitation on obligations at the time at which the funds were initially made available for obligation; and

(12) section 119 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 2013 and 2014, but only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years); and

(13) section 119 of title 12, United States Code (but, for fiscal year 2015, only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000).

(c) REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall, after August 1 of such fiscal year—

(1) revise a distribution of the obligation limitation made available under subsection (a) if an amount distributed cannot be obligated during that fiscal year; and

(2) redistribute sufficient amounts to those States able to obligate amounts in addition to those previously distributed during that fiscal year, giving priority to those States having large unobligated balances of funds apportioned under sections 144 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 112-141) and 104 of title 23, United States Code.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF OBLIGATION LIMITATIONS TO TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways shall apply to contract authority for transportation research programs carried out under—

(A) chapter 5 of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) division E of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Obligation authority made available under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) remain available for a period of 4 fiscal years; and

(B) be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs for future fiscal years.

(e) REDISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN AUTHORIZED FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of distribution of obligation limitation under subsection (a), the Secretary shall distribute to the States any funds (excluding funds authorized for the program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code) that—

(A) are authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year for Federal-aid Highways programs; and

(B) the Secretary determines will not be allocated to the States (or will not be apportioned to the States under section 204 of title 23, United States Code), and will not be available for obligation, for such fiscal year because of the imposition of any obligation limitation for such fiscal year.

(2) RATIO.—Funds shall be distributed under paragraph (1) in the same proportion as the distribution of obligation authority under subsection (a)(5).

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Funds distributed to each State under paragraph (1) shall be available for any purpose described in section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, funds received by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics from the sale of data products, for necessary expenses incurred pursuant to chapter 63 of title 49, United States Code, may be credited to the Federal-aid Highways account for the purpose of reimbursing the Bureau for such expenses: *Provided*, That such funds shall be subject to the obligation limitation for Federal-aid Highways and highway safety construction programs.

SEC. 122. Not less than 15 days prior to waiving, under his statutory authority, any Buy America requirement for Federal-aid Highways projects, the Secretary of Transportation shall make an informal public notice and comment opportunity on the intent to issue such waiver and the reasons therefor: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall provide an annual report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on any waivers granted under the Buy America requirements.

SEC. 123. None of the funds in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to provide credit assistance unless not less than 3 days before any application approval to provide credit assistance under sections 603 and 604 of title 23, United States Code, the Secretary of Transportation provides notification in writing to the following committees: the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations; the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives: *Provided*, That such notification shall include, but not be limited to, the name of the project sponsor; a description of the project; whether credit assistance will be provided as a direct loan, loan guarantee, or line of credit; and the amount of credit assistance.

SEC. 124. From the unobligated balances of funds apportioned among the States prior to October 1, 2012, under sections 104(b) of title 23, United States Code (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 112-141), the amount of \$22,100,000 shall be made available in fiscal year 2015 for the administrative expenses of the Federal Highway Administration: *Provided*, That this provision shall not apply to funds distributed in accordance with section 104(b)(5) of title 23, United States Code (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 112-141); section 133(d)(1) of such title (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 109-59); and the first sentence of section 133(d)(3)(A) of such title (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 112-141): *Provided further*, That such amount shall be derived on a proportional basis from the unobligated balances of apportioned funds to which this provision applies: *Provided further*, That the amount made available by this provision in fiscal year 2015 for the administrative expenses of the Federal Highway Administration shall be in addition to the amount made available in fiscal year 2015 for such purposes under section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY OPERATIONS AND
PROGRAMS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in the implementation, execution and administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs pursuant to section 31104(i) of title 49, United States Code, and sections 4127 and 4134 of Public Law 109–59, as amended by Public Law 112–141, \$271,000,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the sum of which shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for implementation, execution or administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs authorized under title 49, United States Code, shall not exceed total obligations of \$271,000,000 for “Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs” for fiscal year 2015, of which \$9,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017, is for the research and technology program, and of which \$34,545,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017, is for information management: *Provided further*, That \$2,300,000 shall be made available for commercial motor vehicle operator’s grants to carry out section 4134 of Public Law 109–59, as amended by Public Law 112–141, of which \$1,300,000 is to be made available from prior year unobligated contract authority provided in Public Law 112–141, or other appropriations or authorization acts: *Provided further*, That of unobligated contract authority provided in Public Law 112–141, or other appropriations or authorization acts for “Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs”, \$1,500,000 shall be made available for enforcement and investigation activities related to the safe transportation of energy products, \$5,200,000 shall be made available to augment funding to address information management and technology needs related to the monitoring of high-risk carriers and carriers operating under consent agreements, and \$4,000,000 shall be made available to administer the study required under section 133 of this Act, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017: *Provided further*, That the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration shall transmit to Congress a report by March 27, 2015, on the agency’s ability to meet its requirement to conduct compliance reviews on mandatory carriers: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall complete final regulatory action on the implementation of 49 United States Code 31137 no later than January 30, 2015: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall initiate action on the Safety Fitness Determination rule no later than December, 31, 2013.

NATIONAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Of the unobligated contract authority provided in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105–178) or other appropriation or authorization acts for the national motor carrier safety program, \$8,300,000 shall be made available to augment funding to execute the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s Capital Improvement Plan for border facilities and field offices, including physical information tech-

nology infrastructure: *Provided*, That such funds as necessary for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out this section shall be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and total limitations of these obligations shall not exceed \$8,300,000.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out sections 31102, 31104(a), 31106, 31107, 31109, 31309, 31313 of title 49, United States Code, and sections 4126 and 4128 of Public Law 109–59, as amended by Public Law 112–141, \$313,000,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of motor carrier safety programs shall not exceed total obligations of \$313,000,000 in fiscal year 2015 for “Motor Carrier Safety Grants”; of which \$218,000,000 shall be available for the motor carrier safety assistance program, \$30,000,000 shall be available for commercial driver’s license program improvement grants, \$32,000,000 shall be available for border enforcement grants, \$5,000,000 shall be available for performance and registration information system management grants, \$25,000,000 shall be available for the commercial vehicle information systems and networks deployment program, and \$1,000,000 shall be available for safety data improvement grants: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available herein for the motor carrier safety assistance program, \$32,000,000 shall be available for audits of new entrant motor carriers.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION—FEDERAL MOTOR
CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 130. Funds appropriated or limited in this Act shall be subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in section 350 of Public Law 107–87 and section 6901 of Public Law 110–28.

SEC. 131. None of the funds limited or otherwise made available under the heading “Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs” may be used to deny an application to renew a Hazardous Materials Safety Program permit for a motor carrier based solely on that carrier’s Hazardous Materials Out-of-Service rate, unless the carrier has the opportunity to submit a written description of corrective actions taken, and other documentation the carrier wishes the Secretary to consider, including submitting a corrective action plan, and the Secretary determines the actions or plan is insufficient to address the safety concerns that resulted in that Hazardous Materials Out-of-Service rate.

SEC. 132. None of the funds limited or otherwise made available under this Act shall be used by the Secretary to enforce any regulation prohibiting a State from issuing a commercial learner’s permit to individuals under the age of eighteen if the State had a law authorizing the issuance of commercial learner’s permits to individuals under eighteen years of age as of May 9, 2011.

SEC. 133. (a) TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ENFORCEMENT.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act shall be used to enforce sections 395.3(c) and 395.3(d) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, and such sections shall have no force or effect from the date of enactment of this Act until the later of September 30, 2015, or upon submission of the

final report issued by the Secretary under this section. The restart provisions in effect on June 30, 2013, shall be in effect during this period.

(b) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.—As soon as possible after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall publish a Notice in the Federal Register and on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration website announcing that the provisions in the rule referred to in subsection (a) shall have no force or effect from the date of enactment of this Act through September 30, 2015, and the restart rule in effect on June 30, 2013, shall immediately be in effect.

(c) COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE (CMV) DRIVER RESTART STUDY.—Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall initiate a naturalistic study of the operational, safety, health and fatigue impacts of the restart provisions in sections 395.3(c) and 395.3(d) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, on commercial motor vehicle drivers. The study required under this subsection shall—

(1) compare the work schedules and assess operator fatigue between the following two groups of commercial motor vehicle drivers, each large enough to produce statistically significant results:

(A) commercial motor vehicle drivers who operate under such provisions, in effect between July 1, 2013, and the day before the date of enactment of this Act, and

(B) commercial motor vehicle drivers who operate under the provisions as in effect on June 30, 2013.

(2) compare, at a minimum, the 5-month work schedules and assess safety critical events (crashes, near crashes and crash-relevant conflicts) and operator fatigue between the following two groups of commercial motor vehicle drivers, from a statistically significant sample of drivers comprised of fleets of all sizes, including long-haul, regional and short-haul operations in various sectors of the industry, including flat-bed, refrigerated, tank, and dry-van, to the extent practicable;

(3) assess drivers’ safety critical events, fatigue and levels of alertness and driver health outcomes by using both electronic and captured record of duty status, including the Psychomotor Vigilance Test (PVT), e-logging data, actigraph watches and cameras or other on-board monitoring systems that record or measure safety critical events and driver alertness;

(4) utilize data from electronic logging devices, consistent to the extent practicable, with the anticipated requirements for such devices in section 31137(b) of title 49, United States Code, from motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles, notwithstanding any limitation on the use of such data under section 31137(e) of title 49, United States Code; and

(5) include the development of an initial study plan and final report, each of which shall be subject to an independent peer review panel of individuals with relevant medical and scientific expertise.

(d) DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Prior to the study required under this subsection commencing, the Secretary shall submit a plan outlining the scope and methodology for the study to the Department of Transportation Inspector General within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

(1) Within 30 days of receiving the plan, the Office of Inspector General shall review and comment on the plan, including whether it includes—

(A) a sufficient number of drivers participating to produce statistically significant results and consistent with subsection (c)(2);

(B) an assessment of whether the technologies being used to assess the operational, safety and fatigue components of the study are reliable and will produce consistent and valid results;

(C) appropriate performance measures to properly evaluate the study outcomes; and

(D) assess the selection of the independent review panel under subsection (c)(5).

(2) The Office of Inspector General shall report its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Secretary and to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 30 days of receipt of the plan.

(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall submit a final report on the findings and conclusions of the study and the Department’s recommendations on whether the provisions in effect on July 1, 2013, provide a greater net benefit for the operational, safety, health and fatigue impacts of the restart provisions to the Inspector General within 210 days of receiving the Office of the Inspector General report required in subsection (d)(2).

(1) Within 60 days of receipt of the Secretary’s findings and recommendations in subsection (e), the Inspector General shall report to the Secretary and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the study’s compliance with the requirements outlined under subsection (c).

(2) Upon submission of the Office of the Inspector General report in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit its report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and make the report publically available on its website.

(f) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Transportation shall certify in writing in a manner addressing the Inspector General’s findings and recommendations in subsection (d)(1) and (e)(1) of this section that the Secretary has met the requirements as described in section (c) and (d).

(g) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT EXCEPTION.—The study and the Office of the Inspector General reviews shall not be subject to section 3506 or 3507 of title 44, United States Code.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH

For expenses necessary to discharge the functions of the Secretary, with respect to traffic and highway safety authorized under chapter 301 and part C of subtitle VI of title 49, United States Code, \$134,500,000, of which \$20,000,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2016.

OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 403, and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code, \$138,500,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2015, are in excess of \$138,500,000, of which \$133,500,000 shall be for programs authorized under 23 U.S.C. 403 and \$5,000,000 shall be for the National Driver Register authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code:

Provided further, That within the \$133,500,000 obligation limitation for operations and research, \$20,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, and shall be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for future years: *Provided further*, That \$20,000,000 of the total obligation limitation for operations and research in fiscal year 2015 shall be applied toward unobligated balances of contract authority provided in prior Acts for carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 403, and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS
(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)
(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)
(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out provisions of 23 U.S.C. 402 and 405, section 2009 of Public Law 109–59, as amended by Public Law 112–141, and section 31101(a)(6) of Public Law 112–141, to remain available until expended, \$561,500,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account): *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2015, are in excess of \$561,500,000 for programs authorized under 23 U.S.C. 402 and 405, section 2009 of Public Law 109–59, as amended by Public Law 112–141, and section 31101(a)(6) of Public Law 112–141, of which \$235,000,000 shall be for “Highway Safety Programs” under 23 U.S.C. 402; \$272,000,000 shall be for “National Priority Safety Programs” under 23 U.S.C. 405; \$29,000,000 shall be for “High Visibility Enforcement Program” under section 2009 of Public Law 109–59, as amended by Public Law 112–141; \$25,500,000 shall be for “Administrative Expenses” under section 31101(a)(6) of Public Law 112–141: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used for construction, rehabilitation, or remodeling costs, or for office furnishings and fixtures for State, local or private buildings or structures: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$500,000 of the funds made available for “National Priority Safety Programs” under 23 U.S.C. 405 for “Impaired Driving Countermeasures” (as described in subsection (d) of that section) shall be available for technical assistance to the States: *Provided further*, That with respect to the “Transfers” provision under 23 U.S.C. 405(a)(1)(G), any amounts transferred to increase the amounts made available under section 402 shall include the obligation authority for such amounts: *Provided further*, That the Administrator shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of any exercise of the authority granted under the previous proviso or under 23 U.S.C. 405(a)(1)(G) within 60 days.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—NATIONAL
HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 140. An additional \$130,000 shall be made available to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, out of the amount limited for section 402 of title 23, United States Code, to pay for travel and related expenses for State management reviews and to pay for core competency development training and related expenses for highway safety staff.

SEC. 141. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration set in this Act shall not apply to obligations for which obligation authority was made available in previous public laws but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used.

SEC. 142. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to implement section 404 of title 23, United States Code.

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION
SAFETY AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses of the Federal Railroad Administration, not otherwise provided for, \$191,250,000, of which \$15,400,000 shall remain available until expended.

RAILROAD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for railroad research and development, \$40,730,000, to remain available until expended.

RAILROAD REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT
FINANCING PROGRAM

The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to issue direct loans and loan guarantees pursuant to sections 501 through 504 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–210), as amended, such authority to exist as long as any such direct loan or loan guarantee is outstanding: *Provided*, That, pursuant to section 502 of such Act, as amended, no new direct loans or loan guarantee commitments shall be made using Federal funds for the credit risk premium during fiscal year 2015.

GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD
PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation as authorized by the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (division B of Public Law 110–432, hereafter referred to as “such law” for purposes of this heading), \$1,390,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts available under this heading, up to \$149,000,000 shall be for debt service obligations, up to \$350,000,000 shall be for the operation of intercity passenger rail, and not less than \$50,000,000 shall be made available to bring Amtrak served facilities and stations into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act: *Provided further*, That after an initial distribution of up to \$200,000,000, which shall be used by Amtrak as a working capital account, all remaining capital and debt service funds shall be provided only on a reimbursable basis: *Provided further*, That funding for the operation of intercity passenger rail, as authorized by section 101 of such law, shall be distributed no more frequently than quarterly: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the funds provided under this heading to fund the costs of project management and oversight of activities authorized by subsections 101(a) and 101(c) of such law: *Provided further*, That in addition to the project management oversight funds authorized under section 101(d) of such law, the Secretary may retain up to an additional one-half of 1 percent of the funds provided under this heading to fund expenses associated with section 24905 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Corporation shall transmit, in electronic format, to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a business plan and 5-year Financial Plan for fiscal year 2015 as required under section 204 of such law.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL
RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 150. Hereafter, notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds provided in this Act for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation shall immediately cease to be available to said Corporation in the event that the Corporation contracts to have services

provided at or from any location outside the United States. For purposes of this section, the word "services" shall mean any service that was, as of July 1, 2006, performed by a full-time or part-time Amtrak employee whose base of employment is located within the United States.

SEC. 151. The Secretary of Transportation may receive and expend cash, or receive and utilize spare parts and similar items, from non-United States Government sources to repair damages to or replace United States Government owned automated track inspection cars and equipment as a result of third-party liability for such damages, and any amounts collected under this section shall be credited directly to the Safety and Operations account of the Federal Railroad Administration, and shall remain available until expended for the repair, operation and maintenance of automated track inspection cars and equipment in connection with the automated track inspection program.

SEC. 152. The amounts available to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for the operation of intercity passenger rail shall be available for distribution by the Secretary only after receiving and reviewing a grant request for each specific train route accompanied by a detailed financial analysis, revenue projection, and capital asset plan justifying the Federal support to the Secretary's satisfaction.

SEC. 153. None of the funds provided to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation may be used to fund any overtime costs in excess of \$35,000 for any individual employee: *Provided*, That the president of Amtrak may waive the cap set in the previous proviso for specific employees when the president of Amtrak determines such a cap poses a risk to the safety and operational efficiency of the system: *Provided further*, That Amtrak shall notify the House and Senate Committee on Appropriations within 30 days of waiving such cap and delineate the reasons for such waiver.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For necessary administrative expenses of the Federal Transit Administration's programs authorized by chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, \$110,500,000, of which not less than \$7,000,000 shall be available to carry out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5329: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided or limited in this Act may be used to create a permanent office of transit security under this heading: *Provided further*, That upon submission to the Congress of the fiscal year 2016 President's budget, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to Congress the annual report on New Starts, including proposed allocations for fiscal year 2016.

TRANSIT FORMULA GRANTS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION) (LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS) (HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in the Federal Public Transportation Assistance Program in this account, and for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5318, 5322(d), 5329(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by Public Law 112-141; and section 20005(b) of Public Law 112-141, \$9,500,000,000, to be derived from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of programs authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5318, 5322(d),

5329(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by Public Law 112-141, and section 20005(b) of Public Law 112-141, shall not exceed total obligations of \$8,595,000,000 in fiscal year 2015.

TRANSIT RESEARCH

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5312 and 5313, \$33,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$30,000,000 shall be for activities authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5312 and \$3,000,000 shall be for activities authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5313.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5314 and 5322(a), (b) and (e), \$5,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$5,000,000 shall be for activities authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5314 and \$500,000 shall be for activities authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5322(a), (b) and (e).

CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5309, \$2,161,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS TO THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

For grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority as authorized under section 601 of division B of Public Law 110-432, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall approve grants for capital and preventive maintenance expenditures for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority only after receiving and reviewing a request for each specific project: *Provided further*, That prior to approving such grants, the Secretary shall certify that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is making significant progress in eliminating the material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, and minor control deficiencies identified in the most recent Financial Management Oversight Review: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has placed the highest priority on those investments that will improve the safety of the system before approving such grants: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, in order to ensure safety throughout the rail system, may waive the requirements of section 601(e)(1) of title VI of Public Law 110-432 (112 Stat. 4968).

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 160. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the Federal Transit Administration shall not apply to any authority under 49 U.S.C. 5338, previously made available for obligation, or to any other authority previously made available for obligation.

SEC. 161. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated or limited by this Act under the Federal Transit Administration's discretionary program appropriations headings for projects specified in this Act or identified in reports accompanying this Act not obligated by September 30, 2019, and other recoveries, shall be directed to projects eligible to use the funds for the purposes for which they were originally provided.

SEC. 162. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds appropriated before October 1, 2014, under any section of chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, that remain available for expenditure, may be transferred to and administered under the most recent appropriation heading for any such section.

SEC. 163. Hereafter, the Secretary may not enforce regulations related to charter bus

service under part 604 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, for any transit agency that during fiscal year 2008 was both initially granted a 60-day period to come into compliance with part 604, and then was subsequently granted an exception from said part.

SEC. 164. For purposes of applying the project justification and local financial commitment criteria of 49 U.S.C. 5309(d) to a New Starts project, the Secretary may consider the costs and ridership of any connected project in an instance in which private parties are making significant financial contributions to the construction of the connected project; additionally, the Secretary may consider the significant financial contributions of private parties to the connected project in calculating the non-Federal share of net capital project costs for the New Starts project.

SEC. 165. In developing guidance implementing 49 U.S.C. 5309(i) Program of Interrelated Projects, the Secretary shall consider projects eligible under section 5309(h) Small Starts Projects, including streetcars.

SEC. 166. New bus rapid transit projects recommended in the President's budget submission to the Congress of the United States for funds appropriated under the heading "CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS" in this Act shall be funded from \$20,000,000 in unobligated amounts that were made available to carry out the discretionary bus and bus facilities program under 49 U.S.C. 5309 in fiscal years 1984 through 2012: *Provided*, That all such projects shall remain subject to the Capital Investment Grants Program requirements of 49 U.S.C. 5309 for New Starts, Small Starts, or Core Capacity projects as applicable.

SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to the Corporation, and in accord with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act, as amended, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the Corporation's budget for the current fiscal year.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses to conduct the operations, maintenance, and capital asset renewal activities of those portions of the St. Lawrence Seaway owned, operated, and maintained by the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, \$31,500,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, pursuant to Public Law 99-662, and of which \$14,300,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017, for the Asset Renewal Program.

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to maintain and preserve a U.S.-flag merchant fleet to serve the national security needs of the United States, \$186,000,000, to remain available until expended.

OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses of operations and training activities authorized by law, \$149,900,000, of which \$11,300,000 shall remain available until expended for maintenance and repair of training ships at State Maritime Academies, and of which \$2,400,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2016,

for the Student Incentive Program at State Maritime Academies, and of which \$1,200,000 shall remain available until expended for training ship fuel assistance payments, and of which \$15,954,000 shall remain available until expended for facilities maintenance and repair, equipment, and capital improvements at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and of which \$3,000,000 shall remain available through September 16, 2016, for Maritime Environment and Technology Assistance grants and cooperative agreement: *Provided*, That amounts apportioned for the United States Merchant Marine Academy shall be available only upon allotments made personally by the Secretary of Transportation or the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs: *Provided further*, That the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and the Director of the Office of Resource Management of the United States Merchant Marine Academy may not be allotment holders for the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and the Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall hold all allotments made by the Secretary of Transportation or the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs under the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That 50 percent of the funding made available for the United States Merchant Marine Academy under this heading shall be available only after the Secretary, in consultation with the Superintendent and the Maritime Administrator, completes a plan detailing by program or activity how such funding will be expended at the Academy, and this plan is submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That not later than January 12, 2015, the Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall transmit to Congress the biennial survey and report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at the United States Merchant Marine Academy as required pursuant to section 3507 of Public Law 110-417: *Provided further*, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by \$100,000 for each day after January 12, 2015 that such report has not been submitted to the Congress.

SHIP DISPOSAL

For necessary expenses related to the disposal of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet of the Maritime Administration, \$4,800,000, to remain available until expended.

MARITIME GUARANTEED LOAN (TITLE XI)
PROGRAM ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized, \$7,100,000, of which \$4,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$3,100,000 shall be available for necessary administrative expenses to carry out the maritime guaranteed loan program, which shall be paid to the appropriations for "Operations and Training, Maritime Administration".

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—MARITIME
ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 170. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Maritime Administration is authorized to furnish utilities and services and make necessary repairs in connection with any lease, contract, or occupancy involving Government property under control of the Maritime Administration: *Provided*, That payments received therefor shall be credited to the appropriation charged

with the cost thereof and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That rental payments under any such lease, contract, or occupancy for items other than such utilities, services, or repairs shall be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES
(PIPELINE SAFETY FUND)
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operational expenses of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, \$22,225,000: *Provided*, That \$1,500,000 shall be transferred to "Pipeline Safety" in order to fund "Pipeline Safety Information Grants to Communities" as authorized under section 60130 of title 49, United States Code.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY

For expenses necessary to discharge the hazardous materials safety functions of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, \$52,000,000, of which \$7,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That up to \$800,000 in fees collected under 49 U.S.C. 5108(g) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training, for reports publication and dissemination, and for travel expenses incurred in performance of hazardous materials exemptions and approvals functions.

PIPELINE SAFETY
(PIPELINE SAFETY FUND)
(OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND)
(PIPELINE SAFETY DESIGN REVIEW FUND)

For expenses necessary to conduct the functions of the pipeline safety program, for grants-in-aid to carry out a pipeline safety program, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 60107, and to discharge the pipeline program responsibilities of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, \$158,000,000, of which \$19,500,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and shall remain available until September 30, 2017; and of which \$136,500,000 shall be derived from the Pipeline Safety Fund, of which \$78,309,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017; and of which \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from the Pipeline Safety Design Review Fund.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS
(EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND)

For necessary expenses to carryout 49 U.S.C. 5128(b), \$188,000 to be derived from the Emergency Preparedness Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the fiscal year limitation specified in 49 U.S.C. 5116, not more than \$28,318,000 shall be made available for obligation in fiscal year 2015 from amounts made available by 49 U.S.C. 5116(i), and 5128(b) and (c): *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by 49 U.S.C. 5116(i), 5128(b), or 5128(c) shall be made available for obligation by individuals other than the Secretary of Transportation, or his designee: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 49 U.S.C. 5128(b) and (c) and the current year obligation limitation, prior year recoveries recognized in the current year shall be available to develop a hazardous materials response training curriculum for emergency

responders, including response activities for crude oil, ethanol and other flammable liquids by rail, consistent with National Fire Protection Association standards, and to make such training available through an electronic format and a competitive process to non-profit organizations to train public sector employees to respond to an accident or incident involving the transportation of hazardous materials.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—PIPELINE AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 180. Subsection (i)(4) of section 5116 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "2 percent" and inserting "4 percent".

SEC. 181. Notwithstanding section 60117(n)(1)(B) of title 49, United States Code, the Secretary may require the person proposing any project with design and construction costs over \$2,500,000,000 for the construction, expansion, or operation of a gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facility or liquefied natural gas pipeline facility to pay the costs incurred by the Secretary relating to a facility design safety review.

SEC. 182. The Secretary is directed to initiate a rulemaking or alternative risk-based compliance regime for the siting of small-scale liquefaction facilities that generate and package liquefied natural gas for use as a transportation fuel for domestic delivery via non-pipeline means. The rulemaking or alternative risk-based compliance regime should incorporate the 2013 National Fire Protection Association Standard 59A and industry best practices while ensuring appropriate public safety protections.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Inspector General to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$86,223,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the Department: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading may be used to investigate, pursuant to section 41712 of title 49, United States Code: (1) unfair or deceptive practices and unfair methods of competition by domestic and foreign air carriers and ticket agents; and (2) the compliance of domestic and foreign air carriers with respect to item (1) of this proviso.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Surface Transportation Board, including services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$31,500,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$1,250,000 from fees established by the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board shall be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections and used for necessary and authorized expenses under this heading: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2014, to result in a final appropriation from the general fund estimated at no more than \$30,250,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 190. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations to the Department of

Transportation shall be available for maintenance and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; purchase of liability insurance for motor vehicles operating in foreign countries on official department business; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 191. Appropriations contained in this Act for the Department of Transportation shall be available for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for an Executive Level IV.

SEC. 192. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than 110 political and Presidential appointees in the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That none of the personnel covered by this provision may be assigned on temporary detail outside the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 193. (a) No recipient of funds made available in this Act shall disseminate personal information (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(3)) obtained by a State department of motor vehicles in connection with a motor vehicle record as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(1), except as provided in 18 U.S.C. 2721 for a use permitted under 18 U.S.C. 2721.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall not withhold funds provided in this Act for any grantee if a State is in noncompliance with this provision.

SEC. 194. Funds received by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and Federal Railroad Administration from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training may be credited respectively to the Federal Highway Administration's "Federal-Aid Highways" account, the Federal Transit Administration's "Technical Assistance and Training" account, and to the Federal Railroad Administration's "Safety and Operations" account, except for State rail safety inspectors participating in training pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 20105.

SEC. 195. None of the funds in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to make a grant unless the Secretary of Transportation notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project competitively selected to receive a discretionary grant award, any discretionary grant award, letter of intent, or full funding grant agreement is announced by the department or its modal administrations from:

- (1) any discretionary grant program of the Federal Highway Administration including the emergency relief program;
- (2) the airport improvement program of the Federal Aviation Administration;
- (3) any program of the Federal Railroad Administration;
- (4) any program of the Federal Transit Administration other than the formula grants and fixed guideway modernization programs;
- (5) any program of the Maritime Administration; or
- (6) any funding provided under the headings "National Infrastructure Investments" in this Act: *Provided*, That the Secretary gives concurrent notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for any "quick release" of funds from the emergency relief program: *Provided further*, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 196. Rebates, refunds, incentive payments, minor fees and other funds received by the Department of Transportation from

travel management centers, charge card programs, the subleasing of building space, and miscellaneous sources are to be credited to appropriations of the Department of Transportation and allocated to elements of the Department of Transportation using fair and equitable criteria and such funds shall be available until expended.

SEC. 197. Amounts made available in this or any other Act that the Secretary determines represent improper payments by the Department of Transportation to a third-party contractor under a financial assistance award, which are recovered pursuant to law, shall be available—

(1) to reimburse the actual expenses incurred by the Department of Transportation in recovering improper payments; and

(2) to pay contractors for services provided in recovering improper payments or contractor support in the implementation of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002: *Provided*, That amounts in excess of that required for paragraphs (1) and (2)—

(A) shall be credited to and merged with the appropriation from which the improper payments were made, and shall be available for the purposes and period for which such appropriations are available: *Provided further*, That where specific project or accounting information associated with the improper payment or payments is not readily available, the Secretary may credit an appropriate account, which shall be available for the purposes and period associated with the account so credited; or

(B) if no such appropriation remains available, shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts: *Provided further*, That prior to the transfer of any such recovery to an appropriations account, the Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of the amount and reasons for such transfer: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this section, the term "improper payments" has the same meaning as that provided in section 2(d)(2) of Public Law 107–300.

SEC. 198. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if any funds provided in or limited by this Act are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be provided to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, transmission of said reprogramming notice shall be provided solely to the Committees on Appropriations, and said reprogramming action shall be approved or denied solely by the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That the Secretary may provide notice to other congressional committees of the action of the Committees on Appropriations on such reprogramming but not sooner than 30 days following the date on which the reprogramming action has been approved or denied by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 199. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Surface Transportation Board of the Department of Transportation to charge or collect any filing fee for rate or practice complaints filed with the Board in an amount in excess of the amount authorized for district court civil suit filing fees under section 1914 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 199A. Funds appropriated in this Act to the modal administrations may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary for the costs related to assessments or reimbursable agreements only when such amounts are for the costs of goods and services that are purchased to provide a direct benefit to the applicable modal administration or administrations.

SEC. 199B. The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to carry out a program that establishes uniform standards for developing and supporting agency transit pass and transit benefits authorized under section 7905 of title 5, United States Code, including distribution of transit benefits by various paper and electronic media.

This title may be cited as the "Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 2015".

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Executive Offices, which shall be comprised of the offices of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Adjudicatory Services, Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Public Affairs, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, \$14,700,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of the amount made available under this heading shall be available to the Secretary for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Administrative Support Offices, \$519,867,000, of which not to exceed \$48,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer; not to exceed \$94,640,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel; not to exceed \$198,800,000 shall be available for the Office of Administration; not to exceed \$58,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer; not to exceed \$51,135,000 shall be available for the Office of Field Policy and Management; not to exceed \$16,330,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer; not to exceed \$3,202,000 shall be available for the Office of Departmental Equal Employment Opportunity; not to exceed \$4,560,000 shall be available for the Office of Strategic Planning and Management; and not to exceed \$45,200,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be used for necessary administrative and non-administrative expenses of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, not otherwise provided for, including purchase of uniforms, or allowances therefore, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support the housing mission area: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide the Committees on Appropriations quarterly written notification regarding the status of pending congressional reports: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide in electronic form all signed reports required by Congress.

PROGRAM OFFICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Public and Indian Housing, \$205,525,000.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Community Planning and Development, \$103,300,000.

HOUSING

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Housing, \$386,677,000, of which at

least \$9,000,000 shall be for the Office of Risk and Regulatory Affairs.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Policy Development and Research, \$22,300,000.

FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, \$69,700,000.

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, \$7,075,000.

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION

For continuing activities under the heading "Rental Assistance Demonstration" in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-55), and in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary, \$10,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That such funds shall only be available to properties converting from assistance under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g).

TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) ("the Act" herein), not otherwise provided for, \$15,562,160,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2014 (in addition to the \$4,000,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that shall be available on October 1, 2014), and \$4,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2015: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading are provided as follows:

(1) \$17,719,000,000 shall be available for renewals of expiring section 8 tenant-based annual contributions contracts (including renewals of enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act) and including renewal of other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, from amounts provided under this paragraph and any carryover, the Secretary for the calendar year 2015 funding cycle shall provide renewal funding for each public housing agency based on validated voucher management system (VMS) leasing and cost data for the prior calendar year and by applying an inflation factor as established by the Secretary, by notice published in the Federal Register, and by making any necessary adjustments for the costs associated with the first-time renewal of vouchers under this paragraph including tenant protection, HOPE VI, and Choice Neighborhoods vouchers: *Provided further*, That in determining calendar year 2015 funding allocations under this heading for public housing agencies, including agencies participating in the Moving To Work (MTW) demonstration, the Secretary may take into account the anticipated impact of changes in targeting and utility allowances, on public housing agencies' contract renewal needs: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this paragraph may be used to fund a total number of unit months under lease which exceeds a public housing agency's authorized level of units under contract, except for public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration, which are instead governed by the terms and condi-

tions of their MTW agreements: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the extent necessary to stay within the amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph), prorate each public housing agency's allocation otherwise established pursuant to this paragraph: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the following provisos, the entire amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph) shall be obligated to the public housing agencies based on the allocation and pro rata method described above, and the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies of their annual budget by the latter of 60 days after enactment of this Act or March 1, 2015: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may extend the notification period with the prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded pursuant to their MTW agreements and shall be subject to the same pro rata adjustments under the previous provisos: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may offset public housing agencies' calendar year 2015 allocations based on the excess amounts of public housing agencies' net restricted assets accounts, including HUD held programmatic reserves (in accordance with VMS data in calendar year 2014 that is verifiable and complete), as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall also be subject to the offset, as determined by the Secretary, excluding amounts subject to the single fund budget authority provisions of their MTW agreements, from the agencies' calendar year 2015 MTW funding allocation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use any offset referred to in the previous two provisos throughout the calendar year to prevent the termination of rental assistance for families as the result of insufficient funding, as determined by the Secretary, and to avoid or reduce the proration of renewal funding allocations: *Provided further*, That up to \$75,000,000 shall be available only: (1) for adjustments in the allocations for public housing agencies, after application for an adjustment by a public housing agency that experienced a significant increase, as determined by the Secretary, in renewal costs of vouchers resulting from unforeseen circumstances or from portability under section 8(r) of the Act; (2) for vouchers that were not in use during the 12-month period in order to be available to meet a commitment pursuant to section 8(o)(13) of the Act; (3) for adjustments for costs associated with HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers; and (4) for public housing agencies that despite taking reasonable cost savings measures, as determined by the Secretary, would otherwise be required to terminate rental assistance for families as a result of insufficient funding: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall allocate amounts under the previous proviso based on need, as determined by the Secretary;

(2) \$130,000,000 shall be for section 8 rental assistance for relocation and replacement of housing units that are demolished or disposed of pursuant to section 18 of the Act, conversion of section 23 projects to assistance under section 8, the family unification program under section 8(x) of the Act, relocation of witnesses in connection with efforts to combat crime in public and assisted housing pursuant to a request from a law enforcement or prosecution agency, enhanced vouchers under any provision of law author-

izing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act, HOPE VI and Choice Neighborhood vouchers, mandatory and voluntary conversions, and tenant protection assistance including replacement and relocation assistance or for project-based assistance to prevent the displacement of unassisted elderly tenants currently residing in section 202 properties financed between 1959 and 1974 that are refinanced pursuant to Public Law 106-569, as amended, or under the authority as provided under this Act: *Provided*, That when a public housing development is submitted for demolition or disposition under section 18 of the Act, the Secretary may provide section 8 rental assistance when the units pose an imminent health and safety risk to residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may only provide replacement vouchers for units that were occupied within the previous 24 months that cease to be available as assisted housing, subject only to the availability of funds: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this paragraph, \$5,000,000 may be available to provide tenant protection assistance, not otherwise provided under this paragraph, to residents residing in low vacancy areas and who may have to pay rents greater than 30 percent of household income, as the result of (1) the maturity of a HUD-insured, HUD-held or section 202 loan that requires the permission of the Secretary prior to loan prepayment; (2) the expiration of a rental assistance contract for which the tenants are not eligible for enhanced voucher or tenant protection assistance under existing law; or (3) the expiration of affordability restrictions accompanying a mortgage or preservation program administered by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That such tenant protection assistance made available under the previous proviso may be provided under the authority of section 8(t) or section 8(o)(13) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(t)): *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue guidance to implement the previous provisos, including, but not limited to, requirements for defining eligible at-risk households within 120 days of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That any tenant protection voucher made available from amounts under this paragraph shall not be reissued by any public housing agency, except the replacement vouchers as defined by the Secretary by notice, when the initial family that received any such voucher no longer receives such voucher, and the authority for any public housing agency to issue any such voucher shall cease to exist: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, for the purpose under this paragraph, may use unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryovers, remaining from amounts appropriated in prior fiscal years under this heading for voucher assistance for nonelderly disabled families and for disaster assistance made available under Public Law 110-329;

(3) \$1,555,000,000 shall be for administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the section 8 tenant-based rental assistance program, of which up to \$10,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to allocate to public housing agencies that need additional funds to administer their section 8 programs, including fees associated with section 8 tenant protection rental assistance, the administration of disaster related vouchers, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers, and other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That no less than \$1,545,000,000 of the amount provided in this paragraph shall be allocated to public housing agencies for the calendar

year 2015 funding cycle based on section 8(q) of the Act (and related Appropriation Act provisions) as in effect immediately before the enactment of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-276): *Provided further*, That if the amounts made available under this paragraph are insufficient to pay the amounts determined under the previous proviso, the Secretary may decrease the amounts allocated to agencies by a uniform percentage applicable to all agencies receiving funding under this paragraph or may, to the extent necessary to provide full payment of amounts determined under the previous proviso, utilize unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryovers, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading from prior fiscal years, excluding special purpose vouchers, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That all public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded pursuant to their MTW agreements, and shall be subject to the same uniform percentage decrease as under the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this paragraph shall be only for activities related to the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under section 8, including related development activities;

(4) \$83,160,000 for the renewal of tenant-based assistance contracts under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), including necessary administrative expenses: *Provided*, That administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the special purpose vouchers in this paragraph shall be funded under the same terms and be subject to the same pro rata reduction as the percent decrease for administrative and other expenses to public housing agencies under paragraph (3) of this heading;

(5) \$75,000,000 for incremental rental voucher assistance for use through a supported housing program administered in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs as authorized under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall make such funding available, notwithstanding section 204 (competition provision) of this title, to public housing agencies that partner with eligible VA Medical Centers or other entities as designated by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, based on geographical need for such assistance as identified by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, public housing agency administrative performance, and other factors as specified by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for (in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs), any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective delivery and administration of such voucher assistance: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall set aside an amount provided

under this paragraph for a rental assistance and supportive housing demonstration program for Native American veterans that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness living on or near a reservation or other Indian areas: *Provided further*, That such demonstration program shall be modeled after, with necessary and appropriate adjustments for Native American grant recipients and veterans, the rental assistance and supportive housing program funded under this paragraph, including administration in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs and overall implementation of section 8(o)(19) of the Act: *Provided further*, That amounts for rental assistance and associated administrative costs shall be made available by grants to recipients eligible to receive block grants under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. section 4101 et seq.): *Provided further*, That funds shall be awarded based on need, administrative capacity, and any other funding criteria established by the Secretary in a Notice published in the Federal Register after coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs within 180 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such rental assistance shall be administered by block grant recipients in accordance with program requirements under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996: *Provided further*, That the second and third provisos under this paragraph shall apply to use of funds made available for this demonstration, as appropriate: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall coordinate with block grant recipients and any other appropriate tribal organizations on the design of such demonstration and shall ensure the effective delivery of supportive services to Native American veterans that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness eligible to receive assistance under this demonstration: *Provided further*, That grant recipients shall report to the Secretary, as prescribed by the Secretary, utilization of such rental assistance provided under this demonstration: *Provided further*, That assistance made available under this paragraph shall continue to remain available for homeless veterans upon turn-over; and

(6) The Secretary shall separately track all special purpose vouchers funded under this heading.

HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND (INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading, the heading "Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing" and the heading "Project-Based Rental Assistance", for fiscal year 2015 and prior years may be used for renewal of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts and for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided*, That any obligated balances of contract authority from fiscal year 1974 and prior that have been terminated shall be rescinded: *Provided further*, That amounts heretofore recaptured, or recaptured during the current fiscal year, from section 8 project-based contracts from source years fiscal year 1975 through fiscal year 1987 are hereby rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority, equivalent to the amount rescinded is hereby appropriated, to remain available until expended, for the

purposes set forth under this heading, in addition to amounts otherwise available.

PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND

For the Public Housing Capital Fund Program to carry out capital and management activities for public housing agencies, as authorized under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) (the "Act") \$1,900,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, during fiscal year 2015 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may not delegate to any Department official other than the Deputy Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing any authority under paragraph (2) of section 9(j) regarding the extension of the time periods under such section: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such section 9(j), the term "obligate" means, with respect to amounts, that the amounts are subject to a binding agreement that will result in outlays, immediately or in the future: *Provided further*, That up to \$5,000,000 shall be to support ongoing Public Housing Financial and Physical Assessment activities: *Provided further*, That up to \$3,000,000 shall be to support the costs of administrative and judicial receiverships: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, not to exceed \$23,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to make grants, notwithstanding section 204 of this Act, to public housing agencies for emergency capital needs including safety and security measures necessary to address crime and drug-related activity as well as needs resulting from unforeseen or unpreventable emergencies and natural disasters excluding Presidentially declared emergencies and natural disasters under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) occurring in fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under the previous proviso, not less than \$6,000,000 shall be for safety and security measures: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading \$45,000,000 shall be for supportive services, service coordinator and congregate services as authorized by section 34 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437z-6) and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, up to \$15,000,000 may be used for incentives as part of a Jobs-Plus Pilot initiative modeled after the Jobs-Plus demonstration: *Provided further*, That the funding provided under the previous proviso shall provide competitive grants to partnerships between public housing authorities, local workforce investment boards established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and other agencies and organizations that provide support to help public housing residents obtain employment and increase earnings: *Provided further*, That applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide services to residents, partner with workforce investment boards, and leverage service dollars: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may set aside a portion of the funds provided for the Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency program to support the services element of the Jobs-Plus Pilot initiative: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may allow PHAs to request exemptions from rent and income limitation requirements under sections 3 and 6 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 as necessary to implement the Jobs-Plus program, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may approve

upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective implementation of the Jobs-Plus Pilot initiative as a voluntary program for residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall publish by notice in the Federal Register any waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to the preceding proviso no later than 10 days before the effective date of such notice: *Provided further*, That for funds provided under this heading, the limitation in section 9(g)(1)(A) of the Act shall be 30 percent: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the limitation in the previous proviso to allow public housing agencies to fund activities authorized under section 9(e)(1)(C) of the Act: *Provided further*, That from the funds made available under this heading, the Secretary shall provide bonus awards in fiscal year 2015 to public housing agencies that are designated high performers: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify public housing agencies of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND

For 2015 payments to public housing agencies for the operation and management of public housing, as authorized by section 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(e)), \$4,475,000,000.

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

For competitive grants under the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (subject to section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v)), unless otherwise specified under this heading), for transformation, rehabilitation, and replacement housing needs of both public and HUD-assisted housing and to transform neighborhoods of poverty into functioning, sustainable mixed income neighborhoods with appropriate services, schools, public assets, transportation and access to jobs, \$90,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That grant funds may be used for resident and community services, community development, and affordable housing needs in the community, and for conversion of vacant or foreclosed properties to affordable housing: *Provided further*, That the use of funds made available under this heading shall not be deemed to be public housing notwithstanding section 3(b)(1) of such Act: *Provided further*, That grantees shall commit to an additional period of affordability determined by the Secretary of not fewer than 20 years: *Provided further*, That grantees shall undertake comprehensive local planning with input from residents and the community, and that grantees shall provide a match in State, local, other Federal or private funds: *Provided further*, That grantees may include local governments, tribal entities, public housing authorities, and nonprofits: *Provided further*, That for-profit developers may apply jointly with a public entity: *Provided further*, That for purposes of environmental review, a grantee shall be treated as a public housing agency under section 26 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437x), and grants under this heading shall be subject to the regulations issued by the Secretary to implement such section: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided, not less than \$55,000,000 shall be awarded to public housing authorities: *Provided further*, That such grantees shall create partnerships with other local organizations including assisted housing owners, service agencies, and resident organizations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall consult with the Secretaries of Education, Labor, Transportation, Health

and Human Services, Agriculture, and Commerce, the Attorney General, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate and leverage other appropriate Federal resources: *Provided further*, That no more than \$5,000,000 of funds made available under this heading may be provided to assist communities in developing comprehensive strategies for implementing this program or implementing other revitalization efforts in conjunction with community notice and input: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall develop and publish guidelines for the use of such competitive funds, including but not limited to eligible activities, program requirements, and performance metrics: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures, remaining from funds appropriated under the heading "Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing (HOPE VI)" in fiscal year 2011 and prior fiscal years may be used for purposes under this heading, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

For the Family Self-Sufficiency program to support family self-sufficiency coordinators under section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under sections 8(o) and 9 of such Act with public and private resources, and enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, \$75,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That the Secretary may, by Federal Register notice, waive or specify alternative requirements under sections b(3), b(4), b(5), or c(1) of section 23 of such Act in order to facilitate the operation of a unified self-sufficiency program for individuals receiving assistance under different provisions of the Act, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That owners of a privately owned multifamily property with a section 8 contract may voluntarily make a Family Self-Sufficiency program available to the assisted tenants of such property in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That such procedures established pursuant to the previous proviso shall permit participating tenants to accrue escrow funds in accordance with section 23(d)(2) and shall allow owners to use funding from residual receipt accounts to hire coordinators for their own Family Self-Sufficiency program: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may carry out a demonstration testing the effectiveness of combining vouchers for homeless youth under the Family Unification Program authorized under section 8(x) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) ("the Act" herein) with assistance under the Family Self-Sufficiency program authorized under section 23 of the Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may establish alternative requirements to those contained in section 8(x) of the Act to facilitate such a demonstration: *Provided further*, That any public housing agency that has existing Family Unification Program vouchers and an established Family Self-Sufficiency program may participate in such demonstration provided that they can demonstrate (1) an agreement with the public child welfare agency or agencies to serve the target population; (2) capacity to serve the target population; (3) the success of the agency's existing Family Self-Sufficiency program in serving residents; (4) partnerships with local organizations that serve homeless youth; and (5) any other factors established by the Sec-

retary: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall monitor and evaluate the demonstration and report on whether the demonstration helped homeless youth achieve self-sufficiency.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS

For the Native American Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), \$650,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, to determine the amount of the allocation under title I of such Act for each Indian tribe, the Secretary shall apply the formula under section 302 of such Act with the need component based on single-race census data and with the need component based on multi-race census data, and the amount of the allocation for each Indian tribe shall be the greater of the two resulting allocation amounts: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$4,000,000 shall be contracted for assistance for a national organization representing Native American housing interests for providing training and technical assistance to Indian housing authorities and tribally designated housing entities as authorized under section 703 of NAHASDA (25 U.S.C. 4212); and up to \$2,000,000 shall be to support the inspection of Indian housing units, contract expertise, training, and technical assistance in the training, oversight, and management of such Indian housing and tenant-based assistance, including up to \$300,000 for related travel: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$2,000,000 shall be made available for the cost of guaranteed notes and other obligations, as authorized by title VI of NAHASDA: *Provided further*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such notes and other obligations, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize the total principal amount of any notes and other obligations, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$16,530,000: *Provided further*, That the Department will notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of the date of enactment of this Act.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT

For the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, as authorized under title VIII of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That of this amount, \$300,000 shall be for training and technical assistance activities, including up to \$100,000 for related travel by Hawaii-based employees of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

INDIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z-13a), \$6,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, up to \$714,290,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That up to \$750,000 of this amount

may be for administrative contract expenses including management processes and systems to carry out the loan guarantee program.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE
FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184A of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13b) and for such costs for loans used for refinancing, \$100,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, up to \$16,130,000, to remain available until expended.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH
AIDS

For carrying out the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program, as authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.), \$330,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, except that amounts allocated pursuant to section 854(c)(3) of such Act shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall renew all expiring contracts for permanent supportive housing that initially were funded under section 854(c)(3) of such Act from funds made available under this heading in fiscal year 2010 and prior fiscal years that meet all program requirements before awarding funds for new contracts under such section: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

For assistance to units of State and local government, and to other entities, for economic and community development activities, and for other purposes, \$3,090,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, unless otherwise specified: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided, \$3,020,000,000 is for carrying out the community development block grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (the “Act” herein) (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.): *Provided further*, That unless explicitly provided for under this heading, not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with funds appropriated under this heading shall be expended for planning and management development and administration: *Provided further*, That a metropolitan city, urban county, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe, or insular area that directly or indirectly receives funds under this heading may not sell, trade, or otherwise transfer all or any portion of such funds to another such entity in exchange for any other funds, credits or non-Federal considerations, but must use such funds for activities eligible under title I of the Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 105(e)(1) of the Act, no funds provided under this heading may be provided to a for-profit entity for an economic development project under section 105(a)(17) unless such project has been evaluated and selected in accordance with guidelines required under subparagraph (e)(2): *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That \$70,000,000 shall be for grants to Indian tribes notwithstanding section 106(a)(1) of such Act, of which, notwithstanding any other provision

of law (including section 204 of this Act), up to \$3,960,000 may be used for emergencies that constitute imminent threats to health and safety: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under the previous proviso, \$10,000,000 shall be for grants for mold remediation and prevention that shall be awarded through one national competition to Native American tribes with the greatest need.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOAN GUARANTEES
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2015, commitments to guarantee loans under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308), any part of which is guaranteed, shall not exceed a total principal amount of \$500,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall collect fees from borrowers to result in a cost of zero for guaranteeing such loans, and any such fees shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

For the HOME investment partnerships program, as authorized under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, \$950,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the amount made available under this heading, the threshold reduction requirements in sections 216(10) and 217(b)(4) of such Act shall not apply to allocations of such amount: *Provided further*, That the requirements under provisos 2 through 6 under this heading for fiscal year 2012 and such requirements applicable pursuant to the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013”, shall not apply to any project to which funds were committed on or after August 23, 2013, but such projects shall instead be governed by the Final Rule titled “Home Investment Partnerships Program; Improving Performance and Accountability; Updating Property Standards” which became effective on such date: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

SELF-HELP AND ASSISTED HOMEOWNERSHIP
OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

For the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program, as authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996, as amended, \$50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be made available to the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program as authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996, as amended: *Provided further*, That \$35,000,000 shall be made available for the second, third, and fourth capacity building activities authorized under section 4(a) of the HUD Demonstration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 9816 note), of which not less than \$5,000,000 shall be made available for rural capacity-building activities: *Provided further*, That \$5,000,000 shall be made available for capacity building by national rural housing organizations with experience assessing national rural conditions and providing financing, training, technical assistance, information, and research to local nonprofits, local governments and Indian Tribes serving high need rural communities.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For the emergency solutions grants program as authorized under subtitle B of title

IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended; the continuum of care program as authorized under subtitle C of title IV of such Act; and the rural housing stability assistance program as authorized under subtitle D of title IV of such Act, \$2,145,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That any rental assistance amounts that are recaptured under such continuum of care program shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That not less than \$250,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for such emergency solutions grants program: *Provided further*, That not less than \$1,848,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for such continuum of care and rural housing stability assistance programs: *Provided further*, That up to \$7,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for the national homeless data analysis project: *Provided further*, That all funds awarded for supportive services under the continuum of care program and the rural housing stability assistance program shall be matched by not less than 25 percent in cash or in kind by each grantee: *Provided further*, That a grantee may use State and local funds from any source to satisfy match requirements applicable to funds made available under this heading, so long as the funds are used in accordance with their authorized purpose: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may renew on an annual basis expiring contracts or amendments to contracts funded under the continuum of care program if the program is determined to be needed under the applicable continuum of care and meets appropriate program requirements, performance measures, and financial standards, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That all awards of assistance under this heading shall be required to coordinate and integrate homeless programs with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which homeless populations may be eligible: *Provided further*, That with respect to funds provided under this heading for the continuum of care program for fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, provision of permanent housing rental assistance may be administered by private nonprofit organizations: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation from amounts allocated (which may represent initial or final amounts allocated) for the emergency solutions grant program within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

PROJECT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of project-based subsidy contracts under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) (“the Act”), not otherwise provided for, \$9,346,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2014 (in addition to the \$400,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that shall be available October 1, 2014), and \$400,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2015: *Provided*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for expiring or terminating section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for amendments to section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for contracts entered into pursuant to section 441 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

(42 U.S.C. 11401), for renewal of senior preservation rental assistance contracts, as authorized by section 811(e) of the American Housing and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701q note), for renewal of section 8 contracts for units in projects that are subject to approved plans of action under the Emergency Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 or the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990, and for administrative and other expenses associated with project-based activities and assistance funded under this paragraph: *Provided further*, That of the total amounts provided under this heading, not to exceed \$210,000,000 shall be available for performance-based contract administrators for section 8 project-based assistance, for carrying out 42 U.S.C. 1437(f): *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may also use such amounts in the previous proviso for performance-based contract administrators for the administration of: interest reduction payments pursuant to section 236(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1(a)); rent supplement payments pursuant to section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s); section 236(f)(2) rental assistance payments (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1(f)(2)); project rental assistance contracts for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q); project rental assistance contracts for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)); project assistance contracts pursuant to section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667); and loans under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667): *Provided further*, That amounts recaptured under this heading, the heading "Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing", or the heading "Housing Certificate Fund", may be used for renewals of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts or for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the request of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 8 project-based Housing Assistance Payments contract that authorizes HUD or a Housing Finance Agency to require that surplus project funds be deposited in an interest-bearing residual receipts account and that are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to be available until expended: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited pursuant to the previous proviso shall be available in addition to the amount otherwise provided by this heading for uses authorized under this heading.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

For amendments to capital advance contracts for housing for the elderly, as authorized by section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended, and for project rental assistance for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of such Act, including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 1-year term, and for senior preservation rental assistance contracts, as authorized by section 811(e) of the American Housing and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000, as amended, and for supportive services associated with

the housing, \$420,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, up to \$70,000,000 shall be for service coordinators and the continuation of existing congregate service grants for residents of assisted housing projects: *Provided further*, That amounts under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 202 projects: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the provisions of section 202 governing the terms and conditions of project rental assistance, except that the initial contract term for such assistance shall not exceed 5 years in duration: *Provided further*, That upon request of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 202 project rental assistance contract, and that upon termination of such contract are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to be available until September 30, 2018.

HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

For amendments to capital advance contracts for supportive housing for persons with disabilities, as authorized by section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), for project rental assistance for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of such Act and for project assistance contracts pursuant to section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-372; 73 Stat. 667), including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 1-year term, for project rental assistance to State housing finance agencies and other appropriate entities as authorized under section 811(b)(3) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Housing Act, and for supportive services associated with the housing for persons with disabilities as authorized by section 811(b)(1) of such Act, \$135,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 811 projects: *Provided further*, That, in this fiscal year, upon the request of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 811 project rental assistance contract and that upon termination of such contract are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to be available until September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited in this account pursuant to the previous proviso shall be available in addition to the amounts otherwise provided by this heading for the purposes authorized under this heading: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading may be used for the current purposes authorized under this heading notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

HOUSING COUNSELING ASSISTANCE

For contracts, grants, and other assistance excluding loans, as authorized under section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, \$49,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, including

up to \$4,500,000 for administrative contract services: *Provided*, That grants made available from amounts provided under this heading shall be awarded within 180 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That funds shall be used for providing counseling and advice to tenants and homeowners, both current and prospective, with respect to property maintenance, financial management/literacy, and such other matters as may be appropriate to assist them in improving their housing conditions, meeting their financial needs, and fulfilling the responsibilities of tenancy or homeownership; for program administration; and for housing counselor training.

RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE

For amendments to contracts under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s) and section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1) in State-aided, noninsured rental housing projects, \$28,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount, together with unobligated balances from recaptured amounts appropriated prior to fiscal year 2006 from terminated contracts under such sections of law, and any unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated under this heading after fiscal year 2005, shall also be available for extensions of up to one year for expiring contracts under such sections of law.

PAYMENT TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING FEES TRUST FUND

For necessary expenses as authorized by the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.), up to \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$10,000,000 is to be derived from the Manufactured Housing Fees Trust Fund: *Provided*, That not to exceed the total amount appropriated under this heading shall be available from the general fund of the Treasury to the extent necessary to incur obligations and make expenditures pending the receipt of collections to the Fund pursuant to section 620 of such Act: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced as such collections are received during fiscal year 2015 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than zero, and fees pursuant to such section 620 shall be modified as necessary to ensure such a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation: *Provided further*, That for the dispute resolution and installation programs, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may assess and collect fees from any program participant: *Provided further*, That such collections shall be deposited into the Fund, and the Secretary, as provided herein, may use such collections, as well as fees collected under section 620, for necessary expenses of such Act: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the requirements of section 620 of such Act, the Secretary may carry out responsibilities of the Secretary under such Act through the use of approved service providers that are paid directly by the recipients of their services.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee single family loans insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund shall not exceed \$400,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2015, obligations to make direct

loans to carry out the purposes of section 204(g) of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall not exceed \$20,000,000: *Provided further*, That the foregoing amount in the previous proviso shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with sales of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund: *Provided further*, That for administrative contract expenses of the Federal Housing Administration, \$145,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That to the extent guaranteed loan commitments exceed \$200,000,000,000 on or before April 1, 2015, an additional \$1,400 for administrative contract expenses shall be available for each \$1,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments (including a pro rata amount for any amount below \$1,000,000), but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed \$30,000,000: *Provided further*, That receipts from administrative support fees collected pursuant to section 202 of the National Housing Act, as amended by section 240 of this title, shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account.

GENERAL AND SPECIAL RISK PROGRAM ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING RESCISSION)

New commitments to guarantee loans insured under the General and Special Risk Insurance Funds, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-3 and 1735c), shall not exceed \$30,000,000,000 in total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2015, gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by sections 204(g), 207(1), 238, and 519(a) of the National Housing Act, shall not exceed \$20,000,000, which shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with the sale of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under such Act: *Provided further*, That \$10,000,000 previously provided under this heading is hereby permanently rescinded.

GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE
ASSOCIATION

GUARANTEES OF MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES
LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to issue guarantees to carry out the purposes of section 306 of the National Housing Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1721(g)), shall not exceed \$500,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That \$24,000,000 shall be available for necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Government National Mortgage Association: *Provided further*, That to the extent that guaranteed loan commitments will and do exceed \$155,000,000,000 on or before April 1, 2015, an additional \$100 for necessary salaries and expenses shall be available until expended for each \$1,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments (including a pro rata amount for any amount below \$1,000,000), but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed \$3,000,000: *Provided further*, That receipts from Commitment and Multiclass fees collected pursuant to title III of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For contracts, grants, and necessary expenses of programs of research and studies relating to housing and urban problems, not

otherwise provided for, as authorized by title V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z-1 et seq.), including carrying out the functions of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under section 1(a)(1)(i) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1968, \$46,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That with respect to amounts made available under this heading, notwithstanding section 204 of this title, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements funded with philanthropic entities, other Federal agencies, or State or local governments and their agencies for research projects: *Provided further*, That with respect to the previous proviso, such partners to the cooperative agreements must contribute at least a 50 percent match toward the cost of the project: *Provided further*, That for non-competitive agreements entered into in accordance with the previous two provisos, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall comply with section 2(b) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-282, 31 U.S.C. note) in lieu of compliance with section 102(a)(4)(C) with respect to documentation of award decisions.

FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES

For contracts, grants, and other assistance, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, and section 561 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, as amended, \$66,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which \$40,600,000 shall be to carry out activities pursuant to such section 561: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Secretary may assess and collect fees to cover the costs of the Fair Housing Training Academy, and may use such funds to provide such training: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading shall be used to lobby the executive or legislative branches of the Federal Government in connection with a specific contract, grant, or loan: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$300,000 shall be available to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for the creation and promotion of translated materials and other programs that support the assistance of persons with limited English proficiency in utilizing the services provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND
HEALTHY HOMES

LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION

For the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, as authorized by section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, \$110,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That up to \$15,000,000 of that amount shall be for the Healthy Homes Initiative, pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 that shall include research, studies, testing, and demonstration efforts, including education and outreach concerning lead-based paint poisoning and other housing-related diseases and hazards: *Provided further*, That for purposes of environmental review, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other provisions of the law that further the purposes of such Act, a grant under the Healthy Homes Initiative, or the Lead Technical Studies program under this heading or under prior appropriations

Acts for such purposes under this heading, shall be considered to be funds for a special project for purposes of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$45,000,000 shall be made available on a competitive basis for areas with the highest lead paint abatement needs: *Provided further*, That each recipient of funds provided under the third proviso shall make a matching contribution in an amount not less than 25 percent: *Provided further*, That each applicant shall certify adequate capacity that is acceptable to the Secretary to carry out the proposed use of funds pursuant to a notice of funding availability: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this or prior appropriations Acts, and that still remain available, may be used for any purpose under this heading notwithstanding the purpose for which such amounts were appropriated if a program competition is undersubscribed and there are other program competitions under this heading that are oversubscribed.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND

For the development of, modifications to, and infrastructure for Department-wide and program-specific information technology systems, for the continuing operation and maintenance of both Department-wide and program-specific information systems, and for program-related maintenance activities, \$250,000,000, which shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That any amounts transferred to this Fund under this Act shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That any amounts transferred to this Fund from amounts appropriated by previously enacted appropriations Acts may be used for the purposes specified under this Fund, in addition to any other information technology purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, the amount, as determined by the Secretary, to be used for Development, Modernization, and Enhancement, including development and deployment of a Next Generation Management System and development and deployment of modernized Federal Housing Administration systems, may not be obligated, except for 25 percent of such amount, until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations and the Comptroller General of the United States a plan for expenditure that—(A) provides for all information technology investments: (i) the cost and schedule baselines with explanations for each associated variance, (ii) the status of functional and performance capabilities delivered or planned to be delivered, and (iii) mitigation strategies to address identified risks; (B) outlines activities to ensure strategic, consistent, and effective application of information technology management controls: (i) enterprise architecture, (ii) project management, (iii) investment management, and (iv) human capital management.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$129,000,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have independent authority over all personnel issues within this office.

TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Of the amounts made available in this Act under each of the following headings under this title, the Secretary may transfer to, and

merge with, this account up to 0.5 percent from each such account, and such transferred amounts shall be available until September 30, 2017, for (1) research, evaluation, and program metrics; (2) program demonstrations; and (3) technical assistance and capacity building: “Choice Neighborhoods Initiative”, “Community Development Fund”, “Fair Housing Activities”, “Family Self-Sufficiency”, “HOME Investment Partnerships Program”, “Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program”, “Housing Counseling Assistance”, “Housing for Persons with Disabilities”, “Housing for the Elderly”, “Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS”, “Lead Hazard Reduction”, “Mutual Mortgage Insurance Program Account”, “Native American Housing Block Grants”, “Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant”, “Project-Based Rental Assistance”, “Public Housing Capital Fund”, “Public Housing Operating Fund”, “Rental Assistance Demonstration”, “Rental Housing Assistance”, and “Tenant-Based Rental Assistance”: *Provided*, That the Secretary may not transfer more than \$40,000,000 to this account under the authority provided in the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That any such amounts, or portion thereof, transferred to this account, may be transferred back to be merged with any such other account and to be available for the same purpose and same time period as provided under this Act: *Provided further*, That with respect to amounts made available under this heading for research, evaluation and program metrics or program demonstrations, notwithstanding section 204 of this title, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements funded with philanthropic entities, other Federal agencies, or State or local governments and their agencies for research projects: *Provided further*, That with respect to the previous proviso, such partners to the cooperative agreements must contribute at least a 50 percent match toward the cost of the project.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 201. Fifty percent of the amounts of budget authority, or in lieu thereof 50 percent of the cash amounts associated with such budget authority, that are recaptured from projects described in section 1012(a) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1437 note) shall be rescinded or in the case of cash, shall be remitted to the Treasury, and such amounts of budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury shall be used by State housing finance agencies or local governments or local housing agencies with projects approved by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for which settlement occurred after January 1, 1992, in accordance with such section. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the Secretary may award up to 15 percent of the budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury to provide project owners with incentives to refinance their project at a lower interest rate.

SEC. 202. None of the amounts made available under this Act may be used during fiscal year 2015 to investigate or prosecute under the Fair Housing Act any otherwise lawful activity engaged in by one or more persons, including the filing or maintaining of a non-frivolous legal action, that is engaged in solely for the purpose of achieving or pre-

venting action by a Government official or entity, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 203. Sections 203 and 209 of division C of Public Law 112-55 (125 Stat. 693-694) shall apply during fiscal year 2015 as if such sections were included in this title, except that during such fiscal year such sections shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2015” for “fiscal year 2011” and “fiscal year 2012” each place such terms appear.

SEC. 204. Except as otherwise explicitly provided in law, any grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance made pursuant to title II of this Act shall be made on a competitive basis and in accordance with section 102 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545).

SEC. 205. Funds of the Department of Housing and Urban Development subject to the Government Corporation Control Act or section 402 of the Housing Act of 1950 shall be available, without regard to the limitations on administrative expenses, for legal services on a contract or fee basis, and for utilizing and making payment for services and facilities of the Federal National Mortgage Association, Government National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Financing Bank, Federal Reserve banks or any member thereof, Federal Home Loan banks, and any insured bank within the meaning of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1811-1).

SEC. 206. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or through a reprogramming of funds, no part of any appropriation for the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be available for any program, project or activity in excess of amounts set forth in the budget estimates submitted to Congress.

SEC. 207. Corporations and agencies of the Department of Housing and Urban Development which are subject to the Government Corporation Control Act are hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of such Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for 2015 for such corporation or agency except as hereinafter provided: *Provided*, That collections of these corporations and agencies may be used for new loan or mortgage purchase commitments only to the extent expressly provided for in this Act (unless such loans are in support of other forms of assistance provided for in this or prior appropriations Acts), except that this proviso shall not apply to the mortgage insurance or guaranty operations of these corporations, or where loans or mortgage purchases are necessary to protect the financial interest of the United States Government.

SEC. 208. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding all uncommitted, unobligated, recaptured and excess funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit additional, updated budget information to these Committees upon request.

SEC. 209. The President’s formal budget request for fiscal year 2016, as well as the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s congressional budget justifications to be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives

and the Senate, shall use the identical account and sub-account structure provided under this Act.

SEC. 210. A public housing agency or such other entity that administers Federal housing assistance for the Housing Authority of the county of Los Angeles, California, and the States of Alaska, Iowa, and Mississippi shall not be required to include a resident of public housing or a recipient of assistance provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 on the board of directors or a similar governing board of such agency or entity as required under section (2)(b) of such Act. Each public housing agency or other entity that administers Federal housing assistance under section 8 for the Housing Authority of the county of Los Angeles, California and the States of Alaska, Iowa and Mississippi that chooses not to include a resident of public housing or a recipient of section 8 assistance on the board of directors or a similar governing board shall establish an advisory board of not less than six residents of public housing or recipients of section 8 assistance to provide advice and comment to the public housing agency or other administering entity on issues related to public housing and section 8. Such advisory board shall meet not less than quarterly.

SEC. 211. No funds provided under this title may be used for an audit of the Government National Mortgage Association that makes applicable requirements under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

SEC. 212. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to the conditions listed under this section, for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may authorize the transfer of some or all project-based assistance, debt held or insured by the Secretary and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions if any, associated with one or more multifamily housing project or projects to another multifamily housing project or projects.

(b) PHASED TRANSFERS.—Transfers of project-based assistance under this section may be done in phases to accommodate the financing and other requirements related to rehabilitating or constructing the project or projects to which the assistance is transferred, to ensure that such project or projects meet the standards under subsection (c).

(c) The transfer authorized in subsection (a) is subject to the following conditions:

(1) NUMBER AND BEDROOM SIZE OF UNITS.—

(A) For occupied units in the transferring project: the number of low-income and very low-income units and the configuration (i.e., bedroom size) provided by the transferring project shall be no less than when transferred to the receiving project or projects and the net dollar amount of Federal assistance provided to the transferring project shall remain the same in the receiving project or projects.

(B) For unoccupied units in the transferring project: the Secretary may authorize a reduction in the number of dwelling units in the receiving project or projects to allow for a reconfiguration of bedroom sizes to meet current market demands, as determined by the Secretary and provided there is no increase in the project-based assistance budget authority.

(2) The transferring project shall, as determined by the Secretary, be either physically obsolete or economically nonviable.

(3) The receiving project or projects shall meet or exceed applicable physical standards established by the Secretary.

(4) The owner or mortgagor of the transferring project shall notify and consult with the tenants residing in the transferring project and provide a certification of approval by all appropriate local governmental officials.

(5) The tenants of the transferring project who remain eligible for assistance to be provided by the receiving project or projects shall not be required to vacate their units in the transferring project or projects until new units in the receiving project are available for occupancy.

(6) The Secretary determines that this transfer is in the best interest of the tenants.

(7) If either the transferring project or the receiving project or projects meets the condition specified in subsection (d)(2)(A), any lien on the receiving project resulting from additional financing obtained by the owner shall be subordinate to any FHA-insured mortgage lien transferred to, or placed on, such project by the Secretary, except that the Secretary may waive this requirement upon determination that such a waiver is necessary to facilitate the financing of acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of the receiving project or projects.

(8) If the transferring project meets the requirements of subsection (d)(2), the owner or mortgagor of the receiving project or projects shall execute and record either a continuation of the existing use agreement or a new use agreement for the project where, in either case, any use restrictions in such agreement are of no lesser duration than the existing use restrictions.

(9) The transfer does not increase the cost (as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended) of any FHA-insured mortgage, except to the extent that appropriations are provided in advance for the amount of any such increased cost.

(1) For purposes of this section—

(i) the terms “low-income” and “very low-income” shall have the meanings provided by the statute and/or regulations governing the program under which the project is insured or assisted;

(ii) the term “multifamily housing project” means housing that meets one of the following conditions—

(A) housing that is subject to a mortgage insured under the National Housing Act;

(B) housing that has project-based assistance attached to the structure including projects undergoing mark to market debt restructuring under the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Housing Act;

(C) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended by section 801 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(D) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as such section existed before the enactment of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(E) housing that is assisted under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act; or

(F) housing or vacant land that is subject to a use agreement;

(3) the term “project-based assistance” means—

(A) assistance provided under section 8(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937;

(B) assistance for housing constructed or substantially rehabilitated pursuant to assistance provided under section 8(b)(2) of such Act (as such section existed immediately before October 1, 1983);

(C) rent supplement payments under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965;

(D) interest reduction payments under section 236 and/or additional assistance payments under section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing Act;

(E) assistance payments made under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959; and

(F) assistance payments made under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(4) the term “receiving project or projects” means the multifamily housing project or projects to which some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions are to be transferred;

(5) the term “transferring project” means the multifamily housing project which is transferring some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and the statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions to the receiving project or projects; and

(6) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(e) PUBLIC NOTICE AND RESEARCH REPORT.—

(1) The Secretary shall publish by notice in the Federal Register the terms and conditions, including criteria for HUD approval, of transfers pursuant to this section no later than 30 days before the effective date of such notice.

(2) The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the transfer authority under this section, including the effect of such transfers on the operational efficiency, contract rents, physical and financial conditions, and long-term preservation of the affected properties.

SEC. 213. (a) No assistance shall be provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to any individual who—

(1) is enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education (as defined under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002));

(2) is under 24 years of age;

(3) is not a veteran;

(4) is unmarried;

(5) does not have a dependent child;

(6) is not a person with disabilities, as such term is defined in section 3(b)(3)(E) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(E)) and was not receiving assistance under such section 8 as of November 30, 2005; and

(7) is not otherwise individually eligible, or has parents who, individually or jointly, are not eligible, to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(b) For purposes of determining the eligibility of a person to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), any financial assistance (in excess of amounts received for tuition and any other required fees and charges) that an individual receives under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), from private sources, or an institution of higher education (as defined under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall be considered income to that individual, except for a person over the age of 23 with dependent children.

SEC. 214. The funds made available for Native Alaskans under the heading “Native American Housing Block Grants” in title II of this Act shall be allocated to the same Native Alaskan housing block grant recipients that received funds in fiscal year 2005.

SEC. 215. Notwithstanding the limitation in the first sentence of section 255(g) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–20(g)), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment may, until September 30, 2015, insure and enter into commitments to insure mortgages under such section 255.

SEC. 216. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in fiscal year 2015, in managing and disposing of any multifamily property that is owned or has a mortgage held by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and during the process of foreclosure on any property with a contract for rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 or other Federal programs, the Secretary shall maintain any rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and other programs that are attached to any dwelling units in the property. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that such a multifamily property owned or held by the Secretary is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of (1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (“MAHRAA”) and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may, in consultation with the tenants of that property, contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance. The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect prior to foreclosure, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for imminent major threats to health and safety after written notice to and informed consent of the affected tenants and use of other available remedies, such as partial abatements or receivership. After disposition of any multifamily property described under this section, the contract and allowable rent levels on such properties shall be subject to the requirements under section 524 of MAHRAA.

SEC. 217. Section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by inserting “States on behalf of non-entitlement communities,” after “issued by eligible public entities,”;

(2) by striking subsection (k) and inserting the following:

“(k) The Secretary shall monitor the use by eligible public entities and States of commitment amounts authorized in appropriation Acts for any fiscal year. If the Secretary finds that 50 percent of the annual commitment amount has been committed, the Secretary may impose a limitation on the amount of guarantees any one entity may receive in any fiscal year of \$35,000,000 for units of general local government receiving grants under section 106(b) or States receiving grants under section 106(d) and \$7,000,000 for units of general local government receiving grants under section 106(d); or request the enactment of legislation increasing the annual commitment authority for guarantees under this section.”; and

(3) by striking subsection (m) and inserting the following new subsection:

“(m) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN NON-ENTITLEMENT AREAS.— Any State receiving a guarantee or commitment on behalf of non-entitlement areas shall distribute all funds that are subject to such guarantee to the units of general local

government in non-entitlement areas that received the commitment.”

SEC. 218. Public housing agencies that own and operate 400 or fewer public housing units may elect to be exempt from any asset management requirement imposed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in connection with the operating fund rule: *Provided*, That an agency seeking a discontinuance of a reduction of subsidy under the operating fund formula shall not be exempt from asset management requirements.

SEC. 219. With respect to the use of amounts provided in this Act and in future Acts for the operation, capital improvement and management of public housing as authorized by sections 9(d) and 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d) and (e)), the Secretary shall not impose any requirement or guideline relating to asset management that restricts or limits in any way the use of capital funds for central office costs pursuant to section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(g)(1), (2)): *Provided*, That a public housing agency may not use capital funds authorized under section 9(d) for activities that are eligible under section 9(e) for assistance with amounts from the operating fund in excess of the amounts permitted under section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2), unless otherwise specified under this title.

SEC. 220. No official or employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be designated as an allotment holder unless the Office of the Chief Financial Officer has determined that such allotment holder has implemented an adequate system of funds control and has received training in funds control procedures and directives. The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that there is a trained allotment holder for each HUD sub-office under the accounts “Executive Offices” and “Administrative Support Offices,” as well as each account receiving appropriations for “Program Office Salaries and Expenses”, “Government National Mortgage Association—Guarantees of Mortgage-Backed Securities Loan Guarantee Program Account”, and “Office of Inspector General” within the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 221. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall report annually to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the status of all section 8 project-based housing, including the number of all project-based units by region as well as an analysis of all federally subsidized housing being refinanced under the Mark-to-Market program. The Secretary shall identify all existing units maintained by region as section 8 project-based units, all project-based units that have opted out or have otherwise been eliminated, and the reasons these units opted out or otherwise were lost as section 8 project-based units.

SEC. 222. The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall, for fiscal year 2015 and subsequent fiscal years, notify the public through the Federal Register and other means, as determined appropriate, of the issuance of a notice of the availability of assistance or notice of funding availability (NOFA) for any program or discretionary fund administered by the Secretary that is to be competitively awarded. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2015 and subsequent fiscal years, the Secretary may make the NOFA available only on the Internet at the appropriate Government Web site or through other electronic media, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 223. Payment of attorney fees in program-related litigation must be paid from the individual program office and Office of General Counsel personnel funding. The annual budget submissions for program offices and Office of General Counsel personnel funding must include program-related litigation costs for attorney fees as a separate line item request.

SEC. 224. The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to transfer up to 5 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less, of the funds appropriated for any office funded under the heading “Administrative Support Offices” to any other office funded under such heading: *Provided*, That no appropriation for any office funded under the heading “Administrative Support Offices” shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less, without prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary is authorized to transfer up to 5 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less, of the funds appropriated for any account funded under the general heading “Program Office Salaries and Expenses” to any other account funded under such heading: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any account funded under the general heading “Program Office Salaries and Expenses” shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent or \$5,000,000, whichever is less, without prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may transfer funds made available for salaries and expenses between any office funded under the heading “Administrative Support Offices” and any account funded under the general heading “Program Office Salaries and Expenses”, but only with the prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 225. The Disaster Housing Assistance Programs, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, shall be considered a “program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development” under section 904 of the McKinney Act for the purpose of income verifications and matching.

SEC. 226. (a) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall take the required actions under subsection (b) when a multifamily housing project with a section 8 contract or contract for similar project-based assistance:

(1) receives a Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) score of 30 or less; or

(2) receives a REAC score between 31 and 59 and:

(A) fails to certify in writing to HUD within 60 days that all deficiencies have been corrected; or

(B) receives consecutive scores of less than 60 on REAC inspections.

Such requirements shall apply to insured and noninsured projects with assistance attached to the units under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), but do not apply to such units assisted under section 8(o)(13) (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)) or to public housing units assisted with capital or operating funds under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g).

(b) The Secretary shall take the following required actions as authorized under subsection (a)—

(1) The Secretary shall notify the owner and provide an opportunity for response within 30 days. If the violations remain, the Secretary shall develop a Compliance, Dis-

position and Enforcement Plan within 60 days, with a specified timetable for correcting all deficiencies. The Secretary shall provide notice of the Plan to the owner, tenants, the local government, any mortgagees, and any contract administrator.

(2) At the end of the term of the Compliance, Disposition and Enforcement Plan, if the owner fails to fully comply with such plan, the Secretary may require immediate replacement of project management with a management agent approved by the Secretary, and shall take one or more of the following actions, and provide additional notice of those actions to the owner and the parties specified above:

(A) impose civil money penalties;

(B) abate the section 8 contract, including partial abatement, as determined by the Secretary, until all deficiencies have been corrected;

(C) pursue transfer of the project to an owner, approved by the Secretary under established procedures, which will be obligated to promptly make all required repairs and to accept renewal of the assistance contract as long as such renewal is offered; or

(D) seek judicial appointment of a receiver to manage the property and cure all project deficiencies or seek a judicial order of specific performance requiring the owner to cure all project deficiencies.

(c) The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for imminent major threats to health and safety after written notice to and informed consent of the affected tenants and use of other remedies set forth above. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that the property is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of (1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (“MAHRAA”) and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may, in consultation with the tenants of that property, contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance. The Secretary shall report semi-annually on all properties covered by this section that are assessed through the Real Estate Assessment Center and have physical inspection scores of less than 30 or have consecutive physical inspection scores of less than 60. The report shall include:

(1) The enforcement actions being taken to address such conditions, including imposition of civil money penalties and termination of subsidies, and identify properties that have such conditions multiple times; and

(2) Actions that the Department of Housing and Urban Development is taking to protect tenants of such identified properties.

SEC. 227. None of the funds made available by this Act, or any other Act, for purposes authorized under section 8 (only with respect to the tenant-based rental assistance program) and section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.), may be used by any public housing agency for any amount of salary, including bonuses, for the chief executive officer of which, or

any other official or employee of which, that exceeds the annual rate of basic pay payable for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule at any time during any public housing agency fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 228. Section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v) is amended—

(1) in subsection (m)(1), by striking “fiscal year” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “fiscal year 2015.”; and

(2) in subsection (o), by striking “September” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “September 30, 2015.”.

SEC. 229. Of the amounts made available for salaries and expenses under all accounts under this title (except for the Office of Inspector General account), a total of up to \$10,000,000 may be transferred to and merged with amounts made available in the “Information Technology Fund” account under this title.

SEC. 230. None of the funds in this Act may be available for the doctoral dissertation research grant program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 231. The language under the heading Rental Assistance Demonstration in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), is amended—

(1) by striking “(except for funds allocated under such section for single room occupancy dwellings as authorized by title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act)” in both places it appears;

(2) in the second proviso, by striking “2015” and inserting “2018”;

(3) in the third proviso, after “associated with such conversion”, by inserting “in excess of amounts made available under this heading”;

(4) in the fourth proviso, by striking “60,000” and inserting “185,000”;

(5) in the penultimate proviso, by—

(A) striking “December 31, 2014” and inserting “2016”;

(B) striking “and agreement of the administering public housing agency”; and

(C) inserting “a long-term project-based subsidy contract under section 8 of the Act, which shall have a term of no less than 20 years, with rent adjustments only by an operating cost factor established by the Secretary, which shall be eligible for renewal under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note), or, subject to agreement of the administering public housing agency, to assistance under” following “vouchers to assistance under”;

(6) by inserting the following provisos before the final proviso: “*Provided further*, That amounts made available under the heading ‘Rental Housing Assistance’ during the period of conversion under the previous proviso, which may extend beyond fiscal year 2016 as necessary to allow processing of all timely applications, shall be available for project-based subsidy contracts entered into pursuant to the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That amounts, including contract authority, recaptured from contracts following a conversion under the previous two provisos are hereby rescinded and an amount of additional new budget authority, equivalent to the amount rescinded is hereby appropriated, to remain available until expended for such conversions: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may transfer amounts made available under the heading ‘Rental Housing Assistance’, amounts made avail-

able for tenant protection vouchers under the heading ‘Tenant-Based Rental Assistance’ and specifically associated with any such conversions, and amounts made available under the previous proviso as needed to the account under the ‘Project-Based Rental Assistance’ heading to facilitate conversion under the three previous provisos and any increase in cost for ‘Project-Based Rental Assistance’ associated with such conversion shall be equal to amounts so transferred.”; and

(7) in the final proviso, by—

(A) striking “with respect to the previous proviso” and inserting “with respect to the previous four provisos”; and

(B) striking “impact of the previous proviso” and inserting “impact of the fiscal year 2012 and 2013 conversion of tenant protection vouchers to assistance under section 8(o)(13) of the Act”.

SEC. 232. None of the funds in this Act provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development may be used to make a grant award unless the Secretary notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project, State, locality, housing authority, tribe, nonprofit organization, or other entity selected to receive a grant award is announced by the Department or its offices.

SEC. 233. Section 579 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act (MAHRA) of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note) is amended by striking “October 1, 2015” each place it appears and inserting in lieu thereof “October 1, 2018”.

SEC. 234. Section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) is amended by—

(a) Inserting at the end of subsection (j)—

“(7) TREATMENT OF REPLACEMENT RESERVE.—The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to funds held in replacement reserves established in subsection (9)(n).”; and

(b) Inserting at the end of subsection (m)—

“(n) ESTABLISHMENT OF REPLACEMENT RESERVES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Public Housing authorities shall be permitted to establish a Replacement Reserve to fund any of the capital activities listed in subparagraph (d)(1).

“(2) SOURCE AND AMOUNT OF FUNDS FOR REPLACEMENT RESERVE.—At any time, a public housing authority may deposit funds from that agency’s Capital Fund into a Replacement Reserve subject to the following:

“(A) At the discretion of the Secretary, PHAs may be allowed to transfer and hold in a Replacement Reserve, funds originating from additional sources.

“(B) No minimum transfer of funds to a Replacement Reserve shall be required.

“(C) At any time, a public housing authority may not hold in a Replacement Reserve more than the amount the public housing authority has determined necessary to satisfy the anticipated capital needs of properties in its portfolio assisted under 42 U.S.C. 1437g as outlined in its Capital Fund 5 Year Action Plan, or a comparable plan, as determined by the Secretary.

“(D) The Secretary may establish by regulation a maximum replacement reserve level or levels that are below amounts determined under subparagraph (C), which may be based upon the size of the portfolio assisted under 42 U.S.C. 1437g or other factors.

“(3) In first establishing a replacement reserve, the Secretary may allow public housing agencies to transfer more than 20 percent of its operating funds into its replacement reserve.

“(4) EXPENDITURE.—Funds in a Replacement Reserve may be used for purposes authorized by subparagraph (d)(1) and contained in its Capital Fund 5 Year Action Plan.

“(5) MANAGEMENT AND REPORT.—The Secretary shall establish appropriate accounting and reporting requirements to ensure that public housing agencies are spending funding on eligible projects and that funding in the reserve is connected to capital needs.”.

SEC. 235. Section 9(g)(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(g)) is amended by—

(1) inserting “(A)” immediately after the paragraph designation;

(2) by striking the period and inserting the following at the end: “; and”; and

(3) insert the following new paragraph:

“(B) FLEXIBILITY FOR OPERATING FUND AMOUNTS.—Of any amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2015 or any fiscal year thereafter that are allocated for fiscal year 2015 or any fiscal year thereafter from the Operating Fund for any public housing agency, the agency may use not more than 20 percent for activities that are eligible under subsection (d) for assistance with amounts from the Capital Fund, but only if the public housing plan for the agency provides for such use.”.

SEC. 236. (a) Subsection (b) of section 225 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12755) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Such 30-day waiting period is not required if the grounds for the termination or refusal to renew involve a direct threat to the safety of the tenants or employees of the housing, or an imminent and serious threat to the property (and the termination or refusal to renew is in accordance with the requirements of State or local law).”.

(b) Section 104(6) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12704) is amended by adding at the end of the undesignated matter after subparagraph (D) the following sentence: “In the case of an organization funded by the State under title II of this Act, the organization may serve all counties within the State.”.

SEC. 237. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall establish a demonstration program under which, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, and ending on September 30, 2017, the Secretary may enter into budget-neutral, performance-based agreements that result in a reduction in energy or water costs with such entities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate under which the entities shall carry out projects for energy or water conservation improvements at not more than 20,000 residential units in multifamily buildings participating in—

(1) the project-based rental assistance program under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), other than assistance provided under section 8(o) of that Act;

(2) the supportive housing for the elderly program under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q); or

(3) the supportive housing for persons with disabilities program under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) PAYMENTS CONTINGENT ON SAVINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to an entity a payment under an agreement under this section only during applicable years for which an energy or water cost

savings is achieved with respect to the applicable multifamily portfolio of properties, as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with subparagraph (B).

(B) PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Each agreement under this section shall include a pay-for-success provision—

(I) that will serve as a payment threshold for the term of the agreement; and

(II) pursuant to which the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall share a percentage of the savings at a level determined by the Secretary that is sufficient to cover the administrative costs of carrying out this section.

(ii) LIMITATIONS.—A payment made by the Secretary under an agreement under this section shall—

(I) be contingent on documented utility savings; and

(II) not exceed the utility savings achieved by the date of the payment, and not previously paid, as a result of the improvements made under the agreement.

(C) THIRD PARTY VERIFICATION.—Savings payments made by the Secretary under this section shall be based on a measurement and verification protocol that includes at least—

(i) establishment of a weather-normalized and occupancy-normalized utility consumption baseline established preretrofit;

(ii) annual third party confirmation of actual utility consumption and cost for owner-paid utilities;

(iii) annual third party validation of the tenant utility allowances in effect during the applicable year and vacancy rates for each unit type; and

(iv) annual third party determination of savings to the Secretary.

(2) TERM.—The term of an agreement under this section shall be not longer than 12 years.

(3) ENTITY ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall—

(A) establish a competitive process for entering into agreements under this section; and

(B) enter into such agreements only with entities that demonstrate significant experience relating to—

(i) financing and operating properties receiving assistance under a program described in subsection (a);

(ii) oversight of energy and water conservation programs, including oversight of contractors; and

(iii) raising capital for energy and water conservation improvements from charitable organizations or private investors.

(4) GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY.—Each agreement entered into under this section shall provide for the inclusion of properties with the greatest feasible regional and State variance.

(C) PLAN AND REPORTS.—

(1) PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed plan for the implementation of this section.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(A) conduct an evaluation of the program under this section; and

(B) submit to Congress a report describing each evaluation conducted under subparagraph (A).

(d) FUNDING.—For each fiscal year during which an agreement under this section is in effect, the Secretary may use to carry out

this section any funds appropriated to the Secretary for the renewal of contracts under a program described in subsection (a).

SEC. 238. Section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 12805 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1) after “new dwellings” insert “or the rehabilitation of existing dwellings”;

(2) in subsection (b)(2) after “new” insert “or rehabilitated”;

(3) in subsection (d)(1) after “dwellings” insert “or rehabilitating existing dwellings to make them decent, safe and sanitary”;

(4) in subsection (d)(2) by inserting at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) PLANNING, ADMINISTRATION, AND MANAGEMENT.—Planning, administration, and management of grant programs and activities, provided that such expenses do not exceed 20 percent of any grant made under this section.”;

(5) in subsection (i)(5) by—

(A) striking “24” and inserting “36”; and

(B) striking “except that” and all that follows through “such grant amounts”;

(6) in subsection (j) by—

(A) inserting after the heading “(1) REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—”;;

(B) striking “24” and inserting “36”;

(C) striking “(or, in the case” and all that follows through “within 36 months”); and

(D) inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION AND CONVEYANCE.—The Secretary shall establish a deadline (which may be extended for good cause as determined by the Secretary) by which time all units that have been assisted with grant funds under this section must be completed and conveyed.”.

(7) by striking subsection (q).

SEC. 239. Section 184(h)(1)(B) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a(h)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following:

“Exhausting all reasonable possibilities of collection by the holder of the guarantee shall include a good faith consideration of loan modification as well as meeting standards for servicing loans in default, as determined by the Secretary.”.

SEC. 240. Section 202 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) ADMINISTRATION.—Notwithstanding any provision of law, and in addition to any other fees charged in connection with the provision of insurance under this title, in each fiscal year the Secretary may charge and collect a fee not to exceed 4 basis points of the original principal balance of mortgages originated by the mortgagee that were insured under this title during the previous fiscal year. Such fee collected from each mortgagee shall be used as offsetting collections for part of the administrative contract expenses funding and any necessary salaries and expenses funding provided under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Program Account under this title. The Secretary may establish the amount of such fee through regulations, notice, Mortgagee Letter, or other administrative issuance.”.

SEC. 241. Paragraph (1) of section 8(c) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(A)” after the paragraph designation;

(2) by striking the fourth, seventh, eighth, and ninth sentences; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) PUBLICATION OF FAIR MARKET RENTALS.—Not less than annually:

“(i) The Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register that proposed fair market rentals for an area have been published on the site of the Department on the Internet and in any other manner specified by the Secretary. Such notice shall describe proposed material changes in the methodology for estimating fair market rentals and shall provide reasonable time for public comment.

“(ii) The Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register that final fair market rentals have been published on the site of the Department on the internet and in any other manner specified by the Secretary. Such notice shall include the final decisions regarding proposed substantial methodological changes for estimating fair market rentals and responses to public comments.”.

SEC. 242. Of the unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under the heading “Brownfields Redevelopment”, \$2,913,000 is hereby permanently rescinded: *Provided*, That of the unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under the heading “Rural Housing and Economic Development”, \$2,300,000 is hereby permanently rescinded: *Provided further*, That all unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under the heading “Drug Elimination Grants for Low Income Housing” are hereby permanently rescinded: *Provided further*, That all unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for Youthbuild program activities authorized by subtitle D of title IV of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act are hereby permanently rescinded.

SEC. 243. Such sums as may be necessary to implement the Homeowners Armed With Knowledge pilot shall be absorbed within the levels appropriated in this act.

SEC. 244. Section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701x) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—For purposes of this section, the Secretary may enter into multiyear agreements as is appropriate, subject to the availability of annual appropriations.”.

SEC. 245. Section 526 (12 U.S.C. 1735f–4) of the National Housing Act is amended by inserting at the end of subsection (b)—

“(c) The Secretary may establish an exception to any minimum property standard established under this section in order to address alternative water systems, including cisterns, which meet requirements of State and local building codes that ensure health and safety standards.”.

SEC. 246. Notwithstanding section 106(c)(4) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the Secretary additionally shall provide assistance pursuant to such section to any State for use by any nonentitlement area of any such State in which there was a major disaster declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act in 2014: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall issue a notice with respect to any such assistance for States within 45 days of enactment of this Act.

This title may be cited as the “Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2015”.

TITLE III
RELATED AGENCIES
ACCESS BOARD
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Access Board, as authorized by section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, \$7,548,000: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, there may be credited to this appropriation funds received for publications and training expenses.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Maritime Commission as authorized by section 201(d) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (46 U.S.C. 307), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343(b); and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902, \$25,660,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal Maritime Commission is authorized to collect user fees in this fiscal year and may retain up to \$300,000 per fiscal year of such fees for necessary and authorized expenses under this heading.

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$23,499,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That the Inspector General may enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern the obtaining of such services within the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further*, That the Inspector General may select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office of Inspector General, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern such selections, appointments, and employment within Amtrak: *Provided further*, That concurrent with the President's budget request for fiscal year 2016, the Inspector General shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a budget request for fiscal year 2016 in similar format and substance to those submitted by executive agencies of the Federal Government.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the National Transportation Safety Board, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for a GS-15; uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902), \$103,981,000, of which not to exceed \$2,000 may be used for official reception and representation ex-

penses. The amounts made available to the National Transportation Safety Board in this Act include amounts necessary to make lease payments on an obligation incurred in fiscal year 2001 for a capital lease.

NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION
PAYMENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD
REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

For payment to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for use in neighborhood reinvestment activities, as authorized by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101–8107), \$136,600,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall be for a multi-family rental housing program: *Provided*, That in addition, \$50,000,000 shall be made available until expended to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for mortgage foreclosure mitigation activities, under the following terms and conditions:

(1) The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (“NRC”) shall make grants to counseling intermediaries approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (with match to be determined by the NRC based on affordability and the economic conditions of an area; a match also may be waived by the NRC based on the aforementioned conditions) to provide mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance primarily to States and areas with high rates of defaults and foreclosures to help eliminate the default and foreclosure of mortgages of owner-occupied single-family homes that are at risk of such foreclosure. Other than areas with high rates of defaults and foreclosures, grants may also be provided to approved counseling intermediaries based on a geographic analysis of the United States by the NRC which determines where there is a prevalence of mortgages that are risky and likely to fail, including any trends for mortgages that are likely to default and face foreclosure. A State Housing Finance Agency may also be eligible where the State Housing Finance Agency meets all the requirements under this paragraph. A HUD-approved counseling intermediary shall meet certain mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance counseling requirements, as determined by the NRC, and shall be approved by HUD or the NRC as meeting these requirements.

(2) Mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance shall only be made available to homeowners of owner-occupied homes with mortgages in default or in danger of default. These mortgages shall likely be subject to a foreclosure action and homeowners will be provided such assistance that shall consist of activities that are likely to prevent foreclosures and result in the long-term affordability of the mortgage retained pursuant to such activity or another positive outcome for the homeowner. No funds made available under this paragraph may be provided directly to lenders or homeowners to discharge outstanding mortgage balances or for any other direct debt reduction payments.

(3) The use of mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance by approved counseling intermediaries and State Housing Finance Agencies shall involve a reasonable analysis of the borrower's financial situation, an evaluation of the current value of the property that is subject to the mortgage, counseling regarding the assumption of the mortgage by another non-Federal party, counseling regarding the possible purchase of the mortgage by a non-Federal third party, counseling and advice of all likely restructuring and refinancing strategies or the approval of a work-out strategy by all interested parties.

(4) NRC may provide up to 15 percent of the total funds under this paragraph to its own

charter members with expertise in foreclosure prevention counseling, subject to a certification by the NRC that the procedures for selection do not consist of any procedures or activities that could be construed as a conflict of interest or have the appearance of impropriety.

(5) HUD-approved counseling entities and State Housing Finance Agencies receiving funds under this paragraph shall have demonstrated experience in successfully working with financial institutions as well as borrowers facing default, delinquency, and foreclosure, as well as documented counseling capacity, outreach capacity, past successful performance and positive outcomes with documented counseling plans (including post mortgage foreclosure mitigation counseling), loan workout agreements, and loan modification agreements. NRC may use other criteria to demonstrate capacity in underserved areas.

(6) Of the total amount made available under this paragraph, up to \$2,500,000 may be made available to build the mortgage foreclosure and default mitigation counseling capacity of counseling intermediaries through NRC training courses with HUD-approved counseling intermediaries and their partners, except that private financial institutions that participate in NRC training shall pay market rates for such training.

(7) Of the total amount made available under this paragraph, up to 5 percent may be used for associated administrative expenses for the NRC to carry out activities provided under this section.

(8) Mortgage foreclosure mitigation assistance grants may include a budget for outreach and advertising, and training, as determined by the NRC.

(9) The NRC shall continue to report bi-annually to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations as well as the Senate Banking Committee and House Financial Services Committee on its efforts to mitigate mortgage default.

UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON
HOMELESSNESS
OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness in carrying out the functions pursuant to title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, \$3,530,000. Title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11319) is amended by striking section 209 and in section 204(a) by striking “level V” and inserting “level IV”.

TITLE IV
GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 401. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for the planning or execution of any program to pay the expenses of, or otherwise compensate, non-Federal parties intervening in regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings funded in this Act.

SEC. 402. None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, nor may any be transferred to other appropriations, unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 403. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through a procurement contract pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection,

except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 404. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for any employee training that—

(1) does not meet identified needs for knowledge, skills, and abilities bearing directly upon the performance of official duties;

(2) contains elements likely to induce high levels of emotional response or psychological stress in some participants;

(3) does not require prior employee notification of the content and methods to be used in the training and written end of course evaluation;

(4) contains any methods or content associated with religious or quasi-religious belief systems or “new age” belief systems as defined in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice N-915.022, dated September 2, 1988; or

(5) is offensive to, or designed to change, participants’ personal values or lifestyle outside the workplace.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict, or otherwise preclude an agency from conducting training bearing directly upon the performance of official duties.

SEC. 405. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, none of the funds provided in this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2015, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees and available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

(1) creates a new program;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by the Congress;

(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by either the House or Senate Committees on Appropriations for a different purpose;

(5) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;

(6) reduces existing programs, projects, or activities by \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or

(7) creates, reorganizes, or restructures a branch, division, office, bureau, board, commission, agency, administration, or department different from the budget justifications submitted to the Committees on Appropriations or the table accompanying the explanatory statement accompanying this Act, whichever is more detailed, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency funded by this Act shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House of Representatives to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the report shall include:

(A) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the prior year enacted level, the President’s budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(B) a delineation in the table for each appropriation and its respective prior year en-

acted level by object class and program, project, and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriation; and

(C) an identification of items of special congressional interest: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated or limited for salaries and expenses for an agency shall be reduced by \$100,000 per day for each day after the required date that the report has not been submitted to the Congress.

SEC. 406. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2015 from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2015 in this Act, shall remain available through September 30, 2016, for each such account for the purposes authorized: *Provided*, That a request shall be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for approval prior to the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That these requests shall be made in compliance with reprogramming guidelines under section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 407. No funds in this Act may be used to support any Federal, State, or local projects that seek to use the power of eminent domain, unless eminent domain is employed only for a public use: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, public use shall not be construed to include economic development that primarily benefits private entities: *Provided further*, That any use of funds for mass transit, railroad, airport, seaport or highway projects, as well as utility projects which benefit or serve the general public (including energy-related, communication-related, water-related and wastewater-related infrastructure), other structures designated for use by the general public or which have other common-carrier or public-utility functions that serve the general public and are subject to regulation and oversight by the government, and projects for the removal of an immediate threat to public health and safety or brownfields as defined in the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (Public Law 107-118) shall be considered a public use for purposes of eminent domain.

SEC. 408. All Federal agencies and departments that are funded under this Act shall issue a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on all sole-source contracts in effect during the preceding fiscal year by no later than March 30, 2015. Such report shall include the contractor, the amount of the contract and the rationale for using a sole-source contract.

SEC. 409. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 410. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to pay the salary for any person filling a position, other than a temporary position, formerly held by an employee who has left to enter the Armed Forces of the United States and has satisfactorily completed his or her period of active military or naval service, and has within 90 days after his or her release from such service or from hospitalization continuing after discharge for a period of not more than 1 year, made application for restoration to his or her former position and has been certified by the Office of Personnel Management as still qualified to perform the duties of his or her former position and has not been restored thereto.

SEC. 411. No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a-10c).

SEC. 412. No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act shall be made available to any person or entity that has been convicted of violating the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a-10c).

SEC. 413. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for first-class airline accommodations in contravention of sections 301-10.122 and 301-10.123 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 414. None of the funds made available under this Act or any prior Act may be provided to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), or any of its affiliates, subsidiaries, or allied organizations.

SEC. 415. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 416. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation with any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 417. It is the sense of the Congress that the Congress should not pass any legislation that authorizes spending cuts that would increase poverty in the United States.

SEC. 418. All agencies and departments funded by the Act shall send to Congress at the end of the fiscal year a report containing a complete inventory of the total number of vehicles owned, leased, permanently retired, and purchased during fiscal year 2015, as well as the total cost of the vehicle fleet, including maintenance, fuel, storage, purchasing, and leasing.

SEC. 419. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay for the painting of a portrait of an officer or employee of the Federal Government, including the head of an Executive branch agency, as defined in section 133 of title 41, U.S.C.

SEC. 420. (a) The head of any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this Act shall submit annual reports to the Inspector General or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General, regarding the costs and contracting procedures related to each conference held by any such department, agency, board, commission, or office during fiscal year 2015 for which the cost to the United States Government was more than \$100,000.

(b) Each report submitted shall include, for each conference described in subsection (a) held during the applicable period—

(1) a description of its purpose;
 (2) the number of participants attending;
 (3) a detailed statement of the costs to the United States Government, including—
 (A) the cost of any food or beverages;
 (B) the cost of any audio-visual services;
 (C) the cost of employee or contractor travel to and from the conference; and
 (D) a discussion of the methodology used to determine which costs relate to the conference; and

(4) a description of the contracting procedures used including—

(A) whether contracts were awarded on a competitive basis; and
 (B) a discussion of any cost comparison conducted by the departmental component or office in evaluating potential contractors for the conference.

(c) Within 15 days of the date of a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this Act during fiscal year 2015 for which the cost to the United States Government was more than \$20,000, the head of any such department, agency, board, commission, or office shall notify the Inspector General or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General, of the date, location, and number of employees attending such conference.

(d) A grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this Act to an Executive branch agency may not be used for the purpose of defraying the costs of a conference described in subsection (c) that is not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or contract was awarded, such as a conference held in connection with planning, training, assessment, review, or other routine purposes related to a project funded by the grant or contract.

(e) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for travel and conference activities that are not in compliance with Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-12-12 dated May 11, 2012.

SEC. 421. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees of a single agency or department of the United States Government, who are stationed in the United States, at any single international conference unless the relevant Secretary reports to the Committees on Appropriations at least 5 days in advance that such attendance is important to the national interest: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section the term “international conference” shall mean a conference occurring outside of the United States attended by representatives of the United States Government and of foreign governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

SEC. 422. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act and except as provided in subsection (b), any report required to be submitted by a Federal agency to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under this Act shall be posted on the public Web site of that agency 30 days following its receipt by the committee.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or
 (2) the report contains proprietary information.

SEC. 423. Each department funded by this Act shall submit a report by March 1st providing a detailed summary of advertising by the department in the prior fiscal year, including the total amount spent. The report shall also include:

(1) a description of the purpose and intent of the advertising (such as promoting awareness of a program, promoting services or participation, or public relations to improve the attitudes about a program or agency);

(2) a breakdown of the costs of advertising by medium, including on-line (with a specific total for social media), brochures, billboards, sponsorships (including the list of all sponsorships), television, mail, and newspaper; and

(3) the cost of development, production, and staffing, including the amount spent on the salaries of department employees and payments to contractors and consultants.

SEC. 424. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to make bonus awards to contractors for work on projects that are behind schedule or over budget.

SEC. 425. None of the funds in this Act may be used for premium travel by an agency that did not provide a report on premium travel to GSA in the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 426. Each department funded by this Act shall submit a report by March 2, 2015, detailing its efforts to address the duplication identified in the annual reports on duplication issued by the Government Accountability Office, along with legal barriers preventing the department’s ability to further reduce duplication.

SEC. 427. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to purchase a light bulb for an office building unless the light bulb has, to the extent practicable, an Energy Star or Federal Energy Management Program designation.

SEC. 428. Any Federal agency or department that is funded under this Act shall respond to any recommendation made to such agency or department by the Government Accountability Office in a timely manner.

This Act may be cited as the “Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015”.

DIVISION C—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$46,466,000, of which not to exceed \$5,086,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed \$502,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Relations; not to exceed \$1,507,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Coordination; not to exceed \$1,217,000 shall be available for the Office of Advocacy and Outreach; not to exceed \$26,120,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which \$25,311,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department

and for general administration, security, repairs and alterations, and other miscellaneous supplies and expenses not otherwise provided for and necessary for the practical and efficient work of the Department; not to exceed \$3,897,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations to carry out the programs funded by this Act, including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch; and not to exceed \$8,137,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$11,000 of the amount made available under this paragraph for the immediate Office of the Secretary shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations in this Act for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings as required by 5 U.S.C. 551-558: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to maintain personnel at the agency level: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency: *Provided further*, That no funds made available by this appropriation may be obligated for FAIR Act or Circular A-76 activities until the Secretary has submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the Department’s contracting out policies, including agency budgets for contracting out.

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Economist, \$16,854,000, of which \$4,000,000 shall be for grants or cooperative agreements for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155 and shall be obligated within 90 days of the enactment of this Act.

NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION

For necessary expenses of the National Appeals Division, \$13,430,000.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, \$9,305,000.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, \$45,199,000, of which not less than \$28,000,000 is for cybersecurity requirements of the Department.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, \$6,080,000.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, \$898,000.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$24,236,000.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313, including authorities pursuant to the 1984 delegation of authority from the Administrator of General Services to the Department of Agriculture under 40 U.S.C. 121, for programs and activities of the Department which are included in this Act, and for alterations and other actions needed for the Department and its agencies to consolidate unneeded space into configurations suitable for release to the Administrator of General Services, and for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and repair of Agriculture buildings and facilities, and for related costs, \$64,844,000, to remain available until expended, for buildings operations and maintenance expenses: *Provided*, That the Secretary may use unobligated prior year balances of an agency or office that are no longer available for new obligation to cover shortfalls incurred in prior year rental payments for such agency or office.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Department of Agriculture, to comply with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), \$3,600,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That appropriations and funds available herein to the Department for Hazardous Materials Management may be transferred to any agency of the Department for its use in meeting all requirements pursuant to the above Acts on Federal and non-Federal lands.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, including employment pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$97,240,000, including such sums as may be necessary for contracting and other arrangements with public agencies and private persons pursuant to section 6(a)(9) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, and including not to exceed \$125,000 for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended under the direction of the Inspector General pursuant to Public Law 95-452 and section 1337 of Public Law 97-98.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

For necessary expenses of the Office of the General Counsel, \$47,567,000.

OFFICE OF ETHICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Ethics, \$3,867,000.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, \$898,000.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Economic Research Service, \$85,373,000.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, \$178,154,000, of which up to \$48,044,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture: *Provided*, That amounts be made available for the Census of Agriculture may be used to

conduct the Current Industrial Report surveys subject to 7 U.S.C. 2204 g(d) and (f).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Research Service and for acquisition of lands by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100, and for land exchanges where the lands exchanged shall be of equal value or shall be equalized by a payment of money to the grantor which shall not exceed 25 percent of the total value of the land or interests transferred out of Federal ownership, \$1,139,673,000: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed one for replacement only: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for the construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided, the cost of constructing any one building shall not exceed \$375,000, except for greenhouses or greenhouses which shall each be limited to \$1,200,000, and except for 10 buildings to be constructed or improved at a cost not to exceed \$750,000 each, and the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building or \$375,000, whichever is greater: *Provided further*, That the limitations on alterations contained in this Act shall not apply to modernization or replacement of existing facilities at Beltsville, Maryland: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center: *Provided further*, That the foregoing limitations shall not apply to replacement of buildings needed to carry out the Act of April 24, 1948 (21 U.S.C. 113a): *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by, and acceptable to, the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the easements shall be that upon completion the facility shall be accepted by the Secretary, subject to the availability of funds herein, if the Secretary finds that acceptance of the facility is in the interest of the United States: *Provided further*, That funds may be received from any State, other political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of establishing or operating any research facility or research project of the Agricultural Research Service, as authorized by law.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND

AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

For payments to agricultural experiment stations, for cooperative forestry and other research, for facilities, and for other expenses and notwithstanding section 1492 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3371) and section 7128(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 3371 note), \$787,545,000, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Education Activities" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That funds for research grants for 1994 institutions, education grants for 1890 institutions, capacity building for non-land-grant colleges of agriculture, the agriculture and food research initiative, Critical Agricultural Materials Act, veterinary medicine

loan repayment, multicultural scholars, graduate fellowship and institution challenge grants, and grants management systems shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That each institution eligible to receive funds under the Evans-Allen program receives no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions be made available to individual eligible institutions or consortia of eligible institutions with funds awarded equally to each of the States of Alaska and Hawaii: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for 1890 institutions shall be made available to institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 and 3222.

HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ENDOWMENT FUND

For the Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund under section 1456(b) (7 U.S.C. 3243(b)) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund authorized by Public Law 103-382 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), \$11,880,000, to remain available until expended.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

For payments to States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa and notwithstanding section 1492 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3371) and section 7128(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 3371 note), \$472,686,000, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That funds for facility improvements at 1890 institutions shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 for cooperative extension receive no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for cooperative extension under sections 3(b) and (c) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c)) and section 208(c) of Public Law 93-471 shall be available for retirement and employees' compensation costs for extension agents.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

For the integrated research, education, and extension grants programs, including necessary administrative expenses and notwithstanding section 1492 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3371) and section 7128(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 3371 note), \$32,217,000, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Integrated Activities" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, \$898,000.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION
SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including up to \$30,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4085), \$872,414,000, of which \$485,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available for the control of outbreaks of insects, plant diseases, animal diseases and for control of pest animals and birds ("contingency fund") to the extent necessary to meet emergency conditions; of which \$11,575,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used for the cotton pests program for cost share purposes or for debt retirement for active eradication zones; of which \$35,401,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Animal Health Technical Services; of which \$705,000 shall be for activities under the authority of the Horse Protection Act of 1970, as amended (15 U.S.C. 1831); of which \$52,529,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used to support avian health; of which \$4,251,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for information technology infrastructure; of which \$152,667,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for specialty crop pests; of which, \$3,883,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for field crop and rangeland ecosystem pests; of which \$54,304,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for tree and wood pests; of which \$3,723,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the National Veterinary Stockpile; of which up to \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the scrapie program for indemnities; of which \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the wildlife damage management program for aviation safety: *Provided*, That of amounts available under this heading for wildlife services methods development, \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of amounts available under this heading for the screwworm program, \$4,990,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That no funds shall be used to formulate or administer a brucellosis eradication program for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States of at least 40 percent: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed four, of which two shall be for replacement only: *Provided further*, That in addition, in emergencies which threaten any segment of the agricultural production industry of this country, the Secretary may transfer from other appropriations or funds available to the agencies or corporations of the Department such sums as may be deemed necessary, to be available only in such emergencies for the arrest and eradication of contagious or infectious disease or pests of animals, poultry, or plants, and for expenses in accordance with sections 10411 and 10417 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8310 and 8316) and sections 431 and 442 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7751 and 7772), and any unexpended balances of funds transferred for such emergency purposes in the preceding fiscal year shall be merged with such transferred amounts: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the repair and alteration of leased buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal

year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

In fiscal year 2015, the agency is authorized to collect fees to cover the total costs of providing technical assistance, goods, or services requested by States, other political subdivisions, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, or individuals, provided that such fees are structured such that any entity's liability for such fees is reasonably based on the technical assistance, goods, or services provided to the entity by the agency, and such fees shall be reimbursed to this account, to remain available until expended, without further appropriation, for providing such assistance, goods, or services.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, preventive maintenance, environmental support, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2250, and acquisition of land as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 428a, \$3,175,000, to remain available until expended.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

MARKETING SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, \$81,634,000: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

Fees may be collected for the cost of standardization activities, as established by regulation pursuant to law (31 U.S.C. 9701).

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$60,709,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses: *Provided*, That if crop size is understated and/or other uncontrollable events occur, the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

FUNDS FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME,
AND SUPPLY (SECTION 32)

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Funds available under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), shall be used only for commodity program expenses as authorized therein, and other related operating expenses, except for: (1) transfers to the Department of Commerce as authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Act of August 8, 1956; (2) transfers otherwise provided in this Act; and (3) not more than \$20,317,000 for formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 and the Agricultural Act of 1961.

PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

For payments to departments of agriculture, bureaus and departments of markets, and similar agencies for marketing activities under section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)), \$1,363,000.

GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS
ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, \$44,017,000: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of

altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING
SERVICES EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$50,000,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for inspection and weighing services: *Provided*, That if grain export activities require additional supervision and oversight, or other uncontrollable factors occur, this limitation may be exceeded by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD
SAFETY

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, \$816,000.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

For necessary expenses to carry out services authorized by the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, including not to exceed \$50,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$1,022,770,000; and in addition, \$1,000,000 may be credited to this account from fees collected for the cost of laboratory accreditation as authorized by section 1327 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 138f): *Provided*, That funds provided for the Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure system shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That no fewer than 148 full-time equivalent positions shall be employed during fiscal year 2015 for purposes dedicated solely to inspections and enforcement related to the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act: *Provided further*, That the Food Safety and Inspection Service shall continue implementation of section 11016 of Public Law 110-246 as further clarified by the amendments made in section 12106 of Public Law 113-79: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM
AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, \$898,000.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Service Agency, \$1,182,544,000, of which \$32,500,000 shall be for Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems: *Provided*, That the Secretary is authorized to use the services, facilities, and authorities (but not the funds) of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make program payments for all programs administered by the Agency: *Provided further*, That other funds made available to the Agency for authorized activities may be advanced to and merged with this account: *Provided further*, That funds made available to county committees shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available to the Farm Service Agency shall be used to close Farm Service Agency county offices: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available to the Farm Service Agency shall be used to relocate county based employees without prior notification and approval of the Committee on Appropriations.

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

For grants pursuant to section 502(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5101–5106), \$3,404,000.

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out well-head or groundwater protection activities under section 12400 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–2), \$6,500,000, to remain available until expended.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses involved in making indemnity payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products under a dairy indemnity program, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such program is carried out by the Secretary in the same manner as the dairy indemnity program described in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–387, 114 Stat. 1549A–12).

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed farm ownership (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.) and operating (7 U.S.C. 1941 et seq.) loans, emergency loans (7 U.S.C. 1961 et seq.), Indian tribe land acquisition loans (25 U.S.C. 488), boll weevil loans (7 U.S.C. 1989), guaranteed conservation loans (7 U.S.C. 1924 et seq.), and Indian highly fractionated land loans (25 U.S.C. 488) to be available from funds in the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund, as follows: \$2,000,000,000 for guaranteed farm ownership loans and \$1,500,000,000 for farm ownership direct loans; \$1,393,443,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans and \$1,252,004,000 for direct operating loans; emergency loans, \$34,667,000; Indian tribe land acquisition loans, \$2,000,000; guaranteed conservation loans, \$150,000,000; Indian highly fractionated land loans, \$10,000,000; and for boll weevil eradication program loans, \$60,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall deem the pink bollworm to be a boll weevil for the purpose of boll weevil eradication program loans.

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: farm operating loans, \$63,101,000 for direct operating loans, \$14,770,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans, emergency loans, \$856,000, to remain available until expended; and for individual development account grants, \$2,500,000: *Provided*, That for the purposes of prioritizing applications of qualified entities for individual development account grants the Secretary shall provide the same priority for applicants that have a track record serving veterans as those that serve socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$314,918,000, of which \$306,998,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for “Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses”.

Funds appropriated by this Act to the Agricultural Credit Insurance Program Account for farm ownership, operating and conservation direct loans and guaranteed loans may be transferred among these programs: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropria-

tions of both Houses of Congress are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

For necessary expenses of the Risk Management Agency, \$76,779,000: *Provided*, That the funds made available under section 522(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(e)) may be used for the Common Information Management System: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1506(i).

CORPORATIONS

The following corporations and agencies are hereby authorized to make expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accord with law, and to make contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation or agency, except as hereinafter provided.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

For payments as authorized by section 516 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1516), such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND

REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, pursuant to section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a–11): *Provided*, That of the funds available to the Commodity Credit Corporation under section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714) for the conduct of its business with the Foreign Agricultural Service, up to \$5,000,000 may be transferred to and used by the Foreign Agricultural Service for information resource management activities of the Foreign Agricultural Service that are not related to Commodity Credit Corporation business.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

(LIMITATION ON EXPENSES)

For the current fiscal year, the Commodity Credit Corporation shall not expend more than \$5,000,000 for site investigation and cleanup expenses, and operations and maintenance expenses to comply with the requirement of section 107(g) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9607(g)), and section 6001 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6961).

TITLE II

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, \$898,000.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for carrying out the provisions of the Act of April 27, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 590a–f), including preparation of conservation plans and establishment of measures to conserve soil and water (including farm irrigation and land drainage and such special measures for soil and water management as may be necessary to prevent floods

and the siltation of reservoirs and to control agricultural related pollutants); operation of conservation plant materials centers; classification and mapping of soil; dissemination of information; acquisition of lands, water, and interests therein for use in the plant materials program by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100 pursuant to the Act of August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 428a); purchase and erection or alteration or improvement of permanent and temporary buildings; and operation and maintenance of aircraft, \$849,295,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for construction and improvement of buildings and public improvements at plant materials centers, except that the cost of alterations and improvements to other buildings and other public improvements shall not exceed \$250,000: *Provided further*, That when buildings or other structures are erected on non-Federal land, that the right to use such land is obtained as provided in 7 U.S.C. 2250a: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$5,600,000, shall remain available until expended for the authorities under 16 U.S.C. 1001–1005 and 1007–1009 for authorized ongoing watershed projects with a primary purpose of providing water to rural communities.

TITLE III

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development, \$898,000.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for carrying out the administration and implementation of programs in the Rural Development mission area, including activities with institutions concerning the development and operation of agricultural cooperatives; and for cooperative agreements; \$228,898,000: *Provided*, That no less than \$15,000,000 shall be for the Comprehensive Loan Accounting System: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support the Rural Development mission area: *Provided further*, That any balances available from prior years for the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Business—Cooperative Service salaries and expenses accounts shall be transferred to and merged with this appropriation.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, to be available from funds in the rural housing insurance fund, as follows: \$900,000,000 shall be for direct loans and \$24,000,000,000 shall be for unsubsidized guaranteed loans; \$26,279,000 for section 504 housing repair loans; \$28,432,000 for section 515 rental housing; \$150,000,000 for section 538 guaranteed multi-family housing loans; \$10,000,000 for credit sales of single family housing acquired property; \$5,000,000 for section 523 self-help housing land development loans; and \$5,000,000 for section 524 site development loans.

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: section 502 loans, \$66,420,000 shall be for direct loans; section 504 housing repair loans, \$3,687,000; and repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of section 515 rental housing, \$9,812,000: *Provided*, That to support the loan program level for section 538 guaranteed loans made available under this heading the Secretary may charge or adjust any fees to cover the projected cost of such loan guarantees pursuant to the provisions of the Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the interest on such loans may not be subsidized: *Provided further*, That applicants in communities that have a current rural area waiver under section 541 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490q) shall be treated as living in a rural area for purposes of section 502 guaranteed loans provided under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts available under this paragraph for section 502 direct loans, no less than \$5,000,000 shall be available for direct loans for individuals whose homes will be built pursuant to a program funded with a mutual and self-help housing grant authorized by section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 until June 1, 2015.

In addition, for the cost of direct loans, grants, and contracts, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 1484 and 1486, \$16,017,000, to remain available until expended, for direct farm labor housing loans and domestic farm labor housing grants and contracts: *Provided*, That any balances available for the Farm Labor Program Account shall be transferred to and merged with this account.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$415,100,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed pursuant to the authority under section 521(a)(2) or agreements entered into in lieu of debt forgiveness or payments for eligible households as authorized by section 502(c)(5)(D) of the Housing Act of 1949, \$1,093,500,000; and, in addition, such sums as may be necessary, as authorized by section 521(c) of the Act, to liquidate debt incurred prior to fiscal year 1992 to carry out the rental assistance program under section 521(a)(2) of the Act: *Provided*, That rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed during the current fiscal year shall be funded for a 1-year period: *Provided further*, That rental assistance contracts will not be renewed within the 12-month contract period: *Provided further*, That any unexpended balances remaining at the end of such 1-year agreements may be transferred and used for the purposes of any debt reduction; maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation of any existing projects; preservation; and rental assistance activities authorized under title V of the Act: *Provided further*, That rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2015 for a farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act may not be recaptured for use in another project until such assistance has remained unused for a period of 12 consecutive months, if such project has a waiting list of tenants seeking such assistance or the project has rental assistance eligible tenants who are not receiving such assistance: *Provided further*, That such recaptured rental assistance shall, to the extent practicable, be applied to another

farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act.

MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING REVITALIZATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the rural housing voucher program as authorized under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949, but notwithstanding subsection (b) of such section, and for additional costs to conduct a demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of multi-family rental housing properties described in this paragraph, \$28,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$8,000,000, shall be available for rural housing vouchers to any low-income household (including those not receiving rental assistance) residing in a property financed with a section 515 loan which has been prepaid after September 30, 2005: *Provided further*, That the amount of such voucher shall be the difference between comparable market rent for the section 515 unit and the tenant paid rent for such unit: *Provided further*, That funds made available for such vouchers shall be subject to the availability of annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, administer such vouchers with current regulations and administrative guidance applicable to section 8 housing vouchers administered by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary determines that the amount made available for vouchers in this or any other Act is not needed for vouchers, the Secretary may use such funds for the demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of multi-family rental housing properties described in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$20,000,000 shall be available for a demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of the sections 514, 515, and 516 multi-family rental housing properties to restructure existing USDA multi-family housing loans, as the Secretary deems appropriate, expressly for the purposes of ensuring the project has sufficient resources to preserve the project for the purpose of providing safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers including reducing or eliminating interest; deferring loan payments, subordinating, reducing or reamortizing loan debt; and other financial assistance including advances, payments and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall as part of the preservation and revitalization agreement obtain a restrictive use agreement consistent with the terms of the restructuring: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary determines that additional funds for vouchers described in this paragraph are needed, funds for the preservation and revitalization demonstration program may be used for such vouchers: *Provided further*, That if Congress enacts legislation to permanently authorize a multi-family rental housing loan restructuring program similar to the demonstration program described herein, the Secretary may use funds made available for the demonstration program under this heading to carry out such legislation with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

For grants and contracts pursuant to section 523(b)(1)(A) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490c), \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For grants for very low-income housing repair and rural housing preservation made by the Rural Housing Service, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 1474, and 1490m, \$32,239,000, to remain available until expended.

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$2,200,000,000 for direct loans and \$75,000,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of guaranteed loans, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, \$3,585,000, to remain available until expended.

For the cost of grants for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$28,745,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$5,967,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for a Rural Community Development Initiative: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be used solely to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes to undertake projects to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be made available to qualified private, nonprofit and public intermediary organizations proposing to carry out a program of financial and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That such intermediary organizations shall provide matching funds from other sources, including Federal funds for related activities, in an amount not less than funds provided: *Provided further*, That \$5,778,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be to provide grants for facilities in rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression (Public Law 106-387), with up to 5 percent for administration and capacity building in the State rural development offices: *Provided further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for community facilities grants to tribal colleges, as authorized by section 306(a)(19) of such Act: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading.

RURAL BUSINESS—COOPERATIVE SERVICE

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the cost of loan guarantees and grants, for the rural business development programs authorized by section 310B and described in subsections (a), (c), (f) and (g) of section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$78,527,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$500,000 shall be made available for a grant to a qualified national organization to

provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development and \$3,000,000 shall be for grants to the Delta Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et seq.) for any Rural Community Advancement Program purpose as described in section 381E(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not more than 5 percent may be used for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for business grants to benefit Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, including \$250,000 for a grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to funds made available under this heading.

INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund (7 U.S.C. 1936b), \$18,889,000.

For the cost of direct loans, \$5,818,000, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund (7 U.S.C. 1936b), of which \$531,000 shall be available through June 30, 2015, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which \$1,078,000 shall be available through June 30, 2015, for Mississippi Delta Region counties (as determined in accordance with Public Law 100-460): *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan programs, \$4,439,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS
PROGRAM ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized under section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, \$33,077,000.

Of the funds derived from interest on the cushion of credit payments, as authorized by section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, \$158,000,000 shall not be obligated and \$158,000,000 are rescinded.

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

For rural cooperative development grants authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), \$26,050,000, of which \$2,250,000 shall be for cooperative agreements for the appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$3,000,000 shall be for grants for cooperative development centers, individual cooperatives, or groups of cooperatives that serve socially disadvantaged groups and a majority of the boards of directors or governing boards of which are comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups; and of which \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for value-added agricultural product market development grants, as authorized by section 231 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1632a).

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

For the cost of a program of loan guarantees, under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 9007 of the Farm Secu-

rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107), \$1,350,000: *Provided*, That the cost of loan guarantees, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE
RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM
ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants for the rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B and described in sections 306C(a)(2), 306D, 306E, and 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$463,230,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306(a)(2)(B) of such Act, and of which not to exceed \$993,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306E of such Act: *Provided*, That \$66,500,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants including water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by 306C(a)(2)(B) and 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Federally recognized Native American Tribes authorized by 306C(a)(1), and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (of the State of Hawaii): *Provided further*, That funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be provided to a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83: *Provided further*, That not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by the State of Alaska for training and technical assistance programs and not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83 for training and technical assistance programs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$19,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for technical assistance grants for rural water and waste systems pursuant to section 306(a)(14) of such Act, unless the Secretary makes a determination of extreme need, of which \$6,000,000 shall be made available for a grant to a qualified non-profit multi-state regional technical assistance organization, with experience in working with small communities on water and waste water problems, the principal purpose of such grant shall be to assist rural communities with populations of 3,300 or less, in improving the planning, financing, development, operation, and management of water and waste water systems, and of which not less than \$800,000 shall be for a qualified national Native American organization to provide technical assistance for rural water systems for tribal communities: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$15,919,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for contracting with qualified national organizations for a circuit rider program to provide technical assistance for rural water systems: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$4,000,000 shall be for solid waste management grants: *Provided further*, That \$10,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be transferred to, and merged with, the Rural Utilities Service, High Energy Cost Grants Account to provide grants authorized under section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of

1936 (7 U.S.C. 918a): *Provided further*, That any prior year balances for high-energy cost grants authorized by section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 918a) shall be transferred to and merged with the Rural Utilities Service, High Energy Cost Grants Account: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by sections 305 and 306 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 935 and 936) shall be made as follows: loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, rural electric, \$5,000,000,000; guaranteed underwriting loans pursuant to section 313A, \$500,000,000; 5 percent rural telecommunications loans, cost of money rural telecommunications loans, and for loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, rural telecommunications loans, \$690,000,000: *Provided*, That up to \$2,000,000,000 shall be used for the construction, acquisition, or improvement of fossil-fueled electric generating plants (whether new or existing) that utilize carbon sequestration systems.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$34,478,000, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND
BROADBAND PROGRAM

For the principal amount of broadband telecommunication loans, \$34,430,000.

For grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq., \$24,323,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$3,000,000 shall be made available for grants authorized by 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That funding provided under this heading for grants under 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may only be provided to entities that meet all of the eligibility criteria for a consortium as established by this section.

For the cost of broadband loans, as authorized by section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act, \$6,435,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the cost of direct loans shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In addition, \$10,372,000, to remain available until expended, for a grant program to finance broadband transmission in rural areas eligible for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program benefits authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa.

TITLE IV

DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD,
NUTRITION AND CONSUMER SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, \$816,000.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), except section 21, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), except sections 17 and 21;

\$20,497,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2016, of which such sums as are made available under section 14222(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), as amended by this Act, shall be merged with and available for the same time period and purposes as provided herein: *Provided*, That of the total amount available, \$17,004,000 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$25,000,000 shall be available to provide competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the equipment needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

For necessary expenses to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), \$6,623,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2016, of which such sums as are necessary to increase the contingency reserve to \$150,000,000 shall be placed in reserve, to remain available until expended, to be allocated as the Secretary deemed necessary, notwithstanding section 17(i) of such Act, to support participation should cost or participation exceed budget estimates: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 17(h)(10) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(h)(10)), not less than \$60,000,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other related activities, \$14,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure, and \$30,000,000 shall be used for management information systems: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula except in accordance with the cost containment and competitive bidding requirements specified in section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided shall be available for activities that are not fully reimbursed by other Federal Government departments or agencies unless authorized by section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That upon termination of a federally-mandated vendor moratorium and subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, the Secretary may waive the requirement of 7 CFR 246.12(g)(6) at the request of a State agency.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), \$82,251,387,000, of which \$3,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2017, shall be placed in reserve for use only in such amounts and at such times as may become necessary to carry out program operations: *Provided*, That funds available for the contingency reserve under the heading "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" of Division A of Public Law 113-76 shall be available until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That funds provided herein shall be expended in accordance with section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$998,000 may be used to provide nutrition education services to State agencies and Federally recognized tribes participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be subject to any

work registration or workfare requirements as may be required by law: *Provided further*, That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available through September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for a study on Indian tribal administration of nutrition programs, as provided in title IV of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79), and a study of the removal of cash benefits in Puerto Rico, as provided in title IV of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79) shall be available until expended: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for section 28(d)(1) (nutrition education and obesity grants) and section 27(a) (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 shall remain available through September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for employment and training pilot projects, as provided in title IV of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79), shall remain available through September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity provided that such activities are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out disaster assistance and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program as authorized by section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note); the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983; special assistance for the nuclear affected islands, as authorized by section 103(f)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188); and the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, \$275,701,000, to remain available through September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That none of these funds shall be available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for commodities donated to the program: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective with funds made available in fiscal year 2015 to support the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, such funds shall remain available through September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)), the Secretary may use up to 10 percent for costs associated with the distribution of commodities.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary administrative expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service for carrying out any domestic nutrition assistance program, \$155,000,000, of which \$2,800,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Food and Nutrition Service, Commodity Assistance Program" to begin service in six additional States that have plans approved by the Department for the commodity supplemental food program but are not currently participating: *Provided*, That of the funds provided herein, \$2,000,000 shall be used for the purposes of section 4404 of Public Law 107-171, as amended by section 4401 of Public Law 110-246.

TITLE V

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service, including not to exceed \$158,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$182,797,000, of which no more than 6 percent will remain available until September 30, 2016, for overseas operations to include the payment of locally employed staff: *Provided*, That the Service may utilize advances of funds, or reimburse this appropriation for expenditures made on behalf of Federal agencies, public and private organizations and institutions under agreements executed pursuant to the agricultural food production assistance programs (7 U.S.C. 1737) and the foreign assistance programs of the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided further*, That funds made available for middle-income country training programs, funds made available for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship program, and up to \$2,000,000 of the Foreign Agricultural Service appropriation solely for the purpose of offsetting fluctuations in international currency exchange rates, subject to documentation by the Foreign Agricultural Service, shall remain available until expended.

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE I DIRECT CREDIT AND FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the credit program of title I, Food for Peace Act (Public Law 83-480) and the Food for Progress Act of 1985, \$2,528,000, shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses": *Provided*, That of the unobligated balances provided pursuant to Title I of the Food for Peace Act, \$13,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS

For expenses during the current fiscal year, not otherwise recoverable, and unrecovered prior years' costs, including interest thereon, under the Food for Peace Act (Public Law 83-480, as amended), for commodities supplied in connection with dispositions abroad under title II of said Act, \$1,466,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That for purposes of funds appropriated under this heading, in addition to amounts made available under section 202(e)(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722(e)(1)), of the total amount provided under this heading, \$35,000,000 shall be made available to eligible organizations in accordance with section 202(e)(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722(e)(1)).

MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1), \$185,126,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Commodity Credit Corporation is authorized to

provide the services, facilities, and authorities for the purpose of implementing such section, subject to reimbursement from amounts provided herein.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT
(LOANS) CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the Commodity Credit Corporation's export guarantee program, GSM 102 and GSM 103, \$6,748,000; to cover common overhead expenses as permitted by section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and in conformity with the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, of which \$6,394,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Foreign Agricultural Service, Salaries and Expenses", and of which \$354,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses".

TITLE VI

RELATED AGENCY AND FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Food and Drug Administration, including hire and purchase of passenger motor vehicles; for payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313 for programs and activities of the Food and Drug Administration which are included in this Act; for rental of special purpose space in the District of Columbia or elsewhere; for miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities, authorized and approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed \$25,000; and notwithstanding section 521 of Public Law 107-188; \$4,443,356,000: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$798,000,000 shall be derived from prescription drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379h, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$128,282,000 shall be derived from medical device user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$312,116,000 shall be derived from human generic drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-42, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$21,014,000 shall be derived from biosimilar biological product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-52, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$22,464,000 shall be derived from animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-12, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$6,944,000 shall be derived from animal generic drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-21, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$566,000,000 shall be derived from tobacco product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 387s, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That in addition and notwithstanding any other provision under this heading, amounts collected for prescription drug user fees, medical device user fees, human generic drug user fees, biosimilar biological product user fees, animal drug user fees, and animal generic drug user fees that exceed the respective fiscal year 2015 limitations are appropriated and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That fees derived

from prescription drug, medical device, human generic drug, biosimilar biological product, animal drug, and animal generic drug assessments for fiscal year 2015, including any such fees collected prior to fiscal year 2015 but credited for fiscal year 2015, shall be subject to the fiscal year 2015 limitations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may accept payment during fiscal year 2015 of user fees specified under this heading and authorized for fiscal year 2016, prior to the due date for such fees, and that amounts of such fees assessed for fiscal year 2016 for which the Secretary accepts payment in fiscal year 2015 shall not be included in amounts under this heading: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used to develop, establish, or operate any program of user fees authorized by 31 U.S.C. 9701: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated: (1) \$903,403,000 shall be for the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (2) \$1,339,884,000 shall be for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (3) \$342,639,000 shall be for the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (4) \$174,976,000 shall be for the Center for Veterinary Medicine and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (5) \$417,660,000 shall be for the Center for Devices and Radiological Health and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (6) \$63,331,000 shall be for the National Center for Toxicological Research; (7) \$531,527,000 shall be for the Center for Tobacco Products and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (8) not to exceed \$163,432,000 shall be for Rent and Related activities, of which \$47,116,000 is for White Oak Consolidation, other than the amounts paid to the General Services Administration for rent; (9) not to exceed \$228,128,000 shall be for payments to the General Services Administration for rent; (10) not less than \$150,000 shall be used to implement a requirement that the labeling of genetically engineered salmon offered for sale to consumers indicate that such salmon is genetically engineered; and (11) \$278,376,000 shall be for other activities, including the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine, the Office of Medical and Tobacco Products, the Office of Global and Regulatory Policy, the Office of Operations, the Office of the Chief Scientist, and central services for these offices: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of this amount shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Commissioner: *Provided further*, That of the amounts that are made available under this heading for "other activities", and that are not derived from user fees, \$1,500,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Inspector General" for oversight of the programs and operations of the Food and Drug Administration and shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available for oversight of the Food and Drug Administration: *Provided further*, That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

In addition, mammography user fees authorized by 42 U.S.C. 263b, export certification user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 381,

priority review user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360n, food and feed recall fees, food re-inspection fees, and voluntary qualified importer program fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-31, outsourcing facility fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-62, prescription drug wholesale distributor licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 353(e)(3), and third-party logistics provider licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360eee-3(c)(1), shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of or used by the Food and Drug Administration, where not otherwise provided, \$8,788,000, to remain available until expended.

INDEPENDENT AGENCY

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$65,100,000 (from assessments collected from farm credit institutions, including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses as authorized under 12 U.S.C. 2249: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not apply to expenses associated with receiverships: *Provided further*, That the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

TITLE VII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS AND TRANSFERS OF
FUNDS)

SEC. 701. Within the unit limit of cost fixed by law, appropriations and authorizations made for the Department of Agriculture for the current fiscal year under this Act shall be available for the purchase, in addition to those specifically provided for, of not to exceed 71 passenger motor vehicles of which 68 shall be for replacement only, and for the hire of such vehicles: *Provided*, That notwithstanding this section, the only purchase of new passenger vehicles shall be for those determined by the Secretary to be necessary for transportation safety, to reduce operational costs, and for the protection of life, property, and public safety.

SEC. 702. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated by this Act or any other available unobligated discretionary balances that are remaining available of the Department of Agriculture to the Working Capital Fund for the acquisition of plant and capital equipment necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture, such transferred funds to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without the prior approval of the agency administrator: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to make any changes to the Department's National Finance Center without

written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress as required by section 721 of this Act: *Provided further*, That of annual income amounts in the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture allocated for the National Finance Center, the Secretary may reserve not more than 4 percent for the replacement or acquisition of capital equipment, including equipment for the improvement and implementation of a financial management plan, information technology, and other systems of the National Finance Center or to pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts reserved shall be available for obligation unless the Secretary submits written notification of the obligation to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That the limitation on the obligation of funds pending notification to Congressional Committees shall not apply to any obligation that, as determined by the Secretary, is necessary to respond to a declared state of emergency that significantly impacts the operations of the National Finance Center; or to evacuate employees of the National Finance Center to a safe haven to continue operations of the National Finance Center.

SEC. 703. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 704. No funds appropriated by this Act may be used to pay negotiated indirect cost rates on cooperative agreements or similar arrangements between the United States Department of Agriculture and nonprofit institutions in excess of 10 percent of the total direct cost of the agreement when the purpose of such cooperative arrangements is to carry out programs of mutual interest between the two parties. This does not preclude appropriate payment of indirect costs on grants and contracts with such institutions when such indirect costs are computed on a similar basis for all agencies for which appropriations are provided in this Act.

SEC. 705. Appropriations to the Department of Agriculture for the cost of direct and guaranteed loans made available in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year for the following accounts: the Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program account, and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account.

SEC. 706. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act may be used to acquire new information technology systems or significant upgrades, as determined by the Office of the Chief Information Officer, without the approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Information Technology Investment Review Board: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be transferred to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available to the Department of Agriculture for information technology shall be obligated for projects over \$25,000 prior to receipt of written approval by the Chief Information Officer.

SEC. 707. Funds made available under section 1240I and section 1241(a) of the Food Se-

curity Act of 1985 and section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)) in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 708. Hereafter, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any former RUS borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, or any not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under such Act, shall be eligible for assistance under section 313(b)(2)(B) of such Act in the same manner as a borrower under such Act.

SEC. 709. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out section 307(b) of division C of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105-277; 112 Stat. 2681-640) in excess of \$4,000,000.

SEC. 710. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, unobligated balances from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses in this Act for the Farm Service Agency and the Rural Development mission area, shall remain available through September 30, 2016, for information technology expenses.

SEC. 711. The Secretary of Agriculture may authorize a State agency to use funds provided in this Act to exceed the maximum amount of liquid infant formula specified in 7 CFR 246.10 when issuing liquid infant formula to participants.

SEC. 712. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for first-class travel by the employees of agencies funded by this Act in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 713. In the case of each program established or amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79), other than by title I or subtitle A of title III of such Act, or programs for which indefinite amounts were provided in that Act, that is authorized or required to be carried out using funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation—

(1) such funds shall be available for salaries and related administrative expenses, including technical assistance, associated with the implementation of the program, without regard to the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and

(2) the use of such funds for such purpose shall not be considered to be a fund transfer or allotment for purposes of applying the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in such section.

SEC. 714. None of the funds made available in fiscal year 2015 or preceding fiscal years for programs authorized under the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) in excess of \$20,000,000 shall be used to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for the release of eligible commodities under section 302(f)(2)(A) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f-1): *Provided*, That any such funds made available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation shall only be used pursuant to section 302(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act.

SEC. 715. Of the funds made available by this Act, not more than \$2,000,000 shall be used to cover necessary expenses of activities related to all advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture, except for panels

used to comply with negotiated rule makings and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants.

SEC. 716. None of the funds in this Act shall be available to pay indirect costs charged against any agricultural research, education, or extension grant awards issued by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture that exceed 30 percent of total Federal funds provided under each award: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 1462 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310), funds provided by this Act for grants awarded competitively by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture shall be available to pay full allowable indirect costs for each grant awarded under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638).

SEC. 717. For loans and loan guarantees that do not require budget authority and the program level has been established in this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may increase the program level for such loans and loan guarantees by not more than 25 percent: *Provided*, That prior to the Secretary implementing such an increase, the Secretary notifies, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 15 days in advance.

SEC. 718. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out the following:

(1) The Watershed Rehabilitation program authorized by section 14(h)(1) of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012(h)(1));

(2) The Environmental Quality Incentives Program as authorized by sections 1240-1240H of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-3839aa-8) in excess of \$1,350,000,000. Of the funds available under section 1241(a)(5)(B) of such Act, \$136,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled.

SEC. 719. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out a program under subsection (b)(2)(A)(vii) of section 14222 of Public Law 110-246 in excess of \$959,000,000, as follows: Child Nutrition Programs Entitlement Commodities—\$465,000,000; State Option Contracts—\$5,000,000; Removal of Defective Commodities—\$2,500,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act shall be used for salaries and expenses to carry out in this fiscal year section 19(i)(1)(E) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, except in an amount that excludes the transfer of \$122,000,000 of the funds to be transferred under subsection (c) of section 14222 of Public Law 110-246, until October 1, 2015: *Provided further*, That \$122,000,000 made available on October 1, 2015, to carry out section 19(i)(1)(E) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, shall be excluded from the limitation described in subsection (b)(2)(A)(viii) of section 14222 of Public Law 110-246: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries or expenses of any employee of the Department of Agriculture or officer of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out clause 3 of section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1935 (Public Law 74-320, 7 U.S.C. 612c, as amended), or for any surplus removal activities or price support activities under section 5 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act: *Provided further*, That of the available unobligated balances under (b)(2)(A)(vii) of section

14222 of Public Law 110-246, \$203,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 720. None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who prepare or submit appropriations language as part of the President's budget submission to the Congress of the United States for programs under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies that assumes revenues or reflects a reduction from the previous year due to user fees proposals that have not been enacted into law prior to the submission of the budget unless such budget submission identifies which additional spending reductions should occur in the event the user fees proposals are not enacted prior to the date of the convening of a committee of conference for the fiscal year 2016 appropriations Act.

SEC. 721. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming, transfer of funds, or reimbursements as authorized by the Economy Act, or in the case of the Department of Agriculture, through use of the authority provided by section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257) or section 8 of Public Law 89-106 (7 U.S.C. 2263), that—

- (1) creates new programs;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
- (3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;
- (4) relocates an office or employees;
- (5) reorganizes offices, programs, or activities; or
- (6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees;

unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may be) notifies, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming of such funds or the use of such authority.

(b) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure for activities, programs, or projects through a reprogramming or use of the authorities referred to in subsection (a) involving funds in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that—

- (1) augments existing programs, projects, or activities;
- (2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent as approved by Congress; or
- (3) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel which would result in a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress; unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may

be) notifies, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming or transfer of such funds or the use of such authority.

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall notify in writing the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress before implementing any program or activity not carried out during the previous fiscal year unless the program or activity is funded by this Act or specifically funded by any other Act.

(d) As described in this section, no funds may be used for any activities unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services receives from the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress written or electronic mail confirmation of receipt of the notification as required in this section.

SEC. 722. Notwithstanding section 310B(g)(5) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)), the Secretary may assess a one-time fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

SEC. 723. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, or the Farm Credit Administration shall be used to transmit or otherwise make available to any non-Department of Agriculture, non-Department of Health and Human Services, or non-Farm Credit Administration employee questions or responses to questions that are a result of information requested for the appropriations hearing process.

SEC. 724. Unless otherwise authorized by existing law, none of the funds provided in this Act, may be used by an executive branch agency to produce any prepackaged news story intended for broadcast or distribution in the United States unless the story includes a clear notification within the text or audio of the prepackaged news story that the prepackaged news story was prepared or funded by that executive branch agency.

SEC. 725. No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned from an agency or office funded by this Act or any other Act to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 30 days unless the individual's employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of assignment.

SEC. 726. There is hereby appropriated \$1,996,000 to carry out section 1621 of Public Law 110-246.

SEC. 727. There is hereby appropriated \$600,000 for the purposes of section 727 of division A of Public Law 112-55.

SEC. 728. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed spending plan by program, project, and activity for the funds made available under this Act, as outlined under the heading "Program, Project, and Activity" in the report accompanying this Act.

SEC. 729. Hereafter, the Secretary may charge a fee for lenders to access Department loan guarantee systems in connection with such lenders' participation in loan

guarantee programs of the Rural Housing Service: *Provided*, That the funds collected from such fees shall be made available to the Secretary without further appropriation and such funds shall be deposited into the Rural Development Salaries and Expense Account and shall remain available until expended for obligation and expenditure by the Secretary for administrative expenses of the Rural Housing Service Loan Guarantee Program in addition to other available funds: *Provided further*, That such fees collected shall not exceed \$50 per loan.

SEC. 730. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by this Act and notwithstanding the last sentence of 16 U.S.C. 1310, there is appropriated \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended, to implement non-renewable agreements on eligible lands, including flooded agricultural lands, as determined by the Secretary, under the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1301-1311).

SEC. 731. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration shall submit annual reports to the Inspector General or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General, regarding the costs and contracting procedures related to each conference held by any such Department, agency, board, commission, or office during fiscal year 2015 for which the cost to the United States Government was more than \$100,000.

(b) Each report submitted shall include, for each conference described in subsection (a) held during the applicable period—

- (1) a description of its purpose;
- (2) the number of participants attending;
- (3) a detailed statement of the costs to the United States Government, including—
 - (A) the cost of any food or beverages;
 - (B) the cost of any audio-visual services;
 - (C) the cost of employee or contractor travel to and from the conference; and
 - (D) a discussion of the methodology used to determine which costs relate to the conference; and
- (4) a description of the contracting procedures used including—

- (A) whether contracts were awarded on a competitive basis; and
- (B) a discussion of any cost comparison conducted by the departmental component or office in evaluating potential contractors for the conference.

(c) Within 15 days of the date of a conference held by any executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this Act during fiscal year 2015 for which the cost to the United States Government was more than \$20,000, the head of any such Department, agency, board, commission, or office shall notify the Inspector General or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General, of the date, location, and number of employees attending such conference.

(d) A grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this Act to an executive branch agency may not be used for the purpose of defraying the costs of a conference described in subsection (c) that is not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or contract was awarded, such as a conference held in connection with planning, training, assessment, review, or other routine purposes related to a project funded by the grant or contract.

(e) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for travel and conference activities that are not in compliance with Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-12-12 dated May 11, 2012.

SEC. 732. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, on behalf of the

United States may hereafter, whenever the Secretary deems desirable, relinquish to the State of Arkansas all or part of the jurisdiction of the United States over the lands and properties encompassing the Jefferson Labs campus in the State of Arkansas that are under the supervision or control of the Secretary.

(b) TERMS.—Relinquishment of jurisdiction under this section may be accomplished, under terms and conditions that the Secretary deems advisable—

(1) by filing with the Governor of the State of Arkansas a notice of relinquishment to take effect upon acceptance thereof; or

(2) as the laws of such State may otherwise provide.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Jefferson Labs campus” means the lands and properties of the National Center for Toxicological Research and the Arkansas Regional Laboratory.

(d) AGREEMENT REGARDING JEFFERSON COUNTY TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND COMMERCIALIZATION CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may hereafter enter into an agreement with the State of Arkansas or an agency of such State or a public or private entity with respect to the establishment or operation of a technology research and commercialization center in Jefferson County, Arkansas, proximate to the Jefferson Labs campus.

(2) RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.—Pursuant to such agreement, the Secretary may hereafter receive and retain funds from such entity and use such funds, in addition to such other funds as are made available by this act or future acts for the operation of the National Center for Toxicological Research, for the purposes listed in paragraph (3). Funds received from such entity shall be deemed to be appropriated for such purposes and shall remain available until expended.

(3) PURPOSES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds described by paragraph (2) shall be available to defray—

(i) the costs of creating, upgrading, and maintaining connections between such center and roads, communications facilities, and utilities that are on the Jefferson Labs campus; and

(ii) the costs of upgrades, relocation, repair, and new constructions of roads, communications facilities, and utilities on such campus as may be necessary for such agreement.

(B) OTHER ACTS.—For purposes of this and any subsequent Act, the operation of the National Center for Toxicological Research shall be deemed to include the purposes listed in subparagraph (A).

SEC. 733. The Secretary shall set aside for Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zones, until August 15, 2015, an amount of funds made available in title III as follows:

(a) with respect to funds under the headings of Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account, Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants, Rural Community Facilities Program Account, Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account, and Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account the set aside shall equal the amount obligated in REAP Zones with respect to funds provided under such headings during the 2008 fiscal year; and (b) with respect to funds under the headings of Rural Business Program Account, and Rural Housing Assistance Grants the set aside shall equal the amount obligated in REAP Zones with respect to funds provided under such headings in the most recent fiscal year funds were obligated under the heading.

SEC. 734. In response to an eligible community where the drinking water supplies are inadequate due to a natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary, including drought or severe weather, the Secretary may provide potable water through the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant Program for an additional period of time not to exceed 120 days beyond the established period provided under the Program in order to protect public health.

SEC. 735. Hereafter, none of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act may be used to carry out section 401 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 679a) or section 30 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 471).

SEC. 736. The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary's designees are hereby granted the same access to information and subject to the same requirements applicable to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development as provided in section 453(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653(j)) and section 6103(1)(7)(D)(ix) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 6103(1)(7)(D)(ix)) to verify the income for individuals participating in sections 502, 504, or 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472, 1474, and 1490a).

SEC. 737. There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the “Nonrecurring expenses fund” (the Fund): *Provided*, That unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds appropriated in this or any succeeding fiscal year from the General Fund of the Treasury to the Department of Agriculture (except the Forest Service) by this or any other Act may be transferred (not later than the end of the fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which appropriated) into the Fund: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited in the Fund shall be available until expended, and in addition to such other funds as may be available for such purposes, for capital acquisition necessary for the operation of the Department of Agriculture, including facilities infrastructure and information technology infrastructure, subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That amounts in the Fund may be obligated only after the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 15 days in advance of the planned use of funds.

SEC. 738. There is hereby appropriated for the “Emergency Watershed Protection Program”, \$109,978,000, to remain available until expended; for the “Emergency Forestry Restoration Program”, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended; and for the “Emergency Conservation Program”, \$11,755,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$85,000,000 made available for the “Emergency Watershed Protection Program” and \$15,000,000 made available for the “Emergency Forestry Restoration Program” under this section are for necessary expenses resulting from a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), and are designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 739. The Secretary, within 180 days of enactment, shall conduct a pre-hearing, public information session patterned on Part 900 of the CFR to consider proposals developed within the Department or submitted by interested persons of alternatives to end product pricing formulae: *Provided*, That fol-

lowing this pre-hearing process, the Secretary retains discretion over whether to proceed to a full, formal hearing: *Provided further*, That should the Secretary decide at the conclusion of the pre-hearing process not to proceed to a formal hearing, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee within 60 days of that decision setting forth in detail the rationale for that decision.

SEC. 740. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay for the painting of a portrait of an officer or employee of the Federal Government, including the President, the Vice President, a Member of Congress (including a Delegate or a Resident Commissioner to Congress), the head of an executive branch agency (as defined in section 133 of title 41, United States Code), or the head of an office of the legislative branch.

SEC. 741. The Secretary shall report to the Committee on rural housing loans provided under section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472), for each of the five preceding years, including:

(1) the total number of loans provided by the Secretary that are equal to or more than \$500,000;

(2) the total number of guarantees provided by the Secretary on loans with an original principal obligation that is equal to or more than \$500,000;

(3) the location, including the city and State, of each property for which the Secretary provided such a loan or loan guarantee; and

(4) the number of loans and loan guarantees that have resulted in losses to the Secretary as a result of defaults, and the total amount of such losses.

SEC. 742. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for other than coach-class transportation accommodations (within the meaning given that term under the Federal Travel Regulation) by an agency that fails to submit the report relating to the use of other than coach-class transportation accommodations by the agency required under subpart B of part 300-70 of the Federal Travel Regulation for fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 743. Of the unobligated balances provided pursuant to section 12033 and section 15101 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, \$125,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 744. (a) The Senate finds that—

(1) October 20, 2014, marks the twentieth anniversary of the signing into law of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103-382), which granted Federal land-grant status to Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) known as the 1994 land-grant institutions;

(2) the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act of 1994 addresses the essential need for Native Americans to explore and adopt new and evolving technologies for managing tribal land, with the hope of continued improvement of reservation land;

(3) the extension programs of the 1994 land-grant institutions strengthen communities through outreach programs designed to bolster economic development, community resources, family and youth development, natural resources development, agriculture, and health and nutrition education;

(4) the 1994 land-grant institutions are helping to address the epidemic rates of diabetes and cardiovascular disease that plague Indian reservations through the promotion of healthful food systems and food science and nutrition education programs; and

(5) the mission and successes of the 1994 land-grant institutions deserve national recognition.

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the outstanding contributions of the 1994 land-grant institutions to the work of the great land-grant system of the United States should be recognized;

(2) expanded collaboration and cooperation within the land-grant system is encouraged to advance and sustain academic and community programs that serve all people of the United States; and

(3) the people of the United States are encouraged to observe and celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the signing into law of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103-382), including efforts to advance the growth and sustainability of the 1994 land-grant institutions and communities served by those institutions.

SEC. 745. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to exclude or restrict, or to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to exclude or restrict, the eligibility of any variety of fresh, whole, or cut vegetables, except for vegetables with added sugars, fats, or oils, from being provided under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

(b) Within 90 days of enactment of this Act the Secretary shall commence the next scheduled regular review of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children food package, including the nutrient value of all fresh fruits and vegetables.

(c) If the review in subsection (b) recommends that a fresh fruit or vegetable shall be eligible for purchase under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, none of the funds made available under this or any other subsequent Act may be used to exclude or restrict the eligibility of that variety of fresh fruit or vegetable, except for a fruit or vegetable with added sugars, fats, or oils, from being provided under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

(d) If the review in subsection (b) recommends that any fresh fruit or vegetable shall not be available for purchase under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, subsection (a) shall expire upon the publication of the regularly scheduled review in the Federal Register.

(e) The Secretary shall explain the results of the review conducted under subsection (b) in a report to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and the House Committee on Education and Workforce, and the Committees on Appropriations in both Houses of Congress within 120 days after completion.

SEC. 746. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel—

(1) to inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603);

(2) to inspect horses under section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 104-127); or

(3) to implement or enforce section 352.19 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

SEC. 747. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be used to implement, or to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to implement, any

regulations under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-296), or any other law that would require a reduction in the quantity of sodium contained in federally reimbursed meals and snacks below Target 1 (as described in section 220.8(f)(3) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)) until scientific research supports the reduction for children.

(b)(1) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report that assesses whether there is an acceptable range of whole grain products currently available to allow schools to plan menus that are compliant with the whole grain requirements in effect as of July 1, 2014, as described in section 210.10 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(2) If under paragraph (1), the Secretary determines a whole grain product to be of insufficient quantity or unacceptable quality, the Secretary shall identify alternative products that would be considered to meet the requirements until such time as the Secretary determines that whole grain products are of sufficient quantity and quality.

(c)(1) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report that contains a comprehensive plan to provide enhanced training and technical assistance to schools, school food authorities, and State agencies to meet the requirements of the final rule entitled “Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs” (77 Fed. Reg. 4088; January 26, 2012).

(2) The plan shall include strategies to help schools reduce plate waste and maintain or improve participation in the school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and the school breakfast program established by section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

This Act may be cited as the “Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015”.

SA 3245. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Alternative Fuel Vehicle Development Act”.

(b) **ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES.**—

(1) **MAXIMUM FUEL ECONOMY INCREASE FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.**—Section 32906(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “(except an electric automobile)” and inserting “(except an electric automobile or, beginning with model year 2016, an alternative fueled automobile that does not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 32901(a)(1))”.

(2) **MINIMUM DRIVING RANGES FOR DUAL FUELED PASSENGER AUTOMOBILES.**—Section

32901(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, except that beginning with model year 2016, alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (a)(1) shall have a minimum driving range of 150 miles” after “at least 200 miles”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by adding at the end the following: “Beginning with model year 2016, if the Secretary prescribes a minimum driving range of 150 miles for alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (a)(1), subparagraph (A) shall not apply to dual fueled automobiles (except electric automobiles).”.

(3) **MANUFACTURING PROVISION FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.**—Section 32905(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(B) by striking “For any model” and inserting the following:

“(1) **MODEL YEARS 1993 THROUGH 2015.**—For any model”;

(C) in paragraph (1), as redesignated, by striking “2019” and inserting “2015”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **MODEL YEARS AFTER 2015.**—For any model of gaseous fuel dual fueled automobile manufactured by a manufacturer after model year 2015, the Administrator shall calculate fuel economy as a weighted harmonic average of the fuel economy on gaseous fuel as measured under subsection (c) and the fuel economy on gasoline or diesel fuel as measured under section 32904(c). The Administrator shall apply the utility factors set forth in the table under section 600.510-12(c)(2)(vii)(A) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

“(3) **MODEL YEARS AFTER 2016.**—Beginning with model year 2017, the manufacturer may elect to utilize the utility factors set forth under subsection (e)(1) for the purposes of calculating fuel economy under paragraph (2).”.

(4) **ELECTRIC DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.**—Section 32905 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) **ELECTRIC DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—At the request of the manufacturer, the Administrator may measure the fuel economy for any model of dual fueled automobile manufactured after model year 2015 that is capable of operating on electricity in addition to gasoline or diesel fuel, obtains its electricity from a source external to the vehicle, and meets the minimum driving range requirements established by the Secretary for dual fueled electric automobiles, by dividing 1.0 by the sum of—

“(A) the percentage utilization of the model on gasoline or diesel fuel, as determined by a formula based on the model’s alternative fuel range, divided by the fuel economy measured under section 32904(c); and

“(B) the percentage utilization of the model on electricity, as determined by a formula based on the model’s alternative fuel range, divided by the fuel economy measured under section 32904(a)(2).”.

“(2) **ALTERNATIVE UTILIZATION.**—The Administrator may adapt the utility factor established under paragraph (1) for alternative

fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 32901(a)(1).

“(3) ALTERNATIVE CALCULATION.—If the manufacturer does not request that the Administrator calculate the manufacturing incentive for its electric dual fueled automobiles in accordance with paragraph (1), the Administrator shall calculate such incentive for such automobiles manufactured by such manufacturer after model year 2015 in accordance with subsection (b).”

(5) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 32906(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 32905(e)” and inserting “section 32905(f)”.

(c) HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE FACILITIES.—Section 166 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (b)(5), by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) INHERENTLY LOW-EMISSION VEHICLES.—If a State agency establishes procedures for enforcing the restrictions on the use of a HOV facility by vehicles listed in clauses (i) and (ii), the State agency may allow the use of the HOV facility by—

“(i) alternative fuel vehicles; and
“(ii) new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles (as defined in section 30D(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).”; and

(2) in subparagraph (f)(1), by inserting “solely” before “operating”.

(d) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, after consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) describes options to incentivize the development of public compressed natural gas fueling stations; and

(2) analyzes a variety of possible financing tools, which could include—

- (A) Federal grants and credit assistance;
- (B) public-private partnerships; and
- (C) membership-based cooperatives.

SA 3246. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 18, line 6, strike “\$56,000,000” and insert “\$55,000,000”.

On page 23, line 16, strike “\$115,000,000” and insert “\$110,000,000”.

On page 45, line 20, strike “\$1,149,500,000” and insert “\$1,155,500,000”.

On page 50, line 15, strike “\$6,000,000” and insert “\$12,000,000”.

SA 3247. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 387, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 7. Not later than March 15, 2015, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Risk Management Agency, shall submit to the Committees on Agriculture and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and Appropriations of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) an evaluation conducted on a national and regional basis, including regions that predominantly produce specialty crops as compared to regions that predominantly produce agricultural commodities, of the costs of delivery for the Federal crop insurance program; and

(2) an assessment of how those costs relate to administrative and operating expense payments made to approved insurance providers as of the date of the report.

SA 3248. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title I of division _____, insert after section 119F the following:

SEC. 119G. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this title may be obligated or expended to implement a final rule to allow for civil operation of small unmanned aircraft systems in the national airspace system under section 332(b)(1) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-95; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note) unless—

(1) the final rule includes procedures to ensure that—

(A) the integration of unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system is done in compliance with the privacy principles; and

(B) a certificate, license, or other grant of authority to operate an unmanned aircraft system in the national airspace system will not be approved, issued, or awarded unless the application for the certificate, licenses, or other grant of authority includes—

(i) a data collection statement described in subsection (b) that provides reasonable assurance that the applicant will operate the unmanned aircraft system in accordance with the privacy principles; and

(ii) in the case of such an unmanned aircraft system that is to be operated by a law enforcement agency or a law enforcement agency contractor or subcontractor, a data minimization statement described in subsection (c) that provides reasonable assurance that the applicant will operate the unmanned aircraft system in accordance with the privacy principles; and

(2) the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration makes available on the public Internet website of the Federal Aviation Administration in a searchable format—

(A) the approved certificate, license, or other grant of authority for each unmanned aircraft system awarded a certificate, license, or other grant of authority to operate in the national airspace system, including any such certificate, license, or other grant of authority awarded before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(B) information detailing where, when, and for what period each unmanned aircraft system will be operated; and

(C) information detailing any data security breach that occurs with regard to information collected by an unmanned aircraft system.

(b) A data collection statement described in this subsection is a statement that includes, with respect to an unmanned aircraft system, information identifying—

(1) the individuals or entities that will have the power to use the unmanned aircraft system;

(2) the specific locations in which the unmanned aircraft system will operate;

(3) the maximum period for which the unmanned aircraft system will operate in each flight;

(4) whether the unmanned aircraft system will collect information or data about individuals or groups of individuals, and if so—

(A) the circumstances under which the system will be used; and

(B) the specific kinds of information or data the system will collect about individuals or groups of individuals and how such information or data, as well as conclusions drawn from such information or data, will be used, disclosed, and otherwise handled, including—

(i) how the collection or retention of such information or data that is unrelated to the specified use will be minimized;

(ii) whether such information or data might be sold, leased, or otherwise provided to third parties, and if so, under what circumstances it might be so sold or leased;

(iii) the period for which such information or data will be retained; and

(iv) when and how such information or data, including information or data no longer relevant to the specified use, will be destroyed;

(5) the possible impact the operation of the unmanned aircraft system may have upon the privacy of individuals;

(6) the specific steps that will be taken to mitigate any possible impact identified under paragraph (5), including steps to protect against unauthorized disclosure of any information or data described in paragraph (4), such as the use of encryption methods and other security features that will be used;

(7) a telephone number or electronic mail address that an individual with complaints about the operation of the unmanned aircraft system may use to report such complaints and to request confirmation that personally identifiable data relating to such individual has been collected;

(8) in a case in which personally identifiable data relating to an individual has been collected, a reasonable process for the individual to request to obtain such data in a timely and an intelligible manner;

(9) in a case in which a request described in paragraph (8) is denied, a process by which the individual may obtain the reasons for the denial and challenge the denial; and

(10) in a case in which personally identifiable data relating to an individual has been collected, a process by which the individual may challenge the accuracy of such data and, if the challenge is successful, have such data erased or amended.

(c) A data minimization statement described in this subsection is a statement that details, with respect to an unmanned aircraft system operated by a law enforcement agency, contractor, or subcontractor described in subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii), the applicable—

(1) policies adopted by the agency, contractor, or subcontractor, as the case may be, that—

(A) minimize the collection by the unmanned aircraft system of information and

data unrelated to the investigation of a crime under a warrant;

(B) require the destruction of such information and data, as well as of information and data collected by the unmanned aircraft system that is no longer relevant to the investigation of a crime under a warrant or to an ongoing criminal proceeding; and

(C) establish procedures for the method of such destruction; and

(2) audit and oversight procedures adopted by the agency, contractor, or subcontractor, as the case may be, that will ensure that the agency, contractor, or subcontractor, as the case may be, uses the unmanned aircraft system in accordance with the parameters outlined in the data collection statement and the statement required by this subsection.

(d) In this section, the term "privacy principles" means the principles described in Part Two of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development guidelines entitled "Annex to the Recommendation of the Council of 23rd September 1980: Guidelines Governing The Protection Of Privacy And Transborder Flows Of Personal Data", adopted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development on September 23, 1980.

SA 3249. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) The number of public housing agencies authorized to participate in the Moving-to-Work demonstration program authorized under section 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104-134; 42 U.S.C. 1437f note; 110 Stat. 1321) is increased by 10 over the number of agencies authorized to participate in such program as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) A public housing agency may be selected for participation pursuant to subsection (a) in the demonstration program referred to in such subsection only if the agency administrators, in the aggregate, 8,500 or more public housing dwelling units and housing choice vouchers under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)).

(c) A public housing agency selected for participation pursuant to subsection (a) in the demonstration program referred to in such subsection shall not be provided any funding under section 8 or 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f, 1437g) in addition to the funding that such agency otherwise would receive absent such participation.

(d) (1) In addition to other reporting requirements, each public housing agency participating in the demonstration program referred to in subsection (a) (whether pursuant to such subsection or otherwise) shall report financial data to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to ensure the effects of policy changes in the demonstration program carried out by each agency can be measured.

(2) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall specify how each public housing agency shall report financial data under paragraph (1).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 17, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SR-328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Grow it Here, Make it Here: Creating Jobs through Bio Based Manufacturing."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 17, 2014, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 17, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, "Protecting Consumers from False and Deceptive Advertising of Weight-Loss Products".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 17, 2014, at 3 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 17, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Conflicts of Interest, Investor Loss of Confidence, and High Speed Trading in U.S. Stock Markets."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 17, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sub-

committee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 17, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House to accompany S. 1254.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate a message from the House as follows:

S. 1254

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1254) entitled "An Act to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.", do pass with an amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO THE HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 1451 note).

Mr. REID. I move to concur in the House amendment and ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICAN EAGLE DAY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 477, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 477) designating June 20, 2014, as "American Eagle Day", and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 477) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE
18, 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4660, postcloture; and that all time during adjournment count postcloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4660.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, we hope to begin consideration of the appropriations bill during tomorrow's session. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:55 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 18, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. JOHN F. CAMPBELL

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 17, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PETER JOSEPH KADZIK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

THE JUDICIARY

SALVADOR MENDOZA, JR., OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.

STACI MICHELLE YANDLE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

DARRIN P. GAYLES, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on June 16, 2014 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COLONEL ROBERT W. STANLEY II, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 7, 2014.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Tuesday, June 17, 2014*

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 17, 2014.

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

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

USING WINNING FORMULA OF SAN ANTONIO SPURS ON AMERICA'S PROBLEMS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, like many Americans, I was transfixed by the magnificent victory not just in game five of the NBA finals, but by every one of these amazing games, a superb effort against a very good Miami Heat team, dominated by a person widely acknowledged to be the best player in the NBA.

As a lifelong Portland Trail Blazers fan and one who remembers the excitement of being a long-suffering season ticketholder who had the joy of being in our coliseum when we won the NBA championship more years ago than I care to remember, I appreciate the dynamic that is involved with these five NBA championships over the last 17 years.

I confess, I have also become a fan of the Spurs, their organization, their coach—Greg Popovich—but also their approach to the way they do business. They have some important lessons for America.

I feel very strongly that we on Capitol Hill and, indeed, most Americans could learn a great deal by paying attention not just to the victories, but how the Spurs became the most successful sports franchise in any sport over the last 2 decades.

My son was privileged to play for Coach Popovich when he was head coach of the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens, a Division III small basketball program. In fact, they had to put two colleges together, Pomona and Pitzer, to form one team. His values forged a small but excellent college athletic program that is very much in evidence in the Spurs today.

First, they look for talent wherever they find it around the globe. It meant players not just from the United States, but I think there are eight different countries represented on that roster.

There is a respect for each of them having a role as a team member, their commitment to the larger concept of winning for the greater good. Isn't it interesting that their postgame interviews are in six or seven different languages and that these players have been able to come together and meld into a unit?

The leadership of the coach is very much in evidence when you watch them in action. Coach Popovich is not a celebrity vying for the spotlight. Indeed, you could barely see him in the postgame victory television interviews. It was focused on the team.

Today, Americans are facing challenges that they sometimes feel are beyond our capacity. They are certainly beyond our capacity as individuals to deal with. We are facing a challenge that is similar to the rigors of a long, 82-game basketball season and a seemingly interminable playoff schedule.

Our challenges of reducing gun violence, of saving the planet from even greater carbon pollution and disruption from global warming, empowering our kids to protect them from the scourge of illegal drugs, rebuilding and renewing a country that is falling apart, these are challenges today that actually we know how to fix. They are all areas where progress is vital.

They seem to be intractable, but all could unite Americans to deal as a country on things that, individually, we could not make progress on. These all have characteristics in common with the success of Coach Popovich and the Spurs. These are long-term issues. They require careful thought. They require hard work and investment, and

most of all, they require working together with an eye on our ultimate goals.

I would hope that, in the midst of the partisan rancor here in Washington, D.C., and the deep divisions among our citizens who yearn for simple answers to complex problems—which politicians are all too eager to provide—that we can think about the Spurs' success, a visionary and patient coach bringing people together to work with maximum effort, dealing with the fundamentals, and not quitting. That is what America needs today.

Congratulations to the world champion Spurs. Let's try your winning formula on America's problems.

IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS

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

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, the Foreign Affairs Committee heard last week about the tremendous challenges that remain in order to verify Iran's compliance with any possible final nuclear agreement.

Should a deal be reached, the most stringent compliance, verification, and notification standards must be in place, including regular reporting to Congress. As I have said many times on this floor, I firmly believe Iran has no inherent right to enrich any nuclear material and that any deal should completely dismantle their nuclear infrastructure.

A potential agreement would likely be hailed by this administration—an administration that puts politics before policy—as a foreign policy victory, which leads to an important question: Can this administration be trusted to uphold any compliance regime and fully inform Congress and the American people of even the smallest infraction by the regime in Tehran?

If Iran commits even the smallest infraction, such as installing one centrifuge above the deal's limits, will this administration blow the whistle and jeopardize a deal in which they have invested so much political capital?

This administration has shown, most recently with their Taliban prisoner swap, that they have no problem flaunting their responsibility to timely inform and consult Congress of their actions, but with a deal like the Iranian nuclear negotiation that has far-reaching national security implications, this administration must not

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

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

leave the people's Representatives in the dark.

ISSUES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to address issues in the Middle East. The President has been criticized for the fact that we do not have a large residual force in Iraq and that we do not have a status of forces agreement with the Iraqi Government.

Let us take note that it was President George Bush who installed Prime Minister Maliki in May of 2006. President George Bush's decision to allow Maliki to take power and to allow him to keep power is directly responsible for most of the woes facing Iraq today.

Maliki was so malevolent that, throughout 2006, 2007, and 2008, he refused to enter into a long-term status of forces agreement with the United States and with President Bush. He insisted that any troops that remained in Iraq after 2011 would be subject to Iraqi kangaroo courts and could be executed on trumped-up charges. Obviously, we couldn't leave our troops in Iraq under those circumstances.

It is Maliki that is the source of the problem, and it is President Bush that is the source of Maliki. To say that President Obama should be able to negotiate a long-term agreement with Maliki when President Bush was unable to do so is utterly absurd.

As to Sergeant Bergdahl, it is important for us to note that, while we have just released five prisoners from Guantanamo, President Bush released over 500 from Guantanamo, and virtually all of them were dangerous.

Over 100 of them are on the battlefield—and we know where on the battlefield they are—waging war against the United States and its allies. Most of the other 500 are also waging war against us; it is just that our intelligence isn't good enough to say exactly where on the battlefield they are located.

What did President Bush get for the release, not of five, but 500 dangerous prisoners from Guantanamo? Nothing, except a thank you from their native governments.

Now, on legal issues, we are told that section 1035 of the National Defense Authorization Act required President Obama not to release the five prisoners until 30 days after he notified Congress.

Even if he had followed those exact words, instead of releasing the five a few hours after Sergeant Bergdahl was in our hands, we would have released them a few weeks after Sergeant Bergdahl was back in our hands, hardly of great significance.

More importantly, the President has the constitutional right, as Com-

mander in Chief, to engage in prisoner exchanges. In fact, the last Republican Attorney General of the United States, Michael Mukasey, said that very thing just recently.

The President was on firm legal ground in deciding he had the authority to take this action without a 30-day notification of Congress. That being said, it would have been preferable if President Obama had, in fact, discussed the matter with key congressional leaders.

America is strongest when the President views Congress as a source of counsel, a source of advice, rather than a group of enemies to be notified only when such notification is explicitly compelled by congressionally valid statutes.

Whether this deal is a good deal, time will tell. It was a judgment call, but the President could have benefited from the counsel of Congress. It is particularly insulting for some to say that Congress is not a source of counsel, but just a source of leaks.

Keep in mind that 16 congressional leaders knew that we had ascertained the hiding place of Osama bin Laden, and that information did not leak from Congress.

I hope, in the future, President Obama and future Presidents consult key Members of Congress when making a difficult decision.

We are told that we don't negotiate with terrorists. Nothing could be further from the truth. President Bush negotiated with each and every terrorist regime, each and every identified state sponsor of terrorism—Cuba, Iran, Sudan, Syria, North Korea.

The Bush administration paid a ransom to an al Qaeda affiliate for the release of Martin and Gracia Burnham. Secretary Colin Powell designated the Afghan Taliban as an organization authorized for legal negotiations.

Now, it is also said that a prisoner exchange alerts our enemies to the fact that we value our prisoners, that we will not want to leave anyone on the battlefield, as if this is news disclosed to the world in June of 2014. The fact is we have always valued those detained by the enemy, and the enemy has always known that.

SAN ANTONIO SPURS SET GREAT EXAMPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEG0) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEG0. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take note not only of a wonderful victory, but of a great example. The most popular NBA team in the 23rd District and one of the most popular NBA teams in the entire country, the San Antonio Spurs, are now the NBA champions, for the fifth time—the drive for five.

There are some interesting things that Congress and the American people

can learn from the Spurs. It is the most culturally diverse team in the NBA. In addition to Americans, there are folks from Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Italy, and Australia.

Tim Duncan, who has spent his entire career with the San Antonio Spurs, started out playing basketball in the ninth grade, after he was not able to swim anymore because the swimming pool he used in the Virgin Islands was destroyed.

□ 1215

None of the players are among the highest paid in the league. In fact, Tony Parker is the highest paid player and he ranked number 37 in the NBA. Five championships, some heartbreakingly close calls. In fact, last year they lost in the very last minute, but they never gave up. They continued working. They came back, and this year they won it all.

The Spurs have the greatest coach in the NBA. Coach Popovich has been in San Antonio since 1996. He is the longest-tenured active coach in all Big Four sports leagues, and he has the most consecutive winning seasons, including playoffs, of any coach in the NBA—17.

The Spurs have so much they can share. Their cultural diversity is their strength. They won because they played together and they played as a team. They trusted each other. They worked together. They didn't care who got the credit. One second you would be watching Tony Parker on a drive, the next second somebody else had the ball, and the next second they scored.

All of these examples of working together, teamwork, understanding, and knowing that cultural diversity is a strength, all of these things, that drive and that determination, that practice every day, day in and day out, all of those things are examples that are well-suited to those of us who serve in Congress and well-suited to the American public at large. Never give up; never quit. That patchwork quilt of a basketball team is the same mosaic that represents all of America.

And you know what? They weren't arrogant. They weren't hardcore. They come across just as they are, as humble, decent, good-hearted human beings. They are clearly the 23rd District's favorite basketball team. In fact, I have the privilege of representing several of them who live in the 23rd District. I think the more that America gets to know them, they will soon be America's most popular basketball team.

Congratulations to each and every member of the NBA champs, the San Antonio Spurs, their coaches, their staff, their owners, and congratulations to each and every one of their fans.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of grace and goodness, thank You for giving us another day.

Your divine wisdom and power are abundantly sufficient for our many needs. Endow the Members of this assembly with a loyalty that never wavers and a courage that never falters as they seek to fulfill the high and holy mission which You have entrusted to them.

May it be their purpose, and all of ours, to see to the hopes of so many Americans that we authenticate the grandeur and glory of the ideals and principles of our democracy with the work we do.

As the House returns from visits to their respective districts, may we all be mindful of and thankful for our fathers, or the men who were father figures for us, whose love and support enabled us to mature and become productive members of our American society.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WELCH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

COMMON GROUND ON STUDENT LOAN REFORM

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, President Obama recently announced some changes to student loan repayment programs. Keeping with the pattern of his administration, he has chosen to impose those changes via the regulatory process.

For a while now, President Obama has been fond of saying he has a "pen and a phone" that he will use to codify his version of hope and change. Perhaps the pen is sufficient, but the regulatory process will take 18 months. The House is reauthorizing the Higher Education Act.

Working together, student loan reforms could be considered passed and implemented much sooner if only President Obama would pick up the phone, talk with Members of Congress, and find common ground; but that takes effort, and the President does not seem inclined to call.

Mr. Speaker, it seems this President has become so addicted to the pen that he no longer knows how to pick up the telephone.

INACTION LEADS TO NEW ATTACKS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Islamic terrorists seize control of major Iraqi cities, it is clear that the President's failure to secure a status of forces agreement has jeopardized the progress our military made to promote democracy and peace in the region.

We have known for years that the Iraqi Government was struggling to implement democracy. Instead of offering help, the President ignored lessons learned of successfully maintaining peace with an American reserve of air defense, as we have done in Germany, Japan, Korea, and now in Kosovo.

Even now, as the Middle East watches to see how the United States will react to the current crisis, the President is putting our families at risk as he negotiates with terrorists and communicates with Israel's enemies.

The President needs to change course, recognize the growing threat of international terrorism, and understand that failed diplomacy and inaction allows the creation of safe havens to attack us again.

Peace can only be maintained by strength as the terrorists proclaim: Death to America, and death to Israel. They mean it.

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

THE VAPORIZING OF TWO YEARS OF IRS EMAILS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, crisis: IRS emails have vaporized.

Where, oh, where have the emails gone? Where, oh, where can they be? In another Friday evening news dump, the administration announced that 2 years of Lois Lerner's emails have vanished. Poof, gone.

That is not all. Today, we learned that the emails of six other prominent IRS officials involved in targeting conservatives have disappeared. Poof, gone. Isn't that an oddly convenient disappearance?

Have they gone to the same place the missing 18 minutes of Nixon's Watergate tapes went? The IRS blames the well-timed fiasco on a computer glitch.

Mr. Speaker, what do you suppose would happen if the IRS came to a citizen's home to audit their taxes and the citizen said, sorry, the records were lost in a computer crash? The tax collector would laugh.

It is time for a special prosecutor to investigate the IRS and find out where, oh, where have those emails gone. This yarn by the IRS requires a willing suspension of disbelief. Mr. Speaker, that dog just won't hunt.

And that's just the way it is.

HAMAS KIDNAPPINGS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to a serious and heartbreaking situation in Israel, the kidnapping of three teenage boys—Gilad Shaar; Eyal Yifrach; and Naftali Frenkel, who is a dual Israeli-American citizen.

They were last seen near the West Bank city of Hebron, and it is strongly believed that Hamas is responsible for their abduction. My prayers go out to their families and for their safe return.

Secretary Kerry has called this a despicable act of terrorism and has offered America's full support. We must stand behind Israel's efforts to bring them home and hold accountable those involved.

However, this act of terrorism further demonstrates why America should not be providing foreign aid for the unity government between Hamas and Fatah. Secretary Kerry reiterated America's position that Hamas is a terrorist organization.

It is clear American tax dollars are not being used to promote peace. It is time to stop funding terrorism aimed at one of America's closest allies.

CONGRATULATING SAN ANTONIO SPURS ON NBA CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the San Antonio Spurs on winning the 2014 NBA championship over the Miami Heat. This is the fifth NBA championship for the Spurs under Coach Greg Popovich. Coach Popovich was also named this season's NBA Coach of the Year.

The entire Spurs team, led by captains Tim Duncan and Tony Parker, played with determination to bring the championship trophy back to San Antonio. The Spurs also clinched the best record in the NBA this season with 26 wins and 20 losses.

Also, congratulations to Kawhi Leonard, who was named the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player. Leonard averaged over 17 points and six rebounds in the championship series, with three consecutive 20-point performances.

Leonard also had the help of the Spurs "Big 3," made up of Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, and Tony Parker. The "Big 3" now has the most playoff wins of any trio in NBA history.

A well-deserved congratulations to the Spurs for bringing the trophy back to the Alamo City. As we say in San Antonio: Go, Spurs, go.

AMERICA DOES NOT HAVE SOLUTION FOR EVERY WORLD PROBLEM

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy said in a famous speech at the University of Washington in 1961:

With only 6 percent of the world's population, we cannot correct every adversity or right every wrong and that, therefore, there cannot be an American solution for every problem.

Today, we are less than 4 percent of the world's population, and we have a national debt of a mind-boggling \$17.6 trillion. We simply cannot keep sending megabillions to corrupt governments all over the world.

We should have trade and tourism with other countries, cultural and educational exchanges, and, of course, diplomatic relations; but the people in Iraq and Afghanistan are going to have to solve most of their problems themselves. We cannot do everything for them and still do what we should do for our own country and own people.

Let me repeat those words of President Kennedy:

There cannot be an American solution for every world problem.

This is not isolationism, Mr. Speaker. It is common sense.

CONGRATULATING DR. ED HIGHTOWER ON HIS UPCOMING RETIREMENT

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Ed Hightower on his upcoming retirement.

Many of you may know Dr. Hightower from his time as a college basketball referee, working 12 NCAA Final Fours and countless games for the Big Ten and the Big East. He was also named the Men's College Basketball Official of the Year in 1992, and he was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1998.

Off the court, Dr. Hightower is a true community leader and a public servant. Ed Hightower has been an educator for 40 years, serving as a teacher, a principal, and an administrator. He has received three degrees from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a doctorate from St. Louis University.

In 1996, he was hired as the first African American superintendent in Edwardsville school district history, a job that he is wrapping up at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

On Dr. Hightower's watch, the Edwardsville school district saw incredible growth, doubling in population, requiring a new high school, a second middle school and other buildings, and weathered the same economic crisis that challenged all local school districts.

Thank you for your decades of service to our students, Dr. Hightower. Thank you for your leadership and your ability to always put the education of our children first in all of your decisions.

Enjoy your final year as superintendent, and good luck in your retirement.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

RECORD votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

OFFICER TOMMY DECKER MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 43) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Red River Avenue North in Cold

Spring, Minnesota, as the "Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 43

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

SECTION 1. OFFICER TOMMY DECKER MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Red River Avenue North in Cold Spring, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the "Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 43, introduced by the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN), to designate the postal facility located at 14 Red River Avenue North in Cold Spring, Minnesota, as the Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office.

Officer Decker served for 6 years with distinction as a member of the Cold Spring, Minnesota, police department.

On November 29, 2012, at just 31 years of age, he was tragically killed while trying to prevent a suicide.

□ 1415

He is survived by his wife, Alicia, and their children.

It is clear that Officer Decker touched many lives during his career. He received numerous awards and commendations for his hard work on the police force. At his memorial service, more than 3,000 police officers, friends, and members of the community gathered to honor his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Tommy Decker made the ultimate sacrifice by trying to help and protect the residents of Cold Spring. He is a true American hero. It is my honor to ask my colleagues to support H.R. 43.

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, we support this. I am delighted to be here on an important afternoon to commemorate the lives of great Americans with these postal namings, which I hope we can do on a bipartisan basis.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN), my distinguished colleague.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and also a great deal of emotion that I stand here today as the representative of the citizens of Cold Spring. In particular, we are here to honor the memory of the fallen, and that is Officer Tommy Decker.

On November 29, 2012, Cold Spring, Minnesota, Police Officer Tommy Decker was tragically killed in the line of duty. He is survived by his wife, Alicia, a wonderful woman who loved him dearly and whom Tommy dearly loved; his four young children, beautiful children, Kelly, Jade, Justin, and Devon; his parents, John and Rosella, pillars in the community of Cold Spring, who did a wonderful job raising their son and who Tommy's mother spoke to just briefly before he went on call for his final end of watch; and his siblings, his colleagues, and the community who dearly loved Tommy Decker.

Before his final act of service to the community that he loved, Tommy served the communities of Isle, Watkins, Kimball, and the Cold Spring/Richmond Police Department. He received several commendations and letters of appreciation for his exemplary work.

How he died is testament to how much Tommy Decker loved his hometown of Cold Spring and the kind of man of character that Tommy Decker was. For a decade, he bravely stood watch. He protected the citizens of central Minnesota with both diligence and a sense of respect.

The overwhelming outpouring of love and support, not only from the Cold Spring community but all Minnesotans in the wake of this unspeakable tragedy, speaks to the impact that Tommy had on countless lives.

While there are no words that could ever properly honor him, renaming his hometown post office in his memory so that his children, his parents, his wife, his siblings, his colleagues can all point to this memorial with pride and say to their friends, my father, our son, my husband, our brother, our citizen was a hero in our community—he sacrificially gave of his life to our community—therefore, Mr. Speaker, is a fitting tribute to a life well lived and to a man greatly missed.

As the Holy Scriptures teach us, Mr. Speaker, greater love hath no man than this, but that he laid down his life for his friends. Surely, this is what

Tommy Decker did for the citizens of Cold Spring.

I join the entire Minnesota House delegation in urging our colleagues to support H.R. 43, to rename the post office in Cold Spring, Minnesota, in honor of him the Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office.

Though Tommy is no longer with us, his legacy and example of courage and compassion lives on.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, at this point we have no one else to speak on this particular bill, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 43.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA B. MCDANIELS AND VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1391) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Joshua B. McDaniels and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1391

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

SECTION 1. LONDON FALLEN VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the "London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1391, introduced by Representative STIVERS of Ohio and which would designate the postal facility located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office. Our Nation's veterans have served our country and many have made the ultimate sacrifice for our defense and our freedom.

Three years ago, a young marine from Mr. STIVERS' district, Corporal Joshua McDaniels, was tragically killed while conducting combat operations in Helmand province in Afghanistan on June 12, 2011. A native of Dublin, Ohio, he was assigned to the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He was only 21 years old.

Men and women like Corporal McDaniels put their lives on the line every day so that we can enjoy the privileges of living in the United States of America. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should thank and honor them, their families, and all the members of the Armed Forces across this great country. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand before this body and pay tribute to Corporal McDaniels and all the brave men and women of our armed services.

Once again, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1391, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) for bringing this to the House floor for consideration.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS).

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his help and the gentleman from Vermont for his support of H.R. 1391. It is a bill that will rename the post office in London, Ohio, the London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office.

This has been an interesting journey. It started a few years ago when I found out about the tragic death of Lance Corporal Joshua McDaniels who had served in the Marines, and we started a bill that would have named the post office after him. Then I heard from some of our Vietnam veterans—17 were

killed from London High School in the Vietnam war—and they made the point very strongly and loudly that nothing had ever been named for any of them. While we can never go back and fix the inappropriate way that many of our Vietnam veterans were treated, I thought it was important to move forward in a way that honored their sacrifice as well as Joshua McDaniels' sacrifice and many other individuals from London and Madison County.

Throughout history, citizens from London and Madison County have fought bravely to defend our Nation and defend our freedoms. Unfortunately, many of them have made the ultimate sacrifice, and I would like to read a few of the names here today of the most recent casualties in the wars we are in in Afghanistan and Iraq, or have been in.

First, of course, Marine Lance Corporal Joshua McDaniels; second, Army Corporal Kevin Prince; Army Specialist Jason Lucas; Army Specialist Robert Swaney; and Army Chief Warrant Officer Matthew Ruffner. These are just the most recent members from that community to pay the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

This bill was a small step to honor the memory of all those in Madison County who have made the ultimate sacrifice, our fallen heroes, including the 17 who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam war.

Again, while none of us can go back and correct the way that our Vietnam veterans have been treated, I think it is, today, an opportunity for us to recognize those 17 as well as all past and future fallen heroes who have paid the ultimate sacrifice by renaming the London Post Office the Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office.

I want to thank my constituent Mary Henry who came up with the idea for this name. I want to make sure that we always remember the sacrifices of our brave men and women. I think this post office in London, Ohio, can stand as a tribute to all of our past fallen veterans and the future veterans who will pay the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedoms.

Thank you again to the gentleman from North Carolina and the gentleman from Vermont. I want to thank Chairman ISSA as well for allowing this bill to come to the floor and his support.

I would urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1391 to rename the London Post Office the London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of this postal renaming, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the gentleman from Ohio for his leadership on this particular issue, and specifically with regards to our Vietnam veterans. Indeed,

it was a tough time in the service to our country. Many of them never got the welcome home that they deserved when they came back. On behalf of my esteemed colleagues here today and the gentleman from Ohio, I would like to officially tell them, "Welcome home."

With that, I would urge the Members to support this bill and vote unanimously, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1391, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the 'London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMES R. BURGESS JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1707) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the "James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1707

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

SECTION 1. JAMES R. BURGESS JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to urge support of H.R. 1707, introduced by Representative DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, which would designate the postal facility located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building.

Mr. Burgess was born on December 19, 1915, in Algood, Tennessee, and served more than 20 years in the Army, playing a critical role as a leader of the 761st Tank Battalion and the first African-American armored unit to enter the battle in World War II.

At age 29, Mr. Burgess was a first lieutenant in command of one of the six companies who served under General George Patton in Europe

□ 1430

Upon his retirement from the U.S. Army, he had reached the rank of major. He passed away in 1997.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Burgess was a trailblazer, a leader, and an American hero. Naming a postal facility in his honor is the least we can do to memorialize his service to our country.

I urge the support of H.R. 1707, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing from Mr. DAVIS as he recounts the extraordinary life, service, and contributions of Mr. Burgess. We fully support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from North Carolina and also my colleague from Vermont for their support of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James R. Burgess Jr. My bill, H.R. 1707, will designate the post office located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building.

Mr. Burgess served more than 20 years in the Army, playing a critical role in a largely unknown part of American military history. He was a leader of the 761st Tank Battalion, which was the first African American armored unit to enter battle in World War II. At the age of 29, Mr. Burgess was a first lieutenant in command of one of the six companies who served under General George Patton in Europe, and upon his retirement from the U.S. Army, Mr. Burgess had reached the rank of major.

After leaving the service in 1962, Mr. Burgess moved his wife and two sons to Champaign, Illinois, so he could attend law school at the University of Illinois, where he graduated 3 years later as the only African American in his class. Mr.

Burgess was elected Champaign County State's attorney in 1972 and is still the only African American to be elected to a countywide office in Champaign County. Later, he was appointed as a U.S. attorney for a large section of downstate Illinois.

Since Mr. Burgess' passing in 1997, many of my constituents in the 13th District, and especially his son Steve have been looking for a way to commemorate the achievements of his life.

Two years ago, Steve approached me seeking my help to honor the life and legacy of his father. It has taken a lot of time and a lot of work. While I am proud that we are finally to this point, Mr. Speaker, I also have a heavy heart.

Last November, Steve Burgess passed away suddenly. Steve worked tirelessly over the years to get this project to the finish line, and it is truly heart-breaking that he won't be able to see it completed.

Naming this building after Mr. James R. Burgess is but a small token of our gratitude for his service and an honor for his son, my friend, Steve Burgess.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, the emotion and heart of my colleague, Mr. DAVIS, is evident today on this House floor. Far too often things are done here in a nonpersonal way. But I can tell you for Mr. DAVIS this is personal, and it is a great honor that I support him in H.R. 1707. I also encourage all the Members to support the passage of this bill.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1707.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SERGEANT BRETT E. GORNEWICZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3472) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3472

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

SECTION 1. SERGEANT BRETT E. GORNEWICZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127

Broadway Street in Alden, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 3472, introduced by Representative COLLINS of New York, which would designate the postal facility located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office.

Army Sergeant Brett Gornewicz was killed on November 3, 2012, in Paktia province, Afghanistan, when an improvised explosive device detonated nearby. He was killed in the same incident as Specialist Ryan Jayne—whom we are also honoring here today—and Staff Sergeant Dain Taylor Venne, another upstate New Yorker for whom the Oversight and Government Reform Committee has reported a postal-naming bill.

A native of Alden, New York, Sergeant Gornewicz was born in Buffalo on January 6, 1985. After graduating from Alden High School, he earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Buffalo State College.

Sergeant Gornewicz was a man of great humility. So great, in fact, that prior to his death, his family did not know that he had been awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for saving a life during a firefight earlier that year. He was a brave man, serving a tour in Iraq in addition to his deployment to Afghanistan, and performing the highly dangerous job of clearing roadsides of IEDs. Mr. Speaker, his example of courage and strength of character is one that we should strive to follow.

Sergeant Brett Gornewicz is rightly remembered as a hero. At only 27 years old, he made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3472, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3472, which would designate the United States postal facility located in Alden, New York, as the Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office.

Once again, we are hearing a story of an extraordinary American, and all of us are proud to be associated with memorializing that.

I reserve the balance of my time and look forward to hearing from the sponsor, Mr. COLLINS.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3472, a bill to rename the U.S. post office in Alden, New York, as the Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office.

It is an honor to sponsor legislation naming a post office in my district after a hometown hero who gave his life serving our country.

I also want to take a moment and thank Senator GILLIBRAND and her staff for their work introducing S. 2056, corresponding Senate legislation to rename the post office.

Naming a postal facility honoring Sergeant Gornewicz is just a small token of our country's appreciation for a soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom.

In 2006, after being deeply affected by the attacks of 9/11, Sergeant Gornewicz enlisted in the Army Reserves following graduation from Alden High School. From 2007 to 2008, he deployed to Iraq on his first tour and courageously served our country.

Upon his return home to the United States, Sergeant Gornewicz enrolled at Buffalo State College and obtained his degree in mechanical engineering. He was working as a computer-aided designer and mechanical designer for a Tonawanda, New York, company when he again answered the call of duty, returning to Afghanistan for his second tour.

Sergeant Gornewicz is described by many friends and family as a humble leader who always put the needs of others before his own. During his deployment, he displayed this selflessness when he risked his own life to save a fellow soldier during a firefight. He was awarded a Bronze Star with Valor for his actions.

Tragically, during Sergeant Gornewicz's second tour in 2012, his unit was hit by an IED in Afghanistan. The lives of Specialist Ryan Jayne of Corning, New York; Staff Sergeant Dain T. Venne of Port Henry, New York; and Sergeant Gornewicz were lost. At the time of the attack, Sergeant Gornewicz was assigned to the 444th Engineer Company. The company's primary mission was to clear roads of improvised explosive devices.

Sergeant Gornewicz was proud of the small town he came from: Alden, New York. It is my hope that this post office will allow the people of Alden, and those throughout the 27th District, to continue to honor the memory of Sergeant Gornewicz and ensure that his legacy of service and sacrifice lives on.

Renaming a post office is but a small step in recognizing this soldier's bravery and ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. Passage of this bill will exemplify our admiration for our country's Armed Forces, and will honor one of the many heroes who have sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3472.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his leadership, not just on this, but for those in Alden and throughout his district.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 3472, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I join Mr. MEADOWS in urging all of my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

Just to comment, listening to Mr. COLLINS and to his predecessors—and we are going to have a few more—it is so amazing to think about these people that live in all of our districts, and what they did quietly with no expectation that anyone would notice or a post office would be named.

The thing I find inspiring, as I am listening to my colleagues, is that it is all really rooted in their local community. We are naming post offices, which is the center of activity for a lot of us, to recognize the everyday accomplishments of people who consider themselves to be everyday Americans, but who are quite extraordinary.

So I thank Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. COLLINS, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3472.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THADDEUS STEVENS POST OFFICE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1865) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1865

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

SECTION 1. THADDEUS STEVENS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, shall be known and designated as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to urge support of H.R. 1865, introduced by Representative WELCH, my good friend from Vermont, which would designate the postal facility located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the Thaddeus Stevens Post Office.

Thaddeus Stevens was born in Danville, Vermont, on April 4, 1792. He attended nearby Peacham Academy and went on to study at the University of Vermont and Dartmouth College. After graduating from Dartmouth, Stevens moved to Pennsylvania to study law. He practiced law in Gettysburg and spent 4 years as a member of the Pennsylvania State legislature.

Thaddeus Stevens served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1849 to 1853 and from 1859 until his death in 1868. He is best remembered for being a fierce opponent of slavery and discrimination against African Americans. He was instrumental in the passage of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and fought for African American rights during Reconstruction.

I ask my colleagues to honor the courageous actions and momentous contributions of this great American by voting in favor of H.R. 1865.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1445

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

I thank my colleague, Mr. MEADOWS. You spoke very well and eloquently about how Vermonters are very proud of Thaddeus Stevens. You gave so much of his biography that I am going to just embrace what you said, but I am going to give you one pronuncia-

tion hint: it is Peacham, Vermont. We are going to bring you up there and show you where Thaddeus Stevens was born.

Again, thank you so much for your very gracious remarks about Thaddeus Stevens. We in Vermont are very proud of him, as I think Americans are, for many reasons.

Vermont was the 14th State. We were the first State that banned slavery in its constitution. We were also the first independent republic that had become part of the Union.

Thaddeus Stevens, we would like to think, carried on what was a Vermont conviction about the freedom of men and women, regardless of race. That conviction was to fight against slavery throughout the most tumultuous times of our republic: the years going up to the Civil War, the years during the Civil War, and then the post-Civil War Reconstruction period.

Some of the most important contributions by the United States Congress occurred after the Civil War, with the passage of, among other things, the 14th Amendment. Thaddeus Stevens was a leading proponent of that 14th Amendment that guaranteed due process of law to all of our citizens, regardless of race. This has been extremely important in our Constitution.

Thaddeus Stevens was a self-made person. He went to a local school. He attended Dartmouth and then went to Pennsylvania to make his mark. He becomes a State legislator. He was elected to Congress in one party, but he later changed. He began in the Anti-Masonic Party, later changed to the Whig Party, and then eventually joined the Republican Party.

All the while, he was guided by a conviction that all men and women are created equal. That is the test that each of us faces: How can we bring to life that constitutional commitment that all of us have embraced?

I would like to thank Senator SANDERS for his leadership in working with the Danville community to draft this bill. Senator SANDERS was also a transplant from Brooklyn, New York. He lived in the Danville area. He has been a lifelong admirer of Thaddeus Stevens.

Senator LEAHY, of course, was also a steadfast supporter in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill to acknowledge Thaddeus Stevens' public service and the steadfast dedication that his life represents to the equality of our citizens, regardless of race.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, my apologies to the residents of Peacham, Vermont. I thank my good friend from Vermont.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I urge all Members to support H.R. 1865, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1865.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

—————

NATIONAL CLANDESTINE SERVICE
OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY NCS OFFICER GREGG
DAVID WENZEL MEMORIAL POST
OFFICE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2112) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the “National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2112

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

SECTION 1. NATIONAL CLANDESTINE SERVICE OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY NCS OFFICER GREGG DAVID WENZEL MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, shall be known and designated as the “National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2112, introduced by Representative SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, which would designate the postal facility located at

787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office.

Mr. Wenzel joined the CIA in the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks on his native New York City, driven by a call to serve his country and a purpose greater than himself.

He was tragically killed in a car accident in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on July 9, 2003, leaving behind his parents, Gladys and Mitchell; three sisters and brothers-in-law; and many nieces, nephews, and other family members and friends.

Born in Manhattan, Mr. Wenzel grew up in the Bronx and Monroe, New York, and graduated from Binghamton University and the University of Miami School of Law. Prior to his service in the CIA, Mr. Wenzel was a public defender in Miami and worked for the Florida Bar Association, where he tried supreme court cases. He was also a police academy instructor for the Miami-Dade Community College.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wenzel was a person of remarkable accomplishments. In addition to his successful career, he finished 10 marathons, 3 Ironman competitions, and was a world traveler. He was also affiliated with and volunteered for many organizations.

I ask my colleagues to honor Gregg David Wenzel’s sacrifice and service to his country by voting in favor of H.R. 2112, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 2112, to designate a facility of the United States Postal Service as the National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office.

I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to honor the service and pay tribute to Gregg David Wenzel, a National Clandestine Service officer of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Gregg graduated from Monroe-Woodbury High School in my district and from SUNY Binghamton. He then went on to graduate from the University of Miami School of Law in the mid-nineties.

Choosing a life of public service, he worked as a public defender in Miami before taking a job with the Florida Bar Association. After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Gregg joined the CIA. He was a member of the first post-9/11 class.

Serving in his very first assignment abroad in 2002, at the age of only 33, he lost his life in service to our country in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on July 9, 2003.

The CIA honored Gregg and his service by placing a star on their memorial wall at the CIA headquarters, but it was not until later in 2009 that the full story of his service could be shared publicly.

Gregg Wenzel represents an entire generation who bravely served their country by answering the call to service following the attacks of September 11. He sought a career at the Agency for two reasons: to serve his country and to “live for a greater purpose than himself.” That is a legacy and expression of service that we can all learn from.

Recognized as a leader by CIA Director Leon Panetta and known for his sense of humor and desire to make a difference, Gregg served on the front lines of our intelligence operation abroad and ultimately sacrificed his life in defense of the freedoms we all too frequently take for granted.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to Gregg and his family, including his mother, Gladys; his father, Mitchell; and his sisters, Maura, Rachel, and Heather.

With passage of H.R. 2112, a post office in Monroe, New York, will be named in his honor. For generations to come, his hometown will be reminded of his service and sacrifice, and my neighbors will continue to be inspired by this man’s deep devotion to his country.

Although no one can ever fully repay his family for their tragic loss, I hope this bill will come as some small comfort and tribute to his memory.

Mr. Speaker, with honor and respect for the life of Gregg David Wenzel, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2112.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support passage of H.R. 2112, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2112.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

—————

JAMES “JIM” KOHNEN POST
OFFICE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1671) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, as the “James ‘Jim’ Kohnen Post Office”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1671

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

SECTION 1. JAMES “JIM” KOHNEN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, shall be known and designated as the “James ‘Jim’ Kohnen Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “James ‘Jim’ Kohnen Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1671, introduced by Representative SWALWELL of California, which would designate the postal facility located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, as the James “Jim” Kohnen Post Office.

Dr. Kohnen was a long-time leader in the community of Dublin. He passed away on May 29, 2012. He volunteered with the Boy Scouts, the League of Women Voters, served on the boards of five local boards of directors, and was an advocate for the importance of education.

Dr. Kohnen retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a colonel after 30 years of service. He was a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, the Air War College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Having earned six higher education degrees over the course of his lifetime, including two bachelor’s degrees, two master’s degrees, and a doctorate in education, he became a high school teacher of political science, management, and general science. He also served as a member of the management faculties of the University of Phoenix and St. Mary’s College.

Mr. Speaker, the late Dr. Kohnen lived a life of humility and service to his community. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill to honor his legacy, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join my colleagues in the

consideration of H.R. 1671, a bill which would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, as the James “Jim” Kohnen Post Office.

I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from California (Mr. SWALWELL).

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1671, which would designate the U.S. postal facility located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, as the James “Jim” Kohnen Post Office. I thank the Chair and the ranking member for bringing this to the floor today.

On May 29, 2012, the city of Dublin, California, and the entire Tri-Valley community lost a lifetime public servant in Dr. Jim Kohnen. Naming this postal facility after Dr. Kohnen would be a fitting tribute to a distinguished community member and Dublin’s modern-day renaissance man.

Dr. Kohnen retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a colonel after 30 years of service in the Corps of Engineers. During his service, he graduated from the U.S. Army War College, the Air War College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

□ 1500

Through his work and in the community, Jim emphasized the importance of lifetime learning.

His journey started with one of his earliest achievements, earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Jim never stopped learning, earning multiple degrees, including two bachelor degrees, two master’s degrees, and a doctorate in education. A constant advocate for education and its importance, Dr. Kohnen completed his career by serving as a high school teacher at San Leandro High School, where he taught political science, management, and general science.

Jim Kohnen also never stopped serving. Using his education and experience, Dr. Kohnen served in just about every local community organization possible by volunteering with a variety of local organizations, most often serving as their treasurer, including for the Boy Scouts, the Dublin Historical Preservation Association, the League of Women Voters, and the Knights of Columbus at St. Raymond’s Church. Dr. Kohnen also served as an elected or appointed official on five boards, including the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, the Dublin San Ramon Services District, the Zone 7 Water Agency, the Alameda County Special Districts Association, and the American Association of Quality.

Jim was always there to step up when we needed him to serve in any capacity. Jim never stopped learning, and he never stopped serving, so naming Dublin’s post office—our only post office—after Jim is a fitting tribute to

his lifetime contributions, and it helps to inspire the Tri-Valley community residents to follow in his footsteps by dedicating their lives to the service of others.

Passing this bill now also ensures that Jim’s surviving wife, whom he was married to for 47 years, Pat, and their children, Bill and Mark, will be able to see Jim honored. It is also the 50th anniversary this week of when Jim and Pat both met and graduated from Ripon College in Wisconsin.

Today, we honor Jim Kohnen—loving husband and father, faithful public servant, soldier, and Eagle Scout. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 1671.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 1671, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1671.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH
D’AUGUSTINE POST OFFICE
BUILDING

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1458) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the “Staff Sergeant Joseph D’Augustine Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1458

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

SECTION 1. STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH D’AUGUSTINE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the “Staff Sergeant Joseph D’Augustine Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Staff Sergeant Joseph D’Augustine Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 1458, introduced by Mr. SCOTT GARRETT of New Jersey, which would designate the postal facility located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building.

Staff Sergeant D'Augustine was killed on March 27, 2012, in Helmand province, Afghanistan—a fierce battleground where over 19,000 marines were deployed. He was conducting combat operations with other marines. He died 2 weeks before he was due to come home for his sister's wedding. At his funeral, hundreds of Waldwick residents gathered at the church in his memory, and hundreds more lined the streets to pay their respects.

Staff Sergeant D'Augustine was a native of Waldwick, New Jersey. He graduated from Waldwick High School in 2001, where he wrestled and played football. In the Marines, Sergeant D'Augustine was assigned to one of the most dangerous jobs as a member of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit. He bravely performed his duties and should be remembered for his courage and his heroism.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine today by asking my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of this bill, to designate the U.S. Postal Service facility located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building, and I very much look forward to hearing an account of Sergeant D'Augustine from Mr. GARRETT.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from the State of New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. GARRETT. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of New

Jersey's sons, Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine of Waldwick, New Jersey.

Staff Sergeant D'Augustine was killed more than 2 years ago on March 27, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan. In the greatest act of sacrifice possible, Staff Sergeant D'Augustine gave his life while protecting his fellow men and women in uniform. He was just 29 years old. Today, this House will honor Staff Sergeant D'Augustine's ultimate sacrifice by passing H.R. 1458.

This legislation will designate the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building. While no action by this Congress could ever repay his sacrifice, this bill will create a permanent and visible memory of his heroism.

It was just 1 day after graduating from Waldwick High School back in 2001 that Staff Sergeant D'Augustine enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He was assigned to the 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force. Staff Sergeant D'Augustine had served two tours of duty in Iraq, and as was stated, he was just 2 weeks away from completing his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

While there, he worked as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal tech, and he was going ahead of his fellow marines, soldiers, sailors, and airmen and was clearing the way for them. We will never know how many lives Staff Sergeant D'Augustine saved, but his numerous awards, including the Bronze Star with valor, the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and the NATO-ISAF Medal, all speak of his selfless heroism.

Even after his passing, Staff Sergeant D'Augustine's legacy continues to this day in his community.

The Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Memorial Fund offers a scholarship to one male graduating senior and one female graduating senior who exemplify the highest standards of citizenship through strong character and dedication to community service. Since October 2012, the fund has donated more than \$48,000 to numerous charities as well as making direct donations to veterans in need. The tremendous outpouring of love and support for his family since his death has provided a glimpse into the number of lives he has touched and also into the number of lives his legacy continues to touch.

To those who knew him best—his parents, Anthony and Patricia; his three sisters, Anthony and Patricia; his three sisters, Nicole, Jennifer, and Michele; and his brother-in-law, Len—he will always be remembered as a loving son and a loving brother.

To his fellow marines, he will be remembered as a faithful brother in arms.

To this Nation, he will be remembered as a patriot who loved his country, who loved the Marine Corps, and who gave his life in defense of freedom.

The Marine Corps motto is "Semper Fidelis"—"always faithful." Staff Sergeant D'Augustine lived this motto, and his legacy embodies it. He was faithful to his country, and he was faithful to his mission. He was faithful to the Corps, and he was faithful to his fellow marines.

In times such as this, words fail to provide adequate comfort to his family and friends, and it is my sincere hope that they know that the prayers and gratitude of this Nation are always with them.

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his eloquent statement, and we fully support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his leadership on this particular issue, for his love for those whom he represents and for his love for those who serve. I thank the gentleman so much for bringing this bill forward, and I urge all of the Members to support H.R. 1458.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1458.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DESIGNATION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means:

To the Congress of the United States:
Consistent with the provisions of 19 U.S.C. 1330(c)(1), this is to notify the Congress that I have designated Meredith M. Broadbent as Chair and Dean A. Pinkert as Vice Chair of the United States International Trade Commission, effective June 17, 2014.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 17, 2014.

CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN FEDERAL PROPERTY TO MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3786) to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3786

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

SECTION 1. REAL PROPERTY CONVEYANCE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act and after completion of the survey and appraisal described in this section, the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, shall convey to the City by quitclaim deed for the consideration described in subsection (c), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property described in subsection (b).

(b) *LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a) consists of approximately 9 acres and improvements located at 400 East Fortieth Street in the City that is administered by the National Archives and Records Administration.

(2) *SURVEY REQUIRED.*—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey, paid for by the City, that is satisfactory to the Archivist.

(c) *TERMS AND CONDITIONS.*—

(1) *CONSIDERATION.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—As consideration for the conveyance of the property under subsection (a), the City shall pay to the Archivist an amount not less than the fair market value of the conveyed property, to be determined as provided in subparagraph (B).

(B) *APPRAISAL.*—The fair market value of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined based on an appraisal that—

(i) is conducted by a licensed, independent appraiser that is approved by the Archivist and the City;

(ii) is based on the highest and best use of the property;

(iii) is approved by the Archivist; and

(iv) is paid for by the City.

(2) *PRE-CONVEYANCE ENTRY.*—The Archivist, on terms and conditions the Archivist determines to be appropriate, may authorize the City to enter the property at no charge for pre-construction and construction activities.

(3) *ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.*—The Archivist may require additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Archivist considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(d) *PROCEEDS.*—Subject to appropriations Acts, the net proceeds from the conveyance of property under subsection (a) shall be available to the Archivist for activities funded in annual appropriations Acts under the heading “National Archives and Records Administration—Repairs and Restorations”.

(e) *CITY DEFINED.*—In this section, the term “City” means the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3786, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3786, as amended, will direct the General Services Administration, on behalf of the National Archives, to convey property in Alaska to the city of Anchorage.

I am pleased to be the sponsor of this legislation, which will bring savings to the taxpayer.

The National Archives has determined that it no longer needs the property to be conveyed in the bill, and it wants to sell it as part of its efforts to shrink its space footprint. The bill will require fair market value for the property and will allow the National Archives to retain the proceeds to offset the costs of repairing other facilities. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also support H.R. 3786, which directs the General Services Administration, the GSA, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey 9 acres of property in Anchorage, Alaska, to the local municipality in exchange for its fair market value.

The GSA reports that this property is, effectively, underutilized, and I support selling the property for its highest value and best use. This bill, Mr. Speaker, protects the interests of taxpayers, and it allows the Federal Government to manage its property portfolio more efficiently. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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

□ 1515

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3786, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, FEDERAL LAND CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3998) to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3998

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Albuquerque, New Mexico, Federal Land Conveyance Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *ADMINISTRATOR.*—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) *FEDERAL LAND.*—The term “Federal land” means the real property, including any improvements thereon, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, that, as determined by the Administrator, subject to survey, generally consists of lots 12 through 19, and for the westerly boundary, the portion of either lot 19 or 20 which is the outside west wall of the basement level of the Old Post Office building, and which has a municipal address of 123 Fourth Street, SW., in Block 18, New Mexico Town Company’s Original Townsite, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

(3) *FOUNDATION.*—The term “Foundation” means the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, TO THE AMY BIEHL HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION.

(a) *CONVEYANCE.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall offer to convey to the Foundation, by quitclaim deed, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(b) *CONSIDERATION.*—As consideration for conveyance of the Federal land under subsection (a), the Administrator shall require the Foundation to pay to the Administrator consideration in an amount equal to the fair market value of the Federal land, as determined based on an appraisal that is acceptable to the Administrator.

(c) *COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.*—The Foundation shall be responsible for paying—

(1) the costs of an appraisal conducted under subsection (b); and

(2) any other costs relating to the conveyance of the Federal land under this Act.

(d) *PROCEEDS.*—

(1) *DEPOSIT.*—Net proceeds received under subsection (b) shall be paid into the Federal Buildings Fund established under section 592 of title 40, United States Code.

(2) *EXPENDITURE.*—Amounts paid into the Federal Buildings Fund under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Administrator, in amounts specified in appropriations Acts, for expenditure for any lawful purpose consistent

with existing authorities granted to the Administrator.

(e) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Administrator may require that any conveyance under subsection (a) be subject to such additional terms and conditions as the Administrator considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(f) **DEADLINE.**—The conveyance of the Federal land under this Act shall occur not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3998, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3998, as amended, will direct the GSA to convey property in New Mexico to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation for fair market value. The Amy Biehl High School is a public charter school that has been using the building since 2006.

While the school currently leases the facilities from the General Services Administration, GSA only receives nominal rent, making it more costly to the taxpayer to maintain the property. In fact, the Amy Biehl Foundation has invested funds to renovate and restore the building for use as a school.

GSA has determined there is no Federal need for the property and concluded the cost of managing this building exceeds any revenue. Selling this property for fair market value will ensure the taxpayer receives the best return on the property.

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3998 was introduced by Representative MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM and directs the GSA to transfer the old Federal post office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation in exchange for its fair market value.

The Amy Biehl High School Foundation runs a public charter school that was founded in 1999 and has been residing in the GSA-owned old Federal post office building since 2006. Currently, the public charter school has a long-term lease with the GSA for nominal rent.

GSA has determined that it would be best to remove the building from their inventory because the building does

not generate significant revenue for the agency. In addition, the current lease is not consistent with GSA's mission.

The charter school has been working with GSA on transferring the building's ownership to the foundation since 2007. Today's bill, Mr. Speaker, will allow that transfer to happen very quickly, while protecting the taxpayers' interests.

I also want to take a moment to talk about Amy Biehl and the inspiration for this great charter school. Amy was a 26-year-old Fulbright Scholar working in South Africa when she was tragically attacked and killed in 1993.

Amy's parents refused to allow their daughter's violent death to become her legacy. Instead, Linda and Peter Biehl started a foundation to build on their daughter's work toward peace, reconciliation, and multiculturalism. The school in New Mexico builds on this work.

Approving this bill, Mr. Speaker, to transfer the lease at its fair market value will simply promote Amy's legacy and benefit taxpayers.

I support this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Ms. LUJAN GRISHAM).

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues from Indiana and Pennsylvania very much for their support on this bill.

I rise today, of course, in support of my bill, H.R. 3998, which would direct, as you have heard, the General Services Administration to sell, for fair market value, the historic post office building in downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

As you have also heard, the charter school is named after a young Fulbright Scholar from Santa Fe who was, in fact, tragically killed in South Africa in 1993 while working to end apartheid.

The high school is located in the heart of downtown Albuquerque. It is a few blocks away from a public library, a historical city theater, and a robust transportation center.

Fifty-five percent of the students receive free or reduced lunch, 64 percent of the students will be the first generation to attend college, and 70 percent of the students represent minority families in New Mexico. In fact, this school primarily serves at-risk youth.

The school's central location ensures that all of the students have access to transportation and allows the school to partner with nearby businesses and nonprofits to collaborate on community projects.

The Amy Biehl High School holds an impressive track record, with 99 percent of its graduates enrolling directly into college, and has been a recipient of several awards.

In 2000, the school was designated as one of 20 Mentor Schools in the Nation by the Coalition of Essential Schools. In 2006, the high school also won the National Trust for Historic Preservation Award.

The school has leased the old post office at the corner of Fourth and Gold in downtown and has held the lease from GSA since 2006. Currently, this lease is for a term of 60 years. The building was built in 1908 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties.

The Amy Biehl High School moved into the old post office, which sat unoccupied for 6 years, and they were able to raise and invest more than \$3 million in Federal, State, and private funds to renovate and restore the building for use as a school.

Selling the building to the high school provides the school with greater autonomy. It opens the door to capital campaigns and creates a permanent home for the school and the students.

The Amy Biehl High School Foundation and the GSA have determined that transferring ownership of the building is, in fact, in the best interest of both entities, the Federal Government and the school.

I would like to thank Senator TOM UDALL for working with me on this bill, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation that will help the Amy Biehl High School continue to provide Albuquerque students with a first-rate education, while also preserving a historic piece of downtown Albuquerque.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to put a plug in for charter schools period. The Amy Biehl school is an example of what can be done under charter schools and how it does serve a purpose.

We have been very successful in the State of Alaska with our charter schools, and I think it is crucially important to understand that sometimes other schools can fulfill that gap.

Apparently, this one does a good job, according to the young lady that sponsored the bill and the gentleman that is managing this bill. But let's just remember that when education is failing, then we have to look for other alternatives, and this is a classic alternative.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3998, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1541

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) at 3 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.

PFC FLOYD K. LINDSTROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3375) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3375

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

SECTION 1. PFC FLOYD K. LINDSTROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, shall be known and designated as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3375.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3375, which would name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic at 3141 Centennial Boulevard in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

We are here today to honor the life and sacrifice of Private First Class Floyd K. Lindstrom by naming a new VA community-based outpatient clinic in southern Colorado after him.

PFC Lindstrom was raised by his mother in Colorado Springs, which is part of the Fifth Congressional District that I am honored to represent. There, he spent much of his youth working summers on the Stratton farm and playing basketball. As a young man, he delivered fruit and produce between California and Colorado, while helping to support his mother and sister.

Just after his 30th birthday, PFC Lindstrom answered the Nation's call to serve by enlisting in the United States Army on June 22, 1942. He was trained as a machine gunner; assigned to 2nd Platoon, H Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division; and arrived in North Africa in the early months of 1943. That is when my father was also in North Africa.

On July 12, 1943, PFC Lindstrom's convoy was in Sicily and came under attack from enemy aircraft when he saw an out-of-control truck heading for a friendly dismounted soldier. Noticing that the soldier was unaware of the threat, Lindstrom abandoned the safety of his protective cover and redirected the truck, saving his fellow soldier's life. For these actions, Lindstrom was awarded the Silver Star.

This wasn't the only time he displayed extraordinary heroism and selfless sacrifice.

□ 1545

On November 11, 1943, PFC Lindstrom's unit was providing machine gun support for a rifle company attacking a hill near Mignano, Italy. When a German counterattack forced friendly forces to retreat to a defensive position, Lindstrom demonstrated complete fearlessness in the face of almost certain death by singlehandedly assaulting and knocking out an enemy machine gun position. That display of aggressive spirit and conspicuous gallantry was credited with breaking up the counterattack, and Lindstrom was subsequently nominated for the Medal of Honor.

I would like to read the last sentence from the citation for PFC Lindstrom when he received his Medal of Honor:

His spectacular performance completely broke up the German counterattack. PFC

Lindstrom demonstrated aggressive spirit and complete fearlessness in the face of almost certain death.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I will introduce into the RECORD the citation for his Medal of Honor.

MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION

Private First Class Lindstrom's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. On 11 November 1943, this soldier's platoon was furnishing machinegun support for a rifle company attacking a hill near Mignano, Italy, when the enemy counterattacked, forcing the riflemen and half the machinegun platoon to retire to a defensive position. Pfc. Lindstrom saw that his small section was alone and outnumbered 5 to 1, yet he immediately deployed the few remaining men into position and opened fire with his single gun. The enemy centered fire on him with machinegun, machine pistols, and grenades. Unable to knock out the enemy nest from his original position, Pfc. Lindstrom picked up his own heavy machinegun and staggered 15 yards up the barren, rocky hillside to a new position, completely ignoring enemy small arms fire which was striking all around him. From this new site, only 10 yards from the enemy machinegun, he engaged it in an intense duel. Realizing that he could not hit the hostile gunners because they were behind a large rock, he charged uphill under a steady stream of fire, killed both gunners with his pistol and dragged their gun down to his own men, directing them to employ it against the enemy. Disregarding heavy rifle fire, he returned to the enemy machinegun nest for 2 boxes of ammunition, came back and resumed withering fire from his own gun. His spectacular performance completely broke up the German counterattack. Pfc. Lindstrom demonstrated aggressive spirit and complete fearlessness in the face of almost certain death.

Mr. LAMBORN. Following that event, PFC Lindstrom was given the option of staying with his fellow soldiers or taking a significantly safer assignment as a guard far removed from enemy lines. Consistent with his previous actions, Lindstrom refused to put his own safety ahead of his fellow soldiers and chose to remain with his unit. Less than 3 months later, he was killed during a German counterattack at Anzio, Italy. On April 20, 1944, PFC Lindstrom was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions near Mignano.

He is now interred in Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The new VA community-based outpatient clinic in Colorado Springs is set to open in the next few months and was only made possible through many years of hard work by the veterans of southern Colorado and the support of my colleagues here in Congress. The new facility will double the size of existing clinics while providing health care that is more comprehensive and convenient to the veterans of southern Colorado. It is only fitting for the new clinic to be named after one of Colorado Springs'—and the Nation's—greatest heroes.

I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Private 1st Class Floyd K. Lindstrom. It is my pleasure to offer H.R. 3375, and I am grateful for the leadership and support of the VA Committee Chairman JEFF MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, and the entire Colorado delegation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great hero by supporting this bill. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support of H.R. 3375, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic that will be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

Floyd Lindstrom was born on June 21, 1912. He was a truckdriver for the local store and frequently drove back and forth to California. He joined the Army from Colorado Springs in June 1942. By November 11, 1943, he was serving as a Private 1st Class in the 3rd Infantry Division. On that day, near Mignano, Italy, he singlehandedly charged and captured a German machine gun. PFC Lindstrom was killed in action 3 months later on February 3, 1944, at the age of 31. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

For his bravery and service, PFC Lindstrom was awarded two Italian military crosses, the Purple Heart, and a Silver Star. On April 20, 1944, he was posthumously awarded the United States military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his actions near Mignano, Italy, during World War II.

PFC Lindstrom went above and beyond the call of duty. He made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. It is most appropriate that the VA community-based outpatient clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado, be named in honor of this local hero.

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina, for his words and his support on this bill. This has special meaning to me because my father fought, also, in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy, and he recently passed away as one of the members of the Greatest Generation. Floyd Lindstrom, though, never came back. I believe he was engaged. He had a fiancée or a girlfriend, but he never came back.

So it is only fitting that we honor the veterans who have served in the past on a building that is going to be serving the needs of our veterans in the present. And I believe this will also inspire generations in the future as they know the story of Floyd Lindstrom.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time. I yield back the balance of my time, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3375.

Mr. LAMBORN. I ask my colleagues to also support H.R. 3375, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3375.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

DORIS MILLER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4199) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Waco, Texas, as the "Doris Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4199

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On October 12, 1919, Doris Miller was born in Waco, Texas.

(2) On September 16, 1939, Miller enlisted in the United States Navy as mess attendant, third class at Naval Recruiting Station, Dallas, Texas, to serve for a period of six years.

(3) On February 16, 1941, Miller received a change of rating to mess attendant, second class.

(4) On June 1, 1942, Miller received a change of rating to mess attendant, first class.

(5) On June 1, 1943, Miller received a change of rating, to cook, third class.

(6) On November 25, 1944, Miller was presumed dead by the Secretary of the Navy a year and a day after being carried as missing in action since November 24, 1943, while serving aboard USS Liscome Bay when that vessel was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean.

(7) Miller was awarded the Navy Cross Medal, Purple Heart Medal, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.

(8) Miller's citation for the Navy Cross said "for distinguished devotion to duty, extraordinary courage and disregard for his own personal safety during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941. While at

the side of his Captain on the bridge, Miller, despite enemy strafing and bombing and in the face of a serious fire, assisted in moving his Captain, who had been mortally wounded, to a place of greater safety, and later manned and operated a machine gun directed at enemy Japanese attacking aircraft until ordered to leave the bridge."

(9) On June 20, 1973, the USS Miller (FF-1091), a Knox-class frigate, was named in honor of Doris Miller.

SEC. 2. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, WACO, TEXAS.

The Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Waco, Texas, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Doris Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center". Any reference to such medical center in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Doris Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4199.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4199, which is sponsored by my good friend and colleague and fellow committee member, Representative BILL FLORES of Texas, who serves as the chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee.

H.R. 4199 would name the VA medical center in Waco, Texas, the Doris Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Petty Officer Doris—or "Dorie"—Miller served in the U.S. Navy from 1939 to 1943.

During the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Dorie's heroic actions in the heat of battle helped to save the lives of many of his fellow servicemembers. For his actions, he received the Purple Heart Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Navy Cross, making him the first African American in our Nation's history to receive that honor. It is only appropriate that the VA Medical Center in Waco, Texas, bear Dorie's name.

I am grateful to Representative FLORES for sponsoring this legislation and urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4199. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great heroes of World War II. H.R. 4199 would name the veterans medical center in Waco, Texas, after a decorated sailor who displayed tremendous courage during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Doris “Dorie” Miller was the first African American hero of World War II. After enlisting in the United States Navy at the Dallas recruiting station and attending basic training in Norfolk, Virginia, Dorie arrived on the USS *West Virginia* stationed in Pearl Harbor.

At the time, there were few options for Black sailors in the Navy. Dorie was assigned as a mess attendant. At 6 a.m. on December 7, Dorie was awake conducting his duties as room steward for the officers when the alarm for general quarters rang out. Throughout the fighting, Dorie assisted in transporting wounded to the first aid station, helped load ammunition, and manned an unattended anti-aircraft deck gun. While under bombardment from the Japanese, Dorie continued firing at the attacking planes, possibly bringing down one of the aircraft.

For his extraordinary courage, Dorie was awarded the Navy Cross by Admiral Chester Nimitz. He was the first African American to receive that honor in the Pacific Fleet. Nearly 2 years after Pearl Harbor, Dorie gave the ultimate sacrifice, going down with the ship during the Battle of Tarawa in the South Pacific.

Dorie has been immortalized in movies as well as with commemoration on a United States postal stamp. He also had the honor of having a United States Navy frigate named after him in 1973.

Dorie was born in Waco and played football at Waco’s A.J. Moore High School. He also worked as a cook in Waco, supplementing the family income during the Great Depression.

We have a proud tradition of honoring our heroes by dedicating our flagship VA facilities to those who epitomize the selfless service and sacrifice of all veterans. So it is fitting that the Waco medical center proudly takes the name of its famous son.

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas, Representative BILL FLORES, the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I also thank the gentlemen from Colorado and South Carolina for their support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 4199, which would name the Waco VA medical center after Petty Officer First Class Dorie Miller. Petty Officer Miller was the first African American to be awarded the Navy Cross.

Petty Officer Miller—better known by his nickname “Dorie”—of Waco, Texas, bravely served in the United States Navy from 1939 to 1943 and was most renowned for his heroic acts during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. On that day, Miller was serving as a mess attendant on the battleship *West Virginia* when the attack started.

During the attack and under heavy enemy fire, Miller bravely rose above and beyond the call of duty by aiding mortally wounded Captain Mervyn Bennion and then manning a .50-caliber anti-aircraft machine gun. He returned fire upon the enemy until he was out of ammunition, reportedly shooting down one to three enemy planes.

In the final moments before the USS *West Virginia* sank, Miller continued his heroism by carrying many of his wounded shipmates to safety and saving the lives of several sailors in the process.

The story of Petty Officer Miller’s bravery is a testament to his outstanding courage and commitment to serving his country. In May of 1942, in recognition of his heroism at Pearl Harbor, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox and Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz commended and awarded Miller the Navy Cross, the second-highest military decoration for valor.

Admiral Nimitz commented that Miller’s bravery “marks the first time in this conflict that such high tribute has been made in the Pacific Fleet to a member of his race, and I am sure in the future we will see others similarly honored for brave acts.”

Miller continued his naval service in the Pacific war theater. During the spring of 1943, he was assigned to the USS *Liscome Bay*, an escort carrier involved in Operation Galvanic. During the ship’s mission, on November 24, 1943, a Japanese submarine torpedoed the escort carrier, and within minutes the vessel sank. Petty Officer Miller was one of the 646 brave sailors that gave the ultimate sacrifice aboard the *Liscome Bay* that day.

□ 1600

In addition to being awarded the Navy Cross, Miller was decorated with the Purple Heart Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Petty Officer Miller’s actions at Pearl Harbor led him to be recognized as one of the heroes of World War II, and in doing so, he distinguished himself as a great African American hero in U.S. history.

Miller’s story has become iconic as one of the heroic tales of bravery during World War II. Most notably, the portrayal of Miller by actor Cuba Gooding, Jr., in the 2001 movie “Pearl Harbor,” paid great tribute to Miller’s heroics aboard the *West Virginia* that day.

Each year, the Waco VA medical center assists thousands of central Texas veterans with their health care needs. By naming the center after Miller, we not only pay honor to his service and his sacrifice, but to that of all veterans.

The tremendous courage and bravery Miller showed during the attack on Pearl Harbor is worthy of such an honor. In naming the center after a local hero, we will preserve the memory of Miller’s outstanding valor and duty for generations to come.

Finally, I want to thank all of those who made this legislation possible. I want to thank Chairman MILLER and the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee for their assistance. I would also like to thank the House Members of the Texas delegation for their 100 percent cosponsorship of this legislation. In addition, I want to thank Texas Senator CORNYN and Texas Senator CRUZ for introducing identical legislation in the Senate.

Additionally, I want to thank Waco Mayor Malcolm Duncan, McLennan County Commissioner Lester Gibson, and McLennan County Judge Scott Felton for their local support.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank the Texas chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, Military Officers Association of America, the Texas Veterans Commission, and the Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations for lending their support to this recognition of a Texas hero.

Again, I urge and support the passage of H.R. 4199.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my thanks to Mr. FLORES and the entire Texas delegation for bringing this legislation.

I grew up studying about Dorie Miller. He was one of those who we knew should be honored, but there were many on that day. Among them was Joseph Henry Washington, who was serving on the USS *Arizona* on December 7 at the time of this attack. He survived, and I recently wrote about him.

There were many great men and women serving during this time who have gone unattended to, and I thank you so much for recognizing this one. I hope, as we continue our service here, that we will continue to look into the backgrounds and experiences of those others who have not yet been recognized and do the appropriate recognition at the proper time.

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for his words and for his constructive and inspiring thoughts. I thank the sponsor for bringing this excellent piece of legislation forward. I encourage all Members to support H.R. 4199.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4199.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JASON CRISP FOREST SERVICE BUILDING

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4360) to designate the facility of the United States Forest Service for the Grandfather Ranger District located at 109 Lawing Drive in Nebo, North Carolina, as the "Jason Crisp Forest Service Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4360

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF JASON CRISP FOREST SERVICE BUILDING, NEBO, NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the Grandfather Ranger District of the United States Forest Service located at 109 Lawing Drive in Nebo, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Jason Crisp Forest Service Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Jason Crisp Forest Service Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill H.R. 4360.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4360, a bill that would name the administrative building for the Grandfather District of the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina for Officer Jason Crisp.

Officer Crisp spent 8 years serving in the McDowell County Sheriff's Office and serving in different roles in the community where he grew up. He graduated from the Federal Law Enforce-

ment Training Center in 2005, when he returned to western North Carolina to begin his career marking timber for the Forest Service and, later, to work in a K-9 unit, along with his partner, Maros.

Like other Forest Service officers, Officer Crisp and Maros were charged with protecting the National Forest and those in its boundaries, which they did with distinction. Officer Crisp and Maros often assisted in manhunts and other searches in the National Forest and surrounding community as part of their duty.

Officer Crisp was not on duty on March 12 when he received a phone call about a murder suspect on the loose. Nevertheless, he selflessly agreed to assist, demonstrating his commitment to keeping his community safe.

This selfless attitude of dedication is prevalent among the men and women of the Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations division. Officer Crisp's life was senselessly taken in the line of duty on March 12, while assisting local and State police forces in the manhunt.

He leaves behind a wife, Amanda, and two sons, Garrett and Logan.

As we mourn the loss of Officer Crisp, we want to thank the Crisp family for Officer Crisp's years of service. Naming this building is a small token of thanks to Officer Crisp's family, in order to honor his memory and his service.

While Officer Crisp will be missed, naming the Forest Service building in his honor will be a reminder to the citizens of western North Carolina of all that he meant to the community.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4360. H.R. 4360 designates a facility at the United States Forest Service Grandfather Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina the Jason Crisp Forest Service Building after United States Forest Service Officer Jason Crisp.

Officer Crisp and his canine, Maros, were tragically killed in the line of duty on March 12 in Burke County, North Carolina. Officer Crisp was off duty, but nonetheless assisted local authorities in the manhunt for a murder suspect on the loose.

This selflessness is demonstrative of Officer Crisp's commitment to the safety and security of his community, a commitment shared by our many dedicated Forest Service officers.

Designating this building the Jason Crisp Forest Service Building is our way of thanking and honoring Officer Crisp and his family—his wife, sons, parents, sister, and brothers—for his 16 years of service to the United States Forest Service.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4360.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS), the author of this legislation.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan, and I thank my friend from South Carolina for their support of this bill.

I also want to thank, Mr. Speaker, Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON for their help in bringing this bill to the floor. Without their help, truly, we would not be here today. It is an honor not only to work with them both, but their staffs on this legislation, and so I would also like to thank the entire North Carolina delegation for their support.

On March 12, 2014, just this year, just a few months ago, Officer Jason Crisp and his canine, Maros, were shot and killed in Burke County, North Carolina. He was off duty at the time. The call came at home. When it came in, he was very quick to respond and participate in a manhunt to track down someone—a suspect who had committed two murders. It was the kind of selfless service that was not unique and not a one-time thing for Officer Crisp.

Just 5 days later, a memorial service was held in his honor, and we had thousands of law enforcement officers from all across the region come to honor his service, as well as other elected officials in government.

The bill we are considering today would name the United States Forest Service building in the Grandfather Ranger District in Nebo, North Carolina, as the Jason Crisp Forest Service Building, in honor of Officer Crisp's sacrifice.

Officer Crisp—or Jason, as his family and friends knew him—was 38 years old. He lived in Marion, North Carolina, in McDowell County, in the western part of North Carolina.

He graduated from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in 2005, and he became an officer for the Forest Service. He and his dog, Maros, routinely assisted in hunts for suspects in McDowell, Burke, Avery, Watauga, and Caldwell counties.

He also served as a law enforcement reserve officer in the McDowell County Sheriff's Office. He also served as a deputy sheriff there prior to going to work for the U.S. Forest Service.

His wife, Amanda, and his two sons, Garrett and Logan, his parents and sister and two brothers are a reminder that many times, when we have people that serve, there are other people who are involved in that service as well, and so I want to thank them today.

Perhaps the best words were by some of his friends at his memorial that called him warmhearted, always looking out for others, a warrior, and, yes, someone who even played practical jokes.

The release from his family said:

Jason was a loving father, loving husband, and a great friend. He was his wife's best friend and the love of her life. He loved the Lord and was an honest Christian man, who gave his life protecting his friends. He loved doing his job with a passion. The only thing that he loved more than his job was his family and friends. He died a hero. However, he was a hero well before that day.

Maros was also our family member, and he was loved like a child. Jason loved working with Maros.

Thank you to all of the agencies for your hard work, and thank you for all of the prayers, calls, and visits from our family and friends.

□ 1615

It is an honor for me today to not only recognize Officer Crisp but all the first responders who missed birthdays, anniversaries, dinners, and gatherings to answer the call to protect and serve our communities.

Every day, Mr. Speaker, we expect them to answer the call, serving silently and selflessly. We also expect them to come home. Some do not.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the passage of H.R. 4360 to rename the Grandfather Ranger District Forest Service building in Nebo, North Carolina, in honor of Officer Jason Crisp, the Jason Crisp Forest Service Building.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 4360 and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4360.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DR. CAMERON MCKINLEY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS CENTER

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1216) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1216

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Dr. Cameron K. McKinley was born on December 9, 1930, in Shreveport, Louisiana.

(2) Dr. McKinley served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in Shreveport, Louisiana, from 1947 to 1949.

(3) Dr. McKinley served valiantly at Wiesbaden Air Force Hospital during and after the Vietnam War, providing therapy to military personnel and their families.

(4) Dr. McKinley served with great distinction as the Chief of Psychology at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Prescott, Arizona, from 1981-1995.

(5) At the Prescott Veterans Affairs Hospital, Dr. McKinley organized a "Rap Group" for Vietnam Era veterans dealing with various degrees of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). That group of veterans formed the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 95.

(6) Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 95, in concert with Dr. McKinley, local leaders, businesses and nonprofit groups petitioned the Federal Government for a free-standing Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC).

(7) Congress authorized 91 new rural VAMCs, among them the Prescott Vet Center. In June of 1985, the Prescott Vet Center opened.

(8) Dr. McKinley spent decades confronting the pressing issue of PTSD by providing cutting-edge psychological and neuropsychological assessments to the returning veterans of three wars. He produced targeted action plans for veterans suffering from PTSD, giving them tools to deal with their afflictions and transition successfully back into civilian life.

(9) Dr. McKinley's cutting-edge work has earned him recognition from Prescott VAMC, Vietnam Veterans of America, the Veterans' Readjustment Counseling Center, and the Department of the Army for his outstanding work to improve the lives of veterans of multiple generations.

(10) It is only well and fitting that as a tribute to this remarkable person's life that Congress seek to name the facility after the leader who was its inspiration and a lifesaver for so many.

SEC. 2. DR. CAMERON MCKINLEY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center located at 3180 Stillwater Dr. #A, Prescott, Arizona, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1216.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1216, sponsored by my good friend and

colleague, Representative PAUL GOSAR of Arizona. This bill would name the Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center.

Dr. Cameron McKinley joined the United States Marine Corps Reserve after World War II. Following his time in uniform, Dr. McKinley pursued a career in service to his fellow veterans, eventually becoming chief psychologist at the VA Medical Center in Prescott, Arizona. Given his lifelong service to the mental well-being of his fellow veterans, it is only appropriate that the Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, bear his name.

I am grateful to Representative GOSAR for sponsoring this legislation and urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1216.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 1216, which designates the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center.

Dr. McKinley was a dedicated and greatly admired public servant in Prescott, Arizona. As chief of psychology at the Prescott VA Medical Center from 1981 to 1996, he earned the respect and honor of many veterans' service organizations. His tireless efforts to support the mental health needs of Arizona servicemembers and their families made a huge difference to many veterans.

Dr. McKinley was a groundbreaker. He established a 24-hour information center, teams of support groups, and was responsible for establishing a veterans' mental health and rehabilitation center.

For his "exceptionally meritorious and conspicuous service to his community," he received the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He was also made a charter member of Chapter 95 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, who cited his dedicated efforts on their behalf.

A Shreveport, Louisiana, native, Dr. McKinley was an avid outdoorsman, capturing the beauty he experienced fishing, hiking, and canoeing with his camera and on canvas as an artist and calligrapher.

An avid reader of student history, Dr. McKinley also volunteered for the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. He helped to preserve firsthand accounts of veterans he met at the veterans center he helped establish. In 1997 to 1998, he volunteered at the national Vietnam Wall in Washington.

While Dr. McKinley is no longer with us, his longstanding commitment to our Nation's heroes lives on. He is the ideal candidate for the naming of the Veterans Affairs Vet Center in Prescott.

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

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank my colleague from Massachusetts for his gracious words.

I would now yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to quickly thank Chairman MILLER and Chairman LAMBORN for their continued leadership at the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise before you to honor a great man who served this Nation and its veterans with a lifetime of work. That man was Dr. Cameron Keith McKinley. The bill being considered here today, H.R. 1216, would designate the Veterans Affairs Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center.

By way of background, Dr. McKinley served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves in Shreveport, Louisiana, from 1947 to 1949. He served with honor at the Wiesbaden Air Force Hospital during and after the Vietnam war, providing therapy to military personnel and their families.

Later, he served with great distinction as the chief of psychology at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Prescott, Arizona, from 1981 to 1995.

Dr. McKinley spent decades confronting the pressing issues of posttraumatic stress disorder, also known as PTSD, by providing cutting-edge psychological and neuropsychological assessments to the returning veterans of three separate wars.

At the Prescott VA, Dr. McKinley organized a rap group for Vietnam veterans dealing with varying degrees of PTSD. Dr. McKinley and his team also made available off-station crisis intervention groups and other specialized groups to combat veterans experiencing PTSD. He produced targeted action plans for veterans suffering from PTSD, giving them tools to deal with their afflictions and transitioning them successfully back into civilian life.

Dr. McKinley and a group of veterans who have been working with him in that area then formed the Chapter 95 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. That VVA chapter, in concert with Dr. McKinley, local leaders, businesses, and nonprofit groups, successfully petitioned the Federal Government for a freestanding Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Prescott, Arizona. That vet center opened in June of 1985.

Dr. McKinley's cutting-edge work has earned him recognition from Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Veterans' Readjustment Counseling Center, and the Department of the Army for his outstanding work to improve

the lives of veterans of multiple generations.

Among his numerous awards, I will name a few here: Special Recognition Award from the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 95, in 1983; Special Recognition Award from The Military Order of the Purple Heart; appreciation awards from the Prescott Vet Center on November 8, 1995; Certificate of Appreciation from the Veteran's Readjustment Counseling Center on November 11, 1989; United States Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Work in Support of Combat Veterans of Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Their Families on May 20, 1991; Special Appreciation, Prescott Vet Center, in December of 1995; and a Special Appreciation and Recognition Award for volunteer work at the Prescott Veterans Center in 2004.

Today it is with a heavy heart that I report to this Chamber that Dr. McKinley left this world on October 11, 2013. Thankfully, he passed peacefully at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

I insert his obituary from the Prescott Daily Courier in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Prescott Daily Courier]

OBITUARY: CAMERON KEITH MCKINLEY

Many longtime Prescott residents will be saddened by news of the death of Dr. Cameron Keith McKinley, former Chief of Psychology at the Prescott VA Medical Center (1981-1996). Dr. McKinley died at his home in Evergreen, Colo., on the morning of Oct. 11, 2013, surrounded by his family and the beautiful pine-forested mountains filled with the many birds and animals he enjoyed watching.

He was born on Dec. 9, 1930, in Shreveport, La., to William Samuel McKinley Sr. and Goldia Simmons McKinley. He attended Louisiana Tech University and Centenary College and received a B.A. degree. He earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Houston.

Dr. McKinley completed an internship and residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where he stayed on for another six years in clinical practice. For the next nine years, he and his family lived in Wiesbaden, Germany, during which time he established a Child & Family Treatment program at the U.S. Air Force Hospital. From there, the next assignment and home was Prescott, Ariz.

He was honored by many veterans organizations, among them the U.S. Army Reserve for his support of active military, veterans and their families, and for establishing a 24-hour information center, teams of support groups, a successful fundraising event, and a veterans mental health and rehabilitation center. He received the Military Order of the Purple Heart for exceptionally meritorious and conspicuous service to his community, fellow citizens and veterans. He was recognized by Vietnam Veterans of America as a charter member of Chapter 95 in Prescott, acknowledging his dedicated efforts on their behalf.

Cam volunteered at the National Vietnam Wall in Washington from 1997-1998, and also at the VA Hospital in Prescott for the Veterans History project and at the Vet Center that he established. In 2012, after letters and urging from the community, U.S. Congress-

man Paul Gosar introduced House Resolution 1743, a bill that would name the Veteran Affairs Vet Center in Prescott the Dr. Cameron K. McKinley Vet Center. Rep. Gosar introduced this bill to honor a groundbreaking health provider and true hero. It passed in the House of Representatives but stalled in the Senate because federal buildings are only named after someone who has died. Efforts to name the Vet Center in honor of Dr. McKinley will be renewed in the near future by those who knew him and respected his deep commitment to our military veterans.

Dr. McKinley married Anne Hinton McKinley April 9, 1955. He is survived by his wife; his daughter Carol; his son, John, and their spouses, Mark Harris and Mary McKinley; his grandchildren, Adam and Paige Roberts, Jeremy and Tim Lisby, and Cameron and Elizabeth McKinley; great-granddaughter Jillian Lisby; sister Nadine McKinley Runsick; nephews Alan and Joel Jessup; and niece Kristina McKinley Estes McKinley. His father, mother and brother, Bill, preceded him in death. His love of family was most important and brought him great peace toward the end of his life.

Cam, as he was known to those close to him, loved canoeing, hiking, fishing—the great outdoors. He took pride and interest in his Scottish heritage. He read voraciously, wrote his memoirs and expressed his artistic talents through painting, calligraphy, and his passion, photography. He captured the beauty of nature through the lens of his camera.

For those who knew Cam McKinley, his qualities of leadership, courage, humor and resilience stood out. He was generous of spirit, giving himself in service to others. We will remember his laugh and the twinkle in his eye. He will be missed by many and we are all better for having known him.

The family suggests memorial donations be sent to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes fund (fallenheroesfund.org), or the Mount Evans Hospice Inc. for their outstanding and loving care, 3081 Bergen Park Drive, Evergreen, CO 80439.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, so it is only well and fitting, as a tribute to this remarkable man's life, Congress names the facility after the very leader who was its inspiration and who was a lifesaver for so many.

I am also saddened that we could not take up this bill and pass it into law sooner so that Dr. McKinley could live to see how this hallowed body shows its appreciation for his work. I hope his family may share a few smiles as the bill moves forward in the legislative process. I would also like to think that Dr. McKinley is smiling down upon us right now.

I pose a challenge to my colleagues, Members of the executive branch, and anyone else listening. Dr. McKinley strove for exemplary service to his veteran colleagues. In naming this building after Dr. McKinley, we hold his life's work in the highest esteem. We hold it in this way to show all Americans what it means to lead a life of service to others, and so we shall all strive to follow in his footsteps.

The challenge before us is to provide timely, quality, patient-centered, and patient-friendly care to each and every veteran. Most importantly, it is long

past time that the Federal Government follow his example and do the very thing that he did with all his veteran patients. The Federal Government must listen.

Today, I thank the Veterans' Affairs Committee for supporting this bill. I thank my Arizona colleagues for their support in being original cosponsors of this bill. I thank all of the veterans' service organizations for their support of this bill and all they do for our vets.

Finally, I want to thank a very special organization known as Friends of Camp McKinley for their continued advocacy on behalf of such a great man.

I ask my colleagues to pass this bill.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona for this excellent piece of legislation and his work on behalf of veterans in his district.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1216, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 1216, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1216.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LYLE C. PEARSON COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3682) to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1961 Premier Drive in Mankato, Minnesota, as the "Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3682

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LYLE C. PEARSON COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1961 Premier Drive in Mankato, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the "Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3682.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3682, which is sponsored by my good friend and colleague and fellow committee member on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Representative TIM WALZ, from Minnesota.

H.R. 3682 would name the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Mankato, Minnesota, the Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

□ 1630

Lyle Pearson was a World War II prisoner of war who received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with Clusters, and the Purple Heart for his service.

He was also a lifelong public servant, serving as the Disabled American Veterans National Commander from 1975 to 1976.

Recognizing Lyle's service and his sacrifice by naming the CBOC in Mankato after him is a fitting and appropriate honor.

I am grateful to Representative WALZ for sponsoring this legislation and urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3682.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleague and friend from Colorado for his kind words and his work on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am proud to serve with him.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3682, which designates the Department of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Mankato, Minnesota, as the Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

Lyle Pearson was the true definition of an American hero. Through his lifelong dedication of service, both in and out of uniform, Lyle left a profound and everlasting impact on southern Minnesota and this country as a whole.

Lyle served in the skies over Europe as a B-17 pilot with the 15th Air Force during World War II. He completed 15 combat missions over occupied territory. In December 1944, Lyle's aircraft was shot down over Italy. Surviving the horrors of the shoot-down, Lyle

was a prisoner of war from December of 1944 to May of 1945. For his actions in combat as a POW, Lyle was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with Clusters, and the Purple Heart.

Like so many of his colleagues, the distinguished service that he served in uniform might have only been outpaced by what he did after he came back home. After the war, Lyle rejoined his wife on their family farm, but his desire to serve was strong.

Beginning in 1957, Lyle administered programs for the Nicollet County juvenile court and Nicollet County court services, first as the chief probation officer, then as the director of court services. He helped turn around countless lives of many troubled youth in his time with the Nicollet County juvenile courts, earning Minnesota Corrections Officer of the Year in 1969.

One of Lyle's biggest impacts was helping his fellow veterans. He served his entire life helping other veterans and, as you heard from my colleague, he served as national commander of the Disabled American Veterans. He also spent 49 years as the adjutant of his local chapter.

He dedicated over half a century of service to the St. Peter State Hospital, was a 4-H club leader, and was active with his church throughout his entire life.

Through all of this, Lyle was a husband, a father of seven children, and a stalwart in his community.

Lyle's dedication to duty, his community, and this country reflected upon himself and was in keeping with the finest ideals of service, selflessness, and giving, making him the ideal namesake for the Mankato Community Based Outreach Clinic that will serve so many of our fellow veterans.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to work with my colleague, Representative WALZ, on this fine piece of legislation honoring someone very deserving of this honor and the naming of this clinic.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our Members and colleagues to support H.R. 3682, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3682.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1648

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) at 4 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.

AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA FOR CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 37) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol in commemoration of the Shimon Peres Congressional Gold Medal ceremony.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 37

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SHIMON PERES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on June 26, 2014, for the commemoration of the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol in commemoration of the Shimon Peres Congressional Gold Medal ceremony.

The presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal is a physical recognition given by Congress to express our Nation's highest appreciation for

an individual's distinguished achievements and contributions. The man we rise to discuss today is one who has many significant achievements and who holds a lifelong extraordinary record of public service.

Israeli President Shimon Peres was born in Poland in 1923, in a town which is now a part of Belarus. To escape the persecution of the Jewish people there at the time, he and his family immigrated to Palestine in 1934. There, Peres took up his calling for public service, and in 1947, he joined the Zionist Party, led by David Ben Gurion.

Once Israel achieved its independence in 1948, Peres was appointed to the head of Israel's navy and rose to become the Minister of Defense. Peres went on to serve in several high-level positions in the cabinet of Israel's government.

His career spans more than 70 years, including serving as Prime Minister twice and, now, as President of Israel. Throughout his career, he has been an integral hand in guiding his nation into the future.

His long career is marked by numerous events where Peres exercised his determination for peace. In 1993, Peres participated in secret negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis, which are known as the Oslo Accords, an agreement that was designed to reconcile both Israelis and Palestinians.

The next year, he was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his role serving as lead negotiator for Israel, while he served as Foreign Minister during these negotiations.

Peres is a statesman who has dedicated most of his life to the service of others. He has worked for the betterment of his nation where he lives, and he has taken seriously the calling and responsibilities of what it means to be a member on the world stage.

This was no more apparent than earlier this month, when Peres joined Pope Francis and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in praying for peace at the Vatican and offered his own invocation:

Without peace, we are not complete. We have yet to achieve this mission of humanity. Even when peace seems distant, we must pursue it to bring it closer.

The United States has a longstanding and close relationship with the people of Israel. Israel is our friend and closest ally in the Middle East. Through President Peres' leadership, this relationship and our international cooperation has only deepened and persevered.

Our two nations stand shoulder to shoulder when it comes to our commitments towards the pursuit of peace, democracy, liberty, and the furthering of human rights.

Later this month, on June 26, the Congress will meet together to honor this man—a man who has set an example of courage and perseverance for us all—and award him with the Congressional

Gold Medal. It is fitting to present him with Congress' most prestigious award as a sign of our deep respect and admiration.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to start, Mr. Speaker, by thanking my colleague from Mississippi for coming down to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, this simple resolution, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent last week, would authorize the use of the Capitol rotunda for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres. The Congressional Gold Medal is one of the highest civilian honors; and Shimon Peres, Israel's President, is most deserving of this noteworthy award.

During a recent trip to Israel last year, I had the distinct honor of meeting President Peres who, even at 90 years of age, is as devoted as ever to a strong and unbreakable bond between our two nations.

Awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres will put him in a distinguished category of only nine individuals who have ever been awarded both the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which President Obama awarded Peres in 2012. Of the dual medalists, four are also Nobel Peace Prize laureates, an honor also bestowed on President Peres.

The resolution before us today is particularly timely, as President Peres is scheduled to visit the United States next week. With passage of this resolution, Congress will be able to hold the commemoration ceremony with him in attendance.

I would also like to take this time, Mr. Speaker, to thank the hardworking folks at the U.S. Mint, who have been working around the clock to be sure the medal will be ready on time.

Also, I thank the staff on the Financial Services Committee and members of leadership from both sides of the aisle in the House and the Senate, as well as their staff, for their support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I would add that, throughout Israeli President Peres' Presidency and decades of service, he has stood as the Israeli people's unifying figure and upholder of the nation's moral compass. No one could have embodied those attributes more fully than Peres.

As he ends his term as President, our Nation joins his in thanking him for his honorable service and his unfailing humanitarian efforts.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) that the House suspend the

rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 37.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3375, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1671, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

PFC FLOYD K. LINDSTROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3375) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic," on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 396, nays 0, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 313]

YEAS—396

Aderholt	Barletta	Benishkek
Amodei	Barr	Bentivolio
Amodei	Barrow (GA)	Bera (CA)
Bachmann	Barton	Bilirakis
Bachus	Bass	Bishop (GA)
Barber	Becerra	Bishop (NY)

Bishop (UT)	Flores	Loebsack	Rooney	Shea-Porter	Upton
Black	Forbes	Lofgren	Ros-Lehtinen	Sherman	Valadao
Blackburn	Poster	Long	Roskam	Shimkus	Van Hollen
Blumenauer	Foxx	Lowenthal	Ross	Shuster	Vargas
Bonamici	Frankel (FL)	Lowe	Rothfus	Simpson	Veasey
Boustany	Franks (AZ)	Lucas	Roybal-Allard	Sinema	Vela
Brady (PA)	Frelinghuysen	Luetkemeyer	Royce	Slaughter	Velázquez
Brady (TX)	Fudge	Lujan Grisham	Ruiz	Smith (MO)	Visclosky
Braley (IA)	Gabbard	(NM)	Runyan	Smith (NE)	Wagner
Bridenstine	Gallego	Luján, Ben Ray	Ruppersberger	Smith (NJ)	Walberg
Brooks (AL)	Garamendi	(NM)	Ryan (WI)	Smith (TX)	Walden
Brooks (IN)	Garcia	Lummis	Salmon	Smith (WA)	Walorski
Brown (GA)	Gardner	Lynch	Sánchez, Linda	Southerland	Walz
Brown (FL)	Garrett	Maffei	T.	Speier	Waters
Brownley (CA)	Gerlach	Maloney,	Sanchez, Loretta	Stewart	Webster (FL)
Buchanan	Gibbs	Carolyn	Sanford	Stivers	Welch
Bucshon	Gibson	Maloney, Sean	Sarbanes	Stockman	Wenstrup
Burgess	Gohmert	Marino	Scalise	Stutzman	Westmoreland
Bustos	Goodlatte	Masie	Schakowsky	Swalwell (CA)	Whitfield
Butterfield	Gosar	Matheson	Schiff	Takano	Williams
Byrne	Gowdy	Matsui	Schneider	Terry	Wilson (FL)
Calvert	Granger	McAllister	Schock	Thompson (CA)	Wilson (SC)
Camp	Graves (GA)	McCarthy (CA)	Schrader	Thompson (MS)	Wittman
Cantor	Graves (MO)	McCarthy (NY)	Schwartz	Thompson (PA)	Wolf
Capito	Grayson	McCaul	Schweikert	Thornberry	Womack
Capps	Green, Al	McClintock	Scott (VA)	Tiberi	Woodall
Capuano	Green, Gene	McCollum	Scott, Austin	Tierney	Yarmuth
Cárdenas	Griffin (AR)	McDermott	Scott, David	Tipton	Yoder
Carney	Griffith (VA)	McGovern	Sensenbrenner	Titus	Yoho
Carson (IN)	Grimm	McHenry	Serrano	Tonko	Young (AK)
Cartwright	Guthrie	McIntyre	Sessions	Tsongas	Young (IN)
Cassidy	Hahn	McKeon	Sewell (AL)	Turner	
Castor (FL)	Hall	McKinley			
Castro (TX)	Harper	McMorris			
Chabot	Hartzler	Rodgers	Betty	Hanna	Petri
Chaffetz	Hastings (FL)	McNerney	Campbell	Harris	Rahall
Chu	Hastings (WA)	Meadows	Carter	Hinojosa	Rangel
Ciilline	Heck (NV)	Meehan	Crawford	King (NY)	Rigell
Clark (MA)	Heck (WA)	Meeks	Culberson	Lankford	Rohrabacher
Clarke (NY)	Hensarling	Messer	Cummings	Marchant	Rush
Clay	Herrera Beutler	Mica	Davis, Danny	Meng	Ryan (OH)
Cleaver	Higgins	Miller (FL)	Fortenberry	Michaud	Sires
Clyburn	Himes	Miller (MI)	Gingrey (GA)	Miller, Gary	Wasserman
Coble	Holding	Miller, George	Grijalva	Mulvaney	Schultz
Coffman	Holt	Moore	Gutiérrez	Nunnelee	Waxman
Cohen	Honda	Moran	Hanabusa	Peters (MI)	Weber (TX)
Cole	Horsford	Mullin			
Collins (GA)	Hoyer	Murphy (FL)			
Collins (NY)	Hudson	Murphy (PA)			
Conaway	Huelskamp	Nadler			
Connolly	Huffman	Napolitano			
Conyers	Huizenga (MI)	Neal			
Cook	Hultgren	Negrete McLeod			
Cooper	Hunter	Neugebauer			
Costa	Hurt	Noem			
Cotton	Israel	Nolan			
Courtney	Issa	Nugent			
Cramer	Jackson Lee	Nunes			
Crenshaw	Jeffries	O'Rourke			
Crowley	Jenkins	Olson			
Cuellar	Johnson (GA)	Owens			
Daines	Johnson (OH)	Palazzo			
Davis (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Pallone			
Davis, Rodney	Johnson, Sam	Pascrell			
DeFazio	Jolly	Pastor (AZ)			
DeGette	Jones	Paulsen			
Delaney	Jordan	Payne			
DeLauro	Joyce	Pearce			
DelBene	Kaptur	Pelosi			
Denham	Keating	Perlmutter			
Dent	Kelly (IL)	Perry			
DeSantis	Kelly (PA)	Peters (CA)			
DesJarlais	Kennedy	Peterson			
Deutch	Kildee	Pingree (ME)			
Diaz-Balart	Kilmer	Pittenger			
Dingell	Kind	Pitts			
Doggett	King (IA)	Pocan			
Doyle	Kingston	Poe (TX)			
Duckworth	Kinzinger (IL)	Polis			
Duffy	Kirkpatrick	Pompeo			
Duncan (SC)	Kline	Posey			
Duncan (TN)	Kuster	Price (GA)			
Edwards	Labrador	Price (NC)			
Ellison	LaMalfa	Quigley			
Ellmers	Lamborn	Reed			
Engel	Lance	Reichert			
Enyart	Langevin	Renacci			
Eshoo	Larsen (WA)	Ribble			
Esty	Larson (CT)	Rice (SC)			
Farenthold	Latham	Richmond			
Farr	Latta	Roby			
Fattah	Lee (CA)	Roe (TN)			
Fincher	Levin	Rogers (AL)			
Fitzpatrick	Lewis	Rogers (KY)			
Fleischmann	Lipinski	Rogers (MI)			
Fleming	LoBiondo	Rokita			

NOT VOTING—35

McMorris	Rodgers	Betty	Hanna	Petri
McMorris	McNerney	Campbell	Harris	Rahall
McMorris	Meadows	Carter	Hinojosa	Rangel
McMorris	Meehan	Crawford	King (NY)	Rigell
McMorris	Meeks	Culberson	Lankford	Rohrabacher
McMorris	Messer	Cummings	Marchant	Rush
McMorris	Mica	Davis, Danny	Meng	Ryan (OH)
McMorris	Miller (FL)	Fortenberry	Michaud	Sires
McMorris	Miller (MI)	Gingrey (GA)	Miller, Gary	Wasserman
McMorris	Miller, George	Grijalva	Mulvaney	Schultz
McMorris	Moore	Gutiérrez	Nunnelee	Waxman
McMorris	Moran	Hanabusa	Peters (MI)	Weber (TX)
McMorris	Mullin			
McMorris	Murphy (FL)			
McMorris	Murphy (PA)			
McMorris	Nadler			
McMorris	Napolitano			
McMorris	Neal			
McMorris	Negrete McLeod			
McMorris	Neugebauer			
McMorris	Noem			
McMorris	Nolan			
McMorris	Nugent			
McMorris	Nunes			
McMorris	O'Rourke			
McMorris	Olson			
McMorris	Owens			
McMorris	Palazzo			
McMorris	Pallone			
McMorris	Pascrell			
McMorris	Pastor (AZ)			
McMorris	Paulsen			
McMorris	Payne			
McMorris	Pearce			
McMorris	Pelosi			
McMorris	Perlmutter			
McMorris	Perry			
McMorris	Peters (CA)			
McMorris	Peterson			
McMorris	Pingree (ME)			
McMorris	Pittenger			
McMorris	Pitts			
McMorris	Pocan			
McMorris	Poe (TX)			
McMorris	Polis			
McMorris	Pompeo			
McMorris	Posey			
McMorris	Price (GA)			
McMorris	Price (NC)			
McMorris	Quigley			
McMorris	Reed			
McMorris	Reichert			
McMorris	Renacci			
McMorris	Ribble			
McMorris	Rice (SC)			
McMorris	Richmond			
McMorris	Roby			
McMorris	Roe (TN)			
McMorris	Rogers (AL)			
McMorris	Rogers (KY)			
McMorris	Rogers (MI)			
McMorris	Rokita			

□ 1857

Ms. HAHN and Mr. CROWLEY changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMES "JIM" KOHNEN POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1671) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, as the "James 'Jim' Kohnen Post Office", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 398, nays 0, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 314]
YEAS—398

Aderholt Diaz-Balart Keating
Amash Dingell Kelly (IL)
Amodei Doggett Kelly (PA)
Bachmann Doyle Kennedy
Bachus Duckworth Kildee
Barber Duffy Kilmer
Barletta Duncan (SC) Kind
Barr Duncan (TN) King (IA)
Barrow (GA) Edwards Kingston
Barton Ellison Kinzinger (IL)
Bass Ellmers Kirkpatrick
Becerra Engel Kline
Benishek Enyart Kuster
Bentivolio Eshoo Labrador
Bera (CA) Esty LaMalfa
Bilirakis Farenthold Lamborn
Bishop (GA) Farr Lance
Bishop (NY) Fattah Langevin
Bishop (UT) Fincher Larson (CT)
Black Fitzpatrick Latham
Blackburn Fleischmann Latta
Blumenauer Fleming Lee (CA)
Bonamici Flores Levin
Boustany Forbes Lewis
Brady (PA) Foster Lipinski
Brady (TX) Foxx LoBiondo
Bralley (IA) Frankel (FL) Loebsack
Bridenstine Franks (AZ) Lofgren
Brooks (AL) Frelinghuysen Long
Brooks (IN) Fudge Lowenthal
Broun (GA) Gabbard Lowey
Brown (FL) Gallego Lucas
Brownley (CA) Garamendi Luetkemeyer
Buchanan Garcia Lujan Grisham
Bucshon Gardner (NM)
Burgess Garrett Luján, Ben Ray
Bustos Gerlach (NM)
Butterfield Gibbs Lummis
Byrne Gibson Lynch
Calvert Maffei
Camp Gohmert Maloney,
Cantor Goodlatte Carolyn
Capito Gosar Maloney, Sean
Capps Gowdy Marchant
Capuano Granger Marino
Cárdenas Graves (GA) Massie
Carney Graves (MO) Matheson
Carson (IN) Grayson Matsui
Carter Green, Al McAllister
Cartwright Green, Gene McCarthy (CA)
Cassidy Griffin (AR) McCarthy (NY)
Castor (FL) Griffith (VA) McCaul
Castro (TX) Grimm McClintock
Chabot Guthrie McCollum
Chaffetz Hahn McDermott
Chu Hall McGovern
Cicilline Harper McHenry
Clark (MA) Harris McIntyre
Clark (NY) Hartzler McKeon
Clay Hastings (FL) McKinley
Cleaver Hastings (WA) McMorris
Clyburn Heck (NV) Rodgers
Coble Heck (WA) McNeerney
Coffman Hensarling Meadows
Cohen Herrera Beutler Meehan
Cole Higgins Meeks
Collins (GA) Himes Messer
Collins (NY) Holding Mica
Conaway Holt Miller (FL)
Connolly Honda Miller (MI)
Conyers Horsford Miller, George
Cook Hoyer Moore
Cooper Hudson Mullin
Costa Huelskamp Murphy (FL)
Cotton Huffman Murphy (PA)
Courtney Huizenga (MI) Nadler
Cramer Hultgren Napolitano
Crenshaw Hunter Neal
Crowley Hurt Negrete McLeod
Cuellar Israel Neugebauer
Daines Issa Noem
Davis (CA) Jackson Lee Nolan
Davis, Rodney Jeffries Nugent
DeFazio Jenkins Nunes
DeGette Johnson (GA) O'Rourke
Delaney Johnson (OH) Olson
DeLauro Johnson, E. B. Owens
DelBene Johnson, Sam Palazzo
Denham Jolly Pallone
Dent Jones Pascrell
DeSantis Jordan Pastor (AZ)
DesJarlais Joyce Paulsen
Deutch Kaptur Payne

Pearce Sánchez, Linda
Pelosi T.
Perlmutter Sanchez, Loretta
Perry Sanford
Peters (CA) Sarbanes
Peterson Scalise
Pingree (ME) Schakowsky
Pittenger Schiff
Pitts Schneider
Pocan Schock
Poe (TX) Schrader
Polis Schwartz
Pompeo Schweikert
Posey Scott (VA)
Price (GA) Scott, Austin
Price (NC) Scott, David
Quigley Sensenbrenner
Reed Serrano
Reichert Sessions
Renacci Sewell (AL)
Ribble Shea-Porter
Rice (SC) Sherman
Richmond Shimkus
Roby Shuster
Roe (TN) Simpson
Rogers (AL) Sinema
Rogers (KY) Slaughter
Rogers (MI) Smith (MO)
Rokita Smith (NE)
Rooney Smith (NJ)
Ros-Lehtinen Smith (TX)
Roskam Smith (WA)
Ross Southerland
Royce Speier
Ruiz Stewart
Runyan Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger Royce
Ryan (WI) Ruiz
Salmon Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA) Young (IN)

Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

to the House the bill (H.R. 4412) entitled "An Act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes."
The resolution was agreed to.
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4870, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3230, PAY OUR GUARD AND RESERVE ACT

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-475) on the resolution (H. Res. 628) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 3230) making continuing appropriations during a government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIALIST RYAN P. JAYNE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3765) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the "Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building".
The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3765

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST RYAN P. JAYNE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within

NOT VOTING—33

Beatty King (NY)
Campbell Lankford
Crawford Larsen (WA)
Culberson Meng
Cummings Michaud
Davis, Danny Miller, Gary
Fortenberry Moran
Grijalva Mulvaney
Gutiérrez Nunnelee
Hanabusa Peters (MI)
Hanna Petri
Hinojosa Rahall

□ 1905

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2377

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor from H.R. 2377.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

REQUESTING RETURN OF OFFICIAL PAPERS ON H.R. 4412

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 627

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives request the Senate to return

which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COTTON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina? There was no objection.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3765, introduced by Representative REED of New York, which would designate the postal facility located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building.

Army Specialist Ryan Jayne was killed on November 3, 2012, in Paktia province, Afghanistan, when an improvised explosive device, an IED, detonated while he was performing route clearing duties with his fellow soldiers. He was killed in the same incident that took the life of fellow upstate New Yorker, Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz, whom we also honored today. Specialist Jayne was a member of the 479th Engineering Battalion of the 411th Engineering Brigade and was just 22 years old at the time of his death.

Ryan Jayne was born on May 17 of 1990 in Corning, New York. After graduating from Corning East High School in 2008, he attended Corning Community College and enlisted in the service in 2010. His family and loved ones describe him as full of life, laughter and with an ability to light up a room with his smile. He was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan and enjoyed restoring his Monte Carlo SS.

It is my honor to stand before this body today and pay tribute to Specialist Ryan Jayne. This brave young man laid down his life far too soon so that we can enjoy our freedom. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3765.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased this evening to join my colleagues, Mr. MEADOWS from North Carolina and Mr. REED from New York, in the consideration of H.R. 3765, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building.

A native of Elmira, New York, Specialist Ryan P. Jayne graduated in 2008 from Corning East High School, where he received the Judi McCort Memorial Scholarship for exemplifying courage, hard work, and responsibility. Specialist Ryan P. Jayne subsequently attended Corning Community College and enlisted in the United States Army in 2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 178th Engineer Battalion, 412th Theater Engineer Command, U.S. Army Reserve, based in Oswego, New York, and he served as a combat engineer.

As Mr. MEADOWS indicated, on November 3, 2012, Specialist Jayne and two of his fellow soldiers were tragically killed when a roadside bomb hit their vehicle as they completed their route clearing duties. Specialist Jayne was on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan when that happened.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Ryan P. Jayne's life stands as a shining example of the bravery and dedication of the heroic men and women who serve our country at home and abroad.

I urge the Members of both sides of the aisle to support this motion, authored by Mr. REED of New York and championed as well by Mr. MEADOWS of North Carolina, to pay tribute to Specialist Ryan P. Jayne for bravely answering the call of duty and proudly serving his country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1915

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) for his beautiful words.

At this point, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 3765, to rename the post office at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, after Specialist Ryan P. Jayne.

I am so pleased to have the support of my colleague from North Carolina, as well as my good friend from Massachusetts, coming together in a bipartisan manner to recognize, in a very special way, the ultimate sacrifice that Specialist Jayne provided for our family, for our country, and for all of us as he gave, at his young age of 22 years of age, the ultimate sacrifice, and we need to honor and recognize it here today.

As has been stated, Corning, New York, is my hometown, and Specialist Ryan Jayne was a 2008 graduate of Corning East High School, a high school I went to.

Ryan was an exemplary student and was awarded the Judi McCort Memorial Scholarship for his courage, hard work, and responsibility. Following high school, he went to our local community college, Corning Community College, before enlisting in 2010.

Serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan, Specialist Jayne was tragically killed by an IED alongside two fellow New Yorkers, two of his fellow New York soldiers that were standing with him at the time of his death. At the time of his death, he had accrued over 2 years of service with the U.S. Army.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, I was there at the memorial service at Corning East High School auditorium, and

in the stadium. His death was felt throughout our entire community, but he is remembered as a passionate young man, a lifelong Dallas Cowboys fan, as has been mentioned, and one who loved truly spending time with his family and friends.

We honor and remember Specialist Jayne for his sacrifice and the sacrifice of his family, actions of heroism that we will never, ever forget.

Naming the post office in Corning, New York, after Specialist Jayne is the least we can do here in this body and in this Chamber this evening to honor Specialist Jayne's bravery, his service, and his love of our country, and for a love of his community, Corning, New York, that he called home.

So I encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, let's come together, let's do what is right, and stand with Specialist Jayne this evening and recognize the courage, the sacrifice that he provided to all of us.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would just offer our prayers and condolences to the Jayne family and the people of Corning, New York, and Specialist Ryan P. Jayne's friends and neighbors.

We all mourn their loss, and we appreciate the sacrifice that has been made on behalf of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York, who has taken the lead to make sure that those who give the ultimate sacrifice are not forgotten.

It is truly an honor to serve with the gentleman from Massachusetts, the gentleman from New York, and I would urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3765.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE GROWING FIELD OF TELEMEDICINE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important issue that will be on the floor during debate over the Department of Defense appropriations for fiscal year 2015: the growing field of telemedicine.

Mr. Speaker, dating back to 2011, I introduced the Servicemember Telemedicine and E-Health Portability, or

STEP, Act. This legislation allows health care professionals credentialed by the Department of Defense to work across State lines without multiple licenses, regardless of where the service-member is located.

It was an important beginning for the Department of Defense to utilize telemedicine, which is efficient, convenient, and a cost-effective way to address the challenges of delivering mental and behavioral health services.

Included in the committee report for fiscal year 2015 is language that improves upon the existing infrastructure and highlights the many advantages of utilizing telemedicine, along with an encouragement for all military branches to expand and prioritize these technologies.

I thank the chairman and the committee for their recognition of the importance of telemedicine in delivering care to our servicemen and -women, and look to continuing our work to ensure our troops are getting the care that they have earned and deserve.

LGBT PRIDE MONTH

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of diversity, equality, and affirming every American's right under the Constitution to equal justice under the law.

Today I speak in honor of LGBT Pride Month.

Despite all that we have achieved in recent years towards equality, opportunity, and justice for every American, regardless of identity or orientation, far too many LGBT Americans still suffer discrimination each and every day.

In this Congress we have the chance to pass legislation that bans discrimination in the workplace and in the military and in schools, and ensures that couples, regardless of sexual orientation, have the same rights as anyone else.

I am a proud cosponsor of the Respect for Marriage Act that affirms the Supreme Court decision to allow same-sex marriage and the Student Non-discrimination Act that bans discrimination in schools.

I also support President Obama's intention to act, where this House has not, to end discrimination in the workplace.

Let us continue to work together to ensure that all Americans are provided the civil liberties they deserve.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. MULVANEY (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and June 18 on account of a medical procedure.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for June 11 through June 20.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISIONS TO THE AGGREGATES AND ALLOCATIONS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET RESOLUTION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, Office of the Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

MR. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for printing revisions to the aggregates and allocations set forth in the Statement of Committee Allocations, Aggregates, and Other Budgetary Levels for Fiscal Year 2015 published in the Congressional Record on April 29, 2014, pursuant to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, Public Law 113-67. These revisions are provided for bills, joint resolutions, and amendments thereto or conference reports thereon, considered by the House subsequent to this filing, as applicable.

The outlay revisions made by this communication are pursuant to the authority granted in section 115(e) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. For fiscal year 2015, aggregate levels of budget authority and outlays and the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations included in the levels of the budget resolution found in the Statement published in the Congressional Record on April 29, 2014, are revised. Associated tables are attached. The revisions are necessary to accommodate additional funding for appropriations designated for disaster relief under section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Budget Control Act of 2011 and for a technical adjustment to accommodate updated estimates of the outlays resulting from the base discretionary allocation of budget authority assigned to the Committee on Appropriations.

The provisions of H. Con. Res. 25 (113th Congress), as deemed in force by section 113 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, Public Law 113-67, remain in force to the extent its budgetary levels are not superseded by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 or subsequent action of the House of Representatives. This revision represents an adjustment for purposes of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. For the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act, these revised aggregates and allocations are to be considered as aggregates and allocations included in the budget resolution, pursuant to the Statement published in the Congressional Record on April 29, 2014, as adjusted.

Sincerely,
PAUL D. RYAN of Wisconsin,
Chairman.

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE
BUDGET AGGREGATES

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal Year	
	2015	2015–2024
Current Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,025,306	1

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE—Continued
BUDGET AGGREGATES

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal Year	
	2015	2015–2024
Outlays	3,025,032	1
Revenues	2,533,388	31,202,135
Revision for Disaster Designated Spending:		
Budget Authority	6,438	1
Outlays	322	1
Revenues	0	0
Technical Revision to Base Discretionary Outlays:		
Budget Authority	0	1
Outlays	1,030	1
Revenues	0	0
Revised Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,031,744	1
Outlays	3,026,384	1
Revenues	2,533,388	31,202,135

¹ Not applicable because annual appropriations acts for fiscal years 2016–2024 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(In millions of dollars)

	2015
Base Discretionary Action:	
BA	1,013,628
OT	1,141,432
Technical Adjustment for Base Discretionary Outlays:	
BA	0
OT	1,030
Global War on Terrorism:	
BA	85,357
OT	39,981
Disaster Designated Funds:	
BA	6,438
OT	322
Total Discretionary Action:	
BA	1,105,423
OT	1,182,765
Current Law Mandatory:	
BA	868,410
OT	861,637

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014, 2015 AND THE 10-YEAR PERIOD FY 2015 THROUGH FY 2024

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, Office of the Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

MR. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, to facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting an updated status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and for the 10-year period of fiscal year 2015 through fiscal year 2024. The report is current through June 13, 2014. The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

The current level has not changed since my last report submitted in the Congressional Record on May 15, 2014; therefore, that report should be consulted for the current level through June 13, 2014. The current status of fiscal year 2015 appropriations, however, has changed since my last report. The term "current status" reflects budgetary levels of discretionary appropriations acts that have either been reported by the Committee on Appropriations to the House of Representatives or passed by the House.

Table 1 in this letter compares the current status of fiscal year 2015 appropriations with the suballocations of discretionary budget

authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees pursuant to section 302(b) of the Budget Act. The comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) sub-allocation. The table also provides supple-

mentary information on spending in excess of the base discretionary spending caps allowed under section 251(b) of the Budget Control Act.

In addition, letters from the Congressional Budget Office are attached that summarize and compare the budget impact of enacted legislation that occurred after adoption of

the budget resolution against the budget resolution aggregates in force.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Restuccia at (202) 226-7270.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman.

TABLE 1—DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015—COMPARISON OF CURRENT STATUS WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUB ALLOCATIONS AS OF JUNE 13, 2014

(Figures in millions)¹

	302(b) allocations		302(b) for GWOT		Current status general purpose ¹		Current status GWOT		General purpose less 302(b)		GWOT less 302(b)	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	20,880	21,848	0	0	20,880	21,716	0	0	0	-132	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science	51,202	61,641	0	0	51,200	61,518	0	0	-2	-123	0	0
Defense	490,960	519,550	79,445	36,849	490,944	522,774	79,445	36,839	-16	+3,224	0	-10
Energy and Water Development	34,010	38,350	0	0	0	17,690	0	0	-34,010	-20,660	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	21,276	22,750	0	0	71	5,670	0	0	-21,205	-17,080	0	0
Homeland Security	39,220	45,568	0	0	9	19,346	0	0	-39,211	-26,222	0	0
Interior, Environment	30,220	30,191	0	0	0	12,296	0	0	-30,220	-17,895	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	155,693	159,922	0	0	24,691	115,210	0	0	-131,002	-44,712	0	0
Legislative Branch	4,258	4,219	0	0	3,323	3,491	0	0	-935	-728	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	71,499	76,100	0	0	71,499	76,100	0	0	0	0	0	0
State, Foreign Operations	42,381	42,319	5,912	3,132	0	28,179	0	0	-42,381	-14,140	-5,912	-3,132
Transportation, HUD	52,029	118,974	0	0	52,029	118,678	0	0	0	-296	0	0
Full Committee Allowance	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total	1,013,628	1,141,432	85,357	39,981	714,646	1,002,668	79,445	36,839	-298,982	-138,764	-5,912	-3,142

Comparison of Total Appropriations and 302(a) allocation

	General purpose		GWOT	
	BA	OT	BA	OT
302(a) Allocation	1,013,628	1,141,432	85,357	39,981
Total Appropriations	714,646	1,002,668	79,445	36,839
Total Appropriations vs. 302(a) Allocation	-298,982	-138,764	-5,912	-3,142

Memorandum

Spending in Excess of Base Budget Control Act Caps for Sec. 251(b) Designated Categories

	Amounts Assumed in 302(b)		Emergency Requirements		Disaster Funding		Program Integrity	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy and Water Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interior, Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legislative Branch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State, Foreign Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation, HUD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

¹ Spending designated as emergency is not included in the current status of appropriations shown in this table.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2014.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2014 budget and is current

through June 13, 2014. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of H. Con. Res. 25, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014, as approved

by the House of Representatives and subsequently revised.

Since my last letter dated May 15, 2014, there has been no Congressional action affecting budget authority, outlays, or revenues for fiscal year 2014.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH JUNE 13, 2014

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted ^a			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,310,972
Permanents and other spending legislation ^b	1,849,079	1,778,854	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	504,662	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	-707,692	-707,792	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	1,141,387	1,575,724	2,310,972
Enacted Legislation: ^c			
Authorizing Legislation			
Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-28)	14,400	12,670	0
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-37)	-1	-1	0
Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-40)	-16	-58	0
An act to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas (P.L. 113-42)	2	2	5
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (P.L. 113-66)	66	68	0
Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013/Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-67)	-3,207	985	49
Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79)	3,243	2,124	5
Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-93)	6,143	6,141	0
Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act (P.L. 113-94)	-34	0	0
Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act (P.L. 113-97)	0	0	5

FISCAL YEAR 2014 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH JUNE 13, 2014—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Total, Authorizing Legislation	20,596	21,931	64
Appropriations Legislation			
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-46) ^d	635	635	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76)	1,869,637	1,421,565	0
Support for Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-95)	0	350	0
Total, Appropriations Legislation	1,870,272	1,422,550	0
Total, Enacted Legislation	1,890,868	1,444,481	64
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	-98,066	-74,546	0
Total Current Level ^e	2,934,189	2,945,659	2,311,036
Total House Resolution ^f	2,924,837	2,937,044	2,311,026
Current Level Over House Resolution	9,352	8,615	10
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2014-2023:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	31,095,979
House Resolution ^g	n.a.	n.a.	31,095,742
Current Level Over House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	237
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

a. Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during last session, but before adoption of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014 (H. Con. Res. 25): an act to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the FEMA for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program (P.L. 113-1), the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113-2), the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-5), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113-6), and the Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-9).

b. Relative to the House Current Level Report dated October 24, 2013, House Current Level has increased by \$361 million in 2014 because of assumptions related to the interest on the public debt that were revised pursuant to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-67).

c. Pursuant to section 314(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, amounts designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not count for purposes of Title III and Title IV of the Congressional Budget Act. The amounts so designated for 2014, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 (Sec. 155)	0	50	n.a.

d. Sections 135 and 136 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-46) provide \$636 million for fire suppression activities, available until expended. Section 146 of the act freezes the pay of Members of Congress, which is estimated to result in a reduction in spending of \$1 million in 2014.

e. For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the resolution, as approved by the House of Representatives, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.

f. Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in H. Con. Res. 25, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original House Resolution:	2,769,406	2,815,079	2,270,932
Revisions:			
Pursuant to section 603 of H. Con. Res. 25	-14,089	-4,100	40,040
Adjustment for Disaster Designated Spending	6,079	230	0
Adjustment for Technical Correction to the Budget Control Act Spending Caps	549	308	0
Pursuant to section III of the Bipartisan Budget Act	162,892	125,527	54
Revised House Resolution	2,924,837	2,937,044	2,311,026

g. Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the 2014-2023 revenue totals in H. Con. Res. 25, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution. The total shown in the table reflects those revisions.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2014.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2015 budget and is current

through June 13, 2014. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on

April 29, 2014, pursuant to section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act (Public Law 113-67).

Since my last letter dated May 15, 2014, there has been no Congressional action affecting budget authority, outlays, or revenues for fiscal year 2015.

Sincerely,
DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2015 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH JUNE 13, 2014

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted ^a			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,533,388
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,882,631	1,805,294	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	508,261	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	-735,195	-734,481	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	1,147,436	1,579,074	2,533,388
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	866,768	851,071	0
Total Current Level ^b	2,014,204	2,430,145	2,533,388
Total House Resolution	3,025,306	3,025,032	2,533,388
Current Level Over House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under House Resolution	1,011,102	594,887	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2015-2024:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	31,202,135
House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	31,202,135
Current Level Over House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

a. Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before publication in the Congressional Record of the statement of the allocations and aggregates pursuant to section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-67): the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-89), the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act (P.L. 113-94), and the Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act (P.L. 113-97).

b. For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the resolution, as approved by the House of Representatives, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow,

Wednesday, June 18, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2013 and the first and second quarters of 2014, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO JAPAN, KOREA, AND CHINA, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 20 AND APR. 26, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Eric Cantor	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Hon. Paul Ryan	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Hon. Mac Thornberry	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Hon. Kay Granger	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Hon. Aaron Schock	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Hon. Patrick Meehan	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Hon. Kristi Noem	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Hon. Paul Cook	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Hon. Tulsi Gabbard	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Neil Bradley	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Robert Kareem	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Steve Stombres	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Kristi Way	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Megan Whittemore	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Paul Irving	4/20	4/22	Japan		743.88		(3)				743.88
Robert Fitzpatrick	4/16	4/21	Japan		743.88		4,190.80				2,234.68
Hon. Eric Cantor	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Hon. Paul Ryan	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Hon. Mac Thornberry	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Hon. Kay Granger	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Hon. Aaron Schock	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Hon. Patrick Meehan	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Hon. Kristi Noem	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Hon. Paul Cook	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Hon. Tulsi Gabbard	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Neil Bradley	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Robert Kareem	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Steve Stombres	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Kristi Way	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Megan Whittemore	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Paul Irving	4/22	4/23	Korea		329.10		(3)				329.10
Hon. Eric Cantor	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Hon. Paul Ryan	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Hon. Mac Thornberry	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Hon. Kay Granger	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Hon. Aaron Schock	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32	5,7419.40	(3)				1,027.32
Hon. Patrick Meehan	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Hon. Kristi Noem	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Hon. Paul Cook	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Hon. Tulsi Gabbard	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32	5,1292.50	(3)				2,011.16
Bradley Neil	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Robert Kareem	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Steve Stombres	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Kristi Way	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Megan Whittemore	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Paul Irving	4/23	4/26	China		1,027.32		(3)				1,027.32
Robert Fitzpatrick	4/21	4/26	China		1,505.65		(3)				1,505.65
Committee total					33,445.27		10,202.70				43,647.97

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.
⁴ Commercial flight to China.
⁵ Return Flight.

ERIC CANTOR, May 23, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO KOREA, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 6 AND MAY 11, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Robert Reeves	5/7	5/11	South Korea		1,400.00		11,647.00				13,047.00
Kirsten Gullickson	5/7	5/11	South Korea		1,400.00		7,828.00				9,228.00
Committee total											22,275.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROBERT F. REEVES, May 27, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUL. 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Eric Swalwell	8/26	8/26	Germany				9,093.40				9,093.40
	8/26	8/30	UAE		543.00						543.00
	8/30	8/30	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
Hon. Richard Hudson	8/17	8/19	Israel		1,118.00						1,118.00
Committee total					1,689.00		9,093.40				10,782.40

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Chairman, May XX, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Nick Palarino	11/3	11/5	Georgia		682.00		12,644.34				13,326.34
	11/5	11/8	Russia		1,500.00						1,500.00
Alan Carroll	11/3	11/5	Georgia		682.00		12,644.34				13,326.34
	11/5	11/8	Russia		1,500.00						1,500.00
Josh Katz	11/3	11/5	Georgia		682.00		12,644.34				13,326.34
	11/5	11/8	Russia		1,500.00						1,500.00
Lanier Avant	11/5	11/8	Russia		1,500.00		11,120.64				12,620.64
Greg Hill	11/3	11/6	Mexico		842.00		853.01				1,695.01
Charlotte Sellmyer	11/21	11/24	Mexico		842.00		793.59				1,635.59
Alison Northrop	11/3	11/6	Mexico		842.00		1,586.93				2,428.93
Hon. Susan Brooks	12/15	12/18	Belgium		841.42		1,590.00				2,431.42
Committee total					11,413.42		53,877.19				65,290.61

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Chairman, May 29, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Michael McCaul	1/18	1/23	Russia		2,065.00		12,304.40				14,369.40
Hon. William Keating	1/18	1/23	Russia		2,065.00		17,304.54				19,369.54
Charlotte Sellmyer	1/18	1/23	Russia		2,065.00		11,299.60				13,364.60
Alan Carroll	3/8	3/12	UK		1,672.00		1,125.40				2,797.40
Michael Geffroy	3/8	3/12	UK		1,672.00		1,300.40				2,972.40
Committee total					9,539.00		43,334.34				52,873.34

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Chairman, May 29, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5982. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002; Biennial Review and Republication of the Select Agent and Toxin List; Amendments to the Select Agent and Toxin Regulations; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: APHIS-2009-0070] received May 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5983. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Thomas L. Conant, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5984. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Raymond V. Mason, United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list in

the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5985. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Thomas H. Copeman, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5986. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to the United Kingdom pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5987. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, "Public Health and Medical Situational Awareness Strategy (Strategy)"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5988. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting FY 2013 PDUFA financial report to Congress required by the Prescription Drug User Fee Act, as amended; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5989. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Amine salts of alkyl (C8-C24) benzenesulfonic acid (dimethylaminopropylamine, isopropylamine, mono-, di-, and triethanolamine); Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0863; FRL-9909-17] received May 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5990. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R01-OAR-2013-0028; FRL-9908-52-Region 1] received May 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5991. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0165; FRL-9910-67-Region 7] received May 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5992. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Controlling Pollution [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0164; FRL-9910-69-Region 7] received May 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5993. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Florida: New Source Review — Prevention of Significant Deterioration [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0760; FRL-9909-91-R04] received May 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5994. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Interim Final Determination to Defer Sanctions, State of California, Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0823; FRL-9911-06-Region 9] received May 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5995. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Quality Assurance Requirements for Continuous Opacity Monitoring Systems at Stationary Sources [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0873; FRL-9909-98-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AH23) received May 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5996. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0196; FRL-9909-71-Region 9] received May 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5997. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; Ventura County Air Pollution Control District; Reasonably Available Control Technology for Ozone [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0172; FRL-9910-85-Region 9] received May 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5998. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-12, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5999. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-0B, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6000. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter informing the Congress that approximately 275 U.S. Armed Forces personnel were deployed to Iraq to support the security of U.S. personnel and the Embassy; (H. Doc. No. 113-119); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

6001. A letter from the Administrator, Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6002. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013, through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6003. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's semiannual report from the Office of the Inspector General during the 6-month period ending March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6004. A letter from the Acting Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports, Inspection Reports, and Evaluation Reports for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6005. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Administrative Wage Garnishment (RIN: 3206-AM89) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6006. A letter from the Acting Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6007. A letter from the Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a separate management report for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6008. A letter from the Controller, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, transmitting the Audited Financial Statements of NSDAR for the Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2013, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101(20) and 1103; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6009. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and Generalized System of Preferences and Trade Benefits Under AGOA [CBP Dec. 14-07] (RIN: 1515-AB26) (former RIN: 1505-AB26) (RIN: 1515-AD50) (former RIN: 1505-AB38) received May 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6010. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 67 Limitations on Estates or Trusts [TD 9664] (RIN: 1545-BF80) received May 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6011. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Information Reporting for Affordable Insurance Exchanges [TD 9663] (RIN: 1545-BL42)

received May 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6012. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on one Agency's Drug-Free Workplace Plan, pursuant to Public Law 100-71, section 503(a)(1)(A) (101 Stat. 468); jointly to the Committees on Appropriations and Oversight and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky: Committee on Appropriations. Report on the Revised Sub-allocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2015 (Rept. 113-474). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NUGENT: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 628. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 3230) making continuing appropriations during a Government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period (Rept. 113-475). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 4871. A bill to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WOODALL (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

H.R. 4872. A bill to eliminate the use of the frank for mail transmitted by Members of Congress and Congressional officials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 4873. A bill to modify the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as the program applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. HULTGREN):

H.R. 4874. A bill to provide for the establishment of a process for the review of rules and sets of rules, and for other purposes; to

the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself and Mr. ROE of Tennessee):

H.R. 4875. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to publish information on the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. ENYART, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SABLAN, and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 4876. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for contracting preferences and other benefits for emerging business enterprises, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 4877. A bill to amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to authorize concurrent compacts for purposes of regional economic integration and cross-border collaborations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. NUNES):

H.R. 4878. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the special expensing rules for certain film and television productions and to provide for special expensing for live theatrical productions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COOPER (for himself and Mrs. LUMMIS):

H.R. 4879. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for expedited review of drugs and biological products to provide safer or more effective treatment for males or females, to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the consideration of sex differences in basic and clinical research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 4880. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that prohibit certain preferential treatment or prioritization of Internet traffic; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself, Mr. ROSS, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. STIVERS, and Mrs. WAGNER):

H.R. 4881. A bill to place a 6-month moratorium on the authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council to make financial stability determinations; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 4882. A bill to achieve operational control of the international border between the United States and Mexico through the deployment of members of the National Guard in support of the United States Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4883. A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Rare-Earth Refinery Cooperative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PALAZZO:

H. Res. 627. A resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to re-

quest the Senate to return to the House the bill (H.R. 4412) entitled "An Act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes"; considered and agreed to.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. MAFFEI introduced a bill (H.R. 4884) for the relief of Zenon Kolenda and Orsysa Bilyanska Kolenda; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 4871.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. WOODALL:

H.R. 4872.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 and Clause 7, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 4873.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2 (property clause)

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H.R. 4874.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers generally granted to Congress by that section, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Sections 8 and 9 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of specific legislative powers granted to Congress by those sections, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation exercises legislative power granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof" and, Article III of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation defines or affects powers of the Judiciary that are subject to legislation by Congress.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 4875.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 4876.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 and clause 18 of Article I of section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 4877.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 1.

Article I.

Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 4878.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause I, Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution which reads: "The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts, and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. COOPER:

H.R. 4879.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce, as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 4880.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 4881.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3. The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 4882.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8, of Article 1, in the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4883.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MAFFEI:

H.R. 4884.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 and Amendment I, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 60: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 129: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 140: Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 182: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 274: Mr. RICHMOND and Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 411: Mr. TIERNEY.

- H.R. 477: Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 493: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 532: Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 535: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 543: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. SIREN.
H.R. 628: Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 808: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 820: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 822: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 896: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 906: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 997: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 1015: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1020: Mr. GOSAR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PETERS of California, and Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 1070: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. PETERS of California.
H.R. 1106: Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 1148: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 1179: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1284: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1286: Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 1292: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 1337: Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 1339: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. KIND, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 1429: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1518: Mr. BECERRA, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 1527: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
H.R. 1535: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 1551: Mr. HURT and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 1553: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1563: Ms. SPEIER and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1635: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1652: Mr. CLYBURN.
H.R. 1666: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 1698: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 1699: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1767: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1775: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1822: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 1837: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 1843: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1852: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 1893: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 1915: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 2001: Mr. MCALLISTER.
H.R. 2053: Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 2170: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2220: Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 2283: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 2291: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 2305: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2313: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 2384: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 2415: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 2429: Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. ISSA, Mr. SANFORD, and Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 2500: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 2502: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 2536: Mr. BARR, Mr. UPTON, Mr. COLE, Mr. REED, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2547: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 2652: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2707: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 2901: Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 3086: Mr. DENT, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 3116: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 3118: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 3367: Mr. YOHO and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3431: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 3471: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 3481: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3485: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 3566: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3593: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 3662: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3680: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3689: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
H.R. 3698: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 3717: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 3775: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 3833: Mrs. CAPPAS.
H.R. 3836: Mr. CARNEY and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 3839: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 3877: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 3929: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 4008: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 4035: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 4060: Mr. HULTGREN.
H.R. 4075: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 4136: Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4144: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 4156: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 4187: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4188: Mr. TONKO and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 4190: Mr. MCALLISTER, Mr. FORBES, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 4216: Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 4250: Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 4260: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4305: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 4317: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 4320: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 4321: Mr. HUELSKAMP.
H.R. 4325: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 4333: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4347: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 4348: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 4351: Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. ROTHFUS, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 4380: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 4395: Ms. ESTY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 4430: Mr. FINCHER.
H.R. 4437: Mr. SOUTHERLAND and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 4446: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 4450: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 4466: Mr. FINCHER.
H.R. 4494: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 4521: Mr. FINCHER.
H.R. 4546: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 4551: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 4566: Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 4574: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 4577: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RUPERSBERGER.
H.R. 4578: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4582: Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. WATERS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 4589: Mr. HUNTER and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 4590: Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 4592: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 4608: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4611: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4612: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4625: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 4626: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 4630: Ms. SCHWARTZ and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4632: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 4636: Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. CHU, and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 4643: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4651: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4653: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4664: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4682: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. JONES, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 4699: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN OF NEW MEXICO AND MR. POCAN.
H.R. 4701: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ESTY, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4703: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 4707: Ms. HANABUSA and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 4718: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 4750: Mr. STOCKMAN.
H.R. 4759: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 4783: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 4785: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 4790: Ms. SPEIER and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 4792: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 4805: Mr. YOHO, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 4807: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4808: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BARR, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 4851: Mr. MARINO.
H.R. 4853: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 4863: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 4865: Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ENYART, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. ESHOO.
H. J. Res. 41: Mr. GOWDY.
H. J. Res. 50: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. ROSS.
H. Con. Res. 101: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Res. 109: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H. Res. 231: Mr. BARROW of Georgia.
H. Res. 356: Mr. MCALLISTER.
H. Res. 435: Mr. SIREN, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MICA, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. KILMER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. MENG, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H. Res. 456: Mr. POE of Texas.
H. Res. 476: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. FORBES.
H. Res. 494: Mr. COTTON.
H. Res. 542: Mr. COTTON.
H. Res. 571: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H. Res. 606: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 607: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. RUSH.
H. Res. 611: Mr. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H. Res. 612: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H. Res. 620: Mr. COOK, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. HUNTER.

H. Res. 621: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. KING of Iowa.

H. Res. 622: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. GOSAR.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 2377: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. FORTENBERRY

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide weapons

directly or indirectly to combatants in Syria.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. COTTON

AMENDMENT NO. 2: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to transfer or release any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to the individual's country of origin or to any other foreign country.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. MCGOVERN

AMENDMENT NO. 3: Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 33, line 12, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT NO. 4: Page 16, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,400,000)".

Page 31, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,400,000)".

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. COFFMAN

AMENDMENT NO. 5: Page 31, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$15,722,000)".

Page 141, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$15,722,000)".

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. COFFMAN

AMENDMENT NO. 6: Page 27, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$139,260,000)".

Page 31, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$139,260,000)".

Page 31, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$139,260,000)".

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING ANTONETTE
"TONI" LANDOLFI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the exemplary life of Antonette "Toni" Landolfi, 85, of Niles, who passed away peacefully earlier this year with her son and daughter by her side.

She was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Niles, a founder of the Tri-County Association of Nursing Home Social Workers, past President of the American Committee on Italian Migration, and an active member of the local Democratic Party, among many other community organizations.

Toni was honored numerous times for her outstanding service, including her work with the Diocese of Youngstown. For her work in Democratic politics she received the Joseph A. Marino Democrat of the Year Award. She was recognized for her community activism by the Ohio House of Representatives for her dedication to Shepherd of the Valley and she received the Carmen DeChristofaro Service Award for all she did to better the lives of the people of Niles.

Toni enjoyed entertaining and hosting gatherings at her home and backyard pool where she took great pleasure in feeding and serving all who visited.

Preceded in death by her husband Gregory A. Landolfi, Toni will be deeply missed by her daughter Jennie Louise Landolfi of Niles, her son Attorney John Louis Landolfi, his wife Christina and her three grandsons, Johnny, Dante and Marco Landolfi of Columbus, her siblings Pete Cervone of Austintown, Pat Bonanno and Rose (Dominic) Sarno of Niles, her sisters-in-law Rose Raschilla of Youngstown and Mary Jane (Jim) Botsko of Gallatin, TN, many nieces and nephews and her beloved neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor the life of Toni Landolfi. I will always remember the tremendous support she provided to me throughout my career. She had class and lived with a deep and abiding faith and an amazing Grace. I extend my most sincere condolences to Toni's entire family. Her contributions to this community will not be forgotten. Northeast Ohio is a better place because of her service and her life.

IN MEMORY OF RON FLORIAN

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of former Mayor of Truckee, California, Ron Florian.

Mayor Florian's career as a public servant was forged out of love for his community. He was born in Sacramento and moved to Truckee in 1992 to follow in his father's footsteps as a grocer. Mayor Florian's work as President of the Truckee Rotary is worthy of note; through his membership in the Rotary Club, Ron gained access to a new way to serve those around him. While he cared deeply about these activities, they did not define him. Ron was a man characterized by an energetic spirit, quick wit, and a boundless capacity for generosity.

Ron Florian took his commitment to service further when he served two terms on the Truckee Town Council and two terms as Mayor. During his time on the Council, Ron proved instrumental in establishing the Truckee Police Department and constructing the Highway 267 Bypass. He consistently worked to make Truckee safer, stronger, and more united. Ron understood what it means to be a part of a community bigger than oneself.

Mayor Florian enjoyed doing the people's work and loved working side by side with the citizens of Truckee. Even in the instance that he and his colleagues disagreed, Ron considered them friends rather than adversaries. While he received numerous accolades, Ron consistently attributed the accomplishments to his staff, who he believed deserved credit for all the heavy lifting. He loved and valued them, just as he loved and valued the town they all served together. Ron's grace, wit, and sense of humor will surely be missed.

Ron and his lovely wife, Patti, fulfilled their dream of owning a business together when Florian's Fine Wines & Specialty Foods opened its doors in 1999. Through his business, Ron continued to serve and unite the town of Truckee, with Florian's becoming a local meeting place.

One of Ron's greatest gifts was his commitment to shaping the next generation. Ron's legacy lives on in the lives that he touched, and it is my privilege to rise in recognition of his many achievements and contributions to Truckee.

HONORING SPC WALTER WINN,
WOUNDED WARRIOR OF THE YEAR

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, today it is my honor and privilege to recognize a true American hero, SPC Walter Winn. SPC Winn was recently recognized as the first ever Wounded Warrior of the Year for his work with the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Bragg. SPC Winn entered the WTB program during Operation Enduring Freedom from the heralded 82nd Airborne and 1st Theatre Support Command.

SPC Winn was nominated by officials at Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg for his "dedication, service, integrity, leadership and his inspiration to all Wounded Warriors who have served this great country."

Out of 3,500 candidates, SPC Winn was chosen for his exemplary perseverance and determination. SPC Winn pressed on in the face of adversity, and as a result, he received high marks in the Warrior Transition Unit.

Mr. Winn is an inspiration to countless veterans and active-duty soldiers at Ft. Bragg and around the country. His commanders have noted that SPC Winn's compassion and hard work is contagious around the WTB. Mr. Speaker, I am honored and proud to recognize SPC Walter Winn, the Wounded Warrior of the Year.

PREECLAMPSIA AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, last month we recognized May as Preeclampsia Awareness Month.

A life-threatening disorder that can occur during pregnancy or the postpartum period, preeclampsia is one of the leading causes of maternal mortality and morbidity, affecting hundreds of women and babies each day.

Preeclampsia is a rapid rise in blood pressure that can lead to seizure, stroke, organ failure or death.

And while all pregnant women are at risk, all too often the symptoms are dismissed as typical pregnancy complaints.

One way to save the baby from preeclampsia complications is through delivery, which is oftentimes conducted prior to a pregnancy being full term in the context of an emergency situation. Pre-term birth can lead to significant and costly health challenges for a baby.

Moreover, there is a strong relationship between preeclampsia and future cardiovascular disease.

Women who develop preeclampsia during pregnancy are four times more likely to develop hypertension later in life and are twice as likely to develop heart disease, stroke, and blood clots.

In this way, preeclampsia during pregnancy can have ramifications throughout a woman's adult life.

That is why awareness building, as well as research and prevention, are so important. I urge my colleague to work together to ensure that by next May we have done all we can to support these important efforts.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY MICHAEL JACOBI AND DEPUTY MATTHEW SWOPE, RECIPIENTS OF THE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN POLICE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two deputies of the Crawford County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Michael Jacobi and Deputy Matthew Swope on the distinction of earning the Police Officers Association of Michigan's Police Officers of the Year Award. Deputy Jacobi and Deputy Swope are two of five officers to be honored by the Police Officers Association of Michigan for 2014. On behalf of all residents of Northern Michigan, we are honored to have two officers such as Deputy Jacobi and Deputy Swope to be serving and earn this distinction.

On the night of Jan. 16–17, a woman was abducted at gunpoint from the campus of Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant and forced to the home of a male suspect, later identified as recently-paroled Eric Lee Ramsey, who bound her and sexually assaulted her. He returned her to the car and began driving, stating that he intended to murder her. The woman managed to open the door and jump out of the moving vehicle, taking refuge in a nearby home. The suspect poured gasoline on the home and attempted to set it ablaze before fleeing the scene.

The police were notified, and several hours later the suspect rammed a state police cruiser. After being pursued by more state troopers, Ramsey was able to flee and take control of a large flatbed truck. The word was put out to be on watch for the vehicle, and Crawford County Deputy Michael Jacobi turned around to give pursuit after passing by in the opposite direction. Jacobi became the only officer on his trail after the suspect rammed an additional state police cruiser, disabling it and injuring the officers inside.

Seeing a roadblock, Ramsey turned the vehicle around while Jacobi checked on the status of the injured officers, and crashed head-on into Jacobi's cruiser. He repeatedly backed up and continued ramming the patrol car until the vehicles became jammed together. At this point Jacobi took hold of his M–16 rifle, which he set to full automatic, and fired a burst, holding the gun over his head. However, the gun jammed, and Ramsey exited his vehicle. It was then that Jacobi saw Ramsey holding what he believed to be a firearm. He dropped his jammed M–16 and drew his Glock pistol. During this time, Deputy Matthew Swope arrived on the scene, and Ramsey moved out of sight of Jacobi. Swope placed his vehicle between the truck and Jacobi, a brave action which provided protection to his exposed partner while risking his own safety.

Ramsey then began trying to free his vehicle, and Deputy Jacobi approached the cab. Through the window, he could see that the suspect was pointing the gun at him. Jacobi determined that his partner and himself were in imminent danger, and fired into the vehicle

several times. There was no response or movement from within the truck, leading the deputies to secure Ramsey. They found that the suspect was deceased, and had been brandishing an air-pistol designed to look like a firearm.

Eric Lee Ramsey, after sexually assaulting and attempting to murder a woman, fleeing police and exposing many on the road to extreme danger, and threatening officers with bodily harm, was subdued due to the bravery and service of officers Matthew Swope and Michael Jacobi, who put themselves at great personal risk to protect the public and each other.

For this action in which they put themselves at great risk, they are honored by the Police Officers Association of Michigan and earned the 2014 Police Officers of the Year Award. This is their second time being honored for their dedication, after receiving this award in 2013 for previous actions of bravery. I wish to commend Deputy Jacobi and Deputy Swope for their heroism and well deserved honor of earning the Police Officers Association of Michigan's Police Officers of the Year Award, the second time they have been honored by the Police Officers Association of Michigan for going above and beyond the call of duty. Furthermore, I salute all Michigan law enforcement officials from Isle Royale to Monroe County and Gogebic County to Port Huron in the work they do every day to protect the residents of our state.

HONORING THE HISTORY OF THE BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the history of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. As told by the church itself:

"Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, under the leadership of Pastor Godfrey R. Patterson who joined in fall 2013, is one of the first African American congregations in the Sacramento Valley in the state of California, and until 1946, Bethel A.M.E. Church was the only African American congregation in Yuba County, California. The Church was organized in 1854, in a home located on California Alley, between Sixth and Seventh Streets, and the address was later changed to 113 Fifth Street—Marysville, California. The Reverend D.P. Stokes was the organizing Pastor, and the first Trustees were: G.A. Cantine, D.W. Sands, and Samuel Rinzel.

The physical building of the church was built in 1863, next door to the home which became the parsonage, and the deed for the land was made to the Trustees at that time: Mr. J. Watkins; P. Churchill; P. Powers; S.W. Williams; Charles Bush; B. Brooks; and J.C. Cork. During the 1864–1865 A.M.E. Church Annual Conference, held at Bethel A.M.E. Church in San Francisco, California, Bethel A.M.E. church was recognized and received into the A.M.E. Church connection; the congregation consisted of twenty-three (23) members.

On July 2, 1921, the church was destroyed by fire along with most of the lower parts of Marysville. The physical structure of the church was rebuilt in the same location of which it stands today at 115 Fifth Street.

The early Pastors, from 1857 to 1879, were circuit ministers. Many Pastors followed from 1880 to 1970; and in 1970, Reverend Winn, assisted by the "Men" of Bethel, personally remodeled the physical building, and paneled walls in the downstairs kitchen area, as well as remodeled the parsonage. Also, very instrumental in the renovation was the late Waymon Sales, a doer of the Word.

Reverend Charles DeWitt followed reverend Winn, and was followed by Rev. Joseph Forbes who initiated and directed many education and community service projects always in the best interest of both, the Church and the Community.

Pastors of more recent history are: Reverend E.D. Farris (1978–1980); Norris Williams (1980–1985). Reverend LaGrant Moore, now a Presiding elder in the Southern California Conference of the 5th Episcopal district, served from 1985–1987; followed by reverend Percy Leaks (1987).

In 1987, reverend Willie L. Adams was appointed and served until 1992; under his administration, the physical structure of Bethel A.M.E. Church took on a new look; the old parsonage was demolished, and the sanctuary and pulpit areas were enlarged; the upstairs area was reconstructed into a balcony; This construction was made possible through the hard work of "Buckley Construction" and several members of the congregation.

Reverend David Reginald Allen, Sr. served from 1992 to 1994; and Reverend David Wayne Coston, Sr. served from 1994 to 1999. In 1999, reverend Dante L. Rome was appointed to Bethel, and served until April 2007; in July 2004, under the leadership of Rev. Rome, an additional 20 feet was added to the north end of the building, along with a beautiful "stained-glass" window displaying the A.M.E. Church Denomination's symbol of the "cross with the Anvil" depicting the initial pulpit used by our founder, Richard Allen, in a blacksmith shop. Also a baptismal pool was added, and the kitchen and downstairs restrooms were remodeled.

Pastor, Reverend Freda Cash was the first female Pastor who was appointed to the Bethel A.M.E. Church at the Fifth District's Mid-Year Conference in April 2007. Under her leadership a new front entrance was constructed in June 2008. Windows forming a cross on two sides of the structure have engraved on each glass block names of members of the congregation, and family members who have been called from "labor to reward." The new entrance way has been dedicated in honor of a faithful servant, Brother Murphy Buckley.

Also, under Reverend Cash's administration, an "evangelism" team, under the direction of our assistant minister, Rev. Joyce Gardner and Steward, Bro. Paul Lethridge, has been established. Once a month this team reaches out into the community at the Veteran's Park on 5th Street in Marysville, feeding physically and spiritually. And, under the direction of our Evangelist, Terry Hammonds; a homeless ministry that assisted persons in the "Riverbottom" with food, clothing, and other items that assist them during the winter months, has been established.

Lastly, but not least, from the reactivation of our 7:30 a.m. morning "Worship and Testimony" service, the "Early Morning Disciples Alliance" (EMDA) has been established. This group of "early risers" has assisted the church greatly with community

outreach activities that bring churches of different denominations together for worship and fellowship.”

CONGRATULATING THE WINNERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS OF HERNDON'S 10TH ANNUAL TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS COMPETITION AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the participants and winners from the Council for the Arts of Herndon's Tenth Annual Technology and the Arts Competition.

The Technology and the Arts program grew out of a desire to offer computer savvy teens a way to showcase their abilities in an artistic format. The innovative program challenges students in all Fairfax and Arlington county high schools to create works of animation, digital art, digital music, and digital photography by blending technology and artistry into one cutting-edge masterpiece. Students submit entries at their schools, and teachers select which works will be entered into the contest. Works are judged by professionals and experts in the field, and awards are given in each category. Additionally, this program also showcases how creativity extends beyond the arts into a crucial component of our local and national economies. Technology has been the driving force behind Fairfax County's economic expansion for the past two decades. Knowledge-based enterprises directly employ more than 140,000 people in Fairfax County and some of the world's leading technology firms are headquartered here. America remains the world's leader in technology innovation primarily because of the creativity and ingenuity of these companies. This event is not just about art, it is also about laying the foundation for America's competitiveness in a global market place.

I am pleased to congratulate the following winners of the 2014 Technology and the Arts Competition:

Arts Council of Fairfax Uphoff Scholarship Award: Frankenstein, Adrian Caballero of Falls Church High School

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

First Prize: Freedom, Chris Aguila of South Lakes High School

Second Prize: Mold Me, Madison Schultz, South County High School

Third Prize: History of a Gaze (Self Portrait), Anna Smith, Centreville High School
Digital Photography Honorable Mentions:
Manipulated, Sue Minh Jung, Centreville High School

Bundle, Margaret Hollingsworth, Oakton High School

Monday's Mist, Gabrielle Bomberg, West Potomac High School

Things to Pack, Sarah Wasinger, Fairfax High School

DIGITAL ART

First Prize: Eye See You, Logan Darr, W.T. Woodson High School

Second Prize: Washington DC, Cheyenne Price Oakton High School

Third Prize: Welcome to the New World, Angela He, Oakton High School

Digital Art Honorable Mentions:

Apparition, Tony Lunsford, Mt. Vernon High School

Conformity, Jesse Sands, Lake Braddock Secondary

ANIMATION

First Prize: Mind Games, Max Johnson, Falls Church High School

Second Prize: I Draw, Adrian Caballero, Lake Braddock Secondary School

Third Prize: The Fast and the Felines, Wesley Rogers, Falls Church High School

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this year's winners and thanking the Council for the Arts of Herndon for promoting creativity and innovation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MINNETONKA GIRLS STATE TRACK CHAMPIONS

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Minnetonka Girls State Track team on winning their second consecutive high school state championship.

Last June, the Minnetonka Skippers overcame the odds and defeated the favored team for the State Title. The girls knew a repeat wouldn't be easy with many strong contenders such as Cretin-Derham Hall, Lakeville South, Alexandria, and Prior Lake. But they remained focused on their goal and came out on top once again.

Seniors Elizabeth Endy, who won the 800 meter title and contributed to the 4x800 gold medal and 4x400 silver medal and Senior Mia Barron, who set all-time state high school records in both the long jump and triple jump events at the State Tournament. Their leadership and athleticism will be missed at Minnetonka next year.

The team sailed to victory due to the energy and vigor of the athletes throughout the season as well as at the State Tournament, where many strong performances had a hand in the win. The team emerged mid-season with strength in middle distance, relays and jumps. Key to the Skippers success is head Coach Reimer-Morgan, who has coached track at the school for 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the dedication of both Coach Reimer-Morgan and the members of the Girls Skipper Track Team. Winning a State Title is no easy feat, especially defending the title for a consecutive second year. This win is a testament to the power of teamwork and perseverance of the student athletes.

Once again, congratulations to the Minnetonka Girls Track Team on becoming state champions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, during roll-call 308 on the Democrat Motion to Recommit for H.R. 4457 to Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes—I was away from the floor handling issues for a constituent of my district and I intended to vote “no.”

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUENT MICHAEL J. PARSONS, DEPARTING CHAIRMAN OF NAFCU'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael J. Parsons, President and CEO of First Source Federal Credit Union, in New Hartford, NY, as he completes his tenure as Chairman of the Board at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). First elected to the Board in 2006, Mike has been a devoted and effective leader in the credit union industry. Having known Mike for many years, I have always been able to turn to him for his expert analysis with respect to any credit union issue being debated in Congress.

Given the regulatory landscape facing the credit union industry in recent years, Mike's responsibilities as Chairman have been particularly daunting. Still, he has done an incredible job balancing his time as Chairman of the NAFCU Board and his responsibilities at First Source Federal Credit Union. Mike has over thirty-eight years' experience in the financial services industry, with 20 years at First Source Federal Credit Union, having served as President and CEO since 1999.

In addition to helping the credit union industry navigate the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Mike has also been proactive in educating lawmakers in Congress, the National Credit Union Administration, and White House officials on a number of issues impacting credit unions including: regulatory relief, housing finance reform, and lending standards.

In addition to his career accolades, Mike has gone above and beyond giving back to his local community as a trustee at Utica College, and a Board Member of Mohawk Valley Economic Development, and Utica Industrial Development Corporation.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 25 individuals, one investigative team, and one Operational Task Force in a variety of categories including, the Silver or Bronze Valor Award, the Merit Valor Award, and the Investigative Merit Award.

Three members of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients:

2014 Bronze Valor Award: Captain Jason Reese and Captain Brian Ferguson.

2014 Merit Valor Award: Captain Tom Clark.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2014 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 294, on June 10, 2014, I inadvertently voted "aye" on the amendment to H.R. 4745 offered by Mr. SESSIONS of Texas. My intention was to vote "no."

HONORING RONDA R. CLAYTON, RN, BSN

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ronda R. Clayton, the 2011 recipient of the

New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence's Rural Practice Nurse of the Year Award.

In 1991, Ronda completed her Bachelor of Science and began her honorable career as a healthcare practitioner in New Mexico. For over 20 years, Ronda has dedicated this time to serving the people of Artesia, New Mexico through her tireless work at Artesia General Hospital, a small, 49-bed, rural hospital.

Serving as a healthcare provider in a rural community invariably means becoming a "jack of all trades" and Ronda exemplifies this characteristic every day she walks through the Artesia General Hospital doors. As the Director of Pharmacy she provides clinical expertise in pharmacy to hospital nurses and medical staff, she develops strategies to move the Department's skill base and technology forward, and she works with patients in the Intensive Care Unit, following up on patients long after they are discharged from the hospital.

With a singular commitment to patient-focused care Ronda took the initiative to develop a program in which patient medication, laboratory and microbiology values, and diagnosis are assessed repeatedly to ensure efficiency. Ronda is everything to everyone—as a co-worker she shows genuine interest in staff development, as a practitioner she takes extra measures to ensure patients, physicians, and staff are well taken care of, and as a respected member of her hospital, she values the opinions of others and looks for ways to contribute back to her community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my appreciation to Nurse Clayton for spending so much of her career inspiring young nurses and other healthcare professionals to continue serving rural communities with the same level of passion and commitment that she has shown throughout her years. Ronda is an exemplary New Mexico healthcare success story, and serves as a role model for future generations of healthcare professionals. Ronda's receipt of the Rural Practice Nurse of the Year Award was not only well-deserved, but long overdue.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN LUIS ALBERTO BENEVIDES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Luis Alberto Benevides for 30 years of military service in the United States Navy. His commitment and service to our great nation deserve to be commended.

In 1980, Mr. Benevides graduated from Livingston High School in Livingston, California. After graduation, he attended Thomas A. Edison State College in New Jersey and graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

Mr. Benevides began his active duty career in 1983 as a U.S. Army Medical Laboratory Technician. In 1987, Mr. Benevides was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy. His first assignment as an Ensign was onboard the USS *Implicit*, where he served as the Operations Officer.

In 1988, Mr. Benevides transferred to the USS *Conquest* where he served as the Operations Officer and performed Mine Hunting and Clearance Operations in the Arabian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq War. Soon after returning from the Arabian Gulf, he attained his Surface Warfare Qualification and was subsequently assigned as a Linguist Project Officer.

Mr. Benevides transferred to the Medical Service Corps as a Radiation Health Officer in 1990 and served in Maryland and Hawaii. In 1996, he was selected to assume duties as the Clinic Director of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Branch Clinic and served as the mammography physicist for Hawaii, Japan, and Guam.

While serving the U.S. Navy, Mr. Benevides continued his education and graduated from Georgetown University with a Master's of Science in Radiation Science, and Central Michigan University with a Master's of Science in Health Care Administration.

While on assignment in Hawaii, Mr. Benevides held a professorship at Hawaii Pacific University, where he instructed classes in biology and mathematics. In 2005, after obtaining a Doctorate of Philosophy in Nuclear Engineering Sciences from the University of Florida, Mr. Benevides served as a science advisor and technical manager at the Naval Dosimetry Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

In 2009, Mr. Benevides became the Director for Radiological Controls at Naval Sea Systems Command. His duties included oversight and management of all the research as well as industrial and operational uses of radiation sources in the Navy and Marine Corps. After the March 2011 Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear accident, his responsibilities were expanded to include consequence management of 30 ships and over 200 aircraft that may have been contaminated. He also provided humanitarian and disaster relief to the citizens of Japan following the earthquake and tsunami.

Throughout his many years of service, Mr. Benevides has been honored with numerous military awards, including Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Captain Luis Alberto Benevides for his many years of service to the U.S. Navy. He is a source of pride for our Central Valley and the entire nation.

NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Men's Health Caucus I am pleased to celebrate National Men's Health Week. This year marks the 20th anniversary of National Men's Health Week, which was started by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton in 1994.

National Men's Health Week was legislation sponsored by Senator Bob Dole and Congressman Bill Richardson and is celebrated each year during the week that ends on Father's Day. Recognizing that many health problems that affect men can be prevented, the week was designed to encourage men, boys and their families to develop positive health habits, engage in preventive behaviors, lead healthy lifestyles, and seek timely medical advice and care. As co-chair of the Congressional Men's Health Caucus, I am proud to celebrate this week and help raise awareness of health issues that affect men, boys, and their families.

I've seen first-hand the importance of health education and awareness for men in particular. As a member of the Delaware Cancer Consortium, a statewide organization dedicated to reducing the impact of cancer in my state, I helped to implement a successful colorectal cancer screening program that dramatically increased screening rates for Delaware men. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer affecting men; however, Delaware's screening program has helped reduce the rate of colorectal cancer by 41 percent among Delawareans and allowed Delaware to become the first state to eliminate disparities in colorectal cancer screening between Caucasian and African American men. But there is still progress to be made. We need to do a better job addressing the disparity in mortality rates of African American men with prostate cancer, providing early screening for lung cancer, and continuing our commitment to research.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of National Men's Health Week, we are reminded of how far our country has come in improving the health and well-being of men and boys, but there is still a lot of work left to be done. We also recognize the importance of these efforts as a way of reducing overall health care costs as part of a plan to address the country's fiscal challenges. Mr. Speaker, this week, along with the entire month of June, Men's Health Month, provides an excellent opportunity to focus on ways that we and our loved ones can live healthier, longer lives.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put

their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 25 individuals, one investigative team, and one Operational Task Force in a variety of categories including, the Silver or Bronze Valor Award, the Merit Valor Award, and the Investigative Merit Award.

Five officers and one Narcotics Task Force from the Prince William County Police Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients:

2014 Investigative Merit Award: Narcotics Task Force (Operation Blue Dragon) and Officer Daniel Sekely.

2014 Bronze Valor Award: Lieutenant Carlos Robles and Officer Patrick Balchunas.

2014 Merit Valor Award: Officer Aaron Lintz and Officer Steven Mattos, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2014 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Prince William County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

IN HONOR OF GUADALUPE LOPEZ

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the life and service of Guadalupe Lopez: veteran of the 158th Infantry Regiment of the Arizona National Guard, recipient of the Silver Star Medal, and my constituent.

Mr. Lopez served his country bravely during World War II in the 158th Infantry Regiment of the Arizona National Guard, better known as the "Bushmasters". The Bushmasters, whose nickname comes from a deadly jungle snake, have a distinguished history that stretches over a hundred years, both in Arizona and throughout the world. They are known for their expertise in jungle warfare and skill in knife fighting and hand-to-hand combat techniques. General MacArthur himself extolled the Bushmasters: "No greater fighting combat team has ever deployed for battle".

Mr. Lopez was drafted in 1940, and in 1941 was sent to Panama for jungle training and to protect the Panama Canal. Between 1942-1945, his company regiment was sent to battle in Australia, the Netherlands, New Guinea, and the Philippines. Mr. Lopez was released from service in 1945, after his brother was killed in the war.

Mr. Lopez is an American hero, and we are proud to call him an Arizonan.

Cuidado, Mr. Lopez.

ONEGIFT INCORPORATED OF MORRISTOWN 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor OneGift Inc., located in the Town of Morristown, County of Morris, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

OneGift was founded in 1988 by Leigh S. Porges and Anne DeLaney, and is dedicated to the memory of their mothers, Carol G. Simon and Ruth Ann DeLaney. The nonprofit organization helps adults who have been diagnosed with cancer to fulfill wishes that they might not be able to achieve on their own. Dedicated volunteers encourage positive thinking and help cancer patients focus their energy on getting better. They work closely with patients, families, and friends to create a memorable, worry-free experience for those who could not otherwise afford it.

Over the last 25 years, OneGift has created over 3500 experiences for adult cancer patients, their families, and their friends. The types of wish requests that OneGift receives vary greatly. Some ask for a vacation to a place they have never been, or a place they have not seen in years. Others ask for a family reunion or a trip into New York City to see their favorite Broadway play. Whatever the wish is, OneGift strives to make that wish into a reality.

OneGift has helped many cancer patients across New Jersey. OneGift caters to eight area hospitals: Clara Maass Medical Center, Morristown Hospital, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Overlook Hospital, Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, Somerset Medical Center, and Trinitas Regional Medical Center.

OneGift's volunteers work long and hard to make sure that every detail of the wish is addressed so that the patients won't have any worry or stress. All donations go straight to helping a patient receive the best trip or experience possible.

As it celebrates its 25th Anniversary, OneGift Inc. continues to help adult cancer patients fulfill their wishes as they endure their battle with cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating OneGift, its staff, and volunteers, as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING FOSTER FARMS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Mr. DENHAM and Mr. VALADAO to honor Foster Farms, a poultry company with 75 years of business experience in California's Central Valley. Foster Farms is not only a significant employer in the community but also a national leader in high quality poultry production.

Foster Farms was founded in 1939 by Max and Verda Foster, a couple who dreamed of selling better, safer farm products to consumers. By taking out a small loan the young couple invested in an 80-acre farm near Modesto, California, and their business quickly grew. The Foster's commitment to raising high quality poultry led to their purchase of a feed mill in 1950. By 1959, Max and Verda added a processing plant in nearby Livingston.

The expansion of Foster Farms continued into the 1960s when the company consolidated its corporate headquarters in the small Central California town of Livingston, where it still resides today. Increasing demand for fresh poultry led Foster Farms to continue its expansion into southern California. By 1973, consumers across the state from Del Norte County to San Diego could access Foster Farms' high quality fresh poultry.

Today, Foster Farms poultry operation employs more than 12,000 hardworking Americans. The company has sales in excess of \$2 billion, and their profits have made possible significant financial contributions to agricultural education in the State of California. Foster Farms has given grants to UC Davis, Fresno State, and California Polytechnic State University. Foster Farms' efforts have been recognized throughout the State's educational system. The company's Chief Executive Officer, Ron Foster, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for 15 years of leadership as an educational advisor, fundraiser, benefactor, and collaborator.

Since 2005, Foster Farms has consistently received the highest animal welfare ratings from various independent auditors. In 2013, Foster Farms became the first major poultry producer to be certified by the American Humane Association, which is the nation's first national humane organization for children and animals. The company continued to demonstrate their appreciation for high quality chicken through their "Say No to Plumping" campaign, which began in 2009. Thanks in large part to Foster Farms, plumping is no longer found in retailers on the West Coast.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join Mr. DENHAM, Mr. VALADAO, and myself in recognizing Foster Farms for 75 successful years in business.

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE
TONY A. DEBRUM OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my good friend, the Honorable Tony A. deBrum, who has served the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) with distinction and honor as Senator, Minister in Assistance to the President (Vice-President), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Health and Environment, and in other notable capacities.

Senator Tony deBrum was born in 1945 and grew up on Likiep atoll at the height of the

U.S. nuclear testing program in the RMI. From 1946–1958, the U.S. exploded 67 nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands and, in 1954, detonated the Bravo shot on Bikini atoll. Acknowledged as the greatest nuclear explosion ever detonated, the Bravo shot vaporized 6 islands and created a mushroom cloud 25 miles in diameter.

In his own words, the Honorable Tony deBrum, states:

I am a nuclear witness and my memories from Likiep atoll in the northern Marshalls are strong. I lived there as a young boy for the entire 12 years of the nuclear testing program, and when I was 9 years old, I remember vividly the white flash of the Bravo detonation on Bikini atoll, 6 decades ago in 1954, and one thousand times more powerful than Hiroshima—an event that truly shocked the international community into action.

It was in the morning, and my grandfather and I were out fishing. He was throwing net and I was carrying a basket behind him when Bravo went off. Unlike previous ones, Bravo went off with a very bright flash, almost a blinding flash; bear in mind we are almost 200 miles away from ground zero. No sound, just a flash and then a force, the shock wave. I like to describe it as if you are under a glass bowl and someone poured blood over it. Everything turned red: sky, the ocean, the fish, and my grandfather's net.

People in Rongelap nowadays claim they saw the sun rising from the West. I saw the sun rising from the middle of the sky, I mean I don't even know what direction it came from but it just covered it, it was really scary. We lived in thatch houses at that time, my grandfather and I had our own thatch house and every gecko and animal that lived in the thatch fell dead not more than a couple of days after. The military came in, sent boats ashore to run us through Geiger counters and other stuff; everybody in the village was required to go through that.

Shaped by what he witnessed, Tony deBrum determined to become an activist.

I think that's the point that my brain was taught that. I did not consciously say at the time, I am going to now be a crusader. Just a few weeks after that, my grandfather and I went to Kwajalein, where they had evacuated the people of Rongelap, where they were staying in big large green tents being treated for their nuclear burns and exposure. All the while, incidentally, the United States government was announcing that everything was OK, that there was nothing to be worried about.

Unconvinced, Tony deBrum not only became one of the first Marshall Islanders to graduate from college but he worked for 17 years to negotiate his country's independence from the United States. As an eyewitness to nuclear explosions, he also became one of the world's leading advocates for nuclear disarmament calling upon the parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and pursue the peace and security of a world without them. In 2012, Tony deBrum was awarded the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Distinguished Peace Leadership Award. Previous recipients include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, King Hussein of Jordan, and Jacques Cousteau.

In April 2014, the Republic of the Marshall Islands filed the Nuclear Zero Lawsuits—unprecedented lawsuits against all nine countries

that possess nuclear weapons for their failure to negotiate in good faith for nuclear disarmament as required by the NPT. The landmark cases signed by RMI Foreign Minister Tony deBrum are now pending before the International Court of Justice in The Hague and the U.S. Federal District Court in San Francisco. As a Pacific Islander and as the Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I applaud the RMI and especially Tony deBrum for taking a stand against the nuclear weapon giants. "No nation should ever suffer as we have," Foreign Minister Tony deBrum has stated, and I agree.

I also agree that we should spur greater commitments in international climate change negotiations, and I commend Foreign Minister Tony deBrum for galvanizing more urgent and concrete action on climate change. As an architect of the Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership, Foreign Minister Tony deBrum has been unrelenting in vocalizing his concerns. In 2013, he addressed the United Nations Security Council on the threat posed by climate change to the long-term viability and survival of the Marshall Islands. During climate talks at the United Nations, he stated that "we are not just trying to save our islands, we are trying to save the entire world."

I declare my sincere and heartfelt commitment to a nuclear-free world and a world committed to putting climate at the top of its diplomatic agenda. In so doing, I honor Tony deBrum as a leader, activist, friend and brother by placing his name and work in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for historical purposes.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 PRINCE
WILLIAM COUNTY VALOR AWARD
RECIPIENTS FROM THE CITY OF
MANASSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 25 individuals, one investigative team, and one Operational Task Force in a variety of categories including, the Silver or Bronze Valor Award, the Merit Valor Award, and the Investigative Merit Award.

Two members of the City of Manassas Police Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients:

2014 Merit Valor Award: Officer Trey Cram and Police Officer First Class Brett Stumpf.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2014 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who served in the City of Manassas Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

A TRIBUTE TO ANDREW JOON-HAO TAN FOR HIS WINNING ESSAY DEMOCRACY: COHESION BETWEEN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Joon-hao Tan, a student at La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park, California, for his First Place Award in the 2013 Making Democracy Work Student Essay Contest held by the United States Capitol Historical Society. His extraordinary essay, entitled *Democracy: Cohesion Between People and Government*, follows.

"What political power could ever carry on the vast multitude of lesser undertakings which the American citizens perform every day, with the assistance of the principle of association," wrote French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville when he visited the United States to observe American government. Tocqueville evaluates the American government and decides that for democracy to be effective in America, citizens and organizations must actively participate in the government. After the American Revolution, representatives from each state met together to write the Constitution, an American standard for how democracy would function. Recently, however, the government has been less productive than in the past. Some have begun to question if democracy can remain an effective form of government in the current era. Democracy has the potential to be a flourishing style of government, but is predicated on the protection of individuals' rights and liberties, people's access to education and information, and actively participating citizens, all of which, they claim, are resting on shaky grounds.

First and foremost, individual liberties must be guaranteed to everyone in a democracy. This provides protection to minority groups whose rights may otherwise be construed upon. Civil liberties can be encroached upon during times of national crises. A recent example of this is the Patriot Act, which was enacted after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Even though reining in civil liberties seemed appropriate for national security reasons in the immediate aftermath, there have been unintended consequences whereby our basic civil rights have been infringed. The debate over the role of the National Security Agency is currently being adjudicated in federal courts because many people feel that their fourth amendment rights are being violated. The expansion and retraction of our rights must continually be examined, and the government must provide enforcement of these rights to all citizens to create a bond of trust between the people and the government.

Secondly, education should be available to all citizens, policies must be transparent, information should be widely accessible, and diverse points of views should be encouraged. When citizens in a democracy are educated, democracy functions much more effectively. Across countries, education and democracy are highly correlated. In other words, those who receive poor education are less likely to be politically active. Also, less educated people are more vulnerable to propaganda and false information, leaving them susceptible to vote based on the influence of others. Citizens also deserve access to uncensored information. In regimes where information is tightly controlled, citizens are restricted from developing their own opinions and this limits their capacity to fully engage in the political process. It is the government's responsibility to provide basic education and ensure freedom of the press so that citizens are engaged and empowered to play a part in a successful democracy.

Finally, citizens must fulfill their civic duties in a democracy. These include voting and jury duty but can also be as simple as staying updated on current issues and obeying the law. Unfortunately, many of these simple duties are commonly overlooked. Even in the last presidential election in 2012, where there was a record voter turnout only about 60% of registered voters voted. Thus, the voice of around 40% of people was not heard in the ballot. Similarly, fulfilling civic responsibilities is necessary for democracy to work well. For example, jury duty has been difficult to implement. According to Sun Sentinel, in South Florida about two of every three people skip jury duty with or without being exempted. Jurors in South Florida have only a 41% response rate and 3,000 people must be requested to fill 1,000 jury spots because of the high rejection rate. This may be an extreme case, but the lack of commitment to civic responsibility is not unique to Florida. Complacency in civic involvement ultimately leads to erosion of democracy and make our system stale and unsustainable.

The "lesser undertakings which the American citizens perform every day" are essential in a democracy because government cannot fulfill all the needs of citizens. In a successful democracy individual rights and liberties must be applied impartially, education and current information must be readily available, and the citizens must do their part to allow the law to be applied fairly. America has survived and struggled through adversities to become one of the longest living democracies in the world because of its strong commitment to the Constitution, impartial application of the law and unrestricted information from varying political opinions. Democracy is an active and dynamic process, and flourishes with self-examination and engagement of its citizens, but languishes with complacency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me today in honoring Andrew Tan, an extraordinary young man, for his deep understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our nation, and for his ability to write about it in a cogent, understandable and inspiring style. He is an inspiration to all of us and he is an eloquent statement about the youth of our nation.

RECOGNIZING CITIZENS STATE BANK NORWOOD YOUNG AMERICA ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 100 years of business by the Citizens State Bank Norwood Young America in Minnesota.

In 1914, Peter Effertz opened the bank on 214 Elm Street where it remained for its first seventy years. Albert Kehrer acquired the bank in 1930 followed by Donald Kehrer beginning in 1952. Later, during the time when Clinton Kurtz and Leonard Lano owned the bank (1979–1999), it was moved to its present location on US Highway 212. The bank is now under the ownership of Paul Pieschel who continues to lead it with the original philosophy of wanting to make a difference in the everyday lives of the people it serves.

Over the last 100 years, this community bank has worked hard to meet the needs of its customers—from a place to tie off a horse or park a Model T Ford to on-line banking and ATMs. Their motto is "Person to person. Neighbor to neighbor. Yesterday, today and tomorrow." and they take pride in going above and beyond what their customers expect.

The stability of both its ownership and leadership, and the sincere interest the employees have in each unique customer situation has provided genuine person-to-person connections with their customers for 100 years. As their recent newsletter states, "Our long-term philosophy creates trust and motivates our customers to refer their neighbors and friends to the bank."

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring Citizens State Bank Norwood Young America upon reaching this noteworthy centennial milestone and to wish them continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMPHILL SOLTANE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Camphill Soltane of Chester County, Pennsylvania on its 25th anniversary of exemplary service in providing educational, vocational, and residential services for young adults with developmental disabilities. This is a great milestone and a considerable accomplishment and I take great pleasure in being able to honor the men and women of Camphill Soltane for their dedication and outstanding service.

For 25 years, the men and women of Camphill Soltane have dedicated themselves to enabling young adults and adults with special needs to identify and pursue their interests, exercise their talents, and develop their skills that they may enjoy a rich and satisfying

life and make valued contributions to the world. A member of the international Camphill Movement, which began in Scotland 70 years ago, Camphill Soltane continues the Movement's tradition of approaching the individual with special needs as a valued member of society worthy of love, dignity, and the opportunity to realize goals and dreams.

Camphill Soltane's varied residential settings on its 52 acre Glenmoore site, and affiliated houses in Phoenixville, provide opportunities for individuals with special needs to live as independently as possible within a supportive community environment. For the last quarter century, this groundbreaking model has served to foster relationships based on mutual respect while encouraging the ongoing development of life and social skills.

Mr. Speaker, in light of its 25 years of outstanding service, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Camphill Soltane for its invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE TEAM INVESTIGATING THE CASE OF ARSON AT MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 25 individuals, one investigative team, and one Operational Task Force in a variety of categories including, the Silver or Bronze Valor Award, the Merit Valor Award, and the Investigative Merit Award.

The 12 members of the team investigating a case of arson at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients:

2014 Investigative Merit Award: Lt. Dave Cooper, Lt. Brad Miller, and Lt. Angel Tyson of the Fire Marshal's Office; Supervising Special Agent Steve Avato, Special Agent Chad Campanell, and Special Agent Paul Parisi of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; Detective Saemi Kitchens, Detective Maria Cervantes, Crime Analyst Supervisor Dawn Locke-Trillhaase and Detective Jason Callahan of the Prince William County Police Department; Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Claiborne T. Richardson II; and Special Agent Keith Palli of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2014 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who served on the team investigating a case of arson at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,536,123,426,853.10. We've added \$6,909,246,377,940.02 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING WESLEYAN, WEST STOKES AND WESTCHESTER ON THEIR CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, in sports, winning a championship is an incredible accomplishment. I am proud to announce that Wesleyan Christian Academy, West Stokes High, and Westchester Country Day all recently won state titles. All of these schools are either in the Sixth District of North Carolina or our constituents attend these fine institutions.

The softball team at Wesleyan Christian Academy recently won the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association 3A softball championship for the first time in the school's history. The Lady Trojans credit their success to the strong bond the team formed after a fellow teammate experienced a critical medical condition. Players Taylor Bisbee and Taylor Travis received the American Red Cross Certificate of Merit Award for their courageous acts towards their teammate in need.

The West Stokes girls' soccer team defeated Washington 2-0 to bring home the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 2A state title. The Lady Wildcats believe it was their refuse-to-lose attitude that helped them capture the soccer program's first state title: Team captains Taylor Hooper and Tori Van Meter received individual honors. Hooper was named the championship's Most Valuable Player, while Van Meter received the NCHSAA Sportsmanship Award.

Westchester Country Day recently won the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association 2A state championships for base-

ball and golf. This is the third straight year the baseball team has brought home a state title and is the third in four years for the golf team.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Wesleyan Christian Academy, West Stokes High, and Westchester Country Day for winning state championships.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WAYZATA TROJANS BOYS TENNIS TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wayzata Boys Tennis Team on their outstanding accomplishment of winning their second consecutive Minnesota State Championship.

Even though they lost 6 starters from last year's team, under the direction of Head Coach Jeff Prondzinski the team found a way to regain their winning form.

The team spent the better part of the season mixing and matching players, hoping to find the perfect combination. The long winter kept the team inside and postponed many matches throughout the season. But regardless of the unfortunate circumstances, the Trojans remained dedicated and focused, putting forth extra effort in their free time to improve.

The road to the championship was intense, as Wayzata battled tough competitors to qualify. Among the standout Trojan athletes is Sophomore Nick Beaty, who got the team off to a great start by winning the singles championship. The Trojan momentum continued with victories from Sam Theisen at No. 3 Singles and four additional wins to seal the championship.

Mr. Speaker, This year's well-deserved title carries a little more weight in the player's eyes due to the rocky road that was successfully navigated to get there. It is a testament to the team's perseverance and enthusiasm to overcome many obstacles and accomplish their goal of being the best boys tennis team in the State of Minnesota.

Congratulations again to the Trojan Boys Tennis team, Coach Prondzinski, and all of the parents, teachers and fans who have supported these athletes along the way.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 25 individuals, one investigative team, and one Operational Task Force in a variety of categories including, the Silver or Bronze Valor Award, the Merit Valor Award, and the Investigative Merit Award.

Two members of Virginia State Police are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients:

2014 Silver Valor Award: Trooper Charles A. Lanfranchi and Trooper Brandon West.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2014 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Virginia State Police. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County and the Commonwealth of Virginia, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING
ROBERT F. ECKLOND

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor Mr. Robert F. Ecklund, a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. Mr. Ecklund originally enlisted in the United States Navy as a Seaman Apprentice, completing Boot Camp in Sampson, New York and advanced technical training at the Construction Training Center in Davisville, Rhode Island. He served in the Pacific Theater during World War II with the 20th Special Naval Construction Battalion Seabees. Mr. Ecklund was present at Red Hill Seabee Camp in Hawaii during V-J Day on September 2, 1945. He was honorably discharged in September 1946, having attained the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class.

Following his discharge, Mr. Ecklund showed his continued dedication to the U.S. Armed Forces by joining the United States Naval Reserve. When he was called to serve during the Korean War, Mr. Ecklund honored his country by returning to active duty, serving in Korea from April 1950 to July 1953.

This year on Memorial Day, Robert Ecklund was celebrated by the Honor Flight Network, a non-profit organization that seeks to honor America's veterans for the sacrifices they made for our country. As part of this recognition, Mr. Ecklund was flown from Florida to Washington, DC, affording him the opportunity to visit and reflect at the National World War II Memorial.

I am proud to recognize and honor Mr. Ecklund and remember those who have given so much to serve our country. Their dedication, courage, and sacrifice allowed America to remain safe and free. I ask my colleagues will

join me in commending Robert Ecklund for his long-standing service to the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEACH BLANKET BABYLON

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the world's longest running musical revue that is politically incorrect, brilliant and hilarious. Beach Blanket Babylon has drawn sold-out audiences in its hometown San Francisco for 40 years and isn't showing any signs of slowing down or getting old. The New York Times is right to call Beach Blanket Babylon "no less a part of San Francisco than the Golden Gate Bridge or Coit Tower."

Every performance of Beach Blanket Babylon takes the audience on a fast-paced journey around the world with Snow White on her search for Prince Charming. She encounters an always-changing cast of characters from politics and pop culture. Everybody who is anybody has been on stage: President Barack Obama, the Queen of England, Lady Gaga, Tina Turner, Prince, Hillary Clinton, Justin Bieber, Elvis and da Mayor Willie Brown have all endured sarcastic interpretations of current events.

I fell in love with the show the first time I saw it, in part, of course, because of the outrageous hats. These creations range from a giant heart made of red curls to the Skyline of San Francisco with a growing Transamerica Pyramid to a five tier wedding cake. Balancing those heavy and top-heavy sculptures is no easy task for the performers. They wear braces on their hips and shoulders to distribute the weight. The mechanical hats are so heavy that they are attached to stands that roll on the stage and are hidden in the costumes of the performers.

I was told by a secret source that auditions for Beach Blanket Babylon are "the craziest thing ever." They start out innocent enough: sing a song, say for example Stand by Your Man. Next thing you know, you'll be asked to sing it with a French bulldog accent or the personality of the Wicked Witch from the Wizard of Oz.

The late Steve Silver, with his sense for the absurd and whimsical imagination, was the genius who gave birth to Beach Blanket Babylon in 1974. The show grew out of street performances in North Beach, the famous Italian neighborhood of San Francisco. Since Silver's passing in 1995, his widow Jo Schuman Silver has produced the show and continued his vision and legacy.

In 1983, Beach Blanket Babylon did a command performance for the Queen of England and Prince Phillip at Davies Symphony Hall. In 1988, the de Young Museum presented an exhibition of 15 years of Beach Blanket Babylon hats and costumes. On the 20th anniversary, BBB performed at the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House and today, on the 40th anniversary, BBB is giving a special performance at San Francisco City Hall featuring cur-

rent Mayor Ed Lee, former Mayor Willie Brown, former Secretary of State George Schultz and his wife Charlotte Schultz as Wonder Woman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the 40th anniversary of Beach Blanket Babylon, a San Francisco institution that has sharpened the minds and provided hearty belly laughs for over 6 million fans during 15,000 performances. I have enjoyed the show more than a dozen times and will continue to be a regular at this unique San Francisco theater experience. May it last for at least another 40 years!

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOS BANOS DIVINO ESPÍRITO SANTO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Los Banos Portuguese Divino Espírito Santo (Los Banos Portuguese DES) organization on their 100th anniversary.

The story of the Los Banos Portuguese DES Association began more than 700 years ago with the birth of a royal princess. Queen Saint Isabel was born in Aragon, Spain, in 1271. According to legend, a famine seized Portugal in 1292, and she donated generously to her people. Moved by the example of their queen, the Portuguese nobles asked permission to create a festival in honor of these generous acts. Every year on Pentecost Sunday, the Portuguese people collect donations to feed the community. The festa made its way from Western Europe to the Azores and eventually the United States on the proverbial backs of Portuguese Azorean immigrants. The festa is still celebrated today.

In 1904, Azorean Portuguese immigrants founded the Los Banos chapter of the organization which honors Queen Saint Isabel's example—the Irmandade do Divino Espírito Santo 64. The organization was incorporated and later changed its name to Los Banos Portuguese DES Association. The Los Banos Portuguese DES Festa was incorporated in 1914. The festa was originally celebrated in a building that was a community center built in the early 20th century. Several individuals were largely responsible for the rebuilding of the community center and its subsequent revival into a Portuguese Hall.

In 1934, the Los Banos DES purchased the property where the current hall stands today. Several families were involved with building the hall, most notably the Fagundes, Freitas, Parreira, Rosa and Silva families. The community celebrated its first festa there in 1937.

From the 1930s to the 60s the DES Hall was the central venue for many weddings, parties, and church bazaars, as it was the only completed community center in Los Banos for many years. The Los Banos Dairyman's Association held their meetings there until the late 1960s and wrote the minutes of the meetings in Portuguese until 1949. Free food would always be served to the community on days of celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleague to join me in recognizing the Los Banos Portuguese Divino Espirito Santo in celebration of the 100th Annual Festa. This community's rich heritage, with its commitment to the ideals of their patron Queen Saint Isabel, has continued for one hundred years.

RECOGNIZING MS. CHRISTINE ZINSER AND HER EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Christine Zinser, a constituent of the 11th Congressional District of Virginia, and to commend her for being the driving force behind Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia.

In 2011, Ms. Zinser's son Philipp was preparing to graduate from Robinson Secondary School and had made the decision to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. She approached the school to request that her son, and other seniors who had decided to enlist, be recognized during the graduation ceremony or any other end of year award event. Unfortunately, the school denied her request even though other students would be recognized for various accomplishments.

Ms. Zinser, along with another parent, Carolyn Kellam, decided to take matters into their own hands. If the school would not recognize their children, they would organize an event to do so. They contacted Braddock District Supervisor John Cook who readily agreed to allow the event to be held in his office. Ms. Zinser then contacted my office to see if she could count on my support and I enthusiastically agreed. Together we held a ceremony on June 9, 2011 in honor of the young men and women who had chosen to enlist in our Armed Forces upon graduation from Robinson Secondary School.

Following that first ceremony, Ms. Zinser doubled her efforts to include enlistees from the entire Northern Virginia region. She continued to lobby the school system, and due directly to her unwavering efforts, many schools now recognize the students who have decided to enlist, including her son's former high school. She partnered with an organization called Our Community Salutes and formed the first parent-established chapter of that organization. Ms. Zinser also assisted with establishing chapters in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

Ms. Zinser has been featured on television and in newspapers raising awareness and support for our young men and women. In February, 2012, Ms. Zinser was quoted as saying: "I really feel like these kids are a forgotten spoke in the wheel of recognizing our military families. We laud those returning from war, mourn those who have fallen, show unflinching support for the families of active duty military personnel, compassion for those who sustain injuries and immense respect for our veterans. But the young men and women who

choose to serve, especially when our nation is at war, go unrecognized."

This year marks the 4th Annual Our Community Salutes ceremony during which we will honor 129 local high school students who have decided to serve our country in uniform. These students will join the 1% of our population who have enlisted, knowing that they may be putting themselves in harm's way to protect and defend our country. It is my honor to join Christine again, as I have each year, and be among the first to say to these young men and women: "Thank you."

Ms. Zinser's son Philipp still serves in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is stationed at Camp Pendleton and is currently deployed to Afghanistan, where he will serve for the foreseeable future. His leadership and professionalism have been recognized, and he has attained the rank of Corporal. I thank him for his service, and pray that he stays safe while serving in a dangerous arena.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Christine Zinser and in commending her for her tireless efforts to appropriately honor the young people in our community who choose to serve. I also would like to thank Christine's partner, Sandra Coffman, for her unyielding support and dedication. Their commitment to Our Community Salutes and to our young warriors will leave a lasting legacy and is worthy of our highest praise.

HIGHWAY 15'S JOINT PORT OF ENTRY PROJECT

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an important transportation project that is currently under construction in my district, the Eighth District of California on Interstate 15 near the Nevada border. The Joint Port of Entry Project, on Interstate 15, is a vital step towards improving the safety and reliability of California's highways while also creating nearly 2,000 jobs. Planning for this project spans more than twenty years.

The first phase of this project will construct the California Highway Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility. This advanced design facility will help protect our roadway infrastructure from overweight vehicles entering California, which leads to the deteriorating lifespan of our highways. The second phase of this project will construct the California Department of Food and Agriculture Inspection Station.

I applaud the California Department of Transportation, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Highway Patrol, California Department of General Services, and the California Department of Finance for their coordinated efforts to bring this project to fruition.

In this final phase of construction, I also wish to recognize the Director of the Department of Transportation, Malcolm Dougherty, P.E., and District Eight Director Basem E. Muallem, P.E. for their outstanding leadership.

IN TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY CHIEF JIM TOOMEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jim Toomey of Tolland, Connecticut who a few weeks ago stepped aside from a distinguished 42 year career as a Tolland Volunteer Firefighter. When Jim entered the department in 1972, little did he know the role and operations of a small rural fire department in eastern Connecticut would evolve into a far more demanding mission by the end of his career.

In 1972, Tolland was a small rural community with a small force that focused on the traditional mission of fighting fires. In the years following as Tolland grew and the fire department, in turn, assumed more responsibilities, Jim joined the Dive Team, became an EMT, and after 9/11 integrated new Department of Homeland Security requirements for first responders.

In 2005, Jim became Deputy Chief and served with distinction until his retirement this year. A few weeks ago, an overflow crowd assembled to celebrate Jim's retirement at Maneeley's Banquet Center in South Windsor and to shower Jim and his wife Karen, their children and grandchildren with the well-deserved accolades of his amazing career. As someone who worked with Karen in my law practice for 27 years, I saw up close the long hours he devoted to the department and the sacrifice he and his family made to serve his town so diligently and competently.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me and his fellow citizens in thanking Jim for the outstanding example of public service he set, and for all of the people and property he protected and rescued for 42 long years.

HONORING CAFÉ LUSH

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Café Lush, and owners Tom Doherty and Sandy Gregory, on the 3rd anniversary of their distinguished local Albuquerque establishment.

Since opening in 2011, Café Lush has developed into a thriving business and popular hotspot for locals. Located in downtown Albuquerque, Café Lush features an exceptional menu that carries nutrient dense organic food and fresh seasonal produce that promotes happy, healthy, and sustainable lifestyles.

The beautiful street corner café, with its vibrant outdoor patio was not always a distinct feature in the neighborhood. In fact, before the establishment of Café Lush many restaurants unsuccessfully tried to establish themselves in the area. The location became known as a frequent site for new restaurants that would eventually close, or go out of business.

Despite this historical precedent, and a struggling economy, Café Lush launched a

business model that appealed to the growing demand for locally grown healthy foods. Café Lush's fresh new take on organic ingredients with a New Mexico twist reverberated throughout the community and today the café continues to be wildly successful.

Café Lush's vision and accomplishments are an inspiration for future generations of entrepreneurs and small business owners, and demonstrate the ability of one business to change an entire neighborhood. Located next to two schools, a place of worship, and just a short walk away from the heart of downtown Albuquerque, Café Lush has reinvigorated the area and brought renewed energy to Albuquerque's scenic landscape.

I have no doubt that Café Lush will continue to have great success. Their quality food, great customer service, and beautiful outdoor patio are what continue to make me a frequent customer. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Café Lush on these accomplishments, their 3rd anniversary and the many more to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VALOR AWARD RECIPIENT FROM THE OCCOQUAN WOODBRIDGE LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 25 individuals, one investigative team, and one Operational Task Force in a variety of categories including, the Silver or Bronze Valor Award, the Merit Valor Award, and the Investigative Merit Award.

One member of the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department is being honored this year for his exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the name of the following award recipient:

2014 Silver Medal of Valor: Assistant Chief Steven R. Godin.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2014 Valor Award Recipient, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LEXINGTON ARTS & SCIENCE CENTER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Living Arts and Science Center of Lexington, Kentucky on the groundbreaking of their new facility, the "Lucille Caudill Little Discovery Center."

The Living Arts & Science Center, LASC, was created as a not-for-profit organization in 1968 to provide opportunities for exploration and education in the arts and sciences. Since then, the LASC has become a stimulating force and creative resource for Central Kentuckians. Through dynamic arts and science programming, the LASC has fostered exploration and inspired creativity among children and adults, schools, and organizations around the region. With the addition of the "Lucille Caudill Little Discovery Center," the LASC will now be able to offer even more hands-on learning opportunities with additional science and art classrooms, as well as a Digital Art Studio and a Clay Studio.

The Living Arts & Science Center is especially important to me as it has hosted my annual Congressional Art Competition for the past two years. I am proud to see this organization expand to offer more programs and activities centered on arts and science. I commend them for their dedication to education and community outreach, and know this expansion will further enhance the Sixth District members' understanding and appreciation for the arts and sciences.

CONGRATULATING COMMANDER BION STEWART—A TRUE COAST GUARDSMAN

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service, dedication and professionalism of Commander, CDR, Bion Stewart, who has served as the U.S. Coast Guard Liaison to the House of Representatives from August 2011 to July 2014. CDR Stewart is a consummate professional and exemplifies the Coast Guard's Corps Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. Over the last three years CDR Stewart's supreme knowledge of Coast Guard operations and strategic priorities has been invaluable to the Members of the Coast Guard's oversight Committees as we make critical decisions in an austere budget environment.

CDR Stewart worked with Committee staff and Coast Guard leadership to prepare for crucial operations, acquisitions, and policy hearings, and was integral in supporting our Subcommittee's efforts in the passage of the Coast Guard Authorization Acts of 2012 and 2014. CDR Stewart's superior expertise in Coast Guard acquisitions and budget priorities

was an invaluable resource as the Congress supported the Coast Guard's vital recapitalization and modernization efforts during the 111th, 112th, and 113th Congresses.

As the only former Coast Guardsman in Congress, and as a Member of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, I am honored to represent the fine men and women of the United States Coast Guard who serve our Nation with distinction. The men and women who serve as Congressional Liaisons take on a monumentally difficult but crucially important challenge; one which is as important to the success of the Coast Guard as the cutter and aircraft crews who protect our waterways every day. I would like to thank CDR Stewart for his dedication and service in this challenging position.

He has been a tremendous help to my staff and me. I want to congratulate him on his upcoming promotion to Captain, and wish him fair winds and following seas as he continues his outstanding service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING McDONALDS MEATS UPON 100 YEARS OF BUSINESS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize McDonalds Meats of Clear Lake, Minnesota, as it celebrates 100 years of business.

When Mr. John Leo McDonald purchased a meat market in Clear Lake, Minnesota in 1914, little did anyone know how long-lasting this family business would be. Forty years after the business started, John's son Richard took over, meeting the growing demand for business and expanding their facility.

Thirty-five years after that Richard's son, David McDonald, became the head of the family business. Taking on this rich family tradition, David not only expanded the facility for a second time to meet the growing demand for their delicious meats, but he also started experimenting with jerky flavors. Business was booming. David took over full ownership in 1994.

Thirteen years later, Travis and Jennifer McDonald, fourth generation McDonalds, continue the family business, providing excellence in service and delicious meats, leading the business into its 100th year.

Like many family-owned businesses throughout our state, McDonalds Meats provides not only a service; but also a sense of security, family and community. It is this sense of tradition that helps make Minnesota a great place to raise a family.

For 100 years and four generations, this hometown business has provided a rich variety of smoked sausages, jerky, deli meats and cheeses, all from their own smokehouses and sausage kitchen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring McDonalds Meats upon reaching this noteworthy centennial milestone. Here's to another century of quality meats.

CONGRATULATING THE 2014 LORDS AND LADIES FAIRFAX, THE RECIPIENT OF THE JAMES M. SCOTT COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD, AND THE CELEBRATE FAIRFAX! VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated group of men and women in Northern Virginia. For the past 30 years, each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has selected two people from his or her district who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service, heroism, or other exceptional commitments and accomplishments to our community. Since the program's inception in 1984, more than 570 individuals have been granted the honor of being named a Lord or Lady Fairfax by his or her representative on the Board of Supervisors. The Board also traditionally recognizes these individuals during a reception held in conjunction with the annual Celebrate Fairfax! Festival in June.

This year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will recognize those individuals who have made tremendous impacts through their support of our public schools, parks, youth sports leagues, arts community, public safety, and human service programs. It is nearly impossible to fully describe the diversity of accomplishments by the honorees. Their efforts contribute greatly to the quality of life for the residents of Fairfax County and should be commended.

It is my honor to enter the names of the following 2014 Lords and Ladies Fairfax into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

- At Large: Lady Mary Keeser and Lord Rohil Bhinge
- Braddock District: Lady Monica Jackson and Lord Anthony J. Vellucci
- Dranesville District: Lady Lauri Lacorte and Lord Jay Donahue
- Hunter Mill District: Lady Baba Foster Freeman and Lord Michael Amouri
- Lee District: Lady Tawny Hammond and Lord George F. Towery
- Mason District: Lady Terry O'Hara Lavoie and Lord Jan Reitman
- Mt. Vernon District: Lady Mary J. Porter and Lord Colonel Gregory D. Gadson
- Providence District: Lady Merni Fitzgerald and Lord James M. Scott
- Springfield District: Lady Karen Brown and Lord Paul Liberty
- Sully District: Lady Lu Ann Maciulla McNabb and Lord Phillip W. Allin

I also commend the following recipients of the James M. Scott Community Spirit Award and the Celebrate Fairfax! Festival Volunteers of the Year Award:

- James M. Scott Community Spirit Award: Fairfax Water
- Celebrate Fairfax! Festival Volunteers of the Year Award: Galen and Tara Munroe

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude to these men and women who volunteer their time and energy on behalf of our community. The selfless commitment of these individuals provides enumerable benefits to their fellow residents and

serves to strengthen and enrich the Fairfax County community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL R. LEMAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Bill R. LeMay, who passed away on June 8, 2014, at the age of 81. Bill was a proud resident of California's San Joaquin Valley, and his dedication to the community will never be forgotten.

Bill was born in Oklahoma and moved to Corcoran, California, when he was 13 years old. He had six siblings: Betty, Dorothy, Pearl, Tommy, Johnny, and Susie. From a young age, Bill recognized the importance of hard work. Early on in his career, Bill hauled sheep and cattle by truck during a night shift. He completed twice the amount of work than what was expected, and before receiving his first paycheck, he earned three raises. His tenacity and dedication to always doing his best was something he carried with him throughout his entire life.

In 1952, Bill joined the United States Army during the Korean War and completed basic training at Fort Ord. After serving two years in the military, Bill married the love of his life, Delores Josephine Pagel. Bill and Delores were married for 59 years.

In 1955, Bill began a lifelong career at Salyers' America. At one point, Salyers was one of the largest farming operations in the United States. Bill was the Farm Superintendent and managed 85,000 acres of land, which included 18 crops ranging from wheat and barley to tomatoes and cotton. Bill worked at Salyers for 45 years, retiring in 2000.

In addition to fighting in the Korean War, Bill fought two long battles close to home that were much more personal. The 1969 and 1983 Tulare Lake Floods fueled a long-standing rivalry between Valley farmers and Mother Nature, and Bill was at the forefront. Valley agriculture always played a very significant role in Bill's life because he understood its impact on the strength of our Nation.

More important than his appreciation for agriculture, Bill's family meant everything to him. Bill and Delores loved their three sons and their spouses: Harold and Kelly, Larry and Valerie, and Todd and Stephen. His pride and joy were his eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Bill will be greatly missed by his family and friends, but they will always have an outstanding role model who they will hold in their hearts forever.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Bill R. LeMay. His service to our country and dedication to working hard will always be remembered.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOPKINS ROYALS STATE TRACK CHAMPIONS

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hopkins Royals Boys Track Team for their success in attaining their very first Minnesota State High School Championship.

The Hopkins Team was by no means an underdog at State, but they weren't the favorite either. The boys exhibited enormous effort and passion throughout the season and at the tournament—an attitude that even coaches from opposing teams noticed.

The Royals were led by three outstanding athletes in Terrance Bowers, Shaheed Hickman, and Joe Klecker, who gained valuable team points in their respective events. However, it was the team effort in the 4x100 relay that secured the title for the Royals.

Head Coach Nick Lovas is proud of each athlete's individual goals, but even more satisfied with their commitment to the team. His passion for teaching students is an example the entire community can celebrate.

Mr. Speaker, this title will go down in Hopkins High history because it is the first Boys Track Championship in the school's 108 years of existence. The boys pushed themselves to their limits, ran faster and jumped farther each week, and ended up victorious. This accomplishment is the result of the hard work and dedication from the athletes and coaches, as well as the endless support from parents, teachers and fans.

Again, I want to congratulate the Hopkins Royals Boys Track Team, on becoming State High School Champions.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GMU PROFESSOR DONNA STERLING TO SCIENCE EDUCATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous contributions of George Mason University Professor Donna R. Sterling, whose work to improve the research in and development of effective science and math curricula has benefited elementary and secondary school students across the nation.

Ms. Sterling is a Distinguished Service Professor and Director of the Center for Restructuring Education in Science and Technology at George Mason's College of Education and Human Development. GMU, which is located in the 11th Congressional District in Fairfax, Virginia, is now the Commonwealth's largest public university with 34,000 students, a full-time faculty of more than 1,800, 11 schools, and degrees in 198 fields of study. Over the past 22 years, Ms. Sterling's research has been instrumental in helping to improve

science teaching in elementary and secondary schools and higher educational institutions throughout the Commonwealth and across the country, while simultaneously increasing the profile of George Mason University.

She has served as principal investigator for numerous teacher development and research grants and has authored more than 100 articles, books, and reports. Her portfolio includes the award-winning "New Science Teachers' Support Network" for provisionally-licensed science teachers and "Science Camp" for training pre-service and experienced teachers to conduct problem-based learning with children. Through the years, her research has garnered more than \$50 million in funding support from multiple public and private sources, including the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the Virginia Department of Education, ExxonMobil, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Micron, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

A recent project used her research for the basis of the Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement (or VISTA). The project received one of the largest Investing in Innovation (or i3) grants from the U.S. Department of Education. It also marked the largest grant in GMU's history and brought together six Virginia universities, the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition, and private corporate partners to support the improvement of K-12 science education.

In addition to her research work, Ms. Sterling has been an active member of the Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition, where she has developed policy recommendations and white papers for improving K-12 science education, the development of science leaders, and the preparation of outstanding teacher and student programs.

She earned her Doctor of Education degree in science education from The George Washington University, and she completed her early research and career training under two noted Nobel Prize recipients—Linus Pauling and Melvin Calvin who between them received three Nobel prizes.

She is regarded by her peers as a pioneer in classroom curriculum development to engage young students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (or STEM). She also has served as a role model and mentor to generations of graduate students—particularly young women—by inspiring and supporting them as they pursue careers in teaching, research, and leadership roles in the field of STEM education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Dr. Donna Sterling and in thanking her for her innovative and lasting contributions to classroom instruction. Her ability to inspire graduate students in scientific discovery—pushing them to question, hypothesize, and verify new knowledge through real experimentation and persistence—have been a hallmark of her passion for science education. She continues to support an ever-expanding network of former students who now are inspiring the next generation of young women and men to unlock the mysteries and wonders of our world through scientific discovery.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 WAUKEGAN TOWNSHIP MEN OF DISTINCTION LUNCHEON HONOREES

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize some of the Waukegan community's finest leaders.

In education, business, government, faith and more, these 15 outstanding men embody what is best about Waukegan and demonstrate a deep commitment to strengthening our community.

It is my great pleasure to honor the 2014 Men of Distinction: Dr. Phil Carrigan; Arthur Craigen; Don Elliott; Ronnel Ewing; Chuck Gutman; Kenneth Mayo; Mayor Steve Pannell; Greg Moisis; Joe Moody; Mayor Wayne Motley; Bill Newby; Martin Perez; Pastor Eugene Roberson; Mayor Leon Rockingham; Jose Rodriguez.

It takes strong leaders with vision and dedication to bring a community together and secure a hopeful, prosperous future for the next generation. With no less than their fullest commitment to the people and the township of Waukegan, these 15 honorees work each and every day to enrich their community.

As true Men of Distinction, this year's honorees deserve the highest praise and greatest respect. I know that this honor will merely inspire them to work even harder to strengthen Waukegan and build an even better, closer community.

HONORING MR. CHARLES MCDOWELL LEE, SR.

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a friend and a great Alabamian, Mr. Charles McDowell Lee, Sr.

Mr. Lee, as he was commonly known, served as Secretary of the Alabama State Senate from 1963 to 2011. At the time of his retirement, McDowell Lee was the longest serving secretary of a legislative body in the entire nation. During my time as a state senator, I grew to know Mr. Lee as a brilliant mind and the unequivocal historian of the Alabama Legislature.

Mr. Lee, a native of Clio, Alabama, graduated from Barbour County High School in 1942 and went on to study at Auburn University. He answered the call of duty during World War II, serving in both the European and Pacific theaters. He then returned to Alabama to finish his education at Troy State Teachers College. After graduating, Mr. Lee was elected mayor of his hometown of Clio, earning the recognition as one of the youngest mayors in the nation.

Mr. Lee was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1954, and he went on to serve in that position for eight years, earning the titles of "Outstanding Freshman" and

"Best Debater" by the Alabama Press Association. In 1963, he was selected as Secretary of the Alabama Senate.

He would go on to serve as Secretary of the Senate for 47 years. During that span, Mr. Lee worked with ten different governors and hundreds of state senators. He was known nationally as an expert scholar on parliamentary procedure and received countless state and national awards for his years of public service.

Every morning that the State Senate was in session, a number of other senators and I would gather in Mr. Lee's office to drink coffee and get his input on current events. It was in those candid conversations with Mr. Lee that I truly learned how the State Senate worked and gained a deep appreciation for the unique rules that govern legislative bodies.

In a legislative body where emotions and politics sometimes get the best of us, Mr. Lee provided calm, unbiased leadership and direction. He respected the rules and the institution, and through that each senator quickly grew to respect him.

Mr. Lee passed away on April 17, 2014, at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife, Hazel; his sons Arch, Charles Jr., and Kenneth; his daughters Margaret and Josie Lee; and a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren. I know his family must miss him very much, but they can find peace in the countless individuals' lives that McDowell Lee improved, mentored, and impacted in his lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I find it only fitting to recognize this great American in this body, the People's House, for his dutiful service to our nation and immense respect for the legislative process.

IN HONOR OF BARBRA MINCH, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE WILLIAM F. RYAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the people of New York's tenth congressional district in saying a fond farewell to President and CEO of the William F. Ryan Community Health Center, Barbra Minch, as she enters her retirement.

After 35 years of service to the community, Barbra leaves behind an incomparable legacy and has been an immeasurable asset to the community as a whole. The Ryan Center's wonderful contributions would not have been possible without her dedicated service.

Barbra E. Minch has lived and worked in the Upper West Side community for over 42 years. As a single parent raising two children, Ms. Minch has been an advocate for affordable housing and quality public schools, a teacher, and an educational administrator. In 1979, Ms. Minch joined the William F. Ryan Community Health Center as an Administrator, and was soon promoted to Deputy Director. In 1995, she was appointed Executive Director by the Board of Directors, and was then appointed President & CEO in 2001. In this role, Ms. Minch provided leadership to 17 sites

throughout Manhattan and has represented the Ryan Center in the Community Health Center movement on a federal and statewide scale, contributing unmatched leadership and philanthropy.

Over the years, I have worked with Barbra on many issues regarding health care on the Upper West Side, in Chelsea and Clinton, and in Lower Manhattan. I have always found her to be irrepressible, creative, energetic, and singularly focused on improving access to quality health care at minimal cost to the low-income people among us. Our community has been blessed by Barbra's energy and dedication for many years, and despite her having trained and put in place a dedicated team to continue her work, we shall sorely miss her continuing contributions.

Ms. Minch has served on the Board of Directors of the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) as First Vice Chair and chaired its Legislative Committee for several years. She is a member of several committees of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), including the Legislative Committee, Credentials Committee, Ethics and Grievance Committee, and Membership and Rules Committees. She is also a member of the Health Care Executive Forum, which advances health care leadership and management. Ms. Minch was the first and only Community Health Center representative on the Board of Trustees of the Job Security Fund of the 1199/SEIU Employment Training and Job Security Program. In 1998, Ms. Minch played an integral role in helping to establish the Coalition to Preserve Access to Community-Based Health Care Providers, which set the stage for direct funding to Community Health Centers from New York State.

Ms. Minch has won many awards in recognition of her excellent work and dedication including: The Jeffrey T. Latman Award from CHCANYS; the Palma Award as Health Administrator of the Year from the Latino Coalition for Fair Media; and the distinguished John Gilbert Community Healthcare Award of Excellence from NACHC. Most recently, Ms. Minch was inducted into the NACHC Hall of Fame, one of a small group of community health advocates throughout the nation, and the first New Yorker to receive this prestigious award.

Barbra is undoubtedly deserving of all of her commendations, and I hope to offer her another one by wishing her the most sincere congratulations on behalf of myself and my constituents as she finishes a singular career of public service. I wish her the best of luck in everything the future holds for her. I know she will find many more ways to contribute to the lives of residents throughout New York City and beyond. I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing Barbra's efforts.

THE BOULAN PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL INVESTMENT TEAM—RANKING NINTH IN THE SIFMA FOUNDATION'S CAPITOL HILL CHALLENGE

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Investment Team from Boulan Park Middle School for placing ninth in the country in the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) Foundation's Capitol Hill Challenge of 2014. The team is comprised of Kevin Li, Rohit Chakravarty, and Jason Song, along with their coach, Mr. Mark Martin.

The students worked diligently on this project. They greatly improved their knowledge of the stock market and the world economic landscape. These students used their own knowledge to earn a 42% return on investment, turning 100,000 dollars into over 142,000 dollars. Additionally, this is the first year in which a middle school team finished in the top 10 nationwide.

I am proud to have sponsored Kevin, Rohit, and Jason. The time and effort they dedicated to this project is beyond impressive. On behalf of the residents of Michigan's 11th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate them on this remarkable achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXTEND SECTION 181 OF THE TAX CODE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague from Georgia, Congressman DOUG COLLINS, to introduce legislation to extend section 181 of the tax code to continue to allow for the immediate tax write-off of the first \$15 million (or \$20 million where the production is made in a distressed community) of production expenditures for qualifying domestic film and television productions. In addition, our bill would extend section 181 treatment to live theatrical productions.

Section 181 was first enacted in the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 and has been extended several times since. It was added to protect the U.S. television and film industry and to counteract the increasingly aggressive incentives offered by many foreign governments to attract production overseas. The Directors Guild of America noted, at the time that section 181 was passed, "globalization, rising costs, foreign wage, tax and financing incentives, and technological advances, combined are causing a substantial transformation of what used to be a quintessentially American industry into an increasingly dispersed global industry."

In enacting section 181, Congress recognized the important and unique contribution our television and film production industries

make to providing high-paying jobs and economic benefits in communities across the country. These productions provide good jobs not just for actors, writers and directors, but also for the local carpenters and electricians, the drivers and equipment operators, the caterers and hotel-keepers who provide services to these productions. It is estimated that a major motion picture shooting on location contributes \$225,000 every day to the local economy. For example, in 2011, the major studios alone paid over \$2.7 billion to over 23,000 vendors in New York State. Moreover, in that same year, filmed production accounted for \$7.1 billion in spending and employed 130,000 people in New York City, according to the Boston Consulting Group.

Section 181 of the Internal Revenue Code allows production companies to deduct the cost of qualified U.S. productions immediately rather than capitalizing the costs and deducting them slowly over time. The incentive accelerates the timing of the deduction but it does not change the amount of the deduction. In order to qualify, a film must be domestically-produced, that is, at least 75 percent of the total compensation paid for the production must be for services performed in the U.S. by actors, directors, producers and other production staff personnel. The deduction applies to the first \$15 million (\$20 million for productions in low income communities or distressed area or isolated area of distress) of a qualified film or television production. The cost of the production above the dollar limitation is capitalized and recovered under the taxpayer's normal method of accounting.

I believe that section 181 remains an appropriately targeted provision, designed to encourage television and film producers to stay here in the United States and keep those jobs in our communities. In the last decades, New York City and in particular my home borough of Queens has seen a resurgent television and film production sector bring new jobs and revenue into the community. Film production jobs in New York grew by nearly 25 percent between 2008 and 2011, at a time when private sector employment was falling. This bill will help to ensure that those jobs stay here in the U.S.

The bill we are introducing today also includes a new feature to extend section 181 benefits to live theatrical productions. As with films, theater not only provides cultural benefits but also provides economic benefits to local communities in the U.S. For example, according to the Broadway League, Broadway contributed \$11 billion in 2012–13 to New York City's economy on top of ticket sales and supports 86,000 jobs. And the benefits are not limited to New York. Traveling Broadway shows contributed almost \$3.4 billion to the U.S. economy, which helps sustain regional and local theatres, allowing them to offer their cultural events. Live theatre audiences make numerous ancillary purchases, including restaurants, hotels, parking, taxis and souvenirs.

Unfortunately, as with film, other countries are becoming more aggressive in attracting theatrical production overseas. This is important because future income associated with a production, such as licensing fees and royalties, return to the country of the production's origin. Thus, as more original productions

move overseas, the U.S. will lose tax revenue associated with those productions. To help prevent this from occurring and to allow investors to recoup their risky investment more quickly, we believe it is important to extend section 181 to theatrical productions.

Finally, it is important to note that, while both film and television production and theatre production are inherently risky capital-intensive businesses, neither industry qualifies for bonus depreciation that covered virtually every other American industry. Section 181 acts similarly to bonus depreciation to allow investors in these uniquely American industries to recoup their investments more rapidly. This can aid the decision to green-light a project or to produce it in the U.S. This will have ripple effects across the economy by generating revenue and jobs for a range of local businesses, such as caterers, hotels, equipment rentals, etc.

This legislation works to protect these important industries and stem the flood of production to non-U.S. locations. Section 181, which expired at the end of 2013, should be extended and expanded as soon as possible in order to encourage domestic investment and keep television, film and theatrical production jobs in the United States.

IN HONOR OF PAUL TOWNS OF
ELGIN, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2014, I was honored to attend the Sparkleberry County Fair in Northeast Columbia, South Carolina led by Chairman John Monroe. At this year's Fair, I was present as the Fair Committee recognized Paul Towns for his dedication to the community. Mr. Towns, a veteran of 20 years' service in the United States Army and native of Elgin, South Carolina, was additionally honored for his compassion and generosity to others, his integral role in planning for the Sparkleberry County Fair, and for raising cancer awareness.

A survivor of a 10-year battle with cancer, Paul successfully organized the inaugural Sparkleberry Fair Cancer Awareness 5K on April 19, 2014. This run/walk helped raise funds for the South Carolina Oncology Association's efforts to provide assistance to patients throughout their cancer treatment.

In addition to promoting cancer awareness through the Sparkleberry County Fair, Mr. Towns, his wife Sarah, and their two children put on a Christmas light display with 100 percent of the proceeds raised going directly to benefit Camp Kemo, a summer camp for kids that have been diagnosed with cancer. Guests enjoy an old fashioned light display, hay rides, a freedom tree, his collection of antique tractors, miniature trains, and memorabilia all beautifully decorated with lights while supporting a great cause.

Mr. Towns' passion for promoting cancer awareness, while maintaining a positive attitude, dignity, optimism, and humor in everything he does makes him an integral part of the community.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOSEPH A.
ALLUTO

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Joseph A. Alluto for his service as the interim president of The Ohio State University.

Dr. Alluto has served as Ohio State's interim president since July 1, 2013. Prior to this position, Dr. Alluto served as Ohio State's chief executive officer, executive vice president, provost, dean of the Max M. Fisher College of Business, and John W. Berry, Sr. Chair in Business. He also served as the executive dean for the professional colleges at Ohio State where he coordinated the activities of the Colleges of Engineering; Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; Education and Human Ecology; Law, and Social Work and represented the interests of those colleges in university-wide decision-making bodies.

Prior to his time at Ohio State, Dr. Alluto was the Clarence S. Marsh Professor of Management at the State University of New York at Buffalo, focusing his research on Sino-U.S. joint ventures and the relationships between improvement processes and corporate performance. He also served as dean of the SUNY-Buffalo School of Management for 14 years and as the first international dean for the Dalian University School of Business.

Dr. Alluto is a leading authority on managerial behavior, having coauthored a book on research methods in organizational research and has more than 65 articles in academic journals. He has also been a visible and active advocate for advanced management education and research in China. He pioneered the first Sino-U.S. jointly funded MBA program offered in the People's Republic of China in 1984 and was appointed as advisor to the First Session of Council for the Dalian Behavioral Sciences Association.

Throughout his career, Dr. Alluto has been unwavering in his dedication to education and stayed true to his mission of achieving true eminence at Ohio State. I would like to thank him for his service and wish him well as he returns to the faculty of the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University.

CONGRATULATING DELTA AIR-
LINES ON ITS 85TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Delta Airlines on the 85th anniversary of its founding on June 17, 1929.

Delta is one of our Nation's oldest and largest commercial passenger airlines. From Delta's founder, C.E. Woolman, to its current CEO, Richard Anderson, and with thousands of loyal employees over the years, they have built one of the world's finest airlines. In a dif-

ficult and sometimes turbulent industry, Delta has survived many challenges over the past decades.

Originally established as a crop dusting operation, it was later founded in Monroe, Louisiana and has grown to a world-class passenger airline that now boasts more than 80,000 employees and serves nearly 165 million passengers annually. Traveling to more than 300 destinations worldwide and with recent mergers and acquisitions, Delta now holds a position as one of the largest domestic U.S. airlines. Over the years, as one of the first U.S. airlines to carry passengers, Delta's innovation and leadership has led to industry firsts like domestic inflight Wi-Fi and TV broadcasts.

Delta is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia and serves hundreds of U.S. cities and flies to 59 countries in six continents. In Florida, Delta serves many of our communities and provides employment for thousands of workers. Across the country, several of my family members and friends have retired and some continue to work for Delta. Travelling frequently over the years, I have met hundreds of wonderful people who work very hard to keep Delta customers flying and their company successful in business.

As the former Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee and the House Transportation Committee, it has been my honor to work with many officials and employees and it is my pleasure to congratulate each of them and the Delta Airlines Family on this occasion. I know my colleagues join me in saluting a great American business and all the fine people at Delta Airlines on this significant milestone.

A TRIBUTE TO TONY GWYNN: A
MAN OF UNRIVALED SKILL AND
EXEMPLARY CHARACTER

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my fellow members of the San Diego Delegation including Representative DAVIS, Representative ISSA, Representative HUNTER, and Representative VARGAS, rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Tony Gwynn, a celebrated batting champion in the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame and beloved San Diego Padre. For over 30 years, Tony's enthusiasm for baseball and life itself was a source of goodwill for our national pastime and for all San Diegans. He will be sorely missed by the many people he inspired to play the game and by the many lives he touched on and off the baseball diamond.

Tony Gwynn was a baseball legend. The 15-time All-Star led the Padres to two World Series appearances. In his career, he accumulated 3,141 hits over 20 seasons, earning a career batting average of .338 that is 18th best all-time. He also received a record-tying eight National League batting titles in addition to winning five Gold Glove Awards in recognition of his defensive skills. Gwynn was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2007, his first year of eligibility.

Gwynn's dedication to the sport was only matched by his love for San Diego, earning him the nickname, "Mr. Padre." While Gwynn had the option to play elsewhere, he loyally spent his entire career in San Diego. Following his time as a player in the major leagues, he remained in San Diego to dedicate the remainder of his life to coaching at his alma mater, San Diego State University.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the life of Tony Gwynn, an outstanding athlete and exemplary citizen, friend, and family man. His love of the game, tireless dedication, genial attitude, and uplifting presence will be missed.

MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF
CHUCK LOVELESS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished career of a steadfast champion for working men and women, Chuck Loveless. For decades, Chuck has stood as a guardian for working families in America—a tireless leader who has been at the center of some of the most important policy debates and struggles in the last 20 years. He leaves the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees with an enduring legacy of leadership and action, and a long record of battles fought and won for the middle class, the backbone of our democracy.

A native of Pennsylvania, Chuck earned a Master's Degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. A man of faith and principle, he has poured his heart and soul into a career of advocating for working people.

As Director of Federal Government Affairs for AFSCME, Chuck has always been a steadfast partner in our efforts to build a stronger, fairer, and more prosperous America for all people.

He and AFSCME led the fight against President Bush's proposal to privatize Social Security. He was on the front lines in the budget wars to protect Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security from Republican cuts. And he was an invaluable force in passing the historic Affordable Care Act that is providing newfound health security, and the personal and economic freedom that comes with it to millions of hard-working Americans.

Most recently, Chuck has devoted himself to the nationwide effort to raise the minimum wage, and renew emergency unemployment insurance for the millions of Americans who worked hard, played by the rules, and lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

Yet perhaps most impressive is the personal commitment he has maintained throughout his positions of leadership—from his active involvement in his church to caring for those with AIDS as a volunteer at the Whitman-Walker Clinic.

As he enters the next chapter of his life, I join with many others in thanking him for the

many years of energy and determination he has given AFSCME and our nation. We know that his achievements will make a difference in the lives of Americans for generations to come. Congratulations on your long and illustrious tenure at AFSCME, and good luck in all your future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO EXTEND SECTION 181 OF THE
TAX CODE

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation with my friend from New York, Congressman CROWLEY, to extend section 181 of the tax code to continue to allow for the immediate tax write-off of the first \$15 million (or \$20 million where the production is made in a distressed community) of production expenditures for qualifying domestic film and television productions. In addition, our bill would extend section 181 treatment to live theatrical productions. We are joined on this bill today by our colleagues Mr. BOUSTANY (LA), Mr. NEAL (MA), Mr. NUNES (CA), and Ms. SANCHEZ (CA).

Section 181 was first enacted in the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 and has been extended several times since. It was added to protect the U.S. television and film industry and to counteract the increasingly aggressive incentives offered by many foreign governments to attract production overseas. The Directors Guild of America noted, at the time that section 181 was passed, "globalization, rising costs, foreign wage, tax and financing incentives, and technological advances, combined are causing a substantial transformation of what used to be a quintessentially American industry into an increasingly dispersed global industry."

Thus, in enacting section 181, Congress recognized the important and unique contribution our television and film production industries make to providing high-paying jobs and economic benefits in communities across the country. These productions provide good jobs not just for actors, writers and directors, but also for the local carpenters and electricians, the drivers and equipment operators, the caterers and hotel-keepers who provide services to these productions. It is estimated that a major motion picture shooting on location contributes \$225,000 every day to the local economy. For example, in 2011, the major studios alone paid over \$530 million to nearly 4,000 vendors in Georgia.

Section 181 of the Internal Revenue Code allows production companies to deduct the cost of qualified U.S. productions immediately rather than capitalizing the costs and deducting them slowly over time. The incentive accelerates the timing of the deduction but it does not change the amount of the deduction. In order to qualify, a film must be domestically-produced, that is, at least 75 percent of the total compensation paid for the production must be for services performed in the U.S. by actors, directors, producers and other produc-

tion staff personnel. The deduction applies to the first \$15 million (\$20 million for productions in low income communities or distressed area or isolated area of distress) of a qualified film or television production. The cost of the production above the dollar limitation is capitalized and recovered under the taxpayer's normal method of accounting.

I believe that section 181 remains an appropriately targeted provision, designed to encourage television and film producers to stay here in the United States and keep those jobs in our communities. For example, incentivized productions contributed over \$800 million annually to Georgia's economic output from 2007 to 2010. In 2012 alone, the entertainment industry spent more than \$870 million in Georgia, including new investments in infrastructure as several studios and other industry-related businesses have expanded or relocated in Georgia. This bill will help to ensure that those jobs stay here in the U.S.

The bill I am introducing today also includes a new feature to extend section 181 benefits to live theatrical productions. As with films, theater not only provides cultural benefits but also provides economic benefits to local communities in the U.S. For example, according to the Broadway league, Broadway contributed \$11 billion in 2012-13 to New York City's economy on top of ticket sales and supports 86,000 jobs. And the benefits are not limited to New York. Traveling Broadway shows contributed almost \$3.4 billion to the U.S. economy, which helps sustain regional and local theatres allowing them to offer their cultural events. Live theatre audiences make numerous ancillary purchases, including restaurants, hotels, parking, taxis and souvenirs.

Unfortunately, as with film, other countries are becoming more aggressive in attracting theatrical production overseas. This is important because future income associated with a production, such as licensing fees and royalties, return to the country of the production's origin. Thus, as more original productions move overseas, the U.S. will lose tax revenue associated with those productions. To help prevent this from occurring and to allow investors to recoup their risky investment more quickly, we believe it is important to extend section 181 to theatrical productions.

Finally, it is important to note that, while both film and television production and theatre production are inherently risky capital-intensive businesses, neither industry qualifies for bonus depreciation that covered virtually every other American industry. Section 181 acts similarly to bonus depreciation to allow investors in these uniquely American industries to recoup their investments more rapidly. This can aid the decision to green-light a project or to produce it in the U.S. This will have ripple effects across the economy by generating revenue and jobs for a range of local businesses, such as caterers, hotels, equipment rentals, etc.

This legislation works to protect these important industries and stem the flood of production to non-U.S. locations. Section 181, which expired at the end of 2013, should be extended and expanded as soon as possible in order to encourage domestic investment and keep television, film and theatrical production jobs in the United States.

SENATE—Wednesday, June 18, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, before the mountains were settled and the hills brought forth, Your power and majesty were known. Come to our lawmakers on Capitol Hill today. Come as light to enlighten their minds. Come as truth to teach them Your precepts. Come as Spirit to transform their hearts. Come as fire to purge from them the dross of transgression. Come as power to use them in Your service. May Your presence provide them with such patience, steadiness, and encouragement that they will be instruments for Your glory.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 18, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Repub-

lican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the appropriations bill led by Senator MIKULSKI.

We hope to begin the consideration of the bill today. We are now postcloture. We had to file cloture to get on the bill, as usual, and I think we have wasted the 30 hours. But that is where we are. So we hope to begin consideration of the bill today and work through the amendments. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.

IRAQ

Mr. REID. Over the last several days the world has looked in horror as the terrorist organization ISIS, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, has swept across Iraq. As we speak they are sweeping even closer to Baghdad. They are murdering and they are pillaging. The group is now positioned outside Baghdad. It threatens to unleash its violent extremism on the capital of Iraq. ISIS poses a threat to Iraq and the surrounding region—and that is an understatement.

As President Obama and his advisors consider options to combat the threat, conservative Members of Congress—or I should say Republican Members of Congress and their pundit cheerleaders—are more interested in playing their favorite game—their favorite game: blame Obama. It doesn't matter what it is, it is his fault for putting people's lives in jeopardy—our military, special forces. The FBI captured someone who was the ringleader of the Libya Benghazi attack. They have criticized the President for bringing this man to justice.

Yesterday I listened with dismay when the Republican leader suggested and claimed that President Obama prematurely withdrew troops from Iraq. Think about that for a minute—5,500 dead Americans, tens of thousands wounded. Thousands and thousands have been wounded grievously.

I ask my friend and Republicans he leads, would they have preferred the United States stay in Iraq? Would they have preferred our soldiers have stayed in Iraq in harm's way? Is he—are they, the Republicans—willing to risk more American lives?

The Republican leader and other Republicans seem to have forgotten why President Obama initiated the troop drawdown in June of 2009. Why? The Iraqis wanted us out. The Iraqi government didn't want American forces to stay. Is the Republican leader and the Republicans he leads suggesting that American servicemembers should risk

their lives even more, even as the Iraqi people were telling our military to leave?

What has been taking place in Iraq is a civil war. Do the Republicans and their leader believe that service men and women from Kentucky and the other 49 States across this great country should be inserted in the middle of their civil war? I don't think so. Fighting between factions in Iraq has cost thousands of Iraqi and American lives over the last decade, and it spawned a new breed of terrorism now. Yet the original architects of the war—of the invasion of Iraq—would have us believe that this is all President Obama's fault. Think about that.

Is there anything further from the truth?

I don't think so. This is an Iraqi civil war, and it is time for the Iraqis to resolve it themselves. Those who attack President Obama for bringing our troops home from Iraq are wrong and out of step with the American people. After a decade of war the American people have had enough. American families have had enough. I do not support in any way putting our men and women in the midst of this civil war in Iraq. It is not in the national security interests of our country. It is not worth the blood of American soldiers. It is not worth the monetary cost to the American taxpayer.

Rather than spending hundreds of billions of dollars—the war in Iraq is at about \$1.5 trillion. Rather than spending more money doing that—fighting George W. Bush's war—how about we use that money to rebuild our Nation's infrastructure—roads, bridges, dams, water systems, sewer systems. We have a deficit in infrastructure of trillions of dollars.

How about doing a better job of educating our children? Maybe we could raise the minimum wage or give the long-term unemployed unemployment compensation or maybe we could help men and women draw the same amount of money for doing the same work or maybe we could fully fund the Veterans' Administration and ensure that our veterans—more than a million have come back from Iraq—are getting the care they need and deserve. Instead of addressing these issues at home, they are stuck in the same game. And it is not blame Obama; this is a new one—new yesterday or the day before. They are stuck listening to the very same neocons—obviously, that is where the Republicans are getting their information again—the same neocons who pushed us into the Iraq war in the first

place, as they try to plunge our military in yet another foreign misadventure.

What is absurd is the fact that after all these years their suggestions haven't changed. They are in a time warp. Those who are the so-called experts are so eager to commit American soldiers to another war. Why is their advice so valuable?

Take President Bush's Paul Wolfowitz, who some say was the architect of the war. He has accused President Obama recently of not taking a strong position in Iraq. Wolfowitz took a strong position on Iraq's sectarian violence when he stated—listen to this bizarre statement—and this is a quote: "There's been none of the record in Iraq of ethnic militias fighting one another." No, only for centuries. Look at what he said: There is none of the record in Iraq of militias fighting each other. That is Wolfowitz.

How about Bill Kristol—not the comedian. He is a writer. Bill Kristol is another one of the architects of the Iraq war who infamously predicted that American soldiers would be welcomed as liberators in Iraq. He said the war would last 2 months. Well, he was only wrong by about 9 years and 10 months. Kristol also claimed there was no evidence of discord among Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq. No? Only centuries of discord—centuries. Yet even in light of this incorrect assertion about Iraq, Kristol went on to say that we need to have more fighting in Iraq, beating the drum alongside all the neoconservative friends.

This morning there was an op-ed piece in the Wall Street Journal. Who would write that? How about Dick Cheney? Just to remind everyone, he is the former Vice President of the United States, who clearly was the chief architect of the war. If there is one thing this country does not need, it is that we should be taking advice from Dick Cheney on wars. Being on the wrong side of Dick Cheney is being on the right side of history.

To the architects of the Iraq war, who are now so eager to offer their expert analysis, I say thanks but no thanks. Unfortunately, we already tried it your way, and it was the biggest foreign policy blunder in the history of the country. Now people come back and say they can give me some examples that have been worse, and I listen. But for me—I know a little bit about history—this was a foreign policy blunder that would be hard to take away from being the number one foreign policy blunder in the history of the country.

President Obama and his military advisors are considering their options to address ISIS, but putting combat troops back in Iraq isn't one of them. I have no doubt that President Obama and America will meet this threat head-on without the advice of

Wolfowitz, Cheney, Kristol—the architects of the invasion of Iraq. President Obama will meet the threat with the same smart foreign policy which has been the hallmark of his administration. The President will continue to identify and protect what is truly in our national security interests, using our full array of national security tools and standing up to terrorism where it threatens our national stability.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. MCCONNELL. For 5½ years the Obama administration and its allies in Congress have sought cover for their disastrous economic agenda with routine broadsides against an endless procession of straw men. It is hard to recall a single speech from a Democratic leader in Washington that didn't involve some spirited defense of a principle nobody ever challenged or some attack on a villain that doesn't exist. Instead of working with us on ideas that would actually do something to alleviate the concerns and anxieties of the middle class, these Democratic leaders have been blissfully content to play politics year after year after year.

Instead of delivering relief, they have delivered a steady diet of bad political theater day in and day out with the same ridiculous and predictable moral every single time: Democrats care. So vote for them and all will be well.

If you haven't noticed, all is not well for working families in this country. Four years after administration officials trumpeted "recovery summer" in June 2010, working men and women in this country are more anxious about work and family and the high cost of living—and that is to say nothing of the millions who can't find work at all.

The White House knows all of this, and that is why they are planning to hold a summit on the topic next week. They want everyone to think they are on the case, that they have a plan, but what they don't seem to realize is nobody believes them anymore and that folks have moved on.

The sad truth is most of the folks I have talked to are convinced government is working against them, not for them. I don't blame them. Whether it is frustration over an absurdly complicated Tax Code that drains people of their time and energy or just a general sense that government programs are rigged to help the well-off and well-connected, an increasing number of our constituents don't even think government is capable—let alone interested—in making their lives any easier these days. It is a shame because while the Obama administration has been play-

ing politics, Republicans have been quietly assembling a lot of good ideas to help Americans deal with the stresses of a modern economy.

All of these ideas are consistent with our party's longstanding commitment to the principles of upward mobility, shared responsibility for the weak, and a strong but limited central government. Every single one of them deserves a vote.

For my part, I have pressed for legislation that addresses a variety of concerns of the people in my State. The Family Friendly and Workplace Flexibility Act, which I introduced with Senator AYOTTE, would enable working mothers to enter into a voluntary agreement with their employers whereby they could bank overtime compensation in the form of time off with their families. It would give families the choice, not just the employer.

Another bill I will introduce today will fix a flaw in the Tax Code so men or women who work at home are not prevented from claiming a deduction for a home office if that office includes a baby crib so they can take care of their child while working. The Working Parents Home Office Act would not only help parents save on childcare costs, it would help increase their earning potential by incentivizing them to create new income streams from home.

For parents worried about failing schools for their children, Senator KIRK introduced the Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Act—a bill that would provide more and better educational choices and some much needed compensation for teachers unions that too often put their own interests above those of our children.

Then there is the National Right to Work Act, a bill I cosponsored with Senator PAUL, which will eliminate a Federal rule that requires employees of certain companies to join a union or pay union dues whether they want to or not. Lifting this rule would vastly increase job opportunities in my State for women and men who want to work but can't find it, especially in the area of manufacturing.

The senior Senator from Maine has a proposal that would repeal a senseless provision in ObamaCare that is incentivizing employers all across the country to limit their employees to 30 hours a week.

The junior Senator from Nebraska has a bill—the Workplace Advancement Act—that would further equip women in the workplace with the knowledge and tools they need to fight employer discrimination.

The junior Senator from Florida has a bill—the RAISE Act—that would amend the National Labor Relations Act to allow employers to give merit-based pay increases to employees who are currently prohibited from receiving them because of outdated labor rules,

and the junior Senator from Utah has a number of good proposals in a variety of areas.

These are just a few of the very good ideas that Members of my conference have put together to address the concerns and anxieties of working men and women whose wages have remained stubbornly flat during the Obama years, even as the cost of everything from college tuition to health care continues to soar. There are many others, including bills passed by the House that the Democratic majority in the Senate continues to block.

I am very proud of the work so many of my colleagues have done in putting all this legislation together. This morning some of us will present a number of these ideas at a press conference to draw attention to the urgent needs of our constituents and the shortsightedness of the majority leader in blocking our ideas to address them. Every one of these Republican ideas is meant to address some common concern of working families in our country, but none of them ever get a vote because it would not fit the story line Washington Democrats are peddling.

Apparently Senate Democrats would rather people didn't know Republicans have been working overtime behind the scenes to make their lives easier or paychecks bigger for working moms and recent college graduates. They would rather people didn't even know about these or dozens of other ideas we have that are aimed at making life a little easier for middle-class Americans, because if they did, they might realize there is an entirely different approach to the problems that have been plaguing this economy for years now and choose it over theirs.

What Republicans have been saying is that there are a number of things we can do right now to help folks deal with the pressures they face every day in this economy. We have been talking about these ideas for years, and we will be talking about them later today because 5½ years into the Obama economy Americans are eager for some fresh thinking. They are tired of the same old big government solutions that only make life harder and more complicated. They are tired of a Democratically controlled Senate that will not allow a debate or a vote on any of our better proposals.

Most of our constituents are thinking about long commutes, shrinking budgets, obscenely high tuition and health care bills. They think about how nice it would be to have some more flexibility at work. They are frustrated with a Tax Code that seems to punish their efforts to make a little bit more money for their family, and they are not getting anything from the White House but empty rhetoric and more of the same.

Today Republicans are reminding people there is another way. While

Democrats have been plotting ways to hold on to their majority, we have been listening to the concerns and anxieties of our constituents and figuring out new, creative ways to address them.

It is long past time we had a real debate in this country, instead of the false choice Democrats constantly present to the public between their own failed ideas and some political villain that doesn't exist. It is time Americans saw the real choice before them, and once they do, I think the choice will be an easy one.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MASTER SERGEANT AARON C. TORIAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning I wish to commemorate the life and service of a brave U.S. marine from Paducah, KY, MSgt Aaron C. Torian. This highly accomplished marine was tragically killed on February 15, 2014, from injuries sustained during combat training operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was 36 years old.

For his service in uniform, Master Sergeant Torian received many medals, awards, and decorations—including the Purple Heart, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon with Gold Star, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with three stars, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

When he was 28, Master Sergeant Torian was named the Second Marine Division's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. It is a high honor. This distinction recognizes marines who excel in physical fitness, leadership skills, and tactical and technical proficiency. Receiving it made Aaron a role model for hundreds of NCOs in the Second Marine Division.

At the time he won the award, he simply said:

I had to step up. I just figured that this is what I'd joined the Marine Corps to do, and so I always did it 100 percent.

"His work ethic was remarkable," says Aaron's mother Esta Smith. She said:

He was a warrior as a marine. . . . He ultimately gave everything for his country and he never put himself anything but last. He gave everything because he loved his country.

Born in 1977, Aaron was a native of Paducah and grew up in the region before his family moved to Maryland. Aaron graduated from Thomas Stone High School in Waldorf, MD, where he was a star athlete in baseball and foot-

ball. He was awarded a football scholarship to the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he graduated in 2001. Aaron then went on to earn a master's degree in instructional leadership at Tennessee Tech in 2003.

Aaron's time at Tennessee Tech was notable for a few other reasons besides his degree. He worked as a graduate assistant football coach, and he also met the woman who would become his wife, Jurley Pomeroy. Together the couple had three children.

"He was a great dad and always everything his children needed him to be," says his wife Jurley. "When he got off the plane, being the best dad and best husband was his number-one priority."

Aaron joined the Marine Corps in 2003 and promoted to Master Sergeant in September of 2013. In addition to being a wonderful father and husband and an exemplary marine, he was a faithful member of College Acres Baptist Church in Wilmington, NC. He was a community volunteer for his local college baseball grounds crew and also at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church annual Greek festival.

Aaron's mother said:

Aaron held on to the thing he believed in: faith, love, and freedom. . . . The conversation was always about how blessed he felt and how he thanked God for his beautiful family. Humility was the definition of Aaron.

Aaron's final deployment was his sixth in total. He served two tours in Iraq and four in Afghanistan. At the time of his final deployment, he was assigned to the Second Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Special Operations Regiment, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command based out of Camp Lejeune, NC.

In late February of this year, Master Sergeant Torian was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. Just last month at the Memorial Day ceremonies in Aaron's native McCracken County, KY, county officials unveiled a commemorative street sign for MSgt Aaron C. Torian. For 1 year it will be displayed in front of the county courthouse and then placed permanently at a location of his family members' choosing.

"Thank God for the blessing and honor of allowing me to be your mom," says Aaron's mother Esta. "Semper Fi—always faithful. My son, you are a true American hero."

We are thinking of Aaron's family today as I share his story with my Senate colleagues, including his wife Jurley, his children Elijah, Laura Bella, and Avery, his mother and stepfather Esta and Jim Smith, his father Joe Torian, and many other beloved family members and friends.

I want the family of MSgt Aaron C. Torian to know that just as his life of dedication and service is recognized at the McCracken County Courthouse and

in the hallowed shrine of Arlington, so too it is recognized in the Senate.

I know all of my colleagues join me in solemn reverence and gratitude for this brave young man's willingness to pledge everything for our country. We honor his supreme sacrifice on behalf of all Americans.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 4660.

The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 428, H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, we bring to the floor our fiscal year 2015 spending bill, but before the Republican leader leaves, as the Senator from Maryland, I too would like to join with great respect in condolences for Master Sergeant Torian's family. For all of us who are Senators who have constituent families where people have died, we have to be in this together.

These are times when we are not the Republican Party or the Democratic Party. We are not red or blue. We have to be red, white, and blue. From this side of the aisle to that side of the aisle, Godspeed to his family, and I thank the Senator for bringing this wonderful young man to the attention of the Senate. Those remarks were quite poignant and moving.

We have to stand by those families—the widow, the children who will need an education, and let's do it shoulder to shoulder.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Maryland for her additional comments about this wonderful young man.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today we bring to the floor on a bipartisan basis the annual appropriation bills of the Commerce-Justice-Science bill, the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and also the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration. I wish to thank all of the members of the Appropriations Committee for their tremendous work on these bills. First, I wish to say a special word about my vice chairman RICHARD SHELBY, who has done the hard work

and the due diligence of helping move the entire process but also moving, in particular, our bill that funds the Commerce Department, Justice Department, and the science programs, such as our space program.

In terms of transportation, we have the able leadership of Senator MURRAY, with her vice chairman Senator COLLINS; and on agriculture, chairman MARK PRYOR and, again, his vice chairman ROY BLUNT.

This process is about moving America forward. This legislation we are putting before the Senate today puts America's middle-class families first, creating opportunity by creating jobs today.

With investments in physical infrastructure in the transportation and housing bill, we are building roads and bridges, repairing them, and updating transit lines and rail lines, so we literally and figuratively can keep America on the move. At the same time we are also meeting America's compelling human needs with our investment in home ownership as well as in housing and in urban and economic development.

We also create jobs tomorrow with investments in research and discovery. What we do in these important science agencies is drive innovation, leading to new products and new jobs. And guess what. Science saves lives.

When we look at Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations, we see that we fund the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—a lot of words with a lot of alphabet, synonyms and acronyms and so on.

At the end of the day, we fund the weather service. What does the weather service do? They predict weather. They predict immediate weather, such as is it going to rain this afternoon, and they predict weather emergencies, whether we are going to have a tornado.

Our hearts go out, again, on the other side of the aisle, to the people of Kansas, where they were hit by a double tornado—an unprecedented weather event. They are calling it the twin sisters, referring to what happened in Nebraska. They were the ugly sisters, but they were made less ugly because of the way the weather service could help alert the people in that community. That is what we fund.

We protect the American people by making sure we fight crime and terrorism by funding Federal law enforcement; by making sure our medicines and medical devices are safe by funding the Food and Drug Administration; and we meet compelling human needs, whether we are talking about affordable housing or affordable food.

While we do it, we are also reforming the agencies. Sure, people talk about appropriators as spenders, but we have a sense in this committee on both sides of the aisle—and I must say that Sen-

ator SHELBY has helped lead this—that we need to be a more frugal government. We need to get value for our dollar, demonstrating that we need to be able to save money or use money. We are going to spend very wisely.

It has been 3 years since we were able to bring an appropriations bill to the floor. I am not going to go into all the reasons why. "Why" doesn't get the job done. What we need to do is return to regular order. So what does that mean? Today we have these three bills pending. It means we want to enact all of our appropriations bills by October 1. We want to keep government operating not on autopilot, not on shutdown, nor on lavish spending. We have to reduce our Federal deficit, but we also have to reduce other deficits, particularly in the area of deficits related to innovation as well as the fact that our crime rates are on the rise in many cities and we need to reduce them. The American people today want to make sure we have a government they can count on. But they need to count on the fact that not only are we open and doing business but that when we are, we are smarter about it.

Vice Chairman SHELBY and I have been working on a bipartisan basis. We have been working on a bicameral basis. That means hands across the aisle, hands across the dome to restore regular order and civility in this process.

I look forward to moving this bill. I would say to my colleagues who are listening, many of my colleagues saw a few months ago the way Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, Senator TOM HARKIN, Senator RICHARD BURR, and I moved a bipartisan bill on the child care and development block grant. That had not been reauthorized since 1996, but we showed we could do it. We cleared 18 amendments. We actually had votes on amendments. We had an open process where amendments could be offered, discussed, debated, and at the end of the day voted on because we had a process that worked. As Senators who worked together, we were able to pass that bill.

Senator SHELBY and I are providing leadership today to be able to do that. So we ask our colleagues to support us in coming to an agreement on the motion to proceed so that we can move ahead on this bill. We are making progress. There are several bills we have already moved out of the committee, and we will be moving more. But right now, today, we want to move these three bills and do it in a way that we are proud of what we do, we are proud of our process, we are proud of our conduct, and we are proud that we did it in the right way, with debate, discussion, and the votes that are required.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, this morning I wish to join my longtime colleague and friend, the senior Senator from Maryland and chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, in supporting the consideration of three bills before us today. All three bills received strong bipartisan support at the full Committee on Appropriations level.

I am pleased we have begun to reestablish regular order in the appropriations process. We started that last year, and we need to continue it, and we are.

After the uncertainty of sequestration and last year's disagreement over the Budget Control Act caps, this past December's Murray-Ryan budget deal provided the clarity needed to move us toward a regular budget and a regular appropriations process. The Murray-Ryan deal, which became the Bipartisan Budget Act, provided a compromise solution that ended the congressional deadlock over top-line discretionary spending.

While I appreciate that the chairwoman was operating in a tight fiscal environment, we did not ultimately agree everywhere on how to allocate funds within the new caps. All 14 Republican members of the Appropriations Committee wrote to the chair on May 21 of this year expressing our concerns over the use of budgetary mechanisms in subcommittee allocations. In that letter we also stated and we continue to express our opposition to increasing the level of total CHIMPs in the Federal discretionary budget beyond current levels.

While we continue to have concerns about how the majority reached total 302(b) allocations, the bills before us today for the most part reached their allocations by making tough choices; that is, shifting resources from lower to higher priority programs.

The allocations for the CJS, transportation and housing, and Agriculture bills conform to the intent of the Murray-Ryan deal. Both the Commerce-Justice-Science bill and the Agriculture bill actually decrease spending compared to the current enacted levels, while still being sufficient to meet the needs of the agencies. I am pleased to have worked with the chairwoman to ensure that the CJS bill successfully balanced the important and competing interests of law enforcement, scientific advancement, and U.S. competitiveness. The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill has a moderate increase of only 1.4 percent, after taking into account the scorekeeping difference between OMB and CBO on FHA loan receipts.

I believe passing these funding measures will give Congress a voice in government spending that it was constitutionally intended to have. Instead of ceding spending discretion to the executive branch or simply locking in place

priorities that have become outdated—as a continuing resolution would do—this bill includes hundreds of limits on how taxpayer dollars can be spent. While I might not agree with every item in each bill, I think we have found solid middle ground upon which both sides of the aisle can comfortably stand.

Once again, I thank the chair, Senator MIKULSKI, for her willingness to work together, and I encourage my colleagues to come to the floor and offer their amendments so we can debate the merits of them.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I thank the vice chairman for his remarks. I think he makes excellent points. We had a tough top line to meet. The CBO score—these budgets speak words that people are trying to follow. The Congressional Budget Office actually says how much things will cost, and when they took a look at what our FHA program and certain mortgage rates would cost, they found out we overestimated revenue by \$4 billion. That is a lot of money even by Washington standards. So we had to adjust accordingly, and it has not been easy.

I will tell my colleagues that we are now coming down to talk about where we really are now—what are the agencies we want to fund, why we want to fund them at the amount we do, and what problems they actually solve for the American people. The American people have a right to ask at the end of the day not “did you spend money” but “what did you spend it on and what did we get for it? Are we a stronger country? Do we have a better economy? Do our children have a brighter future? Are we meeting compelling human needs?” I think in these three bills the answer is yes.

When we look at Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations, we want to tell our colleagues what we have done. It really funds several different agencies, and it comes to a total of \$51.2 billion. It is consistent with the CJS allocation, and it is \$398 million less—I want to say this clearly. What we are doing in the Commerce-Justice-Science bill, we are spending less money than we did last year, but we think we are getting more value for the dollar. We are \$398 million below what we spent last year, but at the same time we have kept our communities safe, we have promoted jobs, and we have promoted innovation.

We used our spending to guide Federal decisions from Federal law enforcement to space exploration. The CJS bill provides \$28 billion for the Justice Department. This is \$260 million more than 2014. We did this because we believe the Justice Department is an agency that people in local communities feel they need to be able

to count on. It keeps America safe from crime and terrorism. It protects communities at the local level. It protects families against domestic violence and sexual predators. And the job of the Justice Department is to administer justice fairly.

This bill funds key law enforcement and prosecution agencies. What do we mean by that? Federal law enforcement is made up of the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the U.S. attorneys who actually prosecute the bad guys or the bad gals for everything from mortgage fraud, to cyber terrorism, to drug dealing and drug cartels, so they can keep us safe from all of this, protecting us against gangs, drug dealers. Why is it important? Federal law enforcement goes after gang activity, fraudsters trying to be more predatory.

What is the result in this funding? We have done a lot. In my own home State of Maryland, over the last year our Federal law enforcement has arrested 280 violent fugitives. Federal law enforcement brought down child pornographers and traffickers, bank robbers, and took a big whack at the heroin trafficking rings. I am really proud of them. I am proud of what they do in Maryland, and I am proud of what they do around the world.

Look at how our FBI, working with our special operations, brought to heel and brought into our custody one of the men who killed our Embassy personnel in Benghazi. Let's do a big hurrah for the FBI and special ops, but let's do our hurrah not only with words but putting the money in the Federal checkbook so they get to be able to continue to do the job of keeping America safe.

There are many other aspects of this bill that are important. This is why we look out for our State and local departments.

We have also put in an important investment in the Violence Against Women Act. We are spending \$430 million to give grants to prevent and prosecute domestic violence and also to be able to deal and help with rape victims.

This bill puts money in the Federal checkbook to put more police officers on the beat. But I like the fact that we are actually protecting them with more bulletproof vests and being able to do other work.

This bill also addresses the backlog of sexual assaults, making sure we test no matter where they are. We have seen time and time again that evidence is gathered and that somehow or another it is in some box in some lab or some police department. Rape victims cannot be dually assaulted—one by the predator who attacked them and then by a lackluster prosecutorial system. If you gather the evidence, test it and use it to make sure we have the right predator. Prosecute the predator. See if

they are a serial predator. Let's not doubly assault the victim by not only what happened to them on the street but also what happens to them in the criminal justice system.

So we are doing a lot. I feel very strongly about this, but I also feel very strongly about the need to create jobs. This bill provides \$8.6 billion for the Department of Commerce, which helps them protect our patents, promotes trade and economic development. It helps our coastal economies with sustainable fisheries and healthy oceans. It exports American goods and services and supports more than 11 million jobs.

This bill does a lot by putting our Commercial Service officers—those who actually work in embassies—to work, with business to be able to help them. And we make sure they are not only in Europe but they are in Asia and Africa, where the new opportunities are.

Our dynamic Secretary of Commerce has focused on bringing foreign investments to the United States, and we have seen what they have meant to Maryland and what they have meant in Alabama and what they have meant in America.

We also, through the Commerce Department, help with our weather bureau. I am going to say more about it, but what I want to talk about right now is the National Science Foundation—one of our other main agencies—because it does the basic research in science, technology, and engineering.

Then there is NASA. I am going to say more about NASA later. I know we have others waiting to speak. For NASA, actually, we have done more than what the President wanted to do because we wanted to have a balanced space program. We have particularly emphasized human space flight, a reliable transportation system, and space science.

We have here where we are creating jobs, we are protecting people in their communities, and we are laying the groundwork for jobs of the future. There are many other issues I will talk about as the bill unfolds.

Senator SHELBY and I have worked very closely with Senator COBURN. Everybody knows Senator COBURN prides himself on being a watchdog on Federal spending. And you know what. He has been. I love some of his ideas; some give me a little pause. But we actually met. We actually met to see what we could do to be able to reform our government so we could get more value for the dollar. I am going to have a separate speech just on that so the American people know, when they say "Watch what you spend, Barb," I really am doing it. So is Senator SHELBY. So are the members of our committee.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, again I rise today in support of, specifically,

the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill, where I am the ranking member for the Republicans.

I appreciate the leadership, as I have said earlier, of the chair on this particular bill. We have worked together for many years. I chaired this subcommittee at one time, and I believe the bill being considered today reflects a strong bipartisan effort.

The competing interests of the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill always prove challenging, but I believe this bill strikes the appropriate balance.

The allocation for the CJS bill; that is, the Commerce-Justice-Science bill; is \$51.2 billion, which is just below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level—yes, below. Working within this allocation, we sought to balance priorities, hold agencies accountable for their work, and demand efficiencies to stretch limited Federal dollars. Ultimately, these efforts ensure that Federal resources are spent efficiently and effectively.

The bill before us provides robust funding for the Department of Justice and law enforcement grant programs totaling \$28 billion. It focuses attention and resources on some of the most difficult issues plaguing the Nation, including human trafficking, gang violence, child predation, a growing heroin crisis, threats to cyber security, and domestic terrorism.

Grant programs such as VALOR, Byrne, veterans courts, crime lab improvements, violence against women, and the COPS Program will receive funding to advance the important work being done at the State and local level in our Nation.

Moreover, the bill ensures that the Department maintains its focus on evidence-based programs and activities that have a proven record of effectiveness. This requirement emphasizes the committee's commitment to ensuring that Federal dollars are not just spent but are spent wisely.

The bill also includes \$8.6 billion for the Department of Commerce, which is responsible for a range of issues, including weather forecasting, economic development, trade promotion, and fisheries conservation, among others.

The bill prioritizes resources to support NOAA's next generation of weather satellites that will enable the National Weather Service to continue to provide timely warnings for dangerous weather outbreaks that we all experience. To ensure that these weather satellites stay on budget and are delivered on time, the bill continues and expands stringent oversight requirements involving the inspector general. I believe our Nation cannot afford cost increases and schedule delays in these programs, and we expect that these oversight requirements will help avoid such a scenario. These satellites are essential to weather forecasters across the country. Without them, forecasters would be un-

able to provide important warnings about devastating storms, tornado outbreaks, and hurricanes, putting the safety of the American people at risk.

The bill also provides sufficient resources and direction to improve the management of the Nation's fisheries, including new approaches to manage red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico. These new approaches should provide a more equitable system for commercial fishermen and increase the number of fishing days for recreational anglers.

The bill also provides \$18 billion for NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. In order to preserve the planned launch schedule in 2017 for the heavy lift launch vehicle, or SLS, the bill includes \$1.7 billion for SLS rocket development, which is very crucial. It also maintains focus on these efforts by requiring NASA to follow its own internal guidance regarding joint confidence levels in future funding requests.

The bill also preserves important funding for ongoing activities of the International Space Station and other vital science research missions.

In addition, the bill safeguards the advancement of efforts underway to develop a U.S. vehicle to transport our astronauts to the space station. I believe those efforts must continue in a transparent way to ensure that the government is not saddled with mounting bills and no recourse.

I commend the chair for working with me to include language that requires certified cost and pricing data for the crew vehicle development contract. The goal of the language is not to up-end a fixed-price contract; rather, the goal is to make certain that the price NASA has agreed to pay for vehicle development matches actual development expenditures. NASA and its contractors have a history of cost overruns and schedule delays, whether the contract has a fixed price or not. With no other U.S.-based options to get to the space station, I believe we cannot find ourselves at the eleventh hour with an overburdened program that requires a bailout to succeed.

Once again, these measures are included to ensure that the government is not just spending taxpayer money, but that it is doing so in a cost-effective manner.

I reiterate my belief that the bill reflects the Senate's priorities and the needs of our Nation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HETKAMP). The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I am pleased the Senate is now considering appropriations bills that fund important segments of our Federal Government. Those include the agencies responsible for scientific research, justice and nutrition programs, as well as the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

It has been some time since we have been able to fund the operations of the government through regular order, so it is encouraging that leaders on both sides of the aisle have been able to work together now to pursue that goal.

As we are here today considering these bills, I think it is helpful to remember where we were at this time last year. We were unable to start a budget conference. There was a government shutdown looming just a few months ahead, and businesses and families across the country had absolutely no certainty about whether their government could even keep the lights on.

Today we have more certainty thanks to the 2-year budget agreement, and building on the bipartisan work we all did to reach that agreement, the members of our committee, Senator COLLINS and I, have been able to put together a transportation and housing bill that makes responsible investments in infrastructure and community development and helps protect the most vulnerable among us.

Less than 2 weeks ago the Appropriations Committee approved the transportation and housing bill by a vote of 29 to 1—an extremely strong show of bipartisan support. This bill received such remarkable support because it helps families and communities, it gets workers back on the job, and it lays down a strong foundation for long-term and broad-based economic growth. It does this in a manner that is fiscally responsible, with growth of just a little more than 1 percent over the fiscal year 2014 level when looking at the program funding levels and factoring in FHA receipts, which do vary from year to year. After adjusting for inflation, the funding in this bill is actually 2.5 percent less than what it was in fiscal year 2008, as a result of the spending cuts we have now applied to discretionary appropriations.

This bill is timely. It makes critical, targeted investments to address concerns that have developed over the past year. In light of the dramatic growth in domestic energy production, it includes new resources to strengthen oversight of energy shipments by rail to keep our communities safe, including funding for additional rail safety and hazardous materials inspectors, training for first responders, more track inspections, research into the volatility of crude oil, and requirements for stronger tank car designs.

This bill includes \$10 million to improve vehicle safety defects analysis and investigation, to help ensure we do not see a repeat of the Department of Transportation's failure to detect unsafe parts in General Motors and other manufacturers' vehicles.

This bill provides an additional 10,000 vouchers to move us closer to finally eliminating homelessness among our Nation's veterans. Due to these investments, we have been able to reduce the

number of homeless vets on our Nation's streets by 24 percent since 2010. We are well on our way to eliminating it altogether.

Our bill includes direction to help communities implement the Violence Against Women Act in Federal housing programs as well as resources to improve coordination between housing programs and domestic violence survivors services. It makes it possible for HUD to support youth aging out of foster care, giving them more time to find stability and save money, thereby helping to reduce the elevated risk of homelessness facing those vulnerable young people.

This bill invests in our communities. It provides \$3 billion for community development grants to State and local governments to help communities fund projects that meet their unique needs and support efforts to create jobs and \$950 million for the HOME Program to help create affordable housing.

It ensures the FAA has sufficient funding to continue rebuilding its workforce after the disruptive effects of last year's sequestration. It fully funds the FAA's airport grants and research programs as well as the contract towers and Essential Air Service Program that so many of our rural communities depend on.

It includes sufficient funding for HUD's house and homeless assistance program, to preserve this vital piece of the Nation's safety net. More than half of the 5.4 million very low-income households that depend upon the housing assistance provided in this bill include someone elderly, disabled, or both. Without these programs, many of these individuals would be homeless.

The bill includes \$90 million for Choice Neighborhoods. That is a program that helps tear down and rebuild distressed public housing as well as language making it possible for more local authorities to access private capital through the Rental Assistance Demonstration to renovate our aging housing stock. Notably, it includes reforms to make the programs in this bill more accountable and more effective. These include provisions to make it easier for public housing authorities to manage their capital and operations needs as well as resources for HUD to use the lessons it has learned since Hurricane Katrina to develop templates that communities can quickly implement to speed recovery effectively following a disaster.

The bill streamlines environmental reviews for Native American housing. It works to ensure accountability for property owners who do not maintain the quality of their HUD assisted housing. It increases accountability in the CDBG Program.

That is our bill. We do make tough choices. To fund increases for inflation and other uncontrollable costs, we made the very difficult choice of trim-

ming funding for programs that Members care about, including the TIGER and HOME Program. In short, this bill is a good bill.

I note that most of the transportation funding, a total of just over \$50 billion, comes from our highway trust fund. As we all know, right now, the highway trust fund is headed toward a crisis. The Department of Transportation expects the balances in this fund to reach critical levels later this summer. To deal with this uncertainty, States now are already bracing for the worst-case scenario. Some States such as Arkansas have already put their projects on hold. This crisis could also hurt workers in the construction industry who depend on jobs to repair our roads and bridges.

If Congress does not act, a shortfall in the highway trust fund will put at risk the funding we have included here in our THUD bill. We need immediate action to solve that crisis well before October when the new fiscal year starts. We need to work together to avoid that unnecessary and preventable crisis. In the meantime, I am glad we are turning to the transportation and housing bill and getting the work of the Appropriations Committee done.

Together with the Senator from Maine, SUSAN COLLINS, I encourage Members to bring their amendments to the floor and to work with us to make it even better. This bill enjoys broad bipartisan support, because it takes a practical approach to addressing the real needs we find in the transportation and housing sectors.

The investments it makes would improve safety, increase efficiency, and help our communities, and lay down a strong foundation for long-term and broad-based economic growth and help position our country and our economy to compete in winning the 21st century global economy. I urge our colleagues to support our bipartisan bill. I hope we can move rapidly to final passage.

Before I yield, I do want to thank Chairman MIKULSKI for her support and leadership. As the former chair of the VA HUD subcommittee, she appreciates the importance of the investments in our bill. This bill includes priorities of Members on both sides of the aisle, reflecting the Appropriations Committee's bipartisan tradition.

I thank our entire committee for their work. I especially want to take a moment to express my thanks to my ranking member Senator COLLINS and her staff for all of their hard work and cooperation throughout this process. I am proud that together we have written a bill that works for families and communities. Investing in families and communities and long-term economic growth should not be a partisan issue. I think the bipartisan work that went into this bill and the strong support it received in committee proves it does not have to be.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I am told the Senator from Washington State has a very brief statement she would like to make. I ask unanimous consent that she be allowed up to 3 minutes to make her statement before I reclaim the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Maine. I will explain to her later how Maine continues to play a very interesting role in such an important issue.

(The further remarks of Ms. CANTWELL are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I am pleased to join with Chairman MURRAY as we hope to begin floor consideration of the bipartisan fiscal year 2015 appropriations bill for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

As usual, it has been a great pleasure to work with Chairman MURRAY. She is extremely fair-minded and bipartisan in the approach she has taken to this bill. I also thank her staff for working closely with my staff as we sought to craft a bill that I believe deserves the support of all of our colleagues.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank Chairwoman MIKULSKI and Vice Chairman SHELBY for their extraordinary leadership in advancing those three appropriations bills through what at times is turning out to be a daunting process. It is my hope and expectation that we can give Members of this body the opportunity to debate all three of these bills, to offer amendments, and ultimately to pass them, and that we have an open and transparent process.

I would encourage cooperation on both sides of the aisle. It is in the best interests of this country for us to do our work in the regular order, in the normal process, and to pass these bills, and then to hold conferences with the House to iron out any differences.

Last week the House did approve its own version of the THUD appropriations bill. This is an important step in the process which will eventually allow the two Chambers to meet in conference and produce a final bill to send to the President for his signature. I commend the leaders of the Appropriations Committee and also the floor leaders for making sure we have the time available to bring these bills to the floor.

There is no reason we cannot pass each one of the appropriations bills, have a conference with the House, and get them to the President before the start of the fiscal year so we can avoid gigantic omnibus bills that are a poor

way to legislate or, even worse, continuing resolutions that lock into law increased costs and priorities that may no longer reflect today's needs.

The THUD bill before us today is essentially a jobs bill. It provides \$54.4 billion in responsible investments in transportation and housing programs, and it includes input from Members on both sides of the aisle. Every Senator has unmet transportation and housing needs in his or her State, from crumbling roads and unsafe bridges to a growing population of vulnerable low-income families, seniors, and disabled individuals in need of housing assistance.

Chairman MURRAY and I worked very hard to accommodate the input from many Members. This bill we bring before you received overwhelming support in the full Appropriations Committee. In fact, as Chairman MURRAY mentioned, the vote was 29 to 1 to report this bill to the full Senate. It is essential to acknowledge that this year's THUD bill is directly affected by nearly a \$3 billion reduction in Federal Housing Authority receipts for fiscal year 2015. As a result, we were faced with making very difficult decisions to ensure that the Federal investments in this bill were prioritized to meet the most critical needs.

One of the most pressing issues this bill addresses has not received a great deal of attention, so I want to spend a moment on it; that is, the safe transportation of crude oil and other hazardous materials by rail. I know the Presiding Officer is very familiar with this issue. I am pleased to say our transportation bill strengthens three components to help ensure the safe transportation of crude oil and other hazardous materials. It focuses on prevention, mitigation, and response. If you talk to any emergency responder, they will tell you those are the three critical components.

We do so without adopting the President's poorly conceived proposal, which would have created yet another level of bureaucracy in the Secretary's office. Instead, we chose what I believe to be a wiser course. We provided funding directly to the agencies to support additional rail inspectors, advance research efforts, and to establish cooperative training programs.

I know firsthand how horrific these disasters can be, because last year there was a terrible derailment in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, 30 miles from the border of Maine, that cost 47 lives and essentially destroyed this picturesque village. I was very proud that 30 Maine firefighters responded to the call for help from their Canadian counterparts.

Senator MURRAY and I held an oversight hearing to look at rail safety, and the fire chief from Rangeley, ME, Tim Pellerin, testified before our committee at our oversight hearing. He provided gripping testimony about this

extraordinarily dangerous experience, as well as thoughtful recommendations about what should be done. I want to tell the chief that we listened to him, and a lot of our recommendations in the bill—particularly with regard to training—reflect the advice he gave us as a first responder on that very dangerous scene.

Turning to another issue, this bill provides \$550 million for the TIGER Program, an effective initiative that helps advance transportation infrastructure projects. We have seen firsthand how TIGER projects create good jobs and support economic growth in our home States.

Turning now to air travel, the aviation investments included in our bill will continue to modernize our Nation's air traffic system. These investments are creating safer skies and a more efficient air space to move the flying public.

In addition to transportation programs, our bill provides sufficient but not generous funding to keep pace with the rising cost of housing vulnerable families. More than 4 million families will continue to receive critical rental assistance for their housing. Without it, many of these families would otherwise become homeless.

Chairman MURRAY and I continue to share a strong commitment—indeed, a passion—to reducing homelessness in this country. For that reason we have included more than \$2 billion for homeless assistance grants. Since 2010 we have reduced overall chronic homelessness by 16 percent and veterans homelessness by 24 percent.

These programs are working, and we have the data to prove it. That is why our bill builds on these successes and provides an additional 10,000 HUD-VASH vouchers to serve our Nation's veterans.

We have an obligation to our Nation's veterans. That has been very much on our minds recently, and we can point with pride to the reduction by 24 percent in homelessness among veterans, but we want to complete the job. We don't want any veteran to be homeless, and we are making progress through this well-conceived program.

While our bill helps families in need and our Nation's veterans, it also invests in our communities. Boosting local economies is critical to job creation and helping families obtain financial security. Our legislation supports these local development efforts by providing more than \$3 billion for Community Development Block Grants.

I am sure the Presiding Officer has had the experience, as most Members have, of talking to State and local officials about the Community Development Block Grant Program. It is an extremely popular program with States and communities because it allows them to tailor the Federal funds to

support locally driven economic and job-creation projects. It isn't Washington telling them how this money should be spent but, rather, providing the flexibility so that they can meet local economic development needs and help to create new jobs.

The bill before us does not solve all of the problems in either the Department of Transportation or in the Department of Housing and Urban Development; we don't have the money to do that.

Most notably, the administration's budget does not come up with a realistic way to address the urgent need to prevent the highway trust fund from becoming insolvent in August.

There should be no doubt in the mind of any Member of this body, if the administration and Congress do not take action before the August recess, State departments of transportation will not be reimbursed for work that has already been completed and new projects will likely grind to a halt and jobs, good construction jobs, will be lost.

The administration must present an achievable plan to avoid this disruption, these lost jobs, these stalled transportation projects, and Congress must work in good faith to secure passage.

Transportation is the lifeline of our economy, supporting millions of jobs and moving people and products. When coupled with the housing and economic development projects, the fiscal year 2015 transportation and housing appropriations bill will create jobs now when they are needed most and will establish the foundation for future growth.

Just as important to our economic future, however, is reining in excessive Federal spending and getting our national debt under control, which must be a priority governmentwide.

We have met the budget allocations that have been provided to us. In setting priorities for fiscal year 2015, I believe our T-HUD bill strikes the right balance between thoughtful investment and the necessary fiscal restraint.

I appreciate the opportunity to present this legislation to the Members of this Chamber. As we continue the debate on these bills, I urge my colleagues to consider how important it is that we complete our work on time, and I hope they will support the efforts of the Appropriations Committee.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I yield to the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

NFL FOOTBALL

Mr. REID. I appreciate the chairman of the Appropriations Committee being so kind.

There are 27 tribes in the State of Nevada, Native Americans. The issue regarding the name Redskins is very im-

portant to every one of those tribes. Every time they hear this name, it is a sad reminder of a long tradition of racism and bigotry.

A month or so ago, Daniel Snyder, the owner of the team, had some people come to Nevada and agree to buy one of the Indian tribes a car if they would say nice things about the Redskins. They refused.

This is extremely important to Native Americans all over the country, that they no longer use this name. It is racist.

Daniel Snyder says it is about tradition. I ask: What tradition? The tradition of racism, that is all this name leaves in its wake.

The writing is on the wall. The writing is on the wall in giant blinking neon lights. This name will change and justice will be done for the tribes in Nevada and across the Nation who care so deeply about this issue.

The Patent and Trademark Office today took away all the trademarks. The Redskins no longer have trademarks. They are gone.

So as I understand the law, if the Presiding Officer wants to use the name Redskins and sell them shirts, she can do that. There is no trademark anymore for the Redskins.

Daniel Snyder may be the last person in the world to realize this, but it is only a matter of time before he is forced to do what is right and change the name.

The leader on this issue is the junior Senator from the State of Washington. Senator CANTWELL has been tireless in showing the American people how unfair it is for the Redskins' name to be used as it is. I think she is one of the leading causes that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office said it is no longer—no longer—a trademark. They did that this morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I know Senator COLLINS and Senator MURRAY are leaving to go to the DOD to meet with Secretary Hagel, and we both look forward to their return this afternoon, but I want to acknowledge the great role they played in putting together the appropriations and transportation funding for the entire United States of America, as well as the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

We are going to talk more about transportation because it literally keeps America rolling, whether it is the kinds of problems we solved with the issues around safety, congestion—they are absolutely crucial. But also what they talked about in their bill is housing and urban development and how—it is also the famous HUD bill—it does not only do urban development.

I know the Presiding Officer is from the State of North Dakota, whose terrain and challenges are very different

than my State, a coastal State. But the Presiding Officer would be interested to know—because she has been hit by some bad weather—that when Hurricane Sandy hit, my State was hit by two things: a hurricane—a hurricane on my Eastern Shore, in which a whole town was underwater and literally people had to be rescued by Zodiacs, by boats, and so on.

Then out in western Maryland, our mountain counties, people were hit by a blizzard. It was so bad that regular snowplows, local government, and the private sector weren't working. The Governor had to bring in the National Guard—and God bless our State troopers and first responders. They were bringing out senior citizens on snowmobiles and things strapped to their chests to get them to safety because the free zone was there.

I tell that poignant story because while we looked to FEMA to rescue, it was really the Community Development Block Grant money that helped local communities come back. FEMA was there for readiness, so we were ready to respond. It was ready to respond. But the big job of rehabilitation always comes through CDBG. I am going to talk about it because it is a lot of letters—one more agency with a lot of letters—but it is also a big impact. What we need to be able to focus on is this is Federal spending with local decisionmaking. It is money that comes to local communities to eliminate blight and to create jobs. Blight can come from a natural disaster or communities that are aging with that kind of impact.

We hope we have support for the bill, but, gee, they did a good job and they did it with diligence, civility, collegiality and common sense, as is characteristic.

I would point out we have tried to use common sense too. Working with Senator SHELBY, as I have said, I am going to emphasize the word "frugality." How do we make sure we get value for the taxpayers' dollar.

It is something in which I strongly believe. My colleague has been a Federal watchdog. He, like I, believes in the funding of these agencies. These watchdog agencies are absolutely crucial.

The Appropriations Committee, under my chairmanship but with the strong concurrence of the vice chairman, believes in the inspectors general.

Congress can hold an investigation and we can pound our chests and put glasses on our noses and ask tough questions, but we need the kind of truly drilling down to know what agencies are doing and are they making sure we avoid boondoggles, waste, stupidity, and at the same time terrible cost overruns.

Thanks to working on a bipartisan basis, we have insisted that inspectors general be at every hearing. This has

been a new innovation of the leadership of Senator SHELBY and me. We want the inspectors general to be part of our official record so we know the top 10 issues they brought to our attention to stand sentry, and we put money in the Federal checkbook to fund them.

We funded the Commerce Department IG at \$30.6 million, \$600 million above 2014 for Justice to make sure grant programs were well administered for NASA, to avoid techno-boondoggles, and for the NSF, so they too keep an eye on it.

We are going to talk more about the problems they identified and the problems we solved, but I note on the floor Senator PRYOR from Arkansas, who has chaired the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, an important subcommittee that is part of our overall bill today.

I yield the floor for Senator PRYOR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2015 Agriculture appropriations bill. I know Senator BLUNT, the ranking member, is on his way over. We were just in another subcommittee hearing and we were asking questions.

Before I say anything else, I thank Senator BLUNT because he has been a great partner to work with. He has been outstanding. He knows this stuff. He works hard. He knows how to work the system. He has been great. He is one of those guys we can trust, and he is very bipartisan. If we had more folks like Senator BLUNT around here, we would get a lot more done. He is doing great work for the country by doing what he is doing.

This is a commonsense and bipartisan bill. It did pass unanimously coming out of the full Appropriations Committee last month, and I am confident my colleagues will support it. When they have a chance to see it, they will like it. I heartily encourage everyone to take a good look at it and support it for final passage.

Agriculture, as we know very well, is something America does better than anybody else in the world. We are the envy of the world when it comes to agriculture. We do it right. We are the gold standard. We are what every other nation in the world wants to be. It is of course rural America's No. 1 industry. So when we talk about agriculture and rural America, it is doing something we can be extremely proud of in this body and in this country because they do it better than anybody else.

I learned a lesson 1 or 2 years ago when Senator STABENOW took over as chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. She told me everybody thinks of Michigan and they think of automobile manufacturing—heavy industry—as the No. 1 industry, and it is in Michigan, but agriculture is No. 2.

If we were to go around a map of the United States, that is what we would

see pretty much in almost every State. Agriculture is either the No. 1 industry or No. 2. In a few cases it is the No. 3 industry. I could go around to all 50 States, but in Arkansas, as an example, agriculture equals a full 25 percent of our State's economy. So 25 percent of our economy is agriculture or agra related.

Again, if we look around the country, we will see numbers similar to that in many States. It contributes \$17 billion in economic activity to Arkansas. It also supports thousands and thousands of jobs—in fact, about one in six jobs. We could put up a chart similar to this for any State in the Union. The numbers may change from State to State, but they will be generally the same.

The Agriculture appropriations bill we are talking about builds on the strengths of our agricultural industry. It invests in the Farm Service Agency. It prohibits the closure of FSA offices, which provide vital services to our farmers and ranchers, and it provides funding for farm ownership loans. It also invests in the Agricultural Research Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service so America can continue to innovate and make our agricultural products more efficiently.

This is another area America truly leads the world in, agricultural innovation. Agriculture is actually very science-based and very innovative. It doesn't always get credit for being high-tech, but it actually is. So much of that basic research and the things that make a difference out in the field happen in this legislation, but that is not all the bill does. It also makes smart investments to help improve job opportunities and quality of life for families in rural America.

One thing we don't want to see is the old "Tale of Two Americas," where urban and suburban get all the money, get the latest and the greatest and the best and the cutting edge and rural America is left behind. That can happen and it does happen in Washington, unfortunately, quite a bit—but not in this bill. This bill's primary emphasis is on rural America. It is one of the few bills we talk about in any given Congress that does focus on rural America. It makes smart investments there.

It maintains funding for the Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Program to help many of our very small communities obtain clean water and sanitary waste disposal systems. Here again, just because one lives in smalltown America doesn't mean they shouldn't have clean water. Everybody should have clean water. So this bill makes sure that happens.

It increases funding for the Food and Drug Administration to ensure that our food and our drug supply remains the safest and the most reliable in the world. There again FDA is in this bill. Everybody in the world wants to be

like FDA. Everybody wants the integrity we have in our system for our food and our drugs. We fund FDA here.

It provides funding for the Food Safety and Inspection Service to keep our food supply safe, and it sustains the school meals equipment grants so our schools can continue to provide healthy meals for kids.

We also included in this legislation money for disaster relief. Some people have asked me: Why? Why should we do that? I have a photograph recently taken in Arkansas. This is just one example of the devastating effects of a tornado.

Here we look at what used to be someone's home. We have to remember these people worked all their lives to have this house, and in about 45 seconds this is what was left of it. It may be hard to see on the television, but right here is a motorcycle, a pickup truck, a power line lying in the yard, a few appliances, a few people hugging, but one thing we see is their pride in America, where they put up their flag. Even in the most adverse circumstances they came together and pulled together to make that happen.

So we put disaster money into this legislation because our country needs disaster money. We need to make sure disasters are fully funded and we have those resources when our neighbors need it the most.

In this storm lives were lost, homes were completely wiped out, and many communities were left in ruins. Arkansas is not unique. I wish I could say this didn't happen, but it does happen periodically around the country. This bill provides funding to help States respond when natural disaster strikes.

My view is that supporting this legislation is a no-brainer. It is bipartisan. It is a good, commonsense, solid piece of legislation. It sustains our agricultural producers, our communities and our families, and it strengthens our economy and secures the future of our Nation.

Before I turn it over to my colleague from Missouri—and I know we are all anxious to hear what he says—there has been a question, as I have talked to many of my colleagues both on the Democratic and the Republican side, about whether we will allow amendments. The answer is: Absolutely, yes; we would like to see amendments.

I cannot speak for everyone in the Chamber, but from the members of the Appropriations Committee who are involved in this legislation, including the chairwoman and the ranking member, yes, we want to talk to Senators about their amendments. It is a little bit like the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." We want to see those amendments. We want to talk about them.

We are hoping we will be able to put together managers' packages. We are

hoping we will be able to find common ground and make this bill better as it goes through the process. Certainly we don't want a lot of funny business on that. We want real amendments, good amendments, amendments that are important to moving this forward.

I know many of my colleagues have been frustrated, but we would like to talk to as many Members as possible about their amendments. I will be on the floor on and off most of the day, either on the floor or near the floor all day. So if anyone's office wants to talk to me about amendments or any Member wants to talk about amendments, I will be glad to do that.

I yield the floor for my colleague from Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I am pleased to join the Senator from Arkansas in introducing this bill. He has been a great person to work with.

I also fully associate myself with his comments about our colleagues' ability to amend these bills. Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY have been real advocates for us getting back to the process the way it essentially worked in the country for a couple hundred years. We got out of the habit of bringing these bills to the floor, letting Members come to the floor and offer better ways to spend this money or if they want to propose not to spend it at all, that is one of the proposals they can make.

The Senator from Arkansas and I have worked to make the tough choices, but seldom is a bill so perfect that it can't be improved, and there is nothing wrong with defending the decisions we have made.

I believe one of the real losses for the country and the Senate of these bills not coming to the floor in recent years is that Members of the Senate haven't had to hear the debate. Members who bring a bill to the floor haven't had to defend the bill. Before we know it, if we don't have to defend what we are for, we have a hard time remembering why we are for what we are for.

This process makes sense if we do it the right way. Certainly, Senator PRYOR has wanted to approach this in that way, and maybe, more importantly, from both our points of view, Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY have been advocating that we bring these bills to the floor and we debate these priorities.

I am particularly pleased to join with Senator PRYOR in introducing this bill and bringing this bill to the floor, the fiscal year 2015 Agriculture appropriations bill, for agriculture, for rural development, for the Food and Drug Administration, and the things that relate to those agencies. The Senator made a good point already about how important this industry is. In Missouri as in Arkansas, agriculture is the No. 1

industry. In my State it is responsible for 16 percent of the State's workforce. Frankly, as world food needs develop, I believe the percentage of our workforce that will have jobs because of agriculture—growing, producing, and processing it, figuring out how to get it to markets around the world—will be an even higher percentage in the future. I think agriculture is the No. 1 industry in most States. If it is not the No. 1 industry, it is right there at the top.

For 150 years now the Federal Government, through what would become the Department of Agriculture after a bill President Lincoln signed in 1862, has been doing many of the things we want to continue to do in this bill. This is not a newfound obligation on the part of the Federal Government. This is not something for which the Federal Government just decided it needed to have some responsibility. This is something that 150 years ago the Federal Government said: You know, we don't need to have—as the land grant universities were founded, the Federal Government said: We need to help these universities manage the research they are doing so that what they are doing can be shared throughout our country, so it is not needlessly duplicated, so it is properly not only allocated but funded.

So the activities in this bill include one of my priorities, which is agricultural research. It includes conservation activities, housing and business loans for rural communities, domestic and international nutrition programs, and food and drug safety. Certainly all of those have a top priority on the list of different individual Members of the Senate. It would be hard to find a Senator who didn't have near the top of their priority list one of the things this bill does.

The Senator from Arkansas and I have made difficult decisions in drafting this bill. Aside from the disaster recovery efforts, the bill is \$90 million below last year's bill. I think it represents a responsible approach to the funding of these priorities but at the same time tightening our belts as we work to live within our means.

We have prioritized programs that protect public health and maintain the strength of our Nation's agricultural economy. Agriculture is one of the few sectors in our economy that consistently enjoy a trade surplus. Last year was our strongest export year in ag products in the history of the country. Recent information from the Department of Agriculture indicates that 2014 is going to set a new record. We need to continue to work through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to open new markets, and we are doing that—particularly markets in Asia and Europe that need to be more open to our products. Expanding agricultural exports is vital. Every \$1 billion in agricultural exports supports an estimated 8,000 American jobs.

If we need to have a domestic priority in the Congress today, it is more private sector jobs. One way to do that is to continue to do what we are doing in this bill and to do it even better.

Opening export markets is only one piece of the puzzle that maintains our agricultural economy. The American farmer is the best in the world at producing products that are desired worldwide in the global marketplace. Smart investment in ag research has helped us get to that point. We have products with a quality, with a market sensitivity, and with a health and nutrition value that people all over the world want.

This bill places significant emphasis on maintaining research at our land grant universities and our non-land grant university systems that have a commitment to agriculture and funding competitive research beyond that in things such as the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.

These programs are critical to our increased production. Every dollar spent in agricultural research results in around a \$20 return to the U.S. economy. By the way, that comes year after year. Once you create that notch and work to try to improve it, it continues to come.

This bill will also provide our rural communities with even more ability to compete both here and abroad.

In a bill where many items didn't get the funding that was requested, we fully funded the Food and Drug Administration request. It is important to the chairman, important to our committee, and important as we look at the health and safety of the products for which the Food and Drug Administration is responsible.

Again, I thank the Senator from Arkansas for his leadership. I thank our chairman and ranking member of the full committee for working so hard to see these bills debated on the floor. I look forward to working with our colleagues as they come up with ways to improve this bill. It is one of the three bills that are on the floor this week.

I hope we can return to a day very quickly where all the appropriations bills are on the floor in as small a group as possible and where they are all open to amendment. We have to get back into the practice of remembering why we are for what we are for and why we have decided to propose that the hard-earned dollars of American families should be spent for these things as opposed to not spending them all or spending them on something else. It is a process that will work if the Senate shares the commitment of the chairman and Senator SHELBY and I think everybody on the Appropriations Committee to try to get back into the business of doing this business publicly and openly and in the right way.

Madam President, I will yield for Senator PRYOR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. I have a few more comments after listening to my colleague from Missouri. I did want to mention a few.

The first point is on exports. We all know we have a bad trade deficit. We all know that. But it would be horrendous if it were not for agriculture. Agriculture is really a huge net plus for us when it comes to exporters. You may ask yourself why that is. It is because we raise the safest, highest quality food in the world, and other people want it. There is no question that when that food shows up on shelves in foreign countries, if this says "Made in the USA," sometimes they can charge a premium because they know the USDA seal of approval is of the highest quality you can find anywhere in the world. So exports are very important.

We heard the President—not just this President but the previous President as well—talk about exports and how many jobs exports create. We need to get back in the exportation business, and agriculture is a great way to do that.

Senator BLUNT alluded to research. There are some tremendous numbers in research. For every dollar of research, you get a \$20 return to the U.S. economy. That is a no-brainer. That is smart policy. That is the right thing to do. It is good for the economy.

But also we both had an experience a few weeks ago where Bill Gates, who founded Microsoft, came in and talked to us about American agricultural research and how important it is in feeding the world. One aspect that struck me is here is a man—Bill Gates—who has been an economic revolutionary. He has changed the world with Microsoft and the digital revolution and the high-tech and all the efforts in which he has been involved. He has been at the cutting edge of so much of that change we have seen in our economy and the world's economy in the last 20-, 30-plus years. It is phenomenal. But here he is in the autumn of his life, and what does he come back to? Agriculture—something that is so basic that we take for granted, but because he has seen the work in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, he has seen the work around the world, he has seen the abject poverty, and he has seen the starvation, he knows that when they get their hands on American products such as seed, fertilizer—all the things we take for granted—that would be a life-changer for those people around the world.

I think it was Senator BLUNT who said his experience is that when people have been eating bad food all their lives, once they get a chance to eat good food, they don't want to go back to bad food. That is what Bill Gates is talking about, and that is where ag research comes in. That is how this piece of the puzzle fits.

There is another point I want to make about rural America. Generally in this legislation we have provisions for rural water, rural housing, rural broadband, rural electricity. Again, we have to understand the economics of that. If you wanted to add broadband somewhere, if you wanted to do it, say, in suburban Washington, DC, obviously you have in many cases relatively high income levels and you have population density. You have what makes it economically feasible. But if you are out in rural America, you want those people to have access to broadband, but you get so many fewer customers per mile. That is why we help. This is sort of the premise of the old Universal Service Fund we have had for a long time in telephone to help expand that network to every single home in America. Now, of course, we have a lot of wireless technologies and whatnot. So we want to make that readily available to rural America.

The last bit of substance I wanted to add to what Senator BLUNT mentioned is the funding for the Food and Drug Administration. I am not sure there is an agency that is responsible for more innovation than the FDA. We need to keep the FDA stable. We need to keep them well funded. They need to be able to approve drugs and do the testing they need to do.

One of the new frontiers they are dealing with is nanotechnology. We are seeing nano products enter the marketplace all over this economy, and there has been very little testing on that for human safety. So the FDA is doing that. We need to continue to fund them so they can do the job. We don't want them to be an obstacle to innovation; we want them to be a partner in innovation. Let these companies that come in and have these great products, whatever they are—cosmetics, food, whatever—let them innovate and do that and again create American jobs and enhance the marketplace. But in order for the FDA to do that, we need to fund them.

Senator BLUNT is right. We have the best system of government in the world, bar none. And the U.S. Senate always has its moments where it gets a few rough edges. This is democracy at its finest. People don't always agree. They fuss and fight and things get balled up here and there. But our system works, and it works great if we let it work.

I think what the chairwoman and the ranking member of the full committee are saying is: We want the process to work. We want it to work. We want to have amendments. We want to have votes. We want to get back to regular order, whatever that means in the Senate. But most of us know what that means. It means getting back to where Senators can participate in the process, but it is also done in good will and good faith.

With that, Madam President, I would yield the floor, but I would encourage my colleagues to look closely at and support this legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I note that the distinguished Senator from Arizona is on the floor, and we want to be sure he has an opportunity to speak.

I do have a housekeeping matter to take care of and just a few words—about three sentences—about ag, but I want the Senator from Arizona to be heard.

Madam President, I wish to comment on the Agriculture bill, but I will keep that for later on in the day. I will be on the floor along with Senator SHELBY trying to move this bill in a way that we could complete the motion to proceed and that we could move to amendments.

Right now, I wish to compliment both the Senator from Arkansas and the Senator from Missouri, Senators PRYOR and BLUNT, for the excellent way they have moved the agriculture FDA bill. They have worked on a bipartisan basis. They have met compelling human needs—in other words, feed America first; see how we can feed others in need around the world; look out for everyone from the family farm to also food safety because now so much of our food is also imported. At the same time, they have supported the Food and Drug Administration. That is an agency located in Maryland that is responsible for oversight of the food supply but also our pharmaceuticals, biotech, and medical devices.

My colleagues have spoken eloquently about exports, particularly with food. I will speak later today about the exports of pharmaceuticals, biotech, and medical devices because there are countries around the world that want to look out for their own people, but they don't have an FDA. So when we have products—life science products—that save lives or improve lives and they have been stamped by the FDA as safe and effective, then countries know they can buy them with confidence. This means those areas of endeavor are not only good for jobs in this country, great for improving the lives of people in our country, but they are also a major source of the new American export economy.

I think they did a great job, and I will say more about it. But right now, unless Senator SHELBY has something to say, we can go to our Senate colleague from Arizona.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as if in morning business, and I wish to enter into a colloquy with the Senator from South Carolina when he arrives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAQ

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I come to the floor this morning with my colleague, the Senator from South Carolina, to put to rest once and for all the claim we hear so often today: President Obama wanted to leave a residual force of U.S. troops in Iraq after 2011. He tried his hardest to do so, but Iraqi leaders prevented that from happening because they demanded that Iraq's parliament approve legislation to grant privileges and immunities for U.S. troops that would remain in the country.

This is a very important item and aspect of the debate that is now going on, and it is a claim that was made in growing desperation these days as it becomes increasingly clear for all to see that the President's mishandling of Iraq for the past 5 years and his consistent inaction on Syria has now brought us to the verge of disaster.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria—a more ambitious, more violent, and more radical offshoot of Al Qaeda—has now taken over a swath of territory in Iraq and Syria that is the size of the State of Indiana. It is the largest terrorist safe haven in history. The ISIS's offensive is now reigniting sectarian conflict in Iraq and threatening to erase the gains that nearly 4,500 brave young Americans gave their lives to secure and was largely secured when the President took office in January in 2009. In January 2009 the surge had succeeded. Iraq was not violent. The surge had succeeded. We had won the war. In the words of General Keane: We won the war and lost the peace. And that is a fact.

The administration and its defenders are now scrambling to pin the blame for this catastrophic failure on anyone but themselves. They are trying to blame the Bush administration, and they are trying to blame people like myself and the Senator from South Carolina for voting to authorize the war while conveniently forgetting that Vice President BIDEN, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, his predecessor, Secretary Clinton, and many other Democrats still serving in this body voted for the war in Iraq as well.

They also seem to have forgotten that the Senator from South Carolina and I began criticizing the Bush administration as early as 2003 for their mishandling of the war and calling for a change in strategy. In fact, in 2006 I called for the firing of the Secretary of Defense, Secretary Rumsfeld, because of the mishandling of the war. Indeed, the very strategy that was finally adopted with enormous success was thanks to a great leader named General David Petraeus and a great ambassador by the name of Ryan Crocker.

Most of all, the administration and its defenders are trying to blame the

failures of Iraq on Iraq's leaders. To be sure, the lion's share of the blame for Iraq's current problems lies squarely with Prime Minister Maliki and other Iraqi leaders. But the administration cannot escape its own responsibility for the current disaster. This is something that the Senator from South Carolina and I saw firsthand, and we stated that over and over. In order to set this debate to rest once and for all, we would like to review the record.

We predicted that when all the troops were withdrawn there would be the events that are taking place today—not as rapidly, but we predicted that Iraq would fall into chaos if we withdrew all the troops and did not leave a residual force behind as we have in South Korea, Germany, Japan, Bosnia, and other countries after the conflict had ended.

From its first day in office, the Obama administration signaled a hands-off approach to Iraq. It immediately pushed for a faster drawdown of U.S. forces than our commanders recommended. It appointed an ambassador to Iraq, Christopher Hill, who had no experience working on Iraq or serving anywhere in the Arab world. I think he is a fine man, but he had no experience. It adopted a hands-off approach of shaping Iraqi politics, which was demonstrated most vividly as it refused for months and months to take a hands-on approach with Iraqi leaders and help them broker the necessary compromises about the country's future in the aftermath of the 2010 elections in Iraq.

Nowhere was the Obama administration's failure more pronounced than during the debate over whether to maintain a limited number of U.S. troops in Iraq beyond the 2011 expiration of the 2008 Status of Forces Agreement or SOFA. The administration is quick to lay blame on others for the fact that they tried and failed to keep a limited presence of troops in Iraq. They blamed the Bush administration, of course, for mandating the withdrawal in the 2008 SOFA. This does not ring true, however, because as former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has made clear, the plan all along was to renegotiate the agreement to allow for a continued presence of U.S. forces in Iraq. "Everybody believed," she said in 2011, "it would be better if there was some kind of residual force."

Most of all, the Obama administration blames Iraqis for failing to grant the necessary privileges and immunities for a U.S. force presence beyond 2011. This too is totally misleading because as we saw firsthand—Senator GRAHAM and I traveled to Baghdad and Erbil. We met with Allawi and Maliki, and we met with Barzani. We met with all of the leaders of the main political blocs, and we heard a common message during all of these conversations: Iraqi leaders recognized that it was in their

country's interest to maintain a limited number of U.S. troops to continue training and assisting Iraqi security forces beyond 2011. But when we asked Ambassador Jim Jeffrey and the commander of U.S. Forces in Iraq Lloyd Austin—in direct response to a question in a meeting with Maliki—what tasks U.S. troops remaining in Iraq would perform and what their missions were, the answer was they had still not made a decision.

In Erbil, Barzani said he would fly to Baghdad. Allawi, the actual winner of the election, said that he would agree, and then after that, Prime Minister Maliki announced that if his partners agreed, which they did, he would agree to a residual force in Iraq. Those are just facts.

Just days after the Senator from South Carolina and I left Baghdad, Prime Minister Maliki, as I said, signaled his willingness—and it is a matter of public record—to a residual presence of U.S. troops if 70 percent of Iraqis agreed. The Kurds agreed, the Sunnis agreed, and Maliki himself signaled his support. Had the United States and our Iraq partners used our influence then and there, we could have lined up the remaining Shia support to enable Maliki to make this difficult decision. Unfortunately, that did not happen.

Instead, months and months passed and the administration made no decision on what missions and troop levels it would be willing to maintain in Iraq. By August 2011 the leaders of Iraq's main political blocs joined together and stated that they were prepared to enter negotiations to keep some U.S. troops in Iraq.

Another entire month passed and still the White House made no decision. During this long internal deliberation, as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey later testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee, the size of a potential U.S. force presence kept "cascading" down from upwards of 16,000 to an eventual low of less than 3,000. By that point, the force would be able to do little more than protect itself, and Prime Minister Maliki, and other Iraq leaders, realized that the political cost of accepting this proposal was not worth the benefit. To blame this failure entirely on the Iraqis is convenient, but it misses the real point. The reason to keep about 10,000 to 15,000 U.S. forces in Iraq was not for the sake of Iraq alone. It was first and foremost in our national security interest to continue training and advising Iraqi forces and to maintain greater U.S. influence in Iraq. That core principle should have driven a very different U.S. approach to the SOFA diplomacy. The Obama administration should have recognized that after years of brutal conflict, Iraqi leaders still lacked trust in one another, and a strong U.S. role was required to help Iraqis broker their most

politically sensitive decisions. For this reason the administration should have determined what tasks and troop numbers were in the national interest to maintain in Iraq and done so with ample time to engage with Iraqis at the highest level of the U.S. Government to shape political conditions in Baghdad to achieve our goal. I focus on this failure not because U.S. troops would have been engaging in unilateral large-scale combat operations to this day. In fact, they had won the conflict, and there was literally no further combat that the United States was engaged in. By 2011 U.S. forces were no longer in Iraqi cities or engaged in security operations. However, a residual U.S. troop presence could have assisted Iraqi forces in their continued fight against Al Qaeda. They could have provided a platform for greater diplomatic engagement and intelligence cooperation with our Iraqi partners. It could have made Iranian leaders think twice about using Iraqi airspace to transit military assistance to Assad and his forces in Syria. And most importantly, it could have maintained the significant diplomatic influence that the United States still possessed in Iraq—influence that had been and still was essential in guaranteeing Iraq's nascent political system, reassuring Iraqi leaders that they could resolve their differences peacefully and politically despite their mistrust of one another and checking the authoritarian and sectarian tendencies of Prime Minister Maliki.

There is a need for immediate action. Every day that goes by, there is greater sectarian violence, and there is greater success by ISIS. I do not believe they can take Baghdad. But look at the places they have already taken. By the way, they are now threatening the major oil refinery in Iraq. I can assure you that will affect the world price of oil. There is a need because there is more polarization of Iraq, there is a return of the Iraqi Shia militias, there is wholesale killing and slaughter going on, and it will get worse every single day.

Is there any good option now in Iraq? No, there is no good option. The worst option is to do nothing, and apparently, according to the Wall Street Journal this morning, that is basically the approach that has been taken.

We need to recognize that taking military action now is difficult because our intelligence has been so severely degraded since 2011 because ISIS is becoming so integrated with the Sunni tribes. We need to be careful about striking targets, even convoys in the open. There is a real risk of killing Sunni tribal elements and pushing the tribes closer to ISIS.

We also have to recognize that political change in Baghdad has to take place. But the question is: Do we wait for political change? Every day we wait there is more and more Iranian influ-

ence. The chief—one of the most evil people in the world—of the Iranian Quds Force has been in Baghdad planning with Maliki. So what does Maliki do when he doesn't see us giving him any real assistance? He turns to the Iranians. There are published reports of Iranian combat troops now coming into Iraq as more and more of the radical ISIS people are flowing from Syria into Iraq.

As I said, I admit that I was surprised at the rapidity of the success of the ISIS. But I also believe that the longer we wait to carry out some airstrikes—as difficult as it is—that we can identify with the few people we have on the ground—it sends a signal psychologically over these people who are traveling long distances in the desert—the ISIS—of an American aircraft flying overhead and perhaps taking some of them out if we have sufficient information. That is a psychological effect on any enemy. Air power alone does not win conflicts, but air power can have a significant effect on the morale of your people, on your capability, and of at least inflicting some damage and changing the enemy's plans.

Obviously, political reconciliation is the key, and we must do everything in our power to make sure that Maliki appoints a government of reconciliation. But it can't be the prerequisite for U.S. military action because the events and time are not on our side.

We also have to recognize this is not an Iraqi conflict. This is an Iraqi-Syrian conflict now. The most, the largest, and the richest center of terrorism in the history of the world is now in the Iraq-Syria area. They have hundreds of millions of dollars from the banks in Mosul, and, obviously, they acquired a whole lot of equipment during their incredible progress across Iraq.

I urge my colleagues to have a look at the maps of Iraq and Syria and look at the places that are now controlled by ISIS. As I say, I don't believe they can roll into Baghdad in their vehicles with their guns mounted on them, but they sure as heck can cause a lot of problems: bombings, assassinations, the radicalization of these Shiite militias. If one of these Shiite shrines is damaged by ISIS or by Sunni militants, we are going to see a bigger explosion which will bring us back to the days of 2003, '4, '5, and '6, before the Anbar awakening. The same Sunnis who were part of the Anbar awakening that joined us in putting down Al Qaeda are now being polarized by Maliki. The Shiites, as well as the chickens, are coming home to roost as far as Maliki is concerned because of the continued marginalization and persecution of Sunnis all over Iraq, much less in Anbar Province.

So we have to act. We have to act. We must act. I know there are always people who will tell our leaders reasons why we can't, but I know of no mili-

tary expert who believes that doing nothing is a recipe for anything but further chaos and eventually threats to the United States of America. Our Secretary of Homeland Security has stated it and our Director of National Intelligence has stated it: that people in this part of Iraq and Syria will be planning attacks on the United States of America. That is their view. It also is mine. But we can do some effective air strikes. We can. And it is more difficult because of our degraded intelligence. By the way, when we left Iraq, all of those intelligence capabilities were shut down.

To make them more effective and mitigate the risks that could push Sunnis deeper into the arms of ISIS, they have to be accompanied, as I mentioned, with a limited presence of special forces on the ground. These forces could gather intelligence to improve our targeting by ISIS control, air strikes from the ground, and provide advice to Sunni tribes.

I believe several other steps could be taken. No. 1, who are the most respected people in Iraq today? Probably David Petraeus and Ryan Crocker. Send them back. Send them back, those who worked so closely with the Sunnis such as General MacFarland—then Colonel MacFarland—the people who built up these long relationships with the Sunnis. Send them back. Maliki will listen to David Petraeus and Ryan Crocker. Send them back. Send back a planning team, a group of smart people who can work with what is left of the Iraqi military leadership and identify tactics and a strategy that can reverse this tide of the ISIS which is about to engulf them.

Send some air power. Send some air power with targets we can identify. I am fully aware of the risks associated with it. I wish to repeat over and over and over: There are no good options. Also, we need to make it very clear to Maliki that his time is up; that he must arrange for a transition.

The Shia won the election, a majority of the votes—not a majority of any of the parties but an overall majority of the vote. This new government could be headed by a Shia, but it has to be a Shia who can reach out to the Sunni and bring them together in a government of national reconciliation.

All of my colleagues have seen the pictures of the young Shia who are now joining up and are ready to die—the movement from Basra of the Shia militia organizations which had been put down before that are now rising from the ashes. We have seen the horrible pictures of the executions that are taking place and the incredible displacement—500,000 people from Mosul alone. The Kurds have now taken Kirkuk. That is an ambition they have had for the last 50 years. We will see now a drive for total Kurdish autonomy from the government in Baghdad, and they

will be making their own deals as far as oil is concerned, and the Kurds will now be pursuing their centuries-old ambition for a Kurdish state, which will cause the Turks to be very concerned.

I also wish to point out that if ISIS continues to succeed and they move back and forth to Syria, they will now pose a direct threat, first of all, to Jordan, and then to other gulf states, and finally, eventually, Saudi Arabia, but those right next to Iraq will be most under threat.

So I urge the President and I urge my colleagues to understand the gravity and the seriousness of this situation; to understand that if ISIS succeeds, even without taking Baghdad, and they are able to establish what they call a caliphate in the Syria-Iraq area—larger than the State of Indiana—and are able to train, equip, and export terror not only throughout the region but throughout the world, it will pose a direct threat to the security of this Nation.

Mr. GRAHAM. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. McCAIN. I wish to thank the Senator from South Carolina for showing up.

Mr. GRAHAM. I am sorry I was late. Actually, I had an exchange with General Dempsey about this very topic.

Does the Senator from Arizona see any scenario where ISIS is militarily stopped and that the Iraqis can retake ground lost to ISIS without U.S. air power being involved?

Mr. McCAIN. I know of no military expert who believes that without the use of U.S. air power they will be able to at anytime soon regain the lost territory, which is a sizable part of Iraq.

Mr. GRAHAM. Did my colleague hear President Obama say it is unacceptable for Iraq or Islamists to have safe havens in Iraq and Syria? Did my colleague hear him say that?

Mr. McCAIN. No, I did not, but I did hear him say on December 14, 2011: "We are leaving behind a sovereign, stable, and self-reliant Iraq with a representative government that was elected by its people," and other quotes throughout the campaign.

Mr. GRAHAM. My point is, does my colleague agree he is right? It is not acceptable for our national security interests for ISIS to have a safe haven in Syria and Iraq that could run from Aleppo to Baghdad; that that is not a good thing for us?

Mr. McCAIN. I totally agree.

Mr. GRAHAM. Well, if it is not a good thing for us, how do we change it? Give me a scenario where we put these folks on the run in Syria and in Iraq without American air power. Give me a scenario of political reconciliation in Baghdad where that has a snowball's chance in hell of succeeding as long as they are losing on the battlefield. Give me a scenario where the battlefield turns our way without U.S. air power.

I can give my colleagues a scenario where it begins to turn on the battlefield: Iran comes in with great numbers. The most likely scenario to stop ISIS is Iranians getting involved with Shia militia. Does that bother the Senator from Arizona?

Mr. McCAIN. I would also like to point out what the Senator from South Carolina knows and I know: The air power has a psychological effect. When an aircraft flies over the enemy, they are going to do things differently if they fear they are going to be hit from the air, as we all know. Air power does not determine the outcome of conflicts, but it sure is important in the battlefield equation.

Mr. GRAHAM. Is it fair to say the Air Force in Iraq is grounded for all practical purposes?

Mr. McCAIN. Not only grounded but a lot of the air assets, I am to understand, such as Apache helicopters, are in the hands of ISIS.

Mr. GRAHAM. So, to the President: We agree with you that Iraq matters. We agree with you that it is not in our national security interests to have ISIS occupy territory from Aleppo to Baghdad. But here is what is a mystery to me: How do we turn this around unless we stop their advance inside of Iraq and we go after them in Syria?

As to political reconciliation, I completely agree that is the ultimate change that needs to occur, that air strikes alone will not get us to where we want to go, but it is a chicken-and-egg concept for me. Can my colleague from Arizona imagine a scenario where we can get all the parties together when ISIS is winning on the battlefield?

Mr. McCAIN. That is why I was amused by various commentators who have been consistently wrong, including one in the New York Times today: All we need to do is have everybody sit down together—a total misreading of the situation.

Mr. GRAHAM. Here is the problem with that: To go to a meeting in Baghdad, you are likely to get killed trying to get there. Who is going to sit down in Baghdad when everybody is getting killed based on sectarian differences? So my advice would be to use American air power before it is too late as part of a coordinated, diplomatic effort. That American air power is part of diplomacy. That may sound counterintuitive, but it makes perfect sense to me. Diplomacy cannot succeed unless we change momentum on the battlefield. But when you drop a bomb, you need to have a game plan beyond the bomb falling, and that would be a regional conversation.

Can my colleague see how Maliki can put Humpty Dumpty back together again?

Mr. McCAIN. I cannot. That is why he has to agree to a transition.

Mr. GRAHAM. I would not send \$1 to Iraq. I would not send one soldier to

Iraq, one airman to Iraq until we understand that over the arc of time Maliki has to go. I have been there more times than I can count. Maliki did some good things on his watch, but he has become a political leader who cannot bring the country together. But that, to me, is a concern that is addressed after we stop the momentum on the battlefield.

Does the Senator from Arizona believe it is still possible that the Kurds, the Sunnis, and the Shias, that we know fairly well, can regroup and reconcile with themselves if we act decisively?

Mr. McCAIN. I am totally confident that they can. That is how the country was held together for long periods of time.

Could I ask my colleague—I began before the Senator from South Carolina arrived talking about this business of the allegations that somehow it is the Iraqis' fault that we didn't leave a residual force in Iraq. I went through our meetings with Maliki, with Barzani, with Allawi, how they were all committed to maintaining residual force.

Could the Senator from South Carolina for the record recount the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing where he directly questioned General Dempsey about this entire issue, after we had withdrawn?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes, I will be glad to. And to put it in context, in 2008 we signed a strategic framework agreement. It was envisioned that we would negotiate a follow-on force with advisers and some special forces units to secure our Nation as well as to protect our gains. In the process of trying to get the Iraqis on board, Hillary Clinton called me to ask if my colleague, the Senator from Arizona, and I think Senator Lieberman—maybe he didn't go; I can't remember—would go over there and talk to Barzani, Allawi, and Maliki, and we said, Sure, we would be glad to.

Here is what I found. I found in the meeting with Prime Minister Maliki, who was very openminded about a follow-on force—Barzani said, I will take 250,000 Americans; that was never in doubt about where the Kurds were—Allawi understood, the Sunnis understood the need for a follow-on force. It really was about the Shia politics.

After we got back, Maliki said, If the other groups will do it, I will do it. But he says, What kind of force are you talking about, Senator GRAHAM?

Mr. McCAIN. This was in a meeting in Baghdad?

Mr. GRAHAM. This was in a meeting in his office. He asked me, What kind of force are you talking about? I turned to General Austin and Ambassador Jeffries and I asked them, What is the number? Answer the Prime Minister's question. They said, We are still working on that. The Prime Minister looked

at me and said something to the effect, Well, I don't know what I am supposed to be agreeing to.

We come back to Washington. We go to the Vice President's house. We talk to Mr. Donilon, saying they need a number—sometime—and they said they would get back to us about the number. I am still waiting on that phone call.

During my questioning of General Dempsey about the follow-on force, I asked him—General Austin recommended somewhere in the 18,000 to 20,000 range, the Pentagon got down to 10,000, and below that they felt very uncomfortable. I asked him directly, Did the number cascade down or did the number go down because the Iraqis said, That is too many Americans; we don't want that many Americans on our soil. He said, No, sir; the numbers kept cascading down because the White House kept changing the number.

So I want the record to reflect that in a meeting with the Prime Minister of Iraq, when he asked me how many troops we are talking about, we could not give him an answer. I want the record to reflect the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs said the numbers went down and down and down not because the Iraqis were saying no but because the White House kept lowering the number—to the point that it got to be absurd, and we will prove that over time.

Mr. MCCAIN. Finally, could I—I see our colleague from Florida is waiting. I think I would like to have the Senator from South Carolina summarize. The cost of inaction, of doing nothing, is the greatest cost we can incur. The situation on the battlefield is not only terrible, but the polarization of the different groups in Iraq is growing worse by the hour. We are seeing the resurgence of the old Shia militias that, thanks to David Petraeus, we had put down before. Iraq is largely under control, thanks to David Petraeus, Ryan Crocker, and the surge in 2011. If we had left—and it is a fact—if we had left that residual force behind, history would be very different.

I would add one other comment. We cannot ignore Syria in this situation. We have to understand Syria is now part of this huge area, the size of the State of Indiana, which is governed by ISIS.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I find there are a number of things I agree with the Senator from Arizona on. One of the things I agree with the senior Senator from Arizona on is that Maliki needs to go. Otherwise, I think Iraq is going to blow apart, and it is going to end up in three parts, just like the Vice President, when he was a Member of the Senate, as the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said was going to happen.

I will address this subject later on.

I came to thank Senator SHELBY, who is here, and Senator MIKULSKI, who I hope is within earshot of my remarks, for the bill they have come forth with and specifically with regard to the part that has to do with a little agency that I have some familiarity with and to which I have a great deal of emotional attachment; that is, NASA.

What they have done is continue to flush out in Appropriations the direction that was laid out—when there was no direction—4 years ago in the 2010 NASA authorization bill, for which I constantly give credit to our former colleague, Kay Bailey Hutchison from Texas. I had the opportunity to help draw up a balanced plan for the space program—balanced in all aspects: human, nonhuman space exploration, aeronautics, science, education, the whole works.

Earlier this month the National Academies came out with a report that was required by that act 4 years ago that reaffirmed the need for a robust U.S. space program aimed at the goal. The goal is way down the line. We are going on a human mission to Mars. The Academies' study was cochaired by a former Republican Governor, a former head of the Office of Management and Budget, Gov. Mitch Daniels. What they concluded was that human space exploration remains vital to the national interest but it is only going to succeed if it is properly funded.

So the increase in funding provided in this bill for human exploration is going to keep us on track in the coming year. We know that the Space Launch System and its spacecraft, a capsule called Orion—which is being built as we speak, assembled at the O&C building at the Kennedy Space Center—we know these are critical to human exploration. NASA has a very boring term for that. They call it “foundational capabilities.” That is the capability of putting humans into deep space and eventually on Mars. While other countries are talking about a heavy lift rocket, we are actually building it, and it is being built today with its spacecraft.

Now we are going to look to the first test of this spacecraft. It is going to come in just a few months. It is the Orion spacecraft on top of another rocket to do the deep space penetration and high-velocity reentry, pulling lots of Gs, to see how the instrumented spacecraft performs. It is on track and the space launch system is on track.

However, the funding increases are going to have to be maintained in future years. If we go back to this, shall I say—I have other adjectives for it, but shall I say not the best idea of taking a meat ax to the budget called the sequester—if we go back to the sequester levels, NASA is not going to be able to achieve its exploration goals.

So this funding bill that Senators MIKULSKI and SHELBY have produced also reiterates the need to engage our international partners in science and exploration. It supports the international collaboration that is so important in our space program.

There is another new NASA partnership with the German space agency for astronomy research. This same bill also continues the investment in NASA's Commercial Crew Program. It would allow the largest NASA investment in the program to date.

The President requested \$849 million to do a competition to make these rockets that are already proven to be safe for humans—put in all the redundancies and the escape systems. The President requested \$849 million. That was NASA's request. This bill gets it close. It gets it to \$805 million.

But we are going to need to work, to continue to work, with Senator SHELBY and Senator MIKULSKI, as the bill goes to the conference committee, to make sure we have the right mix of oversight and innovation in how NASA contracts for this competition with the competitors—the private industry—as we are letting commercial companies provide this service not only of cargo to and from the International Space Station, but now we are going to provide this service of crew going to and from the ISS.

I cannot overstate the importance of the commercial crew in the long-term viability of the space station because, look, we are going to extend the ISS; that is, the International Space Station, to 2024. It ought to be extended beyond that. Certainly there is all the research that is being produced. We spent \$100 billion putting it up there. We ought to keep it to the end of the decade of the 2020s at least, and we need to make sure there is sufficient funding to support the research on this orbiting outpost.

It is a fantastic asset in low-Earth orbit. It is not only for research to improve life on Earth, but it is also a technology test bed and a stepping-stone for exploration.

There is another reason. Because we have had the aggressiveness of Mr. Putin, and suddenly all the reverberations coming out of Ukraine, it is just another reminder that we want American rockets for Americans to fly on to get to our own space station. The commercial crew, if we can pour the juice into it, as to their target of 2017, they can actually move it back to 2016. So we have a geopolitical reason to keep this going.

It is interesting that as of this day, with this bill on the floor of the Senate, scientists and engineers have gathered in Chicago for the third annual International Space Station Research and Development Conference. Research investments will help ensure the maximum scientific return for this one-of-

a-kind laboratory. By the way, because of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, it is designated as a national laboratory—a part of the ISS.

I thank Senator SHELBY and Senator MIKULSKI for their hard work in supporting the Nation's space program. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with them. At the end of the day, what we want to do is to get this bill out of conference and to the President's desk for signature.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, first of all, I thank the Senator from Florida for his remarks, especially in the area of NASA, the funding of NASA, the importance of NASA, which he knows very well. We have worked together a long time and of course some of us—the Presiding Officer might not remember—but he was an astronaut himself in another part of his life. We go back a long time to our House days. We came to the House at the same time. But we have worked together on NASA because we believe in science, we believe in space, we believe that it is great for America in many ways.

I point out again that we have a bipartisan effort on the floor right now. We have three bills: the agriculture appropriations bill, which came out of the Appropriations Committee 30 to 0, with Republican and Democratic support; the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill—where I serve as the ranking member of the subcommittee and Senator MIKULSKI serves as the chair of the subcommittee—which came out 30 to 0; and the transportation, housing bill, which came out 29 to 1.

We are talking about working together. We are working under the Murray-Ryan numbers. That is what we are trying to stay within. I would like to see us move these three bills. If we can do this, we are going to regular order, which we need. I think it shows—when we have this kind of bipartisan effort coming out of the Appropriations Committee to the floor—we are saying to our colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Look, we believe these are fair bills, we believe it is a bipartisan effort, and we want to fund these agencies because they are important to this country and also there is some certainty out there. We do not need to go back to uncertainty in this body or in this government.

I thank Senator NELSON for his remarks.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Thank you, Madam President.

This morning the Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed legislation approving the Keystone XL Pipeline. I believe that Congress should do all it can to push the Obama administration to approve this project. This will, of course, help create American jobs; they will come along with the Keystone XL Pipeline.

To me, this morning's committee vote was nothing more than a show vote. It is going to do nothing to advance the Keystone XL Pipeline. It will put no pressure on the White House. It will not put a single shovel in the ground building the pipeline because the Democratic majority leader has absolutely no intention of allowing this bill to get to a vote right here on the Senate floor. The majority leader knows that if Senators got the chance to vote on this bill, there is a very high likelihood it would pass. President Obama cannot afford that, and the majority leader will not do anything the President does not want. The majority leader will not do anything to anger the extremists who fund the Democratic Party and who oppose an "all of the above" energy strategy in a plan that includes oil.

I know the last thing Americans and the people in the gallery want to hear about is Senate process and Senate procedures, but here is why it matters: There are issues that are important to this country, issues such as jobs, energy, and controlling government spending. There are problems we need to solve in this country, and they are not being voted on here in the Senate because the majority leader continues to block votes. He has blocked votes, he has blocked amendments, and he has even blocked debate on one issue after another.

I believe the majority leader has abused every power at his disposal and even broken the rules of the Senate—rules that have been in place for over a century. He has done this to give himself new powers. Over the past 6½ years the majority leader has taken an unprecedented stand against action in the Senate. He has used tactics such as the so-called filling the amendment tree on bills. That means he stops anyone else from offering amendments other than himself. He has used what is called rule XIV of the Standing Rules to bypass committees, so we are only able to talk about what he wants to talk about, not what our constituents want to talk about, what we hear about from home, or what other committee members want to talk about. These kinds of tactics may make it easier for Senator REID to get what he wants, but they shut Senators—Republicans and Democrats—out of legislating and they shut out the American people whom all of

us represent, Democrats as well as Republicans.

Senator REID has filled the amendment tree at least 85 times since he became majority leader. That is more than twice as many times as the previous six majority leaders combined.

Between July 2013 and May of this year, Republicans in the Senate filed 810 amendments, but we only got a total of 9 votes—810 different ideas brought forward by Republicans, and Senator REID has blocked vote after vote, to the point where we have gotten only 9 votes on 810 amendments, and this is almost in a full year.

If you want a comparison, take a look at the House of Representatives, where the Republicans are in the majority but the minority party, the Democrats, have an opportunity to offer amendments and have votes. Over that same time period in the House of Representatives, the Democrats have gotten 132 votes on their amendments. The Democratic minority on the House side has had 132 votes, while the Republican minority on the Senate side has gotten a total of 9.

In the Senate, it is not just the Republicans who are not getting their votes. The majority leader is blocking the Democrats as well. During that same time, from July of 2013 to May of 2014, Democrats introduced 676 amendments on legislation on the floor, and there were only 7 rollcall votes on 676 amendments. I guess it is not surprising that Republicans cannot get votes on their amendments, but it is very surprising that the Democrats cannot get votes because only the majority leader gets a vote.

It is the same story on appropriations bills, and that is why I am here at this time—because we are dealing with appropriations bills. They are some of the most important bills we are supposed to consider in Congress. These are the bills which determine how much Washington spends every year on all the discretionary programs. We started debating the first of these yesterday, and we may do so over the next few weeks.

It used to be that the Senate would take up these bills one by one, and Senators would get a chance to offer amendments and to represent the people who elected them to office. Not anymore. Under this Democratic majority leader, the amendment process on appropriations bills has been almost completely shut down. In the past 2 years Republicans have gotten just six amendments to appropriations bills. Senate Democrats only got one amendment during that same period. The Senate approved trillions—trillions—of dollars in Washington spending, but HARRY REID allowed action on just seven amendments total. In the 8 years before Senator REID became majority leader, the Senate processed an average of almost 300 amendments to appropriations bills every year—every year

almost 300 amendments to appropriations bills.

Senators from both parties have been shut out of the process, and the people we represent have been shut out of the process as well—all by Senator REID. It is the same kind of power grab we saw last September when the majority leader used the so-called nuclear option to stop debate in the Senate. He radically changed the rules of the Senate to strip the rights of the minority party. Originally, it had to do with eliminating the filibuster on nominations, but it is the same effect. The majority leader grabbed more power for himself and took away the right of anyone else in the Senate to represent their constituents.

This is not how it is supposed to be. The Senate was designed to be a place where we debate these issues and where political minorities get fair representation. The father of our Constitution James Madison explained that the Senate's role was "first to protect the people against the rulers." James Madison, the father of the Constitution, stated that the Senate's role is "first to protect the people against the rulers." That was the point of this body. That is why over its history the Senate has adopted rules that provide strong protections for political minorities. Well, the way the Senate has been run by Majority Leader REID, it has been embarrassing, it has been unfair, and it has been insulting to the American people.

Again, I know this isn't the most exciting topic of discussion for people to hear, but the damage that is being done by the Senate's failure to act is very real. Congress has important legislation to debate, such as approving the Keystone XL Pipeline, but the majority leader won't even allow a vote on the bill. Our Nation has a total debt of \$17.5 trillion, but the majority leader of the Senate blocks amendments that could improve the appropriations bills and maybe start to control Washington's wasteful spending. We should have an open amendment process on these appropriations bills this year, as we should have had in previous years, and we should be starting with the bill that is on the floor today.

It is time for Democrats to stop the show votes and allow real votes on issues important to American families.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the role.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded, and that I be recognized to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAQ

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I appreciate the opportunity to come to the Senate to speak about the situation in Iraq. A moment ago I was joined by some very close friends from South Florida, including the former mayor of West Miami, and now the chair of the county commission in Miami-Dade County, Rebecca Sosa. She actually got me started in politics.

When she was mayor of West Miami, I told her I was interested in public service. We walked door to door in the small city called West Miami which has 5,000 residents. She taught me how to campaign one on one with real people and their real lives.

Now I return home every weekend—when we are done here and with my work throughout the State—to the same community that I still live in, and increasingly people there are asking me about the situation in Iraq. The question I get from many people is—and I want to be blunt about how they say it—I understand this is a problem, but why is it our business? Why do we care about what is happening in another country when it seems to be a fight among themselves?

That is a very legitimate question. I know Americans are watching the issues that are happening abroad, and they ask themselves: Why does America need to be the world's policeman?

I want to take a few moments to explain why this matters—why it matters to people not just in the Middle East but even people in the small city of West Miami where I still live. The situation in Iraq is, to some extent, a civil war between Sunni and Shia, as we see in other conflicts such as Syria and other places. That is a real aspect of it. I would say the current government of Iraq has contributed greatly to it—by the way, spurred on by Iranian influence—to further exacerbate that divide between Sunni and Shia.

While it is fair to say that much of what is happening in Iraq is a civil war between two sects, it is not fair to say that is all it is, because what is happening in Iraq has a direct bearing on the future security of every American, even those Americans who live in the small city of West Miami where I live. Here is why.

Imagine for a moment if we could go back in time to the year 1997 or 1996 or 1998 or 1999 and had known about Al Qaeda then what we knew by September of 2001. We would have realized this is a dangerous group that had the capacity and the deep willingness to attack and kill Americans in order to terrorize so that we would leave the Middle East and turn it over to people such as them. If we had known that and taken that seriously—and I would say some did know this—if we had done something about it, it is fair to say that eventually there would have been some sort of terrorist attack, but

maybe there wouldn't have been one on September 11, 2001. If we had actually targeted this group and degraded their capabilities while they were still in their safe haven in Afghanistan—or even before that—we potentially could have saved the lives of thousands of Americans and, more importantly, avoided the rise of Al Qaeda in the region and in the world. But we did not. While this is not a time to point fingers or throw blame around, I certainly think it is a time to learn the lessons of that history and apply them to the challenges of our time.

What is happening today in Iraq and in portions of Syria is in many ways the exact same thing: A radical group—ISIL—which, by the way, rose through the ranks of Al Qaeda until they now have a split from Al Qaeda, believe it or not, because Al Qaeda thinks that ISIL is too brutal to their fellow Muslims. This group has been growing in strength ever since the United States left Iraq. This group has been fed and its strength has been given to them by foreign fighters who have spilled into the conflict in Syria where they have established a foothold and have used it as a staging and operational ground to take their brand of ruthlessness now into Iraq.

We saw over the weekend images and photographs and videos of the mass assassinations, executions of Shia members of the Iraqi military. They have grown in strength over this time and they have begun to grow in their influence in Iraq. Their goal is simple: They want to establish the premier Islamic caliphate in all the world—the premier Sunni Islamic caliphate in the region. Caliphate basically means Islamic kingdom. They don't care about existing borders. The kingdom they envision is a vast safe haven that encompasses portions of Syria they already have under their control and portions of Iraq they are now gaining control of.

What is their goal for this place they are trying to set up? Their first goal is to institute Sharia law, and they have a particularly brutal brand of Sharia they have forced upon people both in Syria and now increasingly in Iraq.

Their second goal is to establish an Islamic caliphate state—a safe haven from where they can plan and train and ultimately carry out terrorist attacks against the United States and other countries, including attacks here in our homeland.

We must learn the lessons of before 2001, and we must say to ourselves: Under no circumstances will we ever again allow a safe haven or for this kind of terrorist group to ever gain a safe haven anywhere in the world. We will never allow this to happen again.

That is why it is so critical for us to be engaged here. The reason why we should care about this issue is not because we want to force upon Iraq democracy or force upon Iraq the type of

government we think they need. The reason why we care is because we cannot allow a safe haven to develop there, that can be used to carry out attacks that can kill Americans, including here in our homeland. This is why we should care. This is why it is so important that the Commander in Chief of the United States—the President—come as quickly as possible before the American people and before this Congress with a plan to address this risk.

I know the President likes to go around saying the war is over, but no one told ISIL that. No one told Al Qaeda that. No one has told these terrorists that. They don't think the war is over. In fact, in their minds, this war will go on for hundreds of years. The only person who can rally this country behind a plan to address this is not a U.S. Senator or a Member of Congress, not the majority leader or the Speaker of the House, not the countless people who write very well-informed opinion pieces in our newspapers. The only person in this country who can rally us around a plan to address this is the President himself.

So while I understand he doesn't want us engaged in another conflict, and neither do most Americans, he knows—he must know—that we are going to have to do something about this. That is not the issue before us. The issue before us is whether we do something about it now or we do something about this later when the problem will be much harder and more costly to address.

I hope the President does bring us together to solve this problem. This doesn't need to be—and it should not be—a partisan issue. The national security of the United States should never be a partisan issue, for if terrorists carry out an attack on our homeland they will not attack Democratic sites but Republican sites; they will not target conservatives but leave liberals alone; they will target Americans. Americans from every political persuasion died on 9/11. I fear that may happen at some point again. So we should all care about this.

The only person who can bring us together to do something about it is the President, and so far he has failed to do it. I don't know if it is because it runs counter to his political narrative that the war is over and he got us out of Iraq. I don't know why it is, but so far he has not done that, and he must.

Mr. President: On this issue, you must lead. You must put aside all of these domestic, political debates that are going on in your office about how this is going to poll or whether this runs contrary to what you said on the campaign trail. This is too important, it is too vital, it is too serious, and it is too dangerous.

I have my own ideas, as do others, about what that plan should look like, but we want there to be a plan. We are

not asking the President to come forward with a plan to go looking for something to attack. We want him to come forward with a plan because only he can, and he must. In my opinion, that plan has to be we must do whatever we can and everything we can to prevent this group, ISIL, from gaining operational long-term control of these territories in Iraq. To me, that means going after their command-and-control structure, which involves their ability to transit fighters and weapons and fuel and food and ammunition from their safe havens in Syria to their increasingly new spaces they have now carved out for themselves in Iraq.

I think all of us in this Chamber, when it comes to issues of national security, understand we should not be a part of the back-and-forth of partisan politics.

I guess my plea here today on the Senate floor is this: Mr. President, you must lead on this issue. You must come forward with a plan that we can rally this Congress and our people behind, because if we fail to do so, I fear our Nation will pay a terrible price down the road. Never again can we allow an Al Qaeda-style group to establish a safe haven where they can plot against us anywhere on this planet. The choice before you, Mr. President, is you either deal with it now or some future President and future Congresses and future Americans will deal with it later. I hope you will deal with it now. I hope we will remember the lessons of our recent history. The only one who can lead us in that direction is you, Mr. President. I hope you will, because the consequences of failing to do so would be dramatic and, in my opinion, will be condemned by history.

I hope over the next few hours, the next few days, we will have the opportunity to come to this floor and advocate on behalf of a concrete plan of action that most, if not all, of us can support, so we can ensure we can say that during our time here we did everything we needed to do to keep America safe.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise today to talk about the House's tragic and disconcerting failure to do anything to fix our broken immigration system, even though an entire year has passed since the Senate passed bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform with 68 votes—an impressive bipartisan vote total in this increasingly partisan climate.

The House Republicans' lack of action on immigration is almost completely inexplicable if you compare the most recent Republican Party platform to what the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office had to say about the Senate immigration reform bill.

When you take the time to look at both of these documents, you realize that no other bill that we could pass during this or any other Congress would accomplish as many of the Republican Party's stated legislative objectives as passing immigration reform.

Just so that everyone understands this, I want to take you through a step-by-step process where we look at the Republican Party platform and compare it to the CBO report.

The first substantive sentence of the Republican Party platform says:

The best jobs program is economic growth. Republicans will pursue free market policies that are the surest way to boost employment and create job growth and economic prosperity for all.

Well, what does the CBO report have to say about what the immigration bill does for economic growth, job growth, and economic prosperity?

Page 3 of the CBO report says that “the bill would increase real . . . GDP relative to the amount CBO projects under current law by 3.3 percent in 2023 and by 5.4 percent in 2033. . . .”

Think about what that means in a \$16 trillion economy. If we pass this bill, we will be adding over \$500 billion of annual economic growth to our economy than we otherwise would. This is a staggering number.

Well, what does the immigration bill do for job growth? Page 4 of the CBO report says that the bill will increase the number of jobs in the U.S. economy by about 6 million.

What about economic prosperity? On this front, page 3 of the CBO report says “the rate of return on capital would be higher under the legislation than under current law. . . .” That means Americans would have more savings and a more secure safety net.

This means that passing immigration reform would accomplish the Republican Party's top priority far better than any piece of legislation the Republicans currently have before Congress.

What about the second stated priority of the Republican platform? That priority says that “small businesses are the leaders in the world's advances in technology and innovation, and we pledge to strengthen that role and foster small business entrepreneurship.”

Do you know what the best way to foster small business entrepreneurship is? Immigration reform.

According to a study from the Kauffman Foundation, immigrants were almost twice as likely to start small businesses in 2012 as native-born Americans. Madam President, 27.1 percent of new entrepreneurs in 2012 were

immigrants. That is up from 13.7 percent in 1996.

More than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants—90 companies—or by their children—an additional 114 companies—because a lot of these small businesses become big businesses. The immigration bill has an entrepreneurship visa where immigrants who have raised money from legitimate investors will be given a green card to come here, open companies, and hire Americans.

Why will this happen? Because immigrants have always provided the enthusiasm, hard work, and determination to reenergize America. They perform very important jobs at the lower end of the economic spectrum without complaint to make a better life for their families and they provide innovation and new ideas at the higher end of the economy to create the latest big inventions that fuel our growth.

But that is only scratching the surface of what this immigration bill does. The next priority on page 3 of the Republican platform is “balancing the budget.” What is the bill that Congress can pass this year that best balances the budget? Immigration reform.

According to CBO, passing immigration reform would “reduce budget deficits by \$197 billion over the 2014–2023 period and by about \$700 billion over the 2024–2033 period.” That is \$1 trillion in savings that we can achieve by passing immigration reform.

Finally, with regard to immigration itself, the Republican Party platform says “our highest priority is to secure the rule of law at both our borders and at ports of entry.”

Under the Senate immigration bill, anyone who wants to try and cross the border illegally will have to figure out a way to get over an 18-foot steel pedestrian fence, get past the border agents standing every 1,000 feet apart from Brownsville to San Diego 24 hours a day, and then evade the sensors, cameras, and drones that will track the crosser until they are caught by a border agent or local police.

That is an amendment proposed by our Republican colleagues but we put into the bill. If you try to overstay your visa, your name will be placed on a list given to immigration enforcement officials to find you, detain you, and deport you. If you try to work here illegally, you will never be able to get a job because you will not have a name, a Social Security number, and a matching picture that will pop up on our new E-Verify system when you apply for a job. Future waves of illegal immigration will be prevented if this bill is passed.

So for all of the railing from the hard right about stopping illegal immigration, no one—no one—can deny there have been huge improvements over current law.

Let’s take an inventory of what this bill does: Stimulate the economy.

Check. Create jobs. Check. Help small businesses. Check. Reduce the debt. Check. Secure the border. Check. End visa overstays. Check. End illegal employment. Check.

These are all of the things Republicans claim they want to do, all in one bill. So why is it that all of these positive benefits to passing reform and all of the costs we pay for doing nothing, why is it that with that the House of Representatives, and the House Republicans in particular, refuse to do anything to fix our broken immigration system? Why do House Republicans not pass our bill to fix our broken immigration system, not change it, not pass a good law? This question can be answered with one simple word: Fear. One simple word. Fear.

Fear is what often causes people to do what is counter to their self-interest. Fear makes people succumb to their basest instincts instead of rising to their noblest ambitions. Fear paralyzes us during times when we need to be taking action. House Republicans are afraid of immigration. They are not only afraid of voting on an immigration bill, they are even afraid of introducing legislation on immigration.

Let me give you some examples. June 2013, Congressman JOE HECK says he was going to introduce immigration reform that would address our broken system. In December of 2013, Republican Congressman HECK announced he would not be introducing any immigration bill of any kind.

April 2014, Congressman JOE BARTON said he was going to introduce major immigration legislation. The bill was never introduced. ERIC CANTOR, who just this week claimed that his position on immigration never wavered, said last year he was going to introduce legislation to “deal with the kids who did not break any laws and themselves came into this country in many cases unbeknownst to them.” This legislation was also never introduced.

Finally, House Republican leadership has repeatedly announced they “think we finally have the policy right on immigration.” But again, we have seen no bill even introduced, much less voted on. House Republicans are so afraid of immigration that they have handed the policy and leadership gavel to STEVE KING, who compares immigrants to dogs and livestock and who claims immigration is a slow-motion holocaust.

ERIC CANTOR is actually right that his position on immigration reform never wavered. His rhetoric was often pro-reform, but his legislative and voting record was always antireform. CANTOR never introduced or voted for a single immigration bill that would help a single immigrant. But he loved to vaguely reference the need for immigration reform when asked about it. That has been the real Republican Party position on immigration: pretending to be pro-immigration reform

rhetorically, but never, never permit a Republican to actually introduce immigration reform legislation and definitely never allow immigration reform legislation to come to a vote. This is because House Republicans may claim to disagree with STEVE KING’s words, but they certainly do not seem to disagree with STEVE KING’s policy objectives. They do not want immigration reform that will rationalize our legal immigration system and create a path to legality for those who are already here. Instead, they support the failed and tragic policies of self-deportation for the people who are already here, and they want to reduce legal immigration to a trickle for the people who wish to come here and contribute to our society.

Two nights ago, when I watched our gritty U.S. soccer team win an amazing game against Ghana, I saw an amazing team effort coached by an energetic German immigrant whose tactics and decisions helped the United States prevail in the final stages of an incredible, compelling game.

Did Republicans watch the same game and ask: Why is an immigrant coaching our team? These last 2 weeks, I watched the San Antonio Spurs play some of the greatest team basketball anyone has ever seen with players from France, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, Italy, Canada, and, of course, the United States. Did Republicans watch those same games and ask: Who cares about the quality of the basketball being played? Why are immigrants allowed in the NBA?

This is the problem the Republicans face. Republicans have a very important choice to make the next few days. If they continue on the same path they are on now, where they feign sympathy for immigration in their rhetoric but do not vote on or even introduce legislation to fix our broken system, it will be impossible for the average voters to distinguish between any Republican and STEVE KING. Republican words of sympathy will not matter to people whose families are suffering, whose businesses cannot find the workers they need or whose churches are seeing their members deported. They will know that Republicans are to blame for doing nothing on immigration reform. Even worse, Republicans will get the worst of both worlds in this scenario. Their most strident rightwing voters will actually punish them for their Machiavellian efforts to feign sympathy for immigration reform.

So what is the real answer for Republicans? Well, LINDSEY GRAHAM showed us the way by being a man of principle. This weekend he said it best. He said:

I don’t think Eric got beat because of his stand on immigration, I think he got beat because of his lack of defining himself on immigration. Republicans nationally will accept an earned pathway to citizenship if you secure the border. For our party to let the 35

percent tell us how to engage on immigration, we will lose a natural ally in the Hispanic community.

That is from Senator GRAHAM who just won his election with 59 percent of the vote, while defending back at home in a conservative Republican State, South Carolina, immigration reform.

In conclusion, to Speaker BOEHNER, Majority Whip MCCARTHY, and others in the new House leadership, the choice is yours. Join with us, the evangelical community, the Catholic Church, American farmers, American police chiefs, America's business community, and 65 percent of American voters in supporting tough, fair, practical immigration reform legislation or, alternatively, you can ignore the benefits of immigration reform and continue to fail to address our broken immigration system because of your fear, and you can eventually watch your party go into the dustbin of history. Those are your two choices, Republicans.

There is no doubt that at the moment STEVE KING is winning. Republicans are implementing his policy objective of inaction to perfection because they are so fearful. But hopefully, just like the U.S. team, House Republicans can overcome their fears, appeal to their more noble aspirations, and we can pull victory from the jaws of defeat at the very end here and pass the immigration reform legislation our country so desperately needs.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, we have been on the motion to proceed to our three appropriations bills since 10 a.m. this morning. It has almost been 4 hours, and it is true, under the cloture, there is 30 hours of debate. We could let this go on until 11 p.m. tonight—we could. Actually, Members have had an interesting day speaking about issues related to Iraq and to immigration, but we would like to focus on the bills beforehand: agriculture, FDA—how do we feed people in our own country, save the family farm, and be able to export food.

We would like to bring up a bill that funds FDA, the Food and Drug Administration, that looks out for food safety, but also the safety and efficacy of life-science products such as medical devices, biotech products, and pharmaceuticals, which I know are important to the State of the Presiding Officer.

We want to be able to bring up Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development. The highway trust fund is going to run out.

In my own home State we need the transportation money. We need it for the formula funding that will be important to roads, but we also need the money in there that looks out for small airports, such as the Hagerstown airport, the Frederick airport, which the President's plane needs to get to Camp David.

Right up the road is the Hagerstown airport, for which there is a growing manufacturing hub, of which there is small manufacturing employing 300 to 400 people. Some make trucks, some make the heavy-duty equipment to be sold, that are also export products. One company actually puts in the avionics to the airplanes guarding our border.

If we put all that together, it is close to 900 to 1,200 jobs. Hello, this is what we are talking about—public investment that creates private sector jobs and does public safety.

So we are saying to those who are considering how we could move ahead, we encourage them now. I suggest we follow the model when we were on the floor 3 years ago. That was the last time we had these appropriations on the floor. We had an amendment process.

The managers of the bill, such as my vice chairman Senator SHELBY and I, worked with Members on a defined list, some we could actually take. There were some excellent ideas where Members wanted to improve on what we had done.

For those who have concern about spending, they can actually come and offer cuts or they can offer replacements. This is the place where if you want government to work your way, it is your day and you do it through the amendment process.

Most Americans don't understand that in order to debate a bill on the Senate floor, you have to first file a motion to proceed. That is asking permission to come to the floor to take up the bill. So we had to have a cloture vote on it. OK, it passed 95 to 3. I think it is the will of the Senate to get it going, and let's get these amendments—get it on with the amendments.

Are there anxieties on both sides about the nature of those amendments? Sure. But that is what amendments are. Some we can take, some we need to debate.

We are the greatest deliberative body in the world. We have to start deliberating.

I say to my friends who are pondering how to proceed, the best way to proceed is look at the agreement we had in 2011 that allowed for amendments, a regular order, a methodical process for considering those amendments, and then we would be able to get on them, be able to debate them. My suggestion would be that we would alternate sides, a Democratic amendment, a Republican amendment—hey, maybe even a bipartisan amendment.

I hope we do not spin our wheels and spin the clock for 8½ more hours, because the American people know that after all is said and done, more gets said than gets done.

I am suggesting—really—let's follow the regular order. The process I am recommending is not new. There are no surprises, there are no stunts. It is a process we have followed in the past. I am suggesting, along with Senator SHELBY, the exact model we used 3 years ago, the last time appropriations were on the floor.

There are those who say in this country we have a spending problem. If you think we have a spending problem, this is the time to come to the floor and debate. If you think we have a spending problem and we are spending too much on the Justice Department—if you think it is too much money on bullet-proof vests for cops or shelters for battered women, come on. If you think there is too much money in the space program, you don't like this rocket ship or that satellite, this is the place to come. Offer amendments. We are ready to debate.

I speak for my two other subcommittee chairs, Senator MURRAY on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies, and Senator PRYOR on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. We are already in consultation with the other side of the aisle. Senator COLLINS on transportation and Senator BLUNT on agriculture are also ready to debate.

I would hope we could move forward, have a method for moving forward that promotes regular order. If we do that, I think Members who haven't experienced too much—because of our gridlock and deadlock and the lock on amendments that we actually—I think they are going to like it because they like democracy. If you like the Constitution, if you like democracy, this is the place where we can put it into place today.

Before I yield the floor, I note that the leadership from the Republican side is in conference with Senator SHELBY. I hope that is good news.

Then for those on both sides of the aisle watching the process on the floor, if you have amendments, start to gear up and get ready to bring them over. Senator SHELBY and I are here. We are ready to receive them. We are ready to get ready to do them, we are ready to talk about them, and set the stage for hearing them.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, with what is happening in Iraq, what is happening with the claim of lost IRS emails from Lois Lerner, what is happening in the developments of the Benghazi investigation, what is happening in Ukraine, and what could happen in Afghanistan, it is easy—perhaps too easy—to overlook a crisis occurring right here in America on our southern border. That crisis is easily described as a wave of humanity coming across our southern border from Central America.

Tragically, tens of thousands of the people coming across our borders seeking refuge in the United States are children—unaccompanied minors—from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. The question we should ask ourselves is, Why are we seeing this unprecedented increase in the number of unaccompanied minors coming across our southwestern border?

As we can see, in 2011 there were 6,560 detained. But that number has grown steadily, from 2012, 2013, and now 2014. So far 47,000 minors—unaccompanied children—have been detained coming across our border, primarily from Central America. It is estimated that this 60,000 number will likely double next year unless something is done.

These children—and their parents are enabling this—are crossing the border because of a widespread perception that they will be allowed to stay here. The reason for that perception is a series of events—a series of stated changes in policy—which have given the impression that President Obama does not have a commitment to enforce our immigration laws.

None of us denies that Central America's Northern Triangle is plagued by drug cartels, street gangs, rampant violence, and deeply entrenched poverty. There is no doubt about it. The fact is that the majority of people coming across the southwestern border these days are not from Mexico; they are from Central America. They are coming through a 500-mile strip of border between Guatemala and Mexico, making their way up the Mexican coast in areas largely controlled by the Zetas—a criminal organization, a drug cartel which has basically figured this is another way to make money. In other words, they not only traffic in drugs, they traffic in people, and now, quite honestly, they are trafficking in tens of thousands of children.

The massive spike in unaccompanied minors, of course, seemed to start to take off when President Obama announced in 2012 his so-called deferred action plan. To be clear and to be fair, this deferred action announcement where the President said he would not deport certain categories or classes of children would not apply to the chil-

dren coming across the border today. So we might wonder, why in the world do they keep coming?

Well, that was not an isolated event in 2012. Just to remind my colleagues, this deferred action announcement came 2 years after John Morton, who was the Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, circulated a memo declaring that the enforcement of U.S. immigration laws against most illegal aliens was now a lower priority. That memo went out in June of 2010.

A few months later several colleagues and I sent a letter to then-Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano expressing our concern that the administration's selective enforcement of our immigration statutes was jeopardizing public safety and breeding contempt for the rule of law. That letter read, in part:

Numerous criminal aliens are being released into society and are having proceedings terminated simply because ICE has decided that such cases do not fit within the Department's chosen enforcement priorities. It appears that ICE is enforcing the law based on criteria it arbitrarily chose with complete disregard for the enforcement laws created by Congress.

Then, in the second Morton memo the following June, then-Director Morton sent around another memo which further advised U.S. immigration authorities to systemically reconsider hundreds of thousands of immigration cases and to make them low priorities to enforce immigration laws against millions of people illegally present in the United States. That second Morton memo went even further than the first in looking at everyone—all the undocumented population here in the United States—and saying: We are going to reconsider our priorities in terms of repatriation of those individuals should they be detained by ICE. That June 2011 memo laid the groundwork for the deferred action program the President announced a year later, which was 2012, and these programs were extended earlier this month.

The average was about 6,500; then it doubled in 2012; and then it doubled again in 2013; and then it is scheduled to double again in 2014.

The administration has continued to treat the vast majority of illegal immigrants as low-priority offenders, thereby creating perverse incentives for people to cross the border. If people don't believe there is any consequence associated with entering the country in violation of our immigration laws, they are going to continue to do it. As the distinguished Presiding Officer knows, law enforcement has more than just what I would call a goal-line defense priority. In other words, deterrence is very important. Obviously, people are not being deterred.

Perversely, people are being encouraged by this series of events to show up at the border—and, of course, in huge

numbers—overwhelming Border Patrol, which is now no longer looking uniformly at drug dealers and human smuggling operations. Now they are trying to take care of children and trying to get them to a safe place to live and to take care of them.

John Sandweg, who served as the ICE Director from 2013 to 2014, recently told the Los Angeles Times:

If you are a run-of-the-mill immigrant here illegally, your odds of getting deported are close to zero.

It is just unlikely to happen. That message has obviously gotten through to folks in Central America, who, admittedly, are living in a very tough neighborhood, and it has encouraged many of them to risk their lives and their children's lives on an extremely dangerous journey through this region of Mexico covered by the drug cartels.

Actually, it is part of the business model of the drug cartels to encourage this flow of illegal migration from Central America through Mexico because they effectively get paid a tax by the coyotes and human smugglers who smuggle people through this dangerous region. One of the ways they come is on the top of one of these trains.

This is a shot of a train they call The Beast. It has been well documented and written about by a Salvadoran journalist, Oscar Martinez, in a book he wrote in 2013 which is chilling, but it describes the journey from Central America through Mexico on the top of one of these trains and the risk of accident, the likelihood of sexual assault—6 to 8 out of 10 migrant women are sexually assaulted—people who are kidnapped for ransom, and people who are killed who don't comply with the dictates of the drug cartels.

Don't take just my word for it.

Last week the Washington Post confirmed that the influx of unaccompanied minors:

... is being driven in large part by the perception that they will be allowed to stay under the Obama administration's immigration policies.

The New York Times recently told the story of a 13-year-old Honduran boy who was detained in Mexico while trying to reach the United States. Like so many others across Central America, the Times reported this boy

... said his mother believed that the Obama administration had quietly changed its policy regarding unaccompanied minors and that if he made it across he would have a better shot at staying.

The distinguished Senator from Maryland is here.

Not only is this affecting States such as Texas, but these children, 1,000 of them, are being effectively warehoused in Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio, TX, some are being shipped to Arizona and California, and some are being sent—or at least the plan is to send them—to Virginia and Maryland, because these 47,000 children who have

been detained since October of last year are overwhelming the capacity of local communities and State and Federal authorities to deal with them. As I said, The Beast, which transports people 1,000 miles or so on a trip from southern Mexico up to the southern border of Texas, is a horrific way to transit that huge expanse.

Migrant women are preyed upon by drug cartels such as the Zetas. Officials from the mayor's office in Ciudad Hidalgo told Oscar Martinez, the author of the book "The Beast," in Ciudad Hidalgo the Zetas control all trafficking, sending men to recruit women in Central America, and sometimes even kidnapping migrant women riding the buses. They sell the women to truck-drivers for a night, and then throw them away like unwanted scraps.

My point is, there is nothing humane about encouraging people to travel through cartel-dominated smuggling routes in the hopes of reaching the United States. Yet that has been the effect of the perception that the President and his administration are not committed to enforcing our immigration laws. I know that wasn't their intention but that has been the consequence. Even before the ongoing border crisis erupted, people were taking notice of the President's disregard for the rule of law.

Last December, for example, a Federal district court judge in Brownsville, TX, absolutely excoriated the Obama administration for making a mockery of enforcement, noting that the President's policies were incentivizing human traffickers and endangering the lives of children. Here is what Federal Judge Andrew Hanen said:

By fostering an atmosphere whereby illegal aliens are encouraged to pay human smugglers for further services, the government is not only allowing them to fund the illegal and evil activities of these cartels, but is also inspiring them to do so.

That is a Federal district judge in Brownsville, TX.

One final point. Some of my friends across the aisle have argued that if only Congress would pass President Obama's preferred immigration reforms, the current border crisis would never have happened. That ignores the fact that none of these children qualify for any of the deferred action policies either ordered in 2012 or any of the others I mentioned. But there is the perception caused by the first Morton memo, the second Morton memo, then the deferred action announcement, and now the widely publicized news that the President has instructed Jeh Johnson, the Secretary of Homeland Security, to reconsider the entire repatriation and deportation policy, and it is clear this is related to the upcoming midterm election and the President's desire to try to make a point.

The problem is his point is backfiring. It is victimizing the very same

people the President believes, I think, that he is trying to help. That is what happens when the rule of law is no longer your priority—unintended consequences. As I explained today, the President's actions have helped cause this humanitarian crisis.

I know the Finance Committee has in subcommittee appropriated I think roughly \$2 billion to help the Federal authorities to deal with this humanitarian crisis. Unfortunately, unless we are able to process appropriations bills across the floor of the Senate, I don't know when that money is going to be available, and that is another problem.

But the most fundamental problem is the American people's confidence that the Federal Government will enforce the laws, until such time as those laws are changed, has been undermined. Passing new legislation will do nothing to fix that unless the President is willing to enforce laws that have already been passed by Congress. This isn't a problem of passing some more laws; this is a problem of the President and his administration effectively conveying the message that they are not going to enforce the laws they don't want to enforce. Unless we send a clear, unambiguous message that our border is secure and our immigration laws are being enforced, we can expect more and more Central American migrants to embark on the harrowing journey from Central America up through Mexico, which means more of them will be robbed, kidnapped, raped, and killed. We don't know how many start out on this journey. All we know is how many show up on the border. We ought to be concerned about that.

To be clear, I remain personally committed to fixing all aspects of our broken immigration system, but I cannot and will not support any policy that effectively empowers human traffickers and endangers the lives of these children.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, before the Senator from Texas leaves—and I know we have other matters to discuss—first I want to make a comment and then I have a question.

I want to thank the Senator from Texas for that very compelling presentation. I might not agree with every sentence, but I think the Senator painted a picture of what is happening at the border. We do have a humanitarian crisis.

As chair of the Appropriations Committee, I was made aware of this last year by Secretary Sebelius when they asked for more money to help. I said, yes, more money to help, but we need- ed to plan. What were we going to do with this? So now these numbers have surged, and what it has become is these children effectively function as refugees.

This portrait the Senator has portrayed—the horrific sense of The Beast, and human beings, women and children, and boys, as well, being sold as if they were commodities? Commodities. It gives you goosebumps. The Senator has painted a very compassionate and compelling picture.

My question, though, is we have to deal with the immediate crisis now. But as the Senator talks about the enforcement on the border, what would the Senator recommend we do?

In other words, the pictures I have seen—and I hope I will go down and see this for myself—is the children come up to the border control guy, some as young as 4 and 5 years old and some go up to the early teens. Some teens carry their younger siblings. Is the Senator saying we should turn them away? These are not provocative questions. We have to work across the aisle to deal with this issue constructively, humanely, and effectively.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if I may respond to the distinguished Senator's question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. CORNYN. I appreciate the Senator's leadership and big heart. This is not a political issue. The first and most important thing we need to do is to pursue the best interests of these children, but we cannot simply deal with our immigration problem, illegal immigration problem, at the border. It has to start back in Central America. That is one reason I am glad Vice President JOE BIDEN is traveling to Guatemala, as I know Jeh Johnson, the Secretary of Homeland Security has, to try to see what they can do.

We then need to try to persuade our friends in Mexico to commit more resources. Perhaps we can persuade them to deal with the 500-mile southern border that is basically controlled by the cartels. But the cartels are making money. So this is a governance issue in Central America and Mexico as well.

I might point out that perhaps with the same reservations the distinguished Senator from Maryland made about not agreeing with everything I said, but much of what I said, what I have said has I think pretty much been echoed by my friend Representative HENRY CUELLAR from Laredo, TX, who obviously by virtue of where he lives and was raised is very knowledgeable about the border around Laredo and Mexico and Central America.

I saw an interview with our former First Lady Hillary Clinton, that unless we send a very clear and loud message to people in Central America that you should not come, you should not risk your children making this long, harrowing journey because they will not be able to stay, then they are going to keep coming, because right now when these children come here, as the Senator knows, our capacity to deal

with them is overwhelmed at the local level, at the State level, and at the Federal level, and they are essentially being treated like refugees and warehoused in places such as Lackland Air Force Base and other places around the country.

You can imagine the impact in the long run not only on the health care system, on education, and other services that would be required to take care of these children until they can be repatriated. But I would align myself with what former Senator Clinton, the former Secretary of State, said: The President and the administration need to send a very clear and loud message that anyone who comes to the United States will be returned to their country of origin once a safe family member can be identified to repatriate these children. But right now the system is so overwhelmed that we don't even know who these children are being placed with in America. They may be some claimed family member, but I am not sure whether there are background checks being done for criminal history or perhaps sex offense.

This is overwhelming the whole system. I am sure working together we can come up with an improvement over where we are now, and I would point out this is not a partisan issue, but it is a very harsh reality and my concern is it is being overwhelmed by the news out of the Middle East and other concerns here in Washington when it is very much front and center back home in Texas.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the senior Senator from Texas, a former attorney general, as I recall. The Senator knows the law, he knows the border, and he knows what is going on.

This Senator looks at this too as not only the chair of the Appropriations Committee but as a social worker. The care of the children even in our own country gives me pause.

They were originally looking at a closed Social Security building to house these children, with no bathrooms except down the hall, putting them in little office cubicles. So we have a very serious problem.

I want the Senator from Texas to know I agree with the holding that we need to have the strong and clear message in Central America, first of all, that these rumors are false.

Today is not the day to do this. I thank the Senator for his compelling comments. I would like to work with the Senator from Texas and also continue to work with the administration to focus on this. But the message does have to go to Central America. I think we are fair game in Central America. From what I have heard, there are all these radio ads and so on that are truly exploiting this. There is violence, there is ghoulish, grim violence against children in Central America. Desperate mothers and grandmothers are trying

to look for a way out. They are being exploited. I am going to work with the Senator in any way I can to stem the flow, deal with the humanitarian crisis, and get a long-range solution. I appreciate this conversation going forward.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator and look forward to that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I rise today not only as a Senator from Montana, but as a veteran of the long and difficult war in Iraq. Like most Americans, the increasing instability in Iraq and the disintegration of the country along sectarian boundaries has me deeply concerned. This past weekend when I was home in Montana and talking to Montanans, they were very concerned about what was going on in Iraq; they express their interest to me about Iraq on a regular basis.

The heinous advance of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, their systematic execution of Iraqi soldiers, and the murder of innocent civilians gives pause to people everywhere.

I stand here today as a veteran and as a father whose son has been deployed multiple times. I wish to recognize my son today, who is with me today. I ask that my son Michael stand and be recognized.

We fought in the war that Washington began based on false information—a war that ended and from which we must move on.

I led an infantry battalion—the 1st Battalion, 163rd Infantry—into combat, which was made up of more than 100 of Montana's finest. Our area of operation was from just north of Tikrit—from Baiji—to Kirkuk, which is the very same area being fought over today.

It was late 2004 and the country had fallen into a bitter sectarian conflict—a conflict that unfolded after the dismantling of the Baathist-led army and fueled by ancient divides between the Shias and Sunnis. Those same disputes are again boiling over in Iraq today.

From the end of 2004 to late 2005, my unit fought to hold ground, secure roads, and build infrastructure. We worked with local sheiks and key leaders to forge a path to peace. We helped return Iraq's government to its people. While there we oversaw two successful elections and watched with hope and great satisfaction as the Iraqis ratified their constitution. It was during this time that I also dispatched a team from the battalion to focus solely on training and assisting members of the newly formed Iraqi army.

During our unit's entire deployment in Iraq while fighting the insurgency, we faced rocket attacks, snipers, and improvised explosive devices on a daily basis. Four of my men were killed in action, and there is not a day that goes by that I don't think of those men and their families: MSG Robbie D. McNary

of Lewistown, MT, died on March 31, 2005; SSG Kevin Davis of Lebanon, OR, died on April 8, 2005; SGT Timothy Kiser of Tehama, CA, died on April 28, 2005; and SGT Travis Arndt, died on September 21, 2005. Travis was from Bozeman, MT. Scores of other soldiers were injured.

One of my soldiers died by suicide after returning home to Montana. He was a victim of the invisible wounds of war.

Nearly 4,500 Americans have been killed in Iraq, among them 28 Montana heroes. Some 32,000 Americans have been wounded. The war cost us more than \$2 trillion—I say more than \$2 trillion—most of which Congress put on a credit card so our grandchildren can pay the debt.

Because this Nation has failed to prepare for new veterans returning home, we now have a crisis of care within our VA health care system—a system that is overwhelmed after more than a decade of war.

Today we are seeing 22 veterans die by suicide each and every single day across this country. These are the true costs of war. Montanans understand this, and Americans understand this.

Because I work for Montanans, and I am listening to them, I call on President Obama to use extreme caution when considering options to deal with the sectarian violence that we are seeing take place in Iraq today. America cannot afford another Iraq financially or the human costs that are associated with war. We did our job there, and we did it with honor and integrity. Our men and women should be very proud of their success, and the citizens of this country should be proud of the accomplishments of the men and women who served in our armed forces.

Today some are suggesting we make an open-ended commitment to Iraq and keep American troops on the ground indefinitely. Sending thousands of America's young men and women back into Iraq to step into the middle of a civil war is not a solution.

To my fellow Members of Congress, I urge temperance as we navigate this difficult terrain because I know that foreign policy failures made in Washington fall disproportionately on the backs of young men and women from the small towns across Montana and the country.

I have seen war up close and, like too many American families, I have seen the cost of war up close on families and on communities all across this country.

I believe it is now time for the Iraqis to secure and defend their own nation. The embrace of their own self-determination is the only path to a true and everlasting peace in Iraq.

I wish to remind the American people of the costs that have been associated with the war in Iraq. We are dealing with a crisis within the VA health care

system. At one time over a year ago, we had over 450,000 men and women on a backlog list trying to get in to see a health care provider.

Today that backlog has been significantly reduced, but we still have a problem within the VA health care system. We put over 2 million American veterans into that health care system without making sure that the system was ready for them when they came home. Can you imagine sending over 2 million American servicemembers into Iraq or Afghanistan—or anywhere else in the world—whom we didn't train, equip, or provide the resources for them to go into Iraq?

When people talk to me about the cost of war, I think this is a cost that we sometimes overlook because when our men and women return from Iraq, the war is not over. We will be dealing with this cost for many years.

As we talk about the men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan and contemplating our extension of deployment in Afghanistan, a figure has been thrown around as to the costs. Today it costs approximately \$1.2 million for a soldier in Afghanistan. When we reduce the number of soldiers in Afghanistan from 32,000 to less than 10,000, that cost goes up to \$2.3 million. Again, we are planning to put that cost on the credit card.

We have a responsibility, and that responsibility lies on the citizens of this Nation and on the citizens of Montana. We must continue to look out for these people.

I don't want to be an isolationist. I understand there are problems in Iraq and Afghanistan, but we have to take care of our problems here in Washington, DC.

As I travel back to Montana and talk to Montanans, they are concerned about our debt. They know we have a spending problem, and we have to take care of that spending problem. But sending our soldiers to Iraq or extending their stay in Afghanistan is not going to solve the problems we are dealing with there.

Again, America cannot afford another Iraq financially or the human costs that are associated with Iraq. We owe it to the citizens of this Nation.

The Members of the Senate need to ask themselves: If it were my son or daughter who was going to be sent into Iraq to fight in a sectarian conflict, would I be as willing to do that as I am today without having someone I care for sent over there?

We hear about suggestions on a daily basis about what we should be doing in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I know we are dealing with a difficult situation there, but we have to make the right decision. We have to look out for the United States of America and what is happening here in America.

I think that too many of my fellow Members of Congress are too abrupt

and think too quickly about what we should do in Iraq. I believe they need to take a step back and think about the impacts—the second and third order of effects of continuing to send our men and women back over to Iraq.

As I said, I know that foreign policy failures made in Washington will fall disproportionately on the backs of smalltown America—towns like Culbertson, MT, Livingston, MT, and Boulder, MT. It is not the large cities that will bear the burden of sending men and women back into Iraq.

I have also mentioned I have seen war up close. I still recall the ramp ceremonies we held shortly after the deaths of the men and women in Iraq. We had to have those men and women out of there within a 12-hour period. Those were very difficult times to deal with not only for me but for the other 700-plus men and women who were deployed with me to Iraq.

Again, I cannot overemphasize how important I think it is that we really step back, take a look at what is happening in Iraq and determine if this is really the best thing for the United States of America. Is it the best thing for our military to have to deal with?

We have been at war for over 13 years in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our military will do whatever we ask of it, but we also have to think about the families of our service men and women, the impacts that the wars of Iraq and Afghanistan have had on them with the number of divorces, broken marriages, and broken families. Those are also the costs of war we are having to deal with.

There are no easy answers to what is happening in Iraq, and I know we will come together and come up with a solution, and I hope it is the right solution because these are very important times. Who knows what will happen next? Will it happen in the Middle East? Will it happen in Europe? I don't think that anyone knows, and we have to be prepared.

Again, I have said it once and I wish to emphasize this point again: I believe it is time for the Iraqis to secure and defend their own nation. We heard they have over 17 divisions. Think about the size of those divisions. A division of the United States is nearly 20,000 soldiers, and I am sure that an Iraqi division is somewhere in that same capacity. They have 17 divisions—4 of which we hear have dropped their weapons and fallen back, but that still leaves 13 divisions they would have to fight, and so they can make a stance to protect their country.

I am calling on the Members of this Senate to ask the Iraqi people to stand up and fight for their country.

I thank the Chair.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I come to the floor to make an objection, if necessary, to an effort to subordinate the President's climate change initiative, which two-thirds of all Americans support and which a huge number of major name-brand American corporations supported and which is supported by those whom we trust to lead our national defense and our national security interests. But something about this building, something about this place makes it a place where the polluting interests have wildly disproportionate sway, so we keep seeing these attacks on environmental regulations. So it is actually kind of fortunate timing that I am here because it gives me a chance, for the 71st time, to try to wake this body up to the harm carbon pollution is causing to our oceans, to our economy, to our wildlife, and to our health.

I traveled recently to New Hampshire. I have been traveling around the country, going to States that are facing the carbon predicament and seeing how they are doing it.

I can tell my colleagues that Granite Staters are facing up to the daunting challenges of climate change. Rhode Islanders understand that New Hampshire's challenges are like our own. We see similar threats in our own State. At the Newport, RI, tide gauge, right at our naval station, sea level is up almost 10 inches since the 1930s. In the winter, we are three to four degrees warmer in Narragansett Bay. The recent "National Climate Assessment" report concludes that Rhode Island will see even more rising sea level, warmer temperatures, and extreme weather.

New Hampshire showed that there is plenty of Yankee good sense up there as well. The people of New Hampshire get it, and they are taking steps to tackle climate change. Let me first say that no one pretended it isn't real. The first line of defense on the other side of the aisle is that climate change isn't real. No one I spoke to in New Hampshire is pretending it isn't real.

University of New Hampshire expert Cameron Wake told me that New Hampshire is "getting wetter and getting warmer," and they pointed out that it is happening fast. The "National Climate Assessment" shows that due to climate change, the Northeast already has seen 70 percent more extreme precipitation in recent years—dramatic downpours that increase the risk of flooding. This University of New Hampshire data shows an even more severe problem for New Hampshire. Dr. Wake told me that he and his University of New Hampshire colleagues have collected data from southern New

Hampshire on what they call “extreme precipitation events”—what we might call a rain burst, where over 4 inches of rain falls in just 48 hours. The data show these rain bursts have increased 4 to 10 times since 1960, and they will only grow more frequent through the rest of the century, Wake and his University of New Hampshire colleagues report.

That brings us to the warmer part of the wetter-and-warmer equation. The University of New Hampshire’s recent studies show the State’s temperature has increased by twice the global average, happening in large part due to what Dr. Wake calls “snow dynamics”: Warmer temperatures during New Hampshire’s winter mean less snow. Less snow exposes more dark ground underneath. The dark ground absorbs more heat, and it warms faster than if it were covered in reflective snow—what scientists call high albedo snow. So the ground then warms the air—and on goes the cycle.

At Plymouth State University, the Appalachian Mountain Club has data which show temperature increases in Pinkham Notch in New Hampshire’s White Mountains. The average increase in temperature has climbed over 75 years. Then, if we look at the average over 50 years, we see that the line has steepened and it is accelerating, and if we look at the line for the last 25 years, it has steepened again and the increase is accelerating further. So New Hampshire’s temperatures aren’t just rising, they are rising faster.

What do these temperatures mean for Granite Staters? Well, big changes to their winter industries, such as skiing. Six years ago Ben Wilcox, who is the general manager of the ski resort Mount Cranmore in North Conway, NH, was using 40 to 50 snow guns to cover his ski mountain. Now he is using 150. In the last 5 years, Wilcox reports, ski mountains in his region have invested in over 1,700 new top-of-the-line snow guns, capable of making three to four times the amount of snow of previous models, so they can offset the snowpack loss from the shorter winters. That makes them lucky. But when people down the mountain don’t see snow, they don’t think about skiing, so they don’t go.

Stefan Hausmann is the owner of Zimmermann’s Ski and Snowboard Shop in Nashua, NH. He told me his business sees this in fewer new skiers and snowboarders buying their equipment at his store. He is still selling the higher end skis to established skiers at a pretty good clip, but he is selling less equipment to beginners. Those lower end customers just aren’t coming in the door, says Hausmann.

Of course, New Hampshire’s winter tourism industry goes far beyond skiing. The New Hampshire Department of Travel and Economic Development says 34 million visitors travel to the

Granite State and spend roughly \$4.6 billion. This makes tourism the State’s second largest industry, and climate change hits a lot of it.

For instance, snowmobilers and Nordic skiers come to New Hampshire’s backcountry for more than 7,000 miles of trails. If you are a ski mountain, you can crank snow out onto your busy ski slopes. It is not so easy when you are talking about snowmobile trails or Nordic skiing trails. So the ski business of trail skiing and the snowmobile business is taking a hit.

The Hubbard Brook Research Foundation, based in North Woodstock, NH, has found that snow cover has decreased by 22 days since I was born in 1955, and the frozen lakes included in those trail systems that snowmobilers and Nordic skiers use are covered in ice less of the year—33 less days on Mirror Lake just since 1967, for example. As one Granite Stater told me, this hit not just the trails but the hotels, restaurants, snowmobile shops, and outdoor outfitters who depend on that market.

Of course, it is not just sports. Jamey French of Portsmouth, the CEO and president of Northland Forest Products, told me how climate change is affecting two of New Hampshire’s most valuable hardwoods—the sugar maple and the yellow birch.

Sugar maples, of course, support New Hampshire’s maple sugar industry, but they also draw leaf peepers who travel to view the spectacular foliage that blankets the New Hampshire landscape in the autumn. As New Hampshire and neighboring States get warmer, the trees’ geographic range moves north. Scientists predict that future warming will exacerbate this trend, meaning more production of maple syrup in Canada and less in the United States—bad news for New Hampshire’s maple sugar houses.

As for the yellow Birch, Mr. French points out that in the 1940s and 1950s, most of the furniture in New England was made out of yellow birch, and yellow birch remains a valuable hardwood, drawing good prices for New Hampshire’s timber business.

French fears the consequences for his industry if yellow birch and sugar maples are pushed northwards and out by warmer-weather trees. “Will there be a wood product industry?” he asks. “Will there be a maple sugar industry in a climate-changed New England? There is going to be a lot less of one,” he concludes.

New Hampshire biologist Eric Orrf is witnessing one of the most dramatic changes. He studies the moose—an animal that is bred to survive harsh northern winters. But what Orrf sees is a catastrophic decline in moose population mostly due to the success of moose ticks. This is going to get a little bit gross, so forgive me. Moose ticks breed more easily and they sur-

vive longer in milder winters. Orrf explains—these are his words:

What happens when we have an early spring, when winter ticks fall off on bare ground, is they thrive. They lay their eggs. They are successful at reproducing. Then, in the fall, in November, when the baby moose ticks are hanging together, if there is no snow, then by the thousands, tens of thousands, they get on the calves. Now for these calves, they’d literally have to resupply their blood supply two times over to survive the winter. They suck them dry.

I think one tick is pretty revolting. The idea of tens of thousands of ticks on a moose calf, sucking the blood out of the calf so fast that it can’t keep up, is a truly grisly thought. They literally “suck them dry,” according to Orrf.

Mike Bartlett of the New Hampshire Audubon Society told me how climate change is affecting the State’s bird. New Hampshire’s State bird is the purple finch. It is the official bird of New Hampshire. It is a cold-weather bird with a range up to Canada. He said this:

The purple finch is at the southern end of its range, and, in all likelihood, our state bird isn’t going to be found in the State of New Hampshire anymore.

So while we dawdle and delay in Congress thanks to the influence of big polluters, there is work to be done out there. Thankfully, States across the country, knowing the risks of doing nothing and knowing the costs of doing nothing, are starting to act.

I have been to the Southeast coast. I have been to the Midwest. I have seen wind parks in Iowa with 500 wind turbines generating more than a quarter of the State’s electricity. I went South. I saw Republican mayors and county officials in the Southeast putting climate and energy policy at the center of their government’s plans.

I saw it again in New Hampshire, Granite Staters who understand the risks all too well. The University of New Hampshire recently released two—not one but two—comprehensive reports about climate change, one for northern New Hampshire and one for southern New Hampshire. I have them with me. New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan has played a pivotal role in making sure this work gets done and in developing and operating New England’s Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which we call “Reggi,” which is already at work reducing our region’s carbon pollution and providing a model for how other States can succeed under the powerplant regulations.

We are already seeing our States—our laboratories of democracy—taking sensible steps down the path to reducing carbon emissions. The EPA rule for carbon pollution from powerplants will encourage that State role. Just this morning the Wall Street Journal and NBC News released polling saying two-thirds of Americans support President Obama’s new climate rule, and more than half say the United States should

go for it and deal with global warming even if it means higher electricity bills for them. People in America get it. It is only this building that is isolated by polluter influence.

It is time for Congress to wake up, and we will if the American people will give us a good shake. It is time to wake up.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO BRIANNA VANCE

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a remarkably brave, very young West Virginian, 10-year-old Brianna Vance, who helped save her father's life just last week—truly amazing. It was on Twitter, all over the pages.

On June 10, as a severe storm—and with all of the severe storms we have been having all over the country—tore through her neighborhood in Henlawson, WV, Brianna's father Gregory and two of his friends were sitting on the porch when lightning struck a nearby very large tree that crashed down on top of them and their home.

Brianna tried to use her phone to call for help, but the storm had knocked out all of the cell services. She had nothing. She could not do a thing. Remarkably, she was still able to access the Internet and quickly logged onto Facebook—just by a miracle.

In an extraordinary demonstration of courage and resourcefulness, Brianna posted a video, and I have seen this video. If you haven't, please go to Brianna's Facebook page, "Brianna Vance," and look at it. She asked anyone who had cell phone service or access to a phone to please call 911 and send an ambulance to her yellow house to save her daddy.

She thought, had enough presence about her during this very trying and emotional time. When people see the video, I think it will explain and speak for itself.

Thankfully, someone saw her post and a rescue team was able to save the three victims, including her father, because of that Facebook post.

When all other options failed, Brianna did not give up. She still had the presence of thought and her desire to help her father and his friends.

Because of her sharp wit and resourcefulness, her father is alive and recovering today—just in time to celebrate Father's Day together, as we just finished up this past weekend.

I am so proud of Brianna, and I know her family and community are as well,

as can be expected when we have situations not just in West Virginia but in the Presiding Officer's own State of Ohio and all over this great country, where we have family bonds such as this and we have family stories that have good outcomes that we do not hear enough of.

I thank Brianna for her heroism that helped save the lives of her father and his friends. She should be recognized for her bravery.

So I say, Brianna, on behalf of the grateful State of West Virginia, thank you for what you have done for your father and his friends and showing the courage you have as a young West Virginian.

I thank the Chair.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon because this week the Senate has a chance to take another crucial step away from the political cliffs and manufactured crises of previous years and to get back to the regular order—to get back to the considered, measured, orderly process on this floor that for so long was characteristic of this body, in the past considered the greatest deliberative body on Earth, but in recent years it has ground to a halt.

It is critical that we return to regular order and that we return to the steady consideration of appropriations bills in a way that will move not just the Senate and this Congress but this country forward.

I thank the chair and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Senators MIKULSKI and SHELBY, for their leadership and their steadfast determination to work in a bipartisan manner and bring us back to regular order.

We are considering today a collection—or what is called today a "mini-bus" instead of an omnibus—of three appropriations bills: Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration; Commerce, Justice, and Science; and Transportation and Housing and Urban Development—an unbelievable scope across these three appropriations bills that could in combination make a real and significant difference for our communities, our States, and our country. This is an opportunity for this Congress to carry out its duties to provide oversight and direction and to help all the different agencies I just named move forward and address some of our most important priorities.

As a member myself of the Appropriations Committee, I have advocated for some of what are our Nation's top priorities embedded in these three important bills. So I wish to speak for a few minutes about how these bills will, first, help my home State of Delaware; second, help our country; and then, third, the important obligation we have as Senators to return to regular order and to use the appropriations process for oversight and for management of this whole Federal project.

For Delaware, these three bills invest in a number of areas. I could talk about literally dozens of matters critical to my home State, but let me focus on two—public safety and infrastructure.

When we think about it at the local level—where I served for a decade in county government—these are the foundation of what government does and does well: Keep our people, homes, communities, and families safe, and provide for the sewer water, drinking water, and the highways and tollways and bridges and ports that are critical to moving commerce and our country forward.

This bill extends children's advocacy centers. Let me talk for a few minutes about what children's advocacy centers are and why it is so vital to public safety.

Children's advocacy centers allow communities to bring child abusers to justice without retraumatizing their victims. Children's advocacy centers are unique because it is a model that brings together, under one roof in one place, law enforcement, prosecutors, counselors, and child service professionals—all focusing on how to best care for and move forward with a child who has been a victim of abuse.

In Delaware we have three centers—one in each of our three counties. And although I wish we didn't need them, the fact is they are indispensable. In my experience in a decade of local government, I was exposed over and over to the critical role they play in helping law enforcement secure critical evidence and move forward to conviction against the monsters who commit abuse against our children.

Since the creation of these centers, they have transformed our Nation's response to child abuse, giving families hope and guidance in their darkest moments and delivering justice to those who have endured the worst.

As we work together to continue to try our best to keep our children safe, this bill allows us to continue to fund child advocacy centers so we can have a more efficient, more effective, more federally sponsored and coordinated way to deliver at a very modest cost this vital resource for our children.

Second, as we work to keep our children safe, this bill also allows us to protect those who protect us. Every

day more than 1 million law enforcement officers across this country accept risks to their personal safety. As they leave their families at dawn and head off to their jobs, they know that what they accept as part of their mission is the risk they may not come home that night. That is why it is so important this bill also funds the bulletproof vest partnership.

In Delaware we know its value all too well. Last February at the New Castle County Courthouse in my hometown of Wilmington, DE, a gunman unleashed a hail of bullets into a courthouse lobby, tragically killing two. On what was a difficult morning in Wilmington, two lives were also saved—those of Sergeant Michael Manley and Corporal Steve Rinehart—members of the Delaware Capitol Police—officers who were wearing bulletproof vests funded by the Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership. This is a partnership launched by my predecessor, now-Vice President BIDEN. It has been sustained on a bipartisan basis for many years, but without this appropriation, this vital Federal-State-law enforcement partnership would grind to a halt.

Vests work. They save lives. They save officers' lives, and with this bill we will be able to ensure even more officers all across this country have life-saving bulletproof vests.

Those are two areas where in law enforcement and public safety this bill continues critical investments in partnership from the Federal Government to State and local governments.

In recent weeks in Delaware we have also been reminded of just how critical our infrastructure is—our bridges, our roads, and highways.

There is a bridge on I-495 that goes across the Christina River. This is a vital highway for Wilmington and for the whole mid-Atlantic region. It carries 90,000 drivers a day, but 2 weeks ago it was closed indefinitely when workers nearby noticed four of its pillars were off plumb, were slanted, and then upon further investigation discovered there were cracks in the very foundation holding this bridge 50 feet in the air. Its closure is hurting families, businesses, and commuters, and it is just one in a string of recent emergencies all across our country that demonstrate the need for investment in fixing America's roads and bridges.

The funding we are considering this week in this bill recognizes that and takes steps to address some of our most urgent needs across this country. It continues to invest in two innovative funding vehicles: One called TIGER grants and another called TIFIA loans. These are acronyms, but they are inventive ways to mobilize private capital in partnership with States and the Federal Government, to get us moving again in repairing and upgrading the roads and bridges of America. They help State and local

governments pay for new highways and bridges, public transit projects, railways, and ports.

In Delaware, the Port of Wilmington—a critical economic engine for our State and region—secured a \$10 million TIGER grant last year to renovate facilities built in 1922. On U.S. 301, a little south and west of Wilmington but still in Delaware, TIFIA grants are helping us to do critical work to relieve congestion.

In southernmost Delaware at Georgetown, at the Sussex County Airport, we have also seen the vital role and the value of Federal investment. Since 2012, the Sussex County Airport has received \$4 million in airport improvement grants to expand its runway and improve safety and to help grow manufacturing jobs at that Georgetown Airport. With this week's bill, we will be able to continue making these kinds of critical improvements at airports in Delaware and across our country.

I relatively rarely get to fly, but I commute virtually every day back and forth from Wilmington, DE, to Washington, and I ride on Amtrak when I do so. Today, ridership levels are at a record high, and Delaware's region in the Northeast corridor brings in \$300 million in profits alone. So it is good this bill maintains Amtrak's national operations and investments in its capital needs, but I believe we need to do more. We need to step up and do more federally to invest if we want to keep these results, not just in the Northeast but across the country.

We have a more than \$6 billion backlog to reach a state of good repair for Amtrak. As our bridges, tunnels, and rail lines get older and older, fixing them will only become more expensive. That is why I intend to offer an amendment to this bill to further increase our investment in the capital needs of Amtrak. This is critical. It is something we need, and we need to start chipping away at this long overdue debt we have, this unaddressed infrastructure debt, if we are going to continue to serve our communities.

There are many other great provisions in these incredibly broad bills that are of national and international importance. Let me just briefly reference a few.

At home manufacturing continues to be critical to our economy and our future, and biomanufacturing plays an increasingly important role; the manufacturing of products and materials from renewable sources, from plant-based sources rather than petrochemicals. For the first time, through this bill, we will dedicate \$15 million to the National Science Foundation's budget for new biomanufacturing initiatives that will allow us to deploy in the marketplace new inventions and innovations.

Our competitors aren't holding back on doing so. Countries from the United

Kingdom to China are ramping up their investments in new biomanufacturing. In my view it is time for the United States to refocus our research, to reprioritize our investments, and to stay competitive in this vital field.

Finally, I am proud these appropriations bills also support in the housing area funding for Community Development Block Grant—CDBG—Programs. We used them when I was in county government in Delaware to help rehabilitate homes, to help provide for affordable homes, and to help strengthen and sustain jobs in our communities.

In 2013, so-called CDBG, or Community Development Block Grants, helped 225 families. Some in this body have tried to cut CDBG, but I am thrilled we have been able to successfully move forward and sustain its support in this bill.

While we invest at home, these appropriations bills also make important investments abroad. One I would like to briefly highlight is in our international food aid program, where we feed millions but can do more. This bill provides for flexibility of our food aid that will allow it to be delivered more efficiently, more quickly, and to feed more who hunger around the world.

As businesses also look abroad from the United States, we are doing more to open new markets for them. One of the investments I most value that is in this bill in this regard is the expansion of the Foreign Commercial Service at the Department of Commerce—in particular, its expansion in Africa, where 7 out of 10 of the fastest growing economies in the world are currently growing but where the United States isn't doing enough to take advantage of these burgeoning export markets for our products.

As chair of the African Affairs Subcommittee, I have had a chance to see up close the great opportunities for growth and partnership that Africa offers. There will be four new Foreign Commercial Service offices in Angola, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Mozambique, as well as expansion in Kenya, Ghana, Morocco, and Libya. Now we can make investments in them jointly so our growing partnerships in the Sub-Saharan countries I listed can thrive.

As I close, I also make one brief point about why this whole process is important—why we need to pass these appropriations bills rather than just continuing resolutions, which go on from year after year, that sustain funding but do not engage the minds and skills of the Members of this body in doing oversight of the Federal Government.

As the Federal Government changes, as our Nation's needs change, we need to be able to ensure that our spending and our focus adapts as well. A great example from this particular minibill that is on the floor today is the Crude By Rail Safety Initiative. Within the last year there have been a number

of accidents on our rail networks that demand our action. America is moving more and more oil and hazardous products by rail every year, so we are putting in place an approach to do it safely.

The Department of Transportation and Transportation Secretary Foxx have done a great job responding with the resources and tools they have, but Congress needs to do more. That is why this bill adds 20 new rail and hazardous materials inspectors, adds \$3 million to ensure that oil routes are safe and sound, creates a new short-line safety institute, improves classifications, and extends training for first responders.

Without this appropriations bill and regular order, new and timely investments such as these that are responsive to conditions of the world wouldn't happen. Thus, if I might say in closing, while our economy changes, we need to change, and we need regular order and regular appropriations bills to be able to do that.

I again thank the chair and vice chair of the Appropriations Committee, Senators Mikulski and Shelby, for their leadership and their efforts to shepherd a bipartisan process forward. It is critical to our country, our economy, and our future.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to deliver my remarks in full.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the distinguished Senator BROWN be permitted to speak immediately following my remarks for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Thank you, Mr. President.

GUANTANAMO RELEASES

I rise today out of serious concern about the release of the five senior Taliban commanders detained at Guantanamo and the way in which the Obama administration has accomplished it.

These individuals that the Taliban successfully demanded the release of in exchange for SGT Bowe Bergdahl were some of the most dangerous terrorists in our custody. Some had close operational ties to Al Qaeda. Others perpetrated horrifying war crimes. All were senior leaders in the Taliban—a group with whom we remain at war.

These former detainees, the Taliban five, are only subject to a 1-year international travel ban. It seems shockingly unrealistic to expect that they will not seek to undo everything our brave men and women in uniform have fought and died for in Afghanistan.

However foolish, the prospect that we might release the most dangerous Guantanamo detainees has been a matter of national debate for some time. President Obama and his subordinates have long espoused a singular devotion to closing the detention facility at Guantanamo. Many of us in Congress have remained decidedly less sanguine about this longtime leftwing fantasy. We are wary of the dangers, inappropriateness, and oftentimes the impossibility of prosecuting battle-hardened terrorists in civilian court as if they were common criminals. We are frustrated by the procedural roadblocks to pursuing justice through military commissions. Above all else we are alarmed by the more than one in four released detainees who have apparently rejoined the fight. And unlike the administration, we have long been disabused of the notion that our enemies and perennial critics would somehow fall in love with America if we simply close Guantanamo.

With these concerns in mind, we exercised our rightful legislative authority under the Constitution to prevent the transfer of any further detainees out of Guantanamo. Nevertheless, the Obama administration bitterly opposed any release restrictions. Facing incessant and intense pressure from the administration to repeal our ban, Congress acted on a bipartisan basis to reach a compromise—a compromise that was extraordinarily generous to the administration's position.

Under the new law in effect—section 1035 of last year's National Defense Authorization Act—Congress must be notified 30 days before any detainee transfer. The notification must contain a detailed statement of the basis of transfer, an explanation of why the transfer is in the national security interests of the United States, and a description of the actions taken to mitigate the risks of detainees returning to the fight. Our subsequent funding legislation also banned the Obama administration from using any of the appropriated money to transfer detainees except in accordance with these agreed-upon procedures.

Despite this good-faith effort on the part of Congress to find common ground with the President, he chose to simply disregard his statutory obligations to inform Congress of this highly controversial release of the Taliban five. While we should celebrate the return of any American from Taliban captivity, the President's actions carry very troubling consequences.

When a lawmaker animatedly denounces the President's violation of a technical provision so wonky and seemingly unimportant as a statutory notification requirement, many Americans might understandably dismiss such a concern as a petty turf war—if their eyes don't glaze over first. Although perhaps intuitive, such an impression couldn't be more wrong.

First, notification requirements such as this one have proven critically beneficial to national security decision-making, particularly in the national security context. The most prominent example is our oversight of the intelligence community. For more than 30 years, prior congressional consultation has been a key foundation of ensuring effective policymaking on intelligence-gathering activities and covert operations.

On these incredibly sensitive and weighty issues, the executive branch is required to brief certain members of the legislative branch on all such proposed activities before they happen. The discussion of such highly classified information necessitates a strict observance of secrecy, which Congress has a long tradition of respecting. Discussions behind these closed doors provide the benefits of deliberation outside of the fishbowl of the ordinary policy process. In this setting concern about national security and the wisdom of the contemplated action dominate. Politics takes a back seat. The administration can modify or cancel proposed actions without the costs that attach to public policy pronouncements. And by assuaging our concerns before execution, the administration gets the congressional buy-in that is so necessary when these sorts of difficult decisions are taken.

Although the system certainly has its critics on all sides, I remain a passionate believer in its overall effectiveness. I should know: I served on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence longer than any other Republican ever has. For years I was intimately involved in this process and witnessed up close just how well it works to produce good policy. In the context of national security—an area in which our Nation regularly faces so many critical and difficult decisions—we need a well-functioning congressional oversight process to ensure our safety and security, now more than ever.

But even beyond improving an administration's national security decisionmaking, we should genuinely concern ourselves as a nation that formal restraints on power be observed by the coordinate branches of our government. Whether the administration agrees with the restrictions on its power to release Guantanamo detainees, those restrictions remain enshrined in a duly-enacted Federal statute, and the President remains obligated to take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

To ignore the law and the President's constitutional obligation to see that the law is enforced may seem enticing in an instance of apparent pressing need, but our Constitution provides no such authority.

Consider the wisdom of Justice Jackson in his seminal concurrence in the Steel Seizure case:

The appeal . . . that we declare the existence of inherent powers [out of necessity] to meet an emergency asks us to do what many think would be wise, although it is something the forefathers omitted. They knew what emergencies were. . . . [T]hey made no express provision for exercise of extraordinary authority because of a crisis. I do not think we rightfully may so amend their work, and, if we could, I am not convinced it would be wise to do so. . . .

Indeed, the central organizing principle of the Federal Government is the division of powers and authorities between the different branches. As a 21st-century American, it is far too easy to treat the separation of powers as a cliché confined to the civics classroom rather than a meaningful cornerstone of our liberty. But we should recall Madison's warning in *Federalist 47* that "[t]he accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny."

To disregard these central precepts of constitutional government is to vitiate the barriers protecting us from arbitrary government action and to undermine the rule of law.

We in the Congress should make no apology for zealously guarding the legal prerogatives of the body in which we serve, for, as Madison also warned in *Federalist 51*, "[T]he great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department consists in giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means and personal motives to resist encroachments of the others."

Nevertheless, out of respect for a coordinate branch of government, the Obama administration's arguments excusing its action in releasing these five dangerous Taliban detainees merits thoughtful consideration and analysis. I have never been shy about defending the powers of the President when exercised lawfully, no matter how unpopular. Nevertheless, such an examination of the Obama administration's explanations reveals not only the ridiculousness of its arguments but also demonstrates deeply concerning attitudes and priorities that guided the administration's action.

The Obama administration has advanced multiple distinct arguments about the legality of its move to release these senior Taliban leaders. Advancing multiple, sometimes contradictory arguments does not exactly instill confidence in the administration's commitment to its legal obligations. Some have been patently absurd, such as the suggestion from the White House Press Secretary that briefing Members of Congress more than 2 years ago about the potential for the detainee exchange constituted sufficient compliance with the detailed statutory

notification requirements for an actual decision to transfer.

I want to examine the two more sophisticated rationales advanced by the administration because it is in the details of these arguments that my gravest concerns arise.

First, I want to consider the National Security Council spokeswoman's written statement to the press asserting that "Congress did not intend that the Administration would be barred from taking the action it did in these circumstances."

Trying to read Congress's mind when interpreting the law, as the administration purports to do, has always struck me as absolutely absurd. Article I of our Constitution creates a legislative process that today includes 536 different individuals. To assume the existence of a single intent among so many different minds—all with different interests, different purposes, different philosophies, and different methods—runs counter to basic logic, not to mention the theory of representative government at the foundation of our Constitution. This notion that we should be governed by easily manipulated arguments about what Congress supposedly would have wanted long justified the hijacking of the law to undermine the clear meaning of the text.

Fighting this abuse of the law and the Constitution has animated so much of my work over the past 38 years. We have made enormous progress in reestablishing the bedrock principle that we are governed not by vague claims about intent but, rather, by the words themselves—words that have a fixed and discernible meaning, with the power to bind us all—including the President. I will continue to fight for this principle as long as I have the honor to serve our people in this country.

In this light, a proper reading of the detainee transfer and release notification requirements includes no such exception that the Obama administration imagines exists. We should always be skeptical of arguments assuming unwritten exceptions to laws, and here the relevant factors counsel strongly against assuming such an exception into existence.

The statute uses strong universally applicable language: "the Secretary of Defense shall notify"; "each notification shall include, at a minimum"; "the Secretary of Defense may transfer . . . only if" and the like.

The text of the provision is particularly detailed. This detail, especially when read in conjunction with the numerous other incredibly detailed provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act and its many predecessors—many of which contained detailed exceptions—demonstrates that Congress is quite capable of creating exceptions to a provision like this one but instead actively chose not to include one here.

Finally, as had been clearly established, lawmakers were aware of the administration's desire to conduct exactly this sort of a transaction before the beginning of the legislative process. To assume such an exception, when the Congress was aware of the administration's desire and proffered need for such a provision but chose not to provide one, would completely undermine the notion that Congress has the power to choose its preferred policies by legislation.

Put another way, how could Congress have been clearer that no detainee transfers could be accomplished outside its established process? If Congress's bright-line rule can be wished away by the Obama administration in this case, when can the Congress act to establish a policy to which the administration cannot carve out exceptions—exceptions that destroy the very core of the law?

In advancing this rather ridiculous attempt to misconstrue the transfer and release notification requirements, the Obama administration is simply avoiding making their more controversial argument explicit. The administration's Pentagon General Counsel admitted as much last week.

This argument centers on the President's contention that "in certain circumstances" the transfer and release notification requirements "would violate constitutional separation of powers principles."

Other senior administration officials have made statements, albeit hesitantly, invoking the President's authority under the Constitution to disregard the statute. Although the administration attempts to cloak it in the complex obscurity of statutory construction, this is the real issue at hand.

As a threshold matter, the rule of law and the separation of powers both depend on the longstanding notion that an unconstitutional statute is no law at all. We should take the Obama administration's arguments about the constitutionality of the notification requirement as applied to the Taliban five trade very seriously.

When appropriate, I have defended the President's authority to act in contravention of certain statutes. And I absolutely stand by the positions I have taken before—no matter how unpopular they have sometimes been.

I feel it is incumbent upon me to lay out my case of why I am so disturbed by the administration's actions here not to deflect any charge of hypocrisy for personal benefit but because I feel so passionately about the Obama administration's overreach in this and so many other cases. To risk having these arguments dismissed without serious consideration of their merits would be unbearable. I feel compelled to lay out my case in some detail.

Here, the Obama administration's arguments fail on the administration's

own terms and in so doing demonstrate some disturbing trends at work within this administration.

Now, the Obama administration has not advanced the notion that the transfer and release notification requirements are always unconstitutional. Instead, the administration has been very careful to suggest that the notification requirements unconstitutional encumbered the executive branch because of the specific circumstances at issue in the Taliban five trade. The general terms of the Obama administration's rationale initially seemed potentially reasonable: that it feared Sergeant Bergdahl would be endangered unless the administration moved swiftly and secretly to make the trade, and compliance with the notification requirement would have prevented the President from exercising his lawful authority to order the detainee swap.

However, the logic of the administration's rationale falls apart under closer inspection of the two key factors that were cited as creating the specific circumstances in disregarding the statute: the need for swiftness and the need for secrecy.

First, the need for swift action. The Obama administration has—at various times—suggested that Sergeant Bergdahl's health was in rapid and accelerating decline to the point of necessitating immediate rescue, and that the Taliban would refuse to agree to Bergdahl's release unless the administration executed the trade quickly. After examining what evidence the administration provided us, a number of my colleagues from both parties, including the senior Senator from California, the chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, have expressed significant doubt about these claims.

But even if we accept the Obama administration's claims that there existed a need for swift action, that when faced with this realization, compliance with the 30-day notification requirement would have endangered the potential for recovering Sergeant Bergdahl, and that these are the sort of circumstances where the Constitution authorizes the executive branch to act in defiance of a notification requirement—even if we accept everything the administration suggests, their argument doesn't totally nullify the administration's obligations under the statutory notification requirement.

Under the administration's own logic that the notification requirement is not unconstitutional per se but, rather, only under certain circumstances, the executive branch still has a duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed. Thus, even if it is authorized to order a transfer or release of detainees in less than the 30 days mandated by the statute, the President remains obligated to comply as substantially

and faithfully as possible, mitigating any anticipated breach by keeping Congress abreast of negotiations and complying with the notification requirements as soon as any transfer decision is made or undertaken.

But that clearly is not the case here. Instead, we know from the statements of senior administration officials that the administration deliberately withheld notification from Congress until after the trade occurred—months after negotiations to make this trade resumed and intensified, weeks after the detainee transfer agreement with Qatar was signed, and days after the final decision itself was taken. Given that the administration accepts the constitutionality of the legality of the notification requirement generally, its actions represent a direct effort to undermine the obvious core purpose of the law: giving Congress the opportunity to raise its objections and lobby against an ill-advised release or transfer before it happens.

This is not maximally faithful compliance. This is outright flouting of the statute.

The administration, though, has also claimed a need for secrecy—specifically, that informing Congress would endanger the prospects for Sergeant Bergdahl's safe return. I take this concern for secrecy extraordinarily seriously, and I know that every one of my colleagues does as well. Preserving secrecy as not to endanger ongoing operations remains an absolutely vital cornerstone of congressional oversight of national security issues, and my long service on the intelligence committee engendered in me a particular appreciation for how necessary it is.

But administrations have for decades briefed Congress on extraordinarily sensitive matters. Take the Bin Laden raid. It is hard to think of an operation more sensitive than that. In both the Taliban five swap and the Bin Laden operation, the mission objectives as well as the safety of our troops would have both been completely unattainable if details leaked. Yet, even before the Bin Laden operation, the administration kept Congress regularly briefed as required by law, which is, to me, testament to the extraordinary resiliency of our oversight structure.

Even those of us who have long defended robust executive powers in the national security context have long asserted that:

The constitutional basis for withholding notification can only be invoked credibly, by its own terms, in very rare circumstances. A generalized fear that Congress might leak would not by itself suffice, because the same fear could be invoked equally from all [secret operations].

In the case at hand, the Obama administration accepts the constitutionality of congressional notification requirements in most circumstances. Yet it has also failed to articulate any

particular reason why notifying Congress would impose a particular problem when compared to other sensitive operations. But the implication that it did not notify Congress just because of a generalized fear of leaks not only disregards decades of successful congressional oversight of intelligence collection and covert operations but also makes an exceedingly radical argument that would give the President essentially arbitrary power to ignore what he acknowledges is a valid law.

In this case, though, the administration's actions wholly undermine the notion that there was an unusual secrecy concern at issue here. First, consider that the administration itself estimated that between 80 and 90 executive branch officials were told of the decision to release the Taliban five ahead of time—in an administration that leaks sensitive national security information like a sieve, but zero—zero—Members of Congress were informed.

The Secretary of Defense and his General Counsel even admitted that Justice Department lawyers were told of the upcoming trade for the very purpose of keeping even a few key Members of Congress in the dark. In light of the statutory requirement to notify just a key handful of Members of Congress, this situation appears flatly absurd and certainly inconsistent with maximally faithful compliance with the statute.

Furthermore, the administration had already discussed with Congress the potential for such a deal. They ran into bipartisan opposition, as expressed in the bipartisan letter of early 2012 signed by the top Democrat and top Republican on both the House and Senate intelligence committees. In response to that letter, media reports indicate that the then-Secretary of State and former Senator from New York promised the administration would pursue further congressional consultations before making the exchange. And in 2013 the White House Press Secretary responded to a question about trading Sergeant Bergdahl for Taliban detainees in stark terms promising: "We would not make any decisions about transfer of any detainees without consulting Congress."

So why the more than 2 years of radio silence from the Obama administration? Why the disregard of the Federal statute when the administration's arguments for doing so in this case are so disturbingly unconvincing? Why wait until after the decision could not be challenged before telling Congress?

After reviewing these events, the answer seems obvious. President Obama and his subordinates illegitimately chose not to inform Congress until after the decision was irrevocable because they knew that Congress would object. Two administration officials told Bloomberg News as much: The

failure to notify key Members of Congress in advance was a deliberate move to skirt opposition to releasing the five Taliban prisoners.

While the vigor of the Obama administration's defense of the deal has shocked many, it has not shocked me. To this President, this deal represents the apex of responsible winding down of the conflict in Afghanistan—not only in returning Sergeant Bergdahl but also in releasing the Taliban five, whom the administration has eagerly sought to release so often before.

Just take it from the majority leader who said he was “glad to get rid of these five people.” And for a President and an administration that have demonstrated endless reservoirs of faith in the goodwill of hostile forces abroad, there is also surely hope—no matter how ridiculous—that giving into the Taliban's demands will somehow inspire a renewed interest on the part of the Taliban in peace talks, as if that did anything but demonstrate how the Taliban's current tactics will get them concessions from the Obama administration.

President Obama has on many occasions announced very clear beliefs of our detention operations at Guantanamo, articulating a nearly religious conviction that detention of Taliban, Al Qaeda, and associated forces under the law of armed conflict is a beacon of this nation's evils to the world. And although the administration has faced immense political pressure to reconsider from many of us, I have absolutely no doubt President Obama intends on following through with his long-time, recently repeated promise to make every effort to close Guantanamo during his remaining time in office.

Many of my colleagues and I share a diametrically opposed view from the President's—one that is more focused on securing the stability of the Afghan Government that our men and women in uniform fought so hard to establish. But in our honest disagreements, President Obama only sees reflexive intransigence. On Guantanamo and on so many other matters, President Obama has proven himself unable to accept good-faith differences with those of us elected to a coordinate and coequal branch of government. This frustration has motivated the President to enact his agenda unilaterally. In doing so, he not only poisons the well of congressional oversight of sensitive national security matters, as troubling as that is, but also by arrogating power with casual disregard for the structural restraints of the Constitution, he stretches our longstanding laws and norms past the breaking point.

My allegiance to constitutional government and the rule of law compels me to stand up to this overreach by President Obama and the executive branch. I will continue to speak out

against what I strongly believe are serious instances of overreach by this administration—as I have already done on immigration, sentencing, education, Benghazi, and, of course, ObamaCare. I urge all of my colleagues to join me, for what is at stake is not just our rightful authority to get done what our constituents sent us here to do but also the very precepts at the core of our Constitution.

That is why I have joined my colleague, the junior Senator from Ohio, to cosponsor a resolution declaring that the Obama administration violated the statute and calling for an investigation into the matter. With all that is at stake, registering our objection in this way could not be more important.

Additionally, in light of these troubling events—which also involve the Justice Department, which should hold the separation of powers in the highest regard—I should note I found myself now unable to support the nomination of Peter Kadzik to be Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs. My deference to the administration's choice of appointees can only go so far, and I cannot support a nominee who has so persistently refused to share the Department's memos on the release of the Taliban five. Absent a real commitment from Mr. Kadzik and the Justice Department to respect Congress's role under the Constitution, I felt compelled to oppose his nomination.

On their own terms, the Obama administration violated the law by releasing the Taliban five—dangerous men who are sure to return to the fight. In doing so, he not only endangered the lives of our men and women in uniform but also jeopardized everything they fought and died for in Afghanistan. My commitment is to them and to the Constitution's division of powers and authorities amongst the coordinate and coequal branches of government which they fight to protect. These loyalties are what have compelled me to stand up to the Obama administration.

I urge all of my colleagues, regardless of party, to join me in this fight. Too much is at stake to let petty partisan concerns and blind political loyalty to the President take precedence over the weighty matters of national security and constitutional authority that are at stake, and especially when one considers how much this branch of government is being ignored on almost a daily basis by this out-of-control White House.

Democrats and Republicans have to put a stop to this, and they have to start standing up on these issues or we are in danger of losing the Constitution itself.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, yesterday I chaired, along with Congressman

SMITH, a Republican from New Jersey, the Congressional-Executive Committee on China. At this hearing, Terry Sefranek, a Clevelander actually from Brooklyn Heights, OH, a suburb of my city, submitted written testimony. The hearing was to address the concerns that American consumers, pet owners, farmers, and parents have about the safety of pet food, pet treats, processed chicken, and animal feed from China. Ms. Sefranek joined me then today on a call with some national press to talk about this issue. I wish to share briefly the actual words of Ms. Sefranek's testimony. She said:

In December of 2011, my little Sampson, a healthy, lively and hilarious fox terrier mutt was showing signs that he was not well. He seemed withdrawn, and his appetite was decreasing, and all he wanted was to drink water and urinate. His health rapidly decreased.

We took him to the veterinarian 3 times in the next two weeks. Finally, blood tests revealed horrible results. Sampson was in acute renal failure.

The Doc gave him intravenous fluids for six long, tormenting days. And then, the agonizing decision, the hardest, most heart-breaking decision. With my husband and children around us, I held my little buddy in my arms for the last time, as he was euthanized.

Ms. Sefranek continues:

One day during this time, I saw a local family on the news, holding up a bag of Waggin' Train Chicken Jerky Treats. Their dog had eaten them and died of renal failure a few weeks earlier. Their new little puppy was fed leftovers from the same bag—and became ill right away. As soon as they stopped the treats, he recovered.

I was floored. It was the exact same treat that Sampson had eaten; it has been his new favorite, and I was giving him them as a treat for about a month. I'm sure that was the only major change in his diet.

Sixty-two million households in this country have a pet. Americans raise 83 million dogs and 96 million cats whom, as is the case with my wife's and my dog Franklin, we treat, in many ways, as members of the family. That is why it is alarming that since 2007, the FDA has been aware of the deaths and illnesses of thousands of pets, but we still don't know what is causing it.

Last month the FDA said that reports of illnesses had increased to 5,600 pets, including 1,000 dog deaths, and now three human illnesses.

Pet owners shouldn't have to worry about the safety of the food they give their pets. When we go to a pet store, go to a grocery store and buy pet food, we shouldn't have to worry that pet food could actually endanger that dog's, that cat's health.

While no cause has been identified, the illnesses many think are linked to pet treats from China, which raises questions. If something says it is made in China, can we be assured that it is safe? If it says “made in the USA,” what exactly does that mean? Is everything being done to keep these pet treats safe?

Last year the USDA declared that China can export processed, cooked chicken into the United States. This paves the way for chicken sourced in the United States to be shipped to China for processing and then sold back to American consumers. While no such chicken has yet entered our shores, it is possible that very soon this processed chicken could end up on our dinner tables and in our school lunchrooms.

Researchers are exploring a possible link also between animal feed from China and the PEDv that has wiped out 10 percent of piglets—10 percent of our young pig population. It has been a year already and no definitive cause has been identified.

Americans want and require better answers. We want and require clearer labels and the peace of mind that the foods we import from the People's Republic of China are safe.

This is why I am introducing an amendment to the agriculture appropriations bill to ask the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture about the status of inspectors' visas to China and how many are currently inspecting there.

We heard in testimony yesterday an uncertainty from FDA and USDA about our ability to get the number of inspectors we need into China to inspect the processing of chickens in China. I urged the FDA to investigate and determine the cause of these pet illnesses and PEDv, and the companies to ensure the highest safety standards.

When we buy something that says "made in the United States of America," whether it is food for human consumption or whether it is processed food for our pets, we should be confident that food is actually made, processed, and put together in the United States of America. In our testimony yesterday, we couldn't quite be 100 percent sure that is the case.

A couple of things need to go on there. One, the packaging and the labeling needs to be believable and credible and it needs to be true. Second, those companies that import—it used to be that companies would produce in the United States with food safety rules we have in the United States—drug safety, food safety—customers, buyers, and supermarkets that buy this food with "made in the USA" labels knew that because we have a good FDA, because we have a good U.S. Department of Agriculture, because we have good food safety rules in our country—we knew that "made in the USA" was a label we could trust.

Then companies in this country began to do something in the last 20 years—especially since Congress passed Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China. Companies began to shut down production in places such as Rocky River and Maple Heights and

Garfield Heights and Brooklyn Heights, OH, and move that production to Wahan or Shihan or Beijing, or Shanghai, China, and then sell those products back to the United States. If companies are going to do that, costing our communities jobs in far too many cases, hurting families and workers who lose those jobs—if companies are going to do that, they need to be responsible in the production in those countries. They need to be responsible when pharmaceuticals are made in China by U.S. companies and then shipped back to the United States. Those pharmaceuticals need to be safe.

We know in the case of a drug called Heparin which people in Toledo, OH, took, and a number of people died from it. All over the country they took this drug. It was a blood thinner made in China by a company that, frankly, didn't know—couldn't reach back and determine and find out where all the ingredients for these drugs were made.

So there are a couple of points. One is whether it is dog treats, whether it is food that humans consume in our country or whether it is pharmaceuticals, our regulatory structure needs to make sure these are safe. If they are made in the United States, we are much more confident they are safe, because government rules and regulations in the United States—despite what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle always like to say about government regulation—we know our food supply is pretty darn good. But if companies are going to outsource that production, move it to China and then sell it back to the United States, we need these rules in place. We need these companies to be reliable and liable ultimately in what they are doing. So if a company is going to bring a drug into the United States—an American company producing in China and bringing it back to the United States—they are responsible for the contents, and they are responsible for the safety of those drugs. Their executives, those companies, should be liable if they are producing that food. Whether it is for human consumption or whether it is for pets or whether it is pharmaceuticals, all of that matters.

Americans, again, should not be worried about the safety of the food they put on the dinner table nor the safety of the pet food they give to their dogs and cats.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about children's health insurance, an issue we hear about periodically but not nearly enough and an issue that will fast become a critically important question before both bodies, the Senate especially, because of what could happen to the Children's Health Insurance Program, which we call at the State level the CHIP program, known more commonly in Washington as S-CHIP, one of the great advancements in health care in recent American history.

We can go back 25 or 50 years, and other than Medicare and Medicaid and maybe a few other examples, VA health care, children's health care has been a great success and I would say forthrightly a bipartisan success, but we need to keep it that way. I have a particular interest in this program because of the experience we have in Pennsylvania, as tens of thousands of families have benefited from the Children's Health Insurance Program that was signed into law and advocated strongly by my father when he served as the Governor of Pennsylvania. At the time Pennsylvania was a model for the country. This was the early 1990s I am talking about.

When he signed that bill into law, Pennsylvania became one of the largest States with a new Children's Health Insurance Program which then became a model for the Nation. Here is how that happened. In 1997, Congress passed the bipartisan Children's Health Insurance Program signed into law in August of 1997 by President Clinton. The original bill was cosponsored by the late Senator Ted Kennedy, from Massachusetts of course, and the Senator from Utah, still serving, Mr. HATCH.

They worked together, along with many others in a bipartisan fashion to produce important legislation for our children. Since that time this program has worked as a remarkable public-private partnership to deliver critical health care to children. So in addition to being bipartisan, it was public and private together.

Care such as well child visits, immunizations, physical and occupational therapy, home health care and medical equipment and more were all available for the first time for many families. So it helps children not only have health insurance and health coverage, but it helps them be well and to stay well over a long period of time, providing them with care they need and giving their parents something government does not do enough; it provides a measure of peace of mind to parents and to families.

In 2009, the President signed into law a bipartisan reauthorization of the

Children's Health Insurance Program. The most recent year of data indicates that CHIP covered over 8.1 million children over the course of a year. Consider that. With this program more than 8.1 million children have health care that would not have it any other way in the absence of this program.

Even with the progress we have made in providing new health insurance options in the last couple of years as a result of the Affordable Care Act, the rate of uninsured Americans overall is still over 13 percent. That is the lowest rate since 2008 but still too high. The rate of uninsured children is 9 percent, a much lower rate obviously than the overall rate but still too high.

CHIP has played an important role in increasing access to insurance for children. The Web site for the Pennsylvania program, which is www.chipcoverspakids.com, discusses several stories from Pennsylvania parents about how this Children's Health Insurance Program in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has helped one particular family, in this case, and many others. As you read the stories—here is one story. I will sum it up briefly. The CHIP program has been great.

So said one family member:

We know that this is quality insurance and we are finally able to sleep at night knowing that our kids can be seen by excellent pediatricians. I do not know what we would have done without CHIP. Now my children can play sports and go away to camp like other kids and if they get hurt, CHIP is there for them.

So said a parent. That is probably the best summation or the best recitation of all of the reasons it is so important to make sure we preserve the Children's Health Insurance Program and preserve the funding for it and preserve any strategy that will ensure that children have the health care they need.

So CHIP is always going to be there for those kids. That is what we need to make sure that we hold on to. I, similar to so many here and many in both parties, have consistently advocated for the Children's Health Insurance Program. I am pleased it has been authorized through fiscal year 2019. However—this is why I am standing here today. However, we were able only to secure funding through 2015. So the program is reauthorized to 2019 but funded only through fiscal year 2015.

That deadline is approaching. Now is the time to act, again in the right bipartisan way, to preserve the Children's Health Insurance Program. It is time to make sure we ensure that CHIP will continue to be funded through the authorization, at a minimum, through fiscal year 2019.

Senator ROCKEFELLER, one of the great champions of this program over many years now, decades literally, introduced legislation last week that I wholeheartedly support. That is an understatement. There is not a Senator in this Chamber who should not sup-

port his legislation, the CHIP Extension Act of 2014, S. 2461.

The legislation extends funding for CHIP through fiscal year 2019, bringing the funding in line with the authorization. I cannot stress enough the need to pass this legislation this year, pass this 2014 legislation that deals with this 2015 problem. State budget cycles are such that if we wait until next year, when the funding is about to expire, we will be jeopardizing health insurance for millions of American children.

States need time to plan their budgets and cannot operate under the uncertainty of a funding threat to such an important program. I thank Senator ROCKEFELLER for his tireless commitment to the Children's Health Insurance Program over many years—as I said, over several decades. I thank him for his work in introducing this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues in both parties to support Senator ROCKEFELLER's legislation, the CHIP Extension Act of 2014, S. 2461, to make sure children's health insurance will always be there for the children who are covered by that program.

In conclusion, this is very simple. We have people in both parties who have spent a lot of their careers saying how much they care about children. They give speeches, they campaign, they talk about kids. We all talk about kids in very positive ways. That is wonderful. But the test is how we act and what actions we take. That usually means how we vote. So if someone votes for this bill, they can stand and say they have taken a substantial step in the direction of ensuring that children will have the health care they need. If they do not, and they vote against it, I do not think they can say that.

If someone votes against it, I think they have to have a substitute for it, some measure that will provide the same coverage for the same number of children by a different method. If they cannot come up with that, they cannot stand and say they care for kids. They cannot stand and say they care about our children and their future.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PAY OUR GUARD AND RESERVE ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives with respect to H.R. 3230.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate a message from the House, as follows:

H.R. 3230

Resolved, That the House insist upon its amendment to the Senate amendment to the text of the bill (H.R. 3230) entitled "An Act making continuing appropriations during a Government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period.", and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

Ordered, That Messrs. Miller of Florida, Lamborn, Roe of Tennessee, Flores, Benishek, Coffman, Wenstrup, Mrs. Walorski, Mr. Michaud, Ms. Brown of Florida, Mr. Takano, Mses. Brownley of California, Kirkpatrick, and Mr. Walz, be the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate insist on its amendment, agree to the request for a conference with the House, and authorize the Chair to appoint conferees with a ratio of eight Democrats and six Republicans, with all of the above occurring with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BURR, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. RUBIO as conferees on the part of the Senate.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM PATENT

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor because the patent office has just ruled that the name of the Washington football team is not patentable because it is a slur. We are so excited to know that finally people are recognizing this issue can no longer be a business case for the NFL to use this patent. They will not be able to

forcefully exclude other people for having derivatives of this logo or the name, thereby putting a big dent in the business case the NFL has.

So many people have helped in this effort. I want to applaud them, from Senator REID and his leadership, to Amanda Blackhorse and Suzan Harjo. Those are the people who have been fighting this case before the patent office. To all of the people who have watched the video on changethemascot.org, a Web site that basically depicts why Native Americans want to be viewed as human beings and not a mascot, we want to thank all of them.

This is not the end of this case. But this is a landmark decision by the patent office that says the NFL team here in Washington, DC, does not have a patentable name, and that this is an offensive term, not patentable by the patent office.

I hope all the business decisions over there at the team will understand this is no longer a business case, and will get off of this spurious name that we need to change.

I thank my colleague in Maine for yielding me this opportunity to speak on this breaking important issue. I thank my colleagues here on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK LOVELESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the career of Chuck Loveless, director of Federal Government Affairs for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFSCME. For 21 years, Mr. Loveless has labored tirelessly to protect the rights of workers. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Loveless as he represented AFSCME in the Nation's capital on a wide variety of issues affecting State and local government and health care employees.

Mr. Loveless has a long list of accomplishments over the span of his career. He received his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and an M.A. degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a past chairman of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans' Public Employees Committee and of its Government Liaison Committee. He is a member of the International Foundation's Government Liaison Committee and Health Care Expert Panel. Mr. Loveless is a former chair of Americans for Tax Fairness and of Americans United for Change, and he continues to serve on the latter's board. He is also a member of the board of Citizens for Tax Justice.

On behalf of the Senate, I commend Chuck Loveless on a lifetime of public service, and I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING NELDA BARTON-COLLINGS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, it is with great grief and a heavy heart that I report to my fellow Senators the passing of Mrs. Nelda Barton-Collings. A native of my home State, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Nelda was an accomplished businesswoman, a dedicated public servant, and a joy to all of those who have had the pleasure of knowing her. She died in her home last Friday at the age of 85.

Nelda was born and raised in Providence, KY, and she graduated from college just a few counties over at Western Kentucky University. After graduation she began what was to be a successful career in business. Among her many achievements, she expanded her family's nursing home business by opening new homes across the State and founded several community banks that were eventually consolidated into the Lexington-based Forcht Bank.

Nelda's pursuits were not limited to business ventures, however. She exhibited a passion for public service and was heavily involved in the Republican Party throughout her life. She was the first woman to chair the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, and she served for 28 years as Kentucky's Republican National Committeewoman. She worked tirelessly to better the lives of her fellow Kentuckians—a quality that elevated her to the national stage. In 1980, she spoke at the Republican National Convention, and in 1996, she called to order that year's convention.

Word of Nelda's dedication to public service reached all the way to the Oval Office, and she was appointed to the Federal Council on Aging and the Council for International Affairs during President Ronald Reagan's administration, as well as President George H.W. Bush's Council on Rural America.

At this time, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in paying tribute to the wonderful life of Nelda Barton-Collings. She will be deeply missed. The Lexington Herald-Leader recently published an obituary for Mrs. Barton-Collings. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, June 14, 2014]

NELDA BARTON-COLLINGS, LEADER IN BUSINESS AND REPUBLICAN POLITICS, DIES IN CORBIN AT 85

(By Jack Brammer)

Nelda Barton-Collings, who served 28 years as Republican National Committeewoman for Kentucky and was the first woman to be chair of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, died Friday at her home in Corbin. She was 85.

Her death elicited comments from several of Kentucky's top Republican officials.

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell of Louisville said, "As a pioneer in business and politics

in Kentucky, Nelda was a fantastic force for good and gave the state she loved a lifetime of service. Her determination to improve our Commonwealth and nation was outmatched only by her charm and benevolent optimism."

U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers of Somerset said Barton-Collings "was a woman ahead of her time, pioneering new avenues in the business world and proclaiming her dedication to conservative principles."

"She captivated crowds with her dynamic personality and Southern charm, yet took the time to guide and mentor individuals of all ages and social status."

State Senate President Robert Stivers of Manchester called Barton-Collings "a true stateswoman who, until the end, battled for the betterment of Kentucky" and said her legacy will be her "passion for public service and her determination to improve the Commonwealth."

State House Majority Leader Jeff Hoover of Jamestown said Barton-Collings' "compassion and dedication to improving the lives of all Kentuckians through her public service is an example that more of us should strive to follow."

A native of Providence in Webster County, Barton-Collings was a successful businesswoman in banking, nursing homes, newspapers and other small-business ventures in partnership with Terry Forcht.

Besides her involvement with the Republican National Committee, she was a delegate to several Republican national conventions.

Barton-Collings also was a member of President Reagan's Federal Council on Aging and Council for International Affairs and President George H.W. Bush's Council on Rural America.

Her portrait hangs in the Kentucky Capitol for a Kentucky Women Remembered Award by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights.

Visitation will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the O'Neil Lawson Funeral Home in Corbin.

Services will be at Grace on the Hill United Methodist Church in Corbin at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

Donations may be made in her honor to Hospice of the Bluegrass.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE MCBRIDE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, Senator VITTER and I wish to recognize and honor Charlie McBride, a native son of Louisiana who has given so much of his time and energy towards the goal of educating this Nation's youth in civic and community responsibility. Through his service and commitment to the Close Up Foundation, Charlie has led an organization that for the past 43 years has significantly impacted and provided citizenship education to nearly 800,000 high school and middle school students and educators from around the country and U.S. Territories. On behalf of the Senate and the State of Louisiana, we, as former Close Up participants applaud Charlie for his devotion to Close Up and the civic education of our youth.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, as you know, Close Up is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that promotes responsible participation in our democratic process. Its mission is to inform,

educate, and inspire students to exercise the rights and accept the responsibilities of being a citizen in our democracy. Through experiential civic education programs based in Washington, DC, and other local communities, and publication of classroom resources to help educators teach students about public policy issues, Close Up impacts the lives of students every day.

Both of us are testament to the profound impact these programs have on our youth, as we participated in the Close Up program in its early years, an experience that incited our first thoughts of a career in public service. We commend and congratulate Close Up on its important work.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Charlie McBride is no stranger to public policy. He worked for 12 years on personal and committee staffs in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Since then, as a government relations and business consultant, he has represented a myriad of clients in virtually every policy field, for which he is known and well-respected by our colleagues. His experiences have instilled in him a strong appreciation of the need for knowledgeable and thoughtful citizens, particularly in our legislative processes. For this reason, he has enthusiastically embraced Close Up's efforts to develop an informed, effective, and responsible citizenry among this Nation's youth.

Mr. VITTER. Charlie was first introduced to Close Up in 1974 when he was chief of staff for Senator Bennett Johnston and helped secure funding for the Allen J. Ellender Fellowships that served to provide support for economically disadvantaged students and teachers to participate in Close Up programs. After working closely with Close Up for many years, he joined its board of directors in 1988 and has served as the vice chairman for the past 10 years. During his service, Charlie has provided leadership and assisted Close Up in its relations with Members in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Ms. LANDRIEU. We are proud that Louisiana students and teachers have participated in Close Up programs since the organization's inception and that a good friend and fellow Louisianan has contributed so much time and effort to this great organization. Thanks to people like Charlie, students are provided the unique opportunity to learn about our government by meeting lawmakers, representatives of public interest groups, journalists, and people from all branches of government, and to understand how they can make a positive contribution through participation in our democracy. Charlie's presence at Close Up will be sorely missed. We are privileged to formally recognize Charlie's commitment and efforts to this great endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO JEFFREY HOWARD

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I wish to pay special tribute to Jeffrey R. Howard, a key member of my staff on the Select Committee on Intelligence for his distinguished service to the Senate. Jeffrey will leave us shortly to join the new office being opened by Ionic Security in Maryland, where he will serve as the chief technology officer's chief of staff. I am honored to have the opportunity to publicly thank Jeffrey and note my appreciation for his outstanding service to the Select Committee on Intelligence during the past 4 years.

Since becoming the vice chairman of the committee in 2011, I have often relied upon Jeffrey's impressive technical expertise and teamwork skills on a wide range of oversight issues. He has provided us with his expert advice in matters relating to science, technology, and engineering, including cybersecurity, oversight of the National Security Agency, and information technology programs.

Jeffrey is well known on the Hill and by the private sector as one of the leading congressional staff experts on cybersecurity legislative issues. He has worked tirelessly with my team to develop and negotiate legislative proposals consistent with my strong desire to get an effective cybersecurity information sharing bill enacted into law. During the 112th Congress, Jeffrey was a crucial participant in the negotiations that led the ranking members of eight Senate committees to co-sponsor S. 2151 and S. 3342, the Strengthening and Enhancing Cybersecurity by Using Research, Education, Information, and Technology Act of 2012, more commonly known as "SECURE IT." During this Congress, Senator FEINSTEIN and I have been working very hard to develop a bipartisan cybersecurity information sharing bill that we believe will be well-received by the private sector and our colleagues in the Senate and the House of Representatives. We are finally quite close to being able to mark up our cybersecurity information sharing bill and Jeffrey played an integral role every step of the way.

Jeffrey even has a superpower—he has the ability to translate extremely complicated technical topics into clear and concise explanations that can be used to solve difficult, real-world problems. He is also the undisputed staff champion at documenting the extent of his oversight efforts. He has filed more memoranda for the record during his tenure than half of the professional staff members combined. I dare say that Jeffrey may know more about the National Security Agency than some of the senior executives who have served there. Jeffrey's inexhaustible work ethic and sound judgment have made him an indispensable member of the committee staff and an invaluable resource to other congressional commit-

tees. His sly wit and good humor make him a pleasure to work with. He is the consummate team player who improves the performance of everyone around him.

My colleagues and I trust Jeffrey's judgment implicitly. His dedicated public service and exceptional day-to-day performance on the job have earned our respect and admiration, and it inspired a generation of staff who had the privilege to work alongside him. There is no doubt that Jeffrey has a bright future at Ionic Security; however, should the right opportunity present itself, I would strongly encourage my Senate colleagues to entice him back into public service. We will miss Jeffrey deeply, but his legacy will remain a part of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NORMA LOVE

● Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Norma Love—a venerable Associated Press reporter who is retiring at the end of the month after a long career covering government and politics in the Granite State.

Norma's name is well-known to anyone in New Hampshire who has picked up a newspaper in the past three decades. She started in the AP's Concord bureau 31 years ago, and she has covered the statehouse for 29 of those years—spanning the administrations of seven Governors.

It was at the statehouse where I first had the privilege of meeting Norma. We crossed paths on more times than I can count during my years in the attorney general's office. Whenever Norma called, I always knew that I would be talking to a consummate professional who holds herself to the highest standards of journalism.

Norma understands that journalists have a responsibility to ask tough questions. She has always taken a firm—but fair—approach to her reporting, and that is why she is so deeply respected by public officials on both sides of the aisle.

Norma could have been a reporter anywhere in the country, but she chose New Hampshire. During her decades of diligent reporting, she has been a witness to history—chronicling the people and places of her adopted State. While much has changed in the Granite State, and in newsrooms, since Norma arrived at the AP, her commitment to excellence in journalism has never wavered.

The people of New Hampshire are so fortunate that Norma Love has been asking hard questions on their behalf for the past 31 years. Norma brings tremendous credit to the profession that she loves, and she will leave behind big

shoes to fill in the statehouse press room.

I am pleased to join with Norma's colleagues and many friends in wishing her the very best as she makes this transition and looks to new horizons. As we thank her for her many years of dedicated reporting, we send her every good wish for a long, full, and happy retirement.●

BOONE COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Boone County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Boone County worth over \$5.7 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$7.3 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the community's tremendous success in obtaining more than \$3.3 million from the Federal Aviation Administration for improvements to the airport. As a strong supporter of small community airports, I have long fought for funding from programs that support service to small communities and infrastructure support to keep these airports modern.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Central Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects

including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Boone County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Boone County, I have fought for funding for more than \$5.9 million in Defense Department funds for Iowa Thin Film Technology, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Boone County has received \$339,299 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Boone County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$194,051.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Boone County has received more than \$2.5 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Boone County's fire departments have received over \$699,392 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Boone County has recognized this important issue by securing \$236,000.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Boone County, both those with and without disabilities.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Boone County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Boone County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

BLACK HAWK COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic

development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Black Hawk County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Black Hawk County worth over \$98 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$196 million to the local economy.

Of course, my favorite memories of working together range from supporting a wide array of programs at the University of Northern Iowa, funding construction of the Avenue of the Saints and US-63, improving Waterloo's sewer treatment system, and cleaning up and developing blighted brownfield areas to create a tech jobs corridor.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northeast Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Black Hawk County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Black Hawk County, I have fought for over \$100 million to construct the Avenue of the Saints, \$10 million to improve US-63, \$35 million to improve Waterloo's sewer system, and more than \$1.9 million for the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields, helping

to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Waterloo and Cedar Falls to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Black Hawk County has earned \$440,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Black Hawk County has received over \$7 million in Harkin grants. In addition, since 2001, I have helped to provide more than \$80 million in Federal funds to the University of Northern Iowa, including support for projects such as a transit hub, the National Ag-Based Lubricants Center, Project SOAR, and many others.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted

by the devastating floods of 2008. Black Hawk County has received over \$22.9 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as the methamphetamine epidemic. Cities in Black Hawk County received over \$2.3 million in Community Oriented Policing Services and Byrne Justice Assistance Grants. Since 2001, Black Hawk County's fire departments have received over \$1.6 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Black Hawk County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$4 million to support the People's Community Health Clinic.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Black Hawk County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Black Hawk County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET LOUISE CARTER

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize someone who people in my State know very well; someone who for more than three decades has been an inspiring leader and a tireless advocate for children, the elderly and the disabled. She is also a close friend who has never been shy in using her

formidable voice to let me know how we can do more to help those in need.

Margaret Louise Carter may be poised for retirement, but that does not mean she is going to stop adding to an impressive list of accomplishments and building on her legacy of hard work and determined advocacy.

Margaret Carter is a true force of nature. A single mother of nine, she graduated from Portland State University with a B.S. in education. She later earned her Master's in Educational psychology from Oregon State University, which led to a career as teacher and counselor at Portland Community College.

Out of concern for the most vulnerable in her northeast Portland neighborhood, she used her compassion, natural leadership ability and tenacity to win a seat in the Oregon House of Representatives in 1984, becoming the first African-American woman elected to the Oregon State Legislature.

She did not stop there. She went on to serve in the Oregon Senate, as chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon, became president and CEO of the Urban League of Portland and president of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women. She helped establish the Job Skills Center for Portland Community College's Cascade Campus, where the Technology Education Building was renamed in her honor, making it the first building in PCC's 50 year history to be named after a woman.

Margaret accomplished many notable things while in office, including, but not limited to, helping create a permanent Head Start program in Oregon, co-sponsoring a bill to create parity for mental health services, establishing a State holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and co-founding the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps.

While Margaret may be leaving the world of work, those of us who know her know that there is no way she is leaving the world of community involvement. Whether it is advocating for affordable home-ownership options for low to moderate-income families, organizing a kids choir to perform at community events, or entertaining friends with a singing voice that is just as strong as her personality, you can rest assured that Margaret will be there.

After a life of service to others, it is fitting that Margaret is retiring from her position at the Oregon Department of Human Services. It is with great pride, both personally and professionally, that I extend my congratulations to Margaret Louise Carter. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the

following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 43. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Red River Avenue North in Cold Spring, Minnesota, as the "Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 1216. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center".

H.R. 1391. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the "London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 1458. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

H.R. 1671. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, as the "James 'Jim' Kohnen Post Office".

H.R. 1707. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the "James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 1865. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

H.R. 2112. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the "National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg Wenzel Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 3375. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

H.R. 3472. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gorniewicz Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 3682. An act to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1961 Premier Drive in Mankato, Minnesota, as the "Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic".

H.R. 3765. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the "Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building".

H.R. 3786. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska.

H.R. 3998. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

H.R. 4199. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Waco, Texas, as the "Doris Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

H.R. 4360. An act to designate the facility of the United States Forest Service for the Grandfather Ranger District located at 109 Lawing Drive in Nebo, North Carolina, as the "Jason Crisp Forest Service Building".

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 37. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol in commemoration of the Shimon Peres Congressional Gold Medal ceremony.

The message further announced that the Clerk of the House of Representatives request the Senate to return to the House the bill (H.R. 4412) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

At 4:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the bill (H.R. 3230) making continuing appropriations during a Government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period, and be it further, that the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the aforementioned bill, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message further announced that the House insist upon its amendment to the Senate amendment to the text of the bill (H.R. 3230) making continuing appropriations during a Government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period, and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon and that Messrs. Miller of Florida, Lamborn, Roe of Tennessee, Flores, Benishek, Coffman, Wenstrup, Mrs. Walorski, Mr. Michaud, Ms. Brown of Florida, Mr. Takano, Ms. Brownley of California, Kirkpatrick, and Mr. Walz, be the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 43. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Red River Avenue North in Cold Spring, Minnesota, as the "Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1216. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1391. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the "London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1458. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick,

New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1671. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, as the "James 'Jim' Kohnen Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1707. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the "James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1865. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2112. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the "National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3375. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3472. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3682. An act to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1961 Premier Drive in Mankato, Minnesota, as the "Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3765. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the "Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3786. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3998. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 4199. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Waco, Texas, as the "Doris Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2491. A bill to protect the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to reconciliation involving changes to the Medicare program.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2491. A bill to protect the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to reconciliation involving changes to the Medicare program; read the first time.

By Mr. SCOTT:

S. 2492. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase access for the uninsured to high quality physician care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2493. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Red River Avenue North in Cold Spring, Minnesota, as the "Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2494. A bill to expedite applications to export natural gas, to require the public disclosure of liquefied natural gas export destinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 478. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for the Republic of Moldova's territorial integrity; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 315

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to reauthorize and extend the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Amendments of 2008.

S. 1056

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1056, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. 1184

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1184, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include information on the coverage of intensive behavioral therapy for obesity in the Medicare and You Handbook and to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1349, a bill to enhance the

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. LANDRIEU for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Suzette M. Kimball, of West Virginia, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey.

*Norman C. Bay, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2018.

*Estevan R. Lopez, of New Mexico, to be Commissioner of Reclamation.

*Monica C. Regalbuto, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

*Cheryl A. LaFleur, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2019.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2486. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to establish salary thresholds for and limitations on executive, administrative, and professional employees and address highly compensated employees, for purposes of the requirements for exemption from the Federal minimum wage and maximum hour provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 2487. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase the maximum loan limits under the microloan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 2488. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exception to the exclusive use requirement for home offices if the other use involves care of a qualifying child of the taxpayer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WALSH:

S. 2489. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that sufficient funding is made available for the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2490. A bill to include a question to ascertain United States citizenship and immigration status in each questionnaire used for a decennial census of population, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1368

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1368, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of volunteer income tax assistance for low-income and underserved populations, and for other purposes.

S. 1622

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1885

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1885, a bill to place conditions on assistance to the Government of Burma.

S. 1998

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1998, a bill to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to reserve funds for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Tribal College or University adult education and literacy.

S. 2020

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2020, a bill to set forth the process for Puerto Rico to be admitted as a State of the Union.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2187

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2187, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program.

S. 2220

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2220, a bill to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State.

S. 2291

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2291, a bill to require that Peace Corps volunteers be subject to the same limitations regarding coverage of abortion services as employees of the Peace Corps with respect to coverage of such services, and for other purposes.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2325

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2325, a bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to provide for the expansion of emergency planning zones and the development of plans for dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel, and for other purposes.

S. 2392

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2392, a bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

S. 2440

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2440, a bill to expand and extend the program to improve permit coordination by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

S. 2476

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2476, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that prohibit certain preferential treatment or prioritization of Internet traffic.

S. 2483

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2483, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 462

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 462, a resolution recognizing the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters of Cambodia and Laos for supporting and defending the United States Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia and for their continued support and defense of the United States.

S. RES. 469

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 469, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the May 31, 2014, transfer of five detainees from the detention facility at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

AMENDMENT NO. 3246

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3246 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2486. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to establish salary thresholds for and limitations on executive, administrative, and professional employees and address highly compensated employees, for purposes of the requirements for exemption from the Federal minimum wage and maximum hour provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2486

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Restoring Overtime Pay for Working Americans Act".

SEC. 2. SALARY THRESHOLDS, HIGHLY COMPENSATED EMPLOYEES, AND PRIMARY DUTIES.

(a) SALARY THRESHOLDS FOR EXECUTIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.—Section 13 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting before "; or" the following: "; subject to the requirement that any employee whom the Secretary determines is required to be paid on a salary (or equivalent fee basis) in order to be exempt under this subsection shall, in order

to be so exempt, receive compensation at a rate of not less than the salary rate (or equivalent fee basis) determined under subsection (k)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(k) SALARY RATE (OR EQUIVALENT FEE BASIS).—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The salary rate (or equivalent fee basis) determined under this subsection for purposes of subsection (a)(1) shall be—

"(A) beginning 1 year after the first day of the first month that begins after the date of enactment of the Restoring Overtime Pay for Working Americans Act, \$665 per week;

"(B) beginning 2 years after such first day, \$865 per week;

"(C) beginning 3 years after such first day, \$1,090 per week; and

"(D) beginning on the date that is 4 years after such first day, and on such first day in each succeeding year, an adjusted amount that is—

"(i) not less than the amount in effect under this paragraph on the day before the date of such adjustment;

"(ii) increased from such amount by the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers; and

"(iii) rounded to the nearest multiple of \$1.00.

"(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), for any employee for whom the minimum wage would otherwise be determined pursuant to section 8103(b) of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note), the Secretary may determine, through regulations, the salary rate (or equivalent fee basis).

"(1) PRIMARY DUTY.—In any case where an employer classifies an employee as an employee employed in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity, for the purpose of subsection (a)(1), or in a position described in subsection (a)(17), for the purpose of such subsection, such employee shall not spend more than 50 percent of such employee's work hours in a workweek on duties that are not exempt under paragraph (1) or (17) of subsection (a), respectively.

"(m) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

"(1) ANNUAL PERCENTAGE INCREASE.—The term 'annual percentage increase', when used in reference to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, means the annual percentage increase calculated by the Secretary by comparing such Consumer Price Index for the most recent month, quarter, or year available (as selected by the Secretary prior to the first year for which a minimum wage is in effect pursuant to this subsection) with such Consumer Price Index for the same month in the preceding year, the same quarter in the preceding year, or the preceding year, respectively.

"(2) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR URBAN WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS.—The term 'Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers' means the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (United States city average, all items, not seasonally adjusted), or its successor publication, as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics."

(b) HIGHLY COMPENSATED EMPLOYEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Labor, in the discretion of such Secretary, determines that an employee may be exempt for purposes of section 13(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(a)(1)), as a highly compensated employee (as such

term is defined and delimited by the Secretary), then the level of total annual compensation necessary for such exemption shall be—

(A) beginning 1 year after the first day of the first month that begins after the date of enactment of this Act, \$108,000;

(B) beginning 2 years after such first day, \$116,000;

(C) beginning 3 years after such first day, \$125,000; and

(D) beginning on the date that is 4 years after such first day, and for each succeeding calendar year, an adjusted amount that is—

(i) not less than the amount in effect under this paragraph on the day before the date of such adjustment;

(ii) increased from such amount by the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers; and

(iii) rounded to the nearest multiple of \$1.00.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection or the regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Labor under this subsection shall override any provision of a collective bargaining agreement that provides for overtime employment compensation, or rights to such compensation, that exceed the requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the terms "annual percentage increase" and "Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers" have the meanings given the terms in section 13(m) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(m)), as added by subsection (a).

(c) PUBLICATION OF NOTICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days before the effective date of any adjustment in the salary rate (or equivalent fee basis) required under section 13(k)(1)(D) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(k)(1)(D)), as added by subsection (a), or any adjustment in the amount of compensation required for the highly compensated employee exemption required under subsection (b), the Secretary of Labor shall publish, in the Federal Register and on the website of the Department of Labor, a notice announcing the adjusted salary rate (or equivalent fee basis) or adjusted amount of compensation, respectively.

(2) NONAPPLICABILITY OF RULEMAKING REQUIREMENTS.—The provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to any notice required under this subsection.

(d) PENALTIES.—Section 16(e)(2) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216(e)(2)) is amended by inserting "or section 11(c), relating to the records that each employer is required to make, keep, and preserve," after "relating to wages,".

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the first day of the first month that begins after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. 2488. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exception to the exclusive use requirement for home offices if the other use involves care of a qualifying child of the taxpayer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2488

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Working Parents Home Office Act".

SEC. 2. EXCEPTION TO THE EXCLUSIVE USE REQUIREMENT FOR HOME OFFICES FOR CARE OF CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 280A(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(7) EXCEPTION TO EXCLUSIVITY REQUIREMENT FOR BUSINESS USE OF A DWELLING UNIT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A taxpayer shall not be treated as failing to meet the exclusive use requirement of paragraph (1) with respect to a portion of a dwelling unit if the only other use of that portion is to care for a qualifying child of the taxpayer while the taxpayer is conducting the trade or business described in paragraph (1).

"(B) QUALIFYING CHILD.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'qualifying child' has the meaning given to such term by section 152(c)(1), except that only individuals bearing a relationship to the taxpayer described in section 152(c)(2)(A) shall be taken into account under section 152(c)(1)(A)."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

By Mr. SCOTT:

S. 2492. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase access for the uninsured to high quality physician care; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, one of the greatest issues impacting the American health care system is the lack of access to high quality care for the uninsured. According to a 2012 CBO study, 26-27 million people will not have health insurance in 2016, with other studies suggesting that number may be closer to 30 million. Recent data from the Health Resource and Services Administration, HRSA, shows that close to 20 percent of Americans live in areas with an insufficient number of primary care physicians. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, AAMC, it is expected that there will be a shortage of 45,000 primary care physicians in the US by 2020, further limiting access to care.

An immediate way to improve access to high quality health care for the uninsured is to engage the physician community to provide greater levels of charity care. Currently, there is little incentive for physicians to provide charity care outside of their normal scope of practice, and the percentage of physicians providing charity care has been in a state of steady decline. Due to reimbursement changes over the years, physicians are currently forced to maintain a certain amount of private, Medicare, and Medicaid insured patients in order to ensure their practices can remain profitable. This often

leaves no opportunity to care for patients who lack insurance and who are often the most vulnerable and sick.

The Charity Care Expansion Act would create a much needed incentive for doctors to deliver uncompensated care, thereby improving and expanding access to care for the uninsured.

The bill amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and allows for physicians to have a tax deduction for the taxable year at an amount equal to the amount the physician would have otherwise been paid.

For example, if Medicare would have reimbursed at \$100 for a service, the physician would be able to deduct for \$100. None of the deduction amounts would be arbitrary.

To qualify for the tax deduction, the bill would require physicians to have a pre-existing relationship with a health care clinic or another organization providing health care which is targeted to serve low income individuals. Through this coordination, the patient would be placed into the healthcare system with follow ups and health care professionals to see, instead of getting lost in the system after treatment. This would also prevent the use of the tax deduction as a tool to write off bad debt.

The limitations on the deduction are 10 percent of gross income of the taxpayer for the taxable year derived from the taxpayer's provision of physicians' services. For retired physicians, no more than a \$10,000 deduction would be allowed.

While I am still waiting for a cost estimate on the bill, I repeal the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, PHHSBG, which was included in the President's budget as a recommended cut, to provide an offset.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 478—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO ENHANCED RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND SUPPORT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 478

Whereas the United States has enjoyed good relations with the Republic of Moldova since the Republic of Moldova's independence in 1991;

Whereas, since the Republic of Moldova's independence, the United States has provided financial assistance to support the efforts of the people of the Republic of Moldova to build a prosperous European democracy;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Moldova further strengthened their

partnership through the launching of a Strategic Dialogue on March 3, 2014;

Whereas the Republic of Moldova is due to sign an Association Agreement containing comprehensive free trade provisions with the European Union on June 27, 2014;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Moldova made extraordinary efforts to comply with the criteria for an Association Agreement with the European Union, including significant legislative reforms to improve the rule of law and curtail corruption;

Whereas the United States Government supports the democratic aspirations of the people of the Republic of Moldova and their expressed desire to deepen their association with the European Union;

Whereas the United States supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and, on that basis, participates as an observer in the "5+2" negotiations to find a comprehensive settlement that will provide a special status for the separatist region of Transnistria within the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation banned the import of Moldovan wine in 2013 and has threatened to ban Moldovan agricultural products, curtail the supply of energy resources to the Republic of Moldova, and impose stricter labor migration policies on the people of the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation maintains a contingent of Russian troops and a stockpile of Russian military equipment and ammunition within the Moldovan region of Transnistria;

Whereas the Government of Russia has been actively issuing Russian passports to the residents of the Transnistria region in the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Government of the Republic of Moldova have called upon the Government of the Russian Federation to remove its troops from the territory of the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas authorities in the Republic of Moldova's Transnistria region have restricted the access of OSCE Mission to Moldova monitors to the Transnistria region, thereby preventing the Mission from providing impartial reporting on the security situation in the region;

Whereas the House of Representatives and the Senate both passed, by an overwhelming majority, and the President signed into law the Act relating to "United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions", approved April 3, 2014 (Public Law 113-96; 22 U.S.C. 6211 note), providing for a United States international broadcast programming surge to counter misinformation from Russian-supported news outlets and ensuring that Russian-speaking populations in Ukraine and Moldova have access to independent news and information; and

Whereas Moldova has been a valued and reliable partner in promoting global security by participating in United Nations peacekeeping missions in Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, Georgia, and Kosovo: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms that it is the policy of the United States Government to support the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and the inviolability of its borders;

(2) supports the Strategic Dialogue as a means to strengthen relations between the

Republic of Moldova and the United States and to enhance the democratic, economic, and security reforms already being implemented by the Republic of Moldova;

(3) encourages the President and the Secretary of State to enhance United States cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Moldova and civil society organizations and to focus assistance on rule of law, anti-corruption efforts, energy security, and promoting trade and investment opportunities;

(4) supports increased educational exchanges between the United States and the Republic of Moldova;

(5) encourages the President to expedite the implementation of the Act relating to "United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions", approved April 3, 2014 (Public Law 113-96; 22 U.S.C. 6211 note), especially because it relates to populations in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova;

(6) affirms the Republic of Moldova's sovereign right to determine its own partnerships free of external coercion and pressure, and affirms the Republic of Moldova's right to associate with the European Union and any other regional organization;

(7) urges the European Union to continue to work for greater political, economic, and social integration with the Republic of Moldova;

(8) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to fulfill its commitments made at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) 1999 summit in Istanbul to withdraw its military forces and munitions from within the internationally recognized territory of the Republic of Moldova;

(9) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to refrain from economic coercion against the Republic of Moldova and to cease support for separatist movements on the territory of the Republic of Moldova;

(10) supports constructive engagement and confidence-building measures between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the authorities in the Transnistria region in order to secure a peaceful, comprehensive resolution to the conflict that respects the Republic of Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity;

(11) urges officials in the Transnistrian region to allow OSCE Mission to Moldova monitors unrestricted access to that region;

(12) urges all parties to refrain from unilateral actions that may undermine efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution, as well as the agreements already reached, and encourages leaders of the Transnistrian region to resume negotiations toward a political settlement; and

(13) affirms that lasting stability and security in Europe is a key priority for the United States Government which can only be achieved if the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all European countries is respected.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3250. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3251. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3252. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3253. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3254. Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3255. Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3256. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3257. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3258. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3259. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3260. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3261. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3262. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. COATS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3263. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. REID) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3264. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and in-

tended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3265. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3266. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3267. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3268. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3269. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3270. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3271. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3272. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3273. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3274. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3275. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3276. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3277. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3278. Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3279. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3280. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3281. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3282. Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. HELLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3283. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3284. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3285. Mr. WALSH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3286. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3287. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3288. Mr. REID (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1237, to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes.

SA 3289. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3250. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 146, line 23, strike "\$1,000,000" and insert "\$3,000,000".

On page 172, line 25, strike "and" and insert ", and shall be available for".

SA 3251. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 387, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

(3) The Secretary shall provide a waiver to exempt any school from the whole grain requirements referred to paragraph (1) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives from a school written notification that the school would encounter a hardship in complying with those whole grain requirements if the school identifies the hardship is due to increased costs or difficulty procuring the necessary items.

SA 3252. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 298, beginning on line 22, strike “not to exceed” and all that follows through the end of line 24 and insert “not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be available for necessary expenses of a Healthy Food Financing Initiative to be carried out by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service; not to exceed \$25,120,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which \$24,311,000”.

SA 3253. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act—

(1) the total amount made available under the heading “JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS” under the heading “OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE” in this title shall be \$294,500,000; and

(2) the amount made available for youth mentoring grants under paragraph (2) under the heading “JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS” under the heading “OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE” in this title shall be \$90,000,000.

(b) The amounts appropriated under this title (except for amounts appropriated for the purposes described in subsection (a)(2)) shall be reduced on a pro rata basis by the amount necessary to reduce the total amount of such spending by \$37,000,000.

SA 3254. Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 148, line 4, strike “(a)” and all that follows through line 22.

SA 3255. Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment

intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 156, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 143. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to administer the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s National Roadside Survey.

SA 3256. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 101, strike lines 7 through 16 and insert the following:

SEC. 528. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheik Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to the custody or control of any foreign country or entity of any detainee described in subsection (a) if—

(1) such detainee has been recommended for continued law-of-war detention by the Guantanamo Review Task Force;

(2) such country or entity is a country or entity to which any individual who was detained at United States Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, after September 11, 2001, was transferred and such transferee was subsequently confirmed to have engaged in any terrorist activity; or

(3) such country has not fully honored its commitments to the United States to monitor, detain, or control the travel of individuals formerly detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

SA 3257. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. **PROHIBITION OF FUNDS FOR COLLEGE RATING SYSTEM.**

None of the funds made available under this Act or any other Act shall be used to carry out (including develop, refine, promulgate, publish, implement, administer, or enforce) a Postsecondary Institution Ratings System or any other performance system to rate institutions of higher education.

SA 3258. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act shall be used by the National Labor Relations Board to promulgate, administer, enforce, or otherwise implement any rule or decision expanding or otherwise modifying an employer’s legal obligation—

(1) to provide a labor organization with a list of names and home addresses of employees eligible to vote in a labor organization representation election under section 9 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 159), in accordance with the National Labor Relations Board’s decision in Excelsior Underwear, Inc. (156 N.L.R.B. 1236 (1966)); or

(2) to enable labor organizations to electronically communicate with employees, in accordance with the rights of such employees under section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 157).

SA 3259. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

PROTECTING STATE CONTROL OVER ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS, AND ASSESSMENTS

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act or any other Act shall be used by the Department of Education or any other Federal agency—

(1) to mandate, direct, control, or exercise any direction or supervision over the academic content standards or academic achievement standards adopted or implemented by a State;

(2) to establish any criterion that specifies, defines, or prescribes the standards or measures that States or local educational agencies use to establish, implement, or improve State academic content standards, State academic achievement standards, or State assessments;

(3) to establish any direct or indirect requirements that States or local educational agencies adopt any particular academic standards or assessments, including any academic standards or assessments developed by a partnership of States; or

(4) to require or incentivize a State to enter into a partnership with another State or States to develop or implement academic content standards, academic achievement standards, or assessments, including—

(A) as a condition of approval of a State plan submitted under section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6331 et seq.);

(B) as a condition of an award of Federal funds under any grant, contract, or cooperative agreement;

(C) by awarding any additional points or providing any preference in competitive grant programs; or

(D) as a condition of approval of any request for waivers of requirements under any provision of Federal law.

SA 3260. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ (a) Section 1311(c)(5) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18031(c)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor, submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the authorizing committees of jurisdiction of the Senate and the House of Representatives and make available to State governors, State insurance commissioners, and the public, reports concerning consumer interactions with the Internet website maintained by the Federal Government for health insurance coverage (healthcare.gov or any subsequent Internet site (or sites) that is established in whole or in part by the Federal Government to facilitate enrollment in qualified health plans, the receipt of advance premium tax credits or cost sharing reduction assistance, or comparisons of available qualified health plans) and any efforts undertaken to remedy problems that impact taxpayers and consumers, such reports—

“(i) to be submitted not later than—

“(I) the first Monday after the date of enactment of this subparagraph; and

“(II)(aa) except during the period between November 15, 2014, and February 15, 2015, the first Monday of each month thereafter through December 2015 (or the next business day when Monday occurs on a Federal holiday); and

“(bb) during the period between November 15, 2014, and February 15, 2015, each Monday (or the next business day when Monday occurs on a Federal holiday); and

“(ii) to include a State-by-State break down of—

“(I) the number of unique website visits;

“(II) the number of individuals who create an account;

“(III) the number of individuals who have selected a qualified health plan;

“(IV) the number of individuals who enrolled in Medicaid, and, of such number, the number who became eligible to enroll because of changes in eligibility effected under this Act and the number who otherwise were eligible to enroll;

“(V) the number of individuals who have effectuated enrollment in a qualified health

plan through payment of the first monthly premium;

“(VI) the age of individuals who have effectuated enrollment in a qualified health plan through payment of the first monthly premium;

“(VII) the number of enrollees in each zip code; and

“(VIII) the level of coverage obtained.”.

(b) Section 1311(i) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18031(i)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF LIST OF NAVIGATORS.—Not later than 5 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall make available to Congress, State attorneys general, State insurance commissioners, and the public a list of all navigators and certified application counselors that have been trained and certified by Exchanges, including contact information for all navigator entities and their partner organizations, including subcontractors. Such list shall be updated by the Secretary on a monthly basis through December 31, 2015.”.

(c) Section 1312(e) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18032(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following flush sentence: “Not later than 5 days after the date of the enactment of this sentence, the Secretary shall make available on the Internet website maintained by the Federal Government for health insurance coverage (healthcare.gov or any subsequent Internet site (or sites) that is established in whole or in part by the Federal Government to facilitate enrollment in qualified health plans, the receipt of tax credits or cost sharing reduction assistance, or comparisons of available qualified health plans) a list of all agents and brokers who have been trained and certified by the Federal Exchange, including their name, business address (if available), and phone number. Such list shall be updated on a monthly basis through December 31, 2015.”.

SA 3261. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 275, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

SEC. 247. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this title may be used by any recipient of such funds to discriminate against any person because that person is a member of the uniformed services.

(b) Any person or entity, acting in good faith, that has knowledge of any instance in which a recipient of funds under this title has discriminated or is discriminating against a member of the uniformed services may file a complaint against such recipient with the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term “member of the uniformed services” means an individual who—

(1) is a member of—

(A) the uniformed services (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code); or

(B) the National Guard in State status under title 32, United States Code; or

(2) was discharged or released from service in the uniformed services (as so defined) or the National Guard in such status under conditions other than dishonorable.

(d) Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit the use or availability of any funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this title for programs, activities, or accounts that assist or provide housing to members of the uniformed services.

SA 3262. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. COATS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to approve a new foreign air carrier permit under sections 41301 through 41305 of title 49, United States Code, or an exemption application under section 40109 of that title of an air carrier already holding an air operators certificate issued by a country that is party to the U.S.–E.U.–Iceland–Norway Air Transport Agreement where such approval would contravene United States law or Article 17 bis of the U.S.–E.U.–Iceland–Norway Air Transport Agreement.

SA 3263. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. REID) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 142, after line 21, add the following:

SEC. ____ It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Interstate Route 11 would significantly enhance for the western United States—

- (A) commerce;
- (B) tourism;
- (C) international trade;
- (D) economic vitality; and
- (E) competitiveness on the global stage;

(2) Interstate Route 11 would connect communities and economic systems in the States of Arizona and Nevada, including—

- (A) the 2 largest cities in the United States without an Interstate connection;
- (B) major trade hubs;
- (C) existing and future domestic and international deep-water ports; and
- (D) transcontinental roadways and railroad corridors;

(3) Interstate Route 11 would improve safety and travel time in north-south corridors of the western United States;

(4) the establishment of Interstate Route 11 from the southern border of the State of

Arizona through the State of Nevada and, ultimately, to the Canadian border would enhance the economic vitality of the western United States; and

(5) the States of Arizona and Nevada, metropolitan planning organizations (as defined in section 134(b) of title 23, United States Code), and other local leaders and stakeholders should be encouraged to continue their efforts to advance the Interstate Route 11 project.

SA 3264. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 324, line 17, insert before the period at the end the following: “: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$2,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to reduce the backlog of undetermined wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region, with funds divided proportionately among States based on the number of undetermined wetlands in each State as of the date of enactment of this Act, and made available in addition to any other funds for this purpose”.

SA 3265. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. No funds made available under this Act may be used to create or operate a checkpoint that exclusively targets motorcycle operators and motorcycle passengers.

SA 3266. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 7 _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation or the Risk Management Agency to carry out a downward trending adjustment on the actual production history of a producer with respect to the yield of a perennial crop, including peaches, the yield of which is determined under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) using a 5-year database.

SA 3267. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII of division _____, add the following:

SEC. _____. To expedite emergency feed assistance that is needed to address emergency drought conditions in any State, the Secretary of Agriculture shall complete all requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) that are necessary to make emergency haying and grazing decisions on acres enrolled under a contract for the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.) in a State, not later than 30 days after receiving such a request.

SA 3268. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to negotiate an agreement that includes a waiver of requirements under chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code (popularly known as the “Buy American Act”).

SA 3269. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. **NO BUDGET, NO PAY.**

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Member of Congress”—

(1) has the meaning given under section 2106 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) does not include the Vice President.

(b) TIMELY APPROVAL OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.—If both Houses of Congress have not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget as described under section 301 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632) for a fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year and have not passed all the regular appropriations bills for the next fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year, the pay of each Member of Congress may not be paid for each day following that October 1 until the date on which both Houses of Congress approve a concurrent resolution on the budget for that fiscal year and all the regular appropriations bills.

(c) NO PAY WITHOUT CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds may be appropriated or otherwise be made available from the United States Treasury for the pay of any Member of Congress during any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (d).

(2) NO RETROACTIVE PAY.—A Member of Congress may not receive pay for any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (d), at any time after the end of that period.

(d) DETERMINATIONS.—

(1) SENATE.—

(A) REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.—On October 1 of each year, the Secretary of the Senate shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate for certification of determinations made under subparagraph (B) (i) and (ii).

(B) DETERMINATIONS.—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (b) and whether Senators may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Senators may not be paid under subsection (b); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Secretary of the Senate.

(2) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(A) REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.—On October 1 of each year, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives for certification of determinations made under subparagraph (B) (i) and (ii).

(B) DETERMINATIONS.—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (b) and whether Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under subsection (b); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on February 1, 2015.

SA 3270. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to promulgate or enforce any regulation that mandates the installation or use of an event data recorder in a light duty, noncommercial, passenger motor vehicle.

SA 3271. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Directors of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

- (1) the amount of money expended by FirstNet since its establishment under section 6204 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-96);
- (2) a description of FirstNet's cumulative accomplishments; and
- (3) a timetable for deploying a functioning nationwide, interoperable, public safety broadband network.

SA 3272. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to regulate, adopt guidelines with respect to, or prescribe the design of mobile application software (apps), devices, or other mobile connected vehicle technologies, except for software whose primary purpose is integral to the operation of a motor vehicle.

SA 3273. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Section 127 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) **NATURAL GAS VEHICLES.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall issue regulations to allow a vehicle, if operated by an engine fueled primarily by natural gas, to exceed any vehicle weight limit under this section by an amount that is equal to the difference between—

- “(1) the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle; and

“(2) the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system.”.

SA 3274. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 718 of division ____, strike “SEC. 718. None of the funds” and all that follows through the end of paragraph (1) and insert the following:

SEC. 718. (a) There is appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture, out of funds of the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$12,000,000 to carry out section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012).

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out the following:

- (1) The biorefinery, renewable chemical, and biobased product manufacturing assistance program established under section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103) in excess of \$38,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation for fiscal year 2015.

SA 3275. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 153, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

SEC. 134. COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE SKILLS TESTING REPORT.

(a) **STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to determine—

(A) the Commercial Driver's License (referred to in this section as “CDL”) skills testing procedures used by each State;

(B) whether States using the procedures described in paragraph (2)(A) have reduced testing wait times, on average, compared to the procedures described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2);

(C) for each of the 3 CDL skills testing procedures described in paragraph (2)—

(i) the average time between a CDL applicant's request for a CDL skills test and such test in States using such procedure;

(ii) the failure rate of CDL applicants in States using such procedure; and

(iii) the average time between a CDL applicant's request to retake a CDL skills test and such test; and

(D) the total economic impact of CDL skills testing delays.

(2) **SKILLS TESTING PROCEDURES.**—The procedures described in this paragraph are—

(A) third party testing, using nongovernmental contractors to proctor CDL skills tests on behalf of the State;

(B) modified third party testing, administering CDL skills tests at State testing facilities, community colleges, or a limited number of third parties; and

(C) State testing, administering CDL skills tests only at State-owned facilities.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress that contains the results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

SA 3276. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 157, line 24, strike “\$1,390,000,000” and insert “\$1,620,000,000”.

SA 3277. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 115, line 9, insert “: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall use up to \$1,500,000 of the amounts made available under this heading to increase the number of projects published in the Federal Infrastructure Projects Permitting Dashboard” before the period at the end.

SA 3278. Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to limit or prohibit the use of wood boards for cheese aging or ripening on an industry-wide basis before the Commissioner of Food and Drugs ensures that the public has an opportunity to review and comment on the policy of the Food and Drug Administration regarding good handling practices for cheese aging and the use of wood boards for cheese aging and ripening, including public comment on the relative economic impact of such use, and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs reports to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives on the agency's consideration of public review and comment.

SA 3279. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for

other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Bureau of the Census to conduct the 2020 decennial census of population unless the questionnaires used for such census include questions to ascertain United States citizenship and immigration status.

SA 3280. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds made available under this Act may be used to carry out Operation Choke Point.

SA 3281. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act shall be used to enforce the amendments to section 801 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381) made by section 708 of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-144; 126 Stat. 1068) or to implement subsection (d) of such section 708 (21 U.S.C. 381 note).

SA 3282. Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. HELLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act shall be used to provide housing assistance benefits for an individual who is convicted of aggravated sexual abuse under section 2241 of title 18, United States Code, murder under section 1111 of title 18, United States Code, an offense under chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, or any other Federal or State offense involving sexual assault, as defined in 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13925(a)).

SA 3283. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and

Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Federal Housing Administration to reduce the mortgage insurance premiums charged and collected under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.) for the insurance of mortgages.

SA 3284. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 529A. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used to construct, modify, or operate facilities at Thomson Correctional Facility, Illinois, for purposes of any operations of the Department of Defense at such facilities.

SA 3285. Mr. WALSH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Justice or the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives may be used, with respect to registered medicinal marijuana patients in the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin, to enforce the provisions of subsection (d)(3) or (g)(3) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code, against a registered medicinal marijuana patient based on either the status of the patient as a registered medicinal marijuana patient or the lawful use of medicinal marijuana under the laws of the State in which the patient resides.

SA 3286. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 7, line 11, strike "\$252,200,000" and insert "\$242,761,000".

On page 7, line 17, strike "\$896,744,000" and insert "\$863,183,000".

On page 12, line 4, strike "\$685,000,000" and insert "\$673,583,000".

On page 12, line 14, strike "\$156,000,000" and insert "\$153,400,000".

On page 12, line 15, strike "\$141,000,000" and insert "\$138,650,000".

On page 12, line 17, strike "\$15,000,000" and insert "\$14,750,000".

On page 13, line 1, strike "\$59,000,000" and insert "\$58,017,000".

On page 23, line 16, strike "\$115,000,000" and insert "\$110,000,000".

On page 45, line 20, strike "\$1,149,500,000" and insert "\$1,216,500,000".

On page 45, line 22, strike "\$376,000,000" and insert "\$443,000,000".

On page 68, line 18, strike "\$5,200,000,000" and insert "\$5,198,836,000".

On page 69, line 19, strike "\$551,100,000" and insert "\$550,977,000".

On page 70, line 8, strike "\$580,200,000" and insert "\$580,070,000".

On page 70, line 22, strike "\$4,367,700,000" and insert "\$4,366,722,000".

On page 70, line 24, strike "\$1,200,000,000" and insert "\$1,199,731,000".

On page 71, line 1, strike "\$2,051,300,000" and insert "\$2,050,841,000".

On page 71, line 6, strike "\$1,700,000,000" and insert "\$1,699,619,000".

On page 71, line 7, strike "\$351,300,000" and insert "\$351,221,000".

On page 72, line 3, strike "\$805,000,000" and insert "\$804,820,000".

On page 72, line 4, strike "\$311,400,000" and insert "\$311,330,000".

On page 72, line 19, strike "\$3,830,800,000" and insert "\$3,829,942,000".

On page 73, line 6, strike "\$108,000,000" and insert "\$107,976,000".

On page 74, line 1, strike "\$2,778,600,000" and insert "\$2,777,978,000".

On page 74, line 11, strike "\$446,100,000" and insert "\$446,000,000".

SA 3287. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 67, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

SEC. 221. (a) Subsection (a) of section 104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (5) and inserting "; and", and by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

"(6) amounts received pursuant to—
“(A) section 1201 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796); or

“(B) a program established under the laws of any State which provides monetary compensation for surviving dependents of a public safety officer who has died as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty.”.

(b) The amendments made by this section shall apply to amounts received after December 31, 2011.

SA 3288. Mr. REID (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the

bill S. 1237, to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning on page 63, strike line 14 and all that follows through page 75, line 22.

On page 75, line 23, strike "8" and insert "7".

On page 76, line 6, strike "9" and insert "8".

Beginning on page 77, strike line 12 and all that follows through page 78, line 17.

On page 78, line 18, strike "11" and insert "9".

On page 79, line 3, strike "12" and insert "10".

On page 79, line 18, strike "13" and insert "11".

On page 80, line 8, strike "14" and insert "12".

SA 3289. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available under this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin, to prevent such States from implementing their own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on June 24, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Falling Through the Cracks: The Challenges of Prevention and Identification in Child Trafficking and Private Re-homing."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Ashley Eden of the committee staff on (202) 224-9243.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on June 24, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Moving Toward Greater Community Inclusion—Olmstead at 15."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Danielle

Corley of the committee staff on (202) 224-2330.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 18, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, "Aggressive E-Cigarette Marketing and Potential Consequences for Youth".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 18, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 18, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 18, 2014, at 2:15 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled "U.S. Policy in Afghanistan and the Regional Implications of the 2014 Transition."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 18, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The Intelligence Community: Keeping Watch Over Its Contractor Workforce."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 18, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 18, 2014, at 3 p.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office building to conduct a hearing entitled "Growing Small Business Exports, Growing U.S. Jobs."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 18, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF THE CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oversight of the Clean Air and Nuclear Safety of the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 18, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Climate Change: The Need to Act Now."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITIES, INSURANCE, AND INVESTMENT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 18, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "High Frequency Trading's Impact on the Economy."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 18, 2014, at 2:15 p.m., in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Reduction in Face-to-Face Services at the Social Security Administration."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Bob Ross and

Nicole Pollard, detailees from the Department of Agriculture to the Committee on Appropriations, be granted floor privileges during the consideration of H.R. 4660.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OMNIBUS TERRITORIES ACT OF 2013

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 352, S. 1237.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1237) to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Omnibus Territories Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Amendments to the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.
- Sec. 4. Study of electric rates in the insular areas.
- Sec. 5. Reports on estimates of revenues.
- Sec. 6. Low-income home energy assistance program.
- Sec. 7. Guam War Claims Review Commission.
- Sec. 8. Improvements in HUD assisted programs.
- Sec. 9. Benefit to cost ratio study for projects in American Samoa.
- Sec. 10. Waiver of local matching requirements.
- Sec. 11. Fishery endorsements.
- Sec. 12. Effects of Minimum Wage differentials in American Samoa.
- Sec. 13. Office of National Drug Control Policy.
- Sec. 14. Drivers’ licenses and personal identification cards.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT.

Section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America’, and for other purposes”, approved March 24, 1976 (Public Law 94–241; 90 Stat. 263, 122 Stat. 854), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “December 31, 2014, except as provided in subsections (b) and (d)” and inserting “December 31, 2019”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (6), and inserting the following:

“(6) CERTAIN EDUCATION FUNDING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to fees charged pursuant to section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356 (m)) to recover the full costs of providing adjudication services, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall charge an annual supplemental fee of \$150 per nonimmigrant worker to each prospective employer who is issued a permit under subsection (d) of this section during the transition

program. Such supplemental fee shall be paid into the Treasury of the Commonwealth government for the purpose of funding ongoing vocational educational curricula and program development by Commonwealth educational entities.

“(B) PLAN FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.—At the beginning of each fiscal year, and prior to the payment of the supplemental fee into the Treasury of the Commonwealth government in that fiscal year, the Commonwealth government must provide to the Secretary of Labor, a plan for the expenditure of funds received under this paragraph, a projection of the effectiveness of these expenditures in the placement of United States workers into jobs, and a report on the changes in employment of United States workers attributable to prior year expenditures.

“(C) REPORT.—The Secretary of Labor shall report to the Congress every 2 years on the effectiveness of meeting the goals set out by the Commonwealth government in its annual plan for the expenditure of funds.”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the third sentence of paragraph (2), by striking “not to extend beyond December 31, 2014, unless extended pursuant to paragraph 5 of this subsection” and inserting “ending on December 31, 2019”;

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

SEC. 4. STUDY OF ELECTRIC RATES IN THE INSULAR AREAS.

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN.—The term “comprehensive energy plan” means a comprehensive energy plan prepared and updated under subsections (c) and (e) of section 604 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations for certain insular areas of the United States, and for other purposes”, approved December 24, 1980 (48 U.S.C. 1492).

(2) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—The term “energy action plan” means the plan required by subsection (d).

(3) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term “Freely Associated States” means the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

(4) INSULAR AREAS.—The term “insular areas” means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) TEAM.—The term “team” means the team established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, within the Empowering Insular Communities activity, establish a team of technical, policy, and financial experts—

(1) to develop an energy action plan addressing the energy needs of each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States; and

(2) to assist each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States in implementing such plan.

(c) PARTICIPATION OF REGIONAL UTILITY ORGANIZATIONS.—In establishing the team, the Secretary shall consider including regional utility organizations.

(d) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—In accordance with subsection (b), the energy action plan shall include—

(1) recommendations, based on the comprehensive energy plan where applicable, to—

(A) reduce reliance and expenditures on fuel shipped to the insular areas and Freely Associated States from ports outside the United States;

(B) develop and utilize domestic fuel energy sources; and

(C) improve performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency;

(2) a schedule for implementation of such recommendations and identification and prioritization of specific projects;

(3) a financial and engineering plan for implementing and sustaining projects; and

(4) benchmarks for measuring progress toward implementation.

(e) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary establishes the team and annually thereafter, the team shall submit to the Secretary a report detailing progress made in fulfilling its charge and in implementing the energy action plan.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report submitted by the team under subsection (e), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a summary of the report of the team.

(g) APPROVAL OF SECRETARY REQUIRED.—The energy action plan shall not be implemented until the Secretary approves the energy action plan.

SEC. 5. REPORTS ON ESTIMATES OF REVENUES.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(1) evaluates whether the annual estimates or forecasts of revenue and expenditure of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the Virgin Islands are reasonable; and

(2) as the Comptroller General of the United States determines to be necessary, makes recommendations for improving the process for developing estimates or forecasts.

SEC. 6. LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

With respect to fiscal years 2014 through 2017, the percentage described in section 2605(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8624(b)(2)(B)(i)) shall be 300 percent when applied to households located in the Virgin Islands.

SEC. 7. IMPROVEMENTS IN HUD ASSISTED PROGRAMS.

Section 214(a)(7) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 1436a(a)(7)) is amended by striking “such alien” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “citizen or national of the United States shall be entitled to a preference or priority in receiving assistance before any such alien who is otherwise eligible for such assistance.”.

SEC. 8. BENEFIT TO COST RATIO STUDY FOR PROJECTS IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study regarding the use of benefit-to-cost ratio formulas by Federal departments and agencies for purposes of evaluating projects in American Samoa.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study, the Comptroller General shall—

(1) assess whether the benefit-to-cost ratio formulas described in subsection (a) take into consideration—

(A) the remote locations in, and the cost of transportation to and from, American Samoa; and

(B) other significant factors that are not comparable to locations within the 48 contiguous States; and

(2) assess, in particular, the use of benefit-to-cost ratio formulas by—

(A) the Secretary of Transportation with respect to airport traffic control tower programs; and

(B) the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Corps of Engineers, with respect to a harbor project or other water resources development project.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study.

SEC. 9. FISHERY ENDORSEMENTS.

Section 12113 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) CERTAIN EXEMPTION.—Paragraph (3) of subsection (a) shall not apply to any vessel—

“(1) that offloads its catch in part or full in American Samoa; and

“(2) that was rebuilt outside of the United States before January 1, 2011.”.

SEC. 10. EFFECTS OF MINIMUM WAGE DIFFERENTIALS IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

Section 8104 of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) EFFECTS OF MINIMUM WAGE DIFFERENTIALS IN AMERICAN SAMOA.—The reports required under this section shall include an analysis of the economic effects on employees and employers of the differentials in minimum wage rates among industries and classifications in American Samoa under section 697 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, including the potential effects of eliminating such differentials prior to the time when such rates are scheduled to be equal to the minimum wage set forth in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).”.

SEC. 11. OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY.

(a) CARIBBEAN BORDER COUNTERNARCOTICS STRATEGY.—The Office of National Drug Control Policy shall develop a biennial Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy, that is made available to the public, with emphasis on the borders of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States, on terms substantially equivalent to the existing Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy and the Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy.

(b) AMENDMENT.—Section 704(b)(13)(B) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1703(b)(13)(B)) is amended by inserting “the borders of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States and” after “in particular”.

SEC. 12. DRIVERS' LICENSES AND PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

(a) DEFINITION OF STATE.—Section 201(5) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note; Public Law 109-13) is amended by striking “the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.”.

(b) EVIDENCE OF LAWFUL STATUS.—Section 202(c)(2)(B) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note; Public Law 109-13) is amended—

(1) in clause (viii), by striking “or” after the semicolon at the end;

(2) in clause (ix), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(x) is a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau who has been admitted to the United States as a non-immigrant pursuant to a Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Republic or Federated States.”.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered, the Murkowski amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3288) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To remove certain sections.)

Beginning on page 63, strike line 14 and all that follows through page 75, line 22.

On page 75, line 23, strike “8” and insert “7”.

On page 76, line 6, strike “9” and insert “8”.

Beginning on page 77, strike line 12 and all that follows through page 78, line 17.

On page 78, line 18, strike “11” and insert “9”.

On page 79, line 3, strike “12” and insert “10”.

On page 79, line 18, strike “13” and insert “11”.

On page 80, line 8, strike “14” and insert “12”.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1237), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1237

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Omnibus Territories Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

Sec. 3. Amendments to the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

Sec. 4. Study of electric rates in the insular areas.

Sec. 5. Reports on estimates of revenues.

Sec. 6. Low-income home energy assistance program.

Sec. 7. Improvements in HUD assisted programs.

Sec. 8. Benefit to cost ratio study for projects in American Samoa.

Sec. 9. Fishery endorsements.

Sec. 10. Effects of Minimum Wage differentials in American Samoa.

Sec. 11. Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Sec. 12. Drivers' licenses and personal identification cards.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT.

Section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America’, and for other purposes”, approved March 24, 1976 (Public Law 94-241; 90 Stat. 263, 122 Stat. 854), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “December 31, 2014, except as provided in subsections (b) and (d)” and inserting “December 31, 2019”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (6), and inserting the following:

“(6) CERTAIN EDUCATION FUNDING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to fees charged pursuant to section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356 (m)) to recover the full costs of providing adjudication services, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall charge an annual supplemental fee of \$150 per nonimmigrant worker

to each prospective employer who is issued a permit under subsection (d) of this section during the transition program. Such supplemental fee shall be paid into the Treasury of the Commonwealth government for the purpose of funding ongoing vocational educational curricula and program development by Commonwealth educational entities.

“(B) PLAN FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.—At the beginning of each fiscal year, and prior to the payment of the supplemental fee into the Treasury of the Commonwealth government in that fiscal year, the Commonwealth government must provide to the Secretary of Labor, a plan for the expenditure of funds received under this paragraph, a projection of the effectiveness of these expenditures in the placement of United States workers into jobs, and a report on the changes in employment of United States workers attributable to prior year expenditures.

“(C) REPORT.—The Secretary of Labor shall report to the Congress every 2 years on the effectiveness of meeting the goals set out by the Commonwealth government in its annual plan for the expenditure of funds.”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the third sentence of paragraph (2), by striking “not to extend beyond December 31, 2014, unless extended pursuant to paragraph 5 of this subsection” and inserting “ending on December 31, 2019”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

SEC. 4. STUDY OF ELECTRIC RATES IN THE INSULAR AREAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN.—The term “comprehensive energy plan” means a comprehensive energy plan prepared and updated under subsections (c) and (e) of section 604 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations for certain insular areas of the United States, and for other purposes”, approved December 24, 1980 (48 U.S.C. 1492).

(2) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—The term “energy action plan” means the plan required by subsection (d).

(3) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term “Freely Associated States” means the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

(4) INSULAR AREAS.—The term “insular areas” means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) TEAM.—The term “team” means the team established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, within the Empowering Insular Communities activity, establish a team of technical, policy, and financial experts—

(1) to develop an energy action plan addressing the energy needs of each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States; and

(2) to assist each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States in implementing such plan.

(c) PARTICIPATION OF REGIONAL UTILITY ORGANIZATIONS.—In establishing the team, the Secretary shall consider including regional utility organizations.

(d) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—In accordance with subsection (b), the energy action plan shall include—

(1) recommendations, based on the comprehensive energy plan where applicable, to—

(A) reduce reliance and expenditures on fuel shipped to the insular areas and Freely Associated States from ports outside the United States;

(B) develop and utilize domestic fuel energy sources; and

(C) improve performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency;

(2) a schedule for implementation of such recommendations and identification and prioritization of specific projects;

(3) a financial and engineering plan for implementing and sustaining projects; and

(4) benchmarks for measuring progress toward implementation.

(e) **REPORTS TO SECRETARY.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary establishes the team and annually thereafter, the team shall submit to the Secretary a report detailing progress made in fulfilling its charge and in implementing the energy action plan.

(f) **ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report submitted by the team under subsection (e), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a summary of the report of the team.

(g) **APPROVAL OF SECRETARY REQUIRED.**—The energy action plan shall not be implemented until the Secretary approves the energy action plan.

SEC. 5. REPORTS ON ESTIMATES OF REVENUES.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(1) evaluates whether the annual estimates or forecasts of revenue and expenditure of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the Virgin Islands are reasonable; and

(2) as the Comptroller General of the United States determines to be necessary, makes recommendations for improving the process for developing estimates or forecasts.

SEC. 6. LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

With respect to fiscal years 2014 through 2017, the percentage described in section 2605(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8624(b)(2)(B)(i)) shall be 300 percent when applied to households located in the Virgin Islands.

SEC. 7. IMPROVEMENTS IN HUD ASSISTED PROGRAMS.

Section 214(a)(7) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 1436a(a)(7)) is amended by striking “such alien” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “citizen or national of the United States shall be entitled to a preference or priority in receiving assistance before any such alien who is otherwise eligible for such assistance.”

SEC. 8. BENEFIT TO COST RATIO STUDY FOR PROJECTS IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study regarding the use of benefit-to-cost ratio formulas by Federal departments and agencies for purposes of evaluating projects in American Samoa.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—In conducting the study, the Comptroller General shall—

(1) assess whether the benefit-to-cost ratio formulas described in subsection (a) take into consideration—

(A) the remote locations in, and the cost of transportation to and from, American Samoa; and

(B) other significant factors that are not comparable to locations within the 48 contiguous States; and

(2) assess, in particular, the use of benefit-to-cost ratio formulas by—

(A) the Secretary of Transportation with respect to airport traffic control tower programs; and

(B) the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Corps of Engineers, with respect to a harbor project or other water resources development project.

(3) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study.

SEC. 9. FISHERY ENDORSEMENTS.

Section 12113 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) **CERTAIN EXEMPTION.**—Paragraph (3) of subsection (a) shall not apply to any vessel—

“(1) that offloads its catch in part or full in American Samoa; and

“(2) that was rebuilt outside of the United States before January 1, 2011.”

SEC. 10. EFFECTS OF MINIMUM WAGE DIFFERENTIALS IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

Section 8104 of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **EFFECTS OF MINIMUM WAGE DIFFERENTIALS IN AMERICAN SAMOA.**—The reports required under this section shall include an analysis of the economic effects on employees and employers of the differentials in minimum wage rates among industries and classifications in American Samoa under section 697 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, including the potential effects of eliminating such differentials prior to the time when such rates are scheduled to be equal to the minimum wage set forth in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).”

SEC. 11. OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY.

(a) **CARIBBEAN BORDER COUNTERNARCOTICS STRATEGY.**—The Office of National Drug Control Policy shall develop a biennial Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy, that is made available to the public, with emphasis on the borders of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States, on terms substantially equivalent to the existing Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy and the Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy.

(b) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 704(b)(13)(B) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1703(b)(13)(B)) is amended by inserting “the borders of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States and” after “in particular”.

SEC. 12. DRIVERS' LICENSES AND PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

(a) **DEFINITION OF STATE.**—Section 201(5) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note; Public Law 109-13) is amended by striking “the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.”

(b) **EVIDENCE OF LAWFUL STATUS.**—Section 202(c)(2)(B) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note; Public Law 109-13) is amended—

(1) in clause (viii), by striking “or” after the semicolon at the end;

(2) in clause (ix), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(x) is a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micro-

nesia, or the Republic of Palau who has been admitted to the United States as a non-immigrant pursuant to a Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Republic or Federated States.”

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2491

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2491 is at the desk, and I now ask, through the direction of the Chair, for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2491) to protect the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to reconciliation involving changes to the Medicare program.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for its second reading but object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this bill is long overdue. I appreciate very much the work done by the author of this legislation, the senior Senator from Arkansas, Mr. PRYOR.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 4660, the CJS, T-HUD, and Agriculture appropriations bill, and all but 2 hours of postclosure debate time be considered expired.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 19, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, June 18, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 18, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG LAMALFA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

ACCESS TO INPATIENT REHABILITATION THERAPY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, coordinated medical rehabilitation provided in an inpatient rehabilitation setting is crucial to Medicare beneficiaries with injuries, disease, disabilities, or chronic conditions.

Unfortunately, beginning in 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services began placing limitations on what types of therapy a beneficiary could receive, despite the professional judgment of a treating physician. This ties a physician's hands, and it limits recreational therapy from being prescribed, despite it being medically necessary in many cases.

These services are often prescribed to assist an individual in transitioning from the rehabilitation hospital to the home, helping patients recover their functions and decreasing the chances of costly readmissions. CMS, the Medicare agency, should not have put in place barriers for physicians and their

patients when determining the best course of action for recovery.

This is why I introduced the bipartisan Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Therapy Act of 2014 with my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

I encourage my colleagues to lend their support to this commonsense bipartisan measure, H.R. 4755. It has zero cost, yet will empower doctors and patients to gain access to the most appropriate mix of therapeutic rehabilitation services.

AMERICA'S DECAYING INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, America faces many challenges at home and abroad. We are watching deterioration in the Middle East. We are watching the problems dealing with climate change and global warming. Many of the problems seem beyond our control.

They are hard and complex. Some are political fodder, where the two parties are in a pitched battle and one denies fundamental science. This is what concerns our constituents: Why can't we get along and get something done?

Well, there are many issues that are not so hard, not so complex, not so controversial. One of the areas that has historically been a subject of people coming together in this Chamber and getting something done deals with our infrastructure.

America, sadly, is falling apart. Our infrastructure used to be the finest in the world, from rail passenger transportation, highways, sewer, and water. Now, it is slowly, steadily failing and has been rated 14th in the latest global rankings from the experts that analyze infrastructure, and it is falling further.

Our investment, as a percentage of our gross domestic product, is less than 2 percent—1.7 percent, the lowest it has been in 20 years. It is costing American families now.

Mr. Speaker, AAA estimates that the average car owner loses almost \$1 a day from damage to their cars from inadequate roads. The American Society for Civil Engineers has projected that if we don't undertake the necessary repairs between now and 2020, that cost per family is going to be over a \$3,000-per-year impact on each and every American family.

At the same time, it is understood that investment in infrastructure pays huge returns. For a \$1.3 billion investment in road and sewer and transit, we create almost 30,000 jobs. The S&P latest report indicated that a \$1.3 billion investment will produce \$2 billion in economic benefit that spreads throughout the economy, and it will reduce the American budget deficit \$200 million.

This is also an area where actually the public is ahead of us. Politicians here on Capitol Hill have not addressed long-term road funding for 21 years. That was the last time the gas tax was increased; yet the American public understands and supports—according to a AAA poll from last week, two-thirds of Americans support user fees to support our infrastructure.

Sixty-six percent say that a user fee is the right approach and should be utilized. Fifty-two percent say they would be willing to pay more.

It is time for Congress to stop this dancing around on the issue of adequately funding American infrastructure. We have a transportation bill that is expiring September 30.

We couldn't do a full-fledged reauthorization last time; we could only extend it for 27 months because Congress wouldn't face the funding challenge, and even that inadequate money is going to run out before September 30.

The Federal Department of Transportation is going to have to start withholding payments later this summer, which means State and local governments are having to begin to cut back now. So instead of an investment that would grow the economy and improve the quality of life in our communities, we are seeing further deterioration.

Luckily, there is starting to be some movement here. If Congress will move with a small amount of money to keep the system afloat through after the election, avoid the summer shutdown, hopefully, we can come together after all of the Tea Party primaries are over and the elections are done.

When we are dealing with important cleanup legislation in the lameduck session, this should be at the top of the list. America wants it. America needs it.

It will improve our economy. It will strengthen job opportunities for people from coast to coast, and it will make our communities more livable and our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CRISIS IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO and I are sending the following letter, and we urge Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle to sign this letter to President Obama:

Dear Mr. President:

Many Americans have been deeply troubled by the unfolding crisis in Iraq. The rapid fall of multiple Iraqi cities to the terrorist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, ISIS, brings the militant group notably closer to its declared aim of establishing a caliphate that spans the northern sections of Syria and Iraq.

A June 12 BBC article described ISIS in the following way: "The group has a reputation for brutality. Parts of Syria and Iraq that have previously fallen under its rule have witnessed summary execution, beheadings, and even crucifixions."

It is against this backdrop, Mr. President, that we write to you bearing in mind recent reports from Archbishop Bashar M. Warda of the Chaldean Diocese of Erbil. While his particular diocese is relatively calm at the moment, the picture that he painted, consistent with news report, of the situation in Mosul and the implications for Iraq's ancient Christian community and other religious minorities was bleak and sobering.

For years, we have witnessed a precipitous decline of Iraq's Christian community. Thousands have fled in the face of targeted violence. Many of those that remained relocated to Mosul and the Nineveh Plain. To people of faith, Nineveh is a familiar name: the site of a dramatic spiritual revival as told in the Biblical book of Jonah. These areas were one of the last remaining havens for the beleaguered community. In fact, Archbishop Warda indicated that this past Sunday, for the first time in 1,600 years, there was no Mass said in Mosul.

For the thousands who have already fled Mosul, they are facing not just displacement and imminent danger, but a growing humanitarian nightmare marked by lack of access to clean water, food, fuel, and electricity.

As such, Mr. President, we urge you and your administration to urgently and actively engage with the Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan Regional Government, KRG, to prioritize additional security support for these particularly vulnerable populations and expanded humanitarian assistance and emergency aid delivery to those affected communities.

Absent immediate action, we will most certainly witness the annihilation of an ancient faith community from the lands they have inhabited for centuries.

Mr. Speaker, we urge Members to sign this letter by the end of the day. More Biblical activity took place in Iraq than any other country of the world, other than Israel.

Abraham is from Iraq, from Ur, which is Nasiriyah. Esther, for such a time like this, is from Iraq. Jonah is from Nineveh—many people believe may very well be buried in Iraq. Ezekiel is buried in Iraq. Daniel, one of the great men of the Bible, is buried in Iraq.

So we urge all Members, this is something we can unite on. This is not a Re-

publican or Democratic issue. This is an issue of saving this ancient community and urging the administration to urge the Kurds to protect them as they flee from this area.

I urge all Members, please call my office, call ANNA ESHOO's office, to sign this letter by the end of the day, in order to save the Christian community and other religious minorities in the Middle East.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan proposed rule.

In the face of a Congress that is in denial about climate change, the administration is doing what it can to address a very real and very serious problem that is already manifesting itself in changing weather patterns, more frequent and hazardous wildfires, and devastating droughts.

This rule is a crucial step toward slowing climate change, developing domestic and affordable clean energy technologies, protecting public health, and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

Some House Republicans have called the proposed regulations reckless and, others, unconstitutional. Some have even suggested adding a rider to the appropriations bill to block the rule's implementation.

As a member of that committee, I can tell you that this would be a huge mistake that would threaten to undo the hard-won compromises in the bill.

It is shocking to me the lengths to which the majority is willing to go to deny the scientific fact that our planet is warming and that human activity is the main cause.

Here are the facts: First, power plants, today, account for approximately one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, making them the single largest source of carbon pollution.

The EPA plan will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants by an estimated 30 percent from 2005 levels. That is 730 million tons of carbon pollution that will not be emitted into the atmosphere, warming the climate and causing sea levels to rise.

Second, the proposal will reduce smog and particulate pollution, including nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxides, by more than 25 percent by the year 2030.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, asthma prevalence has increased from 7.3 percent in 2001 to 8.4 percent in 2010. The proposed regulations are estimated to prevent up to 150,000 asthma attacks in children and 6,600 premature deaths by 2030.

□ 1015

Third, the vast majority of the American public supports these new rules. In fact, nearly 70 percent of Americans support Federal regulations to limit greenhouse gasses from existing power plants

These new rules won't be easy to implement and we will experience some difficulties along the way, but since when does America let a challenge prevent us from rolling up our sleeves and getting to work? This is a global problem and America must not act alone.

Just as we lead the world in many aspects, climate change is a critical issue where we must lead by example. I call on my colleagues to do the right thing. Stop denying the science and get to work. We can and we must act together to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, clean up our air and waters, and once again lead the way into the future.

I look forward to the EPA finalizing the proposed rule, and I hope it marks just the beginning of our efforts to address climate change before it is too late.

THE PAIN CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, this House passed H.R. 1797, the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, with bipartisan support. To this date, the Senate has not considered this measure to protect the lives of innocent children in the womb from the cruel, excruciating pain of an abortion procedure. This is unconscionable.

I fear for the conscience of our Nation because the termination of unborn children for any reason is tolerated in some parts of our country throughout pregnancy, even though scientific conclusions show infants feel pain by at least 20 weeks' gestation.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the American people understand exactly what happens when they hear the word "abortion." It is a heart-wrenching, painful procedure that tears a baby limb from limb before crushing his or her head or is a poisonous chemical injection. As a country, we should leave this practice behind. That is why I co-sponsored and voted for H.R. 1797, which would prohibit elective abortions in the United States past 20 weeks.

Life is the most fundamental of all rights. It is sacred and God-given, but millions of babies have been robbed of that right in this, the freest country in the world. That is a tragedy beyond words and a betrayal of what we as a nation stand for.

Before liberty, equality, free speech, freedom of conscience, the pursuit of

happiness, and justice for all, there has to be life. And yet, for millions of aborted infants, many pain-capable and many discriminated against because of gender or disability, life is exactly what they have been denied.

An affront to life to some is an affront to life for every one of us. One day we hope it will be different. We hope life will cease to be valued on a sliding scale. We hope the era of elective abortions, ushered in by an unelected Court, will be closed and collectively deemed one of the darkest chapters in American history. But until that day, it remains a solemn duty to stand up for life.

Regardless of the length of this journey, we will continue to speak for those who cannot. We will continue to pray to the One who can change the hearts of those in desperation and those in power, who equally hold the lives of the innocent in their hands.

May we, in love, defend the unborn. May we, in humility, confront this national sin. May we mourn what abortion reveals about the conscience of our Nation.

H.R. 1797 provides commonsense protections for unborn children who feel pain just as you and I do. It is time the Senate considers this measure and protects the vulnerable among us.

OPPOSING U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to come today and add my voice and my constituents' voice to the situation in Iraq. I wanted to voice my strong opposition to any further United States military intervention in Iraq.

I don't think we should be sending our men and women back to Iraq or to engage in air strikes. I don't believe that this is the right course of action. Our Nation's military involvement in Iraq, I think, needs to be over.

The United States has already spent trillions of dollars in Iraq while, here at home, our economy is still suffering. Our schools are going without needed funding. Families in my district are struggling to find jobs, to put food on the table, and our own infrastructure is crumbling.

My colleague earlier, on the other side of the aisle, talked about Esther and her great line of "for such a time as this," which is something I actually try to live by, but I don't believe that this is the time to go back and fight a war that I don't believe is ours. I believe it is the time for America to focus our resources here at home.

We can't afford to spend millions of dollars on this military action when our schools are failing, one in five children lives in poverty in the United States, and so many of our veterans

are not being taken care of when they come home.

I don't sit on the Committees of Armed Services, of Foreign Affairs. I am not on the Intelligence Committee. I sit on the Small Business Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. From that perspective, I know that our small businesses want us to help them. Our infrastructure is failing and crumbling. We have 70,000 bridges in this country that are structurally deficient. I believe that we need to focus our resources here at home.

We have had nearly 4,500 brave men and women that sacrificed their lives for what I believe was a misguided mission in Iraq. More than 30,000 Americans have come home emotionally and physically scarred. Let's not do this again.

I don't think we have any place trying to solve a modern-day civil war. I think enough is enough. I hope, before the President takes action, he will come to Congress and ask us and the people that we represent what action needs to be taken.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, we take in approximately \$39 billion a year for the highway trust fund to take care of transportation needs all over this country. We have spent \$103 billion over the last several years rebuilding Afghanistan. Now they tell us projects all over this country will have to stop because of a \$15 billion shortfall in our highway trust fund.

Today and tomorrow we will have before us a Defense bill that has a \$79 billion placeholder for overseas contingency operations over and above the regular Defense budget. It has been this amount or much more over the last several years.

This OCO account is primarily for Iraq and Afghanistan, where we are still spending megabillions. We should take at least some of this money to cover the shortfall in the highway trust fund to keep these projects and jobs going all over the U.S.

We have spent far too much blood and treasure in Iraq and Afghanistan over the last few years, and that needs to stop. Mr. Speaker, we need to stop spending all of these billions in Iraq and Afghanistan and start taking better care of our own people and our own country.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT WILLARVIS "DEE" SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Chief Master Sergeant Willarvis "Dee" Smith, who, this week, will be retired after an illustrious 28-year career in the United States Air Force, a career that spanned many decades and took him to many continents across the globe.

I am personally honored and grateful that Chief Smith is here in the House gallery today as we celebrate his outstanding career and service and congratulate him on his retirement from the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Smith was born and raised in the district that I now have the privilege to represent. In fact, he was raised in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, graduated from Northwestern High School, the school just to the north of Northern High School, my high school.

Shortly after graduation, he entered the Air Force in 1986, where he completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Upon graduation from his technical training as an aircraft maintenance specialist for the B-52 in Texas, he was assigned to many stations, including New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Maryland, Virginia, and Hawaii.

During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, he was deployed in Saudi Arabia, afterward also serving 2 years at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. In 1991, Chief Smith held the rank of staff sergeant. Over his 28-year career in the U.S. Air Force, he was promoted five times: first, to technical sergeant; then master sergeant; then senior master sergeant; and lastly, in 2010, he was promoted to chief master sergeant, the highest ranking enlisted position in the Air Force.

As the chief enlisted manager of the Directorate of Communications of the Air Force District of Washington, Chief Smith served as senior adviser to the 844th communications group, which is made up of more than 900 military personnel. In this highly important and visible position, he helped to provide cyber support to the President of the United States and also to other senior officials at the Pentagon.

During his 28 years of service to our country, Chief Smith's commitment and excellence as an outstanding airman did not go unnoticed. In 1989, he was recognized as the Air Mobility Command Student of the Year. In 2001 and 2003, Chief Smith earned the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Information Management Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Award. In 2005, he was named Air Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year and Air Force Communications and Information Professional of the Year.

John Rogers, the deputy director of the 844th Communications Group, summed up Chief Smith's career by saying: "He took care of our airmen

and he was phenomenal. He embodied our core value of service before self.”

Chief Master Sergeant Smith, on behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District, on behalf of the Congress of the United States, thank you for your admirable service to our country. The motto of the Air Force is “Aim High . . . Fly-Fight-Win.” Chief Smith, throughout your career, you have aimed high and truly represented the best of the U.S. Air Force, and you have represented the best of our shared hometown of Flint, Michigan.

On behalf of my constituents in the Fifth Congressional District and on behalf of my colleagues here in Congress, congratulations to you on your outstanding career in the Air Force and your outstanding service to our country.

ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENTIVOLIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, the crisis unfolding in Iraq is deeply troubling to the American people. The rapid fall of several cities in Iraq to terrorist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, also known as ISIS, has brought the militant group dangerously closer to establishing a caliphate that spans the northern sections of Syria and Iraq.

ISIS has a reputation for brutality, including summary executions, beheadings, and, in some cases, crucifixions. The implications of the rise of ISIS for Iraq's ancient Christian community, along with its other religious minorities, is troubling.

For years we have witnessed the decline of Iraq's Christian community. Thousands have fled in the face of targeted violence. Those who remained relocated to Mosul and the Nineveh plains. These areas were some of the last remaining havens for this beleaguered and brutalized Christian community in Iraq. In fact, Archbishop Warda, the Chaldean Diocese of Erbil, indicated this past Sunday that for the first time in 1,600 years there was no mass in Mosul.

The thousands who fled Mosul face displacement, imminent danger, and a growing humanitarian nightmare, including access to clean water, food, fuel, and electricity.

I urge the administration to engage with the Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to prioritize security and support for these vulnerable populations and provide emergency humanitarian assistance to those brutalized communities.

If nothing is done, we will most certainly witness the annihilation of an ancient faith community. I call on our international community to stand to-

gether to protect the natural rights being persecuted by ISIS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Michael Lotker, Temple Ner Ami, Camarillo, California, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, You sustain us and inspire us. Yours is the unity connecting all things created by You and directing us to serve You in unity of purpose, spirit, and strength. Bless us with the resources to do Your work.

The very name of this Nation, the United States, and the very name of this institution, the Congress, underlines the power and indeed the holiness of such unity.

I therefore humbly request Your most ancient blessing for the people of this great Nation and for their elected Representatives.

“May God bless you and protect you. May God's light shine upon you and may God be gracious to you. May God's face be lifted before you and may God grant you peace.”

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MARCHANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI MICHAEL LOTKER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to welcome a very good friend, Rabbi Michael Lotker, to be the guest chaplain of the House of Representatives today.

Rabbi Lotker is a teacher and a leader in Ventura County. He is the rabbi emeritus at Temple Ner Ami in Camarillo, California; the rabbi of Congregation Khilat HaAloneem in Ojai, California; and the community rabbi and teacher for the Jewish Federation of Ventura County. He is also a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Board of Rabbis of Southern California.

In addition to his work as a rabbi, Rabbi Lotker is an author and a physicist, with a focus on researching alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal.

Known for his quick-witted humor, Rabbi Lotker writes parody songs for each of the Jewish holidays throughout the year.

For his spiritual leadership and thoughtful words, I would like to thank Rabbi Lotker for leading us in prayer today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONSEQUENCES OF PRESIDENT'S FAILURE TO ENFORCE THE LAW

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, the current situation on our southern border is a direct result of this administration's failure to enforce our laws.

Since October, 47,000 unaccompanied women and children have illegally entered the U.S. By year's end, 90,000 minors will have illegally crossed into our country. When apprehended, the majority of those questioned say they came expecting to be able to stay, to get a free pass. This is wrong, and my constituents are angry about it and will not tolerate it.

The President should immediately begin returning these illegal immigrants to their home countries. He must demand cooperation from the respective foreign governments and press them to stop spreading the false belief that America rewards illegal immigration with a de facto amnesty.

This is a crisis of the President's own creation. He must take real action to strengthen the border and strengthen security before it grows even worse and send a strong message that illegal immigration will not be rewarded.

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF SAM GARCIA

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sam Garcia, a World War II veteran, businessowner, and renowned civic leader in the Fort Worth Hispanic community.

Mr. Garcia immigrated to the United States from Mexico at the age of 2, with his undocumented parents. After serving in the Army during World War II and earning three Bronze Stars, Mr. Garcia moved to Fort Worth in 1958. He later started his own successful construction company.

Mr. Garcia served Fort Worth, where he led many community service organizations in an effort to raise scholarship money. Mr. Garcia also edited and published *The Community News*, a newspaper committed to improving the quality of life in the Latino community of Fort Worth.

Mr. Garcia devoted his life to improving the life of others and was rightfully recognized in 1990 as the Fort Worth Volunteer of the Year and, in 1991, the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year. In 1999, he was the Man of the Year.

Mr. Garcia's leadership and dedication to the Fort Worth community will forever be marked in history.

CONGRATULATING MONTANA HISTORY DAY CONTEST TOP FINISHERS

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, today, I am so proud to congratulate Sean-Daniel Taylor, Kane Knudson, Emma Gabbert, and Hayden Kunhardt, who are students from Washington Middle School in Glendive, Montana, for being top finishers in the Montana History Day Contest.

This week, they are among seven Montana students who traveled to the National History Day Contest in Washington, D.C. Out of 600,000 participants in National History Day, less than 3,000 advance to the national contest, so I speak for all Montanans when I say that we are incredibly proud of their success.

It is truly great to see young students—young Montanans like Sean-Daniel, Kane, Emma, and Hayden—thinking critically about our Nation's history and the rights and responsibilities that come with citizenship.

Congratulations, again, to all seven Montana students competing in the National History Day Contest.

HONORING TROY EDGAR

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Troy Edgar, the chair of the board of the Orange County Sanitation District, and I congratulate him on his upcoming retirement.

Mr. Edgar was instrumental in ensuring the successful upgrade of the sanitation district's facilities, and I applaud him for his leadership in implementing a sustainable financial plan for the district, creating successful partnerships, and adopting effective policy in order to ensure the highest quality of water by the most cost-effective methods.

I hold Mr. Edgar in the highest regard for his outstanding public service and his efforts on behalf of the sanitation district and its mission to protect public health and our environment.

I thank Mr. Edgar for his role in Orange County. He is a great example of what a great public servant looks like, does, and acts. Again, I thank him for his leadership, his vision, for his commitment to the residents of Orange County.

I congratulate him. He is a star in our community, and I wish him luck in his future endeavors.

AMERICANS DON'T TRUST THE MEDIA

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans do not trust the liberal national media to provide them with accurate, fair, and balanced news.

A recent poll conducted by The Brookings Institution and Public Religion Research Institute found that only 23 percent of Americans consider the national broadcast news networks to be their most trusted news outlet, but 26 percent of independents listed FOX News as their most trusted network, compared to only 17 percent who chose the broadcast networks.

The least trusted network, according to the poll, is MSNBC. Only 5 percent of Americans selected that network as their most trusted news source.

Americans' distrust of the liberal national media will continue to grow until the media stops telling them what to think. There is a good reason why FOX News has been the highest rated cable news network for 12 straight years.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF TONY GWYNN

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, there has never been any question that Tony Gwynn was a great hitter, but probably the second most talked about aspect of Tony Gwynn was his laugh.

On Monday, we lost a great leader both on and off the field. Tony Gwynn passed away—surrounded by family—at age 54. We lost that great laugh.

Tony was described as a person who, after spending a few minutes with him, you felt better than you did before. Part of it was his laugh. He displayed that in playing baseball, as a teacher, and in his charitable work with his wife, Alicia. There was a special quality about him.

Tony turned down lucrative offers, offers that others might have picked up, but he turned those down to remain a San Diego Padre, and in this time of sports trades, that is a big deal.

It was not surprising that, after his playing days, he returned to his alma mater, San Diego State University, to teach and coach Aztec baseball—to be a mentor.

One of his students plays not too far from this Chamber at Nationals Park. Pitcher Stephen Strasburg played for Tony, who he described as a father figure.

Tony Gwynn leaves a lasting impact in San Diego. His loss is being felt throughout the community. We see that in the collective grief and celebration of his life.

CONGRATULATING BILL CLINE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bill Cline for receiving the 2014 Colonel Edwin Drake Legendary Oilman Award, presented by the Petroleum History Institute.

The award is named after the famed Colonel Edwin Drake who, in 1859, drilled the first commercial oil well in the world, beginning the oil industry in Titusville, Pennsylvania. The award honors a lifetime of achievement within the oil and gas industry.

Mr. Cline is no stranger to the oil industry. Following his grandfather Willard Cline, he owns and operates Cline Oil in Bradford, Pennsylvania. The company operates hundreds of small wells in the same oil patch that once produced over 80 percent of our Nation's oil. These small wells pump out several barrels a day, slowly churning day and night. Cline's well number one has been producing oil for over 140 years.

It is because of the tireless efforts and ingenuity of men like Bill Cline and his family that America has led

the world in energy production and will continue to be a leader for generations to come.

Congratulations, Bill, on this very well-deserved award.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND GOING BROKE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the highway trust fund will be broke by the end of July. This is right in the middle of road construction season.

In Erie and Niagara counties, we have almost 400 bridges that are structurally deficient. This is unacceptable and just a small representation of the crumbling infrastructure nationwide.

Congress should be increasing our investment in nation-building right here at home, not cutting back; but, Mr. Speaker, doing this at the expense of the United States Postal Service by eliminating Saturday delivery is not the answer.

This is a one-time fix that does not actually provide a long-term solution to our Nation's transportation funding problem.

Furthermore, this hurts small businesses and other Americans who rely on the ability to receive paper mail on Saturday. It eliminates jobs for postal workers and would create a significant loss of mail volume and revenue for the Postal Service.

Reports today indicate this plan may be dropped, and I hope that is the case. I urge my colleagues to reject this misguided proposal and explore more reasonable and effective solutions to restore the highway trust fund.

□ 1215

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. JEFFRIES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, more than 3 million Americans have been left behind by the failure to renew unemployment insurance. These individuals live in urban America, in suburban America, and in rural America. They live in blue States and they live in red States. They are simply Americans in need.

As a result of the callousness of some in this Chamber, they have been put in great economic jeopardy, and we have cost the economy more than \$5 billion. We should be extending a helping hand to these individuals, but instead we have slapped them in the face in a manner that is disrespectful of the compassion of the American people.

It is time to do the right thing and to renew unemployment insurance so that

we can rescue those Americans left behind on the battlefield of the Great Recession.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSION

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I follow the gentleman from New York. I rise today because I think it is absolutely unconscionable that after more than 6 months the House Republicans continue to fail to act to extend unemployment benefits.

There are more than 3 million Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own who are waiting for Congress to do something for them. I have heard from many of them, my constituents, about their struggles because of Congress' failure to act.

Lily of Linden, New Jersey, has been out of work for 2 years. She and her husband have dipped into their entire savings just to get by. Because of her age and her illness, she has found it increasingly harder to find gainful employment. It has come to this sad point, Mr. Speaker, that Lily can no longer afford her medicine, and her family may soon be homeless.

By failing to act, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have coldly turned their backs on millions of Americans and people like Lily. Turning their backs on people who have elected them is simply unacceptable, and I will not stay silent.

TERRORIST GROUPS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a mother, as a senior member in the Homeland Security Committee which was created in the backdrop of the horrific tragedy of 9/11.

Today, the President and America confronts a heinous group in Iraq, ISIS, that is beheading persons and proclaiming one religion over another. And again, an op-ed appears in *The Wall Street Journal* from the former Vice President, who wants to blame everything on President Obama whose administration has just brought into justice one of those who perpetrated the violence and killed our Americans at Benghazi.

This is not an American issue in Iraq. We gave them that opportunity. We gave 4,000 in treasure. This is really an international issue that calls upon the United Nations and the nations surrounding Iraq and Maliki to be able to have a coalition government.

It is the same in Nigeria with Boko Haram that is beheading persons, kidnapping girls. We need a coalition that

faces down these terrible, horrific, tragic terrorists—these are thugs—and it cannot be on the shoulders of Americans. We have given our treasure.

We can protect our Embassy and we should. Thank you, Mr. President. We can give resources, but there needs to be a strong coalition. Those who come back from the ghost of yesteryear and blame this administration should be silenced. America should stand united together, and others need to work together to stop this tragedy.

NATIONAL ASK DAY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this week I will introduce a resolution to designate June 21 as National ASK Day, to raise awareness among parents to ask a simple lifesaving question: "Is there an unlocked gun where my child plays?" Those nine words could ultimately save your child's life.

I recently met Karen Reed from Cumberland, Rhode Island, whose youngest son was severely injured in 2011 when his older brother played with a loaded pellet gun at a friend's house on Christmas Eve. Karen had no idea there was an unlocked gun at the house where her son was playing. Her 9-year-old son mistakenly thought the pellet gun was a video game accessory and shot his younger brother in the eye.

1.7 million children live in a home with a loaded, unlocked gun, and every year thousands of kids are killed or injured as a result. Unfortunately, Karen's story is just one example of a tragic accident that can occur when a child gets hold of a loaded gun.

This isn't a partisan issue or an attempt to take guns away from anybody. This is about keeping our kids safe by asking a simple, lifesaving question. We owe it to our kids to provide them with safe areas to play and to pass the National ASK resolution and encourage parents to ask this simple question: "Is there a gun where my child plays?"

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 18, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 18, 2014 at 10:37 a.m.:

That the Senate concur in the House amendment S. 1254.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4870, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3230, PAY OUR GUARD AND RESERVE ACT

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 628 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 628

Resolved, That (a) at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived.

(b) During consideration of the bill for amendment—

(1) each amendment, other than amendments provided for in paragraph (2), shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment except as provided in paragraph (2);

(2) no pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate; and

(3) the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read.

(c) When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3230) making continuing appropriations during a Government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order or question of consideration, a single motion offered by the chair of the Committee on

Veterans' Affairs or his designee that the House: (1) concur in the Senate amendment to the title; and (2) concur in the Senate amendment to the text with the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question. If the motion is adopted, then it shall be in order for the chair of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs or his designee to move that the House insist on its amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3230 and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 628 provides for the consideration of H.R. 4870, the Department of Defense Appropriation Act for FY 2015 under a modified open rule.

This resolution will give Members on both sides of the aisle the opportunity to offer as many amendments to the bill as they wish, provided they comply with the rules of the House. It ensures that all Members can be active participants in shaping this bill. I think my colleague on the Rules Committee from Georgia described it best when he called this process a "festival of democracy."

The underlying legislation will give the Department of Defense the resources it needs to protect our country at home and abroad. I am encouraged that both sides of the aisle can usually unite around this cause. This bill is another example of that bipartisanship, as it was reported out of the committee unanimously.

The DOD Appropriations Act will also provide support for our warfighters, the 1 percent who risk all in defense of this Nation. It is critical that we give our troops the tools they need to carry out their mission abroad and the resources they need to support their families here at home. This legislation will fully fund a 1.8 percent pay increase for the military instead of the 1 percent raise requested by the President.

Secondly, this rule allows us to begin ironing out the differences between the House and the Senate attempts to address the VA scandal. While we have yet to uncover the full scope of this scandal, it is apparent the problems are systemic to that institution.

There have been secret wait lists, unacceptable patient wait times, inadequate care, backlogs, a culture of retaliating against whistleblowers, and a serious lack of leadership, to name only a few of the issues plaguing the VA.

Tragically—tragically—veterans have died because of these problems. Mr. Speaker, it is disgraceful. The fact that a veteran died waiting for care from this country that they fought for, it is just tough to come to grips with that reality, but it is a reality.

As a father of three sons serving in the military, I am appalled, I am horrified, and I believe the American people are, too, as to the treatment of our veterans. Our veterans deserve a whole lot more, a whole heck of a lot more from their government than to have the government turn their back on them. They deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, and the House will make every effort to ensure that these problems never happen again.

One of the ways we can begin this effort is by giving the VA the authority to terminate employees for performing poorly, much like the private sector, much like I had as sheriff. It is what most employers have the ability to do. This will give the Secretary of the VA the ability to quickly remove bureaucrats who falsified, in this instance, wait times.

As we have come to find out with all other scandals this administration is engulfed in, it is difficult to hold people accountable in the executive branch, try as we might. Therefore, the provisions are sorely needed.

We can also require the VA to reimburse private health care for veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility or those who have not received timely medical treatment at the VA.

□ 1230

This will allow our veterans to get the care that they need when they need it.

Finally, it is a bit discouraging that we even have to codify this into law, but we need to end the bonuses and awards at the VA for at least the next two fiscal years. Incredibly, the Phoenix VA—where veterans actually died waiting for care—felt it was appropriate to pay out \$10 million in bonuses over the last 3 years.

By prohibiting this practice, we can ensure that the funds we provide to the VA are going where they are needed: toward the care of our veterans and not to fatten bureaucrats' pockets.

I stand in strong support of this rule and the underlying legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida, my friend Mr. NUGENT, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, we debate the rule to consider two measures: H.R. 4870, the fiscal year 2015 Defense Appropriations bill; and the motion to go to conference on legislation addressing the problems at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I regret that this is not an open rule. Strict time limits have been placed on debate, which make it impossible to adequately discuss important issues. On issues regarding our national security, we should have ample time for discussion. This is hardly a festival of democracy, as my friend from Florida described this process—this is muzzling democracy. But less debate in a more closed process has become the signature of the Republican majority, I am sad to say.

I am pleased that legislation addressing the problems at the VA is moving forward in a timely way. However, I want to echo the statement of my friend from Maine, the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Mr. MICHAUD. The distinguished ranking member correctly pointed out in testimony presented to the Rules Committee that while this bill is important, it is shortsighted and should include many of the bipartisan measures that have been worked on at the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Like Mr. MICHAUD, I would prefer that this process be more open, and it is just another example of how this closed process denies many good bipartisan ideas from being considered and adopted.

Although I have serious concerns with the final Defense Appropriations product, I do want to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCLOSKEY for working together in a bipartisan way on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, we take up this bill at a very serious moment in time. Every day we turn on our TVs and see conflict, war, and turmoil around the world. It is often hard to remember that most of the world is not at war.

I am very concerned that this bill continues funding the longest war in United States history: the war in Afghanistan. Even though the President has announced that he will draw down most of our combat forces by the end of this year, he has also said that he will keep 10,000 of our servicemen and -women in Afghanistan through 2016.

I believe strongly that Congress should debate and vote on approving the President's proposal to keep our uniformed men and women in harm's way for another 2 years. What are these 10,000 troops supposed to accomplish that 100,000 troops have not yet done? Our own generals were quoted in Mon-

day's Washington Post saying that security is not the problem in Afghanistan, corruption is the problem. Ten thousand U.S. troops are now going to magically eliminate corruption in Afghanistan.

Just last month, at the end of May, during consideration of the NDAA, Armed Services Ranking Member ADAM SMITH, Congressman WALTER JONES, and I attempted to offer a germane amendment that would have required the House to vote early next year on whether to maintain U.S. military forces in Afghanistan as the President has proposed.

Outrageously, the Republican leadership of this House refused to let us offer that amendment. We were denied the chance to debate one of the most important questions facing this Congress, the American people, our troops, and their families. So, as we get ready to deliver in this Defense Appropriations bill a \$79.4 billion blank check to the President to continue the war in Afghanistan, I call upon the Speaker and the leadership of this House to promise—to promise—that before the 113th Congress adjourns they will bring before this House a joint resolution whether to approve the President's proposal to maintain U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan through 2016.

Let the House debate it, and let the House vote on it, up or down. Let's do our jobs. I have no idea what the result of such a vote might be, but I do know that we owe that vote to our troops, their families, and to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I am tired of endless wars. I am increasingly anxious as I listen to talk shows where politicians and pundits rattle their sabers and advocate for more full-scale war in Iraq, and many other places around the world.

It is especially galling to listen to the people who got us into this mess in Iraq in the first place. In *The Wall Street Journal* today, Dick Cheney actually had the audacity to write:

Rarely has a U.S. President been so wrong about so much at the expense of so many.

Are you kidding me? How pathetic. If it is possible to have less than zero credibility, then Dick Cheney has it on Iraq.

I believe in our military, Mr. Speaker. I believe in our men and women in uniform. I believe we should have a military second to none. I believe we shouldn't hesitate to use that military when our Nation is directly threatened and when the cause is serious enough to warrant the sacrifice of American lives.

But there are many problems—indeed most problems—in the world where sending the U.S. military is not the solution. The crisis facing Iraq has been years in the making. It is not happening because Iraq does not have a well-trained and well-equipped mili-

tary. The United States took great pains to make sure that it is.

No, Mr. Speaker, Iraq is facing this current crisis because a corrupt, exclusive, power-hungry, sectarian government, headed by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, deliberately chose to exclude ethnic and religious minorities and other factions of Iraqi society from government decisionmaking. Indeed, the Maliki government often went out of its way to deliberately fan the flames of sectarianism and extend the power of the Shiite majority. Now it is reaping the whirlwind that it created, but in ways it likely never imagined.

If Iraq is to be saved from this crisis, then Iraqi leaders need to learn real fast how to lead—not just their own faction, but how to lead a Nation, to stand up for all their people, and to order their troops and their militias to protect all the Iraqi people: Sunni, Christian, Jewish, Bahai, north, south, and center. They know how to do it. They just have to choose to do it and pray it is not too late. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, it is time for the governments and powers in the region to stand up against the vicious militias and violent jihadists wreaking havoc in their own countries and among their neighbors. They are the ones who need to lead the way to a political solution to the challenges facing the entire region, or watch it go up in flames around them.

Several of our generals and commanders have commented in recent news articles that it is difficult for the U.S. to respond with air power or drones or special operations because the Iraqis rebelling against the central government are not just made up of extremist ISIS members, but they include local Sunnis and other disenfranchised Iraqis. So who do you target? How do you target them? Should you target groups at all?

If one thing has become clear after watching the crisis unfold and listening to all the pundits, the solution to the crisis in Iraq will depend on Iraqis, not on American bombs or firepower, let alone manpower.

Mr. Speaker, as we take up the Defense Appropriations bill, these matters weigh heavily on the minds of all of us who serve in this House. While we work to ensure that our uniformed men and women have what they need to carry out their duties and missions, let us also be clear that there are many problems confronting the world today that, unfortunately, our military simply cannot fix.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

Today, I rise in support of going to a conference committee with the Senate

on VA reform. I am pleased that the Senate has followed our lead in swiftly passing legislation that will help the thousands of veterans waiting for care in a dysfunctional VA system.

While I don't agree with everything in the Senate bill, we all agree that our veterans deserve better than the VA has been giving them. Today, Congress will renew its commitment, on a bipartisan basis, to overhauling the VA and working to give our veterans the care they have earned.

I was a surgeon at the VA for 20 years treating our veterans, and today I am grateful for the opportunity to continue that care by working to get a VA reform bill to the President's desk.

The bottom line is this: we cannot allow the VA to continue operating as a failed, bloated bureaucracy.

I believe we can give the VA the tools to be smarter, leaner, and much more responsive to the needs of our veterans. As a father of a veteran, I am dedicated to making this a reality. The time for excuses is over, the time for action is now.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I certainly appreciate the gentleman's very expansive assessment on the two underlying bills that we are about to address today.

Let me, first of all, say that I live in a community of a very major veterans hospital. In fact, I carried the legislation to name it after Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, who created the MASH units in World War II. We care about veterans, as do my colleagues across the aisle in both the House and the Senate.

I believe that it is important to move the Veterans' Access to Care Through Choice, Accountability, continue through the process, and to make sure that our veterans, after the many audits that we have received on the individual hospitals, know that there is a long period of time for those veterans newly accessing veterans health care.

Who does that include? That includes the recent returnees of Afghanistan veterans or Iraq veterans or even those veterans who have maintained good health and now find themselves in senior years, such as Vietnam veterans, and are coming to the system for the first time. It is intolerable for them to have to wait. I believe this is a very important initiative. If we are to send soldiers overseas or in the line of battle, as many are promoting now in light of the violence in Iraq, can we not without shame stand and provide them the kind of health care for them and their families?

I rise as well to comment on the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, and I am glad that there has been attention to PTSD. I intend to offer an amendment addressing resources for

PTSD and resources for the epidemic of breast cancer among military women in the Appropriations Act.

But I do think it is important that again we have a prohibition against the transfer of Guantanamo detainees to the United States. That means that this facility continues to be open.

Then, of course, we have appropriations for the overseas contingency operations, for which the President has not yet made a request. But I think in the context of providing an increase in wages for our military personnel, I congratulate the chairman and ranking member for working so cooperatively.

But I raise a point in the backdrop of the crisis in Iraq, the ISIS, and all of the disjunctured chords of calling for troops on the ground and to do airstrikes when in actuality we live in a world family, we live in a family with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan, we live in a family with NATO alliances, and we need to be able to work together to demand why an untoward leader in Iraq, who was given an opportunity for a consensus government, never made any effort. Yes, these individuals are horrific, they are radicalized, they are vicious, they are vile. But there are Sunnis and Shiites who have worked together, there are Sunnis who are moderate, who want to be in the government, who want their children to have an opportunity for education, they want their young people to have jobs, they want an Iraq where they can pledge allegiance to their flag, a united Iraq. Where was the leadership, the selfish leadership of Maliki, to be able to do that—and now we must clean up his dirty kitchen? I think not.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield an additional minute to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman.

This must be a unified effort. Frankly, the President is right to be deliberative. We yet do not know, as I speak—there may be some news announcement—what his decision may be. But I do believe he has done the right thing by providing security and safety for the thousands of Americans that are in Baghdad and protecting our Embassy. That is the right thing to do. He has done the right thing by finding one of the perpetrators of Benghazi.

I would ask we do the right thing by not ignoring again another terrorist threat, Boko Haram in northeast Nigeria, that is fueling the flames, taking over municipalities, ready to pounce on places other than the northeast. These are threats that need the collective body of the United Nations—in this instance, the African Union, the ECOWAS, and all the states surrounding Nigeria, and, of course, the Nigerian government, of which we are friends with.

But I will say that America cannot continuously go it alone. We have given our treasure. Our young men and women never say "no." When they are called to duty, they go, reservists and all.

I believe it is time to be responsible, respectful, and cautious in the way we move forward using our troops around the world. I ask my colleague to consider this as we deliberate on this appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the rule for H.R. 4860, the "Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2015" and the underlying bill.

I thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCLOSKY for their work on this legislation to the floor and for their devotion to the men and women of the Armed Forces who risk their lives to keep our nation safe.

I also want to extend thanks and appreciation to the men and women in and out of uniform who defend our nation and serve honor and distinction.

My work in the 18th Congressional District of Texas has allowed me the privilege of working with men and women in the military, the workers in aeronautics and space industries that contribute to our nation's defense as well as those in the Department of Defense who work in and around our nation's capital.

Through my work as a Member of Congress I know those who have served and returned home to a tough economy, struggles with physical disabilities and life changing injuries associated with their service to our nation.

The men and women who serve in the military are not a collection of statistics and data points, but individuals with names and faces—real people who depend on us to ensure they are the best trained, best equipped, and best led defense force in the world.

I appreciate the Committee's continued support for providing funding that assists military men and women's ability in operating in unconventional and irregular warfare and countering unconventional threats, supports capacity-building efforts with foreign military forces, and supports ongoing operations, as well as programs that will improve the health and well-being of the force, including sexual assault prevention.

This bill before us does much but not enough to recognize the sacrifices of the men and women serving in the military.

The fiscal year 2015 Department of Defense military personnel budget request was for \$128.95 billion. The Committee appropriated \$128.127 billion, nearly \$800 million less the request and less than the need.

While we watch Al Qaeda-inspired terrorists in Nigeria in the form of Boko Haram and ISIS in Iraq carry out terrible acts of violence, it is important to ensure that military has the resources needed to respond to any threat to our nation or its allies.

The bill recognizes that the military is changing due to the expanded roles for women who pursue careers in the armed services and it is essential that this change not lead to a diminution of rights or opportunities from what women would enjoy had they pursued a different career path.

That is why I will be offering an amendment (Jackson Lee No. 1) to provide \$5 million in

increased funding and support for medical research related to breast cancer research. The identical amendment was offered and adopted by the House last year.

This additional funding will be made available for Triple Negative Breast Cancer research. TNBC is one of the most deadly forms of the disease that is extremely difficult to detect, and has an extremely high mortality rate.

I will also be offering an amendment (Jackson Lee Amendment No. 2) to reprogramming \$500,000 toward outreach programs targeting hard to reach veterans, especially those who are homeless or reside in underserved urban and rural areas, who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). An identical amendment was offered by me and adopted by the House last year.

PTSD, along with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), are the signature wounds of the Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The need for treatment and support of those afflicted will be with us long after the conflict ceases and our heroes have returned home.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. May I inquire of the gentleman as to how many more speakers he has.

Mr. NUGENT. I have none.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remaining time.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks I will insert in the RECORD a Statement of Administration Policy on this bill, but first I would just highlight a couple of points.

□ 1245

The administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 4870, as it now stands—and so do I—for a number of reasons. I want to highlight one. There are provisions in this bill that make it difficult, if not impossible, for the President to close down Guantanamo.

Let me read from the administration's statement in reference to some of these restrictive provisions that prevent them from shutting down something that I think does nothing to enhance our security:

Operating the detention facility at Guantanamo weakens our national security by draining resources, damaging our relationships with key allies and partners, and emboldening violent extremists. These provisions are unwarranted and threaten to interfere with the executive branch's ability to determine the appropriate disposition of detainees and its flexibility to determine when and where to prosecute Guantanamo detainees based on the facts and circumstances of each case and our national security interests.

There are other issues as well, but that is something that Members ought to know. This bill does contain these extraneous provisions.

Let me close by saying to my colleagues that it is no secret to people in this House that I believe that the war

in Afghanistan—the longest war in U.S. history—should be brought to a close.

It is also no secret that I have expressed my frustration loudly on this House floor over the fact that we have not been given the opportunity to discuss that war in an open debate.

When the defense authorization bill came up before us, a germane bipartisan amendment was offered that would give Members of Congress the ability to vote on whether we should continue to maintain troops there or not. That is an important question. That is an important issue, certainly, as we discuss the defense authorization and the Defense Appropriations bills.

We were denied that opportunity in this House of Representatives, which my friend is saying is a festival of democracy, on the most important issue that is confronting this country right now, the fact that we are at war. We were denied the opportunity to be able to deliberate on that issue.

As I said in my opening statement, we have Members of Congress and pundits that are rattling sabers and trying to get us recommitted to a war in Iraq. I think that would be a horrible mistake.

I want to close by making a plea to the leadership of this House to let us discuss these issues openly on the House floor. Let us deliberate on those issues. Let us live up to our responsibilities, as Members of Congress, to have a role in some of these discussions. Let's not abdicate that responsibility.

In fact, it has become a habit with this leadership to just kind of brush aside those issues, to allow no debate, to allow no deliberation. I find that appalling.

When you go to Walter Reed and talk to those veterans who have been wounded and who suffered enormously as a result of their service, when you talk to their parents and their loved ones, we owe those men and women a hell of a lot better than they have received on this House floor. The least we can do is deliberate on those issues.

I make a plea to this leadership to let us talk about these things. This is important. If this isn't important, I don't know what is.

I oppose the final passage of the bill for a number of reasons, but I do want to commend the chairman and the ranking member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee for their hard work, as well as their staff, and I yield back the balance of my time.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 4870—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

(Rep. Rogers, R-KY, June 17, 2014)

The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 4870, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. The Administration ap-

preciates the bill's continued support for providing funding that assists the warfighter in operating in unconventional and irregular warfare and countering unconventional threats, supports capacity-building efforts with foreign military forces, and supports on-going operations, as well as the support for programs that would improve the health and well-being of the force, including sexual assault prevention. While there are a number of areas of agreement with the bill, the Administration has serious concerns with provisions that would constrain the ability of the Department of Defense (DOD) to align military capabilities and force structure with the President's defense strategy and to reduce unneeded costs.

The Administration will soon submit a budget amendment to request funding for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). This request will reflect the President's decision on troop levels in Afghanistan and include funding for the U.S. military mission in Afghanistan, DOD's supporting presence in the broader region, as well as the recently proposed Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund and European Reassurance Initiative. The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress on this request.

The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress on an orderly appropriations process that supports economic growth, opportunity, and our national security while avoiding unnecessary fiscal crises that hold the Nation's economy back. This process should include reconciling funding levels for individual appropriations bills to promote economic growth and national security, and passing bills without ideological provisions that could undermine an orderly appropriations process.

The President's fiscal year (FY) 2015 Budget provides a roadmap for making investments to accelerate economic growth, expand opportunity for all hard-working Americans, and ensure our national security, while continuing to improve the Nation's long-term fiscal outlook. At the same time, the Budget takes key steps to both continue and enhance the Administration's efforts to deliver a Government that is more effective, efficient, and supportive of economic growth.

The President's Budget adheres to the FY 2015 spending levels agreed to in the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) and shows the choices the President would make at those levels. However, the levels agreed to in the BBA are already below FY 2007 funding levels adjusted for inflation and are not sufficient—either in FY 2015 or beyond—to ensure the Nation is achieving its full potential. For that reason, the Budget also includes a fully paid for Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative—evenly split between defense and non-defense priorities—that presents additional investments to grow the economy, expand opportunity, and enhance security. The Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative would provide \$26.4 billion for DOD to make progress on restoring readiness lost under sequestration, accelerate modernization of key weapons systems, and improve DOD facilities across the United States.

In the Administration's view, the risk to the Nation will grow significantly should the Congress not accept reforms proposed in the FY 2015 Budget. Without congressional support for meaningful compensation reforms and other cost saving measures, force structure changes, and flexibility to manage weapon systems and infrastructure, there is an increased risk to the Department's ability to implement the President's defense strategy, which will contribute to a military that

will be less capable of responding effectively to future challenges.

The Administration would like to take this opportunity to share additional views regarding the Committee's version of the bill and urges the Congress to resolve these issues during the FY 2015 appropriations process.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Prohibition on Retirement, Divestiture, Realignment, or Transfer of Aircraft. The Administration appreciates the Committee's support of the Air Force's A-10 fleet divestiture plans. Divesting the A-10 fleet will help the Air Force meet near-term readiness and achieve long-term modernization objectives. However, the Administration strongly objects to provisions that restrict the Department's ability to retire other weapon systems and aircraft platforms in accordance with current strategic and operational plans. These divestitures are critical and would provide funding for higher priority programs.

Specifically, the Administration strongly objects to sections 8122, 8133, and 8136 of the bill, consistent with previously stated objections to provisions in the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act. Section 8122 of the bill would prohibit the cancellation or modification of the C-130 Avionics Modernization Program (AMP). DOD plans to replace the C-130 AMP with a less expensive, fully capable alternative that has been validated by independent study to ensure that the fleet continues to meet future requirements. Section 8133 would prevent the Air Force from using funds to divest or to disestablish any units of the active or reserve component associated with E-3 airborne warning and control system aircraft. This provision would force the Air Force to take funding from higher priority defense needs in order to operate, sustain, and maintain aircraft that are not needed and are unaffordable in today's constrained fiscal environment. Section 8136, which limits the transfer of Apaches from the Army National Guard to the active Army, would result in gaps in the Army's armed reconnaissance units that would require approximately \$4 billion to fill. As DOD transitions out of a decade of war, aircraft force structure changes are necessary to shape a force that is more agile and ready to respond to the requirements of the defense strategy.

Compensation Reform. To achieve a proper balance between DOD's obligation to provide competitive pay and benefits to servicemembers and its responsibility to provide troops with the training and equipment they need to do their jobs, it is imperative to slow the growth of basic pay and housing allowances, modernize military healthcare, and reform how commissaries operate. The Administration strongly urges the Congress to support these reforms, which would save \$2 billion in FY 2015 and \$31 billion through FY 2019. While the Committee restored funding to offset the FY 2015 savings associated with proposals that were not supported, the rejection of these proposals will likely require DOD to find over \$27 billion in additional reductions to readiness, modernization, and force structure for FY 2016 through FY 2019. The Administration looks forward to the recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission on long-term compensation and retirement issues, but delaying DOD's holistic package of proposed initial changes will only result in increased costs, degradation in training and modernization efforts, and risks to the force.

Guantánamo Detainee Restrictions. The Administration strongly objects to sections

8107, 8108, 8139, and 9015 of the bill, each of which would restrict the Executive Branch's ability to manage the Guantánamo detainee population. The President has repeatedly objected to the inclusion of these or similar provisions in prior legislation and this year has reiterated his call to the Congress to lift such restrictions. As the President said in his State of the Union Address, "this needs to be the year Congress lifts the remaining restrictions on detainee transfers and we close the prison at Guantánamo Bay." Operating the detention facility at Guantánamo weakens our national security by draining resources, damaging our relationships with key allies and partners, and emboldening violent extremists. These provisions are unwarranted and threaten to interfere with the Executive Branch's ability to determine the appropriate disposition of detainees and its flexibility to determine when and where to prosecute Guantánamo detainees based on the facts and circumstances of each case and our national security interests. Sections 8107, 8139, and 9015 would, moreover, violate constitutional separation-of-powers principles under certain circumstances.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). The Administration strongly objects to the proposed \$4.8 million reduction in funds that would support a BRAC 2017 round. This impairs the ability of the Executive Branch to plan for contingencies or make other needed adjustments that would improve military effectiveness and efficiency. The Administration strongly urges the Congress to provide the BRAC authorization and funding as requested, which would allow DOD to rightsize its infrastructure while providing important assistance to affected communities. Without authorization for a new round of BRAC, DOD will not be able to properly align the military's infrastructure with the needs of our evolving force structure, which is critical to ensuring that limited resources are available for the highest priorities of the warfighter and national security.

Limitation on Funds Available to Procure Equipment. The Administration objects to section 8116 of the bill which would continue and expand prohibitions on using funds to procure certain equipment, including maintenance for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). This section would severely limit DOD's ability to sustain military-use helicopters and other equipment that is already in ANSF's inventory and is critical to their ability to continue the fight against extremists who threaten the security of Afghanistan, the United States, and our allies. If enacted, this section could force DOD to seek more costly alternatives than contracting with the Russian helicopter industry to sustain ANSF aircraft, increasing costs to the U.S. taxpayer.

Liquid Rocket Engine Development. The Administration objects to the unrequested \$220 million for a new rocket engine. An independent study recently concluded that such a program would take eight years to field and could cost \$1.5 billion with another \$3 billion needed to develop a suitable launch vehicle. This approach prematurely commits significant resources and would not reduce our reliance on Russian engines for at least a decade. With a goal of promptly reducing our reliance on Russian technology, the Administration is evaluating several cost-effective options including public-private partnerships with multiple awards that will drive innovation, stimulate the industrial base, and reduce costs through competition. The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress on this issue once the analysis is complete.

Limitations on Phased Modernization of Weapon Systems. While appreciative of the bill's overall support for cruiser modernization, the Administration objects to the unnecessary limitations on the current plan, which would preclude modernization in the most cost effective and timely manner and may hinder the Navy's ability to retain 11 modernized cruisers into the 2040s.

Reducing the Force Structure at Lajes Air Force Base. The Administration objects to section 8123 of the bill, which would prohibit the Secretary of the Air Force from reducing the force structure at Lajes Air Force Base and is duplicative of section 341 of the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. Because DOD is nearing completion of the section 341 requirements for Lajes, duplicating and amplifying these requirements is unnecessarily onerous.

Littoral Combat Ship (LCS). The Administration objects to finding reductions for the LCS program. The reductions leave the program with insufficient funds to procure three LCS in FY 2015, delaying the delivery of much needed capability to the Fleet. Deferring additional ships into FY 2016 would compound the already significant challenges the Navy faces in funding the shipbuilding account in a fiscally constrained environment while increasing overall costs to the Navy and increasing risk to the industrial base, including sub-tier suppliers.

Reallocation of Missile Defense Agency Funding. The Administration objects to the reallocation of \$370 million from the FY 2015 Budget request. These changes would reduce capability and capacity, and may possibly hinder the Department's ability to effectively manage the Agency. Specifically, this reallocation of funds would delay critical engineering, testing, command and control, and weapons system development, and would affect homeland and regional commitments, including a likely delay of one year for the European Phased Adaptive Approach Phase 3—a national commitment to our allies. Also, the reduction in advanced procurement funding for the Standard Missile-3 IB could increase its planned procurement cost by about \$140 million.

Opposition to Unrequested Funding. The Administration objects to the billions of dollars provided for items DOD did not request and does not need, such as additional EA-18G aircraft, High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, M-1 Abrams upgrades, and a significantly larger amount of funding for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account than provided in recent years. The Administration is also concerned that section 8006 of the bill makes spending on these and other unnecessary items statutorily required, diverting scarce resources from more important defense programs and limiting the Secretary's flexibility to manage the Department efficiently.

Classified Programs. The Administration looks forward to providing its views on the adjustments contained in the Classified Annex to the bill once it becomes available.

The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress as the FY 2015 appropriations process moves forward.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the rule before us allows for an open and transparent consideration of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2015. Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN has done an excellent job in the appropriations area, working with his minority member, to

craft this appropriations bill to fit the needs of our military. They have done an excellent job.

Providing for the common defense is a constitutional responsibility that we share with the President. This Congress shares that with the President. Without a strong defense, we have no way of ensuring that our liberties we enjoy and the safety of our citizens from threats, both foreign and domestic, keep us safe here at home.

The underlying legislation helps fulfill Congress' responsibility to provide for our national defense by funding the Armed Forces and addressing critical readiness gaps.

The DOD Appropriations bill provides \$1 million to be used exclusively for improving military readiness. That commitment is vital because we need to give our warfighters the best possible chance to complete their mission and make it home safe and sound.

As a father of three soldiers, I can only tell you that the ability to train and equip our men and women that have volunteered to serve this country is the utmost responsibility that this country has to them to make sure that they have the ability to come back. We need to give them the best possible fighting chance to come home to their families.

As a father who has sons serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan, we have got to make sure this country provides the best possible military, second to none in the world.

We want to make sure that our men and women have the ability to have the medical treatment that they so rightly deserve when they come back after serving their country. I think that we have taken the steps in the Rules Committee to do just that.

This rule and this appropriations bill actually rejects, again, the President's proposed cuts to TRICARE. Once again, in the last 4 years, TRICARE has come under fire.

We don't believe that we should balance the budget on the backs of our men and women who fight for this country. We need to make sure of our priorities that we owe our troops, which is a debt we can never repay, but you don't repay it by cutting their benefits, and you don't repay it by cutting their pay, you don't repay it by ignoring them as it relates to when they come back with a service-connected disability, go in front of the VA, and be denied the service they rightfully earned.

Finally, the rule provides for the motions necessary to go to conference with the Senate because, if you remember right, the Senate passed a bill, the House passed a bill as it relates to the VA, in regards to trying to fix the VA. It is a good first step.

Those bills have already been passed. Now, it is the opportunity to provide an opportunity to conference with the

Senate to come up with a compromise that puts our veterans first—not last, not behind bureaucrats, but in front of the line, not the back of the line.

We can quickly resolve those issues between the House and the Senate by going to conference, and that is what this bill helps us do.

I think we all agree the treatment of our veterans has been shameful. It is a complete disservice to those who risked their lives for us. The severity of this issue, the sheer gravity of it, demands input from both Chambers.

We have heard about how keeping GTMO open makes us less safe. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that releasing five members of Taliban's senior leadership positions makes America less safe—which we just did, without input from this House or without input from the Senate, as required by law. It was just done.

Are we safer because we released these five Taliban leaders? They are not the trigger pullers. They are not the guys on the ground. These are the guys that actually helped design and implement the Taliban and the attacks on us. Some of those leaders are purported to be members of that group that helped design and implement those.

I agree with my good friend from Massachusetts. We agree on a lot of issues, particularly as it relates to our military and open-ended conflicts. We do agree on that.

Having sons that have served both in Iraq and Afghanistan, I want to make sure that this body has a say in what happens. I want to make sure this body hears from the President in a cohesive way in regards to what he expects to accomplish and what our mission is.

I have two sons in Iraq in the conflict. I happened to travel there and got to see my two kids. The night that I was there, a U.S. base was struck by an IRAM, which is an Iranian rocket warhead.

The only place you get that is from Iran. You don't find it on the shelf at a store. Iran provided a warhead that killed five troops the night I was in Iraq. They were part of the division where my youngest son served.

Here we are, talking about working with Iran, who has been the most destabilizing country in the world, as it relates to Afghanistan and Iraq. This is a sectarian issue going on between the Sunnis and the Shiites.

I don't know what the best way forward is, but I want to hear from the President what his plan is. We sent more troops to Iraq. I want to hear specifically what we expect to get out of that. What do we expect?

I will tell you that the ISIL in the media, they want to hurt America. They are the ones that are advancing towards Baghdad. They have the ability, from what I am reading in the press, to reach out and touch America.

Do we have a vested interest in seeing what happens in Iraq? I believe we do, but I want to hear from this President about how you move forward and how you fix something that my good friend from Massachusetts talked about, the corrupt government within Iraq.

We have some of the same issues in Afghanistan. How do we do that?

I think he hit it on the head. The people of those countries have got to stand up and take control. The problem is we don't want terrorists to take control. The ISIL is a terrorist organization; there is no doubt about it.

Lastly, I just want to touch on the conference allowing us to give instructions to conferees as relates to the Senate. We want to make sure that that gets done—and it gets done right and done in a timely fashion. It is amazing that the Senate, when motivated, can do the right thing and move a piece of legislation through.

I support this straightforward rule and the much-needed underlying legislation. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 244, nays 163, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 315]

YEAS—244

Aderholt	Coble	Garrett
Amash	Coffman	Gerlach
Amodel	Cole	Gibbs
Bachmann	Collins (GA)	Gibson
Barber	Collins (NY)	Gingrey (GA)
Barletta	Conaway	Gohmert
Barr	Cook	Goodlatte
Barton	Cotton	Gosar
Benishek	Crenshaw	Gowdy
Bentivolio	Culberson	Granger
Bilirakis	Daines	Graves (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Davis, Rodney	Graves (MO)
Bishop (UT)	Denham	Griffin (AR)
Black	Dent	Griffith (VA)
Blackburn	DeSantis	Grimm
Boustany	DesJarlais	Guthrie
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart	Harper
Braleley (IA)	Duckworth	Harris
Brooks (AL)	Duffy	Hartzler
Brooks (IN)	Duncan (SC)	Hastings (WA)
Broun (GA)	Duncan (TN)	Heck (NV)
Brownley (CA)	Ellmers	Hensarling
Buchanan	Enyart	Herrera Beutler
Bucshon	Farenthold	Holding
Burgess	Fincher	Hudson
Bustos	Fitzpatrick	Huelskamp
Byrne	Fleischmann	Huizenga (MI)
Calvert	Fleming	Hultgren
Camp	Flores	Hunter
Campbell	Forbes	Hurt
Capito	Fortenberry	Issa
Carney	Foxx	Jenkins
Carter	Franks (AZ)	Johnson (OH)
Cassidy	Frelinghuysen	Johnson, Sam
Chabot	Garcia	Jolly
Chaffetz	Gardner	Jones

Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messner
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem

Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin

Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)

Bachus
Beatty
Bera (CA)
Bridenstine
Cantor
Costa
Cramer
Crawford

Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas

Garamendi
Hall
Hanna
Horsford
Lankford
McKeon
Meeks
Meng

Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mulvaney
Nunnelee
Rangel
Ryan (OH)
Waxman
Welch

Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Sec. 202. Clinic management training for managers and health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
Sec. 203. Use of unobligated amounts to hire additional health care providers for the Veterans Health Administration.

TITLE III—IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO CARE FROM NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS

Sec. 301. Expanded availability of hospital care and medical services for veterans through the use of contracts.
Sec. 302. Transfer of authority for payments for hospital care, medical services, and other health care from non-Department providers to the Chief Business Office of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department.

Sec. 303. Enhancement of collaboration between Department of Veterans Affairs and Indian Health Service.

Sec. 304. Enhancement of collaboration between Department of Veterans Affairs and Native Hawaiian health care systems.

Sec. 305. Sense of Congress on prompt payment by Department of Veterans Affairs.

TITLE IV—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Sec. 401. Improvement of access of veterans to mobile vet centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 402. Commission on construction projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 403. Commission on Access to Care.

Sec. 404. Improved performance metrics for health care provided by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 405. Improved transparency concerning health care provided by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 406. Information for veterans on the credentials of Department of Veterans Affairs physicians.

Sec. 407. Information in annual budget of the President on hospital care and medical services furnished through expanded use of contracts for such care.

Sec. 408. Prohibition on falsification of data concerning wait times and quality measures at Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 409. Removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance.

TITLE V—HEALTH CARE RELATED TO SEXUAL TRAUMA

Sec. 501. Expansion of eligibility for sexual trauma counseling and treatment to veterans on inactive duty training.

Sec. 502. Provision of counseling and treatment for sexual trauma by the Department of Veterans Affairs to members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 503. Reports on military sexual trauma.

TITLE VI—MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES

Sec. 601. Authorization of major medical facility leases.

Sec. 602. Budgetary treatment of Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facilities leases.

TITLE VII—VETERANS BENEFITS MATTERS

Sec. 701. Expansion of Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship.

NOT VOTING—24

□ 1322

Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LIPINSKI and Ms. SHEA-PORTER changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:
Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained today and missed roll No. 315. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

PAY OUR GUARD AND RESERVE ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 628, I call up the bill (H.R. 3230) making continuing appropriations during a government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period, with the Senate amendments thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the Senate amendments.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:
Strike all after the enacting clause, and insert in lieu thereof:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENT OF SCHEDULING SYSTEM FOR HEALTH CARE APPOINTMENTS

Sec. 101. Independent assessment of the scheduling of appointments and other health care management processes of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 102. Technology task force on review of scheduling system and software of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

TITLE II—TRAINING AND HIRING OF HEALTH CARE STAFF

Sec. 201. Treatment of staffing shortage and bi-annual report on staffing of medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

NAYS—163

Barrow (GA)
Bass
Becerra
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Ciilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty

Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)

Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
O’Rourke
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schradler
Schwartz

Sec. 702. Approval of courses of education provided by public institutions of higher learning for purposes of All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program and Post-9/11 Educational Assistance conditional on in-State tuition rate for veterans.

TITLE VIII—APPROPRIATION AND EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS

Sec. 801. Appropriation of emergency amounts.
Sec. 802. Emergency designations.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENT OF SCHEDULING SYSTEM FOR HEALTH CARE APPOINTMENTS

SEC. 101. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SCHEDULING OF APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT PROCESSES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—

(1) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract with an independent third party to assess the following:

(A) The process at each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs for scheduling appointments for veterans to receive hospital care, medical services, or other health care from the Department.

(B) The staffing level and productivity of each medical facility of the Department, including the following:

(i) The case load of each health care provider of the Department.

(ii) The time spent by each health care provider of the Department on matters other than the case load of such health care provider, including time spent by such health care provider as follows:

(I) At a medical facility that is affiliated with the Department.

(II) Conducting research.

(III) Training or overseeing other health care professionals of the Department.

(C) The organization, processes, and tools used by the Department to support clinical documentation and the subsequent coding of inpatient services.

(D) The purchasing, distribution, and use of pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, and medical devices by the Department, including the following:

(i) The prices paid for, standardization of, and use by the Department of the following:

(I) High-cost pharmaceuticals.

(II) Medical and surgical supplies.

(III) Medical devices.

(ii) The use by the Department of group purchasing arrangements to purchase pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, medical devices, and health care related services.

(iii) The strategy used by the Department to distribute pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, and medical devices to Veterans Integrated Service Networks and medical facilities of the Department.

(E) The performance of the Department in paying amounts owed to third parties and collecting amounts owed to the Department with respect to hospital care, medical services, and other health care, including any recommendations of the independent third party as follows:

(i) To avoid the payment of penalties to vendors.

(ii) To increase the collection of amounts owed to the Department for hospital care, medical services, or other health care provided by the Department for which reimbursement from a third party is authorized.

(iii) To increase the collection of any other amounts owed to the Department.

(2) ELEMENTS OF SCHEDULING ASSESSMENT.—In carrying out the assessment required by para-

graph (1)(A), the independent third party shall do the following:

(A) Review all training materials pertaining to scheduling of appointments at each medical facility of the Department.

(B) Assess whether all employees of the Department conducting tasks related to scheduling are properly trained for conducting such tasks.

(C) Assess whether changes in the technology or system used in scheduling appointments are necessary to limit access to the system to only those employees that have been properly trained in conducting such tasks.

(D) Assess whether health care providers of the Department are making changes to their schedules that hinder the ability of employees conducting such tasks to perform such tasks.

(E) Assess whether the establishment of a centralized call center throughout the Department for scheduling appointments at medical facilities of the Department would improve the process of scheduling such appointments.

(F) Assess whether booking templates for each medical facility or clinic of the Department would improve the process of scheduling such appointments.

(G) Recommend any actions to be taken by the Department to improve the process for scheduling such appointments, including the following:

(i) Changes in training materials provided to employees of the Department with respect to conducting tasks related to scheduling such appointments.

(ii) Changes in monitoring and assessment conducted by the Department of wait times of veterans for such appointments.

(iii) Changes in the system used to schedule such appointments, including changes to improve how the Department—

(I) measures wait times of veterans for such appointments;

(II) monitors the availability of health care providers of the Department; and

(III) provides veterans the ability to schedule such appointments.

(iv) Such other actions as the independent third party considers appropriate.

(3) TIMING.—The independent third party carrying out the assessment required by paragraph (1) shall complete such assessment not later than 180 days after entering into the contract described in such paragraph.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the independent third party completes the assessment under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the results of such assessment.

(2) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30 days after submitting the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall publish such report in the Federal Register and on an Internet website of the Department accessible to the public.

SEC. 102. TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE ON REVIEW OF SCHEDULING SYSTEM AND SOFTWARE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) TASK FORCE REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, through the use of a technology task force, conduct a review of the needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to the scheduling system and scheduling software of the Department of Veterans Affairs that is used by the Department to schedule appointments for veterans for hospital care, medical services, and other health care from the Department.

(2) AGREEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with a technology organization or technology organizations to carry out the review required by paragraph (1).

(B) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—No Federal funds may be used to assist the technology organization or technology organizations under subparagraph (A) in carrying out the review required by paragraph (1).

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the technology task force required under subsection (a)(1) shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth the findings and recommendations of the technology task force regarding the needs of the Department with respect to the scheduling system and scheduling software of the Department described in such subsection.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Proposals for specific actions to be taken by the Department to improve the scheduling system and scheduling software of the Department described in subsection (a)(1).

(B) A determination as to whether an existing off-the-shelf system would—

(i) meet the needs of the Department to schedule appointments for veterans for hospital care, medical services, and other health care from the Department; and

(ii) improve the access of veterans to such care and services.

(3) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the receipt of the report required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall publish such report in the Federal Register and on an Internet website of the Department accessible to the public.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than one year after the receipt of the report required by subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall implement the recommendations set forth in such report that the Secretary considers are feasible, advisable, and cost-effective.

TITLE II—TRAINING AND HIRING OF HEALTH CARE STAFF

SEC. 201. TREATMENT OF STAFFING SHORTAGE AND BIENNIAL REPORT ON STAFFING OF MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) STAFFING SHORTAGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than September 30 each year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall determine, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register, the five occupations of health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs for which there is the largest staffing shortage throughout the Department.

(2) RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT.—Notwithstanding sections 3304 and 3309 through 3318 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary may, upon a determination by the Inspector General under paragraph (1) that there is a staffing shortage throughout the Department with respect to a particular occupation of health care provider, recruit and directly appoint highly qualified health care providers to serve as health care providers in that particular occupation for the Department.

(3) PRIORITY IN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO CERTAIN PROVIDERS.—Section 7612(b)(5) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

“(B) shall give priority to applicants pursuing a course of education or training towards a career in an occupation for which the Secretary has, in the most current determination published in the Federal Register pursuant to section 201(a)(1) of the Veterans’ Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014, determined that there is one of the largest staffing shortages throughout the Department with respect to such occupation; and”.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than December 31 of each even numbered year thereafter until 2024, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report assessing the staffing of each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The results of a system-wide assessment of all medical facilities of the Department to ensure the following:

(i) Appropriate staffing levels for health care providers to meet the goals of the Secretary for timely access to care for veterans.

(ii) Appropriate staffing levels for support personnel, including clerks.

(iii) Appropriate sizes for clinical panels.

(iv) Appropriate numbers of full-time staff, or full-time equivalents, dedicated to direct care of patients.

(v) Appropriate physical plant space to meet the capacity needs of the Department in that area.

(vi) Such other factors as the Secretary considers necessary.

(B) A plan for addressing any issues identified in the assessment described in subparagraph (A), including a timeline for addressing such issues.

(C) A list of the current wait times and workload levels for the following clinics in each medical facility:

(i) Mental health.

(ii) Primary care.

(iii) Gastroenterology.

(iv) Women’s health.

(v) Such other clinics as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(D) A description of the results of the most current determination of the Inspector General under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) and a plan to use direct appointment authority under paragraph (2) of such subsection to fill staffing shortages, including recommendations for improving the speed at which the credentialing and privileging process can be conducted.

(E) The current staffing models of the Department for the following clinics, including recommendations for changes to such models:

(i) Mental health.

(ii) Primary care.

(iii) Gastroenterology.

(iv) Women’s health.

(v) Such other clinics as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(F) A detailed analysis of succession planning at medical facilities of the Department, including the following:

(i) The number of positions in medical facilities throughout the Department that are not filled by a permanent employee.

(ii) The length of time each position described in clause (i) remained vacant or filled by a temporary or acting employee.

(iii) A description of any barriers to filling the positions described in clause (i).

(iv) A plan for filling any positions that are vacant or filled by a temporary or acting employee for more than 180 days.

(v) A plan for handling emergency circumstances, such as administrative leave or sudden medical leave for senior officials.

(G) The number of health care providers of the Department who have been removed from their positions, have retired, or have left their positions for another reason, disaggregated by provider type, during the two-year period preceding the submittal of the report.

(H) Of the health care providers specified in subparagraph (G) who have been removed from their positions, the following:

(i) The number of such health care providers who were reassigned to other positions in the Department.

(ii) The number of such health care providers who left the Department.

(iii) The number of such health care providers who left the Department and were subsequently rehired by the Department.

SEC. 202. CLINIC MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR MANAGERS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) CLINIC MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall commence a clinic management training program to provide in-person, standardized education on health care management to all managers of, and health care providers at, medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The clinic management training program required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Training on how to manage the schedules of health care providers of the Department, including the following:

(i) Maintaining such schedules in a manner that allows appointments to be booked at least eight weeks in advance.

(ii) Proper planning procedures for vacation, leave, and graduate medical education training schedules.

(B) Training on the appropriate number of appointments that a health care provider should conduct on a daily basis, based on specialty.

(C) Training on how to determine whether there are enough available appointment slots to manage demand for different appointment types and mechanisms for alerting management of insufficient slots.

(D) Training on how to properly use the appointment scheduling system of the Department, including any new scheduling system implemented by the Department.

(E) Training on how to optimize the use of technology, including the following:

(i) Telemedicine.

(ii) Electronic mail.

(iii) Text messaging.

(iv) Such other technologies as specified by the Secretary.

(F) Training on how to properly use physical plant space at medical facilities of the Department to ensure efficient flow and privacy for patients and staff.

(3) SUNSET.—The clinic management training program required by paragraph (1) shall terminate on the date that is two years after the date on which the Secretary commences such program.

(b) TRAINING MATERIALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the termination of the clinic management training program required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide training materials on health care management to each of the following employees of the Department upon the commencement of employment of such employee:

(A) Any manager of a medical facility of the Department.

(B) Any health care provider at a medical facility of the Department.

(C) Such other employees of the Department as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) UPDATE.—The Secretary shall regularly update the training materials required under paragraph (1).

SEC. 203. USE OF UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS TO HIRE ADDITIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FOR THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the end of each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015, all covered amounts shall be made available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire additional health care providers for the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or to carry out any provision of this Act or the amendments made by this Act, and shall remain available until expended.

(b) PRIORITY IN HIRING.—The Secretary shall prioritize hiring additional health care providers under subsection (a) at medical facilities of the Department and in geographic areas in which the Secretary identifies the greatest shortage of health care providers.

(c) COVERED AMOUNTS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered amounts” means amounts—

(1) that are made available to the Veterans Health Administration of the Department for an appropriations account—

(A) under the heading “MEDICAL SERVICES”;

(B) under the heading “MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE”; or

(C) under the heading “MEDICAL FACILITIES”; and

(2) that are unobligated at the end of the applicable fiscal year.

TITLE III—IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO CARE FROM NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS

SEC. 301. EXPANDED AVAILABILITY OF HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS THROUGH THE USE OF CONTRACTS.

(a) EXPANSION OF AVAILABLE CARE AND SERVICES.—

(1) FURNISHING OF CARE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Hospital care and medical services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, shall be furnished to an eligible veteran described in subsection (b), at the election of such veteran, through contracts authorized under subsection (d), or any other law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with entities specified in subparagraph (B) for the furnishing of such care and services to veterans.

(B) ENTITIES SPECIFIED.—The entities specified in this subparagraph are the following:

(i) Any health care provider that is participating in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(ii) Any Federally-qualified health center (as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2)(B))).

(iii) The Department of Defense.

(iv) The Indian Health Service.

(2) CHOICE OF PROVIDER.—An eligible veteran who elects to receive care and services under this section may select the provider of such care and services from among any source of provider of such care and services through an entity specified in paragraph (1)(B) that is accessible to the veteran.

(3) COORDINATION OF CARE AND SERVICES.—The Secretary shall coordinate, through the Non-VA Care Coordination Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the furnishing of care and services under this section to eligible veterans, including by ensuring that an eligible veteran receives an appointment for such care and services within the current wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration for the furnishing of hospital care and medical services.

(b) **ELIGIBLE VETERANS.**—A veteran is an eligible veteran for purposes of this section if—

(1)(A) the veteran is enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code; or

(B) the veteran is enrolled in such system, has not received hospital care or medical services from the Department, and has contacted the Department seeking an initial appointment from the Department for the receipt of such care or services; and

(2) the veteran—

(A)(i) attempts, or has attempted under paragraph (1)(B), to schedule an appointment for the receipt of hospital care or medical services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, but is unable to schedule an appointment within the current wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration for the furnishing of such care or services; and

(ii) elects, and is authorized, to be furnished such care or services pursuant to subsection (c)(2);

(B) resides more than 40 miles from the nearest medical facility of the Department, including a community-based outpatient clinic, that is closest to the residence of the veteran; or

(C) resides—

(i) in a State without a medical facility of the Department that provides—

(I) hospital care;

(II) emergency medical services; and

(III) surgical care rated by the Secretary as having a surgical complexity of standard; and

(ii) more than 20 miles from a medical facility of the Department described in clause (i).

(c) **ELECTION AND AUTHORIZATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary confirms that an appointment for an eligible veteran described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for the receipt of hospital care or medical services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is unavailable within the current wait-time goals of the Department for the furnishing of such care or services, the Secretary shall, at the election of the eligible veteran—

(A) place such eligible veteran on an electronic waiting list described in paragraph (2) for such an appointment; or

(B)(i) authorize that such care and services be furnished to the eligible veteran under this section for a period of time specified by the Secretary; and

(ii) send a letter to the eligible veteran describing the care and services the eligible veteran is eligible to receive under this section.

(2) **ELECTRONIC WAITING LIST.**—The electronic waiting list described in this paragraph shall be maintained by the Department and allow access by each eligible veteran via www.myhealth.va.gov or any successor website for the following purposes:

(A) To determine the place of such eligible veteran on the waiting list.

(B) To determine the average length of time an individual spends on the waiting list, disaggregated by medical facility of the Department and type of care or service needed, for purposes of allowing such eligible veteran to make an informed election under paragraph (1).

(d) **CARE AND SERVICES THROUGH CONTRACTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall enter into contracts with health care providers that are participating in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) to furnish care and services to eligible veterans under this section.

(2) **RATES AND REIMBURSEMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In entering into a contract under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(i) negotiate rates for the furnishing of care and services under this section; and

(ii) reimburse the health care provider for such care and services at the rates negotiated pursuant to clause (i) as provided in such contract.

(B) **LIMIT ON RATES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in clause (ii), rates negotiated under subparagraph (A)(i) shall not be more than the rates paid by the United States to a provider of services (as defined in section 1861(u) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(u))) or a supplier (as defined in section 1861(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(d))) under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) for the same care and services.

(ii) **EXCEPTION.**—The Secretary may negotiate a rate that is more than the rate paid by the United States as described in clause (i) with respect to the furnishing of care or services under this section to an eligible veteran if the Secretary determines that there is no health care provider that will provide such care or services to such eligible veteran at the rate required under such clause—

(I) within the current wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration for the furnishing of such care or services; and

(II) at a location not more than 40 miles from the residence of such eligible veteran.

(C) **LIMIT ON COLLECTION.**—For the furnishing of care and services pursuant to a contract under this section, a health care provider may not collect any amount that is greater than the rate negotiated pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i).

(3) **INFORMATION ON POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**—The Secretary shall provide to any health care provider with which the Secretary has entered into a contract under paragraph (1) the following:

(A) Information on applicable policies and procedures for submitting bills or claims for authorized care and services furnished to eligible veterans under this section.

(B) Access to a telephone hotline maintained by the Department that such health care provider may call for information on the following:

(i) Procedures for furnishing care and services under this section.

(ii) Procedures for submitting bills or claims for authorized care and services furnished to eligible veterans under this section and being reimbursed for furnishing such care and services.

(iii) Whether particular care or services under this section are authorized, and the procedures for authorization of such care or services.

(e) **CHOICE CARD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of receiving care and services under this section, the Secretary shall issue to each eligible veteran a card that the eligible veteran shall present to a health care provider that is eligible to furnish care and services under this section before receiving such care and services.

(2) **NAME OF CARD.**—Each card issued under paragraph (1) shall be known as a “Choice Card”.

(3) **DETAILS OF CARD.**—Each Choice Card issued to an eligible veteran under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The name of the eligible veteran.

(B) An identification number for the eligible veteran that is not the social security number of the eligible veteran.

(C) The contact information of an appropriate office of the Department for health care providers to confirm that care and services under this section are authorized for the eligible veteran.

(D) Contact information and other relevant information for the submittal of claims or bills for the furnishing of care and services under this section.

(E) The following statement: “This card is for qualifying medical care outside the Department

of Veterans Affairs. Please call the Department of Veterans Affairs phone number specified on this card to ensure that treatment has been authorized.”.

(4) **INFORMATION ON USE OF CARD.**—Upon issuing a Choice Card to an eligible veteran, the Secretary shall provide the eligible veteran with information clearly stating the circumstances under which the veteran may be eligible for care and services under this section.

(f) **INFORMATION ON AVAILABILITY OF CARE.**—The Secretary shall provide information to a veteran about the availability of care and services under this section in the following circumstances:

(1) When the veteran enrolls in the patient enrollment system of the Department under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) When the veteran attempts to schedule an appointment for the receipt of hospital care or medical services from the Department but is unable to schedule an appointment within the current wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration for delivery of such care or services.

(g) **PROVIDERS.**—To be eligible to furnish care and services under this section, a health care provider must—

(1) maintain at least the same or similar credentials and licenses as those credentials and licenses that are required of health care providers of the Department, as determined by the Secretary for purposes of this section; and

(2) submit, not less frequently than once each year, verification of such licenses and credentials maintained by such health care provider.

(h) **COST-SHARING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall require an eligible veteran to pay a copayment to the Department for the receipt of care and services under this section only if such eligible veteran would be required to pay such copayment for the receipt of such care and services at a medical facility of the Department.

(2) **LIMITATION.**—The copayment required under paragraph (1) shall not be greater than the copayment required of such eligible veteran by the Department for the receipt of such care and services at a medical facility of the Department.

(i) **CLAIMS PROCESSING SYSTEM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall provide for an efficient nationwide system for processing and paying bills or claims for authorized care and services furnished to eligible veterans under this section.

(2) **REGULATIONS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations for the implementation of such system.

(3) **OVERSIGHT.**—The Chief Business Office of the Veterans Health Administration shall oversee the implementation and maintenance of such system.

(4) **ACCURACY OF PAYMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall ensure that such system meets such goals for accuracy of payment as the Secretary shall specify for purposes of this section.

(B) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the termination date specified in subsection (n), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the goals for accuracy of such system.

(ii) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report required by clause (i) shall include the following:

(I) A description of the goals for accuracy for such system specified by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

(II) An assessment of the success of the Department in meeting such goals during the year preceding the submittal of the report.

(j) **MEDICAL RECORDS.**—The Secretary shall ensure that any health care provider that furnishes care and services under this section to an eligible veteran submits to the Department any medical record related to the care and services provided to such eligible veteran by such health care provider for inclusion in the electronic medical record of such eligible veteran maintained by the Department upon the completion of the provision of such care and services to such eligible veteran.

(k) **TRACKING OF MISSED APPOINTMENTS.**—The Secretary shall implement a mechanism to track any missed appointments for care and services under this section by eligible veterans to ensure that the Department does not pay for such care and services that were not furnished to an eligible veteran.

(l) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe interim final regulations on the implementation of this section and publish such regulations in the Federal Register.

(m) **INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.**—Not later than 540 days after the publication of the interim final regulations under subsection (l), the Inspector General of the Department shall submit to the Secretary a report on the results of an audit of the care and services furnished under this section to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of payments by the Department for the cost of such care and services, including any findings and recommendations of the Inspector General.

(n) **TERMINATION.**—The requirement of the Secretary to furnish care and services under this section terminates on the date that is two years after the date on which the Secretary publishes the interim final regulations under subsection (l).

(o) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **INITIAL REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the publication of the interim final regulations under subsection (l), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the furnishing of care and services under this section that includes the following:

(A) The number of eligible veterans who have received care and services under this section.

(B) A description of the type of care and services furnished to eligible veterans under this section.

(2) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 540 days after the publication of the interim final regulations under subsection (l), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the furnishing of care and services under this section that includes the following:

(A) The total number of eligible veterans who have received care and services under this section, disaggregated by—

(i) eligible veterans described in subsection (b)(2)(A); and

(ii) eligible veterans described in subsection (b)(2)(B).

(B) A description of the type of care and services furnished to eligible veterans under this section.

(C) An accounting of the total cost of furnishing care and services to eligible veterans under this section.

(D) The results of a survey of eligible veterans who have received care or services under this section on the satisfaction of such eligible veterans with the care or services received by such eligible veterans under this section.

(E) An assessment of the effect of furnishing care and services under this section on wait times for an appointment for the receipt of hos-

pital care and medical services from the Department.

(F) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of continuing furnishing care and services under this section after the termination date specified in subsection (n).

(p) **RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**—

(1) **NO MODIFICATION OF CONTRACTS.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Secretary to renegotiate contracts for the furnishing of hospital care or medical services to veterans entered into by the Department before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **FILLING AND PAYING FOR PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the process of the Department for filling and paying for prescription medications.

SEC. 302. TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY FOR PAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND OTHER HEALTH CARE FROM NON-DEPARTMENT PROVIDERS TO THE CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICE OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

(a) **TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective on October 1, 2014, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall transfer the authority to pay for hospital care, medical services, and other health care through non-Department providers to the Chief Business Office of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs from the Veterans Integrated Service Networks and medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) **MANNER OF CARE.**—The Chief Business Office shall work in consultation with the Office of Clinical Operations and Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that care and services described in paragraph (1) are provided in a manner that is clinically appropriate and effective.

(3) **NO DELAY IN PAYMENT.**—The transfer of authority under paragraph (1) shall be carried out in a manner that does not delay or impede any payment by the Department for hospital care, medical services, or other health care provided through a non-Department provider under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(b) **BUDGETARY EFFECT.**—The Secretary shall, for each fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) include in the budget for the Chief Business Office of the Veterans Health Administration amounts to pay for hospital care, medical services, and other health care provided through non-Department providers, including any amounts necessary to carry out the transfer of authority to pay for such care and services under subsection (a), including any increase in staff; and

(2) not include in the budget of each Veterans Integrated Service Network and medical center of the Department amounts to pay for such care and services.

SEC. 303. ENHANCEMENT OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.

(a) **OUTREACH TO TRIBAL-RUN MEDICAL FACILITIES.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with the Director of the Indian Health Service, conduct outreach to each medical facility operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization through a contract or compact with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) to raise awareness of the ability of such facilities, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations to enter into agreements with the Department of Veterans Affairs under which the Secretary reimburses such facilities, Indian tribes, or tribal organizations, as the case may be, for health care

provided to veterans eligible for health care at such facilities.

(b) **METRICS FOR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING PERFORMANCE.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement performance metrics for assessing the performance by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Indian Health Service under the memorandum of understanding entitled “Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS)” in increasing access to health care, improving quality and coordination of health care, promoting effective patient-centered collaboration and partnerships between the Department and the Service, and ensuring health-promotion and disease-prevention services are appropriately funded and available for beneficiaries under both health care systems.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Director of the Indian Health Service shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the feasibility and advisability of the following:

(1) Entering into agreements for the reimbursement by the Secretary of the costs of direct care services provided through organizations receiving amounts pursuant to grants made or contracts entered into under section 503 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1653) to veterans who are otherwise eligible to receive health care from such organizations.

(2) Including the reimbursement of the costs of direct care services provided to veterans who are not Indians in agreements between the Department and the following:

(A) The Indian Health Service.

(B) An Indian tribe or tribal organization operating a medical facility through a contract or compact with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

(C) A medical facility of the Indian Health Service.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **INDIAN.**—The terms “Indian” and “Indian tribe” have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

(2) **MEDICAL FACILITY OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.**—The term “medical facility of the Indian Health Service” includes a facility operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization through a contract or compact with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

(3) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

SEC. 304. ENHANCEMENT OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with Papa Ola Lokahi and such other organizations involved in the delivery of health care to Native Hawaiians as the Secretary considers appropriate, enter into contracts or agreements with Native Hawaiian health care systems that are in receipt of funds from the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to grants awarded or contracts entered into under section 6(a) of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (42 U.S.C. 11705(a)) for the reimbursement of direct care services provided to eligible veterans as specified in such contracts or agreements.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the terms “Native Hawaiian”, “Native Hawaiian health care system”, and “Papa Ola Lokahi” have the meanings given those terms in section 12 of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (42 U.S.C. 11711).

SEC. 305. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PROMPT PAYMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall comply with section 1315 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (commonly known as the "prompt payment rule"), or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling, in paying for health care pursuant to contracts entered into with non-Department of Veterans Affairs providers to provide health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

TITLE IV—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

SEC. 401. IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS OF VETERANS TO MOBILE VET CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall improve the access of veterans to telemedicine and other health care through the use of mobile vet centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing standardized requirements for the operation of such centers.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The standardized requirements required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The number of days each mobile vet center of the Department is expected to travel per year.

(B) The number of locations each center is expected to visit per year.

(C) The number of appointments each center is expected to conduct per year.

(D) The method and timing of notifications given by each center to individuals in the area to which such center is traveling, including notifications informing veterans of the availability to schedule appointments at the center.

(3) USE OF TELEMEDICINE.—The Secretary shall ensure that each mobile vet center of the Department has the capability to provide telemedicine services.

(b) REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than September 30 each year thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the following:

(1) The use of mobile vet centers to provide telemedicine services to veterans during the year preceding the submittal of the report, including the following:

(A) The number of days each mobile vet center was open to provide such services.

(B) The number of days each mobile vet center traveled to a location other than the headquarters of the mobile vet center to provide such services.

(C) The number of appointments each center conducted to provide such services on average per month and in total during such year.

(2) An analysis of the effectiveness of using mobile vet centers to provide health care services to veterans through the use of telemedicine.

(3) Any recommendations for an increase in the number of mobile vet centers of the Department.

(4) Any recommendations for an increase in the telemedicine capabilities of each mobile vet center.

(5) The feasibility and advisability of using temporary health care providers, including locum tenens, to provide direct health care services to veterans at mobile vet centers.

(6) Such other recommendations on improvement of the use of mobile vet centers by the Department as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 402. COMMISSION ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an Independent Commission on Department of Veterans Affairs Construction Projects (in this section referred to as the "Commission").

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Commission shall be composed of 10 voting members as follows:

(i) Three members to be appointed by the President from among members of the National Academy of Engineering who are nominated under subparagraph (B).

(ii) Three members to be appointed by the President from among members of the National Institute of Building Sciences who are nominated under subparagraph (B).

(iii) Four members to be appointed by the President from among veterans enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code, who are nominated under subparagraph (B).

(B) NOMINATION OF VOTING MEMBERS.—The majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall jointly nominate not less than 24 individuals to be considered by the President for appointment under subparagraph (A).

(C) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Commission shall be composed of the following nonvoting members:

(i) The Comptroller General of the United States, or designee.

(ii) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee.

(iii) The Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or designee.

(D) DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—The appointments of the members of the Commission under subparagraph (A) shall be made not later than 14 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than five days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.

(5) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(6) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(7) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among its members.

(b) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—

(1) REVIEW.—The Commission shall review current construction and maintenance projects and the medical facility leasing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to identify any problems experienced by the Department in carrying out such projects and program.

(2) REPORTS.—

(A) COMMISSION REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth recommendations, if any, for improving the manner in which the Secretary carries out the projects and program specified in paragraph (1).

(B) DEPARTMENT REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the submittal of the report under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a

report on the feasibility and advisability of implementing the recommendations of the Commission, if any, included in the report submitted under such subparagraph, including a timeline for the implementation of such recommendations.

(c) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this section.

(2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this section. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(d) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission. All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(3) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(B) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(5) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(e) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under subsection (b)(2)(A).

SEC. 403. COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO CARE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Commission on Access to Care (in this section referred to as the "Commission") to examine the

access of veterans to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and strategically examine how best to organize the Veterans Health Administration, locate health care resources, and deliver health care to veterans during the 10- to 20-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Commission shall be composed of 10 voting members who are appointed by the President as follows:

(i) At least two members who represent an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

(ii) At least one member from among persons who have experience as senior management for a private integrated health care system with an annual gross revenue of more than \$50,000,000.

(iii) At least one member from among persons who are familiar with government health care systems, including those systems of the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service, and Federally-qualified health centers (as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2)(B))).

(iv) At least two members from among persons who are familiar with the Veterans Health Administration but are not current employees of the Veterans Health Administration.

(v) At least two members from among persons who are veterans or eligible for hospital care, medical services, or other health care under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(B) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to members appointed under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall be composed of 10 nonvoting members who are appointed by the President as follows:

(I) At least two members who represent an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

(II) At least one member from among persons who have experience as senior management for a private integrated health care system with an annual gross revenue of more than \$50,000,000.

(III) At least one member from among persons who are familiar with government health care systems, including those systems of the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service, and Federally-qualified health centers (as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2)(B))).

(IV) At least two members from among persons who are familiar with the Veterans Health Administration but are not current employees of the Veterans Health Administration.

(V) At least two members from among persons who are veterans or eligible for hospital care, medical services, or other health care under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(ii) ADDITIONAL NONVOTING MEMBERS.—In addition to members appointed under subparagraph (A) and clause (i), the Commission shall be composed of the following nonvoting members:

(I) The Comptroller General of the United States, or designee.

(II) The Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or designee.

(C) DATE.—The appointments of members of the Commission shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which seven voting members of

the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold its first meeting.

(5) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(6) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(7) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among its members.

(b) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—

(1) EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT.—The Commission shall undertake a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of access to health care at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) MATTERS EVALUATED AND ASSESSED.—The matters evaluated and assessed by the Commission shall include the following:

(A) The appropriateness of current standards of the Department of Veterans Affairs concerning access to health care.

(B) The measurement of such standards.

(C) The appropriateness of performance standards and incentives in relation to standards described in subparagraph (A).

(D) Staffing levels throughout the Veterans Health Administration and whether they are sufficient to meet current demand for health care from the Administration.

(E) The results of the assessment conducted by an independent third party under section 101(a), including any data or recommendations included in such assessment.

(3) REPORTS.—The Commission shall submit to the President, through the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, reports as follows:

(A) Not later than 90 days after the date of the initial meeting of the Commission, an interim report on—

(i) the findings of the Commission with respect to the evaluation and assessment required by this subsection; and

(ii) such recommendations as the Commission may have for legislative or administrative action to improve access to health care through the Veterans Health Administration.

(B) Not later than 180 days after the date of the initial meeting of the Commission, a final report on—

(i) the findings of the Commission with respect to the evaluation and assessment required by this subsection; and

(ii) such recommendations as the Commission may have for legislative or administrative action to improve access to health care through the Veterans Health Administration.

(c) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this section.

(2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this section. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

(d) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission. All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(3) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(B) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(5) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(e) TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.—The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under subsection (b)(3)(B).

(f) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make available to the Commission from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Secretary such amounts as the Secretary and the Chairperson of the Commission jointly consider appropriate for the Commission to perform its duties under this section.

(g) EXECUTIVE ACTION.—

(1) ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS.—The President shall require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and such other heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement each recommendation set forth in a report submitted under subsection (b)(3) that the President—

(A) considers feasible and advisable; and

(B) determines can be implemented without further legislative action.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the President receives a report under subsection (b)(3), the President shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and such other committees of Congress as the President considers appropriate a report setting forth the following:

(A) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of each recommendation contained in the report received by the President.

(B) For each recommendation assessed as feasible and advisable under subparagraph (A) the following:

(i) Whether such recommendation requires legislative action.

(ii) If such recommendation requires legislative action, a recommendation concerning such legislative action.

(iii) A description of any administrative action already taken to carry out such recommendation.

(iv) A description of any administrative action the President intends to be taken to carry out such recommendation and by whom.

SEC. 404. IMPROVED PERFORMANCE METRICS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF SCHEDULING AND WAIT-TIME METRICS IN DETERMINATION OF PERFORMANCE AWARDS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that scheduling and wait-time metrics or goals are not used as factors in determining the performance of the following employees for purposes of determining whether to pay performance awards to such employees:

(1) Directors, associate directors, assistant directors, deputy directors, chiefs of staff, and clinical leads of medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) Directors, assistant directors, and quality management officers of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) **MODIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE PLANS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall modify the performance plans of the directors of the medical centers of the Department and the directors of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks to ensure that such plans are based on the quality of care received by veterans at the health care facilities under the jurisdictions of such directors.

(2) **FACTORS.**—In modifying performance plans under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that assessment of the quality of care provided at health care facilities under the jurisdiction of a director described in paragraph (1) includes consideration of the following:

(A) Recent reviews by the Joint Commission (formerly known as the “Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations”) of such facilities.

(B) The number and nature of recommendations concerning such facilities by the Inspector General of the Department in reviews conducted through the Combined Assessment Program (CAP), in the reviews by the Inspector General of community based outpatient clinics and primary care clinics, and in reviews conducted through the Office of Healthcare Inspections during the two most recently completed fiscal years.

(C) The number of recommendations described in subparagraph (B) that the Inspector General of the Department determines have not been carried out satisfactorily with respect to such facilities.

(D) Reviews of such facilities by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

(E) The number and outcomes of administrative investigation boards, root cause analysis, and peer reviews conducted at such facilities during the fiscal year for which the assessment is being conducted.

(F) The effectiveness of any remedial actions or plans resulting from any Inspector General recommendations in the reviews and analyses described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

(3) **ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.**—To the degree practicable, the Secretary shall assess the performance of other employees of the Department in leadership positions at Department medical centers, including associate directors, assistant directors, deputy directors, chiefs of staff, and clinical leads, and in Veterans Integrated Service Networks, including assistant directors and quality management officers, using factors and criteria similar to those used in the performance plans modified under paragraph (1).

(c) **REMOVAL OF CERTAIN PERFORMANCE GOALS.**—For each fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-

retary shall not include in the performance goals of any employee of a Veterans Integrated Service Network or medical center of the Department any performance goal that might disincentivize the payment of Department amounts to provide hospital care, medical services, or other health care through a non-Department provider.

SEC. 405. IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY CONCERNING HEALTH CARE PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **PUBLICATION OF WAIT TIMES.**—

(1) **GOALS.**—

(A) **INITIAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register, and on an Internet website accessible to the public of each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the wait-time goals of the Department for the scheduling of an appointment by a veteran for the receipt of health care from the Department.

(B) **SUBSEQUENT CHANGES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary modifies the wait-time goals described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall publish the new wait-times goals—

(I) on an Internet website accessible to the public of each medical center of the Department not later than 30 days after such modification; and

(II) in the Federal Register not later than 90 days after such modification.

(ii) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Any modification under clause (i) shall take effect on the date of publication in the Federal Register.

(C) **GOALS DESCRIBED.**—Wait-time goals published under this paragraph shall include goals for primary care appointments, specialty care appointments, and appointments based on the general severity of the condition of the veteran.

(2) **WAIT TIMES AT MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish on an Internet website accessible to the public of each medical center of the Department the current wait time for an appointment for primary care and specialty care at the medical center.

(b) **PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DATABASE OF PATIENT SAFETY, QUALITY OF CARE, AND OUTCOME MEASURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and make available to the public a comprehensive database containing all applicable patient safety, quality of care, and outcome measures for health care provided by the Department that are tracked by the Secretary.

(2) **UPDATE FREQUENCY.**—The Secretary shall update the database required by paragraph (1) not less frequently than once each year.

(3) **UNAVAILABLE MEASURES.**—For all measures that the Secretary would otherwise publish in the database required by paragraph (1) but has not done so because such measures are not available, the Secretary shall publish notice in the database of the reason for such unavailability and a timeline for making such measures available in the database.

(4) **ACCESSIBILITY.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the database required by paragraph (1) is accessible to the public through the primary Internet website of the Department and through each primary Internet website of a Department medical center.

(c) **HOSPITAL COMPARE WEBSITE OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**—

(1) **AGREEMENT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the provision by the

Secretary of Veterans Affairs of such information as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may require to report and make publicly available patient quality and outcome information concerning Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers through the Hospital Compare Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services or any successor Internet website.

(2) **INFORMATION PROVIDED.**—The information provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Secretary of Health and Human Services under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Measures of timely and effective health care.

(B) Measures of readmissions, complications of death, including with respect to 30-day mortality rates and 30-day readmission rates, surgical complication measures, and health care related infection measures.

(C) Survey data of patient experiences, including the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems or any similar successor survey developed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

(D) Any other measures required of or reported with respect to hospitals participating in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(3) **UNAVAILABLE INFORMATION.**—For any applicable metric collected by the Department of Veterans Affairs or required to be provided under paragraph (2) and withheld from or unavailable in the Hospital Compare Internet website, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish a notice in the Federal Register stating the reason why such metric was withheld from public disclosure and a timeline for making such metric available, if applicable.

(d) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SAFETY AND QUALITY METRICS.**—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the safety and quality metrics made publicly available by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under this section to assess the degree to which the Secretary is complying with the provisions of this section.

SEC. 406. INFORMATION FOR VETERANS ON THE CREDENTIALS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PHYSICIANS.

(a) **IMPROVEMENT OF “OUR PROVIDERS” INTERNET WEBSITE LINKS.**—

(1) **AVAILABILITY THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOMEPAGE.**—A link to the “Our Providers” health care providers database of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any successor database, shall be available on and through the homepage of the Internet website of the Department that is accessible to the public.

(2) **INFORMATION ON LOCATION OF RESIDENCY TRAINING.**—The Internet website of the Department that is accessible to the public shall include under the link to the “Our Providers” health care providers database of the Department, or any successor database, the location of residency training of each licensed physician of the Department.

(3) **INFORMATION ON PHYSICIANS AT PARTICULAR FACILITIES.**—The “Our Providers” health care providers database of the Department, or any successor database, shall identify whether each licensed physician of the Department is a physician in residency.

(b) **INFORMATION ON CREDENTIALS OF PHYSICIANS FOR VETERANS UNDERGOING SURGICAL PROCEDURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each veteran who is undergoing a surgical procedure by or through the Department shall be provided information on the credentials of the surgeon to be performing such procedure at such time in advance of the procedure as is appropriate to permit such veteran to evaluate such information.

(2) **OTHER INDIVIDUALS.**—If a veteran is unable to evaluate the information provided under paragraph (1) due to the health or mental competence of the veteran, such information shall be provided to an individual acting on behalf of the veteran.

(c) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT AND PLAN.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth an assessment by the Comptroller General of the following:

(A) The manner in which contractors under the Patient-Centered Community Care initiative of the Department perform oversight of the credentials of physicians within the networks of such contractors under the initiative.

(B) The oversight by the Department of the contracts under the Patient-Centered Community Care initiative.

(C) The verification by the Department of the credentials and licenses of health care providers furnishing hospital care and medical services under section 301.

(2) **PLAN.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the submittal of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(i) submit to the Comptroller General, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a plan to address any findings and recommendations of the Comptroller General included in such report; and

(ii) submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a request for additional amounts, if any, that may be necessary to carry out such plan.

(B) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the submittal of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall carry out such plan.

SEC. 407. INFORMATION IN ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE PRESIDENT ON HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES FURNISHED THROUGH EXPANDED USE OF CONTRACTS FOR SUCH CARE.

The materials on the Department of Veterans Affairs in the budget of the President for a fiscal year, as submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall set forth the following:

(1) The number of veterans who received hospital care and medical services under section 301 during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which such budget is submitted.

(2) The amount expended by the Department on furnishing care and services under such section during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which such budget is submitted.

(3) The amount requested in such budget for the costs of furnishing care and services under such section during the fiscal year covered by such budget, set forth in aggregate and by amounts for each account for which amounts are so requested.

(4) The number of veterans that the Department estimates will receive hospital care and medical services under such section during the fiscal years covered by the budget submission.

(5) The number of employees of the Department on paid administrative leave at any point during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which such budget is submitted.

SEC. 408. PROHIBITION ON FALSIFICATION OF DATA CONCERNING WAIT TIMES AND QUALITY MEASURES AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and in accordance with

title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish policies whereby any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who knowingly submits false data concerning wait times for health care or quality measures with respect to health care to another employee of the Department or knowingly requires another employee of the Department to submit false data concerning such wait times or quality measures to another employee of the Department is subject to a penalty the Secretary considers appropriate after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, including civil penalties, unpaid suspensions, or termination.

SEC. 409. REMOVAL OF SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR PERFORMANCE.

(a) **REMOVAL OR TRANSFER.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§713. Senior Executive Service: removal based on performance

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may remove any individual from the Senior Executive Service if the Secretary determines the performance of the individual warrants such removal. If the Secretary so removes such an individual, the Secretary may—

“(1) remove the individual from the civil service (as defined in section 2101 of title 5); or

“(2) transfer the individual to a General Schedule position at any grade of the General Schedule for which the individual is qualified and that the Secretary determines is appropriate.

“(b) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 30 days after removing or transferring an individual from the Senior Executive Service under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives notice in writing of such removal or transfer and the reason for such removal or transfer.

“(c) **PROCEDURE.**—(1) The procedures under section 7543 of title 5 shall not apply to a removal or transfer under this section.

“(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), any removal or transfer under subsection (a) may be appealed to the Merit Systems Protection Board under section 7701 of title 5.

“(B) An appeal under subparagraph (A) of a removal or transfer may only be made if such appeal is made not later than 7 days after the date of such removal or transfer.

“(d) **EXPEDITED REVIEW BY MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD.**—(1) The Merit Systems Protection Board shall expedite any appeal under section 7701 of title 5 of a removal or transfer under subsection (a) and, in any such case, shall issue a decision not later than 21 days after the date of the appeal.

“(2) In any case in which the Merit Systems Protection Board determines that it cannot issue a decision in accordance with the 21-day requirement under paragraph (1), the Merit Systems Protection Board shall submit to Congress a report that explains the reason why the Merit Systems Protection Board is unable to issue a decision in accordance with such requirement in such case.

“(3) There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the Merit Systems Protection Board to expedite appeals under paragraph (1).

“(4) The Merit Systems Protection Board may not stay any personnel action taken under this section.

“(5) A person who appeals under section 7701 of title 5 a removal under subsection (a)(1) may not receive any pay, awards, bonuses, incentives, allowances, differentials, student loan repayments, special payments, or benefits from the

Secretary until the Merit Systems Protection Board has made a final decision on such appeal.

“(6) A decision made by the Merit Systems Protection Board with respect to a removal or transfer under subsection (a) shall not be subject to any further appeal.”

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item: “713. Senior Executive Service: removal based on performance.”

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPEDITED REVIEW PROCESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Merit Systems Protection Board shall establish and put into effect a process to conduct expedited reviews in accordance with section 713(d) of title 38, United States Code.

(2) **INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN REGULATIONS.**—Section 1201.22 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall not apply to expedited reviews carried out under section 713(d) of title 38, United States Code.

(3) **REPORT BY MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Merit Systems Protection Board shall submit to Congress a report on the actions the Board plans to take to conduct expedited reviews under section 713(d) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a). Such report shall include a description of the resources the Board determines will be necessary to conduct such reviews and a description of whether any resources will be necessary to conduct such reviews that were not available to the Board on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN LIMITATION ON INITIATION OF REMOVAL FROM SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE.**—During the 120-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, an action to remove an individual from the Senior Executive Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 713 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), or section 7543 of title 5, United States Code, may be initiated, notwithstanding section 3592(b) of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law.

(d) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section or section 713 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be construed to apply to an appeal of a removal, transfer, or other personnel action that was pending before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—HEALTH CARE RELATED TO SEXUAL TRAUMA

SEC. 501. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SEXUAL TRAUMA COUNSELING AND TREATMENT TO VETERANS ON INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING.

Section 1720D(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “or active duty for training” and inserting “, active duty for training, or inactive duty training”.

SEC. 502. PROVISION OF COUNSELING AND TREATMENT FOR SEXUAL TRAUMA BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **EXPANSION OF COVERAGE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**—Subsection (a) of section 1720D of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

“(2)(A) In operating the program required by paragraph (1), the Secretary may, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, provide counseling and care and services to members of

the Armed Forces (including members of the National Guard and Reserves) on active duty to overcome psychological trauma described in that paragraph.

“(B) A member described in subparagraph (A) shall not be required to obtain a referral before receiving counseling and care and services under this paragraph.”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “a veteran” and inserting “an individual”; and

(B) by striking “that veteran” each place it appears and inserting “that individual”.

(b) INFORMATION TO MEMBERS ON AVAILABILITY OF COUNSELING AND SERVICES.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “to veterans” each place it appears; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by inserting “members of the Armed Forces and” before “individuals”.

(c) INCLUSION OF MEMBERS IN REPORTS ON COUNSELING AND SERVICES.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “to veterans”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “women veterans” and inserting “individuals”; and

(B) by striking “training under subsection (d).” and inserting “training under subsection (d), desegregated by—

“(A) veterans;

“(B) members of the Armed Forces (including members of the National Guard and Reserves) on active duty; and

“(C) for each of subparagraphs (A) and (B)—

“(i) men; and

“(ii) women.”;

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking “veterans” and inserting “individuals”; and

(4) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking “women veterans” and inserting “individuals”; and

(B) by inserting “, including specific recommendations for individuals specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (2)” before the period at the end.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 503. REPORTS ON MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.

(a) REPORT ON SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Not later than 630 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the treatment and services available from the Department of Veterans Affairs for male veterans who experience military sexual trauma compared to such treatment and services available to female veterans who experience military sexual trauma.

(b) REPORTS ON TRANSITION OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA TREATMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Not later than 630 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the Department of Veterans Affairs—Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee established by section 320(a) of title 38, United States Code, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on military sexual trauma that includes the following:

(1) The processes and procedures utilized by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to facilitate transition of treatment of individuals who have experienced military sexual trauma from treatment provided

by the Department of Defense to treatment provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) A description and assessment of the collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense in assisting veterans in filing claims for disabilities related to military sexual trauma, including permitting veterans access to information and evidence necessary to develop or support such claims.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term “military sexual trauma” means psychological trauma, which in the judgment of a mental health professional employed by the Department, resulted from a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment which occurred while the veteran was serving on active duty or active duty for training.

(3) SEXUAL HARASSMENT.—The term “sexual harassment” means repeated, unsolicited verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature which is threatening in character.

(4) SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term “sexual trauma” shall have the meaning given that term by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for purposes of this section.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE VI—MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES

SEC. 601. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility leases at the locations specified, and in an amount for each lease not to exceed the amount shown for such location (not including any estimated cancellation costs):

(1) For a clinical research and pharmacy coordinating center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, an amount not to exceed \$9,560,000.

(2) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Brick, New Jersey, an amount not to exceed \$7,280,000.

(3) For a new primary care and dental clinic annex, Charleston, South Carolina, an amount not to exceed \$7,070,250.

(4) For the Cobb County community-based Outpatient Clinic, Cobb County, Georgia, an amount not to exceed \$6,409,000.

(5) For the Leeward Outpatient Healthcare Access Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, including a co-located clinic with the Department of Defense and the co-location of the Honolulu Regional Office of the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Capel Vet Center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, an amount not to exceed \$15,887,370.

(6) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Johnson County, Kansas, an amount not to exceed \$2,263,000.

(7) For a replacement community-based outpatient clinic, Lafayette, Louisiana, an amount not to exceed \$2,996,000.

(8) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Lake Charles, Louisiana, an amount not to exceed \$2,626,000.

(9) For outpatient clinic consolidation, New Port Riche, Florida, an amount not to exceed \$11,927,000.

(10) For an outpatient clinic, Ponce, Puerto Rico, an amount not to exceed \$11,535,000.

(11) For lease consolidation, San Antonio, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$19,426,000.

(12) For a community-based outpatient clinic, San Diego, California, an amount not to exceed \$11,946,100.

(13) For an outpatient clinic, Tyler, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$4,327,000.

(14) For the Arere Community Care Center, West Haven, Connecticut, an amount not to exceed \$4,883,000.

(15) For the Worcester community-based Outpatient Clinic, Worcester, Massachusetts, an amount not to exceed \$4,855,000.

(16) For the expansion of a community-based outpatient clinic, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, an amount not to exceed \$4,232,060.

(17) For a multi specialty clinic, Chattanooga, Tennessee, an amount not to exceed \$7,069,000.

(18) For the expansion of a community-based outpatient clinic, Chico, California, an amount not to exceed \$4,534,000.

(19) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Chula Vista, California, an amount not to exceed \$3,714,000.

(20) For a new research lease, Haines, Illinois, an amount not to exceed \$22,032,000.

(21) For a replacement research lease, Houston, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$6,142,000.

(22) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Lincoln, Nebraska, an amount not to exceed \$7,178,400.

(23) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Lubbock, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$8,554,000.

(24) For a community-based outpatient clinic consolidation, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, an amount not to exceed \$8,022,000.

(25) For a community-based outpatient clinic, Phoenix, Arizona, an amount not to exceed \$20,757,000.

(26) For the expansion of a community-based outpatient clinic, Redding, California, an amount not to exceed \$8,154,000.

SEC. 602. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITIES LEASES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Title 31, United States Code, requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to record the full cost of its contractual obligation against funds available at the time a contract is executed.

(2) Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11 provides guidance to agencies in meeting the statutory requirements under title 31, United States Code, with respect to leases.

(3) For operating leases, Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11 requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to record up-front budget authority in an “amount equal to total payments under the full term of the lease or [an] amount sufficient to cover first year lease payments plus cancellation costs”.

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR OBLIGATION OF FULL COST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations provided in advance, in exercising the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into leases provided in this Act, the Secretary shall record, pursuant to section 1501 of title 31, United States Code, as the full cost of the contractual obligation at the time a contract is executed either—

(A) an amount equal to total payments under the full term of the lease; or

(B) if the lease specifies payments to be made in the event the lease is terminated before its full term, an amount sufficient to cover the first year lease payments plus the specified cancellation costs.

(2) SELF-INSURING AUTHORITY.—The requirements of paragraph (1) may be satisfied through the use of a self-insuring authority consistent with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11.

(c) **TRANSPARENCY.**—

(1) **COMPLIANCE.**—Subsection (b) of section 8104 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) In the case of a prospectus proposing funding for a major medical facility lease, a detailed analysis of how the lease is expected to comply with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11 and section 1341 of title 31 (commonly referred to as the ‘Anti-Deficiency Act’). Any such analysis shall include—

“(A) an analysis of the classification of the lease as a ‘lease-purchase’, ‘capital lease’, or ‘operating lease’ as those terms are defined in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11;

“(B) an analysis of the obligation of budgetary resources associated with the lease; and

“(C) an analysis of the methodology used in determining the asset cost, fair market value, and cancellation costs of the lease.”.

(2) **SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.**—Such section 8104 is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h)(1) Not less than 30 days before entering into a major medical facility lease, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives—

“(A) notice of the Secretary’s intention to enter into the lease;

“(B) a detailed summary of the proposed lease;

“(C) a description and analysis of any differences between the prospectus submitted pursuant to subsection (b) and the proposed lease; and

“(D) a scoring analysis demonstrating that the proposed lease fully complies with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11.

“(2) Each committee described in paragraph (1) shall ensure that any information submitted to the committee under such paragraph is treated by the committee with the same level of confidentiality as is required by law of the Secretary and subject to the same statutory penalties for unauthorized disclosure or use as the Secretary.

“(3) Not more than 30 days after entering into a major medical facility lease, the Secretary shall submit to each committee described in paragraph (1) a report on any material differences between the lease that was entered into and the proposed lease described under such paragraph, including how the lease that was entered into changes the previously submitted scoring analysis described in subparagraph (D) of such paragraph.”.

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed to in any way relieve the Department of Veterans Affairs from any statutory or regulatory obligations or requirements existing prior to the enactment of this section and such amendments.

TITLE VII—VETERANS BENEFITS MATTERS

SEC. 701. EXPANSION OF MARINE GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHN DAVID FRY SCHOLARSHIP.

(a) **EXPANSION OF ENTITLEMENT.**—Subsection (b)(9) of section 3311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or spouse” after “child”.

(b) **LIMITATION AND ELECTION ON CERTAIN BENEFITS.**—Subsection (f) of such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

“(2) **LIMITATION.**—The entitlement of an individual to assistance under subsection (a) pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection (b) because

the individual was a spouse of a person described in such paragraph shall expire on the earlier of—

“(A) the date that is 15 years after the date on which the person died; and

“(B) the date on which the individual remarries.

(3) **ELECTION ON RECEIPT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS.**—A surviving spouse entitled to assistance under subsection (a) pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection (b) who is also entitled to educational assistance under chapter 35 of this title may not receive assistance under both this section and such chapter, but shall make an irrevocable election (in such form and manner as the Secretary may prescribe) under which section or chapter to receive educational assistance.”.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 3321(b)(4) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking “an individual” and inserting “a child”; and

(2) by striking “such individual’s” each time it appears and inserting “such child’s”.

SEC. 702. APPROVAL OF COURSES OF EDUCATION PROVIDED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR PURPOSES OF ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE CONDITIONAL ON IN-STATE TUITION RATE FOR VETERANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and subject to paragraphs (3) through (6), the Secretary shall disapprove a course of education provided by a public institution of higher learning to a covered individual pursuing a course of education with educational assistance under chapter 30 or 33 of this title while living in the State in which the public institution of higher learning is located if the institution charges tuition and fees for that course for the covered individual at a rate that is higher than the rate the institution charges for tuition and fees for that course for residents of the State in which the institution is located, regardless of the covered individual’s State of residence.

“(2) For purposes of this subsection, a covered individual is any individual as follows:

“(A) A veteran who was discharged or released from a period of not fewer than 90 days of service in the active military, naval, or air service less than three years before the date of enrollment in the course concerned.

“(B) An individual who is entitled to assistance under section 3311(b)(9) or 3319 of this title by virtue of such individual’s relationship to a veteran described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) If after enrollment in a course of education that is subject to disapproval under paragraph (1) by reason of paragraph (2)(A) or (2)(B) a covered individual pursues one or more courses of education at the same public institution of higher learning while remaining continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters or terms) at that institution of higher learning, any course so pursued by the covered individual at that institution of higher learning while so continuously enrolled shall also be subject to disapproval under paragraph (1).

“(4) It shall not be grounds to disapprove a course of education under paragraph (1) if a public institution of higher learning requires a covered individual pursuing a course of education at the institution to demonstrate an intent, by means other than satisfying a physical presence requirement, to establish residency in the State in which the institution is located, or to satisfy other requirements not relating to the establishment of residency, in order to be

charged tuition and fees for that course at a rate that is equal to or less than the rate the institution charges for tuition and fees for that course for residents of the State.

“(5) The Secretary may waive such requirements of paragraph (1) as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(6) Disapproval under paragraph (1) shall apply only with respect to educational assistance under chapters 30 and 33 of this title.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Subsection (c) of section 3679 of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section), shall apply with respect to educational assistance provided for pursuit of programs of education during academic terms that begin after July 1, 2015, through courses of education that commence on or after that date.

TITLE VIII—APPROPRIATION AND EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS

SEC. 801. APPROPRIATION OF EMERGENCY AMOUNTS.

There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 802. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(b) **DESIGNATION IN SENATE.**—In the Senate, this Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

Amend the title so as to read: “To improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. MILLER OF FLORIDA

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Miller of Florida moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the title of H.R. 3230 and concur in the Senate amendment to the text of H.R. 3230 with the amendment printed in House Report 113-475.

The text of the amendment to the Senate amendment to the text is as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. PROVISION OF HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES AT NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PATIENTS WITH EXTENDED WAITING TIMES FOR APPOINTMENTS AT DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As authorized by section 1710 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall enter into contracts with such non-Department facilities as may be necessary in order to furnish hospital care and medical services to covered veterans who are eligible for such care and services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code. To the greatest extent possible, the Secretary shall carry out this section using contracts entered into before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of this section, the term “covered veteran” means a veteran—

(1) who is enrolled in the patient enrollment system under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code;

(2) who—

(A) has waited longer than the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration (as of June 1, 2014) for an appointment for hospital care or medical services in a facility of the Department;

(B) has been notified by a facility of the Department that an appointment for hospital care or medical services is not available within such wait-time goals; or

(C) resides more than 40 miles from the medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including a community-based outpatient clinic, that is closest to the residence of the veteran; and

(3) who makes an election to receive such care or services in a non-Department facility.

(c) FOLLOW-UP CARE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that, at the election of a covered veteran who receives hospital care or medical services at a non-Department facility in an episode of care under this section, the veteran receives such hospital care and medical services at such non-Department facility through the completion of the episode of care (but for a period not exceeding 60 days), including all specialty and ancillary services deemed necessary as part of the treatment recommended in the course of such hospital care or medical services.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress a quarterly report on hospital care and medical services furnished pursuant to this section. Such report shall include information, for the quarter covered by the report, regarding—

(1) the number of veterans who received care or services at non-Department facilities pursuant to this section;

(2) the number of veterans who were eligible to receive care or services pursuant to this section but who elected to continue waiting for an appointment at a Department facility;

(3) the purchase methods used to provide the care and services at non-Department facilities, including the rate of payment for individual authorizations for such care and services; and

(4) any other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the terms “facilities of the Department”, “non-Department facilities”, “hospital care”, and “medical services” have the meanings given such terms in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

(f) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall begin implementing this section on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(g) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize payment for care or services not otherwise covered under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code.

(h) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary under this section shall terminate with respect to any hospital care or medical services furnished after the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, except that in the case of an episode of care for which hospital care or medical services is furnished in a non-Department facility pursuant to this section before the end of such period, such termination shall not apply to such care and services furnished during the remainder of such

episode of care but not to exceed a period of 60 days.

SEC. 3. EXPANDED ACCESS TO HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that appropriations are available for the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs for medical services, to the extent that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is unable to provide access, within the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration (as of June 1, 2014), to hospital care or medical services to a covered veteran who is eligible for such care or services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, under contracts described in section 2, the Secretary shall reimburse any non-Department facility with which the Secretary has not entered into a contract to furnish hospital care or medical services for furnishing such hospital care or medical services to such veteran, if the veteran elects to receive such care or services from the non-Department facility. The Secretary shall reimburse the facility for the care or services furnished to the veteran at the greatest of the following rates:

(1) VA PAYMENT RATE.—The rate of reimbursement for such care or services established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(2) MEDICARE PAYMENT RATE.—The payment rate for such care or services or comparable care or services under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

(3) TRICARE PAYMENT RATE.—The reimbursement rate for such care or services furnished to a member of the Armed Forces under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of this section, the term “covered veteran” means a veteran—

(1) who is enrolled in the patient enrollment system under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code; and

(2) who—

(A) has waited longer than the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration (as of June 1, 2014) for an appointment for hospital care or medical services in a facility of the Department;

(B) has been notified by a facility of the Department that an appointment for hospital care or medical services is not available within such wait-time goals after the date for which the veteran requests the appointment; or

(C) who resides more than 40 miles from the medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including a community-based outpatient clinic, that is closest to the residence of the veteran.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the terms “facilities of the Department”, “non-Department facilities”, “hospital care”, and “medical services” have the meanings given such terms in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall begin implementing this section on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize payment for care or services not otherwise covered under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code.

(f) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary under this section shall terminate with respect to care or services furnished after the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PERFORMANCE.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the

enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract or contracts with a private sector entity or entities with experience in the delivery systems of the Veterans Health Administration and the private sector and in health care management to conduct an independent assessment of hospital care and medical services furnished in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such assessment shall address each of the following:

(1) The current and projected demographics and unique care needs of the patient population served by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) The current and projected health care capabilities and resources of the Department, including hospital care and medical services furnished by non-Department facilities under contract with the Department, to provide timely and accessible care to eligible veterans.

(3) The authorities and mechanisms under which the Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services at non-Department facilities, including an assessment of whether the Secretary should have the authority to furnish such care and services at such facilities through the completion of episodes of care.

(4) The appropriate system-wide access standard applicable to hospital care and medical services furnished by and through the Department of Veterans Affairs and recommendations relating to access standards specific to individual specialties and standards for post-care rehabilitation.

(5) The current organization, processes, and tools used to support clinical staffing and documentation.

(6) The staffing levels and productivity standards, including a comparison with industry performance percentiles.

(7) Information technology strategies of the Veterans Health Administration, including an identification of technology weaknesses and opportunities, especially as they apply to clinical documentation of hospital care and medical services provided in non-Department facilities.

(8) Business processes of the Veterans Health Administration, including non-Department care, insurance identification, third-party revenue collection, and vendor reimbursement.

(b) ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES.—The assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of improvement areas outlined both qualitatively and quantitatively, taking into consideration Department of Veterans Affairs directives and industry benchmarks from outside the Federal Government.

(2) Recommendations for how to address the improvement areas identified under paragraph (1) relating to structure, accountability, process changes, technology, and other relevant drivers of performance.

(3) The business case associated with making the improvements and recommendations identified in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) Findings and supporting analysis on how credible conclusions were established.

(c) PROGRAM INTEGRATOR.—If the Secretary enters into contracts with more than one private sector entity under subsection (a), the Secretary shall designate one such entity as the program integrator. The program integrator shall be responsible for coordinating the outcomes of the assessments conducted by the private entities pursuant to such contracts.

(d) SUBMITTAL OF REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) REPORT ON INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 10 months after entering into the contract under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives the findings and recommendations of the independent assessment required by such subsection.

(2) REPORT ON VA ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of submission of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to such Committees on the Secretary's response to the findings of the assessment and shall include an action plan, including a timeline, for fully implementing the recommendations of the assessment.

SEC. 5. LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES TO EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

For each of fiscal years 2014 through 2016, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not pay awards or bonuses under chapter 45 or 53 of title 5, United States Code, or any other awards or bonuses authorized under such title.

SEC. 6. OMB ESTIMATE OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS AND NEEDED TRANSFER AUTHORITY.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall transmit to the Committees on Appropriations, the Budget, and Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and of the Senate—

(1) an estimate of the budgetary effects of sections 2 and 3;

(2) any transfer authority needed to utilize the savings from section 5 to satisfy such budgetary effects; and

(3) if necessary, a request for any additional budgetary resources, or transfers or reprogramming of existing budgetary resources, necessary to provide funding for sections 2 and 3.

SEC. 7. REMOVAL OF SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR PERFORMANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§713. Senior Executive Service: removal based on performance

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may remove any individual from the Senior Executive Service if the Secretary determines the performance of the individual warrants such removal. If the Secretary so removes such an individual, the Secretary may—

“(1) remove the individual from Federal service; or

“(2) transfer the individual to a General Schedule position at any grade of the General Schedule the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(b) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after removing an individual from the Senior Executive Service under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives notice in writing of such removal and the reason for such removal.

“(c) MANNER OF REMOVAL.—A removal under this section shall be done in the same manner as the removal of a professional staff member employed by a Member of Congress.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is

amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“713. Senior Executive Service: removal based on performance.”.

SEC. 8. BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF ACT.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ‘Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation’ for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this motion is to help us go to conference and to quickly work out the differences between the House and Senate bills that would provide meaningful reform to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This motion also ensures that the House has a position from which to begin negotiations with the Senate in a conference.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I support the motion to concur in the Senate amendments, and a further amendment, and I support the motion to go to conference.

The crisis within the VA is of national interest and must be a congressional priority. America's veterans deserve timely access to the care and benefits they have earned. They fought for us. Now is the time that we fight for them.

But our fight should not be just about the failures in Phoenix and other facilities. The House has worked hard to develop important and much-needed legislation to address other failures within the VA. Enhanced programs ensure the VA is working on behalf of the veterans.

I am disappointed that we have not included in this amendment all relevant bills that have passed the House to ensure that these important matters are included. I am disappointed that we are not moving forward with a more comprehensive package of reforms.

I am also disappointed that the House amendment is limited to two measures we have recently passed, H.R. 4031 and H.R. 4810. Limiting ourselves to just Republican-sponsored legislation, no matter how widely supported, runs counter to the bipartisan spirit of

the committee and fails to recognize the great work of all committee Members. Republicans and Democrats have worked together to improve programs for the VA.

Finally, I am disappointed that H.R. 4399 was not included in the House amendment to H.R. 3230. Without it, we are falling short of our responsibility to hold all VA executives—I want to emphasize all VA executives—accountable for the grave failures lately.

□ 1330

I will work with Chairman MILLER and my Senate colleagues to ensure that the final agreement we reach regarding the accountability provisions of H.R. 3230 are as comprehensive and effective as possible.

I urge all conferees, once appointed, to adopt the spirit of bipartisanship that is the tradition of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

When our servicemembers do their jobs to earn these veterans benefits, they work together in a spirit of cooperation toward a national goal. We should do no less as we move forward with legislation to address reforms within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the motion to concur with the Senate amendments with a further amendment and the motion to go to conference.

Let us work together quickly and effectively to begin to address the problems facing the VA.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 3230, PAY OUR GUARD AND RESERVE ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 628, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Miller of Florida moves that the House insist on its amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3230 and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this motion is to authorize a conference to combine our two bills into something that is focused on the access

and accountability crisis that exists at VA.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Sinema moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 3230 (an Act to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes) be instructed to recede from the House amendment and concur in the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I offer this motion to instruct because veterans in Arizona and across the country need action from Congress and from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Our motion instructs House conferees to accept the bipartisan bill, drafted by Senator JOHN MCCAIN and Senator BERNIE SANDERS and overwhelmingly approved by the Senate, so that we can immediately send a bill to the President's desk that will provide relief for our Nation's veterans.

The revelations that veterans at the Phoenix VA and veterans at other VA facilities across the country were placed on secret lists and had to wait months before seeing a doctor are immoral, irresponsible, and un-American. That veterans who served our country honorably may have died while waiting for care is unconscionable.

Ongoing audits by the VA and the VA Office of Inspector General revealed systemic problems with wait times, with the scheduling process, and with the honesty and integrity of the system. Those responsible for this disaster must be held accountable.

Many dedicated VA employees, many of them veterans themselves, work tirelessly to provide the best care to our veterans, but they are limited by this broken system, which is failing millions of our veterans.

The first priority of the VA and Congress must be to provide our veterans the care they need. This challenge does not need a Democratic or a Republican response. It demands an American re-

sponse, and I appreciate the bipartisan leadership and work of Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD. In fact, I cosponsored and voted for both of Chairman MILLER's bills.

I supported bipartisan legislation to give the Secretary of the VA a greater ability to hold underperforming senior executives accountable and to fire managers, like those in Phoenix who manipulated wait times and put veterans at risk.

I also supported bipartisan legislation directing the VA to use non-VA community providers to cut those wait times and increase the capacity and capabilities of the VA health care system.

In Phoenix, we have established a working group of community providers, veterans service organizations, and the local VA to work together to improve access to services.

We joined with the American Legion to establish a veterans crisis center to provide service to our veterans, and I would say thank you to the American Legion for moving so quickly and working with our community.

We have also started to fully utilize programs, like the Patient-Centered Community Care contract, which cuts into wait times for specialty and mental health care at the Phoenix VA. A new contract for primary care should be in place by the end of this month, but more action is required.

This conference should move quickly to accept the Senate language, which passed 93-3.

In addition to the good provisions in the House bill to improve access and accountability, the Senate language directs the VA to hire more doctors and nurses. It invests in 26 new VA facilities.

It provides for instate tuition for veterans, regardless of their home concept, a concept that the House overwhelmingly supported earlier this year. It extends post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to surviving spouses of veterans who died in the line of duty. It improves access to health care for military sexual assault survivors. It was scored as costing less than the House bill.

Both Republicans and Democrats want to provide the best possible care for our veterans and their families, and we want to move quickly to provide this care. That is why I urge my colleagues to accept this motion to instruct, so we can move a bill to the President's desk quickly, and we can provide the care and services our veterans have earned and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct.

As our committee works in a bipartisan fashion in an ongoing investiga-

tion of the Department of Veterans Affairs, we have continued to work and will continue to work in that bipartisan manner through legislation and aggressive oversight.

Veterans are not a partisan issue and must remain as such. That is why I am a little bit confused about the motion to instruct that has been offered by my colleagues across the aisle today.

With the vote that was just held to authorize us to go to conference, it would really not be prudent to prematurely direct our conferees to already recede to the Senate position before we even sit down and discuss whatever the matter that we may have with the Senate is.

The House amendment contains the text of H.R. 4810 and H.R. 4031, which have both passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan majorities and could be taken up right now by the Senate and sent to the President today.

Since it is clear that the Senate doesn't intend to do that, our only option is to go to conference so that both Chambers—the House and the Senate—can work together to smooth out the differences.

I want to caution my colleagues that what we are dealing with right now is a very technical provision, a provision that will have a long-lasting effect on VA and the manner in which veterans throughout the country receive the needed care that they have earned.

The gravity of the issues before us and the differences in how we solve them does require that the House Members be given an opportunity to sit down face to face with our Senate colleagues, so that we might make sure that we get this right for our veterans and their families.

I agree with a lot of the intent of many of the provisions in the legislation, but I do have some concerns. First, as the Senate bill is currently written, it provides an expedited appeal right for Senior Executive Service employees at VA who are fired by the new removal authority that is authorized by this bill.

The House has already passed similar provisions in H.R. 4031, with appeal rights that follow exactly what we, as Members of Congress, have in regards to our congressional staff. While I am open to discussing appeal rights, I am concerned that the Senate bill really doesn't change the status quo and could, in fact, limit the Secretary's authority to remove poor-performing employees. In short, without accountability, reform will not be possible.

Secondly, another major provision of the Senate bill would be to provide the authority for VA to hire additional doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel to provide and improve access.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has heard multiple times, during the course of our investigation,

that one issue with VA's current policy on capacity and scheduling is that VA doctors do not see nearly enough patients in one day compared to doctors in the private sector.

We need to ensure that VA health care staff and technology are used efficiently first, then address new hiring. Therefore, before Congress authorizes new funding for a whole new slew of medical personnel, I believe that VA managers must reexamine their current policies and see if they can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the personnel that are already in place.

Finally, the Senate bill essentially gives the VA a blank check to fund the requirements of this bill. Again, in hearing after hearing, the committee heard from VA about their wasteful spending on IT programs, poorly managed contracts, large bonuses, extravagant conferences, and bloated bureaucracy.

In short, this is not an agency for which Congress should be cutting a no-strings-attached blank check. It is imperative that Congress follow a more methodical, yet quick approach to funding new requirements which preserves Congress' oversight responsibility to protect taxpayer resources provided on behalf of America's veterans. This is the House position, and we ought to fight for it.

Now, look, I don't doubt my colleague's sincerity to quickly and efficiently pass legislation to help address the countless issues that are facing the Department of Veterans Affairs today. However, the best way to do this and to ensure that all of the issues are on the table to work out our differences with the Senate is with a conference committee.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the motion to instruct, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my colleague from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK).

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the motion to instruct the conferees and ask that the conferees agree to the Senate amendments to H.R. 3230, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014.

I also ask that the conferees work with urgency to resolve the differences between the House and Senate bills. Veterans cannot continue to wait. They have already waited too long. We have a duty to do our job and act now.

I introduced H.R. 4841, the companion legislation to the Senate-passed legislation, because it addresses several of the issues that currently plague the VA health care system.

This bill, sponsored by Senators SANDERS and MCCAIN, is good for veterans in my district, in Arizona, and veterans across this country. It contains provisions that are nearly iden-

tical to the House-passed legislation that I supported, including the expansion of non-VA care to veterans that cannot get timely appointment and granting the VA Secretary the authority to immediately fire high-level officials who are not doing their jobs.

H.R. 4841 does more. It will provide for an expedited hiring of more doctors, nurses, and medical staff at understaffed VA medical hospitals and clinics across the country. It will allow the VA to lease 26 new medical facilities.

It calls for an independent commission that will work to improve appointment scheduling, and it will improve access to health care for military sexual assault survivors. These additional measures are vital to address the access to care crisis in the VA health care system.

In addition to addressing the VA's access to care crisis, Sanders-McCain ensures that veterans using their post-9/11 GI Bill benefits receive instate tuition at public colleges and universities, and it extends post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to surviving spouses.

Comprehensive legislation is needed to help our veterans. I think we can all agree that we must do everything we can to help those who have fought and sacrificed for us. Let's work together to get this legislation to the President as soon as possible.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ENYART), a veteran colleague.

□ 1345

Mr. ENYART. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a veteran and 35-year military member in support of swift action to remedy our veterans' health care concerns.

As former commanding general of the Illinois National Guard, I have seen firsthand the sacrifices our men and women in uniform make each day, sacrifices that affect not only themselves, but their families, as well. That is why it didn't come as a surprise to me to see so many family members standing beside their veterans at the Marion, Illinois, VA hospital 2 weeks ago.

I stopped by two facilities—one scheduled and one a complete surprise to the staff and administrators, a lesson learned from my days in the military. I wanted to see the true nature of the problem for myself. I didn't want to speak to administrators or to managers. More importantly, I wanted to speak to patients and to frontline workers.

Although most of the veterans I spoke to received quality care, far too many spoke of burdensome paperwork and of delays. Although the southern Illinois facilities I visited have better-than-average wait times for patients, even one patient on a waiting list is

too many. And although most of the staff that report daily to our Nation's VA facilities are competent, caring individuals, there are some who are not.

That is why I support the two main goals of H.R. 3230, the Veterans Access to Care Through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014. This act will ensure that administrators at VA facilities can be removed from power in a timely and swift manner if they are not doing their jobs. It will also provide veterans the opportunity to seek care at private health care facilities as needed.

Join me in support of our veterans and the dire need to reform our VA health care system.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), my colleague on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Ms. TITUS. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Democratic motion to instruct conferees. As a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am working hard to ensure that veterans in Las Vegas and around the country have access to high-quality health care in a timely fashion.

I believe the Sanders-McCain compromise bill that passed the Senate 93-3 makes great strides towards meeting this goal. Specifically, I would like to highlight two provisions of the Sanders-McCain compromise that should be passed as soon as possible. Both pieces are legislation that I have introduced to help veterans and their families.

The first is H.R. 3441, the Spouses of Heroes Education Act. This legislation amends the post-9/11 GI Bill to expand the Fry Scholarship by making surviving spouses of members of the armed services eligible for the benefit program. This scholarship provides full in-State tuition, fees, a monthly living stipend, and a book allowance to children of servicemembers who have died in the line of duty. And for the first time, this change would extend to spouses the same benefit.

The second is H.R. 2527, the National Guard Military Sexual Trauma Parity Act, which would include extended counseling and treatment to servicemembers who have suffered sexual trauma while serving on inactive duty training. This legislation recently passed the House with unanimous bipartisan support.

Other provisions addressing the claims backlog, access to non-VA health care, and reform of scheduling and personnel problems are also critical to include.

So, as the conferees begin their work, it is important that we continue to keep the best interests of our Nation's heroes and their families in mind, that

we put aside partisan differences, and that we work expeditiously to try and solve the problems that we have discovered at the VA.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congresswoman.

Mr. Speaker, my time is short, and so I want to cut to the chase. The United States of America should honor its veterans and stand up for them in the same way that they stood up for us during their time of service.

Mr. Speaker, I had a chance, as have many other Members of Congress, to visit with the Acting Secretary of the VA about a week ago in San Antonio and also to meet with some of the veterans who were being served there at Audie Murphy. These are folks who served during the Vietnam war, Korea, and other times of conflict. These are folks who are very proud people who don't ask a lot from their country but who are there for care.

Too often in Congress, we have been Monday morning quarterbacks rather than leaders on this issue. It was mentioned a bit earlier that veterans are not a partisan issue, and I agree with that. The problem in Washington these days is too often only partisan issues are the ones that get talked about. We have to take action as soon as we can to support our veterans and to make sure that the VA has the funding that it needs to do its job properly.

There was a story that the Acting Secretary told about his visit to Phoenix. If I recall it right, he said that there was a neurosurgeon in the meeting that he had with staff who mentioned that, as he was about to go into the room for surgery, there were two X-ray machines that were not working in Phoenix, and those were the conditions that these folks were trying to work under and to serve our veterans. We need to make sure that small government inefficiency is not an excuse for doing right by our veterans. And so I support this legislation.

I want to commend not only Chairman MILLER on that committee, but also the Senators, Senators MCCAIN and SANDERS, who have come together to put aside party politics, and also thank my Democratic colleagues, BETO O'ROURKE in Texas, and many fine people here in Congress who are working on this issue.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I think the question that needs to be asked is why in the world, with an almost \$160 billion budget, would there be two nonfunctioning machines inside a VA medical center? It just goes to show the incapability for the current bureaucracy that exists out there to do what they need to do.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GARCIA).

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Arizona.

As a nation, we have a debt of gratitude to our veterans, a debt that will be very difficult to repay; but, nonetheless, we must make every effort to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I spent the last few weeks meeting with veterans in my district and getting firsthand accounts of their experiences at the hospital as well as its supporting clinics in south Florida.

While secret wait lists and months-long waits are inexcusable, it has become clear that the problems are much deeper than that. So many of my veterans felt that their concerns weren't being heard—and they were absolutely right. On top of the long waits for appointments with doctors, we heard about the need for better transportation, greater use of technology, reduced wait times and more convenient hours.

Just this week, we held our first working group meeting in my district with local veterans as well as the director of the hospital and his administrative staff. It is an important step to a dialogue that is sorely needed.

While we in Washington can wait and bicker about this issue and the ongoing relationship between us and the hospital system and the Veterans Administration, what there is no question about is that the time has come to solve this problem. We as a nation must renew our commitment to serve our veterans with the same dignity and respect with which they served us. It is the absolute least we can do. By instructing House conferees to accept the McCain-Sanders compromise, we can quickly get the bill to the President and get on with the business of ensuring every veteran gets the care and need they deserve.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I think what is very curious is that if people would look at the bill that they are referring to today, that 80 percent of the text in that bill is already House-passed language. The Senate could pass that—could have passed that some time ago—and they have refused to do so. And now, all of a sudden, because it is wrapped up with a tiny little bow, it is the perfect piece of legislation.

I don't believe that my colleagues are trying to imply that the bickering that takes place is not supporting the veterans. The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has held 90 hearings in the 113th Congress. Over 50 of those are oversight hearings. The Senate has only held six oversight hearings. The House has been doing their job and has been doing it in a bipartisan fashion.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MILLER, just know that folks on both sides of the aisle are very, very grateful for his leadership, in particular the research that was done to uncover the tragedy that occurred in the Phoenix VA in my district. So know that folks on both sides of the aisle here in the House are very, very grateful for the bipartisan nature in which the Veterans' Affairs Committee has conducted its affairs during his tenure, and we appreciate his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), my colleague who serves on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. I thank the gentlewoman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to give praise to the gentleman from Florida, Chairman MILLER, for the way in which he has conducted the hearings and conducted the business of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. In no way do we wish to imply that the House has not done its due diligence.

As my colleagues have mentioned, the motion before us to instruct the House conferees to accept the bipartisan McCain-Sanders bill—and I want to emphasize it is a bipartisan bill—that passed the Senate by 93 votes, would allow veterans to seek care outside the VA health care system if they face long wait times or if they live far from a VA medical facility. It also allows the VA to hire more doctors and nurses and authorizes leases for 26 new major VA facilities, which I do not believe the House language contains. It improves access to health care for military and sexual assault providers. Finally, it includes several nonhealth-related provisions, such as the provision of in-State tuition for all veterans at public colleges and universities. This is a provision that was authored by my friend, Mr. MILLER.

The revelation that numerous VA facilities manipulated data with respect to wait times is disturbing. It is even more disturbing to learn that those practices may have resulted in the deaths of dozens of our veterans.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much, and we owe it to them to make sure that they receive the best possible care from a system that is accountable and transparent. I urge my colleagues to support the motion to instruct conferees.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to remind the Members here on the floor that H.R. 357, the in-State tuition and bonus elimination bill, passed the House by 390-0; H.R. 4031, the VA accountability bill, passed this House in a wide, bipartisan fashion, 390-33; H.R. 4810, the access to care bill, passed this House unanimously, 400—we are hearing about 93-3? How about 426-0? Why don't we fight for what the House believes in once in a while around here instead of

giving up to the Senate? H.R. 3521, the VA clinics—27 clinics are authorized in our bill. That was a 347–1 vote.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), my colleague who serves on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the ranking member on the Health Subcommittee.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, thank you to the gentlewoman from Arizona.

I rise to support the motion to instruct conferees. I grew up in a military home. I personally understand the sacrifices our servicemembers and their families make in service to our Nation. My father was the proudest marine, my brother was a P-3 pilot for 20 years in the Navy, and my uncle served in both World War II and Vietnam.

When I was elected to Congress, I asked to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to represent our future veterans at Naval Base Ventura County and throughout our country to represent our current veterans that live in Ventura County and throughout the country, and to represent our military families who also commit to serve our Nation.

One of the greatest pleasures of working on the Veterans' Affairs Committee is addressing the issues at hand in a bipartisan way, and I want to thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership and Ranking Member MICHAUD because this committee has remained in a bipartisan mode to address these issues. Every week, we discuss innovative ways to improve access to good-paying jobs, how to strengthen education opportunities for our veterans, to reduce wait times for critical and fundamental health care, and much, much more.

I was deeply honored when my colleagues elected me to serve as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health to ensure our veterans' health needs are properly addressed, including improving access to traditional and mental health care.

As my colleagues know, there is a lot of improvement that needs to take place at the VA. We have a sacred responsibility to those who serve our country in uniform. Just as the military leaves no one behind on the battlefield, we must leave no veteran behind when they come home.

□ 1400

The motion to instruct is the best path to completing a conference agreement to fix the long-term problems at the VA. Let's ensure we are serving our veterans as well as they have served us.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I remind my fellow colleagues in the Chamber today that there are 12 pieces of legislation that have passed our

committee and this full House that await action in the United States Senate, and they continue to languish.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), who serves on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of the first words of the first President of the United States, George Washington, whose words are worth repeating at this time:

The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country.

I want to thank the chairman for his leadership. Those 90 hearings, I was at most of them. I know the House has done their work, whether it was here in Washington, D.C., or in the field and around the country. I am the senior member on the committee, having served on the committee for over 22 years.

I have to remind the committee and this House that the problems with the veterans did not start today. They are long-term problems. I am pleased with the fact that I was on the committee when we passed the largest VA budget in the history of the United States.

In addition to that, forward budgeting—which I thought would never happen, but the veterans have not caught up with the whims of the House, not passing this appropriation or not passing this authorization, so we know today what kind of veterans benefits that we are going to get.

Many other veterans—in fact, over 99 percent of them say that they are very satisfied with the system. They love their VA system, but the key is that there are some problems, and we need to work in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion with the Senate to make sure that we address these challenges.

I really do believe to whom God has given much, much is expected, and we have to make sure that the veterans get the care that we have promised them.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I remind my friends here that the whims of the Congress to not pass appropriation bills blows very strong over on the Senate side because the House passes its Military Construction-VA bill year in and year out. It was the Senate that chose not to pass any appropriation bills last year.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The gentlewoman from Arizona has 9½ minutes remaining.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all Members who have come to speak on this very important matter. This should be a bipartisan matter, and it has been in our committee and certainly in this entire House.

I am still wondering why in the world we would just now vote to go to conference with the Senate on 80 percent of the bills that have already passed the House, and then we would turn around, and we would have a motion to instruct the conferees to just forget what the House said, take up the Senate bill.

It doesn't make sense that we would do that. In a normal course of legislative business, this is the way the process works: the House, the Senate get together, and we work out the issues that concern all of us.

I would ask the minority—or I would request the minority to not use this motion to instruct in one single political ad. I hope that I don't see this vote used in any political ads because our committee does things in a bipartisan fashion. Congressman MICHAUD and I have worked together diligently to keep the votes from becoming partisan.

I cannot see any other reason to have the vote today on the motion to instruct conferees to accept the Senate-passed legislation after we have done the same thing in the House, passed the same bills in the House that they could take up on our side, yet we are going to cede to the Senate position.

With that, I urge defeat of the motion to instruct.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD for their tremendous leadership and the work that they have done over the years to provide veterans with the best possible care, holding multiple hearings and passing a multitude of bipartisan bills. By working together, I know we can address this crisis and create a VA system that our veterans deserve.

I urge our colleagues to support this motion to instruct, so we get a bill to the President's desk quickly. This is not the end of our work, but it is an important step forward to meet the needs of our veterans.

I trust that Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, and the members of the conference committee will represent the interests of veterans very well in our conference committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 198, nays 220, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 316]

YEAS—198

Barber	Grayson	Negrete McLeod
Barrow (GA)	Green, Al	Nolan
Bass	Green, Gene	O'Rourke
Beatty	Grijalva	Owens
Becerra	Gutiérrez	Pallone
Bera (CA)	Hahn	Pascrell
Bishop (GA)	Hanabusa	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Hastings (FL)	Payne
Blumenauer	Heck (WA)	Pelosi
Bonamici	Higgins	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Himes	Peters (CA)
Braley (IA)	Hinojosa	Peters (MI)
Brown (FL)	Holt	Peterson
Brownley (CA)	Honda	Pingree (ME)
Bustos	Horsford	Pocan
Butterfield	Hoyer	Polis
Capps	Huffman	Price (NC)
Capuano	Israel	Quigley
Cardenas	Jackson Lee	Rahall
Carney	Jeffries	Richmond
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Rooney
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Roibal-Allard
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Ruiz
Castro (TX)	Keating	Ruppersberger
Chu	Kennedy	Rush
Ciilline	Kilmer	Sánchez, Linda T.
Clark (MA)	Kind	Sanchez, Loretta
Clarke (NY)	Kirkpatrick	Sarbanes
Clay	Kuster	Schakowsky
Cleaver	Langevin	Schiff
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Schrader
Connolly	Lee (CA)	Schwartz
Conyers	Levin	Scott (VA)
Cooper	Lewis	Scott, David
Costa	Lipinski	Serrano
Courtney	Loebsock	Sewell (AL)
Crowley	Lofgren	Shea-Porter
Cuellar	Lowenthal	Sherman
Cummings	Lowey	Sinema
Davis (CA)	Lujan Grisham	Sires
Davis, Danny	(NM)	Slaughter
DeFazio	Luján, Ben Ray	Smith (WA)
DeGette	(NM)	Speier
Delaney	Lynch	Stockman
DeLauro	Maffei	Swalwell (CA)
DelBene	Maloney,	Takano
Deutch	Carolyn	Thompson (CA)
Dingell	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (MS)
Doggett	Matheson	Tierney
Doyle	Matsui	Titus
Duckworth	McCarthy (NY)	Tonko
Edwards	McCollum	Tsongas
Ellison	McDermott	Van Hollen
Engel	McGovern	Vargas
Enyart	McIntyre	Veasey
Eshoo	McNerney	Vela
Esty	Meeks	Velázquez
Farr	Meng	Visclosky
Fattah	Michaud	Walz
Foster	Miller, George	Wasserman
Frankel (FL)	Moore	Schultz
Fudge	Moran	Waters
Gabbard	Murphy (FL)	Welch
Gallego	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
Garamendi	Napolitano	Yarmuth
Garcia	Neal	
Gibson		

NAYS—220

Aderholt	Boustany	Capito
Amash	Brady (TX)	Carter
Amodei	Bridenstine	Cassidy
Bachmann	Brooks (AL)	Chabot
Bachus	Brooks (IN)	Chaffetz
Barletta	Broun (GA)	Coble
Barr	Buchanan	Coffman
Barton	Bucshon	Cole
Benishek	Burgess	Collins (GA)
Bentivolio	Byrne	Collins (NY)
Billirakis	Calvert	Conaway
Bishop (UT)	Camp	Cook
Black	Campbell	Cotton
Blackburn	Cantor	Cramer

Crenshaw	Jordan	Roe (TN)
Culberson	Joyce	Rogers (AL)
Daines	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (KY)
Davis, Rodney	King (IA)	Rogers (MI)
Denham	King (NY)	Rohrabacher
Dent	Kingston	Rokita
DeSantis	Kinzinger (IL)	Ros-Lehtinen
DesJarlais	Kline	Roskam
Diaz-Balart	Labrador	Ross
Duffy	LaMalfa	Rothfus
Duncan (SC)	Lamborn	Royce
Duncan (TN)	Lance	Runyan
Ellmers	Latham	Ryan (WI)
Farenthold	Latta	Salmon
Fincher	LoBiondo	Sanford
Fitzpatrick	Long	Scalise
Fleischmann	Lucas	Schock
Fleming	Luetkemeyer	Schweikert
Flores	Lummis	Scott, Austin
Forbes	Marchant	Sensenbrenner
Fortenberry	Marino	Sessions
Fox	Massie	Shimkus
Franks (AZ)	McAllister	Shuster
Frelinghuysen	McCarthy (CA)	Simpson
Gardner	McCaul	Smith (MO)
Garrett	McClintock	Smith (NE)
Gerlach	McKeon	Smith (NJ)
Gibbs	McKinley	Smith (TX)
Gingrey (GA)	McMorris	Southerland
Gohmert	Rodgers	Stewart
Gosar	Meadows	Stivers
Gowdy	Meehan	Stutzman
Granger	Messer	Terry
Graves (GA)	Mica	Thompson (PA)
Graves (MO)	Miller (FL)	Thornberry
Griffin (AR)	Miller (MI)	Tiberi
Griffith (VA)	Mullin	Tipton
Grimm	Murphy (PA)	Turner
Guthrie	Neugebauer	Upton
Hall	Noem	Valadao
Harper	Nugent	Wagner
Harris	Nunes	Walberg
Hartzler	Olson	Walden
Hastings (WA)	Palazzo	Walorski
Heck (NV)	Paulsen	Weber (TX)
Hensarling	Pearce	Webster (FL)
Herrera Beutler	Perry	Wenstrup
Holding	Petri	Westmoreland
Hudson	Pittenger	Whitfield
Huelskamp	Pitts	Williams
Huizenga (MI)	Pompeo	Wilson (SC)
Hultgren	Posey	Wittman
Hunt	Price (GA)	Wolf
Hurt	Reed	Womack
Issa	Reichert	Woodall
Jenkins	Renacci	Yoder
Johnson (OH)	Ribble	Yoho
Johnson, Sam	Rice (SC)	Young (AK)
Jolly	Rigell	Young (IN)
Jones	Roby	

NOT VOTING—13

Crawford	McHenry	Rangel
Goodlatte	Miller, Gary	Ryan (OH)
Hanna	Mulvaney	Waxman
Kelly (IL)	Nunnelee	
Lankford	Poe (TX)	

□ 1441

Messrs. LUCAS, JORDAN, BUCSHON, LATTA, UPTON, LAMALFA, TERRY, POSEY, SIMPSON, SESSIONS, ROSKAM, and FLEMING changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Mrs. BEATTY changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, I was absent and missed rollcall votes Nos. 315 and 316. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 315—"yea," rollcall 316—"nay."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER of Florida). Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on H.R. 3230:

For consideration of the House amendment and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. MILLER of Florida, LAMBORN, ROE of Tennessee, FLORES, BENISHEK, COFFMAN, WENSTRUP, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. WALZ.

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4870, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 628 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4870.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1443

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of New York in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, as we begin consideration of this important legislation, all of us in this Chamber want to pay tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces—all volunteers. They deserve our heartfelt thanks for their incredible service and sacrifices, and that of their families. Everything we do over the next few days should be dedicated to them.

□ 1445

My colleagues, the fiscal year 2015 Department of Defense Appropriations bill was reported out unanimously by the full Appropriations Committee on June 10. This recommendation is a product of countless staff hours, 10 official briefings, and 13 hearings.

Most of our hearings related to assuring success and reducing risk for our warfighters in their mission. It is worth noting that one of these hearings was exclusively dedicated to taking testimony from Members of the House on their views, opinions, and priorities for this year's Defense Appropriations bill.

I want to thank those Members who took time to inform and educate the committee, as well as other Members who made specific requests.

At the outset, I would also like to thank Chairman HAL ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY for their support of our committee's work. As they know, this bill is a product of a bipartisan and cooperative effort, for which I thank my good friend, the ranking member, PETE VISLOSKY. He has been a valuable partner throughout this whole process. Thanks to all members of the committee and to our incredible staff.

The base funding recommendation is \$491 billion, which is \$202 million above the President's request and \$4.1 billion above last year's enacted level.

As many Members are aware, the committee has not yet received the President's recommendation for overseas contingency operations—the OCO budget, as it is known—so we are forced to include a \$79.4 billion placeholder in our legislation.

Our committee operates in a completely transparent and accountable manner, so clearly, this is not the way we wanted to proceed to the floor—with no details, with no context, with no facts for those accounts.

We have pressed the administration at every opportunity to get us the OCO plan. The administration has told us for months that it is finalizing its plan for the enduring U.S. military presence in Afghanistan, which will have a serious impact on the size of that funding request.

Three weeks ago, the President announced his plans for U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan beyond this year. The Army and Marines have already closed down bases and removed tons of equipment. Still, we have no request and are forced to debate a placeholder of nearly \$80 billion.

While the Afghan Presidential elections are still unsettled, the leading

candidates support the bilateral security agreement, supposedly the anchor for this funding request.

What is the holdup? We need to get on with it. I have to say that many people find it just a bit bizarre that the administration has proclaimed its opposition to the bill yesterday, when they have failed to do their job and lay out their game plan for overseas operations.

Whatever the recommendation we ultimately receive, we will closely examine their request because we still have troops and civilians on the ground, and no matter the number, they need to be protected.

Of course, we will also consider the deepening war and conflict in Iraq, the continuing disintegration of Syria, the aggressiveness of Russia in Eastern Europe and China in the Pacific, and the growing influence of Iran, increased terrorist attacks around the globe, especially in Africa.

While the administration feels the pending OCO request will have a great deal to do with our enduring U.S. military presence in Afghanistan, in reality, their request will have a great deal to do with our enduring role in the fight to protect Americans and our homeland from a growing list of global threats.

Even though we have returned to regular order this year, the committee faced many challenges in crafting this year's defense bill, but we have held firm to two guiding principles: ensuring that our men and women in uniform have the resources they need to defend our Nation and support their families; and, secondly, ensuring that the Department of Defense and our intelligence community have the resources they need to carry out their mission in the most efficient and effective manner.

Our goal throughout this bill is to support our warfighters, now and in the future, whenever the next crisis arises.

At the same time, our committee clearly recognizes the Nation's debt crisis. We found areas and programs where reductions were possible without adverse impact. Finally, it is important to note that we make every dollar count, without harming readiness or increasing risk incurred by our warfighters.

The bill before you attempts to meet those responsibilities within current fiscal restraints, while leaving no question for our allies and adversaries about our will and our ability to defend ourselves and our interests around the world. America must continue to lead, and this bipartisan bill enables that.

Let me highlight, briefly, just a few items included in this fiscal year 2015 Defense Appropriations request. It includes an additional \$1.2 billion to fill readiness shortfalls; \$534 million to fully fund the authorized 1.8 percent pay raise for our troops; \$789 million to begin the refueling of the USS *George Washington*—a vital power projection platform; \$5.8 billion for a total of 38 Joint Strike Fighters; \$975 million to buy 12 additional electronic attack Growlers; \$120 million to upgrade M1 Abrams tanks; \$351 million for the very important Israeli Cooperative Program; and an additional \$39 million for suicide prevention activities—\$19 million of it targeted specifically to our Special Forces.

These are but a few examples of our commitment to the U.S. military dominance across the air, land, and sea, our commitment to our allies and partners, and our commitment to our servicemembers—all volunteers—and their families.

Mr. Chairman, I understand all—all of us do—that Americans are weary after 13 years of war. Despite the proclamations of some that al Qaeda and its followers have been decimated, the American people must understand the reality that terrorism is actually spreading worldwide.

Yes, our enemies have sustained serious damage, inflicted by the most skillful and powerful military intelligence organization on the globe, but in many cases, these enemies have adapted and grown to become even more dangerous.

We are witnessing an alarming collapse in Iraq. The central government now controls less than half of its sovereign territory, as it reels before a full-blown insurgency. The concept of an autonomous jihadi state or caliphate determined to attack the West is an unacceptable development that demands a response. We pivot elsewhere at our peril.

National defense is the priority job of the Federal Government. Our Constitution grants Congress the full range of authorities for establishing the defense of our Nation.

Our task in this House is to ensure that our military is ready to respond when the Commander in Chief calls. This legislation moves us towards a state of current and future military readiness that will protect America, and I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

TITLE I					
MILITARY PERSONNEL					
Military Personnel, Army.....	40,787,967	41,225,339	41,183,729	+395,762	-41,610
Military Personnel, Navy.....	27,231,512	27,489,440	27,387,344	+155,832	-102,096
Military Personnel, Marine Corps.....	12,766,099	12,919,103	12,785,431	+19,332	-133,672
Military Personnel, Air Force.....	28,519,933	27,815,926	27,564,362	-955,631	-251,564
Reserve Personnel, Army.....	4,377,563	4,459,130	4,304,159	-73,404	-154,971
Reserve Personnel, Navy.....	1,843,986	1,863,034	1,836,024	-7,942	-27,010
Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps.....	655,109	670,754	659,224	+4,115	-11,530
Reserve Personnel, Air Force.....	1,723,159	1,675,518	1,652,148	-71,011	-23,370
National Guard Personnel, Army.....	7,776,498	7,682,892	7,644,632	-131,866	-38,260
National Guard Personnel, Air Force.....	3,114,421	3,156,457	3,110,587	-3,834	-45,870
Total, Title I, Military Personnel.....	128,796,287	128,957,693	128,127,640	-668,647	-829,953
=====					
TITLE II					
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE					
Operation and Maintenance, Army.....	30,768,069	33,240,148	32,671,980	+1,903,911	-568,168
Operation and Maintenance, Navy.....	36,311,160	39,316,857	39,073,543	+2,762,383	-243,314
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps.....	5,397,605	5,909,487	5,984,680	+587,075	+75,193
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force.....	33,248,618	35,331,193	35,024,160	+1,775,542	-307,033
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide.....	31,450,068	31,198,232	30,896,741	-553,327	-301,491
Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve.....	2,940,936	2,490,569	2,535,606	-405,330	+45,037
Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve.....	1,158,382	1,007,100	1,011,827	-146,555	+4,727
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve.....	255,317	268,582	270,485	+15,168	+1,903
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve.....	3,062,207	3,015,842	2,989,214	-72,993	-26,628
Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard.....	6,857,530	6,030,773	6,116,307	-741,223	+85,534
Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard.....	6,392,304	6,392,859	6,393,919	+1,615	+1,060
Overseas Contingency Operations Transfer Account.....	---	5,000	---	---	-5,000
United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.....	13,606	13,723	13,723	+117	---
Environmental Restoration, Army.....	298,815	201,560	201,560	-97,255	---
Environmental Restoration, Navy.....	316,103	277,294	277,294	-38,809	---
Environmental Restoration, Air Force.....	439,820	408,716	408,716	-31,104	---
Environmental Restoration, Defense-Wide.....	10,757	8,547	8,547	-2,210	---
Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites..	287,443	208,353	233,353	-54,090	+25,000
Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid.....	109,500	100,000	103,000	-6,500	+3,000
Cooperative Threat Reduction Account.....	500,455	365,108	365,108	-135,347	---
Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund.....	51,031	212,875	51,875	+844	-161,000
Total, Title II, Operation and maintenance.....	159,869,726	166,002,818	164,631,638	+4,761,912	-1,371,180
=====					

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE III					
PROCUREMENT					
Aircraft Procurement, Army.....	4,844,891	5,102,685	5,295,957	+451,066	+193,272
Missile Procurement, Army.....	1,549,491	1,017,483	1,217,483	-332,008	+200,000
Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army.....	1,610,811	1,471,438	1,703,736	+92,925	+232,298
Procurement of Ammunition, Army.....	1,444,067	1,031,477	1,011,477	-432,590	-20,000
Other Procurement, Army.....	4,936,908	4,893,634	4,812,234	-124,674	-81,400
Aircraft Procurement, Navy.....	16,442,794	13,074,317	14,054,523	-2,388,271	+980,206
Weapons Procurement, Navy.....	3,009,157	3,217,945	3,111,931	+102,774	-106,014
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps.....	549,316	771,945	629,372	+80,056	-142,573
Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy.....	15,231,364	14,400,625	14,256,361	-975,003	-144,264
Other Procurement, Navy.....	5,572,618	5,975,828	5,923,379	+350,761	-52,449
Procurement, Marine Corps.....	1,240,958	983,352	927,232	-313,726	-56,120
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force.....	10,379,180	11,542,571	12,046,941	+1,667,761	+504,370
Missile Procurement, Air Force.....	4,446,763	4,690,506	4,546,211	+99,448	-144,295
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force.....	729,677	677,400	648,200	-81,477	-29,200
Other Procurement, Air Force.....	16,572,754	16,566,018	16,633,023	+60,269	+67,005
Procurement, Defense-Wide.....	4,240,416	4,221,437	4,358,121	+117,705	+136,684
Defense Production Act Purchases.....	60,135	21,638	51,638	-8,497	+30,000
Total, Title III, Procurement.....	92,861,300	89,660,299	91,227,819	-1,633,481	+1,567,520
TITLE IV					
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION					
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army.....	7,126,318	6,593,898	6,720,000	-406,318	+126,102
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy.....	14,949,919	16,266,335	15,877,770	+927,851	-388,565
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force...	23,585,292	23,739,892	23,438,982	-146,310	-300,910
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide.....	17,086,412	16,766,084	17,077,900	-8,512	+311,816
Operational Test and Evaluation, Defense.....	246,800	167,738	248,238	+1,438	+80,500
Total, Title IV, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation.....	62,994,741	63,533,947	63,362,890	+368,149	-171,057
TITLE V					
REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS					
Defense Working Capital Funds.....	1,649,214	1,234,468	1,334,468	-314,746	+100,000
National Defense Sealift Fund.....	597,213	---	---	-597,213	---
Total, Title V, Revolving and Management Funds....	2,246,427	1,234,468	1,334,468	-911,959	+100,000

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

TITLE VI					
OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS					
Defense Health Program					
Operation and maintenance.....	30,704,995	31,031,911	30,080,563	-624,432	-951,348
Procurement.....	441,764	308,413	308,413	-133,351	---
Research, development, test and evaluation.....	1,552,399	654,594	1,245,894	-306,505	+591,300
Total, Defense Health Program 1/.....	32,699,158	31,994,918	31,634,870	-1,064,288	-360,048
Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense:					
Operation and maintenance.....	398,572	222,728	222,728	-175,844	---
Procurement.....	1,368	10,227	10,227	+8,859	---
Research, development, test and evaluation.....	604,183	595,913	595,913	-8,270	---
Total, Chemical Agents 2/.....	1,004,123	828,868	828,868	-175,255	---
Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense..	1,015,885	---	---	-1,015,885	---
Counter-narcotics support.....	---	719,096	669,631	+669,631	-49,465
Drug demand reduction program.....	---	101,591	105,591	+105,591	+4,000
National Guard counter-drug program.....	---	---	169,465	+169,465	+169,465
Total, Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense.....	1,015,885	820,687	944,687	-71,198	+124,000
Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund.....	---	115,058	65,464	+65,464	-49,594
Joint Urgent Operational Needs Fund.....	---	20,000	---	---	-20,000
Support for International Sporting Competitions 1/.....	---	10,000	10,000	+10,000	---
Office of the Inspector General 1/.....	316,000	311,830	311,830	-4,170	---
Total, Title VI, Other Department of Defense Programs.....	35,035,166	34,101,361	33,795,719	-1,239,447	-305,642
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
TITLE VII					
RELATED AGENCIES					
Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System Fund.....	514,000	514,000	514,000	---	---
Intelligence Community Management Account (ICMA).....	528,229	510,194	501,194	-27,035	-9,000
Total, Title VII, Related agencies.....	1,042,229	1,024,194	1,015,194	-27,035	-9,000
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE VIII					
GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Additional transfer authority (Sec.8005).....	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	---	---
Indian Financing Act incentives (Sec.8019).....	15,000	---	---	-15,000	---
FFRDC (Sec.8023).....	-40,000	---	-40,000	---	-40,000
Rescissions (Sec.8039).....	-1,906,089	-265,685	-964,648	+941,441	-698,963
O&M, Defense-wide transfer authority (Sec.8050).....	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	---	---
Global Security Contingency Fund (O&M, Defense-wide transfer) (Sec.8067).....	(200,000)	(200,000)	(200,000)	---	---
Fisher House Foundation (Sec.8068).....	4,000	---	4,000	---	+4,000
National grants (Sec.8076).....	44,000	---	44,000	---	+44,000
Shipbuilding & conversion funds, Navy (Sec.8080).....	8,000	5,000	5,000	-3,000	---
ICMA transfer authority (Sec.8087).....	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	---	---
Fisher House transfer authority (Sec.8092).....	(11,000)	(11,000)	(11,000)	---	---
Defense Health O&M transfer authority (Sec.8096).....	(143,087)	(146,857)	(146,857)	(+3,770)	---
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (Sec.8100) (transfer authority).....	(119,400)	(80,596)	(80,596)	(-38,804)	---
Ship Modernization, Operations and Sustainment Fund (Sec.8105).....	2,244,400	---	540,000	-1,704,400	+540,000
Rescission.....	-1,920,000	---	---	+1,920,000	---
Superintendents review.....	1,000	---	---	-1,000	---
Revised economic assumptions (Sec.8106).....	-380,000	---	-545,100	-165,100	-545,100
Special Victims Program implementation.....	25,000	---	---	-25,000	---
General/Flag Officers.....	8,000	---	---	+8,000	---
Working Capital Fund excess cash balances.....	-866,500	---	---	+866,500	---
National Defense Reserve Fleet (O&M, Navy transfer authority) (Sec.8128).....	---	(291,000)	(291,000)	(+291,000)	---
John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Fund (O&M, Navy transfer authority)(Sec.8129).....	---	(1,000)	(1,000)	(+1,000)	---
Military pay raise (Sec.8130).....	---	---	533,500	+533,500	+533,500
Basic allowance for housing (Sec.8131).....	---	---	244,700	+244,700	+244,700
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (Sec.8135).....	---	---	139,000	+139,000	+139,000
Readiness (Sec.8137).....	---	---	1,000,000	+1,000,000	+1,000,000
Total, Title VIII, General Provisions.....	-2,779,189	-260,685	960,452	+3,739,641	+1,221,137

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE IX					
OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS (OCO) 3/					
Military Personnel					
Military Personnel, Army (OCO)	5,449,726	---	---	-5,449,726	---
Military Personnel, Navy (OCO)	558,344	---	---	-558,344	---
Military Personnel, Marine Corps (OCO)	777,922	---	---	-777,922	---
Military Personnel, Air Force (OCO)	832,862	---	---	-832,862	---
Reserve Personnel, Army (OCO)	33,352	---	---	-33,352	---
Reserve Personnel, Navy (OCO)	20,238	---	---	-20,238	---
Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps (OCO)	15,134	---	---	-15,134	---
Reserve Personnel, Air Force (OCO)	20,432	---	---	-20,432	---
National Guard Personnel, Army (OCO)	257,064	---	---	-257,064	---
National Guard Personnel, Air Force (OCO)	6,919	---	---	-6,919	---
Military Personnel (OCO)	---	---	5,100,000	+5,100,000	+5,100,000
Total, Military Personnel	7,971,993	---	5,100,000	-2,871,993	+5,100,000
Operation and Maintenance					
Operation & Maintenance, Army (OCO)	32,369,249	---	---	-32,369,249	---
Operation & Maintenance, Navy (OCO)	8,470,808	---	---	-8,470,808	---
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps (OCO)	3,369,815	---	---	-3,369,815	---
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force (OCO)	12,746,424	---	---	-12,746,424	---
Operation & Maintenance, Defense-Wide (OCO)	6,226,678	---	---	-6,226,678	---
Coalition support funds (OCO)	(1,257,000)	---	---	(-1,257,000)	---
Operation & Maintenance, Army Reserve (OCO)	34,674	---	---	-34,674	---
Operation & Maintenance, Navy Reserve (OCO)	55,700	---	---	-55,700	---
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve (OCO)	12,534	---	---	-12,534	---
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force Reserve (OCO)	32,849	---	---	-32,849	---
Operation & Maintenance, Army National Guard (OCO)	130,471	---	---	-130,471	---
Operation & Maintenance, Air National Guard (OCO)	22,200	---	---	-22,200	---
Operation and Maintenance (OCO)	---	---	58,675,000	+58,675,000	+58,675,000
Subtotal, Operation and Maintenance	63,471,402	---	58,675,000	-4,796,402	+58,675,000
Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund (OCO)	199,000	---	---	-199,000	---
Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (OCO)	4,726,720	---	---	-4,726,720	---
Total, Operation and Maintenance	68,397,122	---	58,675,000	-9,722,122	+58,675,000

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Procurement					
Aircraft Procurement, Army (OCO).....	669,000	---	---	-669,000	---
Missile Procurement, Army (OCO).....	128,645	---	---	-128,645	---
Procurement of Ammunition, Army (OCO).....	190,900	---	---	-190,900	---
Other Procurement, Army (OCO).....	653,902	---	---	-653,902	---
Aircraft Procurement, Navy (OCO).....	211,176	---	---	-211,176	---
Weapons Procurement, Navy (OCO).....	86,500	---	---	-86,500	---
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps (OCO).....	169,362	---	---	-169,362	---
Procurement, Marine Corps (OCO).....	125,984	---	---	-125,984	---
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force (OCO).....	188,868	---	---	-188,868	---
Missile Procurement, Air Force (OCO).....	24,200	---	---	-24,200	---
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force (OCO).....	137,826	---	---	-137,826	---
Other Procurement, Air Force (OCO).....	2,517,846	---	---	-2,517,846	---
Procurement, Defense-Wide (OCO).....	128,947	---	---	-128,947	---
National Guard and Reserve Equipment (OCO).....	1,000,000	---	---	-1,000,000	---
Procurement (OCO).....	---	---	12,220,000	+12,220,000	+12,220,000
Total, Procurement.....	6,233,156	---	12,220,000	+5,986,844	+12,220,000
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation					
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army (OCO).....	13,500	---	---	-13,500	---
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy (OCO).....	34,426	---	---	-34,426	---
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Air Force (OCO).....	9,000	---	---	-9,000	---
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide (OCO).....	78,208	---	---	-78,208	---
Total, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation.....	135,134	---	---	-135,134	---
Revolving and Management Funds					
Defense Working Capital Funds (OCO).....	264,910	---	---	-264,910	---

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Guard and Reserve Equipment					
National Guard and Reserve Equipment (OCO).....	---	---	2,000,000	+2,000,000	+2,000,000
Other Department of Defense Programs					
Defense Health Program:					
Operation and maintenance (OCO).....	898,701	---	---	-898,701	---
Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense (OCO).....	376,305	---	---	-376,305	---
Joint IED Defeat Fund (OCO) 2/.....	879,225	---	---	-879,225	---
Office of the Inspector General (OCO).....	10,766	---	---	-10,766	---
Other (OCO).....	---	---	1,450,000	+1,450,000	+1,450,000
Total, Other Department of Defense Programs.....	2,164,997	---	1,450,000	-714,997	+1,450,000
TITLE IX General Provisions					
Additional transfer authority (OCO) (Sec.9002).....	(4,000,000)	---	(4,000,000)	---	(+4,000,000)
Rescissions (OCO) (Sec.9013).....	-140,370	---	---	+140,370	---
OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS (OCO)	---	79,445,000	---	---	-79,445,000
Total, Title IX	85,026,942	79,445,000	79,445,000	-5,581,942	-----
Net Grand Total.....	565,093,629	563,698,995	563,900,820	-1,192,809	+201,825
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RECAP					
Scorekeeping adjustments:					
Lease of defense real property (permanent).....	30,000	31,000	31,000	+1,000	---
Disposal of defense real property (permanent).....	10,000	8,000	8,000	-2,000	---
DHP, O&M to DOD-VA Joint Incentive Fund:					
Defense function.....	-15,000	-15,000	-15,000	---	---
Non-defense function.....	15,000	15,000	15,000	---	---
DHP, O&M to Joint DOD-VA Medical Facility					
Demonstration Fund:					
Defense function.....	-143,087	-146,857	-146,857	-3,770	---
Non-defense function.....	143,087	146,857	146,857	+3,770	---
O&M, Defense-wide transfer to Department of State:					
Defense function.....	-50,000	-30,000	-30,000	+20,000	---
Non-defense function.....	50,000	30,000	30,000	-20,000	---
Tricare accrual (permanent, indefinite auth.) 4/.....	7,258,000	6,963,000	6,963,000	-295,000	---
(OCO) 3/.....	164,000	---	---	-164,000	---
Total, scorekeeping adjustments.....	7,462,000	7,002,000	7,002,000	-460,000	-----
Adjusted total (includ. scorekeeping adjustments)..	572,555,629	570,700,995	570,902,820	-1,652,809	+201,825
Appropriations.....	(576,381,718)	(570,966,680)	(571,867,468)	(-4,514,250)	(+900,788)
Rescissions.....	(-3,826,089)	(-265,685)	(-964,648)	(+2,861,441)	(-698,963)
Total mandatory and discretionary.....	572,555,629	570,700,995	570,902,820	-1,652,809	+201,825

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
RECAPITULATION					
Title I - Military Personnel.....	128,796,287	128,957,593	128,127,640	-668,647	-829,953
Title II - Operation and Maintenance.....	159,869,726	166,002,818	164,631,638	+4,761,912	-1,371,180
Title III - Procurement.....	92,861,300	89,660,299	91,227,819	-1,633,481	+1,567,520
Title IV - Research, Development, Test and Evaluation...	62,994,741	63,533,947	63,362,890	+368,149	-171,057
Title V - Revolving and Management Funds.....	2,246,427	1,234,468	1,334,468	-911,959	+100,000
Title VI - Other Department of Defense Programs.....	35,035,166	34,101,361	33,795,719	-1,239,447	-305,642
Title VII - Related Agencies.....	1,042,229	1,024,194	1,015,194	-27,035	-9,000
Title VIII - General Provisions (net).....	-2,779,189	-260,685	960,452	+3,739,641	+1,221,137
Title IX - Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO).....	85,026,942	79,445,000	79,445,000	-5,581,942	---
Total, Department of Defense.....	565,093,629	563,698,995	563,900,820	-1,192,809	+201,825
Scorekeeping adjustments.....	7,462,000	7,002,000	7,002,000	-460,000	---
Total mandatory and discretionary.....	572,555,629	570,700,995	570,902,820	-1,652,809	+201,825

1/ Included in Budget under Operation and Maintenance
 2/ Included in Budget under Procurement
 3/ Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)
 4/ Contributions to Department of Defense Retiree
 Health Care Fund (Sec. 725, P.L. 108-375)(CBO est)

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation as well to Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and congratulate him on the collegial and transparent manner in which he crafted H.R. 4870, the fiscal year 2015 Defense Appropriations Act. I also want to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts of Chairman HAL ROGERS and Ranking Member NITA LOWEY and all of the members of the Defense Subcommittee.

Also, as I think all of my colleagues know, this bill could not have been written without the dedication, long hours, and discerning and thoughtful input by our committee staff and our associate and personal staffs. I want to thank each one of them.

I would like to begin by saying a few words about the overseas contingency operations title that the chairman referred to.

The committee has been placed in a very difficult position of having to provide \$79.4 billion as a placeholder. Recent decisions on the post-2014 troop levels in Afghanistan clear up the major policy issue that held back a detailed budget request.

Unfortunately, the clarity gained was quickly muddled by the proposed \$5 billion counterterrorism partnerships fund and the \$1 billion European reassurance initiative.

At a time when many in Congress are rightfully looking to limit what is an eligible expense in OCO and shift activities to the base budget, these new proposals further complicate the issue. Clarity must be brought to the opaque nature of OCO, and I look forward to the debate on this during the consideration of amendments.

I support the bill we are marking up today and believe it provides for our national security and the protection of U.S. interests at home and abroad. Put simply, the bill provides stability for our military personnel, maintains readiness, and preserves the industrial base.

I am pleased by the subcommittee's continued efforts on sexual assault prevention and response. Specifically, the bill fully funds the budget request for the Special Victims' Counsel, continuing last year's initiative.

The bill increases funding relative to the President's budget request for traumatic brain injury and psychological health research, suicide prevention outreach programs, and several other invaluable medical programs.

Further, the bill and report carry strong language aimed at increasing cooperation between the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs in their ongoing efforts to develop interoperable electronic health records.

Specific to readiness, the bill includes an increase of \$1 billion to fill gaps in key programs to prepare our

troops, including \$135 million for the Army Reserve and Army National Guard. The bill makes investments in programs that are vital to the rebuilding and resetting of the force after 13 years of conflict.

In particular, it increases funding by \$720 million for facility sustainment and modernization and provides each military service with additional funding for depot maintenance.

I especially appreciate the chairman's focus on encouraging DOD to meet the FY 2017 deadline for achieving fully auditable financial statements. The measure provides \$8 million above the request for the Comptroller's office to improve business and financial systems throughout the Department.

Continuing problems in DOD's strategic forces are also addressed in the bill, and funding is provided to address issues directly impacting intercontinental ballistic missile crews.

With regard to the industrial base, I was dismayed that, in its FY 2015 budget request, the administration proposed the elimination of several longstanding general provisions ensuring that contracts followed Buy America requirements and support domestic manufacturing.

I am pleased to note that the committee chose to reject the administration's inexplicable proposal to jettison these Buy America proposals.

The bill also contains several other provisions and initiatives aimed at securing our industrial base, including \$220 million to establish a program for the domestic development of a next-generation liquid-fueled rocket engine. Hopefully, this program will swiftly fill a very troubling void in the U.S. space launch industry.

One other area of the bill I would like to highlight is the funding increase for the Humanitarian Mine Action Program. Albeit a small program, I believe its mission is of immense value.

All too often, innocent civilians are the victims of explosive remnants of war. It is only right to share our military's expertise with host nations on the detection, clearance, disposal, and demilitarization of explosive ordnance. I thank the chairman in particular for his special efforts in this area.

However, I would point out that there are certain aspects of the bill that give me pause. Fundamentally, these concerns have little to do with the detailed work of the subcommittee, which I believe did its very best under the constraints in which it operated; rather, the concerns stem from Congress' continued failure to confront our long-term fiscal challenges.

In its fiscal year 2015 budget request, the Department of Defense proposed some significant initiatives, including military pay adjustments, restructuring TRICARE, and the retirement of several weapons systems—such as the A-10 and the Kiowa Warrior—in order

to stay under the fiscal year 2015 budget cap, provide for future flexibility, and to meet the national security strategy.

Having said this, one could easily point out that the administration then undercut its own efforts by planning for higher spending in fiscal years 2016 through 2019 and by submitting the disingenuously named "Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative," and subsequently also submitting unfunded priority lists.

Regardless, a number of the proposals the Department put forth for fiscal year 2015 do possess merit. With few exceptions, these proposals have gained no traction within Congress. Most were excluded or had language prohibiting or postponing their support in the recently passed National Defense Authorization Act.

I do not suggest that the administration is uniformly correct, nor do I dismiss the resultant impacts of many of these initiatives, but the alternative of staying the course and hoping for some relief in fiscal year 2016 is very wishful thinking.

The sooner Congress reaches the consensus required to make the difficult decisions that are essential to deal with the reality of finite resources, the better we can provide for our national defense.

□ 1500

In closing, I want to reiterate my appreciation to the chairman for his cooperation, his friendship and diligence. He and his staff have ensured that the Defense Subcommittee continues its tradition of operating collaboratively and effectively. I am pleased to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the full Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I urge our colleagues to support this Defense spending bill for 2015.

This bipartisan legislation provides \$491 billion in discretionary funding for our Nation's highest duty, and that is the security of country, the sustainment of our military operations, and the well-being of the brave men and women of our Armed Forces.

The bill before you today, Mr. Chairman, will help meet the most pressing needs of our military as we address current and arising threats to the safety of our Nation in an ever-changing global landscape. It also takes into account the ongoing challenges of our current fiscal situation, finding ways to trim excess spending and reduce lower priority programs without negatively affecting our troops or the success of our military missions.

Providing our military with the highest standard of readiness is a top priority in this bill. This includes procuring important equipment and resources, supporting troop training and flight time, and maintaining our bases and facilities. The bill marks investments in important defense technology R&D to help advance the safety and success of our military operations now and into the future. Investments like these will help to preserve our military's status as the most effective and capable in the world.

The backbone of our military is, of course, the brave men and women who lay their lives on the line in defense of this Nation. With that in mind, the bill fully funds the authorized 1.8 percent pay raise for our military personnel instead of the 1 percent as requested by the President. Troop housing costs are also fully funded as authorized. This ensures that our more than 1.3 million Active Duty troops and 820,000 Guard and Reserve troops have the quality of life they deserve during their service. \$31.6 billion is included for the Defense Health Program, to ensure a consistent and strong quality of care for our troops, their families, and retirees. Within this total, the bill includes increases above the President's request for cancer research, traumatic brain injury research, psychological health research, and suicide prevention outreach programs. The bill also provides an increase of \$50 million above last year for sexual assault prevention and response programs, helping to address this growing challenge within our forces.

Lastly, the bill provides \$79.4 billion in overseas contingency operations funding to support our troops in Afghanistan. As we have yet to receive an official budget request that reflects the most current and anticipated status of our troops in the field, this OCO funding will undoubtedly require further evaluation, particularly with the developing situations in Iraq and the Middle East.

By prioritizing these vital programs, closely scrutinizing the budget request and assessing the most current needs, the fiscal '15 Defense Appropriations bill ensures the best use of our limited Federal dollars. We made careful, targeted reductions wherever possible without adversely affecting the safety of our troops or the ongoing success of our military missions.

Mr. Chairman, as of today, we have completed 10 appropriations bills of the 12 through subcommittee. Eight have gone through full committee, and we have begun or we have completed the consideration of six bills on the floor. So, when we finish this bill and the ag bill, we will be half through the 12 bills. That has not happened in many years. We are moving at a remarkable pace, and if our colleagues in the other body continue their good work as well,

we stand a great chance of completing this important work on time.

This is an even greater achievement because we have done so under regular order, with open rules that have allowed every Member to have his or her voice heard. Over the five bills we have considered on this floor so far, we have had more than 200 amendments, and I am sure we will add to that tally today. We have taken great care to weed out waste and excess and to terminate duplicative programs. In this year alone, we have found savings in every bill, and we have done all of this while abiding by the Ryan-Murray budget agreement.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I am pleased to yield to the chairman an additional minute.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Before I finish, Mr. Chairman, I can't help but compliment the new chairman of this subcommittee. This is his maiden voyage after becoming chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. I think he has steered the ship properly so far, and we look forward to the complete work that he is doing.

So congratulations to Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and to Ranking Member VISCLOSKY. They have done a great job. It is a bipartisan bill, and I urge the Members to support it.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member. The Defense Subcommittee has a long tradition of working closely together, and I sincerely appreciate these bipartisan efforts.

Mr. Chairman, this is an extremely important and timely bill as the Department is tasked with drawing down forces in Afghanistan, is appropriately responding to the upheaval in Iraq, and is facing other challenges across the globe. Totaling \$490.7 billion, the base portion of the bill is approximately \$200 million above the President's request. However, after accounting for appropriate increases in Active Duty pay and housing costs, the remainder of the bill is actually below the President's proposed level. Budget caps and sequestration force difficult decisions, many of which will be debated this week.

Before we begin that discussion, I want to again thank the chairman and ranking member and recognize the constraints under which they assembled the bill.

The bill includes a number of provisions I strongly support: additional investments to address the epidemic of sexual assault plaguing our military; substantial funds for health services

and suicide prevention as my colleague just informed me that, in March, there were zero combat fatalities, but there were 700 suicides; a 1.8 percent increase for Active Duty pay; support for the National Guard and Reserves as well as family support programs; significant funding for cybersecurity to protect our critical infrastructure from cyber attacks; and continued support for the Israeli Cooperative missile defense programs.

I applaud the inclusion of language that fences 75 percent of funds for the Defense Healthcare Management System Modernization, requiring a report from the Secretary of Defense on acquisition and the cost of the program, plus the status of efforts to achieve interoperability with the Department of Veterans Affairs. This system is critical to the health of our servicemembers, and expeditious interoperability between the DOD and the VA is essential to ensuring quality of care as they become veterans. Through continued oversight, this committee will make sure that the DOD stays on course and delivers the promised objectives.

I remain concerned about the lack of a formal budget for the overseas contingency operations funds. With continued uncertainty about future U.S. actions in Afghanistan, work remains on this account.

Again, I appreciate the professionalism and collegiality of the process, and I look forward to further cooperation as we work toward passing this bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), a member of our Defense Subcommittee.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for yielding the time, and thank you for the work that you have done, along with Mr. VISCLOSKY, to present what I consider to be a very strong bill.

Mr. Chairman, when you look at the world today, it certainly hasn't gotten any smaller, and it certainly hasn't gotten any safer, but I think this bill balances the priorities that we need to balance and focuses on being able to meet the many, many challenges that we face in terms of our national security.

I consider it an honor to serve on this subcommittee because, when I read the Constitution, it teaches me that the number one responsibility of the Federal Government is to protect American lives. The best way to keep America safe is to keep America strong, and I think this bill does that.

We make sure that we are not making any short-term, budget-driven decisions that would be easy to make in these difficult economic times. The Navy decided that it would like to deactivate 11 ships. That is one half of

our cruiser fleet. We don't need fewer ships—we need more ships—and I am proud that the subcommittee has worked out a compromise by which these ships will be modernized and their lives will be extended, and they will continue to do the work that they need to do around the globe. The people I represent back in Jacksonville, Florida, care greatly about national security. They care about the men and women in uniform, and they care about the men and women who work so hard to make sure the ships are repaired and the planes are flying in the sky.

The other thing that I wanted to point out in terms of shortsighted, budget-driven decisions is that there was an effort to say there is not enough money to refuel the USS *George Washington*. That is one of our nuclear carriers. It has 25 years left of useful life if we spend the money to refuel that, and we are going to do that. That will also help us comply with the law that I helped write 8 years ago that says you have to have 11 aircraft carriers unless Congress says otherwise.

Finally, when I look at the airplanes—the new E-2D Advanced Hawkeye—these planes are relatively new, but they are incredibly important to our national security. Again, the P-8 Poseidon surveillance planes are relatively new but are critical to our national defense.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for putting together such a strong bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, this appropriations bill will ensure that all of the men and women of our Armed Forces have the resources they need to keep our country safe and secure.

I want to commend Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCLOSKY for their working together in order to craft a good bill under difficult budgetary conditions and with the uncertainty surrounding the OCO account.

Thank you to all of the members of the subcommittee for working together in a bipartisan and collaborative manner to put this bill together.

This legislation supports our troops and our military families. It strengthens the health care services available to our servicemembers, and it provides the essential support that our industrial base needs.

One issue I am very concerned about is the epidemic of sexual assault in the military. Sexual assault will not be tolerated and must be both prevented and prosecuted. There are resources in this bill to do that, and Congress must hold military leaders accountable to make sure that this progress is made.

I am also very concerned about the complete lack of oversight by this Congress in the armed drone program, which is funded under this bill.

□ 1515

The lack of transparency surrounding drone strikes hinders our ability to evaluate their impact on innocent civilians.

There are other challenges and other tough choices made in this bill, and our hearings highlighted the fact there are tougher choices to make in the coming years.

With sequestration on the horizon for FY16 and beyond, Congress needs to act responsibly to balance the need for military readiness with the many non-defense challenges domestically that the American people face.

Congress needs to stop spending billions of dollars on excess bases and obsolete weapon systems that the Department of Defense does not want, and this bill starts that process by retiring the A-10 aircraft.

I believe this bill is responsible, and an important step forward.

Again, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership and doing what we need to do together as a country to maintain our military superiority in the 21st century.

Mr. Chairman, I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK), a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee and the ranking member, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and Mr. VISCLOSKY, for their terrific leadership and the great work, tough work that has taken place in crafting this Defense Appropriations bill.

I also would like to thank the overall chairman and the ranking member, Mr. ROGERS and Mrs. LOWEY, for their leadership as well.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation on which our men and women in uniform, our intelligence community, and our futures depend.

America is at war, and we face continued uncertainty and new threats daily. Now is not the time to weaken our military. This bill equips the Department of Defense with the funding necessary to keep our Nation safe while making the tough decisions necessary to ensure we stay within our spending limits.

With \$491 billion provided in discretionary spending, and another \$80 billion as a placeholder in overseas contingency, the DOD will be able to maintain readiness at levels that protect our military's standing, support our ongoing war efforts abroad, and,

most importantly, ensure that the health and well-being of our men and women in uniform and their ability to support their families is protected.

Our subcommittee, and our committee as a whole, is keenly aware of our Nation's deficits and debt. We are committed to thoroughly evaluating our spending to ensure our defense officials, both military and civilian, are accountable for smart policy objectives that responsibly steward taxpayer dollars.

We have had months of hearings, classified briefings, and bipartisan cooperation, and I believe we have successfully accomplished a bill, a good bipartisan bill, that is worthy of support.

Mr. Chairman, as I was thinking about my remarks today, I thought about that famous verse in "America the Beautiful" that says: "O beautiful, for heroes proved, in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life."

Mr. Chairman, we have an enormous obligation, a constitutional obligation, to protect the homeland. But we have an obligation to ensure that we protect those heroes referenced in that great patriotic song.

So the least we can do today is put our partisan differences aside and join collectively to send our collective appreciation to those who serve us in uniform by passing this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding, and for your very hard work on this Department of Defense Appropriations bill.

Mr. Chairman, as the daughter of a veteran, I know how important it is to fully fund and support our troops. I strongly support these provisions of this legislation.

With that said, though, there are many provisions in this bill which I cannot support. These include nearly \$500 billion in discretionary funding, with an increase of \$4 billion above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level, which we have not seen for any other appropriations bill this year.

This inflated level of spending fails to account, mind you, for the waste, fraud, and abuse that continue at the Pentagon. We must audit the Pentagon and reduce unnecessary Pentagon spending.

This bill also includes nearly \$80 billion for the overseas contingency operations slush fund, which is what it is, at a time when the President has not even made a specific request about how much is needed. This is outrageous, and this slush fund should be eliminated.

Now I will be offering several amendments to this bill, one to limit operations in Afghanistan after 2014, as

well as to repeal the 2001 blank check authorization.

The farm bill, transportation bill, other bills, other authorizations have end dates. We need to end this. Come back to Congress, debate what we are going to do in Iraq, if anything, in terms of military strikes and, in fact, repeal the authorization on Afghanistan passed in 2001.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I thank you, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, and also want to thank Ranking Member PETER VISCLOSKY for setting an example of how to take care of our Nation's dramatic needs and do it in an inclusive, bipartisan fashion.

Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN has shown great leadership in providing the resources our warfighters need to successfully defend our Nation, both here and abroad. He and I have often worked together on issues of shared interest, and I thank him for engaging with me on this very important issue.

Currently, the aircraft that are meant to protect our Nation's sovereign air space from both domestic and foreign threats, and also are routinely deployed, with the big Air Force, into war theaters overseas have gone without much-needed upgrades.

The F-16 Block 30 aircraft are tasked with a mission that absolutely cannot fail. The 177th Fighter Wing out of Atlantic City, New Jersey, along with other Air National Guard wings throughout the country, are assigned this critically important task of ensuring our home defense and, again, being able to integrate fully with the big Air Force into conflicts overseas, as they have done multiple times and, in fact, they are doing right now as we speak.

Due to the reduction of modernization programs, these F-16 Block 30 aircraft are without key combat avionic upgrades, such as the Scalable Agile Beam Radar.

Threats to our Nation continue to grow all over the world, from sovereign countries and terrorist organizations alike. The diversity of threats means that these aircraft must have the latest capability to make split-second decisions to protect our Nation here and abroad.

I ask that the chairman work with me to ensure that our Nation's airspace is properly defended, and that these F-16 aircraft are properly fitted for the threats of the 21st century.

With that, I yield to my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman, my colleague, for yielding on this important issue. I agree that upgrading these legacy aircraft is vital to our Nation's de-

fense. It is our job, as elected officials, to protect our citizens, and the mission of the Aerospace Control Alert aircraft does just that.

I will work to ensure that we include report language in conference, or take other appropriate steps regarding this issue, as we work through the appropriations process.

I thank my colleague and friend from New Jersey for bringing this vital concern to my attention.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise to discuss H.R. 4870, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

I want to thank the committee for fully funding the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Student Initiative. The \$34.4 million allocation supports the educational development of a growing number of minority scholars in science, technology, engineering, and math, also known as STEM.

I was proud when the House Armed Services Committee, and then the full House, approved my amendment to increase funding for this initiative by \$10 million in the National Defense Authorization Act. By providing the full \$34.4 million today, the Appropriations Committee and the full House will, once again, demonstrate our commitment to these outstanding scholars.

HBCUs produce one-fifth of the Nation's undergraduate science graduates and 20 percent of Black undergraduate engineers. This funding, through the NDAA, emphasizes our support for these students and encourages more minorities to take the STEM path.

In the long run, producing more qualified minority STEM graduates ensures a strong and diversified workforce, which is essential to our Nation's long-term well-being.

I have serious concerns about this bill. I wanted to use this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for the work of the House Appropriations Committee in support of this initiative.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise to engage in a colloquy with Ranking Member VISCLOSKY and Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN. But first I would like to commend the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership on this bill.

I am here today to address the importance of delivering the utmost care to our brave service men and women who suffer from mental health disorders, and the benefits that public-private partnerships between the Department

of Defense and teaching hospitals can provide, specifically to members of the National Guard and Reserve components who return from tours of duty and transition into civilian life far from a military base and without easy access to the care that they need.

I am pleased that the Department recognizes the benefits of these public-private partnerships and created a pilot program to improve efforts to treat members of the National Guard and Reserve components and their families who suffer from mental health disorders. But we must not stop there.

It is heartbreaking that preliminary readouts of suicide data for 2013 show that the Active component rate has come down about 18 percent, but the Reserve rates rose slightly. This problem is not going away.

That is why I am so pleased that the defense bill included language in the bill's report, recommended by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and me, that encourages the Secretary of Defense to expand this initial pilot to include additional community partners through a competitive and merit-based process.

There are a number of teaching and clinical hospitals around the country that specialize in mental health treatment and can make a real difference in addressing the soaring demand for mental health treatment.

I would like to work with the chairman and the ranking member to ensure that the Department has the necessary funding to expand this vital pilot program so more of our Nation's brave servicemembers are able to receive the best care possible.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I am honored to yield to Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from New York's kind words.

The committee recognized that suicide remains a very serious problem in the military, particularly among National Guard and Reserve troops.

I am proud to say that our bill strongly supports the efforts of the services to address this crisis. The report includes language which speaks directly to the gentleman's interest in the pilot program that was created to treat servicemembers suffering from mental health disorders in the National Guard and Reserve components through community partnerships.

In addition, the bill provides \$158 million in requested funding for suicide prevention, mental health, and risk resiliency programs for the services. This includes an extra \$39 million for suicide prevention programs, including the \$19 million specifically for our special operators.

All the military services have taken significant steps to make suicide prevention a top priority and to improve the resiliency and health of our servicemembers.

We support those efforts, and I will continue to work with the gentleman from New York and his colleague, Mr. KING, to address these important issues.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I would echo the sentiments about the importance of public-private partnerships and including teaching and clinical hospitals in finding ways to provide the best care possible to our servicemembers.

Mental health disorders are a growing trend in our military, and we must use all resources at our disposal to address the demand for treatment.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his interest and for the colloquy.

□ 1530

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from New Jersey, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN.

First, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and the ranking member for your efforts in putting together this legislation. In particular, I appreciate that this bill provides funding for the support for international sporting competition fund.

This account is crucial for ensuring the safety and security of countless Americans who participate in different Olympic initiatives, including the preparations for the Olympics, Paralympics, and Special Olympics.

The United States has a rich tradition of supporting the Special Olympics, both in the United States and abroad. These unique events empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while promoting acceptance for all and fostering communities of understanding on a global scale.

Approximately 1,000 athletes participated in the first Special Olympics World Games in 1968. By comparison, there has been a sevenfold increase, with 7,000 athletes expected to participate in the 2015 Special Olympic World Games, which will be held in Los Angeles, California.

With this substantial growth, there has come an increased need for security. It is important for this legislation to match as best possible our country's previous funding commitments. This critical funding need could be addressed either through additional funding for the support for international sporting competition fund or unobligated funds at the Department of Defense.

I asked for and look forward to the opportunity to work with the chairman, ranking member, and all of our

colleagues who wish to continue our country's support for the Special Olympics through any available funds in this legislation.

At this point, I yield to the chairman for his response.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. The committee has a long history of support for international sporting competitions. Ranking Member VISCLOSKY and I will work with you to ensure that the remaining prior year balances appropriated for this purpose are spent for their intended purpose.

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the chairman and the ranking member.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, at this point, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, as the ranking member may be aware, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs are conducted at schools throughout our great Nation.

They are traditionally led by retired military officers and enlisted personnel, and the program prepares high school students for leadership roles. JROTC teaches the young men and women the kind of discipline and self-confidence required to succeed outside the classroom.

In my congressional district is Shelton High School, which successfully operated their Navy JROTC program for 35 years. One year, they dropped three students below the minimum threshold, were placed on probation, and yet, despite the subsequent year exceeding the enrollment threshold, they were required to get to the end of the line, notwithstanding the 35 years of successful operation.

I don't think Shelton High School ought to have to do that. I don't think any high school in the United States ought to have to do that.

The Shelton High School Navy JROTC program provided unmatched leadership opportunities for students, and it instilled exactly the kind of values we want to instill in young people: patriotism, national service, and a sense of accomplishment and responsibility.

Additionally, this JROTC program, in its community, served as the color guard at community events and helped provide volunteers for community organizations. Its absence is now being acutely felt throughout all of the country.

So I respectfully request that we somehow find a way to work together to ensure the Navy has the necessary funds to support these programs at Shelton High School and throughout the Nation.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I certainly understand the gentleman's concerns and appreciate him making the committee aware of this issue.

I know that the Junior ROTC program has made a difference in the lives of many students, as well as our country. I would be happy to work with the gentleman on providing funding for this important program.

Mr. HECK of Washington. I thank the gentleman for agreeing to work with us, and I thank you and the chairman for your excellent work on this legislation, which I look forward to supporting.

I also want you to know that, when you tell me you will work with me, I know it to be the case because both of you are men of your word.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I thank the gentleman and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank you, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, for yielding for the purpose of a colloquy.

I want to thank you for your tireless efforts for our Nation's brave servicemen and -women and, just as importantly, for those who served and never made it home. This legislation fully funds the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Personnel Office account. The hardworking staff over at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC, work tirelessly to track, locate, and recover these fallen heroes, and I thank them for their continued efforts.

I would like to have a moment to discuss a hero of the Vietnam war. Major Lewis P. Smith III majored in music at Penn State and graduated in 1964. He planned to teach music after his obligation to the Air Force was over.

Upon graduation from Penn State, Smith was trained on the T-38 and C-130 aircraft for the next 3 years, sent to Vietnam, and was assigned to the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron in Pleiku, South Vietnam.

On May 30, 1968, Smith piloted a Cessna O-2A Skymaster aircraft in Saravane Province, Laos. During the mission, Smith encountered enemy fire, resulting in the crash of his plane.

Electronic signals were heard at the scene, indicating that he had survived the crash, but he was not rescued. Major Smith was listed as missing in action and is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, panel 62W, line 2.

Major Smith's family has been working with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to recover his remains. The excavation site in Laos has been on the list for over 2 years, and the trip to excavate the crash site has been postponed twice due to budget pressures and sequestration.

Major Smith's family has reached out to me to help with their efforts to bring Lewis home. While I understand the budget-constrained times, the recovery of fallen servicemembers will

bring closure to the families after such a loss.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for your support and urge the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to schedule the recovery trip to Laos and to bring home Major Lewis Smith's remains to his family and his country.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I understand the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office's mission is to provide the families of servicemembers lost in battle or taken as prisoners of war with information and, in applicable cases, to recover personnel from World War II, the Korean war, the cold war, the Vietnam war, and the Iraqi theater of operations.

I fully support the office and the work they do in searching and reuniting lost soldiers with their families. Returning the fallen servicemembers to their families is a priority, and I support your strong efforts and advocacy on behalf of Major Smith and his family. It is commendable. We honor it, and I thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to engage in a colloquy with the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee.

As many of our colleagues know, thousands of men and women from our Armed Forces have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan with a variety of service-connected illnesses and complications caused by exposure to the noxious fumes of open-air burn pits and other airborne hazards.

There is a growing body of research about the disabling effects of burn pit exposure that confirms that such exposure is the cause of serious illnesses, including various cancers that have killed veterans and have left countless others seriously ill.

Leading researchers in this area, including Dr. Anthony Szema of Stony Brook University's School of Medicine in my district, are discovering clear evidence that fumes from burn pits have sickened the personnel deployed in their vicinity.

While their precise numbers remain unknown, it is estimated that up to 30,000 Active Duty servicemembers and veterans might be suffering as a result of their exposure to burn pits. We must learn from past mistakes to stop open-air burn pit exposure before such exposure becomes the agent orange for this generation of veterans.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I certainly understand the gentleman's concerns and ap-

preciate him making the committee aware of this issue. I would be happy to work with him to provide attention and resources to this issue.

I am very pleased that he brought this to our attention today on the floor.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I thank the gentleman for his response and his leadership. I also thank the chairman of the subcommittee for his leadership, and I look forward to working with them on this issue.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I would be delighted to yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member and the chairman for including language supporting continued work on lithium ion battery research.

However, in reviewing the underlying bill, I am concerned about the possible interpretation by the Office of Naval Research with respect to this effort. I believe it is important that the Office of Naval Research emphasize battery safety as a part of this work.

I would also request the opportunity to continue to work with the chairman and the ranking member to allocate research and development funding to promote battery safety and to retain such funding through conference on the underlying bill.

I hope to make it clear that this Chamber encourages investment in battery safety research.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I would want to make it clear to all of my colleagues, first of all, that my good friend from Wisconsin has been working on this issue for a number of years. I remember a meeting we had about a year ago on this issue, and he continues to press ahead, which I appreciate.

I certainly will continue to work with him on the development of lithium ion battery technology and promote battery safety as an important part of this research, and I appreciate the gentleman's concern, as well as his good work.

Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time as well.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today to highlight an important provision that was included in H.R. 4870, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2015, which could help my constituent, Debbie Zelman, along with thousands of others like her with stomach cancer.

Five years ago, Debbie was diagnosed with Stage IV stomach cancer. While the doctor gave her only a 50/50 chance to live after one year, Debbie is still with us, fighting one of the deadliest forms of cancer.

Debbie is not alone in her battle. Every year, 21,000 Americans are diagnosed with

stomach cancer, and it is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women in this country.

To help Debbie and others affected by this horrible cancer, I, along with 57 of my colleagues, requested from the Appropriations Committee that stomach cancer research become eligible for funding through the Defense Department's Peer Reviewed Research Program (PRCRP) for 2015.

The PRCRP funds research into eleven cancer types, including blood cancer, colorectal cancer, and pancreatic cancer. Adding stomach cancer to the list of eligible diseases could make an enormous difference in understanding this under-researched cancer, including its array of risk factors and causes.

I'm proud that the House Defense Appropriations bill includes report language to allow stomach cancer research to be funded through this Research Program. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that the Senate passes this important language as well.

By taking this step, we will be able to better understand this deadly disease, and, hopefully, get closer to finding a much-needed cure.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Chair, with numerous and significant reservations, I will vote for final passage of H.R. 4870, the FY2015 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. I supported this bill because it provides the means to support the brave men and women of our armed services who put their lives on the line to protect ours. The bill provides a pay raise for our troops and includes important provisions that support the missions of the Delaware National Guard and Dover Air Force Base.

That said, I disagreed with numerous policy provisions included in the bill, most notably the lack of guidance for how the Administration can use funds provided in the Overseas Contingency Operation accounts. I also remain concerned that the bill prevents the Department of Defense from taking responsible measures to cut defense spending and continues to maintain the Authorization for Use of Military Force, despite the fact that our military engagements in Afghanistan and Iraq have drawn to a close. I was also concerned that the bill prevents the transfer of detainees at the Guantanamo Bay Facility and fails to provide a comprehensive plan to close the facility. I am hopeful these deficiencies in the bill will be addressed when the House and Senate meet in conference to work out their differences.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 4870, the FY2015 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

I commend the House Appropriations Committee's continued support for our servicemembers and our national defense. However, I have serious concerns with a number of misguided funding provisions in this year's DoD Appropriations bill. We have to budget based on reality, instead of writing a blank check and holding onto as "much of the stuff and the training as possible" and hoping that "some miracle happens and we get money next year that we don't have now," as Chairman MCKEON put it last month. As a result of this line of thinking, this legislation avoids making many tough choices.

As was the case with last month's Defense Authorization bill, H.R. 4870 provides billions of dollars in funding that the Department of Defense neither requested nor needs. This includes funding for additional EA-18G aircraft, High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, and unrequested upgrades to the M-1 Abrams tank. It also blocks the Administration's ability to retire aging and unnecessary military aircraft, including the C-130 AMP, when less expensive options are readily available.

I also strongly object to sections 8107, 8108, 8139, and 9015 of the bill, which continue funding restrictions on the construction or modification of detention facilities in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees. I was also disappointed that two amendments were adopted on the House floor which would bar the use of funds to transfer Guantanamo detainees to Yemen and other foreign countries. As the President made clear in his State of the Union Address earlier this year, we cannot wait any longer to lift the remaining restrictions on detainee transfers and close down this facility once-and-for-all.

This bill also provides \$79 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations even though we have not received a detailed OCO budget request. There is no justification for this amount. The bill holds back 85% of the funding from being obligated until the Pentagon submits a detailed spending plan. But this is no safeguard because the Pentagon still determines virtually all of the details of how the funding is spent. Congress has no opportunity to provide input through regular order into how much we should spend for war operations and on what. We should take notice that \$79 billion is larger than every other appropriations bill except for two—Defense and Labor, HHS, Education. We need to provide at least some minimum level of oversight and control over such a large sum of money.

Despite my overall opposition to this legislation, I was happy that a bipartisan amendment offered by Rep. LOFGREN was adopted that would limit funding for many backdoor programs within Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act. This was a provision that was initially in the USA Freedom Act before being stripped in its final passage and would prevent the NSA from being able to search government databases for foreign communications content of American citizens without a warrant. The passage of this amendment will strengthen the privacy and civil liberties of all Americans. Today's bill also continues to address the problem of sexual assault in the military and fully funds the President's request for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Programs.

I also want to make clear my views with respect to the amendments relating to the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force against the al Qaeda elements responsible for the attacks of 9/11/2001 and the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq. The President has announced his intention to end combat operations in Afghanistan at the end of this year, and to keep a residual force in Afghanistan for an additional year subject to a Status of Forces Agreement. There is also the question of how the existing use of force authorization applies to military action outside of Afghanistan, such as in Yemen. Given the

changing circumstances, it makes sense to end it or to revise the current authorization and adapt it to the current situation.

As for the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq, it should be terminated. We have withdrawn our troops from Iraq, and we should no longer provide the Executive Branch with a blank check for future military action there. That does not mean that the President could not seek Congressional authorization for future military action in Iraq or, if the conditions apply, exercise his constitutional authorities as Commander in Chief. However, I supported the amendment to prohibit the use of funds in this bill for combat operations in Iraq because I don't think there is a sound case for putting American troops in combat and, in the absence of such a limitation, there is no check on the unlimited use of force in Iraq given the current 2002 authorization to use force there.

Finally, I want to say a word about the Gosar Amendment. This amendment was a blatant effort to exploit fear and misunderstanding. There is no intention to provide Iran, Syria, Hamas, or ISIS with any military assistance. I would strongly oppose any such move. However, the United States, with the support of the State of Israel, has at times provided different forms of assistance to the Palestinian Authority to enhance security and fight terrorism. By including the Palestinian Authority in the list of entities that should be prohibited from receiving assistance, the amendment was an obvious example of what is known around here as a "gotya" amendment. It is time to stop playing those political games.

It is my hope that many of my objections to the Defense Appropriations bill will be resolved in Conference with the Senate and that I will be able to support its final passage.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment. No pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or their respective designees, may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose. Amendments so printed shall be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4870

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, for

military functions administered by the Department of Defense and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Army on active duty, (except members of reserve components provided for elsewhere), cadets, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97-377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$41,183,729,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Navy on active duty (except members of the Reserve provided for elsewhere), midshipmen, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97-377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$27,387,344,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Marine Corps on active duty (except members of the Reserve provided for elsewhere); and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97-377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$12,785,431,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Air Force on active duty (except members of reserve components provided for elsewhere), cadets, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97-377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$27,564,362,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Army Reserve on active duty under sections 10211, 10302, and 3038 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for

payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$4,304,159,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Navy Reserve on active duty under section 10211 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$1,836,024,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Marine Corps Reserve on active duty under section 10211 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty, and for members of the Marine Corps platoon leaders class, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$659,224,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Air Force Reserve on active duty under sections 10211, 10305, and 8038 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$1,652,148,000.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Army National Guard while on duty under section 10211, 10302, or 12402 of title 10 or section 708 of title 32, United States Code, or while serving on duty under section 12301(d) of title 10 or section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$7,644,632,000.

□ 1545

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 2, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$41,492,000)".

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by \$41,492,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman

from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, right now, as I speak, there are thousands of unaccompanied minors, many of whom are 15, 16, and 17 years of age, but nonetheless, they are classified as minors, under 18, and our Border Patrol is being overwhelmed.

Our ICE agents, who are supposed to deport people improperly here, are being overwhelmed. As one ICE agent said yesterday, Chris Crane, that is the union president for the ICE agents, he said, basically:

We are having to change diapers, and so there is no criminal interdiction going on. We are not able to do our jobs because of the thousands of children that are coming.

I saw a report today from CBP, the Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection, and they were saying the interviews they are doing yield results from the children saying that they are coming to America now because of a new law that the President has that allows children to come in and stay here if they just get here quick enough.

It has caused a national emergency. So what \$41,492,000 does is provide for 1,000 National Guard troops. We know in the amendment we cannot legislate, but in order for the money to be available for the National Guard troops to assist on the border, the money needs to be available, and, therefore, we are asking that the money be moved from one account over into an account that could be utilized for National Guard troops to help with what has been termed by so many people as a humanitarian crisis.

Why is it a crisis? Because people in the administration are refusing, and failing to refuse, to do the job and faithfully execute the laws of this Nation. They have done a terrible job, and it is a great injustice to all those children who have been sent by aunts and uncles, by parents, and by others. Just get to the border, and if their parents are sending them, we get reports that the parents are hoping once they get in then they can bring the parents in in order to take care of them.

There are other reports, as we have seen from a Federal judge in south Texas, that the Department of Homeland Security is now engaging in human trafficking. It is part of the lure of these thousands and thousands of children every week coming in, that if they get to the border and either one of their parents or any relative is in the country, then DHS will engage in human trafficking and try to take them wherever in the country they think their parents might be, even though they may be here illegally.

So this money is to help with a Federal problem that should not be costing the States. It is a Federal problem, as the Department of Justice has indicated through our Attorney General's suing States like Arizona and saying that you can't deal with this problem, this is a Federal issue, you must have hands off.

Well, the locals need help. This will provide help. And that is why I am asking to move \$41,492,000 over in the DOD budget so that we can help with National Guard troops when and where they are needed.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I insist on my point of order.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment proposes to amend portions of the bill not yet read.

The amendment may not be considered en bloc under clause 2(f) of rule XXI because the amendment proposes to increase the level of outlays in the bill.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I do.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, it is only the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, accounting that would say moving \$41,492,000 from one account by that same amount into another account is having more in outlays than is being taken from one account. I think it is fuzzy math that the CBO is engaged in. To most of us, if you move \$41,492,000 out of one account and you put that same amount in another account, it is not causing more outlays than we were removing from the account.

But I will leave that to the ruling of the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

To be considered en bloc pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule XXI, an amendment must not propose to increase the levels of budget authority or outlays in the bill. Because the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas proposes a net increase in the level of outlays in the bill, as argued by the chairman of the relevant Subcommittee on Appropriations, it may not avail itself of clause 2(f) to address portions of the bill not yet read.

The point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 2, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$41,492,000)".

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by \$57,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, anticipating the fuzzy math from CBO that taking \$41,492,000 from one account and putting that same amount in another account would not be considered equal, I went ahead and have another amendment that reduces the one account by \$57 million, over \$15 million more than we are transferring into the account that could be used for National Guard troops, so that, according to the fuzzy CBO math, the reduction will equal the increase.

But with that said, no matter how fuzzy the accounting is here in Washington, there is a massive problem on our border, and for this body to turn away when we can force the President's hand—he is not faithfully executing the laws of his office, he is not enforcing the immigration laws, and he is not enforcing the border. We can force his hand by making the proceeds available, the \$41,492,000, to get the National Guard, make them available for this purpose, and then we think the outcry from America will force the President's hand to get these people there, and the Governors will have a stake in this claim, but it is a Federal problem.

I continue to insist on this. Americans across the country are watching what we are doing. We need to be responsible and faithfully execute the laws of this country, and that is without regard to whether or not the President does. We have an obligation to get this money where it is needed. We believe this will do that, and so, Mr. Chairman, we move this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I insist on my point of order.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment proposes to amend portions of the bill not yet read.

The amendment may not be considered en bloc under clause 2(f) of rule XXI because the amendment proposes to increase the level of outlays in the bill.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I certainly do.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. GOHMERT. Because under the math of CBO, as fuzzy as it is, by re-

ducing one account by \$57 million, even CBO says, yes, that takes care of equalizing the outlay of \$41,492,000 in the account to increase that for the National Guard. So it should have been addressed with the first amendment that I made. But this second one certainly addresses the fuzzy math that CBO provides. This does not increase the amount of expenditures over what is being taken from another account.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Seeing none, the Chair is prepared to rule.

To be considered en bloc pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule XXI, an amendment must not propose to increase the levels of budget authority or outlays in the bill. Because the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas proposes a net increase in the level of outlays in the bill, as argued by the chairman of the relevant Subcommittee on Appropriations, it may not avail itself of clause 2(f) to address portions of the bill not yet read.

The point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chair, parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GOHMERT. My inquiry is this, Mr. Chairman.

Can the Chair tell me how reducing one account by \$57 million is not adequate to cover a \$41,492,000 increase in another account? It is \$15.5 million more we are reducing than the amount we are increasing.

So my inquiry is, please, Mr. Chairman, explain how the increase of \$41,492,000 is more than the \$57 million reduction.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair based the ruling on the fact that the amendment increased budget outlays.

Mr. GOHMERT. The rates are addressed, Mr. Chairman, by this \$15.5 million amount. That is covered. Even CBO admits that. So I don't know where the chairman is getting his numbers. They are certainly not supported even by the fuzziest of math of our CBO.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair has ruled that the amendment increases the amount of outlays in the bill and is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Air National Guard on duty under section 10211, 10305, or 12402 of title 10 or section 708 of title 32, United States Code, or while serving on duty under section 12301(d) of title 10 or section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing training, or while performing drills or

equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$3,110,587,000.

TITLE II

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Army, as authorized by law, \$32,671,980,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$12,478,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Army, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Navy and the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, \$39,073,543,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$15,055,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Navy, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, \$5,984,680,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Air Force, as authorized by law, \$35,024,160,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$7,699,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Air Force, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as authorized by law, \$30,896,741,000: *Provided*, That not more than \$15,000,000 may be used for the Combatant Commander Initiative Fund authorized under section 166a of title 10, United States Code: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$36,000,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of Defense, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, not less than \$36,262,000 shall be made available for the Procurement Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, of which not less than \$3,600,000 shall be available for centers defined in 10 U.S.C. 2411(1)(D): *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to plan or implement the consolidation of a budget or appropriations liaison office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the office of the Secretary of a military department, or the service headquarters of one of the Armed Forces into a legislative affairs or legislative liaison office: *Provided further*, That \$8,881,000, to remain available until expended, is available only for expenses relating to certain classified activities, and may

be transferred as necessary by the Secretary of Defense to operation and maintenance appropriations or research, development, test and evaluation appropriations, to be merged with and to be available for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That any ceiling on the investment item unit cost of items that may be purchased with operation and maintenance funds shall not apply to the funds described in the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

□ 1600

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for working with me on this very important amendment. This is a very simple amendment that would provide a \$5 million increase to available funds for research, development, testing, and evaluation related to multiple sclerosis under the Defense Health Program.

These funds would increase funding for multiple sclerosis research under DOD to \$10 million. This amendment fulfills the request of \$10 million for MS research that was included in a bipartisan letter signed by 78 Members of Congress earlier this year, including cochairs of the Congressional MS Caucus, Representative MICHAEL BURGESS and Representative VAN HOLLEN, and I will include the Dear Colleague letter for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, March 28, 2014.

Hon. RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense Committee
on Appropriations, Washington, DC.

Hon. PETE VISCLOSKEY,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FRELINGHUYSEN AND RANKING MEMBER VISCLOSKEY: On behalf of all people living with multiple sclerosis (MS), we would like to thank you for your past support for funding MS research through the Congressionally Directed Medical Research

Programs (CDMRP). As you know, MS is a chronic, unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. MS is generally diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, during the prime of an individual's life. Sadly, the cause of MS is still unknown and there is no cure. While we recognize the fiscal constraints the country faces, it is critical that we continue to fund this important research, which holds great promise for our military service members and all those who are affected by MS. We respectfully ask that you direct \$10 million to fund the MS research program for Fiscal Year 2015.

MS interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with the disease. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research are improving the possibility of a world free of MS.

Currently, the FDA-approved treatments that are available to treat MS only slow the progression of the disease for a subset of the MS population. Of these available medical treatments, many are not effective for patients and cannot be tolerated by many others. Additionally, the cost of treating and living with MS is costly—approximately \$69,000 annually.

Many U.S. veterans have stories and symptoms of multiple sclerosis. Preliminary evidence suggests that some combat veterans could have an increased risk of developing MS.

Over 23,000 veterans are being treated for MS through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

A study in the *Annals of Neurology* identified 5,345 cases of “service-connected” MS among U.S. veterans.

An epidemiologic study found a two-fold increase in MS between 1993 and 2000 in Kuwait, which suggests a potential environmental trigger for MS.

The VA is currently funding two MS Centers of Excellence to provide clinical care and education for these veterans, but now physicians at these institutions are seeking funding to explore a potential link between MS and combat service.

MS research has the potential to help all those living with MS, including our veterans. We ask that you support MS research by including \$10 million in funding for the MS program within the CDMRP in the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Appropriations. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Burgess, M.D., Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr., André Carson, Daniel W. Lipinski, James R. Langevin, Charles B. Rangel, Chris Van Hollen, Eliot L. Engel, Sander Levin, Yvette D. Clarke, John Yarmuth, Frederica S. Wilson.

Peter DeFazio, Sheila Jackson Lee, Tony Cardenas, Christopher H. Smith, Mike Michaud, Ron Kind, Brad Schneider, Lloyd Doggett, Joe Courtney, Peter King, Jon Runyan, Alcee L. Hastings, Rick Larsen, Barbara Lee, Donald M. Payne, Jr., Danny K. Davis, Ann MacLane Kuster, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger.

Jan Schakowsky, Steve Israel, Michael Grimm, Carolyn McCarthy, Steve Cohen, Luis V. Gutiérrez, Tim Bishop, Gerald E. Connolly, Tim Murphy, Carol Shea-Porter, Stephen F. Lynch, Rush Holt, Chellie Pingree, David N. Cicilline, Bill Foster, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Jim McDermott, Elijah E. Cummings.

John F. Tierney, Chaka Fattah, Dave Loebsack, Matt Cartwright, Juan Vargas, John Delaney, David Price, Jim Himes, Julia Brownley, Lois Frankel, Collin C. Peterson, Alan Grayson, Gregory W. Meeks, Spencer Bachus, John Garamendi, Robert A. Brady, Marc Veasey, Cheri Bustos.

Mark Pocan, Elizabeth H. Esty, Ann Kirkpatrick, Susan A. Davis, Dan Kildee, Dan Benishek, M.D., Ben Ray Lujan, Ron Barber, Grace Meng, Tim Walz, John Conyers, Jr., Mike Thompson.

Ms. LEE of California. There are 2 million people worldwide living with MS. This complicated and unpredictable neurological disease interrupts the flow of information within the brain and between the brain and the body.

MS is a chronic disease that can often be debilitating for those living with it, and the symptoms of MS are as diverse as the people it impacts.

I am pleased to introduce this amendment to the Defense Appropriations bill, since MS has a significant impact on our armed services. Some 23,000 veterans are currently being treated for MS, with more than 5,000 cases having been identified as service connected.

Because of increased research funding in MS, the first disease-modifying drugs became available for people living with MS 20 years ago. However, these drugs only work for a subset of the population, and many people living with MS still have no viable treatment options.

Increased research funding could give scientists a better understanding of the disease, which could potentially unveil new therapies.

I will close by adding that I understand, on a very personal level, the impact of this disease. My sister, Mildred, shows me every day what life is like to live with the disease, and I am consistently amazed by her strength and her bravery. She and the millions of people around the world living with MS are really a testament to the importance of making stronger investments to find a cure.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my sister Mildred and on behalf of all of those living with MS, on behalf of the families and caregivers, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. LEE of California. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. First, I commend you on your amendment, and I withdraw my reservation.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman, and I urge a “yes” vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, there is an important program to help our Special Forces troops and families. It is called the Preservation of the Force and Family program.

Admiral McRaven, who is the commander of Special Operations Command, has told the Armed Services Committee that this is his highest priority. It combines several kinds of help and assistance to wounded warriors and to their families in a holistic way. For those who are in it and have benefited from it, it has been a tremendous, tremendous program.

What I am proposing in this amendment is to take \$5 million from the Special Operation Command's budget request for flying hours, which in my understanding was increased by the Appropriations Committee, which is normally an excellent thing to fund, but they even gave, in my understanding, Mr. Chairman, above and beyond what the command had asked for.

So based on that, I am asking for a transfer back of \$5 million from the flying hours budget to the Preservation of the Force and Family Program.

This aligns with what the Armed Services Committee had put in the NDAA after their deliberations in committee. I would ask that the House adopt this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition. The subcommittee has always done everything we can to take care of our special operators, and that is reflected in the mark.

I do believe the gentleman's amendment is philosophically inconsistent with the underlying bill. I cannot justify devoting significant resources to SOCOM's \$1 billion proposal to establish their own separate contractor-staffed facilities, when our services are undergoing tremendous downsizing pressures. It runs contrary to what we are trying to do in the bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey, the committee chair.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Further, SOCOM has provided no information or data to support this costly new endeavor, and Congress has raised questions in both the authorization bill and the appropriations bill about the affordability and efficacy of this program.

As our mark reflects, we have also raised serious concerns regarding SOCOM's prioritization of its requirements. Again this year, SOCOM proposed to fund their flying hour readiness programs at only 67 percent of their requirement, so they could fund these new contractors and facilities. They then made restoration of flying hours their number one unfunded priority.

I believe it is ill-advised to provide a 50 percent increase to hire personal trainers, sports nutritionists, and sports psychologists for special operators at an average cost in excess of \$200,000.

With all due respect, all those who serve in our military—men and women, whether they be Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve or whether they are special operators—deserve the type of equipment and programs that keep them healthy and steadfast.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's remarks and would also point out that the committee has raised significant questions regarding duplication with service-related facilities and services by the Special Forces.

More importantly—and I think this is key—we must be careful not to create or give the perception that we are treating Special Forces differently than anyone else who serves this country in uniform.

Anyone who puts the uniform of the United States military on, they are all special. I strongly oppose the gentleman's amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I would agree with the assertion that every single fighting man and woman is special. The Special Operations Forces do have some tremendous stresses that they can undergo, especially in the kind of combat missions that they perform.

I believe that this is a program that has been successful in preventing suicide, so for that reason, I think it is timely. It is appropriate.

There are different programs to treat our wounded warriors who have PTSD, and every program does not work for every soldier, sailor, airman, or marine; but for those who do get the treatment they need, it is literally a lifesaver.

For that reason, I think it is a priority to address the aftereffects of PTSD, and this would be a very good program. I do appreciate the Appropriations Committee work that they do

and the tough choices that they are constantly making, and I respect that, but I think this is a good choice, so I offer the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I would simply close by saying that all members of the military are equal and that this amendment is unwarranted, and I do oppose it.

I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey if he has anything to add.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, we have \$19 million specifically to address the high incidence of suicide among our special operators, so it is not only servicewide, but we recognize the special burdens that special operators bear through their incredible work.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$500,000)".

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$500,000)".

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$500,000)".

Ms. JACKSON LEE (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentlewoman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, this is a daunting time to be on the floor of the House during Defense Appropriations, and I add my appreciation to the chairman and to the ranking member for the bipartisan approach with which they have treated our men and women.

As we speak, there are soldiers who have left our soil, and they are in Iraq protecting our men and women at our embassy. There is never a time that we do not call upon our soldiers to stand and to defend our Nation or our citizens. My amendment recognizes that.

My amendment is a budget-neutral amendment. It adds \$500,000 by reducing another account by \$500,000 for an

emphasis on PTSD, for outreach toward hard-to-reach veterans, especially those who are homeless or reside in underserved urban and rural areas.

Let me congratulate the committee for its hard work in recognition of the crisis of PTSD, but let me also cite that Houston is the third largest military retirement community in the United States, exceeded only by San Antonio and San Diego, California.

□ 1615

Houston is the second highest military recruiting district in the United States for all Armed Forces, to include the Coast Guard, and many return back to Houston. Twenty-three percent of the Houston adult homeless population are veterans, and nearly 2,500 men and women. I see them every day in my district. I have several homeless facilities that are particularly for veterans. As I interact with them, I see the clear signs of PTSD.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of working with this committee in establishing a PTSD center in one of our hospitals that was not a veteran facility. An estimated 7.8 percent of Americans will experience PTSD at some point in their lives, with women 10.4 percent and men 5 percent to develop PTSD; as well, estimates of PTSD from the gulf war as high as 10 percent; estimates from the war in Afghanistan are between 6 percent and 11 percent; and current estimates of PTSD in military personnel who served in Iraq range from 12 percent to 20 percent.

Posttraumatic stress disorder is of course something of great concern, and many times I have seen, again, these individuals who are in these very facilities. My amendment will help to ensure that no soldier is left behind and the urgent need for more outreach toward hard-to-reach veterans suffering from PTSD, especially those who are homeless and reside in underserved areas.

Mr. Chairman, I have been to what we call stand-downs. We have a number of them in our community. I started going to stand-downs way before I came to the United States Congress. These are street events that soldiers, retirees, or veterans come together, and particularly those who are homeless. I would say to you they are the most moving experiences that I have ever seen. The soldiers, the veterans are glad to see people who care. Many of them are suffering, but many of them—all of them—put on that uniform and served us.

Joe, for example, saw a good deal of active combat during his time in the military. Some incidents in particular have never left his mind, like the horrifying sight of Gary, a close comrade and friend, being blown up by a land mine. Even when he returned to civilian life, those images haunted him.

Scenes from the battle would run repeatedly through his mind and disrupt his focus on work. Filling up at the gas station, for example, the smell of diesel immediately rekindled certain horrific memories. At other times, he had difficulty remembering the past, as if some events were too painful to allow back into his mind. He found himself avoiding socializing with old military buddies, as this would inevitably trigger a new round of memories. His girlfriend complained that he was always pent up and irritable, as if he were on guard, and Joe noticed that at night he had difficulty relaxing. When he heard loud noises, such as a truck backfiring, he literally jumped as if he were readying himself for combat. He began to drink heavily.

I am glad that this committee has recognized the importance of providing these services for our soldiers, no matter the long range of time that they have been out, that they are now veterans, that they are still important and they still were willing to put on the uniform.

In light of our crisis with the Veterans Affairs, I would ask my colleagues to support this amendment providing extra outreach to those veterans who did not think for one moment to put on that uniform and defend their Nation. Let's now provide them with that extra comfort.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I withdraw my reservation.

We on the committee commend the gentlewoman for her concern for the health and well-being of all of our brave men and women in uniform. Taking care of the health and welfare of our servicemembers is of paramount importance and a concern to all of us.

I can assure you that both Mr. VISCLOSKEY and I will work with you as well as the money we put in our bill to address the concerns you have rightly raised.

I thank you for yielding.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, I don't know if you heard, I thanked you for your caring response, along with the ranking member, putting together a bill that really recognizes service to our veterans.

With that, let me conclude and ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment. I indicate that Mr. CONYERS of Michigan joins me in this amendment.

I thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCLOSKEY for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their devotion to the men and women of the Armed Forces who risk their lives to keep our nation safe.

Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to explain my amendment, which is virtually iden-

tical to an amendment that I offered and was adopted in last year's Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 2397).

My amendment increases funding for the PTSD by \$500,000. These funds should be used toward outreach activities targeting hard to reach veterans, especially those who are homeless or reside in underserved urban and rural areas, who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Mr. Chair, along with traumatic brain injury, PTSD is the signature wound suffered by the brave men and women fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq, and far off lands to defend the values and freedom we hold dear.

For those of us whose daily existence is not lived in harm's way, it is difficult to imagine the horrific images that American servicemen and women deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other theaters of war see on a daily basis.

In an instant a suicide bomber, an IED, or an insurgent can obliterate your best friend and right in front of your face. Yet, you are trained and expected to continue on with the mission, and you do, even though you may not even have reached your 20th birthday.

But there always comes a reckoning. And it usually comes after the stress and trauma of battle is over and you are alone with your thoughts and memories.

And the horror of those desperate and dangerous encounters with the enemy and your own mortality come flooding back.

PTSD was first brought to public attention in relation to war veterans, but it can result from a variety of traumatic incidents, such as torture, being kidnapped or held captive, bombings, or natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes.

People with PTSD may startle easily, become emotionally numb (especially in relation to people with whom they used to be close), lose interest in things they used to enjoy, have trouble feeling affectionate, be irritable, become more aggressive, or even become violent.

They avoid situations that remind them of the original incident, and anniversaries of the incident are often very difficult.

Most people with PTSD repeatedly relive the trauma in their thoughts during the day and in nightmares when they sleep. These are called flashbacks. A person having a flashback may lose touch with reality and believe that the traumatic incident is happening all over again.

Mr. Chair, the fact of the matter is that most veterans with PTSD also have other psychiatric disorders, which are a consequence of PTSD. These veterans have co-occurring disorders, which include depression, alcohol and/or drug abuse problems, panic, and/or other anxiety disorders.

My amendment recognizes that these soldiers are first and foremost, human. They carry their experiences with them.

Ask a veteran of Vietnam, Iraq, or Afghanistan about the frequency of nightmares they experience, and one will realize that serving in the Armed Forces leaves a lasting impression, whether good or bad.

My amendment will help ensure that "no soldier is left behind" by addressing the urgent need for more outreach toward hard to reach veterans suffering from PTSD, especially

those who are homeless or reside in under-served urban and rural areas of our country.

I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment.

PTSD ANECDOTES

ANECDOTE #1: (VETERAN)

Joe saw a good deal of active combat during his time in the military. Some incidents in particular had never left his mind—like the horrifying sight of Gary, a close comrade and friend, being blown-up by a land mine.

Even when he returned from to civilian life, these images haunted him. Scenes repeatedly through his mind and disrupt his focus on work.

Filing up at the gas station, for example, the smell of diesel immediately rekindled certain horrific memories. At other times, he had difficulty remembering the past—as if some events were too painful to allow back in his mind. He found himself avoiding himself socializing with old military buddies, as this would inevitably trigger a new round of memories.

His girlfriend complained that he was always pent-up and irritable—as if he were on guard, and Joe noticed that at night he had difficulty falling asleep.

When he heard loud noises, such as a truck back-firing he literally jumped, as if here were readying himself for combat. He began to drink heavily.

ANECDOTE #2: (AS TOLD BY A MILITARY SPOUSE)

My husband's PTS manifested itself in different ways. I remember Fourth of July at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., when we were all standing outside listening to the band, enjoying the picnic and listening to fireworks.

The fireworks bothered Adrian because they sounded so much like gunfire.

It made other soldiers upset too, and we all went inside. I thought it was ironic because the celebration was supposed to be for the American soldiers; they couldn't even enjoy it.

He'd see a can on the side of the road and swerve, thinking it was an improvised explosive device.

When he'd go out to dinner with other soldiers, I'd say it looked like a "The Last Supper" painting because they'd all sit there with their backs against the wall.

If a room became too busy, he'd want to leave. He'd suddenly become unfriendly or unapproachable.

At first, I confused his behavior with depression, or I thought maybe he was just tired. I also couldn't help but think it had to do with me; I'm only human.

I was fortunate that Adrian was willing to get help once he got back. Once he was diagnosed, I knew we'd know better how to deal with his symptoms. I educated myself on PTSD; I went to his group therapist and reached out to the Real Warriors Campaign for information. But the most important thing I did was listen to Adrian.

ANECDOTE #3: (TEEN-AGED GIRL)

Maria was only 15 when she was attacked by a group of men on the way home from school. They took turns screaming abuse at her and then they each raped her. Finally, they tried to stab her to death and would almost certainly have succeeded had the police not arrived on the scene.

For months after this horrifying event, Maria was not herself. She was unable to keep the memories of the attack out of her mind. At night she would have terrible dreams of rape, and would wake up screaming.

She had difficulty walking back from school because the route took her past the

site of the attack, so she would have to go the long way home. She felt as though her emotions were numbed, and as though she had no real future. At home she was anxious, tense, and easily startled. She felt "dirty" and somehow shamed by the event, and she resolved not to tell close friends about the event, in case they too rejected her.

ANECDOTE #4: (CIVILIAN WOMAN)

A 35-year-old lady was riding a bicycle in a carpark when she was hit from behind by a car.

Six months after the accident, she still had frequent vivid and intrusive memories of the incident.

She described seeing the car's wheels stopping just in front of her face and hearing the screeching sound of the brakes.

It felt as if it were happening again each time she recalled it. She jumped whenever she heard loud traffic noises and especially when she heard car brakes screeching.

She stayed in her room much more than usual, avoided using the bicycles at all and avoided travelling in any vehicle as much as she could.

She felt helpless and useless to overcome her symptoms even though her family were warm and encouraging to her.

Houston is the 3rd largest military retirement community in the United States (exceeded by San Antonio, TX and San Diego, CA).

Houston is the 2nd largest Veterans Community in the United States in terms of resident Veterans.

Houston is the 2nd largest Military Recruiting District in the United States for all Armed Forces Services, to include the U.S. Coast Guard.

23% of the Houston adult homeless population are veterans, nearly 2,500 men and women.

The Acting CHAIR. The reservation of a point of order is withdrawn.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chair, I am offering the second Lamborn amendment, 052.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 12, line 17, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, when you look at press accounts on what is happening at our southwest border, we are being overwhelmed. This amendment would take \$5 million and give it to the Army National Guard out of the Department of Defense's administration operations account so that the National Guard is better able to get people and station them at our southwest border. They do not have dedicated

funding or the additional funding they need for this border protection mission, yet they are involved in trying to establish order at the border.

The primary role of the Federal Government is to provide for our national security, and securing our borders is part of that national security mission. Mr. Chairman, I believe that this \$5 million would be better spent on securing our border than adding more people to the Secretary of Defense's staff.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LAMBORN. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I appreciate the gentleman's interest in defending our borders, appreciate your raising this important issue, and we support your amendment.

Thank you for yielding.

Mr. LAMBORN. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the chairman's hard work and for his support of this amendment.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. JEFFRIES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from New York and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Chair, let me first thank the distinguished chairman as well as the distinguished ranking member for their great work with respect to this legislation.

This amendment makes a modest adjustment to the bill that would increase funding for the Defense Health Program by \$10 million. It is budget neutral by reducing the Department of Defense's departmentwide operation and maintenance funds by a corresponding amount.

Let me first take this opportunity to express my strong support for the critical work of the Defense Department overall. The adjustment made by this amendment will still leave the Department with an extremely robust amount of operation and maintenance funding while ensuring that necessary resources are available for vital research and development that will aid both servicemembers and civilians alike.

The Defense Health Program oversees all medical and health care programs for the Defense Department. DHP's research and development activities help advance medical research to provide innovative solutions for servicemembers and their families facing medical trauma as well as advance the state of medical science in areas that benefit our broader society.

Over the last 10 years, there has been a significant increase in the amount of reported cases of PTSD in servicemembers. These increases are seen in both those deployed overseas as well as in nondeployed servicemembers. For those servicemembers who are deployed, the number of incidents of PTSD has increased twelvefold over the last 10 years. For those not deployed, the number of reported incident cases has nearly doubled. The annual total for reported PTSD cases has remained at unprecedentedly high levels over the last 5 years.

While we are currently winding down the war in Afghanistan, American troops continue to see action on the battlefield. With more of these troops returning from deployments over the next several years, it is likely that the number of PTSD cases will hold steady, if not increase. Furthermore, increased international unrest and uncertainty may result in future troop deployments to other parts of world, making it likely that the number of reported PTSD cases will remain at a high level. This amendment will invest resources to help inform health professionals on how best to treat our military personnel moving forward.

Furthermore, the need for increased research concerning PTSD is not limited to our military. High levels of violence in many communities throughout America have induced PTSD-like conditions for some trapped in these unfortunate circumstances. Research undertaken by the Department of Defense can benefit families and community health professionals in treating our children and others impacted in this way. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to support additional medical research to help the military victims of PTSD and our broader society.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. JEFFRIES. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. We on the committee thank the gentleman from New York for his concern regarding funding levels for traumatic brain injury, posttraumatic stress disorder, and psychological health research.

Just for the record, you should know that our bill does include \$414 million, including a plus-up of \$125 million above the request level of \$289 million for all of those important issues.

We appreciate his work and his willingness to work with us, and we accept his amendment.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the Chair for his work on this issue as well as the ranking member.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$21,000,000) (increased by \$21,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from West Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, earlier this year the Office of Management and Budget admitted that they made a mistake when they presented the President's budget request for the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. Since then, they have expressed that they intend to correct this mistake by offering a supplemental appropriation, because you and I know supplemental appropriations don't happen very often around here.

Congresswoman NAPOLITANO and I have a two-part approach to solve this mistake that has been created by OMB. First, Congress already has unanimously passed our amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act by increasing the authorization by \$55 million to take care of this mistake. Under this amendment—this amendment—this bipartisan approach is we are willing to compromise to lower that amount to \$21 million and restore the program, keep it intact.

Mr. Chairman, we shouldn't perpetuate the mistake that has been created by OMB by rejecting this amendment. Two mistakes don't make it right.

Mr. Chairman, this program addresses some serious needs and a dropout epidemic among our youth. These are real people with real problems. They need our help. Society may have given up on them, but we in Congress shouldn't.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCKINLEY. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. I rise to address this amendment, Mr. Chairman.

I thank my cochairman, Mr. MCKINLEY, on the National Guard ChalleNGe Program.

□ 1630

Thank you for your great help in the outreach to all of our Members of Congress.

We have been working in a bipartisan manner to help our Nation's throw-

away children, those who have fallen through the cracks.

For 2015, Defense Appropriations will fund the program at \$114 million. The current funding is \$135 million, so it would be short.

This amendment increases by, as he mentioned, \$21 million to have the same funding as 2014, increasing it to the same level of \$135 million. It would prevent cuts to critical programs that are helping our youth integrate back into society. It reduces the budget line in operation and maintenance by the same amount.

It is critical for hundreds of our young people who drop out yearly to have an opportunity to be accepted into the program. The ChalleNGe Program has already educated 120,000 young people nationally. It also is a volunteer program free for 16- to 18-year-olds at no cost to the child or the family; 22½-week residential boot camp-like program led by the State's National Guard cadre; prepares them, educates them, instills discipline, builds employment potential, and returns them to school.

The 2012 RAND Corporation study finds that for every dollar spent, in return is \$2.66, a yield of 166 percent return on investment—the best youth program in the Nation.

It effectively addresses part of our Nation's dropout epidemic on a very small level. America needs more of these programs, not less.

It is beneficial to our local businesses, to our communities, and to our Nation's ability to compete, to our future economy.

According to the 2009 National Labor Market study, California alone has 714,000 dropouts yearly, the sixth-worst State.

Our graduates are 800 a year. Basically, we need more funding to expand it to more qualified individuals who are on a waiting list. Our best retention rate is in California. It is educating, training, and retaining more than 90 percent.

There is very much a need for these programs. Please support this amendment.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, this is a mistake caused by OMB. We can correct it right here today. Again, as I said, these are real people with real problems, and they are trying to get on with their lives. The program has worked all across America. Let's not perpetuate this problem by reducing their funds. It was a mistake by OMB, and we can correct it here today.

I ask that my colleagues support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(reduced by \$3,500,000)”.

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 33, line 12, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Representatives JONES, SHEA-PORTER, TSONGAS, BORDALLO, and MOORE for joining me today in offering this amendment. They are leaders and champions in support of the benefits that service dogs provide to our servicemen and -women on and off the battlefield.

This amendment establishes a \$3 million competitive grants pilot program for qualified nonprofit organizations whose mission is to address the physical and mental health needs of veterans and servicemembers with the assistance from trained service dogs. This is a very modest amount of money when we consider the need of our veterans and the number of organizations around the country dedicated to addressing this need.

Many of our servicemembers return home from the battlefield suffering from traumatic brain injury, PTSD, blindness or impaired vision, the loss of a limb, paralysis, impaired mobility, loss of hearing, and other mental and physical disabilities. Too many struggle with suicidal thoughts or find themselves unable to reintegrate back into family life or their communities.

Working with a trained service dog is a proven aid for these wounded warriors, the merits of which have been documented in decades of programs for civilians with similar mental or physical challenges. Providing grant opportunities for groups professionally engaged in this field is critical to ensuring that our military and our veterans receive the care that they deserve.

In December, I held a briefing that brought together experts to look more closely at the impact service dogs have on veterans' care. Medical experts, nonprofits, and veterans with trained service dogs participated, including retired Navy Lieutenant Bradley Snyder, who lost his eyesight to an IED while serving in Afghanistan. He was accompanied by this Fidelco-trained guide dog, Gizzy. Fidelco is a nonprofit guide dog training organization in Connecticut. Lieutenant Snyder has since gone on to compete in the 2012 London Paralympics Games, where he won two

gold medals and one silver medal in swimming.

John Moon and service dog Rainbow represented the National Education for Assistance Dog Services, a nonprofit accredited service dog provider founded in 1976. Based in Massachusetts, NEADS has trained more than 1,400 assistance dogs. Since 2005, it has been actively working to bring service dogs to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Brett Simon is a veteran handler for police canines. Twice deployed to Iraq as an explosives detector canine handler, he described his work as a dog training specialist at K9s for Warriors Academy in Florida.

We also heard from Rick Yount, founder of the Warrior Canine Connection. The WCC Service Dog Training Therapy Program has operated at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda since October 2011. I am very pleased to see that this bill continues to provide funds for this very special program.

Mr. Chairman, there are scores of similar organizations across the Nation. A modest grant pilot program will ensure that they reach even more of our wounded warriors with the assistance of a service dog.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Two weeks ago, I went to Walter Reed Hospital. I was told that two of my marines from Camp Lejeune had been severely wounded in Afghanistan. The first marine I saw was 23 years of age. He had lost both legs and an arm. His father was there from Louisiana, and I saw pain, I saw worry, I saw sadness in his eyes. The second marine I saw had stepped on a 40-pound IED and lost both legs. He was telling me about his little 8-month-old daughter and his wife. They were not there, but I heard that.

I know that these service dogs are making a difference in the life of the wounded, whether it be mental or it might be physical. This \$3 million, when we are spending billions in Afghanistan, it would be a sin and a shame if we cannot find the \$3 million to put into this program to make sure that those who have given so much have a little bit of support and a little bit of pleasure in having a loving animal that has been trained to give support to that person that has given so much for this country.

I hope that this amendment will be accepted.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. The committee would like to thank you, the

gentleman from Massachusetts, the gentleman from North Carolina, and your colleagues for sponsoring this amendment.

The \$3 million would be added to the \$3 million which the committee, Mr. VISCLOSKEY and I, put into our bill for similar purposes.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. I thank both gentlemen for raising this issue and offering the amendment. I strongly support it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BENISHEK

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of a very simple amendment, in which I am joined and sponsored by Mr. LOWENTHAL of California. I believe strongly that there is an epidemic, commonly referred to as Alzheimer's disease, that is sweeping our country.

My amendment would increase funding for the Defense Health Program by \$2 million, with the intent of providing more peer-reviewed research to fight this devastating disease.

As a doctor who served at the Iron Mountain VA for 20 years, I know how important the health research programs at the Department of Defense are. These programs provide groundbreaking research into the health challenges that our veterans face.

These health research programs help us to provide better quality of care to those who have served our country and frequently lead to advances in treatment that benefit the rest of the population.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, over 5 million Americans are currently living with this disease. This number is expected to continue to rise, resulting in increased suffering for patients and their families and a dramatic rise in health care costs.

As a representative for a district with a large population of veterans and a large population of seniors, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of Alzheimer's. We must do more to combat this terrible disease.

This amendment will cut \$2 million in funding for the Secretary of Defense's general operation and maintenance fund, an account which I believe can take a small cut, and applies those funds to the Defense Health Program for medical research.

By voting for this amendment, you will be supporting more research and development on the ground, rather than the salaries of bureaucrats in Washington.

I believe this amendment is a good, commonsense effort, and I hope my colleagues will support me in this effort to increase research into treating and eventually curing Alzheimer's.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. We on the committee thank you for this amendment. Understanding your professional background and many of our constituents suffering under Alzheimer's, we are supportive of it.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. If supplied with a copy of his amendment, I would appreciate it very much.

Mr. BENISHEK. Absolutely.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Page 22, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$50,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would appropriate \$10 million to fund an amendment passed unanimously in the 2015 NDAA that allocates additional financial literacy training programs for incoming and transitioning servicemembers. This \$10 million will be spread equally among the service's operation and maintenance accounts.

This increased financial literacy training would be funded by allocating \$10 million from the Navy's \$14 billion aircraft procurement account, which includes nearly \$1 billion in funding over the Navy's request to purchase 12 EA-18G Growler aircraft. The Navy actually requested none of these 12 aircraft.

The problem we have is that far too often servicemembers have inadequate training or experience. We are often talking about young people who have yet to really fully have their feet underneath them. When a servicemember has financial difficulty, often they are preyed upon by unscrupulous lenders, payday lenders, often.

□ 1645

In fact, in some cases—this was reported widely recently—offering and executing loans at up to 400 percent interest rates, often targeting these young servicemembers.

While this has an effect clearly on the financial condition of servicemembers, it also can have an effect on readiness, in that many servicemembers require a security clearance to perform their duties, and financial difficulties and the loss of a clearance can have an enormous impact on readiness.

All that being said, I will be withdrawing my amendment. The offset that we offered, according to CBO, would require a \$50 million offsetting cut to raise \$10 million, and I will certainly yield to anybody who would like to explain to me the mathematics behind some of the scoring that comes up.

Hearing none, I will move on.

This is an important area. It is an important question. The House has already unanimously acted in the NDAA to support this program.

While it is my intention to withdraw this amendment, what I would ask, if the chairman and ranking member would engage and work with us on this—and certainly engage the Department of Defense—to find the financial resources to support this expanded literacy program, it would be of great benefit to our servicemembers, and it would be of tremendous value in terms of our readiness.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDEE. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I am sure the ranking member and I would be pleased to work with you on this issue.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$35,956,000)".

Page 36, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$35,956,000)".

Page 36, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$35,956,000)".

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I would point out to the Chair that we do not have a copy of the gentleman's amendment.

I would also point out to the Chair, if I would be given permission to, that this is the second time in the first hour of debate we have not been supplied with an amendment offered on the floor.

I would certainly appreciate the courtesy of making sure that we are noticed as far as the content of these very important amendments, so we can give them the appropriate consideration that they are due.

I appreciate the Chair's indulgence.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will distribute copies of the amendment.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, as read, this would transfer \$35.956 million into an account under the bill that specifies, "shall be for National Guard counterdrug program."

We have spoken with people on the border. They know the problems they are having. They need equipment.

This amount would allow eight UH-72 helicopters to help with drug interdiction on the border. It is not like there are not enough helicopters to go around. There are 100 National Guard helicopters. This would only be utilizing eight of them, putting them in a place where they could be used on the border to help with the problem.

Mr. Chairman, right now, with so many of our ICE agents and so many of our Border Patrol engaged, as ICE agents said yesterday, in changing diapers instead of being involved in interdicting, as they should be, they need this equipment. This would be National Guard equipment that would allow them to participate in stopping the drugs that are flowing.

It is very apparent, from what is going on, that we even have drug cartels that are taking advantage of the situation. As ICE agents have explained, they are using this time—with all of the attention toward the children and the humanitarian crisis on the border—to step up their game in getting drugs into the United States.

According to the figures from CBO and from the figures we have gotten

from the committee, this will not create an increase in outlays and should be in order in that regard.

I would like to point out that, since 2012, aircentric operations have resulted in an almost 70 percent increase in detection and interdiction, compared to the ground-based operations.

So this could make a real difference in providing for the common defense, which is our duty here in Congress, as well as the duty of the executive branch. This would make their job easier.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I certainly appreciate the gentleman's concern, but would make three points to our colleagues.

The first is that the committee is absolutely aware of the problem that is taking place along the borders of our country.

Both relative to the problem that the gentleman has highlighted, as well as for this Nation's defense, I would point out to my colleagues that, in the underlying bill, we provide \$1.356,227 billion for the procurement of 87 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, which is an increase of \$119,226 million and eight aircraft above the President's request, so there is a recognition by the committee and in the bill that there is a need, and we filled that bill.

I would also point out that, relative to drug interdiction, the committee recommendation is for \$944.687 million to deal with this problem; and I would, again, point out the gentleman's concern, that that is an increase of \$124 million above the administration's request.

The last point is that the gentleman is taking it out of operation and maintenance, departmentwide.

I spoke in my opening remarks about the increases we have tried to provide to make sure our troops are prepared, maintained, trained, and ready. It is a mistake to take over \$35 million away from our troops, who need that money for training.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Let me associate myself with the ranking member's comments earlier. We need to see the amendments. We are not seeing the amendments on a timely basis. As a basic courtesy, it would be helpful if both sides were provided with amendments by our colleagues.

Relative to this amendment, for the last several years, the National Guard has not even been able to spend the

amount of money we have provided for counternarcotics, but instead has actually chosen to return funds to the Treasury; hence, the adjustment this year to actually re-source the National Guard.

Also, for the record, Mr. Chairman, the intent of the gentleman's request is to purchase equipment. This account does not provide resources to buy helicopters. This account provides funds for the National Guard's States' plan, operational funding, it is not money that can be used to buy helicopters.

I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentleman's remarks.

Again, I would point out to my colleagues that I think \$1.356 billion is enough, and I strongly oppose the gentleman's amendment, given the 5 minutes we were allowed to review it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the attention that the committee has given to the issue and that, in the past, the National Guard may have had extra funds that were moved and able to be used elsewhere, but these are recent developments that have been going on even since our Appropriations Committee has been having hearings, and so this is such a dramatic problem that it is escalating every day.

I would like to correct the record. Actually, this proposal will not purchase any new helicopters. There are 100 National Guard helicopters. This would just pay for the use and the crew and the maintenance and upkeep of eight of those they already have. It won't purchase any more. I wish we could get helicopters that cheaply.

It will keep eight of them in use with the drug interdiction on our border right now because there is an invasion going on at our southern border. It is an invasion, and it is increasing, as I say, every day.

With that request, I don't think it is asking too much to have eight helicopters that have already been purchased—they just need crews, equipment, and upkeep—to help in the interdiction of the invasion in which drugs are being brought across our border in the south.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COFFMAN) having assumed the chair, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4413, CUSTOMER PROTECTION AND END-USER RELIEF ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-476) on the resolution (H. Res. 629) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4413) to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 628 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4870.

Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1659

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) had been postponed, and the bill had been read through page 10, line 15.

□ 1700

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Minnesota and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this amendment is very simple. It is to help American workers as defense-related factories wind down production. The intent of the amendment is to allocate an additional \$10 million to the Office of Economic Adjustment from the general operations and maintenance funds.

The Office of Economic Adjustment helps communities across America when a factory shuts down. Over the last decade of war, middle class factory workers have stepped up to the plate to make sure our troops on the battlefield have had the weapons and equipment they have needed. As we transition away from two long wars and as defense production lines slow down, we cannot leave these workers with only pink slips in their hands. That is where the Office of Economic Adjustment comes in.

This little known but very important office in the Pentagon helps communities that would otherwise be devastated when a factory shuts its doors for the last time. The Office of Economic Adjustment provides grants and technical assistance to communities so that they can develop their own strategies to transition to a postwar economy. Just this month, the Office of Economic Adjustment provided grants to Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. Nearly 4,000 defense workers have lost their jobs in these States since 2012, but thanks to a grant from the Office of Economic Adjustment, a regional Defense Manufacturing Assistance Program is underway to help them find new areas of livelihood.

Simply put, the Office of Economic Adjustment helps hardworking Americans keep their jobs, so I urge my colleagues to support this modest amendment to create jobs and help the Americans who keep our men and women in uniform equipped with what they need.

I would also like to submit for the RECORD a good article from Roll Call which carefully details this issue of slowing down the wartime economy. The title of it reads, “Don’t Cut Programs that Help Communities Adjust to Pentagon Spending Reductions.” It is dated June 9, 2014, and it is written by Miriam Pemberton and William Hartung.

[From Roll Call, June 9, 2014]

DON’T CUT PROGRAMS THAT HELP COMMUNITIES ADJUST TO PENTAGON SPENDING REDUCTIONS—COMMENTARY

(By Miriam Pemberton and William D. Hartung)

Spring budget season is almost over, and the House and Senate have once again placed

parochial politics above budget discipline in their consideration of the Pentagon budget. The most extreme example came in the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act, which rejected virtually every cost-cutting measure put forward by the Pentagon, from base closings to retiring unneeded weapons systems. If the House’s actions aren’t reversed, they would bust the current budget caps to the tune of \$50 billion over the next five years.

There was one place the House authorizers were willing to cut way back: a program designed to help communities adjust to defense downsizings. This is particularly ill-advised at a time when the Pentagon budget has been set on a path to come down from a wartime buildup that brought it to its highest levels since World War II.

While modest by historical terms, the defense build-down that is now underway will demand adjustments in the unrealistic spending plans Congress continues to authorize for the Pentagon. And the cuts that are coming will have impacts in scores of communities across the country.

Since the 1970s a small office within the Pentagon, the Office of Economic Adjustment, has offered planning grants and technical assistance to help these communities develop their own strategies to capitalize on existing economic strengths and adjust to postwar economic conditions. Once these strategies are in place, the OEA serves as a point of contact for impacted communities in accessing resources from other federal agencies to help with implementation of their plans. Just this week Ohio, Michigan and Indiana received a grant of more than \$2.4 million to fund a regional Defense Manufacturing Assistance Program to address the loss of 3,900 defense-related jobs in those three states since 2012.

Most members of Congress want to base their judgments on Pentagon spending on what is needed to defend the country. But they also need to show defense-dependent communities, businesses and workers in their states and districts that they are watching out for their interests. The OEA’s programs give them a way to judge procurement spending accounts on their merits, while attending to the economic needs of their constituents.

Supporting the OEA does not mean that members of Congress don’t care about the existing jobs base. It just means that they want in addition to have a Plan B in place in the event of decisions that reduce Pentagon-related activities in their areas.

It’s troubling to watch the House voting to slash the OEA, while standing firm in supporting costly, unneeded sacred cows like the F-35 combat aircraft. Even slightly slowing the pace of the F-35 program would pay for the OEA’s programs many times over.

The F-35—the Pentagon’s most expensive weapons program ever undertaken is—a poster child of waste. Current cost estimates for building and maintaining the plane: roughly \$1.4 trillion over its lifetime. It has more than doubled in price since it went into development, and it has had numerous high profile failures, from cracked wings to unresolved software problems. It is likely to perform many of its assigned tasks less effectively than current generation aircraft. An Air Force far superior to any other should be in no rush to build over 2,400 F-35s.

The F-35 merely tops the House’s list of unnecessary expenditures. It rejected plans to delay the refueling of an aircraft carrier at a savings of over \$800 million—more than ten times the cut proposed for the OEA. It

attempts to block the closure of excess military bases, stop the administration from reducing the size of the Army, and prevent the Air Force from retiring the U-2 spy plane, even as it funds Global Hawk drones to do the same job. And the list goes on.

The common thread in all of these actions is a state of denial about the trends in Pentagon spending. It will come down this year, and under current law it will stabilize at levels considerably lower than what the Pentagon’s overly ambitious plans will cost.

Funding programs that will help communities make the transition to more diversified economies that can weather reductions in Pentagon spending will make it easier to craft budgets that put security concerns above pork barrel politics. When the House and Senate put together a final Pentagon budget proposal later this year, funding for OEA’s crucial programs should be restored.

Mr. ELLISON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. RUNYAN

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$6,000,000)”.

Page 29, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$6,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from New Jersey and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment moves \$6 million to Air Force Other Procurement to provide for a much-needed joint training platform and for facility upgrades. More specifically, the funding is aimed at supporting upgrades to joint training and training development facilities at Air Force installations. The offset for this amendment reduces the amount allocated for the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Over the last decade, many of the service branches have procured various training systems and infrastructure that are in desperate need of repair. These are not expensive upgrades, and they will preserve the shelf life of some of the most state-of-the-art training systems in the United States military. My amendment seeks to increase the Air Force procurement funding to provide for critical upgrades for these underfunded systems, technologies, and training infrastructure.

We have made great investments in our joint training aids and support systems to ensure our servicemembers are combat ready and proficient at a low cost for high value to the taxpayer. It would be a shame to see these assets atrophy from the withholding of what is a relatively small amount in comparison to our initial investments in these programs.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this commonsense amendment and support our warfighters.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DELANEY

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(reduced by \$24,000,000)”.

Page 88, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by \$16,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Maryland and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

We have all been very disturbed by the recent allegations of negligence and of the falsification of information at some of the VA medical centers across the country. We must work together to better serve our servicemembers, veterans, and their families, who have served us all with such great distinction.

My amendment works to solve one specific but very important problem facing military families.

When our warfighters and veterans need medical care, their families are often faced with a very difficult dilemma: either to stay home because it is too expensive to travel in order to be with their families or to travel and bear the burden of the costs associated with being with their loved ones at this great time of need.

Unfortunately, too many families are staying home without having the opportunity to be with their loved ones who have served our country when those loved ones are receiving care at a military hospital. Others make the trip, but they often sleep in their cars or sleep in tents that they have set up in parking lots around these hospitals. Our veterans and servicemen and women and their families deserve much better than this.

My amendment increases the funding for Fisher Houses by \$16 million. This additional funding has the potential to provide more free housing for the families of patients receiving care at military and VA hospitals. In order to pay for this increased funding, this amendment reduces funding for the defense-wide operations and maintenance account, and my amendment is outlay neutral as a result.

Since 1990, over 180,000 families have been served by Fisher Houses—more than 22,000 families in the last year alone. The services offered by Fisher

Houses have saved military families almost \$240 million in out-of-pocket expenses since the program’s inception. Families do not have to make these tough financial choices to visit and care for their loved ones. This amendment has the potential of funding the construction of at least four new Fisher homes next year. Four new homes mean the lodging for 2,000 military family members.

So many men and women have served us with such distinction, and for those who return home and who need medical care, Fisher Houses can make a stay in a military hospital or in a clinic a little bit easier and a little bit kinder for our soldiers and their families. No veteran or no servicemember should do without his loved ones at this time of need.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment. Last year, the House came together to support this same amendment, and I hope they will do the same this year.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DELANEY. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana, the ranking member.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the gentleman for offering the amendment. I do not oppose it. I would simply mention a concern I have, which is not with the intent of the gentleman’s but, rather, with the amount.

I just want my colleagues to know that the underlying bill already provides \$11 million from the operations and maintenance funds of the Army, Navy, and Air Force for the construction and furnishing of additional Fisher Houses, a total not to exceed \$33 million. This amendment, obviously, would add \$20 million to that amount. I am concerned that the rapid increase in construction funding in a single fiscal year would be very difficult for the foundation to utilize.

Mr. DELANEY. My response to the ranking member is that I have great confidence in the Fisher House team’s ability to handle the funds. I think this is an example of where we need to get ahead of the need and not be behind some of the needs, but I appreciate the ranking member’s support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. DELANEY). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCLOSKY, thank you for providing me this time to speak on the floor today.

Mr. Chairman, as we all know, providing science, technology, engineering, and math education to America’s youth is critical to the global competitiveness of our Nation. The STARBASE program engages local fifth grade elementary students by exposing them to STEM subjects through an inquiry-based curriculum that is currently active in 56 congressional districts throughout the country. We need to be committed to ensuring the United States remains competitive globally by strengthening the pipeline of American graduates with degrees in STEM fields.

That is why I am offering STARBASE amendment No. 32 to H.R. 4870, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act. My bipartisan amendment, with Congressman BENISHEK, increases funding to the STARBASE Youth Program by \$5 million. The STARBASE program is carried out by the military because the lack of STEM-educated youth in America has been identified as a future national security issue by the Department of Defense.

Last year, both the House and the Senate rejected the Office of Management and Budget’s proposal to terminate this critical program. As a Member of Congress, I appreciate the OMB’s desire to consolidate the STEM programs across the spectrum into one funding line. However, this is a national defense issue, and it has been identified by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as such.

STARBASE was created under the auspices of the Department of Defense to meet its critical needs in STEM-related fields. Regrettably, the funding uncertainty caused by last year’s OMB action has resulted in the elimination of all of the programs operated by the Navy, and it has reduced the fiscal year 2014 number of DOD STARBASE programs from 79 down to 56 sites. Despite the funding issues, the DOD currently has 25 sites on a waiting list for a program, and that is why we need a small increase in the number of STARBASE programs.

I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their strong leadership in reestablishing the funding for the program, and I respectfully request an additional \$5 million to help expand the program. It is one of the most cost-effective programs, and it is also reported by the Department of Defense as being one of the most effective of the STEM programs.

My amendment makes a significant step towards providing and engaging America’s youth with the tools they need to pursue careers in STEM—fields

in which jobs are available and in which there is a significant lack of trained workers. STARBASE inspires America's youth to discover technical fields that are imperative for our future national security challenges. During this time of economic recovery, we cannot lose this battle and concede our technical edge to the rest of the world.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

□ 1715

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. The committee wants to commend the gentleman for his support of this program. As you know, this program currently operates, I think, at 65 military installations and facilities around the country. This would increase that amount. And what is good about it is military volunteers are, in their own free time and volunteer capacity, doing some remarkable things with these young people.

So we commend you for your efforts. I know I share similar views to Ranking Member VISCLOSKY, if you would yield to him.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I also want to join the chairman and thank you for offering the amendment. You raise a number of good points, and it is a very good program. I appreciate your attention to it. Thank you so much.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I urge support of this amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, Grayson Number 8.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Mr. GRAYSON (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the reading be waived.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, could we have it read so we know which amendment we are working on? Otherwise, I will reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will continue to read.

The Clerk continued to read.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment increases the Defense Health Program account by \$10 million in order to help find a cure for Gulf War illness. Currently, there is no cure for Gulf War illness, and it affects over a third of the veterans who served in the first Gulf War.

This amendment is identical to an amendment offered last year that passed this body by a voice vote. I respectfully urge the same today.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration, of the Army Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting; procurement of services, supplies, and equipment; and communications, \$2,535,606,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration, of the Navy Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting; procurement of services, supplies, and equipment; and communications, \$1,011,827,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS RESERVE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration, of the Marine Corps Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting; procurement of services, supplies, and equipment; and communications, \$270,485,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration, of the Air Force Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting; procurement of services, supplies, and equipment; and communications, \$2,989,214,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For expenses of training, organizing, and administering the Army National Guard, including medical and hospital treatment and related expenses in non-Federal hospitals; maintenance, operation, and repairs to structures and facilities; hire of passenger motor vehicles; personnel services in the National Guard Bureau; travel expenses (other than mileage), as authorized by law for Army personnel on active duty, for Army National Guard division, regimental, and battalion commanders while inspecting units in compliance with National Guard Bureau regulations when specifically authorized by the Chief, National Guard Bureau; supplying and equipping the Army National Guard as authorized by law; and expenses of repair, modification, maintenance, and issue of supplies and equipment (including aircraft), \$6,116,307,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For expenses of training, organizing, and administering the Air National Guard, including medical and hospital treatment and related expenses in non-Federal hospitals; maintenance, operation, and repairs to structures and facilities; transportation of things, hire of passenger motor vehicles; supplying and equipping the Air National Guard, as authorized by law; expenses for repair, modification, maintenance, and issue of supplies and equipment, including those furnished from stocks under the control of agencies of the Department of Defense; travel expenses (other than mileage) on the same basis as authorized by law for Air National Guard personnel on active Federal duty, for Air National Guard commanders while inspecting units in compliance with National Guard Bureau regulations when specifically authorized by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, \$6,393,919,000.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES

For salaries and expenses necessary for the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, \$13,723,000, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official representation purposes.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, ARMY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of the Army, \$201,560,000, to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Army shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Army, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Army, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, NAVY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of the Navy, \$277,294,000, to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the

Navy shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Navy, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Navy, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, AIR FORCE
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of the Air Force, \$408,716,000, to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Air Force shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Air Force, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Air Force, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF
PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 15, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$37,000,000)".

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Page 33, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Pennsylvania and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman and I also thank the chairman and the ranking member of the committee.

I should say that, in addition to being a Member Congress, I am also a member of the Navy Reserve as a psychologist, but I want to make it clear I am not here representing the Navy or Navy psychology, but talking about those things which I see in our military.

We have the best military in the world. We are strong, we are filled with

strong servicemen and servicewomen, but our country has a crisis on its hands.

On average, 22 military servicemembers and veterans die each day by their own hands. Nearly 1 in 5 suicides nationally is a veteran, even though veterans only make up 10 percent of the population, or about a million or so overall, 2 million overall.

The suicide rate for veterans increased an average of 2.6 percent a year from 2005 to 2011, more than double the rate of increase for civilian suicide.

Let me tell you what I hear from servicemembers: that those who are in high-tempo work, such as those in SOCOM, those who are Active Duty, those who have come back from Guard and Reserve, they have a very difficult time accessing mental health care.

Whether it is family problems, financial crisis, or adapting from the stress of combat or post-traumatic stress, and preventing it from becoming post-traumatic stress disorder, we know that treatment early and identification early can be effective.

But, quite frankly, there are just too few providers. Psychologists, psychiatrists, and clinical social workers and therapists are burdened with paperwork and screening duties, and oftentimes have too little time to counsel.

We hear, time and time again, where someone has sought help off base, only to find there people who may not themselves understand all the needs of someone in the military.

Plus, many times, those in the military dealing with classified missions, particularly those in SOCOM, need to have folks that they can talk to and deal with these problems so they do not become worse. Or if they transfer to Guard and Reserve, many times they have no one they can go to. The purpose of this amendment is to help make sure we are providing more of those services.

A survey by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America showed that 30 percent of servicemembers have considered taking their own life; 45 percent say they know an Iraq or Afghanistan veteran who has attempted suicide.

While DOD has done many things, and should be complimented for the work that they have done, we still have a serious, serious problem on our hands. The reason we are offering this amendment today is to do all we can to help provide more providers.

Granted, I do not believe this will be anywhere near enough, but it does give us a surge of providers at a time when it is needed, at a time when the suicide rate has climbed, at a time when many servicemembers continue to need help. So I am offering this, and I hope it will be accepted.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I can say, and I am sure my colleagues would agree, your service in the Congress has been enormously beneficial because you have been perhaps one of the strongest advocates on behalf of those with mental illness. And certainly, your service in the Navy Reserve as a psychologist is one of the reasons when you get up to talk, people listen.

So we are certainly accepting of your amendment and acknowledge your very, very strong and well-reasoned advocacy.

Our bill, of course, does make investments. This will make more investments, and we look forward to working with you and relying on your expertise and your advocacy.

I thank you for yielding.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, let me just close with this. In this, I know for example those who come back from SOCOM, from being the tip of the spear, a very important part of their return are such things as Third Location Decompression. They come back, they meet with psychologists, with detailed review.

What we also have to make sure is, for so many others who come back, whether they have been on a combat mission or even a training mission that can have its own stress associated with that, we want to prevent these from accelerating to the level where later on they will need VA services, where we have so many families deteriorate.

I thank the chairman, I thank the ranking member, et cetera, and I ask my colleagues to support this amendment so we can get help to our military in need.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, DEFENSE-WIDE
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of Defense, \$8,547,000, to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of Defense, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of Defense, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, FORMERLY
USED DEFENSE SITES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of the Army, \$233,353,000, to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Army shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris at sites formerly used by the Department of Defense, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Army, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR.
BLUMENAUER

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 16, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,400,000)".

Page 31, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,400,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Oregon and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

This is a simple amendment that would cut \$3.4 million for a new nuclear-armed, air-launched cruise missile and redirect the funding towards the cleanup and removal of unexploded ordnance that litters most congressional districts in every State of the Union.

It would save the taxpayers from footing the bill for a program whose rationale remains ill-defined.

First, the United States currently has a robust arsenal of air-launched cruise missiles, and with the life extension program, they are expected to be in service well past 2030.

These existing cruise missiles are also compatible with the Air Force's greatest procurement priority, the long-range strike bomber.

Now the Pentagon has not yet made a final decision on how or when it will replace its existing nuclear air-launched cruise missile, so it seems ill-advised to spend money before we know what our long-term plans are.

We no longer need a bomber with standoff nuclear weapons like the ALCM. The new Air Force bomber that will be designed to penetrate air defenses, it needs bombs that can be dropped, not a new cruise missile.

The procurement of the new cruise missile will also have a destabilizing effect in our efforts to control nuclear proliferation. A mass deployment of cruise missiles probably would trigger, potentially could trigger a new arms race that we have already agreed to begin to end.

Currently, only the United States, France, and Russia have such weapons. But are we going to be more secure if this sets off an effort for other countries to develop them?

Are we going to be more secure if China has them, if Pakistan develops them? I think certainly not.

Now, maybe this amendment looks modest, only directing \$3.4 million. But allowing this seed money to go forward could potentially mean billions down the road if we don't have a reason, a rationale, a commitment to do it.

The new ALCM does not yet have an official pricetag, but the research we have done suggests it is in the range of 20 to \$30 billion. And a rebuilt nuclear warhead to go on it would cost another \$12 billion, according to the National Nuclear Security Administration.

So a potential of over \$40 billion, and based on our past experience with weapons developments and the nuclear area, it is very likely that that is going to increase over time.

Remember, we recently had a debate on the floor of the House that highlighted that the costs of the current nuclear program were understated by the Pentagon by \$150 billion.

□ 1730

This program, whose true utility remains a mystery, even to those requesting money for it, will directly compete with other priorities.

Let me repeat that. This is not free money. If we launch this program, it is going to directly compete with other priorities. The Navy, as we all know—which the committee has been wrestling with—is looking for \$100 billion to build 12 new nuclear-armed submarines.

The Air Force is coming up short looking for the \$70 billion it needs to buy up to 100 new long-range bombers. A down payment on a cruise missile today that we don't need means cuts to other programs tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman, I suggest that, instead of launching us down this path of unnecessary spending and potentially huge outyear costs, that we, instead, spend this money on Formerly Used Defense Sites that have been contaminated by our activities over the better part of the last century in the United States. It is better use for the money.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, the President's budget requested \$208.4 million for these Formerly Used Defense Sites. It is important to clean up these properties that have been used by the Department of Defense.

May I say, our bill already provides \$25 million for the cleanup of such sites over the President's request, so the administration isn't looking for any more money.

While I sympathize with the gentleman's amendment, I cannot support his offset. I understand that his amendment intends to eliminate funding for the long-range standoff weapon, this cruise missile.

This program will provide a new air-launched cruise missile to replace a rapidly aging AGM-86. This is essential to our strategic deterrent and our ability to hold enemy targets at risk from standoff distances.

The Air Force requested \$4.9 million for the program in fiscal year 2015 to continue studies and analysis in preparation for a formal acquisition program. This bill already takes a fiscally responsible \$1.5 million cut from that amount.

In a year of tight budget, the additional funding the committee has already provided for the cleanup of Formerly Used Defense Sites will accelerate the cleanup of the sites and reduce the long-term government liability, which is important.

While I appreciate the gentleman's intent, I cannot support a cut that would eliminate a critical element of our military's future arsenal, so I oppose the amendment and urge a "no" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, first let me point out that this is a minuscule sum. I have pointed out that we have the capacity with the current plans to be able to deal past 2030, so this is not an urgent effect. We have a chance to sort it out and see if it truly is a priority.

I respect the gentleman's point about—I think he is sincere in wanting to clear up these Formerly Used Defense Sites, but the amount in the budget is \$50 million less than we had in fiscal year 2014 and is less than we enacted in fiscal year 2013.

At the current rate of funding, the Pentagon estimates that it will take 250 years to clean up the backlog of dealing with the military contamination and unexploded ordnance. That is unacceptable.

In a defense budget of this magnitude, we can and should be doing more. I appreciate what the gentleman is saying. It is not nearly adequate, and we certainly don't need to launch down this other path that may lead to dramatic unnecessary spending in the future.

I respectfully urge adoption of this amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN, DISASTER, AND CIVIC AID

For expenses relating to the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid programs of the Department of Defense (consisting of the programs provided under sections 401, 402, 404, 407, 2557, and 2561 of title 10, United States Code), \$103,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2016.

COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION ACCOUNT

For assistance to the republics of the former Soviet Union and, with appropriate authorization by the Department of Defense and Department of State, to countries outside of the former Soviet Union, including assistance provided by contract or by grants, for facilitating the elimination and the safe and secure transportation and storage of nuclear, chemical and other weapons; for establishing programs to prevent the proliferation of weapons, weapons components, and weapon-related technology and expertise; for programs relating to the training and support of defense and military personnel for demilitarization and protection of weapons, weapons components and weapons technology and expertise, and for defense and military contacts, \$365,108,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund, \$51,875,000.

TITLE III
PROCUREMENT

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of aircraft, equipment, including ordnance, ground handling equipment, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$5,295,957,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of missiles, equipment, including ordnance, ground handling equipment, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and

such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$1,217,483,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of weapons and tracked combat vehicles, equipment, including ordnance, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$1,703,736,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including ammunition facilities, authorized by section 2854 of title 10, United States Code, and the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$1,011,477,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of vehicles, including tactical, support, and non-tracked combat vehicles; the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; communications and electronic equipment; other support equipment; spare parts, ordnance, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$4,812,234,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of aircraft, equipment, including ordnance, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment,

appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, \$14,054,523,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

Mr. KILDEE. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$20,000,000)”.

Page 33, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$20,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, much like the VA, the Department of Defense is confronting significant challenges regarding its care and transition of wounded warriors.

In fact, following the recent death of two individuals at the Army’s Fort Bragg hospital, the Secretary of Defense ordered his own comprehensive review of DOD health care. Simply, it is obvious and is becoming increasingly more obvious that wounded warriors are still failing to receive the care that they need and that they clearly deserve.

We know that the DOD has undertaken countless studies and has appointed numerous working groups to identify ways to improve wounded warrior care. Moreover, Congress has rightfully engaged and has held a multitude of hearings and initiatives. There has been a lot of review internally and a lot of conversation.

I believe, though, that we need to engage some of the brightest minds in our country to gain a new and objective perspective on improving care for wounded warriors.

So this amendment appropriates \$20 million to fund an amendment that, again, was passed in the FY15 NDAA to provide for an outside, independent study to identify challenges confronting the DOD’s care of wounded warriors and offer specific recommendations to improve that.

This study, passed in the NDAA, will only be awarded to an entity that has received a small percentage—at the very most—of its revenue from contracts with the DOD, essentially an outside organization with little or no contact or relationship with the DOD or the VA. We are really trying to get a fresh set of eyes on this question.

This study of the Department of Defense’s health care for wounded warriors is almost identical to the independent study of the VA, mandated by H.R. 4810, Chairman MILLER’s Veteran Access to Care Act, which just passed the House last week; so the same set of

fresh eyes that will be looking at VA care, I believe, need to be focused on the Department of Defense care as well.

This amendment is funded by allocating \$20 million from the Navy's \$14 billion aircraft procurement account, which includes nearly \$1 billion in funding over the Navy's request to purchase 12 EA-18G Growler aircraft.

The Navy requested none of these aircraft in its budget request, and it would seem to me that, out of the \$14 billion in that procurement, with nearly \$1 billion in new money for something that wasn't requested, we could find \$20 million to make sure that the billions of dollars that we are spending in DOD health care—particularly for our wounded warriors—is spent in the most efficient way and provides the absolute best care in the timeliest fashion available.

That is what this amendment would do. I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, while I recognize the gentleman's concerns that the wounded warrior care program is effectively and efficiently monitored—and perhaps an outside group taking a look at it would not be a bad idea in and of itself—but removing \$20 million from the aircraft procurement account, specifically that Navy account for Growlers, is excessive to fund a study that is really unrelated to the purpose of that aircraft. There are better ways to fund studies.

We can request the Government Accountability Office—and our committee would be happy to do that—to do a study, one that will certainly cost less than \$20 million.

Additionally, the loss of funding for the Growler program will result in the loss of an airframe which is critical for the Nation's airborne electronic attack mission. We probably need more of these Growlers, rather than less.

So I would be happy to work with the gentleman on finding another source for an outside study, and I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), the ranking member, for any comments that he may care to make.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the chairman yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I would reluctantly add my voice to the chair. I certainly appreciate the gentleman's concern for wounded warriors, his sensitivity, and the fact that he is asking for, if you would, a fresh set of eyes.

The chairman talked about his concerns about the offset. I would simply inform my colleagues that we have had a number of studies. The Office of In-

spector General has completed seven different studies, but perhaps more importantly, to the gentleman's point about an independent study, is that the Government Accountability Office has also done two.

I would remind our colleagues that the GAO is a creature of the legislative branch and is not captive to the Department of Defense.

Perhaps the emphasis here—and, again, I appreciate the gentleman's concern and what he is trying to get at—is to implement some of the findings in these nine studies, particularly the findings from the Government Accountability Office on behalf of the legislative branch and see that they are implemented.

Mr. KILDEE. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their comments.

I will say that, when I speak of a set of fresh eyes—I understand the studies that have been done by the GAO and other internal studies, and I will acknowledge a certain irony in making the comment because it is so often that we hear that we can't be continually looking for answers to these difficult questions only from those of us in government, that we ought to be taking a look at it from a fresh set of eyes that come from outside, from the private sector. I think that that would be a great advantage in this case.

Regarding the offset, I understand and wholly support all of the work that we need to do and the investments that we need to make to ensure that our military is fully capable.

I just believe that the same commitment that we have to our own protection ought to extend to protecting those who put on the uniform of the country and suffer as a result. They ought to get the best care.

Out of the \$970 million increase from what was requested, it would seem to me that finding \$20 million from that would not be a bridge too far.

I appreciate the comments, and I hope that we can work together on finding solutions on this.

I think Chairman MILLER was right in his approach with the VA, and I think the same could be said for the DOD, and that is what my amendment would do.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

The amendment was rejected.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of missiles, torpedoes, other weapons, and related support equipment including spare parts, and accessories therefor; expansion of

public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, \$3,111,931,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including ammunition facilities, authorized by section 2854 of title 10, United States Code, and the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$629,372,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

SHIPBUILDING AND CONVERSION, NAVY

For expenses necessary for the construction, acquisition, or conversion of vessels as authorized by law, including armor and armament thereof, plant equipment, appliances, and machine tools and installation thereof in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; procurement of critical, long lead time components and designs for vessels to be constructed or converted in the future; and expansion of public and private plants, including land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title, as follows:

Carrier	Replacement	Program,
\$1,289,425,000;		
Virginia Class Submarine,	\$3,507,175,000;	
Virginia Class Submarine (AP),		\$2,301,825,000;
CVN Refueling Overhauls (AP),	\$491,100,000;	
DDG-1000 Program,	\$419,532,000;	
DDG-51 Destroyer,	\$2,655,785,000;	
DDG-51 Destroyer (AP),	\$134,039,000;	
Littoral Combat Ship,	\$951,366,000;	
LPD-17 Amphibious Transport Dock,		\$12,565,000;
LHA replacement (AP),	\$29,093,000;	
Moored Training Ship,	\$737,268,000;	
Moored Training Ship (AP),	\$64,388,000;	
LCAC Service Life Extension Program,		\$40,485,000;

Outfitting, post delivery, conversions, and first destination transportation, \$491,797,000; and

Ship to Shore Connector, \$123,233,000;

For completion of Prior Year Shipbuilding Programs, \$1,007,285,000.

In all: \$14,256,361,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That additional obligations may be incurred after September 30, 2019, for engineering services, tests, evaluations, and other such budgeted work that must be performed in the final stage of ship construction: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading for the construction or conversion of any naval vessel to be constructed in shipyards in the United States shall be expended in foreign facilities for the construction of major components of such vessel: *Provided further*, That none of the

funds provided under this heading shall be used for the construction of any naval vessel in foreign shipyards.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For procurement, production, and modernization of support equipment and materials not otherwise provided for, Navy ordnance (except ordnance for new aircraft, new ships, and ships authorized for conversion); the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, \$5,923,379,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

For expenses necessary for the procurement, manufacture, and modification of missiles, armament, military equipment, spare parts, and accessories therefor; plant equipment, appliances, and machine tools, and installation thereof in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; vehicles for the Marine Corps, including the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; and expansion of public and private plants, including land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title, \$927,232,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, and modification of aircraft and equipment, including armor and armament, specialized ground handling equipment, and training devices, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment; expansion of public and private plants, Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes including rents and transportation of things, \$12,046,941,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, and modification of missiles, spacecraft, rockets, and related equipment, including spare parts and accessories therefor, ground handling equipment, and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes including rents and transportation of things, \$4,546,211,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment

and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including ammunition facilities, authorized by section 2854 of title 10, United States Code, and the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$648,200,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For procurement and modification of equipment (including ground guidance and electronic control equipment, and ground electronic and communication equipment), and supplies, materials, and spare parts therefor, not otherwise provided for; the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; lease of passenger motor vehicles; and expansion of public and private plants, Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon, prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, \$16,633,023,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) necessary for procurement, production, and modification of equipment, supplies, materials, and spare parts therefor, not otherwise provided for; the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; expansion of public and private plants, equipment, and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, \$4,358,121,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017.

□ 1745

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 29, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentlewoman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I, again, add my appreciation of the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee and add my appreciation of their concern for the health and welfare of the

men and women of the United States military. Their appropriations bill evidences that.

I thank them again for working with me and their staff for working with me on this amendment dealing with increasing the funding for breast cancer research by \$5 million, offset by a reduction of like amount in funding for procurement. Equally important is that this amendment has been supported by this committee.

I would say that my fellow survivors and those in the United States military would appreciate the emphasis that we are making on addressing this phenomenon of breast cancer. My amendment, as indicated, increases the opportunity for research. The American Cancer Society calls several strains of breast cancer particularly aggressive subtypes associated with a lower survival rate. In this instance, it is called a triple negative. But I raise an article that says: "Fighting a Different Battle; Breast Cancer and the Military."

This triple negative strain has killed many individuals in a very quick manner.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I would be happy to express my support for the amendment and certainly believe there is no objection on behalf of the committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the ranking member very much. I would like to conclude, but I thank you for this support and make this statement as I conclude.

Breast cancer has been just about as brutal on women in the military as combat. More than 800 women have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the Army Times, and 874 military women were diagnosed with breast cancer between 2000 and 2011. According to that same study, more are expected as it goes.

So, in conclusion, let me thank the chairman and the ranking member for their focus on this amendment. I will conclude by saying that breast cancer is striking relatively young military women at an alarming rate, but male servicemembers, veterans, and their dependents, are at risk, as well.

So I ask my colleagues to support this amendment. Again, those of us who are survivors recognize that the more research and the more intervention, the more lives we can save.

With that, I ask the committee to support the Jackson Lee amendment, and I thank the ranking member and chairman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCLOSKY for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their devotion to the men and women of the Armed Forces who risk their lives to keep our nation safe.

Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to explain my amendment, which is identical to an amendment that I offered and was adopted in last year's Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 2397).

My amendment increases funding for the Defense Health Program's research and development by \$5 million. These funds will address the question of breast cancer in the United States military.

The American Cancer Society calls several strains of breast cancer as a particularly aggressive subtype associated with lower survival rates; in this instance, it's a triple negative. But I raise an article that says: "Fighting a Different Battle; Breast Cancer and the Military."

We all know, by the way, that breast cancer can affect both men and women. The bad news is breast cancer has been just about as brutal on women in the military as combat.

Let me say that sentence again. Breast cancer has been just about as brutal on women in the military as combat. More than 800 women have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the Army Times; 874 military women were diagnosed with breast cancer just between 2000 and 2011. And according to that same study, more are suspected. It grows.

The good news is that we have been working on it, and I want to add my appreciation to the military.

The Jackson Lee Amendment, however, will allow for the additional research.

That research is particularly needed since women are joining the Armed Services in increasing numbers and serving longer, ascending to leadership. With increased age comes increased risk and incidence of breast cancer.

Not only is breast cancer striking relatively young military women at an alarming rate, but male service members, veterans and their dependents are at risk as well.

With a younger and generally healthier population, those in the military tend to have a lower risk for most cancers than civilians—including significantly lower colorectal, lung and cervical—but breast cancer is a different story.

Military people in general, and in some cases very specifically, are at a significantly greater risk for contracting breast cancer, according to Dr. Richard Clapp, a top cancer expert at Boston University who works at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on military breast cancer issues.

Dr. Clapp notes that life in the military can mean exposure to a witch's brew of risk factors directly linked to greater chances of getting breast cancer.

So, I am asking that we do the right thing. We are on the right track, we're on the right road.

But with the expansion of women in the military, I can assure you, for long life, a vital service that these men and women give, it is extremely important to move forward with this amendment.

Researchers point to a high use of oral contraception that's linked to breast cancer among women that would ensure that this particular amendment would be a positive step forward.

I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT PURCHASES

For activities by the Department of Defense pursuant to sections 108, 301, 302, and 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2078, 2091, 2092, and 2093), \$51,638,000, to remain available until expended.

TITLE IV

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, \$6,720,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2016.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NAVY

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, \$15,877,770,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph which are available for the V-22 may be used to meet unique operational requirements of the Special Operations Forces.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, \$23,438,982,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2016.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 31, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$15,600,000)".

Page 141, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$15,600,000)".

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, this amendment deals with a profoundly important issue that will be before the House of Representatives and this Nation for the next three decades at least. This is an amendment that deals with the Joint Strike Fight-

er, the F-35, and the dual capability of that fighter, basically meaning how to retrofit or make that fighter capable of handling the B-61 nuclear weapon.

This is a weapon that is principally designed for our allies, to be used in Europe. It is a weapon that is now in the process of being life-extended at a cost of several billion dollars over the next decade.

The question is, Do we need to re-vamp the F-35 in such a way as to be able to handle both conventional as well as nuclear weapons? This is the question before us. It is a question that involves our allies, and it is a very, very expensive issue that we must deal with.

If we just continue on, we will spend billions upon billions of dollars on a system that may or may not be desired by our allies around the world. We are just pushing our way forward here without really considering all of the issues involved.

This amendment that I brought forth on the floor today is really the wake up to this larger issue and the extraordinary expense and the ramifications that it has with not only our allies but with potential adversaries around the world.

What I really would like to do is to expand upon a study that has already been put into this legislation, a study that Mr. QUIGLEY has successfully brought in, and expand upon it so that the report that comes back to us be more full, providing more information. We need that information in order to make a wise decision here about how we are going to proceed.

This is an issue that the Armed Services Committee is wrestling with, as well as, I am certain, the Appropriations Committee. Later in this process, when we get to the end of this bill, I will have another amendment that I will put forward that will fence off this \$15 million until such time as that report comes in, and I would recommend that that report be more full and more complete.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation and seek the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. It is my understanding the gentleman is going to withdraw his amendment. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. That is true. I intend to withdraw my amendment in hopes that we could, at the end of the bill, undertake a more full report and fence off the \$15 million until that comes forward. I am not asking for a commitment now, but as we proceed through this bill, if the members of the Appropriations Committee, the chair

and the ranking member specifically, would consider that language, it would be much appreciated.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you for talking about this very important issue. I appreciate it and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. COFFMAN

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 31, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$15,722,000)".

Page 141, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$15,722,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment seeks to take \$15.7 million out of the Air Force research, development, test and evaluation account, equal to the amount the Air Force has budgeted for sixth-generation fighter development, and places those funds into the spending reduction account for debt relief.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is not about capabilities; it is quite simply about priorities. I could understand the need for sixth-generation fighter development funding had the administration not attempted to scrap our military's only dedicated close air support platform, the A-10, citing budgetary concerns.

I could understand the need for sixth-generation fighter development funding had the administration not attempted to scrap the U-2, an aging but capable aircraft that continues to provide the warfighter with actionable intelligence in some of the world's most dangerous areas, citing budgetary concerns.

I could understand the need for sixth-generation fighter development funding had the administration not capped America's premier air dominance fighter, the fifth-generation F-22 Raptor, at 187 aircraft, citing, once again, budgetary concerns.

And I could understand the need for sixth-generation fighter development funding if the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, a fifth-generation program I do support, was not admittedly over budget and behind schedule.

Mr. Chairman, our Nation is over \$17 trillion in debt and is running a budget deficit of over half a billion dollars. As a result, it has become almost a cliché

to quote Admiral Mullen's warning of our national debt as America's greatest threat. That is why I cannot support millions of dollars in funding for the Department of Defense to begin developing the follow-on to the F-35 when the F-35 itself is years away from being operational.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my fellow Members to support this commonsense amendment. By supporting my amendment you will be sending a message to the Department of Defense to get its current programs under control and its fiscal house in order before asking the American taxpayer to foot the bill for any future programs.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WOODALL). The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I would point out that while we are at the beginning, so to speak, of the production of the F-35, it has always inured to the benefit of this country to look to the future, to look at the next generation. And when it comes to an examination of technology and how it can be used in the defense of this Nation in the future, I don't think we should close that door.

We have a resurgence in China. We have a resurgence in Russia. We have problems in the Middle East. We ought not to be taking our oar, if you would, out of the water. And so we ought to continue down this road. We are not, by doing this initial research, instituting a billion or multibillion-dollar procurement program.

So I am opposed and would be happy to yield to the chairman of the subcommittee.

□ 1800

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

It is a small investment which this amendment would eliminate. We want to have air superiority for decades to come. It is money that I think needs to be kept in there. It would be a great mistake to move it. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the chairman's remarks.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NUGENT

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 31, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Chairman, the Counter-electronics High Power Microwave Missile Project, better known as CHAMP, is an Air Force program to disrupt or eliminate an adversary's electronics without causing physical damage to facilities or people.

My amendment would transfer \$10 million within the Air Force R&D budget from directed energy technology to advanced weapons technology. This will move duplicative funds from laboratory development of high-power microwave technology to integration on a delivery vehicle for actual use on the battlefield a decade ahead of schedule.

The Air Force intends to develop CHAMP for use on a reusable delivery vehicle that will be available to combatant commanders in 2025. For a small investment of \$10 million this year, the Air Force can get CHAMP to the combatant commanders on a cruise missile delivery system 18 months after enactment of this bill, almost a decade ahead of schedule.

The reason we can do this so quickly and at such a low cost is by utilizing unused cruise missiles, just like the ones the Air Force used to test CHAMP recently. There is an existing stockpile of cruise missiles that have been removed from their original mission and can be cost-effectively repurposed as a delivery vehicle for CHAMP. Over the next few years, the Air Force has an opportunity to fit CHAMP on a proven delivery vehicle already in stock.

In this window, it is very cheap to make a cruise missile-delivered CHAMP system and very expensive for adversaries to defend. The \$10 million my amendment allocates to advanced weapons technology will improve the size and weight of the weapon to optimize its performance on a cruise missile.

It is important to note this amendment will ensure that sufficient funds exist to develop both the short-term cruise missile system and the long-term reusable delivery system.

The offset for this amendment pulls from an increase in another directed energy program in the Air Force that is doing duplicative work to reduce the size and weight of high-power microwave.

Instead of just doing lab work, we can do the lab work and get it out into the field. As I said, these two programs are doing duplicative work, and one is closer to the finish line than the other.

This is a bipartisan bill. I am happy to have support of the ranking member of the Armed Services subcommittee of jurisdiction and cochair of the Directed Energy Caucus, Mr. LANGEVIN. The authorization for this program increase

has been in the National Defense Authorization Act since the chairman's mark and was in the bill the House passed earlier this year.

In the Armed Services Committee, we have heard the desire of this game-changing technology in testimony from combatant commanders and from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

Let's get the warfighter this capability in 18 months by passing this simple amendment today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the gentleman from Florida is putting forth and the position he has taken. I certainly believe there is merit, if you would, in the technology.

As you may know, we have included some very encouraging language in the report for this bill, noting our pleasure with the Air Force incorporating this type of technology into their non-kinetic counterelectronics analysis of alternatives.

However, we have carefully refrained from prejudicing the Air Force's analysis of alternatives by adding funds from one program to another.

I would like to work with the gentleman further to ensure, again, that the technology is given consideration, without prejudicing the study undertaken by the Air Force. I do think we ought to give them a full breadth of options, so that the best choice can be made on behalf of this country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his consideration. What I would like to add to this is that the Air Force tested CHAMP on that delivery vehicle—a successful test, as it may be—and the testimony from those combatant commanders, the guys in the field that actually need it, are saying: hey, I would rather have it in 18 months than in 2025.

It is just that simple. We heard testimony with regards to China and about Russia. Wouldn't it be better to use these limited funds that we have already spent millions of dollars on to develop the process, develop the technology, wouldn't it be better today to spend \$10 million to actually get it in the field to support our troops and our warfighters? That is our argument.

While I respect the Air Force, I think what the Air Force has—and they are looking at a long-term solution, a reusable vehicle, which I support, but I also support those who are out on the front line today. I have three kids out on the front line.

This helps those soldiers, airmen, marines, and sailors with more protec-

tion. We can do it cheap, and we can do it today, and we can have it done in 18 months.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND
EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses of activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation; advanced research projects as may be designated and determined by the Secretary of Defense, pursuant to law; maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, \$17,077,900,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That of the funds made available in this paragraph, \$250,000,000 for the Defense Rapid Innovation Program shall only be available for expenses, not otherwise provided for, to include program management and oversight, to conduct research, development, test and evaluation to include proof of concept demonstration; engineering, testing, and validation; and transition to full-scale production: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer funds provided herein for the Defense Rapid Innovation Program to appropriations for research, development, test and evaluation to accomplish the purpose provided herein: *Provided further*, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than 30 days prior to making transfers from this appropriation, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such transfer.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 31, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would increase funding for prostate cancer research under the Defense Health Program by \$10 million.

This increase would result in a total funding level of \$90 million, which is still \$10 million below what this ac-

count was funded at in 2001, more than a decade ago.

This amendment passed the House as part of an en bloc amendment last year. I hope we will all agree on its passage again this year.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRAYSON. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. We commend you on your focus on prostate cancer and appreciate your limited remarks.

Mr. GRAYSON. I thank the chairman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION,
DEFENSE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the independent activities of the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, in the direction and supervision of operational test and evaluation, including initial operational test and evaluation which is conducted prior to, and in support of, production decisions; joint operational testing and evaluation; and administrative expenses in connection therewith, \$248,238,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2016.

TITLE V

REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS
DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS

For the Defense Working Capital Funds, \$1,334,468,000.

TITLE VI

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
PROGRAMS

DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, for medical and health care programs of the Department of Defense as authorized by law, \$31,634,870,000; of which \$30,080,563,000 shall be for operation and maintenance, of which not to exceed one percent shall remain available for obligation until September 30, 2016, and of which up to \$14,582,044,000 may be available for contracts entered into under the TRICARE program; of which \$308,413,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017, shall be for procurement; and of which \$1,245,894,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2016, shall be for research, development, test and evaluation: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the amount made available under this heading for research, development, test and evaluation, not less than \$8,000,000 shall be available for HIV prevention educational activities undertaken in connection with United States military training, exercises, and humanitarian assistance activities conducted primarily in African nations: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading for operation and maintenance, procurement, and research, development, test and evaluation for the Interagency Program Office, the Defense Healthcare Management Systems Modernization (DHMSM) program, and the Defense Medical Information Exchange, not more than 25 percent may be obligated until the

Secretary of Defense submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and such Committees approve, a plan for expenditure that describes: (1) the status of the final request for proposal for DHMSM and how the program office used comments received from industry from draft requests for proposal to refine the final request for proposal; (2) any changes to the deployment timeline, including benchmarks, for full operating capability; (3) any refinements to the cost estimate for full operating capability and the total life cycle cost of the project; (4) an assurance that the acquisition strategy will comply with the acquisition rules, requirements, guidelines, and systems acquisition management practices of the Federal Government; (5) the status of the effort to achieve interoperability between the electronic health record systems of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the scope, cost, schedule, mapping to health data standards, and performance benchmarks of the interoperable record; and (6) the progress toward developing, implementing, and fielding the interoperable electronic health record throughout the two Departments' medical facilities.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from New Jersey and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to address another facet of a national tragedy, the epidemic of suicide among our soldiers and veterans.

In March of this year, zero U.S. troops died in combat. In that same month, almost 700 soldiers and veterans died at their own hand.

This bill, the bill that is before us today, takes enormous strides to treat mental health problems underlying this epidemic. It provides tens of millions of dollars for therapy, outreach, and peer-to-peer support. For that, the chairman and the ranking member and all of the committee members have my sincere praise and gratitude.

Suicide and the decision to take one's own life is complex and often mysterious, but we err if we think suicide is only a mental health problem. In truth, suicide is often the desperate act of a soldier or veteran in a desperate situation. One important component of that desperation is financial stress.

My amendment has been endorsed by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and would set aside \$1 mil-

lion to study these issues to improve our understanding of the links between financial stress, financial abuse, and military suicide and to generate recommendations to fix these interlinked problems.

A few years ago, Army Sergeant Angelo Stevens was living with \$100,000 of debt. He had just been told that, because of his deteriorating finances, he was at risk of losing his security clearance. If he lost his clearance, he would lose his job, which would make his debt even more unmanageable.

Sergeant Stevens met with a military financial planner. He left feeling hopeless and humiliated. He told a reporter:

I walked out thinking, "If I'm dead, my family can get \$500,000 in life insurance, but I have to kill myself."

Sergeant Stevens ultimately found help and survived, but he was far from alone in his desperation.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOLT. I am happy to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the gentleman's concern and his focus, as far as the problems that financial stress causes, and the additional \$1 million and certainly believe it would be a good addition to the bill. I think I speak on behalf of the committee, as far as accepting the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. HOLT. I appreciate the gentleman's comments, and I can certainly sum up quickly to say that I think it is important that we understand how effectively suicide prevention programs at the Department of Defense, the VA, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau are working together and how they can work together better.

This is a serious national problem. This is one component of that problem, and I thank the gentleman. Again, I commend everyone on the subcommittee for the attention they are paying this year to this important problem.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$30,000,000) (increased by \$30,000,000)".

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$30,000,000) (increased by \$30,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Rhode Island and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

□ 1815

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I rise to offer a very simple amendment to direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to increase individual grant amounts issued through the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program.

I would like to begin, of course, by thanking Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN as well as Ranking Member VISCLOSKY for their work on the underlying bill and for their continued commitment to funding the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program.

As someone who has suffered a spinal cord injury at the age of 16, I am acutely aware of how important this research is to the millions of servicemembers and civilians who suffer from various forms of paralysis and other conditions related to spinal cord injury. They simply want to know whether they will ever again be able to move, be able to walk, or even be able to breathe on their own.

I am thrilled to say that we are beginning to see meaningful answers in a positive way to these questions. Research into spinal cord injuries is producing, right now, a wealth of groundbreaking discoveries that are making treatment protocols never before envisioned an actual achievable goal. However, if we want these advancements to continue, particularly in the areas of translational research, then we must make sure that we are providing higher grant award levels to the researchers funded by the Spinal Cord Injury Program.

I say this because we have heard from researchers in the field of spinal cord injury research that the current grant awards, though meaningful, the ones that are issued to the program are not yet really large enough to make an appreciable difference, given the promise that the research shows right now.

So in the fiscal year 2013 appropriations measure, I was proud to work with the Defense Appropriations Committee to double the funding for the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program from \$15 to \$30 million; and thanks to the hard work of Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN as well as Ranking Member VISCLOSKY, we have been able to maintain that funding level in this bill. I am incredibly grateful.

With twice the amount of funding allocated since 2013, it is time to increase the amount of individual grants provided to the program's recipients. Remarkable advancements are now ripe for further development, but these next steps will only be achieved if the grant awards keep pace with the growing complexities and costs of this research.

With that, I thank, again, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN as well as Ranking Member VISCLOSKY. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LANGEVIN. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I know all members of our committee appreciate your advocacy and obviously your special knowledge and view of spinal cord injuries. We don't get involved in the process of funding grants, but when you brought to our attention the fact that maybe larger sums within the grants might expedite some of the exciting things that are happening, it seemed to make sense to us, so I very much am in line with the amendment that you put forward.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LANGEVIN. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I would add my voice to the chairman's, and what I found most heartening is the hope that there is going to be success. Because often we want to see the success, but you certainly have made me hopeful that if we made the proper investment and have the appropriate levels of funding for the grants, we can see improvement, and for that I thank you very much.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the ranking member. I thank both the gentlemen for their comments, their support of this research.

When I was injured 34 years ago, I was told that I would never walk again, that spinal cord injury repair was just too difficult, it would never happen. We know now, because of research that is happening over the years by dedicated researchers and where we are right now, that it is no longer a question of if but when people with spinal cord injuries will walk again, be able to breathe on their own again, and be able to move again.

The support you have given to this amendment is going to help millions of people. I thank both the chairman and, again, the ranking member as well as the members of the committee.

Mr. Chair, with that, I again just want to express my deep appreciation for the hard work that went into this bill. Of course maintaining the current funding level at \$30 million in this program and the support of both JIM FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCLOSKY encouraging larger grant awards, I know that this will make a difference. Just hearing from the researchers in the field explaining why and how the larger awards would make this difference, I know that we will be seeing results very soon.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

CHEMICAL AGENTS AND MUNITIONS
DESTRUCTION, DEFENSE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the destruction of the United States stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions in accordance with the provisions of section 1412 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (50 U.S.C. 1521), and for the destruction of other chemical warfare materials that are not in the chemical weapon stockpile, \$828,868,000, of which \$222,728,000 shall be for operation and maintenance, of which no less than \$52,102,000 shall be for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, consisting of \$21,016,000 for activities on military installations and \$31,086,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, to assist State and local governments; \$10,227,000 shall be for procurement, to remain available until September 30, 2017, of which \$3,225,000 shall be for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program to assist State and local governments; and \$595,913,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, shall be for research, development, test and evaluation, of which \$575,808,000 shall only be for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program.

DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG
ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For drug interdiction and counter-drug activities of the Department of Defense, for transfer to appropriations available to the Department of Defense for military personnel of the reserve components serving under the provisions of title 10 and title 32, United States Code; for operation and maintenance; for procurement; and for research, development, test and evaluation, \$944,687,000, of which \$669,631,000 shall be for counter-narcotics support; \$105,591,000 shall be for the drug demand reduction program; and \$169,465,000 shall be for the National Guard counter-drug program: *Provided*, That the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for obligation for the same time period and for the same purpose as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority contained elsewhere in this Act.

JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT
FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the "Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund", \$65,464,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purpose of allowing the Director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization to investigate, develop and provide equipment, supplies, services, training, facilities, personnel and funds to assist United States forces in the defeat of improvised explosive devices: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer funds provided herein to appropriations for military personnel; operation and maintenance; procurement; research, development, test and evaluation; and defense working capital funds to accomplish the purpose provided herein: *Provided*

further, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than 15 days prior to making transfers from this appropriation, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such transfer.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses and activities of the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$311,830,000, of which \$310,830,000 shall be for operation and maintenance, of which not to exceed \$700,000 is available for emergencies and extraordinary expenses to be expended on the approval or authority of the Inspector General, and payments may be made on the Inspector General's certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes; and of which \$1,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, shall be for procurement.

SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTING
COMPETITIONS

For logistical and security support for international sporting competitions (including pay and non-travel related allowances only for members of the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces of the United States called or ordered to active duty in connection with providing such support), \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

TITLE VII

RELATED AGENCIES

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT
AND DISABILITY SYSTEM FUND

For payment to the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System Fund, to maintain the proper funding level for continuing the operation of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, \$514,000,000.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses of the Intelligence Community Management Account, \$501,194,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 39, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000) (increased by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from New Jersey and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, let me begin by thanking Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCLOSKY for their cooperation in preparing this commonsense amendment.

My amendment would carve out \$2 million within the \$504 million intelligence community management account and allocate it to the intelligence community whistleblowing and source protection directorate, which is a component of the Office of the Inspector General of the intelligence community.

Currently, this directorate is literally a one-man operation. Now, the

intelligence community is a closed, secretive community. It is different from almost all other agencies this Congress deals with. Only from workers within these programs are we likely to learn about improprieties. Given the fact that there are tens of thousands of Federal employees and contractors who work for the intelligence community elements, it is not realistic to expect the IC inspector general to be able to receive and investigate effectively any and all valid complaints from conscientious internal whistleblowers through a single investigator, no matter how talented that investigator may be. This \$2 million reallocation of funds will help the community whistleblowing and source protection directorate hire more needed additional investigators and support staff and will fund outreach and education efforts across the intelligence community.

For our system of oversight of the intelligence community to work properly, it is vital that all employees and contractors know where and how they can report lawfully potential incidents of waste, fraud, abuse, criminal conduct, or whistleblower retaliation. So this directorate can truly become that place only if it has sufficient resources. I see this as a step in that direction. This amendment will ensure that they have resources to respond to legitimate concerns.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOLT. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I am always cautious about people who have suggested in the past that we would balance the budget if we eliminated waste, fraud, and abuse. But the gentleman is correct; there are occurrences of waste, fraud, abuse, or inefficiencies.

The investment the gentleman is talking about I think is a wise one, to make sure that we do protect the taxpayer's dollar, ferret out those monies that are ill spent to make sure it doesn't happen again, and to make sure that those who are doing the right thing are protected in the performance of their duty on behalf of the Government of the United States.

So I appreciate the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentleman.

If I may make one comment in response to the ranking member and then yield to the chairman, there has been a lot of concern in this House about people going public with concerns about activities in the intelligence community, and we should want them to have a reliable channel through which they can lawfully express their concerns about criminal activity, about whistleblower retaliation or waste, fraud, and abuse. This office, underfunded as it currently is, is the official place for them to go, and we should make it more accessible.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOLT. I would be pleased to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you for yielding.

Our committee has long supported whistleblower protections. May I commend you on your two amendments today. You have got two in the win column and none in the loss column.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentleman, and 2 and 0 in this soccer day is probably a pretty good score.

So with that, I yield back the balance of my time with thanks to the chair and ranking member.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this bill.

Let me begin by acknowledging the enormous work that went into bringing a bill of this scope to the floor. It contains a number of provisions I support, including a 1.8% pay increase for our troops and other measures designed to improve the lives of our servicemembers and their families. I am particularly grateful for the committee's inclusion of nearly \$40 million above the President's request for suicide prevention and outreach activities, and twice what I and 100 of my House colleagues had requested earlier this year. I am also grateful for the committee's acceptance of an amendment I offered that mandates a study on the potential relationship between financial stress and suicide among members of the military. In March 2014, we suffered no combat deaths but lost 700 servicemembers and veterans to suicide. We have to end this epidemic, and I hope these additional investments and this study will help bring about that outcome.

Moreover, this bill now contains important reforms to our nation's surveillance practices. Three amendments that I either offered or co-sponsored were attached to this bill, and they are worth discussing in some detail.

My first amendment would set aside \$2 million to expand the Intelligence Community Whistleblowing and Source Protection Directorate, which provides employees of the National Security Agency (NSA), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and other intelligence agencies with a safe, legal, and secure way to report abusive or unlawful practices. The amendment passed unanimously.

Currently, this office is literally a one-man operation. Given the fact that there are tens of thousands of federal employees and contractors who work for Intelligence Community elements, it is simply not realistic to expect one person to be able effectively to receive and investigate large numbers of valid complaints from conscientious internal whistleblowers through, no matter how talented. Because of the secrecy of the intelligence community, oversight is impossible without the participation of employees inside the system who know about activities of the agencies. This amendment will help ensure that all employees and contractors in the IC know where and how they should lawfully report potential incidents of waste, fraud, abuse, criminal conduct or whistleblower retaliation.

The second amendment, offered with Rep. ALAN GRAYSON (FL-09), would prohibit funds

from being used to subvert or interfere with the integrity of a cryptographic standard proposed, developed, or adopted by National Institute of Standards and Technology. Last year, published reports indicated that NSA had slipped language into an encryption standard published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology that created a "back door" that NSA—as well as foreign intelligence services or malicious hackers—could exploit. The Holt/Grayson amendment would prohibit that practice and passed unanimously. The last thing the NSA should be doing is weakening encryption standards. This amendment is one of many steps we need to take to prohibit such conduct in the future.

The third amendment, offered by me and Reps. JIM SENSENBRENNER, Jr. (WI-05), ZOE LOFGREN (CA-19), THOMAS MASSIE (KY-04), JOHN CONYERS, Jr. (MI-13), TED POE (TX-02), TULSI GABBARD (HI-02), JIM JORDAN (OH-04), BETO O'ROURKE (TX-16), JUSTIN AMASH (MI-03), JERROLD NADLER (NY-10), TOM PETRI (WI-6), SUZAN DELBENE (WA-01), BLAKE FARENTHOLD (TX-27), G. K. BUTTERFIELD (NC-01), and MARK SANFORD (SC-01) would end two abusive surveillance practices revealed in recent months.

First, the amendment would prohibit any warrantless search of the so-called "702 databases"—the massive government databases, created by the NSA and first disclosed by Edward Snowden, that contain records of the emails and phone calls of millions of innocent U.S. citizens.

One of the predictions I and others made in 2008 when Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Amendments Act became law was that NSA would misuse the law for the "reverse targeting" of Americans' communications while collecting against foreigners. As we now know, that is exactly what happened, and those communications—billions of phone calls, emails, text messages and the like—sit on National Security Agency servers, available for search without a warrant. This amendment would bar the NSA from using any funds in this act to conduct any warrantless search of stored communications of Americans collected under Sec. 702 of FISA, thus protecting the privacy and Constitutional rights of all Americans.

Second, the amendment would prohibit the NSA and Central Intelligence Agency CIA from installing "backdoors"—such as malicious software or hardware—into commercially produced products. This provision was originally contained in my Surveillance State Repeal Act, H.R. 2818. Despite efforts by the House leadership to derail the amendment, it passed by a large bipartisan majority of 293-123.

This amendment makes a loud and clear point: It's time to stop treating Americans as suspects first and citizens second.

Unfortunately, despite the many good and important things contained in H.R. 4870, this bill continues to make the wrong choices for the wrong reasons. The overall spending would be almost \$600 billion, a level that is impossible to justify in terms of the threats to the U.S. or in terms of spending by other countries, including potential adversaries. This bill would spend another \$10 billion on a failed missile defense system that has not been, and will not be, ever be viable. The so-called

“overseas contingency operations” fund—the money that fuels the war in Afghanistan and our combat activities elsewhere in the world—is set at nearly \$80 billion dollars, and a large slice of that money will be used to continue an American military presence into 2015 and possibly beyond. It includes hundreds of millions of dollars for research on a new nuclear bomber design. And taking the prize for defense-related corporate welfare is the beleaguered F-35 program. Congressional Quarterly reports that the full cost of the program may exceed \$1.5 trillion dollars over its lifetime. That is more than we will spend on the entire federal government in the coming year. There are vastly cheaper alternatives that would still provide the United States with a first-rate modern fighter-bomber. Instead, this bill throws still more good money after bad.

I am not comfortable with vast sums of money this bill will waste on weapons we don't need and wars we should not be fighting. But I am also not comfortable allowing the National Security Agency to continue collecting and exploiting the communications of tens of millions of innocent Americans. Accordingly, it is with mixed feelings I oppose passage of this bill and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TITLE VIII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 8001. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress.

SEC. 8002. During the current fiscal year, provisions of law prohibiting the payment of compensation to, or employment of, any person not a citizen of the United States shall not apply to personnel of the Department of Defense: *Provided*, That salary increases granted to direct and indirect hire foreign national employees of the Department of Defense funded by this Act shall not be at a rate in excess of the percentage increase authorized by law for civilian employees of the Department of Defense whose pay is computed under the provisions of section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, or at a rate in excess of the percentage increase provided by the appropriate host nation to its own employees, whichever is higher: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to Department of Defense foreign service national employees serving at United States diplomatic missions whose pay is set by the Department of State under the Foreign Service Act of 1980: *Provided further*, That the limitations of this provision shall not apply to foreign national employees of the Department of Defense in the Republic of Turkey.

SEC. 8003. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 8004. No more than 20 percent of the appropriations in this Act which are limited for obligation during the current fiscal year shall be obligated during the last 2 months of the fiscal year: *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to obligations for support of active duty training of reserve components or summer camp training of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8005. Upon determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, he may, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer not to exceed \$5,000,000,000 of working capital funds of the Department of Defense or funds made available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military functions (except military construction) between such appropriations or funds or any subdivision thereof, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen military requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by the Congress: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the Congress promptly of all transfers made pursuant to this authority or any other authority in this Act: *Provided further*, That no part of the funds in this Act shall be available to prepare or present a request to the Committees on Appropriations for reprogramming of funds, unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen military requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which reprogramming is requested has been denied by the Congress: *Provided further*, That a request for multiple reprogrammings of funds using authority provided in this section shall be made prior to June 30, 2015: *Provided further*, That transfers among military personnel appropriations shall not be taken into account for purposes of the limitation on the amount of funds that may be transferred under this section.

SEC. 8006. (a) With regard to the list of specific programs, projects, and activities (and the dollar amounts and adjustments to budget activities corresponding to such programs, projects, and activities) contained in the tables titled “Explanation of Project Level Adjustments” in the explanatory statement regarding this Act, the obligation and expenditure of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act for those programs, projects, and activities for which the amounts appropriated exceed or are less than the amounts requested are hereby required by law to be carried out in the manner provided by such tables to the same extent as if the tables were included in the text of this Act.

(b) Amounts specified in the referenced tables described in subsection (a) shall not be treated as subdivisions of appropriations for purposes of section 8005 of this Act: *Provided*, That section 8005 shall apply when transfers of the amounts described in subsection (a) occur between appropriation accounts.

SEC. 8007. (a) Not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Department of Defense shall submit a report to the congressional defense committees to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for fiscal year 2015: *Provided*, That the report shall include—

(1) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(2) a delineation in the table for each appropriation both by budget activity and program, project, and activity as detailed in the Budget Appendix; and

(3) an identification of items of special congressional interest.

(b) Notwithstanding section 8005 of this Act, none of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for reprogramming or transfer until the report identified in subsection (a) is submitted to the congressional defense committees, unless the Secretary of Defense certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees that such reprogramming or transfer is necessary as an emergency requirement.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8008. During the current fiscal year, cash balances in working capital funds of the Department of Defense established pursuant to section 2208 of title 10, United States Code, may be maintained in only such amounts as are necessary at any time for cash disbursements to be made from such funds: *Provided*, That transfers may be made between such funds: *Provided further*, That transfers may be made between working capital funds and the “Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Defense” appropriation and the “Operation and Maintenance” appropriation accounts in such amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, except that such transfers may not be made unless the Secretary of Defense has notified the Congress of the proposed transfer. Except in amounts equal to the amounts appropriated to working capital funds in this Act, no obligations may be made against a working capital fund to procure or increase the value of war reserve material inventory, unless the Secretary of Defense has notified the Congress prior to any such obligation.

SEC. 8009. Funds appropriated by this Act may not be used to initiate a special access program without prior notification 30 calendar days in advance to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 8010. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available to initiate: (1) a multiyear contract that employs economic order quantity procurement in excess of \$20,000,000 in any one year of the contract or that includes an unfunded contingent liability in excess of \$20,000,000; or (2) a contract for advance procurement leading to a multiyear contract that employs economic order quantity procurement in excess of \$20,000,000 in any one year, unless the congressional defense committees have been notified at least 30 days in advance of the proposed contract award: *Provided*, That no part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to initiate a multiyear contract for which the economic order quantity advance procurement is not funded at least to the limits of the Government's liability: *Provided further*, That no part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to initiate multiyear procurement contracts for any systems or component thereof if the value of the multiyear contract would exceed \$500,000,000 unless specifically provided in this Act: *Provided further*, That no multiyear procurement contract can be terminated without 10-day prior notification to the congressional defense committees: *Provided further*, That the execution of multiyear authority shall require the use of a present value analysis to determine lowest cost compared to an annual procurement: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act may be used for a multiyear contract executed after the date of the enactment of this Act unless in the case of any such contract—

(1) the Secretary of Defense has submitted to Congress a budget request for full funding

of units to be procured through the contract and, in the case of a contract for procurement of aircraft, that includes, for any aircraft unit to be procured through the contract for which procurement funds are requested in that budget request for production beyond advance procurement activities in the fiscal year covered by the budget, full funding of procurement of such unit in that fiscal year;

(2) cancellation provisions in the contract do not include consideration of recurring manufacturing costs of the contractor associated with the production of unfunded units to be delivered under the contract;

(3) the contract provides that payments to the contractor under the contract shall not be made in advance of incurred costs on funded units; and

(4) the contract does not provide for a price adjustment based on a failure to award a follow-on contract.

SEC. 8011. Within the funds appropriated for the operation and maintenance of the Armed Forces, funds are hereby appropriated pursuant to section 401 of title 10, United States Code, for humanitarian and civic assistance costs under chapter 20 of title 10, United States Code. Such funds may also be obligated for humanitarian and civic assistance costs incidental to authorized operations and pursuant to authority granted in section 401 of chapter 20 of title 10, United States Code, and these obligations shall be reported as required by section 401(d) of title 10, United States Code: *Provided*, That funds available for operation and maintenance shall be available for providing humanitarian and similar assistance by using Civic Action Teams in the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands and freely associated states of Micronesia, pursuant to the Compact of Free Association as authorized by Public Law 99-239: *Provided further*, That upon a determination by the Secretary of the Army that such action is beneficial for graduate medical education programs conducted at Army medical facilities located in Hawaii, the Secretary of the Army may authorize the provision of medical services at such facilities and transportation to such facilities, on a nonreimbursable basis, for civilian patients from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and Guam.

SEC. 8012. (a) During fiscal year 2015, the civilian personnel of the Department of Defense may not be managed on the basis of any end-strength, and the management of such personnel during that fiscal year shall not be subject to any constraint or limitation (known as an end-strength) on the number of such personnel who may be employed on the last day of such fiscal year.

(b) The fiscal year 2016 budget request for the Department of Defense as well as all justification material and other documentation supporting the fiscal year 2016 Department of Defense budget request shall be prepared and submitted to the Congress as if subsections (a) and (b) of this provision were effective with regard to fiscal year 2016.

(c) As required by section 1107 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note) civilian personnel at the Department of Army Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories may not be managed on the basis of the Table of Distribution and Allowances, and the management of the workforce strength shall be done in a manner consistent with the budget available with respect to such Laboratories.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to military (civilian) technicians.

SEC. 8013. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before the Congress.

SEC. 8014. None of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be available for the basic pay and allowances of any member of the Army participating as a full-time student and receiving benefits paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from the Department of Defense Education Benefits Fund when time spent as a full-time student is credited toward completion of a service commitment: *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to those members who have reenlisted with this option prior to October 1, 1987: *Provided further*, That this section applies only to active components of the Army.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8015. Funds appropriated in title III of this Act for the Department of Defense Pilot Mentor-Protege Program may be transferred to any other appropriation contained in this Act solely for the purpose of implementing a Mentor-Protege Program developmental assistance agreement pursuant to section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note), as amended, under the authority of this provision or any other transfer authority contained in this Act.

SEC. 8016. None of the funds in this Act may be available for the purchase by the Department of Defense (and its departments and agencies) of welded shipboard anchor and mooring chain 4 inches in diameter and under unless the anchor and mooring chain are manufactured in the United States from components which are substantially manufactured in the United States: *Provided*, That for the purpose of this section, the term “manufactured” shall include cutting, heat treating, quality control, testing of chain and welding (including the forging and shot blasting process): *Provided further*, That for the purpose of this section substantially all of the components of anchor and mooring chain shall be considered to be produced or manufactured in the United States if the aggregate cost of the components produced or manufactured outside the United States: *Provided further*, That when adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis, the Secretary of the service responsible for the procurement may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes.

SEC. 8017. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense in the current fiscal year or any fiscal year hereafter may be used to demilitarize or dispose of M-1 Carbines, M-1 Garand rifles, M-14 rifles, .22 caliber rifles, .30 caliber rifles, or M-1911 pistols, or to demilitarize or destroy small arms ammunition or ammunition components that are not otherwise prohibited from commercial sale under Federal law, unless the small arms ammunition or ammunition components are certified by the Secretary of the Army or designee as unserviceable or unsafe for further use.

SEC. 8018. No more than \$500,000 of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used during a single fiscal year

for any single relocation of an organization, unit, activity or function of the Department of Defense into or within the National Capital Region: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the congressional defense committees that such a relocation is required in the best interest of the Government.

SEC. 8019. Of the funds made available in this Act, \$15,000,000 shall be available for incentive payments authorized by section 504 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1544): *Provided*, That a prime contractor or a subcontractor at any tier that makes a subcontract award to any subcontractor or supplier as defined in section 1544 of title 25, United States Code, or a small business owned and controlled by an individual or individuals defined under section 4221(9) of title 25, United States Code, shall be considered a contractor for the purposes of being allowed additional compensation under section 504 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1544) whenever the prime contract or subcontract amount is over \$500,000 and involves the expenditure of funds appropriated by an Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense with respect to any fiscal year: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 1906 of title 41, United States Code, this section shall be applicable to any Department of Defense acquisition of supplies or services, including any contract and any subcontract at any tier for acquisition of commercial items produced or manufactured, in whole or in part, by any subcontractor or supplier defined in section 1544 of title 25, United States Code, or a small business owned and controlled by an individual or individuals defined under section 4221(9) of title 25, United States Code.

SEC. 8020. Funds appropriated by this Act for the Defense Media Activity shall not be used for any national or international political or psychological activities.

SEC. 8021. During the current fiscal year, the Department of Defense is authorized to incur obligations of not to exceed \$350,000,000 for purposes specified in section 2350(c) of title 10, United States Code, in anticipation of receipt of contributions, only from the Government of Kuwait, under that section: *Provided*, That upon receipt, such contributions from the Government of Kuwait shall be credited to the appropriations or fund which incurred such obligations.

SEC. 8022. (a) Of the funds made available in this Act, not less than \$39,500,000 shall be available for the Civil Air Patrol Corporation, of which—

(1) \$27,400,000 shall be available from “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force” to support Civil Air Patrol Corporation operation and maintenance, readiness, counter-drug activities, and drug demand reduction activities involving youth programs;

(2) \$10,400,000 shall be available from “Aircraft Procurement, Air Force”; and

(3) \$1,700,000 shall be available from “Other Procurement, Air Force” for vehicle procurement.

(b) The Secretary of the Air Force should waive reimbursement for any funds used by the Civil Air Patrol for counter-drug activities in support of Federal, State, and local government agencies.

SEC. 8023. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act are available to establish a new Department of Defense (department) federally funded research and development center (FFRDC), either as a new entity, or as a separate entity administered by an organization managing another FFRDC, or as a

nonprofit membership corporation consisting of a consortium of other FFRDCs and other nonprofit entities.

(b) No member of a Board of Directors, Trustees, Overseers, Advisory Group, Special Issues Panel, Visiting Committee, or any similar entity of a defense FFRDC, and no paid consultant to any defense FFRDC, except when acting in a technical advisory capacity, may be compensated for his or her services as a member of such entity, or as a paid consultant by more than one FFRDC in a fiscal year: *Provided*, That a member of any such entity referred to previously in this subsection shall be allowed travel expenses and per diem as authorized under the Federal Joint Travel Regulations, when engaged in the performance of membership duties.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds available to the department from any source during fiscal year 2015 may be used by a defense FFRDC, through a fee or other payment mechanism, for construction of new buildings, for payment of cost sharing for projects funded by Government grants, for absorption of contract overruns, or for certain charitable contributions, not to include employee participation in community service and/or development.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the funds available to the department during fiscal year 2015, not more than 5,750 staff years of technical effort (staff years) may be funded for defense FFRDCs: *Provided*, That of the specific amount referred to previously in this subsection, not more than 1,125 staff years may be funded for the defense studies and analysis FFRDCs: *Provided further*, That this subsection shall not apply to staff years funded in the National Intelligence Program (NIP) and the Military Intelligence Program (MIP).

(e) The Secretary of Defense shall, with the submission of the department's fiscal year 2016 budget request, submit a report presenting the specific amounts of staff years of technical effort to be allocated for each defense FFRDC during that fiscal year and the associated budget estimates.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount appropriated in this Act for FFRDCs is hereby reduced by \$40,000,000.

SEC. 8024. None of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used to procure carbon, alloy, or armor steel plate for use in any Government-owned facility or property under the control of the Department of Defense which were not melted and rolled in the United States or Canada: *Provided*, That these procurement restrictions shall apply to any and all Federal Supply Class 9515, American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) or American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) specifications of carbon, alloy or armor steel plate: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the military department responsible for the procurement may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis and that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes: *Provided further*, That these restrictions shall not apply to contracts which are in being as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8025. For the purposes of this Act, the term "congressional defense committees" means the Armed Services Committee of the

House of Representatives, the Armed Services Committee of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 8026. During the current fiscal year, the Department of Defense may acquire the modification, depot maintenance and repair of aircraft, vehicles and vessels as well as the production of components and other Defense-related articles, through competition between Department of Defense depot maintenance activities and private firms: *Provided*, That the Senior Acquisition Executive of the military department or Defense Agency concerned, with power of delegation, shall certify that successful bids include comparable estimates of all direct and indirect costs for both public and private bids: *Provided further*, That Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 shall not apply to competitions conducted under this section.

SEC. 8027. (a)(1) If the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the United States Trade Representative, determines that a foreign country which is party to an agreement described in paragraph (2) has violated the terms of the agreement by discriminating against certain types of products produced in the United States that are covered by the agreement, the Secretary of Defense shall rescind the Secretary's blanket waiver of the Buy American Act with respect to such types of products produced in that foreign country.

(2) An agreement referred to in paragraph (1) is any reciprocal defense procurement memorandum of understanding, between the United States and a foreign country pursuant to which the Secretary of Defense has prospectively waived the Buy American Act for certain products in that country.

(b) The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Congress a report on the amount of Department of Defense purchases from foreign entities in fiscal year 2015. Such report shall separately indicate the dollar value of items for which the Buy American Act was waived pursuant to any agreement described in subsection (a)(2), the Trade Agreement Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), or any international agreement to which the United States is a party.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term "Buy American Act" means chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

SEC. 8028. During the current fiscal year, amounts contained in the Department of Defense Overseas Military Facility Investment Recovery Account established by section 2921(c)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 1991 (Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) shall be available until expended for the payments specified by section 2921(c)(2) of that Act.

SEC. 8029. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Air Force may convey at no cost to the Air Force, without consideration, to Indian tribes located in the States of Nevada, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Oregon, Minnesota, and Washington relocatable military housing units located at Grand Forks Air Force Base, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Ellsworth Air Force Base, and Minot Air Force Base that are excess to the needs of the Air Force.

(b) The Secretary of the Air Force shall convey, at no cost to the Air Force, military housing units under subsection (a) in accordance with the request for such units that are

submitted to the Secretary by the Operation Walking Shield Program on behalf of Indian tribes located in the States of Nevada, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Oregon, Minnesota, and Washington. Any such conveyance shall be subject to the condition that the housing units shall be removed within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) The Operation Walking Shield Program shall resolve any conflicts among requests of Indian tribes for housing units under subsection (a) before submitting requests to the Secretary of the Air Force under subsection (b).

(d) In this section, the term "Indian tribe" means any recognized Indian tribe included on the current list published by the Secretary of the Interior under section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-454; 108 Stat. 4792; 25 U.S.C. 479a-1).

SEC. 8030. During the current fiscal year, appropriations which are available to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance may be used to purchase items having an investment item unit cost of not more than \$250,000.

SEC. 8031. (a) During the current fiscal year, none of the appropriations or funds available to the Department of Defense Working Capital Funds shall be used for the purchase of an investment item for the purpose of acquiring a new inventory item for sale or anticipated sale during the current fiscal year or a subsequent fiscal year to customers of the Department of Defense Working Capital Funds if such an item would not have been chargeable to the Department of Defense Business Operations Fund during fiscal year 1994 and if the purchase of such an investment item would be chargeable during the current fiscal year to appropriations made to the Department of Defense for procurement.

(b) The fiscal year 2016 budget request for the Department of Defense as well as all justification material and other documentation supporting the fiscal year 2016 Department of Defense budget shall be prepared and submitted to the Congress on the basis that any equipment which was classified as an end item and funded in a procurement appropriation contained in this Act shall be budgeted for in a proposed fiscal year 2016 procurement appropriation and not in the supply management business area or any other area or category of the Department of Defense Working Capital Funds.

SEC. 8032. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for programs of the Central Intelligence Agency shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, except for funds appropriated for the Reserve for Contingencies, which shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That funds appropriated, transferred, or otherwise credited to the Central Intelligence Agency Central Services Working Capital Fund during this or any prior or subsequent fiscal year shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That any funds appropriated or transferred to the Central Intelligence Agency for advanced research and development acquisition, for agent operations, and for covert action programs authorized by the President under section 503 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3093) shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

SEC. 8033. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this Act for the Defense Intelligence Agency may be used for the design, development, and deployment of General Defense Intelligence

Program intelligence communications and intelligence information systems for the Services, the Unified and Specified Commands, and the component commands.

SEC. 8034. Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Defense under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", not less than \$12,000,000 shall be made available only for the mitigation of environmental impacts, including training and technical assistance to tribes, related administrative support, the gathering of information, documenting of environmental damage, and developing a system for prioritization of mitigation and cost to complete estimates for mitigation, on Indian lands resulting from Department of Defense activities.

SEC. 8035. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be expended by an entity of the Department of Defense unless the entity, in expending the funds, complies with the Buy American Act. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Buy American Act" means chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

(b) If the Secretary of Defense determines that a person has been convicted of intentionally affixing a label bearing a "Made in America" inscription to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in America, the Secretary shall determine, in accordance with section 2410f of title 10, United States Code, whether the person should be debarred from contracting with the Department of Defense.

(c) In the case of any equipment or products purchased with appropriations provided under this Act, it is the sense of the Congress that any entity of the Department of Defense, in expending the appropriation, purchase only American-made equipment and products, provided that American-made equipment and products are cost-competitive, quality competitive, and available in a timely fashion.

SEC. 8036. None of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be available for a contract for studies, analysis, or consulting services entered into without competition on the basis of an unsolicited proposal unless the head of the activity responsible for the procurement determines—

(1) as a result of thorough technical evaluation, only one source is found fully qualified to perform the proposed work;

(2) the purpose of the contract is to explore an unsolicited proposal which offers significant scientific or technological promise, represents the product of original thinking, and was submitted in confidence by one source; or

(3) the purpose of the contract is to take advantage of unique and significant industrial accomplishment by a specific concern, or to insure that a new product or idea of a specific concern is given financial support: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not apply to contracts in an amount of less than \$25,000, contracts related to improvements of equipment that is in development or production, or contracts as to which a civilian official of the Department of Defense, who has been confirmed by the Senate, determines that the award of such contract is in the interest of the national defense.

SEC. 8037. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used—

(1) to establish a field operating agency; or

(2) to pay the basic pay of a member of the Armed Forces or civilian employee of the department who is transferred or reassigned from a headquarters activity if the member or employee's place of duty remains at the location of that headquarters.

(b) The Secretary of Defense or Secretary of a military department may waive the limitations in subsection (a), on a case-by-case basis, if the Secretary determines, and certifies to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the granting of the waiver will reduce the personnel requirements or the financial requirements of the department.

(c) This section does not apply to—

(1) field operating agencies funded within the National Intelligence Program;

(2) an Army field operating agency established to eliminate, mitigate, or counter the effects of improvised explosive devices, and, as determined by the Secretary of the Army, other similar threats;

(3) an Army field operating agency established to improve the effectiveness and efficiencies of biometric activities and to integrate common biometric technologies throughout the Department of Defense; or

(4) an Air Force field operating agency established to administer the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Program and Mortuary Operations for the Department of Defense and authorized Federal entities.

SEC. 8038. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to convert to contractor performance an activity or function of the Department of Defense that, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, is performed by Department of Defense civilian employees unless—

(1) the conversion is based on the result of a public-private competition that includes a most efficient and cost effective organization plan developed by such activity or function;

(2) the Competitive Sourcing Official determines that, over all performance periods stated in the solicitation of offers for performance of the activity or function, the cost of performance of the activity or function by a contractor would be less costly to the Department of Defense by an amount that equals or exceeds the lesser of—

(A) 10 percent of the most efficient organization's personnel-related costs for performance of that activity or function by Federal employees; or

(B) \$10,000,000; and

(3) the contractor does not receive an advantage for a proposal that would reduce costs for the Department of Defense by—

(A) not making an employer-sponsored health insurance plan available to the workers who are to be employed in the performance of that activity or function under the contract; or

(B) offering to such workers an employer-sponsored health benefits plan that requires the employer to contribute less towards the premium or subscription share than the amount that is paid by the Department of Defense for health benefits for civilian employees under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code.

(b)(1) The Department of Defense, without regard to subsection (a) of this section or subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 2461 of title 10, United States Code, and notwithstanding any administrative regulation, requirement, or policy to the contrary shall have full authority to enter into a contract for the performance of any commercial or industrial type function of the Department of Defense that—

(A) is included on the procurement list established pursuant to section 2 of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (section 8503 of title 41, United States Code);

(B) is planned to be converted to performance by a qualified nonprofit agency for the

blind or by a qualified nonprofit agency for other severely handicapped individuals in accordance with that Act; or

(C) is planned to be converted to performance by a qualified firm under at least 51 percent ownership by an Indian tribe, as defined in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)), or a Native Hawaiian Organization, as defined in section 8(a)(15) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(15)).

(2) This section shall not apply to depot contracts or contracts for depot maintenance as provided in sections 2469 and 2474 of title 10, United States Code.

(c) The conversion of any activity or function of the Department of Defense under the authority provided by this section shall be credited toward any competitive or outsourcing goal, target, or measurement that may be established by statute, regulation, or policy and is deemed to be awarded under the authority of, and in compliance with, subsection (h) of section 2304 of title 10, United States Code, for the competition or outsourcing of commercial activities.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 8039. Of the funds appropriated in Department of Defense Appropriations Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts:

"Aircraft Procurement, Army", 2013/2015, \$27,000,000;

"Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army", 2013/2015, \$5,000,000;

"Other Procurement, Army", 2013/2015, \$30,000,000;

"Aircraft Procurement, Navy", 2013/2015, \$47,200,000;

"Weapons Procurement, Navy", 2013/2015, \$27,000,000;

"Aircraft Procurement, Air Force", 2013/2015, \$71,100,000;

"Missile Procurement, Air Force", 2013/2015, \$13,800,000;

"Other Procurement, Army", 2014/2016, \$200,000,000;

"Aircraft Procurement, Navy", 2014/2016, \$171,622,000;

"Weapons Procurement, Navy", 2014/2016, \$91,436,000;

"Other Procurement, Navy", 2014/2016, \$1,505,000;

"Aircraft Procurement, Air Force", 2014/2016, \$47,400,000;

"Missile Procurement, Air Force", 2014/2016, \$121,185,000;

"Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army", 2014/2015, \$5,000,000; and

"Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy", 2014/2015, \$105,400,000;

Provided, That no amounts may be canceled from amounts that were designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

SEC. 8040. None of the funds available in this Act may be used to reduce the authorized positions for military technicians (dual status) of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve and Air Force Reserve for the purpose of applying any administratively imposed civilian personnel ceiling, freeze, or reduction on military technicians (dual status), unless such reductions are a direct result of a reduction in military force structure.

SEC. 8041. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for assistance to

the Democratic People's Republic of Korea unless specifically appropriated for that purpose.

SEC. 8042. Funds appropriated in this Act for operation and maintenance of the Military Departments, Combatant Commands and Defense Agencies shall be available for reimbursement of pay, allowances and other expenses which would otherwise be incurred against appropriations for the National Guard and Reserve when members of the National Guard and Reserve provide intelligence or counterintelligence support to Combatant Commands, Defense Agencies and Joint Intelligence Activities, including the activities and programs included within the National Intelligence Program and the Military Intelligence Program: *Provided*, That nothing in this section authorizes deviation from established Reserve and National Guard personnel and training procedures.

SEC. 8043. During the current fiscal year, none of the funds appropriated in this Act may be used to reduce the civilian medical and medical support personnel assigned to military treatment facilities below the September 30, 2003, level: *Provided*, That the Service Surgeons General may waive this section by certifying to the congressional defense committees that the beneficiary population is declining in some catchment areas and civilian strength reductions may be consistent with responsible resource stewardship and capitation-based budgeting.

SEC. 8044. (a) None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for any fiscal year for drug interdiction or counter-drug activities may be transferred to any other department or agency of the United States except as specifically provided in an appropriations law.

(b) None of the funds available to the Central Intelligence Agency for any fiscal year for drug interdiction or counter-drug activities may be transferred to any other department or agency of the United States except as specifically provided in an appropriations law.

SEC. 8045. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used for the procurement of ball and roller bearings other than those produced by a domestic source and of domestic origin: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the military department responsible for such procurement may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, that adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis and that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes: *Provided further*, That this restriction shall not apply to the purchase of "commercial items", as defined by section 4(12) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act, except that the restriction shall apply to ball or roller bearings purchased as end items.

SEC. 8046. None of the funds in this Act may be used to purchase any supercomputer which is not manufactured in the United States, unless the Secretary of Defense certifies to the congressional defense committees that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes that is not available from United States manufacturers.

SEC. 8047. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to pay the salary of any officer or employee of the Department of Defense who approves or implements the transfer of administrative re-

sponsibilities or budgetary resources of any program, project, or activity financed by this Act to the jurisdiction of another Federal agency not financed by this Act without the express authorization of Congress: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not apply to transfers of funds expressly provided for in Defense Appropriations Acts, or provisions of Acts providing supplemental appropriations for the Department of Defense.

SEC. 8048. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds available to the Department of Defense for the current fiscal year may be obligated or expended to transfer to another nation or an international organization any defense articles or services (other than intelligence services) for use in the activities described in subsection (b) unless the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate are notified 15 days in advance of such transfer.

(b) This section applies to—

(1) any international peacekeeping or peace-enforcement operation under the authority of chapter VI or chapter VII of the United Nations Charter under the authority of a United Nations Security Council resolution; and

(2) any other international peacekeeping, peace-enforcement, or humanitarian assistance operation.

(c) A notice under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the equipment, supplies, or services to be transferred.

(2) A statement of the value of the equipment, supplies, or services to be transferred.

(3) In the case of a proposed transfer of equipment or supplies—

(A) a statement of whether the inventory requirements of all elements of the Armed Forces (including the reserve components) for the type of equipment or supplies to be transferred have been met; and

(B) a statement of whether the items proposed to be transferred will have to be replaced and, if so, how the President proposes to provide funds for such replacement.

SEC. 8049. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense under this Act shall be obligated or expended to pay a contractor under a contract with the Department of Defense for costs of any amount paid by the contractor to an employee when—

(1) such costs are for a bonus or otherwise in excess of the normal salary paid by the contractor to the employee; and

(2) such bonus is part of restructuring costs associated with a business combination.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8050. During the current fiscal year, no more than \$30,000,000 of appropriations made in this Act under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide" may be transferred to appropriations available for the pay of military personnel, to be merged with, and to be available for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred, to be used in support of such personnel in connection with support and services for eligible organizations and activities outside the Department of Defense pursuant to section 2012 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8051. During the current fiscal year, in the case of an appropriation account of the Department of Defense for which the period of availability for obligation has expired or which has closed under the provisions of section 1552 of title 31, United States Code, and which has a negative unliquidated or unex-

pendent balance, an obligation or an adjustment of an obligation may be charged to any current appropriation account for the same purpose as the expired or closed account if—

(1) the obligation would have been properly chargeable (except as to amount) to the expired or closed account before the end of the period of availability or closing of that account;

(2) the obligation is not otherwise properly chargeable to any current appropriation account of the Department of Defense; and

(3) in the case of an expired account, the obligation is not chargeable to a current appropriation of the Department of Defense under the provisions of section 1405(b)(8) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991, Public Law 101-510, as amended (31 U.S.C. 1551 note): *Provided*, That in the case of an expired account, if subsequent review or investigation discloses that there was not in fact a negative unliquidated or unexpended balance in the account, any charge to a current account under the authority of this section shall be reversed and recorded against the expired account: *Provided further*, That the total amount charged to a current appropriation under this section may not exceed an amount equal to 1 percent of the total appropriation for that account.

SEC. 8052. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau may permit the use of equipment of the National Guard Distance Learning Project by any person or entity on a space-available, reimbursable basis. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall establish the amount of reimbursement for such use on a case-by-case basis.

(b) Amounts collected under subsection (a) shall be credited to funds available for the National Guard Distance Learning Project and be available to defray the costs associated with the use of equipment of the project under that subsection. Such funds shall be available for such purposes without fiscal year limitation.

SEC. 8053. Using funds made available by this Act or any other Act, the Secretary of the Air Force, pursuant to a determination under section 2690 of title 10, United States Code, may implement cost-effective agreements for required heating facility modernization in the Kaiserslautern Military Community in the Federal Republic of Germany: *Provided*, That in the City of Kaiserslautern and at the Rhine Ordnance Barracks area, such agreements will include the use of United States anthracite as the base load energy for municipal district heat to the United States Defense installations: *Provided further*, That at Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center and Ramstein Air Base, furnished heat may be obtained from private, regional or municipal services, if provisions are included for the consideration of United States coal as an energy source.

SEC. 8054. None of the funds appropriated in title IV of this Act may be used to procure end-items for delivery to military forces for operational training, operational use or inventory requirements: *Provided*, That this restriction does not apply to end-items used in development, prototyping, and test activities preceding and leading to acceptance for operational use: *Provided further*, That this restriction does not apply to programs funded within the National Intelligence Program: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that it is in the national security interest to do so.

SEC. 8055. (a) The Secretary of Defense may, on a case-by-case basis, waive with respect to a foreign country each limitation on the procurement of defense items from foreign sources provided in law if the Secretary determines that the application of the limitation with respect to that country would invalidate cooperative programs entered into between the Department of Defense and the foreign country, or would invalidate reciprocal trade agreements for the procurement of defense items entered into under section 2531 of title 10, United States Code, and the country does not discriminate against the same or similar defense items produced in the United States for that country.

(b) Subsection (a) applies with respect to—
(1) contracts and subcontracts entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) options for the procurement of items that are exercised after such date under contracts that are entered into before such date if the option prices are adjusted for any reason other than the application of a waiver granted under subsection (a).

(c) Subsection (a) does not apply to a limitation regarding construction of public vessels, ball and roller bearings, food, and clothing or textile materials as defined by section 11 (chapters 50-65) of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule and products classified under headings 4010, 4202, 4203, 6401 through 6406, 6505, 7019, 7218 through 7229, 7304.41 through 7304.49, 7306.40, 7502 through 7508, 8105, 8108, 8109, 8211, 8215, and 9404.

SEC. 8056. (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for any training, equipment, or other assistance for the members of a unit of a foreign security force if the Secretary of Defense has credible information that the unit has committed a gross violation of human rights.

(2) The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall ensure that prior to a decision to provide any training, equipment, or other assistance to a unit of a foreign security force full consideration is given to any credible information available to the Department of State relating to human rights violations by such unit.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition in subsection (a)(1) shall not apply if the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary of State, determines that the government of such country has taken all necessary corrective steps, or if the equipment or other assistance is necessary to assist in disaster relief operations or other humanitarian or national security emergencies.

(c) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary of State, may waive the prohibition in subsection (a)(1) if the Secretary of Defense determines that such waiver is required by extraordinary circumstances.

(d) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish, and periodically update, procedures to ensure that any information in the possession of the Department of Defense about gross violations of human rights by units of foreign security forces is shared on a timely basis with the Department of State.

(e) REPORT.—Not more than 15 days after the application of any exception under subsection (b) or the exercise of any waiver under subsection (c), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report—

(1) in the case of an exception under subsection (b), providing notice of the use of the exception and stating the grounds for the exception; and

(2) in the case of a waiver under subsection (c), describing the information relating to the gross violation of human rights; the extraordinary or other circumstances that necessitate the waiver; the purpose and duration of the training, equipment, or other assistance; and the United States forces and the foreign security force unit involved.

(f) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the congressional defense committees and the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 8057. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or other Department of Defense Appropriations Acts may be obligated or expended for the purpose of performing repairs or maintenance to military family housing units of the Department of Defense, including areas in such military family housing units that may be used for the purpose of conducting official Department of Defense business.

SEC. 8058. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated in this Act under the heading “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide” for any new start advanced concept technology demonstration project or joint capability demonstration project may only be obligated 45 days after a report, including a description of the project, the planned acquisition and transition strategy and its estimated annual and total cost, has been provided in writing to the congressional defense committees: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying to the congressional defense committees that it is in the national interest to do so.

SEC. 8059. The Secretary of Defense shall provide a classified quarterly report beginning 30 days after enactment of this Act, to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, Subcommittees on Defense on certain matters as directed in the classified annex accompanying this Act.

SEC. 8060. During the current fiscal year, none of the funds available to the Department of Defense may be used to provide support to another department or agency of the United States if such department or agency is more than 90 days in arrears in making payment to the Department of Defense for goods or services previously provided to such department or agency on a reimbursable basis: *Provided*, That this restriction shall not apply if the department is authorized by law to provide support to such department or agency on a nonreimbursable basis, and is providing the requested support pursuant to such authority: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that it is in the national security interest to do so.

SEC. 8061. Notwithstanding section 12310(b) of title 10, United States Code, a Reserve who is a member of the National Guard serving on full-time National Guard duty under section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, may perform duties in support of the ground-based elements of the National Ballistic Missile Defense System.

SEC. 8062. None of the funds provided in this Act may be used to transfer to any non-governmental entity ammunition held by the Department of Defense that has a center-fire cartridge and a United States military nomenclature designation of “armor penetrator”, “armor piercing (AP)”, “armor piercing incendiary (API)”, or “armor-piercing incendiary tracer (API-T)”, except to an entity performing demilitarization services for the Department of Defense under a contract that requires the entity to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department of Defense that armor piercing projectiles are either: (1) rendered incapable of reuse by the demilitarization process; or (2) used to manufacture ammunition pursuant to a contract with the Department of Defense or the manufacture of ammunition for export pursuant to a License for Permanent Export of Unclassified Military Articles issued by the Department of State.

SEC. 8063. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, may waive payment of all or part of the consideration that otherwise would be required under section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, in the case of a lease of personal property for a period not in excess of 1 year to any organization specified in section 508(d) of title 32, United States Code, or any other youth, social, or fraternal nonprofit organization as may be approved by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, on a case-by-case basis.

SEC. 8064. None of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be used for the support of any nonappropriated funds activity of the Department of Defense that procures malt beverages and wine with nonappropriated funds for resale (including such alcoholic beverages sold by the drink) on a military installation located in the United States unless such malt beverages and wine are procured within that State, or in the case of the District of Columbia, within the District of Columbia, in which the military installation is located: *Provided*, That in a case in which the military installation is located in more than one State, purchases may be made in any State in which the installation is located: *Provided further*, That such local procurement requirements for malt beverages and wine shall apply to all alcoholic beverages only for military installations in States which are not contiguous with another State: *Provided further*, That alcoholic beverages other than wine and malt beverages, in contiguous States and the District of Columbia shall be procured from the most competitive source, price and other factors considered.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8065. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading “Operation and Maintenance, Army”, \$106,189,900 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Defense is authorized to transfer such funds to other activities of the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense is authorized to enter into and carry out contracts for the acquisition of real property, construction, personal services, and operations related to projects carrying out the purposes of this section: *Provided further*, That contracts entered into under the authority of this section may provide for such indemnification as the Secretary determines to be necessary: *Provided further*, That projects authorized by this section shall comply with applicable Federal, State, and local law to the maximum extent consistent with the national security, as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 8066. Section 8106 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1997 (titles I through VIII of the matter under subsection 101(b) of Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-111; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) shall continue in effect to apply to disbursements that are made

by the Department of Defense in fiscal year 2015.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8067. During the current fiscal year, not to exceed \$200,000,000 from funds available under “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” may be transferred to the Department of State “Global Security Contingency Fund”: *Provided*, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than 30 days prior to making transfers to the Department of State “Global Security Contingency Fund”, notify the congressional defense committees in writing with the source of funds and a detailed justification, execution plan, and timeline for each proposed project.

SEC. 8068. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, \$4,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense, to remain available for obligation until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, that upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that it shall serve the national interest, these funds shall be available only for a grant to the Fisher House Foundation, Inc., only for the construction and furnishing of additional Fisher Houses to meet the needs of military family members when confronted with the illness or hospitalization of an eligible military beneficiary.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8069. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the headings “Procurement, Defense-Wide” and “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide”, \$619,814,000 shall be for the Israeli Cooperative Programs: *Provided*, That of this amount, \$350,972,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel for the procurement of the Iron Dome defense system to counter short-range rocket threats; \$137,934,000 shall be for the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense (SRBMD) program, including cruise missile defense research and development under the SRBMD program; \$74,707,000 shall be for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture; and \$56,201,000 shall be for the Arrow System Improvement Program including development of a long range, ground and airborne, detection suite: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this provision for production of missiles and missile components may be transferred to appropriations available for the procurement of weapons and equipment, to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this provision is in addition to any other transfer authority contained in this Act.

SEC. 8070. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense may be obligated to modify command and control relationships to give Fleet Forces Command operational and administrative control of U.S. Navy forces assigned to the Pacific fleet: *Provided*, That the command and control relationships which existed on October 1, 2004, shall remain in force unless changes are specifically authorized in a subsequent Act: *Provided further*, That this section does not apply to administrative control of Navy Air and Missile Defense Command.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8071. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading “Shipbuilding

and Conversion, Navy”, \$1,007,285,000 shall be available until September 30, 2015, to fund prior year shipbuilding cost increases: *Provided*, That upon enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall transfer funds to the following appropriations in the amounts specified: *Provided further*, That the amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes as the appropriations to which transferred to:

(1) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2008/2015: Carrier Replacement Program \$663,000,000;

(2) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2009/2015: LPD-17 Amphibious Transport Dock Program \$54,096,000;

(3) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2010/2015: DDG-51 Destroyer \$65,771,000;

(4) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2010/2015: Littoral Combat Ship \$51,345,000;

(5) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2011/2015: DDG-51 Destroyer \$63,373,000;

(6) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2011/2015: Littoral Combat Ship \$41,700,000;

(7) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2011/2015: Joint High Speed Vessel \$9,340,000;

(8) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2012/2015: CVN Refueling Overhauls Program \$54,000,000;

(9) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2012/2015: Joint High Speed Vessel \$2,620,000; and

(10) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2013/2015: Joint High Speed Vessel \$2,040,000.

SEC. 8072. Funds appropriated by this Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2015 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

SEC. 8073. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity unless such program, project, or activity must be undertaken immediately in the interest of national security and only after written prior notification to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 8074. The budget of the President for fiscal year 2016 submitted to the Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, shall include separate budget justification documents for costs of United States Armed Forces’ participation in contingency operations for the Military Personnel accounts, the Operation and Maintenance accounts, the Procurement accounts, and the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation accounts: *Provided*, That these documents shall include a description of the funding requested for each contingency operation, for each military service, to include all Active and Reserve components, and for each appropriations account: *Provided further*, That these documents shall include estimated costs for each element of expense or object class, a reconciliation of increases and decreases for each contingency operation, and programmatic data including, but not limited to, troop strength for each Active and Reserve component, and estimates of the major weapons systems deployed in support of each contingency: *Provided further*, That

these documents shall include budget exhibits OP-5 and OP-32 (as defined in the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation) for all contingency operations for the budget year and the two preceding fiscal years.

SEC. 8075. None of the funds in this Act may be used for research, development, test, evaluation, procurement, or deployment of nuclear armed interceptors of a missile defense system.

SEC. 8076. In addition to the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available elsewhere in this Act, \$44,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense: *Provided*, That upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that it shall serve the national interest, the Secretary shall make grants in the amounts specified as follows: \$20,000,000 to the United Service Organizations and \$24,000,000 to the Red Cross.

SEC. 8077. None of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used to reduce or disestablish the operation of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the Air Force Reserve, if such action would reduce the WC-130 Weather Reconnaissance mission below the levels funded in this Act: *Provided*, That the Air Force shall allow the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron to perform other missions in support of national defense requirements during the non-hurricane season.

SEC. 8078. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for integration of foreign intelligence information unless the information has been lawfully collected and processed during the conduct of authorized foreign intelligence activities: *Provided*, That information pertaining to United States persons shall only be handled in accordance with protections provided in the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution as implemented through Executive Order No. 12333.

SEC. 8079. (a) At the time members of reserve components of the Armed Forces are called or ordered to active duty under section 12302(a) of title 10, United States Code, each member shall be notified in writing of the expected period during which the member will be mobilized.

(b) The Secretary of Defense may waive the requirements of subsection (a) in any case in which the Secretary determines that it is necessary to do so to respond to a national security emergency or to meet dire operational requirements of the Armed Forces.

SEC. 8080. For purposes of section 7108 of title 41, United States Code, any subdivision of appropriations made under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy” that is not closed at the time reimbursement is made shall be available to reimburse the Judgment Fund and shall be considered for the same purposes as any subdivision under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy” appropriations in the current fiscal year or any prior fiscal year.

SEC. 8081. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to transfer research and development, acquisition, or other program authority relating to current tactical unmanned aerial vehicles (TUAUVs) from the Army.

(b) The Army shall retain responsibility for and operational control of the MQ-1C Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) in order to support the Secretary of Defense in matters relating to the employment of unmanned aerial vehicles.

SEC. 8082. Up to \$15,000,000 of the funds appropriated under the heading “Operation and

Maintenance, Navy” may be made available for the Asia Pacific Regional Initiative Program for the purpose of enabling the Pacific Command to execute Theater Security Cooperation activities such as humanitarian assistance, and payment of incremental and personnel costs of training and exercising with foreign security forces: *Provided*, That funds made available for this purpose may be used, notwithstanding any other funding authorities for humanitarian assistance, security assistance or combined exercise expenses: *Provided further*, That funds may not be obligated to provide assistance to any foreign country that is otherwise prohibited from receiving such type of assistance under any other provision of law.

SEC. 8083. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for programs of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, except for funds appropriated for research and technology, which shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

SEC. 8084. For purposes of section 1553(b) of title 31, United States Code, any subdivision of appropriations made in this Act under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy” shall be considered to be for the same purpose as any subdivision under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy” appropriations in any prior fiscal year, and the 1 percent limitation shall apply to the total amount of the appropriation.

SEC. 8085. (a) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit a report to the congressional intelligence committees to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for fiscal year 2015: *Provided*, That the report shall include—

(1) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President’s budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(2) a delineation in the table for each appropriation by Expenditure Center and project; and

(3) an identification of items of special congressional interest.

SEC. 8086. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to eliminate, restructure or realign Army Contracting Command-New Jersey or make disproportionate personnel reductions at any Army Contracting Command-New Jersey sites without 30-day prior notification to the congressional defense committees.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8087. Of the funds appropriated in the Intelligence Community Management Account for the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment, \$20,000,000 is available for transfer by the Director of National Intelligence to other departments and agencies for purposes of Government-wide information sharing activities: *Provided*, That funds transferred under this provision are to be merged with and available for the same purposes and time period as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That the Office of Management and Budget must approve any transfers made under this provision.

SEC. 8088. (a) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this or any prior appropriations Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) that—

(1) creates a new start effort;

(2) terminates a program with appropriated funding of \$10,000,000 or more;

(3) transfers funding into or out of the National Intelligence Program; or

(4) transfers funding between appropriations,

unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; this notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements.

(b) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this or any prior appropriations Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) or the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) that results in a cumulative increase or decrease of the levels specified in the classified annex accompanying the Act unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; this notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements.

SEC. 8089. The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress each year, at or about the time that the President’s budget is submitted to Congress that year under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a future-years intelligence program (including associated annexes) reflecting the estimated expenditures and proposed appropriations included in that budget. Any such future-years intelligence program shall cover the fiscal year with respect to which the budget is submitted and at least the four succeeding fiscal years.

SEC. 8090. For the purposes of this Act, the term “congressional intelligence committees” means the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 8091. The Department of Defense shall continue to report incremental contingency operations costs for Operation Enduring Freedom on a monthly basis and any other operation designated and identified by the Secretary of Defense for the purposes of section 127a of title 10, United States Code, on a semi-annual basis in the Cost of War Execution Report as prescribed in the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation Department of Defense Instruction 7000.14, Volume 12, Chapter 23 “Contingency Operations”, Annex 1, dated September 2005.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8092. During the current fiscal year, not to exceed \$11,000,000 from each of the appropriations made in title II of this Act for “Operation and Maintenance, Army”, “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, and “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force” may be transferred by the military department concerned to its central fund established for Fisher Houses and Suites pursuant to section 2493(d) of title 10, United States Code.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8093. Funds appropriated by this Act for operation and maintenance may be available for the purpose of making remittances and transfers to the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund in accordance with section 1705 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8094. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to

subsections (b) and (c), post on the public website of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 8095. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be expended for any Federal contract for an amount in excess of \$1,000,000, unless the contractor agrees not to—

(1) enter into any agreement with any of its employees or independent contractors that requires, as a condition of employment, that the employee or independent contractor agree to resolve through arbitration any claim under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or any tort related to or arising out of sexual assault or harassment, including assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, false imprisonment, or negligent hiring, supervision, or retention; or

(2) take any action to enforce any provision of an existing agreement with an employee or independent contractor that mandates that the employee or independent contractor resolve through arbitration any claim under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or any tort related to or arising out of sexual assault or harassment, including assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, false imprisonment, or negligent hiring, supervision, or retention.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be expended for any Federal contract unless the contractor certifies that it requires each covered subcontractor to agree not to enter into, and not to take any action to enforce any provision of, any agreement as described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), with respect to any employee or independent contractor performing work related to such subcontract. For purposes of this subsection, a “covered subcontractor” is an entity that has a subcontract in excess of \$1,000,000 on a contract subject to subsection (a).

(c) The prohibitions in this section do not apply with respect to a contractor’s or subcontractor’s agreements with employees or independent contractors that may not be enforced in a court of the United States.

(d) The Secretary of Defense may waive the application of subsection (a) or (b) to a particular contractor or subcontractor for the purposes of a particular contract or subcontract if the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary personally determines that the waiver is necessary to avoid harm to national security interests of the United States, and that the term of the contract or subcontract is not longer than necessary to avoid such harm. The determination shall set forth with specificity the grounds for the waiver and for the contract or subcontract term selected, and shall state any alternatives considered in lieu of a waiver and the reasons each such alternative would not avoid harm to national security interests of the United States. The Secretary of Defense shall transmit to Congress, and simultaneously make public, any determination under this subsection not less than 15 business days before

the contract or subcontract addressed in the determination may be awarded.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8096. From within the funds appropriated for operation and maintenance for the Defense Health Program in this Act, up to \$146,857,000, shall be available for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund in accordance with the provisions of section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111-84: *Provided*, That for purposes of section 1704(b), the facility operations funded are operations of the integrated Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, consisting of the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Navy Ambulatory Care Center, and supporting facilities designated as a combined Federal medical facility as described by section 706 of Public Law 110-417: *Provided further*, That additional funds may be transferred from funds appropriated for operation and maintenance for the Defense Health Program to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Defense to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 8097. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence shall not employ more Senior Executive employees than are specified in the classified annex.

SEC. 8098. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to pay a retired general or flag officer to serve as a senior mentor advising the Department of Defense unless such retired officer files a Standard Form 278 (or successor form concerning public financial disclosure under part 2634 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations) to the Office of Government Ethics.

SEC. 8099. Appropriations available to the Department of Defense may be used for the purchase of heavy and light armored vehicles for the physical security of personnel or for force protection purposes up to a limit of \$250,000 per vehicle, notwithstanding price or other limitations applicable to the purchase of passenger carrying vehicles.

SEC. 8100. Of the amounts appropriated for "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide" the following amounts shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, for the following authorized purposes, notwithstanding any other provision of law, acting through the Office of Economic Adjustment of the Department of Defense, to make grants, conclude cooperative agreements, and supplement other Federal funds, to remain available until expended, to support critical existing and enduring military installations and missions on Guam, as well as any potential Department of Defense growth, \$80,596,000 for addressing the need for civilian water and wastewater improvements: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than 15 days prior to obligating funds for the forgoing purposes, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such obligation.

SEC. 8101. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Defense to take beneficial occupancy of more than 3,000 parking spaces (other than handicap-reserved spaces) to be provided by the BRAC 133 project: *Provided*, That this limitation may be waived in part if: (1) the Secretary of Defense certifies to Congress that levels of service at existing intersections in the vicinity of the project have not experi-

enced failing levels of service as defined by the Transportation Research Board Highway Capacity Manual over a consecutive 90-day period; (2) the Department of Defense and the Virginia Department of Transportation agree on the number of additional parking spaces that may be made available to employees of the facility subject to continued 90-day traffic monitoring; and (3) the Secretary of Defense notifies the congressional defense committees in writing at least 14 days prior to exercising this waiver of the number of additional parking spaces to be made available.

SEC. 8102. The Secretary of Defense shall report quarterly the numbers of civilian personnel end strength by appropriation account for each and every appropriation account used to finance Federal civilian personnel salaries to the congressional defense committees within 15 days after the end of each fiscal quarter.

SEC. 8103. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this or any other Act may be used to take any action to modify—

(1) the appropriations account structure for the National Intelligence Program budget, including through the creation of a new appropriation or new appropriations account;

(2) how the National Intelligence Program budget request is presented, organized, and managed within the Department of Defense budget;

(3) how the National Intelligence Program appropriations are apportioned to the executing agencies; or

(4) how the National Intelligence Program appropriations are allotted, obligated and disbursed.

(b) The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense may jointly, only for the purposes of achieving auditable financial statements and improving fiscal reporting, study and develop detailed proposals for alternative financial management processes. Such study shall include a comprehensive counterintelligence risk assessment to ensure that none of the alternative processes will adversely affect counterintelligence.

(c) Upon development of the detailed proposals defined under subsection (b), the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) provide the proposed alternatives to all affected agencies;

(2) receive certification from all affected agencies attesting that the proposed alternatives will help achieve auditability, improve fiscal reporting, and will not adversely affect counterintelligence; and

(3) not later than 30 days after receiving all necessary certifications under paragraph (2), present the proposed alternatives and certifications to the congressional defense and intelligence committees.

(d) This section shall not be construed to alter or affect the application of section 924 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 to the amounts made available by this Act.

(e) The Director of National Intelligence shall carry out a merger of the Foreign Counterintelligence Program into the General Defense Intelligence Program: *Provided*, That such merger shall not go into effect until 30 days after the Director submits to the congressional intelligence committees a written notification of such merger.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8104. Upon a determination by the Director of National Intelligence that such action is necessary and in the national interest, the Director may, with the approval of

the Office of Management and Budget, transfer not to exceed \$2,000,000,000 of the funds made available in this Act for the National Intelligence Program: *Provided*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen intelligence requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by the Congress: *Provided further*, That a request for multiple reprogrammings of funds using authority provided in this section shall be made prior to June 30, 2015.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8105. There is appropriated \$540,000,000 for the "Ship Modernization, Operations and Sustainment Fund", to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Navy shall transfer funds from the "Ship Modernization, Operations and Sustainment Fund" to appropriations for military personnel; operation and maintenance; research, development, test and evaluation; and procurement, only for the purposes of manning, operating, sustaining, equipping and modernizing the Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruisers CG-63, CG-64, CG-65, CG-66, CG-67, CG-68, CG-69, CG-70, CG-71, CG-72, CG-73, and the Whidbey Island-class dock landing ships LSD-41, LSD-42, and LSD-46: *Provided further*, That funds transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriation to which they are transferred: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided herein shall be in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Navy shall, not less than 30 days prior to making any transfer from the "Ship Modernization, Operations and Sustainment Fund", notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of such transfer: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Navy shall transfer and obligate funds from the "Ship Modernization, Operations and Sustainment Fund" for modernization of not more than two Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruisers as detailed above in fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That no more than six Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruisers shall be in a phased modernization at any time: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Navy shall contract for the required modernization equipment in the year prior to inducting a Ticonderoga-class cruiser for modernization: *Provided further*, That the prohibition in section 2244a(a) of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply to the use of any funds transferred pursuant to this section.

SEC. 8106. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, to reflect savings due to favorable foreign exchange rates, the total amount appropriated in this Act is hereby reduced by \$545,100,000.

SEC. 8107. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 8108. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this

or any other Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual described in subsection (c) for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 8109. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 8110. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 8111. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 1590 or 1591 of title 18, United States Code, or in contravention of the requirements of section 106(g) or (h) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(g) or (h)).

SEC. 8112. None of the funds made available by this Act for excess defense articles, assistance under section 1206 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109-163; 119 Stat. 3456), or peacekeeping operations for the countries designated in 2013 to be in violation of the standards of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 may be used to support any military training or operation that includes child soldiers, as defined by the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-457; 22 U.S.C. 2370c-1), unless such assistance is otherwise permitted under section 404 of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008.

SEC. 8113. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

SEC. 8114. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department

of Defense or any other Federal agency to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles, for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum-Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

SEC. 8115. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person or other entity listed in the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS)/System for Award Management (SAM) as having been convicted of fraud against the Federal Government.

SEC. 8116. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract (or subcontract at any tier under such a contract), memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, to make a grant to, or to provide a loan or loan guarantee to Rosoboronexport.

(b) The Secretary of Defense may waive the limitation in subsection (a) if the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees, to the best of the Secretary's knowledge, the following:

(1) Rosoboronexport has ceased the transfer of lethal military equipment to, and the maintenance of existing lethal military equipment for, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

(2) The armed forces of the Russian Federation have withdrawn from Crimea, other than armed forces present on military bases subject to agreements in force between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Ukraine.

(3) The Government of the Russian Federation has withdrawn substantially all of the armed forces of the Russian Federation from the immediate vicinity of the eastern border of Ukraine.

(4) Agents of the Russian Federation have ceased taking active measures to destabilize the control of the Government of Ukraine over eastern Ukraine.

(c)(1) The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall conduct a review of any action involving Rosoboronexport with respect to which a waiver is issued by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (b).

(2) A review conducted under paragraph (1) shall assess the accuracy of the factual and legal conclusions made by the Secretary of Defense in the waiver covered by the review, including—

(A) whether there is any viable alternative to Rosoboronexport for carrying out the functions for which funds will be obligated;

(B) whether the Secretary has previously used an alternative vendor for carrying out the same functions regarding the military equipment in question, and what vendor was previously used;

(C) whether other explanations for the issuance of the waiver are supportable; and

(D) any other matter with respect to the waiver the Inspector General considers appropriate.

(3) Not later than 90 days after the date on which a waiver is issued by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (b), the Inspector General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1) with respect to such waiver.

SEC. 8117. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the purchase or manufacture of a flag of the United States unless such flags are treated as covered items under section 2533a(b) of title 10, United States Code.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8118. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", up to \$5,709,000 shall be available for transfer to the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, including Reserve and National Guard, to support high priority Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program requirements and activities, including the training and funding of personnel: *Provided*, That funds transferred under this provision are to be merged with and available for the same purposes and time period as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

SEC. 8119. None of the funds appropriated in this, or any other Act, may be obligated or expended by the United States Government for the direct personal benefit of the President of Afghanistan.

SEC. 8120. (a) Of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Department of Defense, amounts may be made available, under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, to local military commanders appointed by the Secretary of Defense, or by an officer or employee designated by the Secretary, to provide at their discretion *ex gratia* payments in amounts consistent with subsection (d) of this section for damage, personal injury, or death that is incident to combat operations of the Armed Forces in a foreign country.

(b) An *ex gratia* payment under this section may be provided only if—

(1) the prospective foreign civilian recipient is determined by the local military commander to be friendly to the United States;

(2) a claim for damages would not be compensable under chapter 163 of title 10, United States Code (commonly known as the "Foreign Claims Act"); and

(3) the property damage, personal injury, or death was not caused by action by an enemy.

(c) NATURE OF PAYMENTS.—Any payments provided under a program under subsection (a) shall not be considered an admission or acknowledgement of any legal obligation to compensate for any damage, personal injury, or death.

(d) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—If the Secretary of Defense determines a program under subsection (a) to be appropriate in a particular setting, the amounts of payments, if any, to be provided to civilians determined to have suffered harm incident to combat operations of the Armed Forces under the program should be determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary and based on an assessment, which should include such factors as cultural appropriateness and prevailing economic conditions.

(e) LEGAL ADVICE.—Local military commanders shall receive legal advice before making *ex gratia* payments under this subsection. The legal advisor, under regulations of the Department of Defense, shall advise on whether an *ex gratia* payment is proper under this section and applicable Department of Defense regulations.

(f) WRITTEN RECORD.—A written record of any *ex gratia* payment offered or denied shall be kept by the local commander and on a timely basis submitted to the appropriate office in the Department of Defense as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

(g) REPORT.—The Secretary of Defense shall report to the congressional defense committees on an annual basis the efficacy of the *ex gratia* payment program including

the number of types of cases considered, amounts offered, the response from ex gratia payment recipients, and any recommended modifications to the program.

(h) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be deemed to provide any new authority to the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 8121. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense shall be used to conduct any environmental impact study, environmental assessment, or other environmental study related to Minuteman III silos that contain a missile as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8122. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to cancel the avionics modernization program of record for C-130 aircraft.

SEC. 8123. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Air Force to reduce the force structure at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, below the force structure at such Air Force Base as of October 1, 2013, except in accordance with section 1048 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

SEC. 8124. None of the Operation and Maintenance funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of section 41106 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 8125. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund the performance of a flight demonstration team at a location outside of the United States: *Provided*, That this prohibition applies only if a performance of a flight demonstration team at a location within the United States was canceled during the current fiscal year due to insufficient funding.

SEC. 8126. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used by the Department of Defense or a component thereof in contravention of section 1246(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, relating to limitations on providing certain missile defense information to the Russian Federation.

SEC. 8127. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Security Agency to—

(1) conduct an acquisition pursuant to section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 for the purpose of targeting a United States person; or

(2) acquire, monitor, or store the contents (as such term is defined in section 2510(8) of title 18, United States Code) of any electronic communication of a United States person from a provider of electronic communication services to the public pursuant to section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8128. From amounts appropriated in this Act for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, up to \$291,000,000 may be transferred to the Ready Reserve Force, Maritime Administration account of the United States Department of Transportation, to be merged with, and to be available for the same purposes and the same time period as such account, for expenses related to the National Defense Reserve Fleet established under section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. App. 1744): *Provided*, That the transfer authority provided under this provision is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8129. Of the amounts appropriated for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, up to \$1,000,000 shall be available for transfer to

the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development Trust Fund established under section 116 of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1105).

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8130. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act for pay for military personnel, including active duty, reserve and National Guard personnel, \$533,500,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense and made available for transfer only to military personnel accounts: *Provided*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8131. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act for basic allowance for housing for military personnel, including active duty, reserve and National Guard personnel, \$244,700,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense and made available for transfer only to military personnel accounts: *Provided*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

SEC. 8132. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to reduce, convert, decommission, or otherwise move to non-deployed status (except warm status), or prepare to reduce, convert, decommission, or otherwise move to nondeployed status (except warm status), any Minuteman III ballistic missile silo that contains a deployed missile as of the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That “warm status” means a status that enables any such silo to remain a fully functioning element of the interconnected and redundant command and control system of a missile field and be made fully operational with a deployed missile: *Provided further*, That this section shall continue in effect through the date of enactment of an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

□ 1845

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DAINES

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 124, beginning line 8, strike “: *Provided further*” and all that follows through “Department of Defense”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Montana and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, our Nation’s nuclear triad is an essential aspect of our national defense and makes the world safer by deterring our rivals and reassuring our allies. Every leg of the triad is critical and protects our Nation on a daily basis.

The Defense Department recently put forward a nuclear force structure plan under the New START Treaty. It is committed to maintaining 450 nuclear launchers in at least a warm status. In

doing so, the Pentagon recognized the strategic value of preserving our robust nuclear deterrent capability. Just last month, the House of Representatives reaffirmed its support for the triad and for maintaining the current ICBM force.

Unfortunately, the base bill includes language that could open the door for the premature decommissioning of our Nation’s missile silos. I believe this would be unwise.

My amendment ensures the United States has maximum flexibility to respond to nuclear threats and makes it more difficult for adversaries to target our nuclear assets. Maintaining our nuclear launchers provides our commanders with the tools necessary to respond to potential nuclear threats against the American people and, importantly, our allies.

Recently, I visited Montana’s Malmstrom Air Force Base and heard firsthand from missileers about their very critical mission.

In fact, I have in my hand today the Malmstrom commander coin, which expresses why the nuclear deterrence they help operate still works. It simply says this:

Scaring the hell out of America’s enemies since 1962.

I urge House passage of my amendment to help protect this critically important capability.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DAINES. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, we have no objection to the gentleman’s amendment. Personally, I believe in the nuclear triad. We have checked with the Armed Services Committee, which is the authorizing committee, and they have no problem with the language.

Mr. DAINES. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman’s amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1900

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman’s amendment.

What he is doing is locking in our strategic force levels, and the fact is that the armed services bill is not yet done as far as authorization, and, essentially, the gentleman is saying that we should have 430 silos. The gentleman may be correct. Maybe we need 425 silos or maybe we need 218 silos. I don’t think we should prejudice that final figure until the authorization legislation is completed.

I certainly think, again, that it is limiting our options. I think any time

we limit our defense options going forward that it is not good policy, and, therefore, I strongly object to the gentleman's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAINES. While I appreciate the gentleman's comments, we have the strong support of HASC, and this is just ensuring that we don't have a decommissioning moving forward here as we reconcile both the appropriations with the NDAA.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 123, beginning line 22, strike section 8132.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from New York and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would strike a legislative rider that was put in the bill to prevent the Department of Defense from decommissioning nuclear missile silos.

As you know, the Defense Appropriations bill requires the administration to keep 50 soon-to-be-empty silos—silos with no missiles—on warm standby. The missiles in these silos will be eliminated under the New START arms control agreement, and the administration was hoping to be able to destroy the silos eventually and save some money, but this bill will keep them in warm standby forever.

This is not without costs. Under New START, those extra empty silos will have to be counted against our launcher totals, meaning we will have fewer permissible bombers or submarine-based missiles because we have, instead, empty ICBM silos. These silos have been precisely targeted by the Russians for decades. While it is important that we have an appropriate, flexible, and survivable nuclear deterrent, these land-based missiles are the least survivable leg of our deterrent, and, of course, empty silos deter no one. What this rider says is that we should have 50 empty silos and 50 fewer submarine-launched ballistic missiles or bombers.

While it is true that, as an offer of support to Senators whose States have missile bases, the administration proposed to keep these silos warm temporarily, there is absolutely no reason to do so forever. This provision is not about security but about pork and political favoritism. Is it any wonder that the most ardent defenders of this provision are from the States of Montana, Colorado, North Dakota, and Wyoming

and is not the chairman of the Armed Forces Committee? is not the ranking member of the Armed Forces Committee? In fact, they had worked out a sunset at one point.

Mr. Chairman, micromanaging our Nation's nuclear defenses is really not in the best interest of our country. Remember, we have some 450 Minuteman III missile silos. My amendment would change the status of 50 empty silos and only if our national security experts determined they wanted to do so. It would not affect any silos with actual missiles in them, and, therefore, it would not affect our deterrent.

I would encourage my colleagues to support this amendment, which would allow the President to remove those silos from warm standby at a time of his choosing, when the military tells him it is appropriate to do so and to avoid the cost of keeping open empty silos without any function or usefulness to the national defense.

But I want to make a broader point about our broader nuclear strategy. I want to call attention to the obsolescence of the concept of the nuclear triad. Something that has been accepted as gospel for many years no longer makes sense. Our nuclear arsenal is designed to serve as a deterrent to prevent anyone from even considering attacking the United States. In order to deter an attack, any potential adversary needs to know that we have enough nuclear weapons that will survive an initial assault and will retaliate with overwhelming force.

As part of the triad, we have ICBMs, which are very vulnerable to an enemy strike; we have bombers, which can be made less vulnerable; and we have submarine-launched missiles, which are not vulnerable. The ICBMs, because they are fixed targets and are vulnerable to attack, need to be launched immediately and are, therefore, at the greatest risk of being launched by mistake or by accident. There is almost no time to verify that a radar contact is actually a flock of incoming missiles and not a flock of seagulls or a sounding rocket.

So why do we even need the ICBMs, which are not only vulnerable but dangerous because you have to use them or lose them, especially when we have the subs and the bombers?

That debate is for another day. Today, all we are saying is that our generals should have the discretion to spend money on nuclear weapons that best protect the interests of the United States. They should not be forced to waste taxpayer dollars to keep empty missile silos warm when they have limited real utility and are not in our strategic best interests. They should not be used to keep these empty silos warm when it means, under the treaty, we can have 50 fewer submarine-launched missiles—real missiles—as opposed to empty silos. It simply makes no sense.

I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment, which would restore to the President and to the military the flexibility to determine whether we want to keep empty silos or real missiles.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NADLER. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. I appreciate the gentleman's yielding.

Using the same rationale as to my opposition for the previous amendment, I would support the gentleman's because what he would do is remove the limitation, if it is making sense, to allow us to reduce, convert, decommission, or otherwise move to nondeployed status these silos. I don't suggest, while standing here on the floor today, what we should or should not do, but we should allow the administration of this country those options.

I appreciate the gentleman's offering his amendment.

Mr. NADLER. In reclaiming my time, I am not suggesting what we should do other than that we should leave the administration and the military with the discretion. They may decide they would rather have more submarine-based missiles rather than empty silos or they may not decide that, but that should be a decision for them. Personally, I think I would rather have more missiles than empty silos or maybe save money, but that is my personal preference. We should leave the decision to the administration.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The gentleman from Montana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Chairman, this amendment strikes section 8132, which prohibits the use of funds to reduce or decommission Minuteman III ICBM silos or to put these silos into a nondeployed status other than warm status. A warm silo is one that can be made fully operational with the reintroduction of a missile.

Let me remind those who are listening tonight that anybody who says, "Thank God we have never had to use our ICBMs," I would argue they are used every day to ensure that we maintain peace and stability in the world. This section is modeled after language that was included in the House-passed NDAA to maximize the readiness of the land-based leg of the nuclear triad.

I rise in opposition to this amendment. The language in this section is essentially the same as the language that was included in the House-passed National Defense Authorization Act. This section says that, if the Department of Defense takes a silo down to nondeployed status, it must keep it warm. That means it must be kept in a

state that would allow it to become fully operational if a missile is reintroduced. This section would ensure that we maximize the readiness of the land-based leg of the nuclear triad and inhibit the administration from making unilateral cuts to our strategic deterrent.

I urge a “no” vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 8133. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to divest E-3 airborne warning and control system aircraft, or disestablish any units of the active or reserve component associated with such aircraft: *Provided*, That not later than 90 days following the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report providing a detailed explanation of how the Secretary will meet the priority requirements of the commanders of the combatant commands related to airborne warning and control with a fleet of fewer than 31 E-3 aircraft.

SEC. 8134. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8135. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated \$139,000,000, for an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds shall only be available to the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Office of Economic Adjustment of the Department of Defense, or for transfer to the Secretary of Education, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to make grants, conclude cooperative agreements, or supplement other Federal funds to construct, renovate, repair, or expand elementary and secondary public schools on military installations in order to address capacity or facility condition deficiencies at such schools: *Provided further*, That in making such funds available, the Office of Economic Adjustment or the Secretary of Education shall give priority consideration to those military installations with schools having the most serious capacity or facility condition deficiencies as determined by the Secretary of Defense: *Provided further*, That funds may not be made available for a school unless its enrollment of Department of Defense-connected children is greater than 50 percent.

SEC. 8136. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer AH-64 Attack helicopters from the Army National Guard to the active Army: *Provided*, That this section shall continue in effect through

the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8137. In addition to amounts appropriated in title II or otherwise made available elsewhere in this Act, \$1,000,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense and made available for transfer to the operation and maintenance accounts of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force (including National Guard and reserve) for purposes of improving military readiness: *Provided*, That the transfer authority provided under this provision is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

SEC. 8138. Of the amounts made available under the heading “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” in title II and “Operation and Maintenance” in title IX of this Act, not to exceed \$50,000,000 may be obligated for activities authorized under section 1208 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 112-81; 125 Stat. 1621): *Provided*, That none of the funds made available in this Act may be used under such section 1208 to initiate support for, or expand support to, foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals unless the congressional defense committees are notified in accordance with the direction contained in the classified annex accompanying this Act, not less than 15 days before initiating such support: *Provided further*, That, none of the funds made available in this Act may be used under such section 1208 for any activity that is not in support of an ongoing military operation being conducted by United States Special Operations Forces to combat terrorism: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive the prohibitions in the preceding provisos if the Secretary determines that such waiver is required by extraordinary circumstances and, by not later than 72 hours after making such waiver, notifies the congressional defense committees of such waiver.

SEC. 8139. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used in contravention of Sec. 1035 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

SEC. 8140. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the changes to hair standards and grooming policies for female members of the Armed Forces, as contained in paragraph 3-2 of Army Regulation 670-1, issued on March 31, 2014.

TITLE IX—OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS
AND OTHER ACTIVITIES
MILITARY PERSONNEL

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel”, \$5,100,000,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance”, \$58,675,000,000: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT

For an additional amount for “Procurement”, \$12,220,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That such

amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE
EQUIPMENT

For procurement of aircraft, missiles, tracked combat vehicles, ammunition, other weapons, and other procurement for the reserve components of the Armed Forces, \$2,000,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That the Chiefs of the National Guard and Reserve components shall, not later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act, individually submit to the congressional defense committees the modernization priority assessment for their respective National Guard or Reserve component: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER APPROPRIATIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Other Appropriations”, \$1,450,000,000: *Provided*, That “Other Appropriations” means the Defense Health Program, Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund, Office of the Inspector General, and Defense Working Capital Funds: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 9001. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title are in addition to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 9002. Upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary may, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer up to \$4,000,000,000 between the appropriations or funds made available to the Department of Defense in this title: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Congress promptly of each transfer made pursuant to the authority in this section: *Provided further*, That the authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015.

SEC. 9003. Supervision and administration costs and costs for design during construction associated with a construction project funded with appropriations available for operation and maintenance, “Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund”, or the “Afghanistan Security Forces Fund” provided in this Act and executed in direct support of overseas contingency operations in Afghanistan, may be obligated at the time a construction contract is awarded: *Provided*, That for the purpose of this section, supervision and administration costs and costs for design during construction include all in-house Government costs.

SEC. 9004. From funds made available in this title, the Secretary of Defense may purchase for use by military and civilian employees of the Department of Defense in the

U.S. Central Command area of responsibility: (a) passenger motor vehicles up to a limit of \$75,000 per vehicle; and (b) heavy and light armored vehicles for the physical security of personnel or for force protection purposes up to a limit of \$250,000 per vehicle, notwithstanding price or other limitations applicable to the purchase of passenger carrying vehicles.

SEC. 9005. Not to exceed \$15,000,000 of the amount appropriated in this title under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to fund the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP), for the purpose of enabling military commanders in Afghanistan to respond to urgent, small-scale, humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibility: *Provided*, That each project (including any ancillary or related elements in connection with such project) executed under this authority shall not exceed \$10,000,000: *Provided further*, That not later than 45 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report regarding the source of funds and the allocation and use of funds during that quarter that were made available pursuant to the authority provided in this section or under any other provision of law for the purposes described herein: *Provided further*, That, not later than 30 days after the end of each month, the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees monthly commitment, obligation, and expenditure data for the Commander's Emergency Response Program in Afghanistan: *Provided further*, That not less than 15 days before making funds available pursuant to the authority provided in this section or under any other provision of law for the purposes described herein for a project with a total anticipated cost for completion of \$5,000,000 or more, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a written notice containing each of the following:

(1) The location, nature and purpose of the proposed project, including how the project is intended to advance the military campaign plan for the country in which it is to be carried out.

(2) The budget, implementation timeline with milestones, and completion date for the proposed project, including any other CERP funding that has been or is anticipated to be contributed to the completion of the project.

(3) A plan for the sustainment of the proposed project, including the agreement with either the host nation, a non-Department of Defense agency of the United States Government or a third-party contributor to finance the sustainment of the activities and maintenance of any equipment or facilities to be provided through the proposed project.

SEC. 9006. Funds available to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to provide supplies, services, transportation, including airlift and sealfit, and other logistical support to coalition forces supporting military and stability operations in Afghanistan: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the congressional defense committees regarding support provided under this section.

SEC. 9007. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be obligated or expended by the United States Government for a purpose as follows:

(1) To establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for

permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq.

(2) To exercise United States control over any oil resource of Iraq.

(3) To establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Afghanistan.

SEC. 9008. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of the following laws enacted or regulations promulgated to implement the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (done at New York on December 10, 1984):

(1) Section 2340A of title 18, United States Code.

(2) Section 2242 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (division G of Public Law 105-277; 112 Stat. 2681-822; 8 U.S.C. 1231 note) and regulations prescribed thereto, including regulations under part 208 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 95 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) Sections 1002 and 1003 of the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-148).

SEC. 9009. None of the funds provided for the "Afghanistan Security Forces Fund" (ASFF) may be obligated prior to the approval of a financial and activity plan by the Afghanistan Resources Oversight Council (AROC) of the Department of Defense: *Provided*, That the AROC must approve the requirement and acquisition plan for any service requirements in excess of \$50,000,000 annually and any non-standard equipment requirements in excess of \$100,000,000 using ASFF: *Provided further*, That the AROC must approve all projects and the execution plan under the "Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund" (AIF) and any project in excess of \$5,000,000 from the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP): *Provided further*, That the Department of Defense must certify to the congressional defense committees that the AROC has convened and approved a process for ensuring compliance with the requirements in the preceding provisos and accompanying report language for the ASFF, AIF, and CERP.

SEC. 9010. Funds made available in this title to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance may be used to purchase items having an investment unit cost of not more than \$250,000: *Provided*, That, upon determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary to meet the operational requirements of a Commander of a Combatant Command engaged in contingency operations overseas, such funds may be used to purchase items having an investment item unit cost of not more than \$500,000.

SEC. 9011. From funds made available to the Department of Defense in this title under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" up to \$150,000,000 may be used by the Secretary of Defense, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to support United States Government transition activities in Iraq by funding the operations and activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq and security assistance teams, including life support, transportation and personal security, and facilities renovation and construction, and site closeout activities prior to returning sites to the Government of Iraq: *Provided*, That to the extent authorized under the National Defense Authorization Act for

Fiscal Year 2015, the operations and activities that may be carried out by the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq may, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, include non-operational training activities in support of Iraqi Minister of Defense and Counter Terrorism Service personnel in an institutional environment to address capability gaps, integrate processes relating to intelligence, air sovereignty, combined arms, logistics and maintenance, and to manage and integrate defense-related institutions: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days following the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for transitioning any such training activities that they determine are needed after the end of fiscal year 2015, to existing or new contracts for the sale of defense articles or defense services consistent with the provisions of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.): *Provided further*, That not less than 15 days before making funds available pursuant to the authority provided in this section, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a written notification containing a detailed justification and timeline for the operations and activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq at each site where such operations and activities will be conducted during fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 9012. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" for payments under section 1233 of Public Law 110-181 for reimbursement to the Government of Pakistan may be made available unless the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that the Government of Pakistan is—

(1) cooperating with the United States in counterterrorism efforts against the Haqqani Network, the Quetta Shura Taliban, Lashkar e-Tayyiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Al Qaeda, and other domestic and foreign terrorist organizations, including taking steps to end support for such groups and prevent them from basing and operating in Pakistan and carrying out cross border attacks into neighboring countries;

(2) not supporting terrorist activities against United States or coalition forces in Afghanistan, and Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies are not intervening extra-judicially into political and judicial processes in Pakistan;

(3) dismantling improvised explosive device (IED) networks and interdicting precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of IEDs;

(4) preventing the proliferation of nuclear-related material and expertise;

(5) implementing policies to protect judicial independence and due process of law;

(6) issuing visas in a timely manner for United States visitors engaged in counterterrorism efforts and assistance programs in Pakistan; and

(7) providing humanitarian organizations access to detainees, internally displaced persons, and other Pakistani civilians affected by the conflict.

(b) The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, may waive the restriction in paragraph (a) on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that it is in the national security interest to do so: *Provided*, That if the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, exercises the authority of the previous proviso,

the Secretaries shall report to the Committees on Appropriations on both the justification for the waiver and on the requirements of this section that the Government of Pakistan was not able to meet: *Provided further*, That such report may be submitted in classified form if necessary.

SEC. 9013. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used with respect to Syria in contravention of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.), including for the introduction of United States armed or military forces into hostilities in Syria, into situations in Syria where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, or into Syrian territory, airspace, or waters while equipped for combat, in contravention of the congressional consultation and reporting requirements of sections 3 and 4 of that law (50 U.S.C. 1542 and 1543).

SEC. 9014. None of the funds made available by this Act for the "Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund" may be used to plan, develop, or construct any project for which construction has not commenced before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9015. No more than 15 percent of the funds made available in Title IX may be obligated, until the Secretary of Defense provides the congressional defense and intelligence committees with a detailed spend plan for the funds provided, including an assurance that no funds will be used in contravention of Sec. 1035 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

TITLE X—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 10001. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is \$0.

□ 1915

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) for a colloquy.

Mr. MICA. First of all, I want to commend you, Mr. Chairman, also the ranking member and the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee staff, for your efforts in bringing this important measure to the floor for our military.

Mr. Chairman, in working with you and your staff, I know, firsthand, of your dedication to our armed services and the importance you place on ensuring the readiness of our troops.

As you well know, modeling and simulation tools are cost-effective and highly successful components in ensuring that our troops have the absolute best training available.

I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his support, and also for the inclusion of specific language in the FY 2015 Appropriations Defense Subcommittee report specifically emphasizing the benefits of modeling and simulation.

Also, as the House considers this vital appropriations bill, I would like

to take this opportunity to share with you, the committee, and my colleagues, a concern of mine affecting the modeling and simulation and training community.

As you know, part of the continuation of the Warfighter FOCUS program was expected to be the TEACH program. It is my understanding that the TEACH program has been put on hold.

It is also my understanding that the Army will continue this program under a different name and format. It is my hope that the funds allocated are used to fulfill the requirements needed for this portion of the Warfighter program.

Mr. Chairman, again, I appreciate your support for this vital tool—simulation saves taxpayers dollars and assists in training our defense personnel—and also its inclusion in the Defense Appropriations bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman bringing this important issue to my attention. A month or two ago you brought me together with some national leaders that are involved in modeling and simulation, and it was a real education for me.

So like you, I do place a great importance on ensuring our troops have the best training and support available, and that is a very good way to educate them.

I look forward to working with the gentleman to ensure our troops receive the training and equipment they need, and that our Nation's defense needs are met in a fiscally responsible manner.

Mr. MICA. I thank you, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, and the ranking member.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used on research, development, test, or evaluation for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter to modify the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter in a manner that provides B-61 delivery capability until the date on which the report described under the heading "Cost Sharing of Forward-Deployed Nuclear Weapons" in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives accompanying this Act has been delivered to the congressional defense committees and such report includes, among other matters, the total anticipated cost to make the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter nuclear capable, the number of aircraft expected to have such capability, and the total number of tactical B-61s expected to undergo the Life Extension Program, including the total anticipated program cost, specific to tactical B-61s.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I reserve a

point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will continue to read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, earlier today I took up this issue by attempting to strike the \$15 million that is appropriated in this bill for the initial phases of figuring out how to make the F-35 dual-capable, that is, capable of handling both conventional as well as nuclear weapons.

This is the opening of a very, very expensive process. Probably well over somewhere between 10 and \$20 billion will be spent on this entire program.

The F-35 is our plane of the future. It is extremely important for the defense of this Nation. However, the issue of whether that plane should be dual-capable or not really revolves around the role that the F-35 dual-capable plane will play in the European theater.

Presently, we are deploying in Europe the B-61 bomb. That bomb is now being life-extended, rebuilt for the purposes of doing what it has done before, that is, to sit there basically unused. It will be both a tactical as well as a strategic weapon.

There is a major cost factor that will affect this budget and future budgets for years to come with this initial decision that we are now making.

What this amendment does is to simply build off a portion of the bill that is already in place. It does call for a report. This amendment fences off the \$15 million, says you can't use it until such time as the details that I add to the existing language of the bill before us—those details were read by the reader a moment ago.

Let me just quickly go through them:

Until the House of Representatives has delivered—that is, until the military has delivered to the House of Representatives defense committees a report, among other matters, on the total anticipated cost of making the F-35 joint fighter nuclear-capable;

Next, the number of aircraft expected to have such capability;

Next, the total number of tactical B-61s expected to undergo the life-extension program, including the total anticipated cost specific to the tactical B-61.

This is critical information that we have. The language in the bill is okay, but it doesn't give us the specificity that we need to make the decision, and frankly, I don't think we ought to start down this path until we really have some better notion of where we are going with the expenses of this.

We also know that the European community is, at best, ambivalent

about what to do with this issue, and they certainly are ambivalent about whether they are going to pay their share of the costs of the airplanes that they will eventually acquire that will have this dual capability.

So big questions out there. This is an amendment attempting to gather the specific information that we should have to make a wise and informed decision in the future.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARAMENDI. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation, with the understanding the gentleman from California will be withdrawing his amendment.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I would much prefer if you could say this is really wise and information that we need and that we would add this to the bill somewhere along the process.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Well, I am a strong supporter of the Joint Strike Fighter and, indeed, the B-61. We are doing things to make sure that it is everything that we anticipate it should be.

I think the issue is worth discussing, but it was my understanding that you were planning to withdraw your amendment. Otherwise, I will make a point of order.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, what I would prefer to do, sir, is to proceed and to continue the discussion. I think this is an important matter.

Mr. Chairman, I don't know how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, perhaps I will just wrap, and then we will take up your point of order and see where that goes with it.

This is an extremely important issue. It has to do with our relationships with NATO. It has to do with cost-sharing by the NATO community, who will eventually acquire these planes, and it also has to do with the B-61 bomb, which is an extraordinarily expensive program that may or may not fit into the future for NATO or even for us.

So this amendment is designed to give us the information that we need and, until we have it, it prevents the use of the \$15 million.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriations bill. Therefore, it violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states, in pertinent part:

“An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.”

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GARAMENDI. I ask to be heard on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, at the subcommittee, with great respect, I respectfully disagree with you. This does not change law. It simply writes into the law an extension of what is already in this bill, and that is, it calls for a report.

It also fences off a certain amount of money, in this case \$15 million. That is really the ante, the beginning of a very expensive process. It fences it off until we have that information report from the Pentagon. I think that is the wise thing to do.

In fact, the appropriation bill in many, many respects changes laws, and I think we are all aware of that.

I am also aware that I have yet to overcome a point of order, but there is always the first time, and we can be hopeful that this might be the first.

But I draw the attention of the chair, the ranking members, and anybody else that cares to listen, be prepared to spend somewhere between \$15- and \$20 billion if we go forward with both the B-61 and the retrofitting to the F-35 so that it will be dual-capable—capable of both conventional as well as nuclear weapons.

I think we better know where we are going, have a good sense of the total cost, and also have a very good sense of where our European allies want this to be, and I think they ought to also pay for it.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment imposes new duties on the officials funded in the bill.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COLE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide housing on a military installation to an alien (as defined in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)) who—

(1) is an unaccompanied minor; and

(2) is not a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Oklahoma and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order against the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I want to be the first to acknowledge that this legislation may not indeed be the appropriate place in which to address the issue raised in the amendment. But I do believe the amendment is an appropriate way to highlight a problem that simply must be addressed by the President and by the Congress.

In recent weeks, there have been many news accounts reporting that we have had an explosion of unaccompanied juveniles coming and crossing our borders, largely from Central America, from the countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

This population has overwhelmed facilities that we normally use to house people that have entered our country illegally, and military facilities have now been used, pressed into service, to deal with this population.

In full disclosure, one of those facilities happens to be in my district, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, the home of the Field Artillery School.

But other facilities have also been used, at Ventura, at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, and the State of Washington, and still others are being considered.

I am concerned about this for three reasons. First, these military facilities are absolutely inappropriate places to house this particular population. They are not designed for that purpose. They are not equipped for it. They have gotten very little notification of it. It is simply the wrong place to put folks.

You don't bring outsiders onto a military installation who have no business being there and, in addition, also their caretakers.

□ 1930

Second, while much of the expense will be picked up by other various departments of government, it will inevitably cause some expense and some inconvenience to the Department of Defense at a time when we have a very strained military budget.

Lastly, while we are told that these facilities are going to be used only on a temporary emergency basis, there is, indeed, the risk that they could become permanent, something I think that would create a confusion of missions on military bases, not to be avoided.

We need to address the cause of the flow, not simply manage the flow better, and we shouldn't use military facilities in that process.

The administration says that this flow of unaccompanied juveniles—which, by the way, was 6,000 2 years ago, is 66,000 now, and is projected to reach 120,000 to 150,000 within the next couple of years—is the result of a humanitarian crisis.

I would submit it is actually the result of a policy failure. We are essentially incentivizing the flow of this population by not returning the unaccompanied juveniles to their countries of origins quickly.

Indeed, once they arrive in the United States, we try to find sponsors for them in this country, and they effectively stay here permanently.

That is not what we do, by the way, with Mexican juveniles. If you are a 16-year-old illegal immigrant from Mexico, we return you immediately, and we have had no similar spike in that particular population coming across the border.

What we are doing may appear to be humane to the juveniles in question. It is actually not. First, we are disrupting the countries from which they come. We are destabilizing those countries by incentivizing this flow.

Second, these young people don't just walk across Mexico. They are transported by cartels, by criminals. It is the same people who bring drugs into our country, and they are making an enormous amount of money, and we are strengthening them by incentivizing this flow.

Finally, the young people themselves are at an enormous risk during the process of transportation. They are being brought across the length of a country—Mexico—in the company of criminal elements, very unsavory elements, and they are very much at risk.

I think we need to stop using military facilities for this purpose and to, frankly, begin to return people to their countries of origin. In my view, that would actually stop the flow and remove the incentive to come.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COLE. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the gentleman from Oklahoma, the author, if it is the gentleman's intent to withdraw his amendment.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I respect my friend from Indiana pressing the point of order. I suspect he will prevail, and I am prepared to withdraw.

I want to serve notice that I am going to eventually find the appropriate vehicle, so that we can address this. I think it is a real issue, but I respect my friend's concerns that this may not be the appropriate vehicle.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. If the gentleman from Oklahoma would, again, yield a moment of his time, I would just suggest to the membership that I was not fully aware of the problems that ex-

isted and that have now been exacerbated until the gentleman raised it in committee.

As a member of the subcommittee, I appreciate that happening, and the fact that you have now raised it on two significant occasions, I think, is going to compel the administration, as well as our colleagues, to find a solution to this very serious problem.

So raising the point of order was simply to preserve that right, but I appreciate what the gentleman is doing.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COLE. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I have one additional comment. It is interesting that many of the press reports on this crisis situation—at least on the east coast—don't point out that many of these children are in military installations.

I want to commend the gentleman for pointing out that, while they are well kept and looked after in those installations, it is totally inappropriate that children be put in that situation and that the Department of Health and Human Services and the administration need to do a better job of finding housing alternatives.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from Oklahoma yielding, and I will withdraw my point of order.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I appreciate what my colleagues had to say, and I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals—

(1) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(2) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1); or

(3) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delin-

quent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

Mr. GRAYSON (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the balance of the reading be waived.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, this amendment is identical to other amendments that have been inserted by voice vote into every appropriations bill that has been considered under an open rule during this Congress.

My amendment would expand the list of parties with whom the Federal Government is prohibited from contracting because of serious misconduct on the part of those contractors. It is my hope that this amendment will remain non-controversial and that it will, again, be passed unanimously by this House.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRAYSON. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I will suggest that I would find the amendment acceptable. I do believe it is largely duplicative of the general provision of section 8110 that is already found in the bill. Again, I understand the gentleman's intent and would agree with it and do believe it is acceptable to the subcommittee.

Mr. GRAYSON. Reclaiming my time, I thank the ranking member for making that notation.

We have compared that language to this language. We respectfully believe that this language is broader and covers more situations, more contractors who have committed wrongdoing, but I appreciate the ranking member pointing that out, and I certainly support the provision that he cited.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by an (officer, employee, or contractor of the intelligence community to subvert or interfere with the integrity of any cryptographic standard that is proposed, developed, or adopted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, in the interest of brevity, I respectfully ask unanimous consent to have the point of order, if any, heard now in advance of my argument.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order has been reserved. Does the gentleman from New Jersey wish to make a point of order at this time?

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriations bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part: "An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, I respectfully am willing to yield my time to the gentleman from New Jersey if the gentleman will explain to me what part of this provision offends—

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair will hear each Member on their own.

The gentleman from Florida is recognized.

Mr. GRAYSON. I will reiterate what I just said, Mr. Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, I did ask that I wanted to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey to specify.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair will hear argument offered by each Member separately.

The gentleman from Florida is recognized to make his argument.

Mr. GRAYSON. I understand that, Mr. Chair.

I am asking if the gentleman from New Jersey would provide additional information as part of my argument.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair has heard the argument in favor of the point of order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida if he wishes to make an argument.

Mr. GRAYSON. Yes, Mr. Chair. I will say it again.

I am offering to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey if the gentleman from New Jersey will identify any part of this amendment that offends the relevant rule.

The Acting CHAIR. At this point in time, the Chair will hear argument by the gentleman from Florida.

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chair, I think it is clear that there is no part of this amendment that offends the relevant rule.

I yielded to the gentleman from New Jersey who raised the point of order. I am still willing to yield to the gentleman who raised a point of order.

If there is no part of this amendment that can be identified as offending the relevant rule, clearly it does not offend the relevant rule.

This, in fact, does not in any way legislate. I invite any Member of this body here today who can identify any part of this amendment that constitutes legislation on the relevant rule.

Since no one can, it follows that the point of order must be overruled.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination as to what constitutes subversion or interference with integrity of a standard.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. WALORSKI

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer or release to the Republic of Yemen (or any entity within Yemen) a detainee who is or was held, detained, or otherwise in the custody of the Department of Defense on or after June 24, 2009, at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentlewoman from Indiana and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Chairman, the recent release of the Taliban Five was a potent reminder to Congress, as well as the American people, of the risk involved in detainee transfer decisions.

The rising rate of terrorism reengagement, the unstable security situation in Yemen, and the continuing threat posed by al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula have prompted me to introduce this amendment again this year.

One of President Obama's first acts in office was to sign an executive order to close the facility at Guantanamo.

However, the President himself suspended all detainee transfers from Gitmo to Yemen on January 5, 2010. This decision was made in the after-

math of the failed 2009 Christmas Day bombing attempt, which was the first attack on the U.S. by al Qaeda since 9/11.

The would-be bomber was radicalized and trained in Yemen. White House Press Secretary Gibbs said that:

Right now, any additional transfers to Yemen are not a good idea.

In May of last year, the President changed his mind, lifting the moratorium on transfers to Yemen and reviewing transfers "on a case-by-case basis."

Unfortunately, the U.S. intelligence community reports that the number of former Gitmo detainees who reengage in terrorism has steadily increased since 2002.

In December 2007, the first public intelligence report addressing Gitmo "reengagement" declared the reengagement rate was "about 7 percent." As of March of this year, the reengagement rate had risen to 29 percent. The majority of these individuals remain at large.

This information, which is the best, most reliable data we have, comes from the Director of National Intelligence. The March DNI report also notes that:

Transfers to countries with ongoing conflicts and internal instability, as well as active recruitment by insurgent and terrorist organizations, pose a particular problem.

Finally, the intel community has noted there is a lag of time of "about 2½ years between leaving Gitmo and the first identified reengagement reports." Therefore, estimated historical suspected and confirmed rates may be lower than the actual current rates.

The administration should seek to ensure that the transfer process is further examined and improved before proceeding with additional transfers.

Meanwhile, the security situation in Yemen is frighteningly fragile and has gone from bad to worse. According to a 2012 HASC Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee report on detainee reengagement, the United States has faced "a persistent challenge" in making certain that countries receiving transferred Gitmo detainees have "the capacity and willingness to handle them in a way that sufficiently recognizes the dangers involved."

Despite the commendable efforts of Yemeni President Hadi, numerous international organizations, such as the U.N. and the World Bank, have all noted the "fragile environment" in Yemen. Unfortunately, the country's progress is still at risk of being undermined by al Qaeda.

In fact, Yemen was recently ranked the sixth most failed state by The Fund for Peace, worse than even Afghanistan and Iraq, and the third most worsened state over the last 5 years.

□ 1945

It is no surprise that jailbreaks are a notorious problem in Yemen. Furthermore, press reports have characterized

Yemeni prisons as “overcrowded and under-monitored radicalization factories.”

To give one example, the Yemeni citizen who is the convicted mastermind of the USS *Cole* bombing escaped from prison in both 2003 and 2006 after his recapture. He was not recaptured after his second escape and remains at large.

In the most recent example, attackers mounted a bomb, grenade, and gun assault on the main prison in Yemen’s capital this February, freeing 20 al Qaeda operatives. The U.S. Embassy has been closed since May 7 and remains closed today due to attempted kidnappings and terrorist attacks on U.S. citizens.

Finally, and most importantly, Yemen’s branch of al Qaeda, commonly known as AQAP, was founded by former Gitmo detainees. Counterterrorism experts have declared AQAP to be al Qaeda’s most effective affiliate, posing the greatest danger to the American homeland.

AQAP’s predecessor, al Qaeda in Yemen, came into existence after the escape of 23 al Qaeda members from prison in the Yemeni capital in February of 2006. AQAP has orchestrated numerous high-profile terrorist attacks inside the Arabian Peninsula, but it has tried on numerous occasions to strike the U.S. homeland, typically through air travel.

Analysts evaluate that AQAP is the al Qaeda group that is currently the most capable and most committed to carry out sophisticated operations against the West.

To summarize, Mr. Chairman, we cannot risk trusting one of the world’s most dangerous places with its most dangerous terrorists. The fundamental question is how much risk should we take with our Nation’s security? This amendment helps ensure our homeland remains safe from terrorist attacks. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the gentleman’s amendment. I believe that we need to set conditions to close the detention facility at Guantanamo. This includes retaining the option to transfer detainees from this facility elsewhere. It is in the United States’ national security interest to do so.

Guantanamo has become a rallying cry. It serves as a recruitment tool for terrorists and increases the will of our enemies to fight while decreasing the will of others to work with America.

Part of the rationale for establishing Guantanamo in the first place was the misplaced idea that the facility would be beyond the law—a proposition rejected by the Supreme Court. As a re-

sult, the continued operation of this facility creates an impression in the eyes of our allies and enemies alike that the United States selectively observes the rule of law.

There is no reason that we should impose on ourselves the legal and moral problems arising from the prospect of indefinite detentions at Guantanamo after more than one decade. Working through civil courts since 9/11, hundreds of individuals have been convicted of terrorism or terrorism-related offenses and are now serving long sentences in Federal prison. Not one has escaped custody.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly oppose the gentleman’s amendment and reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the balance of my time?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mrs. WALORSKI. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I strongly support her amendment. What was particularly galling in the Guantanamo transfer of these detainees was that the Taliban were able to choose the people they wanted released, and then the picture that we saw of their being greeted in Qatar by their terrorist brothers was enough to make you sick. So I am strongly supportive of her amendment. I am glad that we have renewed this commitment to make sure these people are not released anywhere. I thank the gentleman.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, we are a nation of laws. Again, I reiterate my objection and would yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NOLAN

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the “Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman

from Minnesota and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for the hard work that they have done in putting this appropriation bill together.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the House, there is a bipartisan group of us that have been meeting on a regular basis with the inspector general for Afghanistan and Iraq. He has over 200 investigators trying to determine where the funds have gone for this Afghan infrastructure fund.

To hear the story, it breaks your heart. Of the last \$100 billion that have been spent on Afghan infrastructure, they can’t find where most of that money went. Why? Well, for several reasons. One is that Afghanistan is largely a cash economy. So if you want to do a project in any of the remote areas, you have to show up with a truckload full of cash.

Secondly, it is now certified as the most corrupt nation in the world. It is the number one narco-state in the world, supplying more heroin than the rest of the world combined. As the U.S. troops withdraw, there is no way to audit these funds, there is no way to inspect these funds, and it is an absolutely unmitigated prescription for unparalleled fraud.

It has got to stop, and today and tonight is the time to put an end to it. That is why I am offering my amendment here to stop any funds from going to this Afghan reconstruction fund.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NOLAN. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the point that the gentleman is raising and certainly would associate myself with his remarks. I do believe it will be acceptable to the committee.

Mr. NOLAN. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF MICHIGAN

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 10002. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to divest, retire, transfer, or place in storage, or prepare to divest, retire, transfer, or place in storage, any A-10 aircraft, or to disestablish any units of the active or reserve component associated with such aircraft.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman

from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I offer this amendment because I stand shoulder to shoulder with the troops on the ground, any one of whom will tell you that the champion workhorse aircraft in theater in both Iraq and Afghanistan has been the A-10.

Now, it might be an old airplane, but I will tell you it has been proven to be ideally suited for its mission. It is lethal, it is incredibly effective, and when our troops on the ground, Mr. Chairman, hear it coming, they know what it means. But guess what? So does our enemy, because they know pain is coming their way.

The Air Force wants to save money, but they don't have an adequate follow-on at this time. And with what is happening in Iraq and the Middle East, eliminating the A-10 is the absolutely wrong move. Army Chief of Staff General Odierno says that the A-10 is the best close air support aircraft, and I agree, and, most importantly, so do our brave men and women on the ground.

The A-10s were authorized in both the House and Senate Armed Services Committee, and I urge my colleagues to continue their support and vote "yes" on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, at this time, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BARBER), the cosponsor of this amendment.

Mr. BARBER. I thank Congresswoman MILLER.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer this important bipartisan amendment with my colleague from Michigan and the support of our colleagues from Illinois, from Georgia, Arizona, Missouri, and Hawaii. Our amendment would protect the A-10 Thunderbolt and keep it flying so it can continue to supply support to our troops who are on the ground.

Last month, I introduced in the House Armed Services Committee an amendment that received an overwhelming, bipartisan vote in favor of keeping the A-10 flying for FY15. This amendment passed also with overwhelming support in committee and on the House floor. It is now a part of the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act, and, I might add, of the one that is going to be coming out of the Senate.

And now, the House, I believe, wants to ensure, once again, that the A-10 is protected because it protects our troops. Our troops deserve the best close air support that we can provide, and there is no better close air support than the A-10.

When I talk to soldiers who come home from Iraq and Afghanistan who work in my district at Fort Huachuca, they have said over and over again,

keep the A-10 flying. I was in Afghanistan 2 months ago, and marines and Army personnel on the ground said:

When you go back to the Congress, keep the A-10 flying. It is the best close air support we can have.

There is no other fixed-wing aircraft that is as proficient as the A-10 in operating in rugged environments while providing the most effective close air support available. With no other aircraft available and capable of taking its place with our men and women still in combat, we simply cannot allow the A-10 to be grounded. We also cannot afford to lose the knowledge and expertise of the pilots that fly this aircraft, like those who are stationed in my home district at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

Mr. Chairman, this is a commonsense amendment. I urge my colleagues to support it, as we did in the National Defense Authorization Act, for our national security and for our men and women on the ground.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I would yield at this time 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT).

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment to preserve the A-10 Warthog, as well. This is the most effective, cost-efficient aircraft that we have for the missions that we are engaged in right now.

Our men and women who are out there in harm's way deserve to have this aircraft flying above them and protecting them. Our enemies run in fear from it, and, quite honestly, I think it is the best money we can spend in protecting our troops while they are on the ground.

The A-10 Warthog is the most effective aircraft for close air support. We need it for the missions we are in now, and we are going to need it for the missions tomorrow.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART) who has very personal experience with the ability of the A-10.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentlewoman for giving me 1 minute to speak on this.

I was an Air Force pilot for 14 years. I flew for 7 years as a combat rescue helicopter pilot. We flew and exercised with the A-10s all the time. I also flew for 7 years the B-1. We were tasked with this mission of close air support. I am not here because I have A-10s in my district. I am here because I realize what an invaluable resource this is.

Close air support is an incredibly delicate and unforgiving mission. If you hit the wrong bridge, people will forgive you. If you frag your own troops, you will never forgive yourself. It is best done by an aircraft that is low and slow, that has superb communications and superb visibility.

There is nothing that is as good as the A-10 is in this mission. I know that from my own experience. That is why I rise and stand in support of this very important amendment.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I would urge all of our colleagues to join us in supporting our troops by supporting this amendment, and I would say before you vote "yes" or "no," speak to those who have actually fought in combat on the ground in the battle zones of Iraq and Afghanistan, and I am very confident that the message you will hear from them will be the same message that all of us have gotten, and that is to keep the A-10 flying.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, let me stipulate at the onset that the A-10 Thunderbolt is a tremendous aircraft. We have heard it from somebody who piloted one, and certainly we are listening to our colleagues from the respective States that have A-10s, and they could testify, as I am sure others can, as to their value. But close air support is also provided—actually 80 percent—by other aircraft, and that has been true since 2008.

The Air Force itself has recommended the retirement of the entire fleet. It is not going to happen overnight. It is not going to happen by 2019. At some point in time it is going to happen because this is not about saving millions of dollars, this is about saving billions of dollars—nearly \$4 billion. And the money that we will save will allow us to procure the next generation of aircraft.

□ 2000

I understand the desire to keep an aircraft that has been doing incredible work for 30 or 40 years, but it is time we look to the future and make that investment.

I am pleased to yield to the ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY).

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. I appreciate the chairman yielding and would also add my comments that the A-10 is a wonderful aircraft. The B-17 Flying Fortress was a wonderful aircraft. It was replaced. The Kiowa Warrior was indispensable during Vietnam. It is being replaced.

The A-10 is being replaced over a protracted period of time. In the interim, other aircraft are going to take its place until the F-35 is prepared to do its mission.

The second point I would make is that the Chief of Staff for the Air Force flew the A-10. It is their recommendation to phase this plane out.

The Air Force has also stated to the committee that, if given another \$4.3 billion, they have a whole range of other options they would pursue before continuing the A-10 program.

The final observation I would make is that the amendment is somewhat disingenuous, and I don't say that in a pejorative sense because I know that is not the intent of my colleagues, but while it would sound to our colleagues that there is no money involved in this amendment, I would propose that I would like to find \$339 million that is not in the bill because you now need crews and you need fuel and you need maintenance that is not in the bill because we agreed with the administration's position.

There is another \$200 million that would be required over the next year for spares and modifications of this aircraft.

Essentially, you are leaving the committee now in a position of \$600 million by simply saying no funds shall be used to terminate this program during the coming year that aren't in the bill, and the author of the amendment and those who support it have not shown us where that money is going to come from in this bill.

I strongly urge my colleagues, for the reasons stated in my opening remarks, we have to begin to make some tough decisions. There is a finite amount of money in this bill.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. I would just indicate that we had several other amendments that we offered up to the committee, but we were told there would be a point of order on those amendments, so we had offsets articulated in those amendments, so we were looking for additional dollars.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate that, but the fact is there is no offset in this amendment and the cost to the committee is \$600 million that is not in the bill. I appreciate the chairman yielding to me.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I reclaim my time, and I urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.
The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by

the gentlewoman from Michigan will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to make aircraft (including unmanned aerial vehicles), armored vehicles, grenade launchers, silencers, toxicological agents (including chemical agents, biological agents, and associated equipment), launch vehicles, guided missiles, ballistic missiles, rockets, torpedoes, bombs, mines, or nuclear weapons (as identified for demilitarization purposes outlined in Department of Defense Manual 4160.28) available to local law enforcement agencies through the Department of Defense Excess Personal Property Program established pursuant to section 1033 of Public Law 104-201, the 'National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 1997'.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved on the amendment.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to address a growing problem throughout our country, the militarization of local law enforcement agencies.

Police in our communities should be engaged in community policing. Unfortunately, all too often, local police departments have begun to look like military units preparing for battle on America's streets.

We fight our wars abroad, not at home, and the weapons and tactics used on our local streets should reflect that fact.

The New York Times recently reported that:

Police departments have received thousands of pieces of camouflage and night-vision equipment and hundreds of silencers, armored cars, and aircraft.

I think this is appalling. My amendment would prohibit the Department of Defense from gifting excess equipment, such as aircraft—including drones—armored vehicles, grenade launchers, silencers, bombs, and so on to local police departments.

There is no mass rebellion brewing here in the United States. There are no improvised explosive devices on the sides of our roads, but the abuse of military equipment to ward off these nonexistent threats is happening nonetheless.

So, of course, what you would expect to happen is happening. As The New York Times article, "War Gear Flows to Police Departments" explains:

Police SWAT teams are now deployed tens of thousands of times each year, increasingly for routine jobs. Masked, heavily-armed police officers raided a nightclub in 2006 as part of a liquor inspection. In Florida in 2010, officers in SWAT gear and with guns drawn carried out raids on barbershops that mostly led to charges of "barbering without a license."

DOD equipment is changing the mentality of police departments throughout our country. Recruiting videos now feature clips of officers storming into homes with smoke grenades and firing automatic weapons into homes, as well as clips of officers creeping through the fields in camouflage—war camouflage. This is not policing; this is war.

One South Carolina sheriff's department now takes its new tanklike vehicle with a mounted .50-caliber gun to schools and community events. The department spokesman said his tank is a conversation starter. That is not a conversation I want us to have.

I think this is wrong. The Federal Government should not be encouraging our public servants to view America as occupied territory. I prefer the views of Ronald Teachman, the police chief in South Bend, Indiana.

According to that New York Times article, he decided not to request a mine-resistant vehicle for his city of South Bend, Indiana. He said:

I go to schools, and I bring "Green Eggs and Ham."

Let's encourage leaders like the very appropriately named Ronald Teachman. Let's not treat our citizens as terrorists, and let's help our police act like the public servants they need to be.

I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentleman from Florida wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GRAYSON. Yes.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized.

Mr. GRAYSON. There is no new determination out of this amendment. I call your attention to the specific language here. It says:

None of the funds made available in this act may be used to make aircraft (including unmanned aerial vehicles), armored vehicles, grenade launchers, silencers, toxicological agents (including chemical agents, biological agents, and associated equipment), launch vehicles, guided missiles, ballistic missiles, rockets, torpedoes, bombs, mines, or nuclear weapons (as identified for demilitarization

purposes outlined in Department of Defense Manual 4160.28).

In other words, all the terms that I just described are as identified for demilitarization purposes as outlined in Department of Defense Manual 4160.28. Since they are in the Department of Defense Manual 4160.28, they require no new determination of law.

I will continue:

Available to local law enforcement agencies through the Department of Defense Excess Personal Property Program.

Again, local enforcement agencies is a defined term under statute. The Excess Personal Property Program is established, as this amendment indicates, pursuant to section 1033 of Public Law 104–201, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007.

Therefore, every single term that is used here is a term defined in law. There is no new determination to be made by anybody, including the people who enforce this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination as to the meaning of “local law enforcement agencies” within the context of the Department of Defense Excess Personal Property Program.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DAINES) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 2015

AMNESTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to the Appropriations Committee for the appropriations process. I think we are all better when we have open amendments and have a chance to have everybody have input. It is a nasty process, but it is a good way to do it.

Input is important, because when you don’t listen to proper input, you can end up having a judgment, as did the Pelletier case where a juvenile court judge in Massachusetts took away custody from her parents, and finally a victory yesterday as the court, Judge Joseph Johnston, wrote in his ruling:

Effective Wednesday, June 18, 2014, this care and protection petition is dismissed and custody of Justina is returned to her parents, Lou and Linda Pelletier.

His first statement there is:

I find that the parties have shown credible evidence that circumstances have changed since the adjudication on December 20, 2013, that Justina is a child in care and protection pursuant to G.L. c. 199, 24–26.

Clearly, the only thing that had changed was not credible evidence. It was a judge who finally did his job, which was not to take parents’ kids away from them.

It reminded me of comments made by a daycare director in the Soviet Union back when I was an exchange student during college days. The daycare director was bragging that the children belonged to the state, that parents are only temporary caregivers that serve at the whim of—she didn’t say “whim”—but basically at the discretion of the government.

Back then, in the Soviet Union, if you ever told your child anything negative about the Soviet Union—the Soviet Government, Soviet leaders—and they found out, they would whisk in, take your child away, and as the director said, give them to more deserving parents.

It appears that is really what happened in the Pelletier case. Some bureaucrats refused to consider all of the evidence as they should have and decided that they would play God for a while and give custody of this poor child to the State instead of her parents who gave every indication of loving her and caring about her, trying to do the right thing for her. Instead, the State caused great damage. Unfortunately, that happens too often in many different areas when the State thinks they know better than the people personally involved.

What gets even worse is when you have a Federal administration that believes they know better than the law, that they don’t have to follow the law because they are better than the law, which would make them right on par with Chavez in Venezuela or pick out the dictator. They are right there, because they know so much better than anybody else in the country. That is why they are called dictators.

One of the most shocking things about the lawlessness of this administration is that they could have spokespeople with straight faces come out and say: We really don’t know what is causing this wave of humanitarian crises on the border. We just really don’t understand why this wave is coming now.

Well, all they have to do is review some of the reports from Border Patrolmen, ICE agents—particularly the Border Patrolmen who have been interviewing these kids, especially the older ones, 15, 16, 17: Why did you come to the United States illegally now? And the Border Patrol reports so many of the children just say basically the same thing: It is because of your new law that is going to let us come and stay legally. It is the new law that we get amnesty, that all we have to do is come.

It is incredible the humanitarian crisis that this administration has caused. There is some blame to go around for Republicans as well, that have entered into this discussion about providing amnesty, providing legal status when, if they would simply listen to the people in the field on the border and understand the trauma that they have been going through trying to protect this country, they would find out, as Chris Crane has said before, he said again yesterday, when people in Washington talk about amnesty or legal status, we see a massive influx of people coming because they want to get here for the legal status, the amnesty. That is why it is so critical that we not talk about any kind of legal status or amnesty being awarded to anyone, that we wait until we have a President, hopefully a change in this President’s heart so he will start enforcing the law and start faithfully executing the laws of the country.

It is unconstitutional for anyone in the United States, including the President, to say: I don’t like the law the way it is. Congress hasn’t changed it, so here’s the new law.

One rather shocking thing is when the President said, you know, that Congress hadn’t fixed it so here is the new law on who is going to be allowed to stay and be given legal status that we are not going to throw out. Here is the new law; here are the new requirements.

I couldn’t believe conservative news media, liberal news media, they are all reporting the same thing. Gee, here is the new law. Here are the new requirements that the President just pronounced into law.

Fortunately, there are many level-headed folks that understand that we are supposed to act within a Constitution, who pointed out you can’t just stand up and say, “Here’s the new law.” You actually have to have it pass through Congress. Yeah, it is a tough thing to do, and that is exactly what the Founders intended, because they knew the easier it was to pass laws, the quicker Americans would lose their liberty.

Ever since the 17th Amendment was ratified, the States lost their check and balance over the Federal Government not usurping the power reserved to them in the 10th Amendment. Some

have incorrectly reported that I want to repeal the 17th Amendment, go back to selecting Senators by State legislatures making the selection. There were some abuses there. Some legislators figured out how to game the system through the Senators they selected. All you would have to do is say: All right. We are going to select you to be our Senator, but here is our laundry list of things that we want.

So it was susceptible to being abused as well, but the point should not be lost that there has to be a way for States to regain the check and balance over the Federal Government usurpation of rights of the various States, the powers of the State.

If the States still had the check and balance over the Federal Government, you wouldn't see a report like John Roberts of FoxNews reported this week. "Wave of humanity," he reports: "Border Patrol overwhelmed by flow of illegal immigrants." He says:

At daybreak in this border town, two women from Guatemala—one with a small child strapped to her back—wait patiently on the levy overlooking the Rio Grande.

They have been instructed by the "coyote" who ferried them across the river for an exorbitant fee—as much as \$1,000—to simply wait for the Border Patrol to pick them up. After processing, they will likely be given a notice to appear before an immigration judge and a bus ticket to wherever in America they may have friends or relatives.

That's the way it goes, day in and day out, in what has become ground zero of the latest immigration crisis. Thousands upon thousands of people from Central America exploiting the porous border of the Rio Grande Valley to enter the United States.

To quote:

"If we don't send the message that they can't just come in and stay here, it's gonna continue, this wave of humanity," said Texas Representative HENRY CUELLAR. Cuellar is a Democrat, but an outspoken critic of how President Obama has handled this crisis.

Another story from Brandon Darby from Breitbart reports:

Vice President Moran invoked the case of Robert Rosas, a Border Patrol agent who was ambushed by illegal immigrants in 2009 in southern California. In that instance, Agent Rosas was dispatched alone to check on a sensor activation. Breitbart News has covered that issue extensively and revealed that one of the men involved had been on supervised release from U.S. authorities. The illegal immigrants wanted Agent Rosas's night-vision equipment, so they lured, trapped, and murdered him, according to the U.S. Attorney's office. "A repeat occurrence of an incident like this is what we fear, especially now without full staffing in the field," said Vice President Moran.

Shawn Moran is vice president of the National Border Patrol Council, the NBPC. He stated:

"The administration was already putting budgets before securing the border. Our jobs are immensely dangerous as we interrupt cartel activity on U.S. soil. Their border security policy failures have already reduced the number of agents securing the border, and now they have fewer agents out there to

back each other up. The lives of Border Patrol agents should not be pawns in the political games of Washington, D.C., and this administration is literally risking our lives."

The loss of Agent Rosas is an example of what happens when an administration is lawless. It breeds more lawlessness, and that is exactly what we have now on our United States border in the south. The story says:

Though Border Patrol are often heavily grouped in urban areas along the U.S.-Mexican border, they are often alone in desolate rural areas—and most of the U.S.-Mexico border is desolate.

It is really tragic what is happening, and this administration wrings its hands—well, some do. Some play golf. Some wring their hands. Some make sure they have got a good grip on their 7 iron, but others wring their hands about the losses of life and the tragedies occurring on our U.S.-Mexico border.

A story from the LA Times, Molly Hennessy-Fisk:

The call went out on Border Patrol radios just before sundown one day this week: 31 immigrants spotted illegally crossing the Rio Grande on a raft.

No sooner had the migrants been found hiding in the mesquite brush than another report came in: a woman and boy were walking up riverbank.

The Rio Grande Valley has become ground zero for an unprecedented surge in families and unaccompanied children flooding across the Southwest border, creating what the Obama administration is calling a humanitarian crisis as border officials struggle to accommodate new detainees.

□ 2030

Largely from Central America, they are now arriving at a rate of 35,000 a month. Anzalduas Park, a 96-acre expanse of close-cropped fields and woodland that sits on a southern bend of the river, has turned from an idyllic family recreation area into a high-traffic zone for illegal migration. The number of children and teenagers traveling alone from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador is expected to reach up to 90,000 across the southwest border by the end of the year.

This story was written June 13. We have information that that number hit 60,000 by May, and originally 60,000 was expected to be the top. So I think it would be a good estimate to expect if we got more than 60,000 and they are coming faster and faster, and that 60,000 was hit by early May or the 1st of May, I think you can pretty well count on more than 90,000, perhaps more than 120,000, and that is this year.

As these teenagers and others are given legal status, then their parents, they will be able to be anchors to bring other family members in with them. So you are talking about just in 1 year adding maybe 1 million people when you start looking at all the other ways people are coming in.

We bring in over 1 million people with visas legally every year. No other country in the world does that. Countries a number of times our size don't allow that many visas. We do because

we are an open country. But we understand there is an obligation. You have to maintain some kind of semblance of order.

At a time when you have got tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of people coming in illegally, and you don't know who they are, you have got drug cartels that are taking advantage of that, as ICE and Border Patrol are pointing out. They are taking advantage of it, they are moving more drugs than ever. As some have said this week, we—Border Patrol, ICE agents—were changing diapers while they are stepping up the number of drugs they are bringing in.

So how is this all happening? It comes back to the administration. If you have an administration that is lawless and refuses to enforce the law, as this administration has, you are going to reap the whirlwind.

There is another story from U.S. News, from Hidalgo County, "Migrant Surge Jams Border":

Sergeant Dan Broyles once had to battle through the spiky thicket of border vegetation here to find an immigrant illegally sneaking into the country.

But all he had to do on a recent day was to wait in plain sight along a dirt road, as a group of Salvadoran migrants, including a 7-year-old girl with a pink Hello Kitty backpack, deliberately walked up and surrendered to him a mile north of the Rio Grande.

"They're all giving up," said Sergeant Broyles, 51-years-old, a Hidalgo County Constable's official whose main responsibility is supposed to be serving court papers. As he waited for Border Patrol agents to pick up the migrants, another group was coming up behind them.

And on and on and on it goes.

It is what happens when an administration refuses to enforce the law, refuses to follow the law themselves. When you have an Attorney General that obfuscates and is complicit in the hiding of evidence and keeping evidence secret of what happened with a couple of thousand guns being forced by the government to be sold to people that never should have gotten them in the operation called "Fast and Furious." We have known about it for a number of years, but we have always felt like even in the John Mitchell Department of Justice, even when there was illegality somewhere, even at the top with the Attorney General, that there would be good people in the Department of Justice that would stand up and say: This is wrong, you are going to destroy our country because we are supposed to be the department that ensures justice across the country.

It seems like what we are doing here in the DOJ is going after political enemies of the administration instead of being fair across the board. The rest of the world notices these things, and they notice that we are not being fair and just and righteous, as we once were. All the time this humanitarian crisis, illegal immigrants flooding into

the country from our south, and the administration saying: We don't know why this is happening; why are they rushing here?

Well, then here is a story this week:

The White House to honor young illegal immigrants. The White House will honor 10 young adults on Tuesday who came into the United States illegally and qualified for the President's program to defer deportation actions.

I might remind, Mr. Speaker, that this is the President's program where he decided to change the law unilaterally, without Congress, to say he didn't like the existing law, so he pronounced new law into existence.

The story from Rebecca Shabad says:

Each person has qualified for the government's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which delays removal proceedings against them as long as they meet certain guidelines.

They were honored as "Champions of Change."

So the White House is glorifying people that came in illegally and then is shocked that more people want to come in and be glorified for coming in illegally.

There is another story from Reuters of New York:

A New York lawmaker wants to grant many of the rights of citizenship to millions of illegal immigrants and noncitizen residents, including the right to vote in local and State elections, under a bill introduced on Monday.

So let's give benefits, let's give a place to stay, let's give food, let's give legal counsel, as this administration is doing all, and let's give them incentives. Let's give them the right to vote so that they can vote for more people to come in illegally. Because once you give the right to vote to people who have not respected the law, and you give them that right to vote before they can be educated on the importance and the responsibility of maintaining a republic—madam, if you can keep it—you are going to lose that ability to have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. It becomes lawless. Might makes right.

A story from Breitbart this week:

Pro-Bono Lawyers: Most Unaccompanied Border Children Eligible for Amnesty.

A story by Sylvia Longmire:

Under the authority of the Homeland Security Act, the federal government transfers custody of illegal immigrant children who are apprehended alone at our borders to the Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Refugee Resettlement. Their primary goal is to reunite them with a family member or legal guardian already here in the U.S.

So, as U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen has said, now we are engaging in human trafficking.

This is a good lesson in how you lose a great nation because you refuse to enforce your laws. This country has

never had perfect laws, never will have perfect laws. They are made by man. But the thing we are supposed to inter-nally perpetually strive for is making them better and better.

You don't have to study all that much history to understand that no nation ever lasts forever. They never have, they never will, not in this life.

So the question is: How long are you able to sustain a great nation? Some have gone for hundreds and hundreds of years. The United States has never been, will never be, an empire like the Greek or Roman empire or the British empire because the United States has never been imperialistic.

When we go in and fight for freedom, Americans die for freedom, people still speak their same language, still have their same currency. We help them to set up a government. Well, it is time we quit nation-building.

Now Iraq. So many of us warned about this, and after my last visit to Iraq, DANA ROHRBACHER and I pointed out problems to Prime Minister al-Maliki, and he didn't like it. We each pointed out promises that were made and had been broken, and he didn't like it. Even 3 or 4 years ago, it was very clear to us that Maliki was either going to totally sell out to the Iranians, who had been killing Americans who were there, or he would get knocked off, just like in Afghanistan. President Karzai is either going to have to sell out to the Taliban or he is going to be killed, or he can take money that people say he has not actually embezzled that maybe some of his family has, take off with the money and try to live on that somewhere outside of Afghanistan.

We don't have to nation-build. We should just make it clear to a country: Look, you can pick whatever government you want, but when you are a threat to us and you announce you want to destroy us as the great Satan, destroy Israel as the little Satan, and you are working on the bomb that will do that, then we need to take your government out. We need to take out all of your areas where you are working on nuclear weapons and keep bombing until we have satisfactorily done that, and then let the nation pick whatever government they want. But if it is one that wants to come after us again, as the Khomeini administration has, then we need to take them out too.

The problem is this administration has been floating ideas of working with Iran, which had been killing American soldiers the entire time that U.S. soldiers were in Iraq, providing IEDs, providing weapons, providing the means and people to help kill Americans, and which has made clear they want to wipe our country off the map, wipe Israel off the map, and this administration has people who say: Let's work with Iran to control Iraq.

That is sheer insanity. Who is thinking of these things? Allies of the

United States all over the world are asking: Are we the next ally to be thrown away as the United States continues to embrace its enemies and throw away its friends?

Take your pick of the way nations have been lost over time, great nations have lost what freedom they had, what self-control they had. Look at the way they have been lost. Some have lost it internally. They spent too much money on themselves, overspent, they lost the country, became a bankrupt nation. Or sometimes they let their defense down and people came in and overwhelmed the nation. Or sometimes they were attacked by armies who destroyed their power, their government. Everywhere you turn, it appears we are taking the steps—this administration and Congress is not doing enough yet to stop them—but it appears the administration repeatedly is taking all of those roads that lead to destruction.

□ 2045

You cannot keep punishing your friends, rewarding your enemies. You cannot keep encouraging your enemies and allowing them to develop weapons that will destroy you. You cannot leave your borders open when people have made clear: We are bringing drugs in, and we are coming in with weapons now. We are taking over gangs in your cities. We are going to destroy you from within.

You can't keep doing that. Then, all that time, we are cutting spending on our defense to keep evil out. We are still overspending.

Sure, we have given some and helped wonderful companies like Solyndra and paid \$600 million or so for a Web site for ObamaCare and friends of the administration when we are told: gee, you could have done a better Web site for \$4 million.

Sure, we have spent it on all kinds of things like that, but the spending of future generations' money has to stop because you can lose the country just in that way as well.

Just when you think the lawlessness of the administration could not get any worse—just when you think, wow, it is absolutely incredible—it is very clear now that this administration's Internal Revenue Service was using IRS laws to persecute political opponents of the administration, so they could not be effective and do again in 2012 what they did in 2010.

Guess what? It worked. At first, we were told: No, they were going after liberal groups and conservative groups the same way.

Well, now, we know that is not true. They were going after conservative groups, and when any administration has IRS officials that send out questions asking about the content of your prayers, it is time to start firing people right and left.

Since that hasn't happened, it tells you that there is a disease running

through this administration, a cancer that needs to be stopped.

We know that the Attorney General himself is in contempt of Congress, and we know that he sat there and told me that I was not to ever think it was a big deal for him to be found in contempt, when he knew that a year before he told ABC it wasn't a big deal to him because he didn't have any respect for people in Congress that voted to hold him in contempt. He couldn't even get his story right when he was testifying before Congress.

He needs to go. Since the administration has refused to move out an Attorney General who has repeatedly failed to do his job, has repeatedly failed to do justice, has repeatedly allowed the law to be used to go after political enemies while protecting political friends, while they have refused to go after people who believe that this country ought to be part of a great radical Islamist caliphate—and we protect those people.

Not only do we protect them, according to Egyptian periodicals that were controlled by the Muslim Brotherhood, they bragged about the people in this administration who were in positions of power, amazingly—maybe it shouldn't be that amazing—but eventually, truth does have a way of coming forward.

Yes, we have the IRS, at this point, losing emails. Of course, that triggered ideas in my head because there are criminals laws about obstructing Congress. There are criminal laws about obstructing investigations. There are criminal laws about IRS agents abusing their positions.

So anyone anywhere in the administration that is in any way assisted or encouraged in any way the losing or the reported loss of emails—this active coverup that is going on—they committed a crime, and it isn't just a 6-month statute of limitations, and they should be worried.

So the IRS, despite the laws regarding redundancy, despite the requirements that they are to keep records, they haven't done so.

There was a great letter that was sent by an attorney for True the Vote, one of the persecuted conservative groups. Cleta Mitchell, the attorney, writes to the counsel for the IRS and says:

As you know, True the Vote filed its lawsuit in the above-referenced matter on May 21, 2013. By the time True the Vote filed its suit, the Internal Revenue Service and its employees and officials were on notice of the commencement of several congressional investigations.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Finance Committee have each provided notice to the IRS of their ongoing investigations into the IRS and, specifically, defendant Lois Lerner and her activities related to the issues involved in the True the Vote litigation for over a year now.

Late Friday, the IRS apparently advised the Ways and Means Committee that the IRS has "lost" Lois Lerner's hard drive, which includes thousands of Defendant Lerner's email records.

However, several statutes and regulations require that the records be accessible by the committees and, in turn, must be preserved and made available to True the Vote in the event of discovery in the pending litigation.

Those statutes include the Federal Records Act, Internal Revenue Manual section 1.15.6.6, IRS Document 12829, 36 CFR 1230, and 36 CFR 1222.12.

Under those records retention regulations and the Federal Records Act generally, the IRS is required to preserve emails or otherwise contemporaneously transmit records for preservation.

Therefore, the failure for the IRS to preserve and provide these records to the committees would evidence further violations of numerous records retention statutes and regulations or obstruction of Congress.

Federal courts have held, in the context of trial, that the bad faith destruction of evidence relevant to proof of an issue gives rise to an inference that production of the evidence would have been unfavorable to the party responsible for its destruction.

It then cites a Federal case. That is called the doctrine of spoliation.

The fact that the IRS is statutorily required to preserve these records, yet nevertheless publicly claimed that they have been "lost" appears to be evidence of bad faith.

18 USC 1505 makes it a Federal crime to obstruct congressional proceedings and covers obstructive acts made during the course of a congressional investigation, even without official committee sanction.

It cites authority for that proposition.

Further, by letters dated September 17, 2013, True the Vote provided notice to counsel for the individual IRS defendants in this litigation. The individual defendants are: Steven Grodnitzky, Lois Lerner, Steven Miller, Holly Paz, Michael Seto, Douglas Shulman, Cindy Thomas, William Wilkins, Susan Maloney, Ronald Bell, Janine L. Estes, and Faye Ng.

True the Vote's September 17, 2013, correspondence reminded you and your clients of the individual defendants' obligation "not to destroy, conceal, or alter any paper or electronic files, other data generated by and/or stored on your clients' computer systems and storage media, e.g., hard disks, floppy disks, backup tapes, or any other electronic data, such as voice mail."

We identified the scope as encompassing both the personal and professional or business capacity of your clients and involving data "generated or created on or after July 15, 2010." See attached letters to Ms. Benitez and Messrs. Lamken and Shur.

As the D.C. District Court has found, "a party has a duty 'to preserve potentially relevant evidence . . . ' once that party anticipates litigation."''

It cites the authority for that.

In fact, "that obligation 'runs first to counsel, who has a duty to advise his client of the type of information potentially relevant to the lawsuit and of the necessity of preventing its destruction.'" It "also extends to the managers of a corporate party, who 'are responsible for conveying to their employees the requirements for preserving evidence.'"

By letter dated September 25, Ms. Benitez acknowledged receipt of our "litigation

hold" letter and vociferously objected to our having the temerity to send such a letter, "rejecting" our characterization of documents to be preserved.

Indeed, Ms. Benitez, you indicated that you took great offense at having been put on notice to preserve and maintain documents related to the issue of this litigation.

You further advised, however, that you would continue to advise "your clients as appropriate and, as always, will abide by my legal and ethical obligations."

The public reports released late on Friday, June 13, 2014, stated the IRS now claims to have "lost" the emails of defendant Lois Lerner.

I have got to inject. Ms. Benitez apparently wasn't being honest. She apparently didn't know how to properly advise her clients and properly abide by the legal and ethical obligations that she had.

This letter goes on:

These reports are particularly astonishing in light of your representations, Ms. Benitez, that you would "advise your clients, as appropriate, and would abide by your legal and ethical obligations."

The "lost" emails, from press reports, appear to cover a time period from January 2009 to April 2011.

We are deeply troubled by this news and are concerned about the spoliation of information and documents pertaining to this case and the apparent failure on your part to, a, protect and preserve all potentially relevant information and, b, to advise us of such failure and spoliation when you first learned of it.

We are even more concerned after receiving your assurances that you would "abide by your legal and ethical obligations."

Accordingly, we hereby request that you advise us of the following.

Then it goes on with demands. They are quite reasonable.

It says:

In addition to seeking responses to the questions in this letter, we also seek your consent to immediately allow a computer forensics expert selected by True the Vote to examine the computers that is or are purportedly the source of Ms. Lerner's "lost" emails, including cloning the hard drives, and to attempt to restore what was supposedly "lost" and to seek to restore any and all "lost" evidence pertinent to this litigation.

We also seek access to all computers, both official and personal, used by any and all of the defendants from and after July 1, 2010, in order to ensure preservation of the documents of all defendants in this action.

We wish to resolve our concerns amicably; but, absent your consent, we will file such motions as deemed necessary and appropriately asking the court to require that you respond to the questions contained in this letter and to permit such forensic examination described herein and for such other relief as may be appropriate for this egregious breach of legal authority and professional ethics.

Anyway, the judge in that case needs to go ahead and order all kinds of sanctions against the Internal Revenue Service. It needs to order all kinds of sanctions against the attorneys and the employees involved in that litigation who have failed to produce what was required.

The judge needs to make clear that justice, including from our own so-called Justice Department, will not permit this kind of lawlessness. It is outrageous. It is simply outrageous.

□ 2100

Just when you think the ignoring of the safety of American citizens couldn't get much worse by this administration, they brag that they are bringing a known terrorist to New York City. Nobody on the left seems to be terribly bothered by the fact that they say they are putting him on a slow ship to the U.S. when they should have put him on a fast plane to Guantanamo Bay. It is better kept than many prisons I have been to that actually meet the requirements of the law, including the requirements of liberal judges. It is better than so many prisons.

Yes, they get to play soccer, and when they continue to throw feces or urine on our guards, then they do lose some of their movie time watching. When I was down there a couple of times, somebody lost movie privileges because he figured out a way to throw urine or feces on guards. There actually was a guard who yelled back at the person who threw feces on him, and he ended up being punished. I was told, by Article 15 because you are not allowed to respond when a terrorist throws feces or urine on you. They will take care of the adequate punishment, and they think it is enough to take away some of their movie watching time or television watching time or to maybe take away some of the time they get to be outside, playing soccer.

They don't need to be in the United States if they have committed an act of war against the United States, and the evidence seems to indicate clearly that this defendant had. I am very pleased and I applaud the administration for finally picking up this guy who was so available to international media that they could get interviews with him. Yet the administration didn't want to pick him up. If they had, they could have gotten him at any time. I guess, last year, they picked up this terrible terrorist in Libya, and when I was over there, the Libyans said his address had been on the Internet for a year. The U.S. could have gotten him any time they wanted to—they knew where he lived—but the administration finally decided to do something about it, so they did.

This is an article from CBS News: "Benghazi Suspect Expected to Face Criminal Charges in D.C. Federal Court." When Americans say someone who commits an act of war against the United States should be brought to a Federal district court because it is his constitutional right, it tells you immediately they don't know the Constitution because, under the Constitution, there isn't even a U.S. District Court

created. How can somebody have a right to a United States district court under our Constitution when there is no U.S. district court created in our Constitution?

As David Guinn used to say, who was my old constitutional law professor, there is only one court created in the entire Constitution. That is the Supreme Court. Every other Federal court in America owes its existence and jurisdiction to the United States Congress. As Bill Cosby said his father used to say, "I brought you in this world, and I can take you out." The Congress brought these courts into this world. We can take them out of this world. Nobody has a constitutional right to a U.S. district court. If you commit an act of war, you have got a right to a tribunal if we so choose, and we have. You may have a right to a military court.

I don't understand, Mr. Speaker, why in the world liberals in the United States think that someone who commits an act of war against the United States should have more constitutional rights than our United States military, and this administration thinks one does. How do you know? Look at what they are doing to our military. Go talk to some of our military members who have been put in prison. They say: We believed our lives were in jeopardy, that we were in immediate danger of death or of serious bodily injury, so we defended ourselves.

You shouldn't have because you hit a civilian or you hit somebody else or you hit somebody who was messing with an IED, but that didn't mean that he actually planted it.

There are all kinds of people we have in prison now who are serving our United States military, and they were not given near the rights that this person—this radical Islamist who wants to destroy America—is now being told he is going to get.

So they say they are questioning him, but the Federal Government said that about the last suspect they arrested and put on a slow boat to the U.S., and there were people here who were saying this is great, that this may be the one guy they say they wouldn't mind having waterboarded in order to get all of the information out of him they could.

Then we hear from an international arms dealer who says: Yes, I was the one who negotiated the arms deal for the U.S. State Department. They wanted to get arms to Libyan rebels, and I proposed just their buying them, and then I would get them to the rebels. But they said: No, no, no. We don't want it that direct. So he says he bought the weapons for the State Department and got them to Qatar and then, from Qatar, got them to the rebels who were infused with al Qaeda rebels.

Anyway, the international arms dealer sent me a statement saying he want-

ed to testify before Congress because the people he worked with who were representing the U.S. Government and others were either dead or they were on a boat somewhere so that nobody could talk to them. He figured, if he could get his story out before Congress, then maybe there wouldn't be any need to kill him or to stick him on a boat somewhere so he couldn't talk. That was what the statement of the international arms dealer has been—the statement that was sent to me—and yet they want to bring here someone they say they are certain committed an act of war against the United States.

I heard on the news today that, gee, they have had evidence of this al-Shabaab involvement since the event happened. Since the event happened? That would mean all of the time that Secretary Clinton was out there—saying it was the video and looking family members of the deceased of Benghazi in the eye and saying: We are going to get the guy who did the video—she knew that the evidence was nothing of the sort, that the video had nothing to do with the loss of these four American lives.

There is no right of someone who commits an act of war against the United States to get an immediate trial. He is not entitled under our Constitution to get a speedy trial. He is not under our Constitution entitled to get a trial before a U.S. district court. He is entitled under the current law to go to Guantanamo Bay—where no one has ever been waterboarded by the way—and have a trial in that courtroom. I went through it, and I was impressed at how well equipped it was for trying terrorists, even to the extent of having bulletproof glass for the gallery.

There could be all kinds of horrible scenarios to arise out of this administration's insistence on bringing an enemy combatant—a warrior against the United States—who should be considered either an enemy combatant or a prisoner of war. He shouldn't be brought. There are too many bad things that can happen. New York has suffered enough.

I do want to finish with this one article, published this week by Breitbart and written by Kerry Picket. I have talked for some time about a Texan named Mohamed Elibary. I questioned our Secretary of Homeland Security about her giving him a secret security clearance when he clearly should not have met any of the requirements to get such a clearance. We knew that he had downloaded two documents from using his secret classification. According to reporter Patrick Poole, not only did he download them, but he offered them to national media for publication.

Mr. Elibary has gotten so cocky now because I have been talking about this

for a number of years. The administration has not bothered to revoke his secret classification, and he continues to be one of the top advisers to Homeland Security. It is our homeland security for heaven's sake, and he sends out this tweet on June 13 that says:

Kind of comical watching pundits on some U.S. TV channels freak out about an ISIS caliphate. Easy, folks. Take deep breaths and relax.

Kerry Picket reports:

Mohamed Elibiary, a member on the Obama administration's Homeland Security Advisory Council, is at the center of a controversy involving allegations that former DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano gave him secret clearance, which led to his downloading classified information. According to Representative Louie Gohmert, Elibiary later shopped that classified material around to a reporter.

Elibiary, a supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood, who regularly goes after the Sisi-led Egyptian Government, is also an active participant on Twitter, and mocked the "freak out" by U.S. talking heads discussing the terrorist activities relating to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, ISIS.

So Elibiary says that. He thinks it is comical watching pundits freak out over the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria's caliphate.

He goes on in another tweet in response to a tweet back that says:

So no need to be outraged?

He says:

As I've said before, inevitable that caliphate returns. Choice only whether we support an EU-like Muslim Union vision or not.

So Mr. Elibiary, who is a top adviser in the United States of America Homeland Security Department, is saying it is inevitable that we have an Islamic caliphate over the United States. It is just whether or not we are going to embrace a European Union-style caliphate that is coming or something else.

Even when he is questioned again by another tweet, in talking about an Islamic caliphate, he says:

The U.S. is heading in the direction. Bush created the OIC—Organization of Islamic Council—Special Envoy.

So that took us a little bit down the road to being part of the caliphate. Then he says:

Obama removed the discriminatory engagement policy toward the Muslim Brotherhood.

That is the purging of documents I have been talking about for years. This administration, according to their Homeland Security adviser here, has been moving toward being part of a caliphate for years. Get used to it. He finds it comical that pundits are even worried about it.

With the lawlessness that is occurring in the United States and inside our Justice Department and in this administration in numerous places—in the IRS, on our border—it is time for Americans to wake up, and it is time for Americans to let their Congressmen and Senators know we have had enough

lawlessness. You guys have got to hold the Attorney General and the President accountable. Once enough people wake up and demand it, they will get it because the adage remains true: democracy ensures a people get a government no better than they deserve.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for June 18–20 on account of family obligations.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1254. An act to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 19, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6013. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2014–2015 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1 FR] received May 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6014. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0010; FV14-925-1 FR] received May 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6015. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — User Fees for 2014 Crop Cotton Classification Services to Growers [AMS-CN-13-0085] (RIN: 0581-AD35) received May 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6016. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Eric E. Fiel, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6017. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contractor Personnel Supporting U.S. Armed Forces Deployed Outside the United States (DFARS Case 2013-D015) (RIN: 0750-AI01) received May 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6018. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-74; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR 2014-0051; Sequence No. 1] received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6019. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Commercial and Government Entity Code [FAC 2005-74; FAR Case 2012-024; Item I; Docket No.: 2012-0024, Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 9000-AM49) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6020. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Expansion of Applicability of the Senior Executive Compensation Benchmark [FAC 2005-74; FAR Case 2012-017; Item III; Docket No.: 2012-0017, Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 9000-AM38) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6021. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Repeal of the Recovery Act Reporting Requirements [FAC 2005-74; FAR Case 2014-016; Item II; Docket No.: 2014-0016, Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 9000-AM77) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6022. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's annual report on material violations or suspected material violations of regulations relating to Treasury auctions and other Treasury securities offerings during the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3121 nt; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6023. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Thai Airways International Public Company Limited (Thai Airways) of Bangkok, Thailand pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6024. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-17, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6025. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-0C, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6026. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National

Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Belarus that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6027. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c) pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6028. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2014 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals through the 1st Quarter Fiscal Year 2014", pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6029. A letter from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Semi-annual Report of the Bureau, as required under Section 1016 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6030. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's fiscal year 2013 annual report prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6031. A letter from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, transmitting the 2013 management report and statements on the system of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6032. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting a report entitled, "Sexual Orientation and the Federal Workplace: Policy and Perception"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6033. A letter from the Chairman, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the semi-annual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6034. A letter from the Biologist, Ecological Services, Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Wood Bison in Alaska [Docket No.: FWS-R7-ES-2012-0033; 70120-1113-0000-C3] (RIN: 1018-AW57) received May 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6035. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of

Threatened Status for *Leavenworthia exigua* var. *laciniata* (Kentucky Glade Cress) [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2013-0069] (RIN: 1018-AY73) received May 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6036. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for *Leavenworthia exigua* var. *laciniata* (Kentucky Glade Cress) [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2013-0015] (RIN: 1018-AZ47) received May 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6037. A letter from the Branch Chief, Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Jemez Mountains Salamander [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2013-0005] (RIN: 1018-AZ28) received May 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6038. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the annual report of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6039. A letter from the National Chairman, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, transmitting the annual and financial reports for the year 2013, pursuant to Public Law 87-655; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6040. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — June 2014 (Rev. Rul. 2014-16) received May 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6041. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Depreciation of Ethanol Plants (RR-138367-08) (Rev. Rul. 2014-17) received May 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6042. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Treatment of Property Used to Acquire Parent Stock or Securities in Certain Triangular Reorganizations Involving Foreign Corporations [Notice 2014-32] received May 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 629. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4413) to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-476). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana (for himself, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. REED, Mr. POLIS, Mr. ROSS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. SCHOCK):

H.R. 4885. A bill to encourage and support partnerships between the public and private sectors to improve our nation's social programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 4886. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 4887. A bill to expand the research and education on and delivery of complementary and alternative medicine to veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 4888. A bill to provide for the identification and dissemination of best practices for medical professionals and other health care providers relative to neonatal abstinence syndrome, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4889. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require States to dedicate 5 percent of certain funds to projects that reduce emission to public safety vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 4890. A bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 4891. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain lands in Las Vegas, Nevada, for the development of a nonprofit work center and affordable housing for people with intellectual disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. MICHAUD, and Ms. ESTY):

H.R. 4892. A bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Ways and Means, Oversight and Government Reform, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the

Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 4893. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of the waiting period for disability insurance benefits in cases of terminally ill beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4894. A bill to establish the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 4895. A bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of cosmetics containing synthetic plastic microbeads; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RIBBLE (for himself and Mr. RIGELL):

H.R. 4896. A bill to prohibit congressional recesses until Congress adopts a concurrent resolution on the budget that results in a balanced Federal budget by fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MCKEON, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HUNTER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SIRE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. GRAYSON, and Mr. ROKITA):

H.R. 4897. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to complete a data analysis on the impact of the proposed rule on gainful employment prior to issuing a final rule on gainful employment; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 4898. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide hospital care and medical services in non-Department facilities for veterans waiting longer than 14 days for an appointment in a Department facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. HAHN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. MEEKS):

H. Res. 630. A resolution recognizing the benefits and importance of music making as an essential form of creative expression and expressing support for designating the Summer Solstice, June 21, 2014, as Make Music Day; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 4885.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mrs. LUMMIS:

H.R. 4886.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state."

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 4887.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 4888.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4889.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 4890.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relation to the power to dispose of and legislate for all territories and properties belonging to the United States).

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 4891.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relation to the power to dispose of and legislate for all territories and properties belonging to the United States).

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 4892.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, "to provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States."

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 4893.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4894.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: section 1 of article I, and clause 18, section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 4895.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

[The Congress shall have Power] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 4896.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 9, clause 7 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4897.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Ms. SINEMA:

H.R. 4898.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 1 and Article I Section 8 Clause 18

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills as follows:

- H.R. 107: Mr. DAINES.
- H.R. 346: Mr. MICA.
- H.R. 494: Mr. SHUSTER.
- H.R. 543: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
- H.R. 594: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
- H.R. 661: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
- H.R. 781: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
- H.R. 792: Mr. CUELLAR.
- H.R. 800: Mr. TONKO.
- H.R. 855: Mr. COHEN.
- H.R. 920: Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 997: Mr. CAMP and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
- H.R. 1015: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 1020: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. DENT, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
- H.R. 1074: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. DELBENE, and Mrs. ELLMERS.
- H.R. 1078: Mr. PERRY.
- H.R. 1125: Mr. PIERLUISI.
- H.R. 1199: Mr. CLYBURN.
- H.R. 1249: Mr. HURT.
- H.R. 1494: Mr. DOGGETT.
- H.R. 1518: Ms. WATERS.
- H.R. 1658: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
- H.R. 1696: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
- H.R. 1750: Mr. GERLACH.
- H.R. 1761: Mr. DOYLE.
- H.R. 1837: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. RUSH.
- H.R. 1838: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
- H.R. 1893: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. TONKO.
- H.R. 1984: Mr. SCHOCK.
- H.R. 1998: Mr. WAXMAN.
- H.R. 2001: Mr. VEASEY.
- H.R. 2053: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
- H.R. 2066: Mr. TAKANO.
- H.R. 2220: Mr. FINCHER.
- H.R. 2453: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. LATTA, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
- H.R. 2499: Mr. TIERNEY.
- H.R. 2536: Mr. CAMP.
- H.R. 2591: Ms. DELBENE.
- H.R. 2663: Mr. AMODEI.
- H.R. 2673: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
- H.R. 2737: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. HONDA.
- H.R. 2745: Mr. CASSIDY.
- H.R. 2825: Mr. YARMUTH.
- H.R. 2992: Mr. CHAFFETZ.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa-

H.R. 3086: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Ms. ESTY, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 3112: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 3118: Ms. TITUS and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 3133: Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 3199: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 3279: Mr. MICA and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 3317: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 3382: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 3383: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 3489: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 3505: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. PIERLUISI and Mr. MCALLISTER.

H.R. 3556: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 3566: Mr. POCAN and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3708: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 3723: Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 3740: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 3741: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 3782: Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 3833: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 3877: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 3921: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 3992: Mr. WELCH and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 4026: Mr. VEASEY, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 4040: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4060: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 4086: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 4148: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 4149: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 4162: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 4169: Mr. LOEBACK.

H.R. 4187: Mr. SIRE.

H.R. 4190: Mr. JOLLY and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 4234: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 4240: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 4252: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 4315: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 4320: Mr. HUELSKAMP and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 4325: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 4351: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4437: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 4445: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 4446: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 4450: Mr. COBLE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 4489: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 4510: Mr. POCAN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. MENG, Mr. KLINE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. COLE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. REED.

H.R. 4521: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. MCALLISTER.

H.R. 4531: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 4577: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 4589: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 4590: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 4612: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 4622: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SIRE, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 4630: Ms. ESTY and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 4635: Mr. HURT.

H.R. 4636: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 4645: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 4653: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 4664: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 4680: Mr. CAPUANO and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 4701: Mr. BARROW of Georgia and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 4704: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 4717: Mr. TERRY and Mr. MAFFEL.

H.R. 4726: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 4749: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. SALMON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 4773: Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 4781: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 4782: Mr. POLIS and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 4786: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 4792: Mr. OLSON, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 4805: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 4808: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 4826: Ms. NORTON and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 4827: Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 4834: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 4841: Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. NEGRETE

MCLEOD, Mr. GALLEG, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. MOORE,

Ms. ESTY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. PALLONE, Ms.

KUSTER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms.

BROWNLEY of California, Mr. WALZ, Mr. RUIZ,

Ms. HAHN, Mr. ENYART, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 4851: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 4852: Mr. ENYART, Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4855: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 4864: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4871: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. GARRETT, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 4878: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 4881: Mr. FINCHER and Mr. GARRETT.

H.J. Res. 20: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. HANNA.

H. Res. 30: Mr. KENNEDY.

H. Res. 72: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H. Res. 170: Mr. ROONEY, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. ROHRBACHER.

H. Res. 412: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H. Res. 435: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H. Res. 442: Mr. CALVERT.

H. Res. 519: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H. Res. 564: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. SABLAN.

H. Res. 587: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H. Res. 588: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. KLINE, Ms. BASS, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H. Res., 593: Ms. LEE of California.

H. Res. 606: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. YARMUTH.

H. Res. 607: Mr. JOLLY.

H. Res. 612: Mr. ROHRBACHER.

H. Res. 621: Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. COLE, Mr. LATTA, Mr. JORDAN, and Mr. SALMON.

H. Res. 622: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$15,000,000)".

Page 12, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. BRIDENSTINE

AMENDMENT No. 8: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for any bilateral military-to-military contact or cooperation between the United States and the Republic of France unless and until the Republic of France cancels a contract to provide the Russian Federation with Mistral-class warships.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT No. 9: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals—

(1) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(2) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1); or

(3) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT No. 10: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for flag or general officers for each military department that are in excess to the number of such officers serving in such military department as of January 17, 2014.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT No. 11: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by an officer, employee, or contractor of the intelligence community to subvert or interfere with the integrity of any cryptographic standard that is proposed, developed, or adopted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT No. 12: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to make aircraft (including unmanned aerial vehicles), armored vehicles, grenade launchers, silencers, toxicological agents (including chemical agents, biological agents, and associated equipment), launch vehicles, guided missiles, ballistic missiles, rockets, torpedoes, bombs,

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. BRIDENSTINE

AMENDMENT No. 7: Page 7, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$8,000,000)".

mines, or nuclear weapons (as identified for demilitarization purposes outlined in Department of Defense Manual 4160.28) available to local law enforcement agencies through the Department of Defense Excess Personal Property Program established pursuant to section 1033 of Public Law 104-201, the 'National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997'.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT No. 13: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to detain, without conviction, any person for more than 15 years at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. FLEMING

AMENDMENT No. 14: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to appoint chaplains for the military departments in contravention of Department of Defense Instruction 1304.28, dated June 11, 2004, incorporating change 3, dated March 20, 2014, regarding the appointment of chaplains for the military departments.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT No. 15: Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT No. 16: Page 31, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MRS. MILLER OF MICHIGAN

AMENDMENT No. 17: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 10002. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to divest, retire, transfer, or place in storage, or prepare to divest, retire, transfer, or place in storage, any A-10 aircraft, or to disestablish any units of the active or reserve component associated with such aircraft.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. BRIDENSTINE

AMENDMENT No. 18: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for any bilateral military-to-military contact or comparable activities between the United States and the Republic of France.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. VARGAS

AMENDMENT No. 19: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ (a) LIMITATION.—None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended to implement a final decision affecting the homebasing of F-35 air-

craft on the West Coast of the United States until the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States submits to the congressional defense committees the comparative financial analysis under subsection (b).

(b) ANALYSIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a comparative financial analysis of homebasing F-35 aircraft at Naval Air Facility El Centro and Naval Air Station Lemoore.

(2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The analysis conducted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Annual operational costs to perform the training missions at each location specified in paragraph (1).

(B) Annual costs associated with detachment training at each location specified in paragraph (1).

(C) Estimated annual costs of flying F-35 aircraft to and from each location specified in paragraph (1) to the depots for such aircraft.

(D) Cost savings that might be achieved by homebasing such aircraft at Naval Air Facility El Centro, which is in close proximity to the F-35 aircraft of the Marine Corps located at both Miramar Marine Corps Air Station and Yuma Marine Corps Air Station.

(E) Cost savings that might be achieved by homebasing the F-35 aircraft at Naval Air Station Lemoore.

(F) Estimated annual costs of F-35 aircraft detachment training that would continue at each location specified in paragraph (1), even if the location is not used as the homebase for F-35 aircraft.

(G) Comparison of military construction costs associated with homebasing such aircraft at Naval Air Facility El Centro versus Naval Air Station Lemoore.

(H) Comparison of the net cost savings to be achieved over 10 and 20 year budget horizons by homebasing such aircraft at Naval Air Facility El Centro versus Naval Air Station Lemoore.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. DELANEY

AMENDMENT No. 20: Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by \$24,000,000)".

Page 88, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$16,000,000)".

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. FORTENBERRY

AMENDMENT No. 21: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide weapons to combatants in Syria.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. MORAN

AMENDMENT No. 22: Strike section 8108.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. MORAN

AMENDMENT No. 23: Strike section 8107.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. MCKINLEY

AMENDMENT No. 24: Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$21,000,000) (increased by \$21,000,000)".

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. KILDEE

AMENDMENT No. 25: Page 22, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$20,000,000)".

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$20,000,000)".

Page 33, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$20,000,000)".

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. NUGENT

AMENDMENT No. 26: Page 31, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)".

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. NUGENT

AMENDMENT No. 27: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to plan for or carry out a furlough of a dual status military technician (as defined in section 10216 of title 10, United States Code).

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MS. LOFGREN

AMENDMENT No. 28: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. ____ (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used by an officer or employee of the United States to query a collection of foreign intelligence information acquired under section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a) using an identifier of a United States person.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to queries for foreign intelligence information authorized under section 105, 304, 703, 704, or 705 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1805; 1842; 1881b; 1881c; 1881d), or title 18, United States Code, regardless of under what Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act authority it was collected.

(c) Except as provided for in subsection (d), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Security Agency or the Central Intelligence Agency to mandate or request that a person (as defined in section 1801(m) of title 50, United States Code) redesign its product or service to facilitate the electronic surveillance (as defined in section 1801(f) of title 50, United States Code) of any user of said product or service for said agencies.

(d) Subsection (c) shall not apply with respect to mandates or requests authorized under the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (47 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. SENSENBRENNER

AMENDMENT No. 29: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. ____ (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used by an officer or employee of the United States to query a collection of foreign intelligence information acquired under section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a) using an identifier of a United States person.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to queries for foreign intelligence information authorized under section 105, 304, 703, 704, or 705 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1805; 1842; 1881b; 1881c; 1881d), or title 18, United States Code, regardless of under what Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act authority it was collected.

(c) Except as provided for in subsection (d), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Security Agency or the Central Intelligence Agency to mandate or request that a person (as defined in section 1801(m) of title 50, United States

Code) redesign its product or service to facilitate the electronic surveillance (as defined in section 1801(f) of title 50, United States Code) of any user of said product or service for said agencies.

(d) Subsection (c) shall not apply with respect to mandates or requests authorized under the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (47 U.S.C. 1001et seq.).

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT No. 30: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for deploying members of the Armed Forces on the ground in Iraq for purposes of engaging in combat operations except to protect the United States Embassy.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT No. 31: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the purposes of conducting combat operations in Iraq.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT No. 32: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the purpose of conducting combat operations in Afghanistan after December 31, 2014.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT No. 33: At the end of the bill

(before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note).

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT No. 34: At the end of the bill

(before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) after December 31, 2014.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE VILLAGE OF POUND

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Village of Pound, located in Marinette County.

The Village of Pound was incorporated on December 8th, 1914. Early records show that 54 ballots were cast during the incorporation process. Thirty-five residents voted in favor of creating the Village, while 19 voted against it. Today, the Village of Pound, located inside the Town of Pound, is known as the community "Where You're Always Welcome!"

It is interesting to note that both the Town and Village of Pound were named for a popular figure in Wisconsin's history. Thaddeus Coleman Pound, the grandfather of poet Ezra Pound, served as the inspiration for the community's name. As a prominent businessman in northern Wisconsin, Thaddeus Coleman Pound had the opportunity to serve in the Wisconsin State Legislature, as Lt. Governor of the great State of Wisconsin, and represented the 8th Congressional District from March 4, 1877 to March 3, 1883.

The Village of Pound is planning to celebrate its 100th anniversary June 27–28, 2014 with a Little League tournament, tractor pulls, live music and a fireworks display. Again, I congratulate the Village of Pound on their centennial anniversary and encourage all residents in 8th District to celebrate this community's history and heritage.

HONORING ODELL H. SYLVESTER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. Odell H. Sylvester, former Chief of Police of Berkeley, California and devoted husband, father and friend. Known throughout the Bay Area for his firmness, fairness and compassion, Mr. Sylvester has left an indelible mark on our community. With his passing on January 25, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born on November 3, 1924 near Dallas, Texas, Mr. Odell Sylvester and his family later moved to Kansas City, Missouri. After his first year of undergraduate study at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, he enrolled in military service. For three years, he served as a military policeman in North Africa and Italy.

After returning to the United States, Mr. Sylvester attended the University of California,

Berkeley and graduated with a degree in Business Administration in 1948. Mr. Sylvester went on to complete a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the University of Southern California.

Mr. Odell Sylvester began his long career in law enforcement by working with the Oakland Police Department in 1949. Progressing through the ranks by competitive examination, he became Sergeant in 1957, Lieutenant in 1961, moving up to Captain two years later and ended as Deputy Chief in 1971. After he left the Oakland Police Department in 1977, Mr. Sylvester accepted his appointment as Chief of Police in Berkeley.

Breaking racial barriers, Mr. Sylvester became the first African American Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Deputy Chief in the Oakland Police Department, as well as the first African American Police Chief for the City of Berkeley.

In addition to his prolific career, Mr. Sylvester was an active member in the community, including the Oakland Boys' and Girls' Clubs, Goodwill Industries, the YMCA, the NAACP and the Church by the Side of the Road. He was also a founding member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and was the Director of the Bay Area Minority Recruitment Project, involving the San Francisco, Berkeley, Richmond and Oakland Police Departments. Mr. Sylvester received numerous awards for community and professional service, as well as in recognition of his lifetime achievements.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual, Mr. Odell H. Sylvester. As an Oakland resident, Mr. Sylvester's efforts have truly paved the way for minorities and impacted so many lives throughout the Bay Area. I join all of Odell's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF SANDWICH HERITAGE DAY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 375th anniversary of Sandwich, Massachusetts, a scenic and vibrant town on Cape Cod.

Settled nearly 150 years before the American Revolution, Sandwich is not only the oldest town on Cape Cod, but it is also one of the oldest in the country. Sandwich was founded in 1637 by Puritans as an offshoot of the famed Plymouth Colony. The early economy of Sandwich emerged as one that was centered mostly around fishing and farming. Today, however, tourism is the town's highest grossing industry—and visitors flock from all

over, especially in the summertime, to experience Sandwich's quaint charm. Attractions include the Sandwich town boardwalk, a place for crabbing, beach-going, and taking prom pictures. The adjacent Town Neck Beach on Cape Cod Bay is also a popular place to spend summer days sunbathing and admiring the view of the bay. The oldest home on Cape Cod—the Hoxie House—is a traditional salt-box design perched on scenic Shawme Lake; and nearby Dexter's Grist Mill, the oldest of its kind on the Cape, is located in the historic downtown district. Also located downtown is the Sandwich Glass Museum, a place that pays homage to the once lucrative trade of Sandwich settler Deming Jarves, who founded the Boston & Sandwich Glass Factory in 1825. Well known for its vibrant colors, Sandwich glass still graces the windows of many homes in this bayside town.

Along with its historic, colonial architecture, Sandwich also boasts beautiful natural landscapes such as salt marshes, cranberry bogs, and woodlands. The Cape Cod Central Railroad services tourists and the public with seasonal train rides along a scenic route that showcases some of these Cape landscapes.

Sandwich's town motto, translated from Latin, reads quite appropriately, "After So Many Shipwrecks, A Haven". And on this town anniversary, I know that I speak for all of us here when I acknowledge that Sandwich remains a haven for all of the families and individuals that call it home. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the town of Sandwich and the entire Sandwich community on the celebration of their anniversary. May this beautiful Massachusetts town flourish for many years to come.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF NANN BLAINE HILYARD AND HER OUTSTANDING IMPACT IN THE ZION-BENTON COMMUNITY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional public servant who worked in library administration for 40 years and served for the last 11 years as director of the Zion-Benton Public Library in the northern Illinois district I represent.

When Nann Blaine Hilyard retired in April, she completed what has been a truly remarkable career in service to her community. In her time with the Zion-Benton Library, Nann was a champion of the Zion Genealogical Society, offering rooms for research, expanding a collection of genealogical materials and always demonstrating the strongest support for the group's mission and efforts.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

This pursuit into family and local history underscores the dedication and commitment that Nann demonstrated for her adopted community.

In her 11 years with the Zion-Benton Public Library, there were tremendous advancements in collections, resources and outreach. Her broad experience and exceptional leadership helped define a truly successful period in the library's history.

It is fitting that one of Nann's last actions as director was to secure a grant from the State of Illinois, ensuring that her legacy of excellence continues well into the future.

The entire Zion-Benton community is lucky to have enjoyed Nann Blaine Hilyard's service.

RECOGNIZING THE ALLEMAN
SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Alleman Pioneers against the Teutopolis Wooden Shoes in the 2A Illinois state softball championship game on June 7, 2014.

I congratulate the Pioneers for winning the Illinois 1A state championship. This hard fought victory by Alleman gives the school the only program in state history to have won a softball title in three different classes. The Pioneers now hold titles in Class A (1992, 1993, 1994, 1998), Class 2A (2014) and Class AA (1985).

The school and the entire community should be extremely proud of the effort put forth by Alleman, which concluded the season with a record of 10-3.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Alleman softball team, both on and off the field, and I am honored to salute them today.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID
COCKRELL OF STILLWATER,
OKLAHOMA

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding citizen of Oklahoma's third congressional district. Dr. David Cockrell of Stillwater, Oklahoma, will soon be elected President of the American Optometric Association (AOA) as the association's 92nd president.

Dr. Cockrell is a graduate of the Southern College of Optometry. He is a past president of the Southwest Council of Optometry, and served in Oklahoma as chair of the Congress Committee as well as the State and Federal Legislative Committees. He is also a past President of the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians and has been honored as the Oklahoma Optometrist of the Year. In 2012, he was named Distinguished Optom-

etrist of the Year by the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians. These are just a few ways in which David has served his community, profession, and colleagues over the years.

Dr. Cockrell is a dedicated advocate of optometric issues, and I am proud to have him serving as this year's AOA president. What an honor it is to have an Oklahoman serving in such a prestigious capacity! I am confident his leadership will serve his profession well, and I join his family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating him on this tremendous achievement and wish him the very best.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE 1964 CIVIL RIGHTS
ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Since its passage on July 2, 1964, this landmark legislation ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

After the Civil War, three Constitutional Amendments were adopted to abolish slavery, grant former slaves citizenship and allow all men the right to vote regardless of race. Following a brief period of Reconstruction, Congress did not pass any civil rights legislation until 1957 when the Civil Rights Section of the Justice Department and a Commission on Civil Rights were established.

Following the conclusion of the Birmingham Bus Boycott in May 1963, President John F. Kennedy proposed a comprehensive civil rights bill in June 1963. He stated then that the United States "will not be fully free until all of its citizens are free."

Passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 required the masterful legislative savvy of President Lyndon B. Johnson. In his first State of the Union address he urged, "Let this session of Congress be known as the session which did more for civil rights than the last hundred sessions combined." The ban on employment discrimination against women was introduced as an amendment thought to be a mischievous attempt to kill the bill. The amendment passed.

The bill was debated on the Senate floor and one of the longest filibusters in Senate history took place. Never before in history had the Senate been able to raise enough votes to end a filibuster on a civil rights bill. Once the votes had been secured to end this filibuster, Minority Leader Senator Everett Dirksen, an Illinois Republican noted that the cloture vote was occurring on the 100th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's nomination to a second term.

There was also "street heat" on Congress from ordinary citizens, civil rights organizations and churches. In June 1964 Senator Dirksen estimated that he had heard from at least 100,000 people about the bill. Telegrams, petitions and letters all urged passage and in-

creased pressure on the Senate to pass the Civil Rights Bill. The NAACP, CORE, the National Urban League, SCLC and others represented organized African-American support for passage of the Bill.

The 1964 Civil Rights Act debate continued for 83 days, slightly over 730 hours and had taken up almost 3000 pages in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Finally, on July 2 within a few hours of the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, President Johnson signed it into law on national television, using more than 70 ceremonial pens.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I would like to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act as the most important civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. I join together with California Attorney General Kamala Harris, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, Black Elected Officials and Faith Based Leaders of the East Bay, the Equal Justice Society, NAACP, City of Oakland, Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Center, East Oakland Youth Development Center and labor organizations to celebrate this important milestone and continue the important work to ensure justice, equality and opportunity for all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent on Tuesday, June 17th in order to attend the funeral of a close family friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3375 (rollcall vote 313) and "yea" on H.R. 1671 (rollcall vote 314).

RECOGNIZING CARALINE SEPICH

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Caraline Sepich, a remarkable woman whose resiliency, dedication and talent continue to define her outstanding achievements as a student at Arizona State University.

On August 31, 2003, Caraline and her family suffered a horrific tragedy that altered the course of their life. Caraline's sister, Katie Sepich, was walking home from a friend's house when she was brutally raped and murdered in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The news of this crime sent a shockwave across the country and Caraline's family prompted the nation to prevent criminals from committing these violent crimes. After years of tireless work by Caraline and her family, President Obama signed into law the "Katie Sepich Act," which authorizes funding for states to collect DNA from detainees arrested on suspicion of serious crimes.

Despite her sister's death, Caraline continues to push forward with an unparalleled

passion and drive to effect change everywhere she goes. Caraline graduated from high school as salutatorian in 2012, and the following summer she was a Biofuel Laboratory Intern for the Algal Production Project at the Center of Excellence in Carlsbad. Caraline is now aggressively pursuing a double major in Biochemistry and Biophysics at Arizona State University, is a founding member of the Arizona State University BIOMED Team, and is a recent recipient of a Helios Scholarship for her work in the Collaborative Sequencing Center at the Translational Genomics Research Institute.

Most recently, Caraline was selected into the prestigious Barrett-Mayo Clinic Premedical Scholars Program. There she hopes to further her understanding of medical research, and to one day obtain her doctorate degree in the field.

Caraline's interest in and commitment to scientific advancement is an inspiration to all those who meet her. At the Arizona Science Center IMAX Theater, Caraline presented Katie's Law to motivate students and demonstrate the ability of one person to make an impact on an entire society. It is individuals like Caraline, whose resolute persistence, determination and resolve to effect meaningful change who truly define our country's values.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this moment to recognize and honor Caraline Sepich. With her sister forever in her heart, I have no doubt that Caraline will continue to accomplish great things in all her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on June 17, 2014, due to delayed transportation to Washington, I was unable to vote on rollcall 313, final passage of H.R. 3375, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic," and rollcall 314, final passage of H.R. 1671, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, as the "James 'Jim' Kohnen Post Office." Had I been present, I intended to vote "yes."

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT OF 2014

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as the nation's capital brings thousands of Americans to Washington, D.C. this tourist season, I rise to reintroduce the United States Commission on

an Open Society with Security Act of 2014. The bill expresses an idea I began working on when the first signs of the closing of parts of our open society appeared after the Oklahoma City bombing, well before 9/11. This bill grows more urgent as an increasing variety of security measures proliferate throughout the country without any thought about the effects on common freedoms and ordinary public access, and often without guidance from the government or bona fide security experts. Take the example of government buildings. Federal building security has gotten so out of control that a tourist passing by some federal buildings cannot even get in to use the restroom or enjoy the many restaurants. The security for federal buildings has too long been unduly influenced by non-security experts, such as the administrator in federal agencies, who do not take into account actual threats and, as a result, spend taxpayer dollars on needless security procedures or insist on restricting the public without regard to risk.

Another example is the District of Columbia's only public heliport, which the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) shut down following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, without explanation or means to appeal the decision. Just days after the 9/11 attacks, helicopter service was restored in New York City, the major target of the attacks. However, even twelve years after the attacks, TSA and FAA and particularly the Secret Service still will not permit commercial helicopters to fly to D.C., unlike all other cities in the U.S.

The bill I reintroduce today would begin a systematic investigation that fully takes into account the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding adequately to the real and substantial threat that terrorism poses. To accomplish its difficult mission, the bill authorizes a 21-member commission, with the president designating nine members and the House and Senate each designating six members, to investigate the balance that should be required between openness and security. The commission would be composed not only of military and security experts, but, for the first time at the same table, also experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology, and psychology. To date, questions of security most often have been left almost exclusively to security and military experts. They are indispensable participants, but these experts should not alone resolve all the new and unprecedented issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the security/access balance required by our democratic traditions, a diverse group of experts needs to be at the same table.

For years, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of terrorism and the fear of terrorism, on an often ad hoc basis. Some federal buildings such as the U.S. Capitol have been able to deal with security issues, and then resume their openness to the public. Others, like the new Department of Transportation headquarters, remain mostly inaccessible to the public. These examples, drawn from the nation's capital, are replicated in public buildings throughout the United States.

After 9/11, Americans expected additional and increased security adequate to protect citizens against the frightening threat of terrorism. However, in our country, people also expect their government to be committed and smart enough to undertake this awesome new responsibility without depriving them of their personal liberty. These times will long be remembered for the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country and for the unprecedented challenges it has brought. Nevertheless, we must provide ever-higher levels of security for our residents and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society. What we have experienced since Oklahoma City and 9/11 is no ordinary threat that we expect to be over in a matter of years. The end point could be generations from now. The indeterminate nature of the threat adds to the necessity of putting aside ad hoc approaches to security developed in isolation from the goal of maintaining an open society.

When we have faced unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the good sense to investigate them deeply before moving to resolve them. Examples include the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman-Robb Commission), and the Kerner Commission, which investigated the riots that swept American cities in the 1960s and 1970s. In the aftermath of the Navy Yard shooting, I wrote to the President of the United States requesting the establishment of an independent panel to investigate issues raised by that tragedy and to evaluate how to secure federal employees who work in facilities like the Navy Yard that are a part of a residential or business community. However, this bill seeks a commission that would act not in the wake of events but before a crisis-level erosion of basic freedoms takes hold and becomes entrenched. Because global terrorism is likely to be long lasting, we cannot afford to allow the proliferation of security measures that neither require nor are subject to civilian oversight or an analysis of alternatives and repercussions on freedom and commerce.

With no vehicles for leadership on issues of security and openness, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt 19th-century approaches, such as crude blockades, unsightly barriers around beautiful monuments, and other signals that our society is closing down, all without appropriate exploration of possible alternatives. The threat of terrorism to an open society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are menacing.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society of free and open access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level commission of experts from a broad array of disciplines to help chart the new course that will be required to protect our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK AND
OCEAN PROTECTION

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of smart and sustainable management of our country's oceans and fishery systems. America's ocean resources are an important part of our economy and environment and we must work to protect and maintain them.

The seafood industry plays a crucial role in communities across our nation. For example, the Mid-Atlantic region's seafood industry has generated over 137,000 jobs, \$18 billion in sales, and \$4 billion in income. More sales impacts were generated by importers in New Jersey than any other sector in any other state in the region at \$5.5 billion. Employment impacts in New Jersey were the highest in the region with over 13,000 full- and part-time jobs generated by recreational fishing activities in the state.

As researchers, fisheries, and various ocean experts visit Capitol Hill in honor of Capitol Hill Ocean Week we are reminded of the great benefit strong ocean management laws play in our environment and economy. These policies are necessary to protect our oceans from being overfished and putting various species in danger. With a future full of new and daunting challenges for our fishermen and coastal communities, now is the time we must act to maintain effective ocean management policies.

HONORING THE METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON COUNCIL AFL-CIO
PRESIDENT, JOSLYN "JOS" WIL-
LIAMS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of labor's strongest advocates in our region. Joslyn "Jos" Williams has been President of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, for 32 years, serving as an advocate for working men and women throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Throughout that time, he has made history as the union's first African-American president.

Mr. Williams will be honored at the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO annual "Salute to Leadership" dinner on June 20, and it is an honor that is much deserved and well earned. Having risen through the ranks of the union's leadership over the course of his career as an organizer and activist, he has applied his knowledge, care, and experience each day to making sure that the organization's members are not only well represented in discussions with private and public sector managers but that they have access to opportunities that provide pathways to middle-class success.

Mr. Williams came to this country as an immigrant while still a teenager, arriving from Ja-

maica with the goal of pursuing his American Dream. After working for the Library of Congress and becoming active in his local chapter of the American Federation of Government Employees, Mr. Williams realized that his calling was to make sure that his fellow workers could pursue their American Dreams as well. Thanks to his leadership, membership in his local chapter grew from 100 to 600 members over the course of just two years.

Today, Mr. Williams oversees an organization that is 150,000-workers strong and that plays an important role in the life of the National Capital Region. He has fought for fair pay, safe working conditions, and access to affordable health care and secure retirement savings. His work has surely helped—and continues to help—so many workers and their families participate in growing our economy and strengthening our region's communities.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Williams on this well deserved honor, and I thank him for his service to workers in Maryland's Fifth District and throughout our region.

HONORING MAYOR PEGGY
THOMSEN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mayor Peggy Thomsen. Known throughout the San Francisco Bay Area as the Mayor of Albany, California, a consummate public servant, and as a dedicated wife and mother, Mayor Thomsen has left an indelible mark on our community. With her passing on June 8, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of her life's work and the inspiring role she played in our community.

Born on February 28, 1940 in St. Louis, Missouri, Mayor Peggy Thomsen and her family moved frequently around the United States, including to Denver, Colorado and Beaverton, Oregon, before settling in Fresno, California. Mayor Thomsen was passionate about education. After earning her Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Arts degrees at California State University, Fresno, she went on to earn a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the University of California, Berkeley.

Meeting her husband, John, at California State University, Fresno, they moved to Albany where Mayor Thomsen began her career teaching in Albany and Richmond schools. She also was an instructor, curriculum planner and seminar presenter at Heald College in San Francisco.

Mayor Peggy Thomsen was deeply committed to helping others. Prior to being elected as Mayor of Albany, her civic service and leadership manifested in various ways. She served on the Albany Unified School District School Board for 16 years and spent 14 years on the City Council. Additionally, she was President of the Parent Teacher Association Council, Albany Girl Scout Leader and a School Resource Volunteer Coordinator.

Dedicated to leadership in her community, Mayor Peggy Thomsen served on the Social

and Economic Justice Committee, Albany Waterfront Committee and the Albany Charter Review Committee. Mayor Thomsen also served on numerous regional committees, including the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research and the California School Board Association Delegate Assembly.

In addition to Ms. Thomsen's prolific career, she received numerous awards for her work in the community. She was the recipient of Service Awards from the Albany Unified School District, March of Dimes, California State Parent Teacher Association and Albany Jaycees. Furthermore, her commitment to her students was demonstrated in the Teacher Enrichment and the Teacher of the Year Awards she received from Heald College.

Today California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and community leader, Mayor Peggy Thomsen. As a 47 year resident of Albany, her dedication and efforts impacted so many lives throughout the Bay Area. Her legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all of those whom she inspired. I join all of Peggy's loved ones in celebrating her incredible life. She will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the upcoming 75th birthday of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, formerly known as the Volunteer Reserve of the Coast Guard. Founded in June of 1939, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary has become one of the premier volunteer organizations in the country.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary was formed by an act of Congress in June 1939 and has provided direct support and assistance to the Coast Guard since. Four of the first five Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotillas were formed in the Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey regions, and we are proud to be the birthplace of this organization. The Coast Guard Auxiliary provides two million hours of volunteer service to the Coast Guard and the boating public annually, saving hundreds of lives and providing aid to countless more. This June, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will celebrate its 75th birthday on the banks of the Delaware River, where the first Coast Guard began its service in 1790.

I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary for this distinguished milestone in its already impressive history. May we all take this moment to thank the Coast Guard Auxiliary for its dedication and hard work in preserving the safety of our shores.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, I was absent and missed roll-call votes Nos. 313 and 314.

Had I been present, I would have voted:
Rollcall No. 313—"Yea."
Rollcall No. 314—"Yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCILWOMAN BONNIE PANNELL

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sacramento City Councilwoman Bonnie Pannell who has successfully served the people of Sacramento for the past sixteen years. As her family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate her outstanding career and numerous accomplishments, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Councilwoman Pannell as an outstanding public servant.

Prior to being elected to the Sacramento City Council, Councilwoman Pannell was a community activist in her South Sacramento neighborhood. Outside of elected office, she spent twenty-two years working for Unilab Medical Laboratories and Pacific Bell. Councilwoman Pannell was elected to the Sacramento City Council in June of 1998, succeeding her late husband, Samuel Pannell. As a Councilwoman, she has been re-elected to four-year terms in 2000, 2004, 2008 and again in 2012. She served as the City of Sacramento's Vice Mayor in 2001 and served with distinction for multiple years on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Area Flood Central Agency, Sacramento Regional Transit District and with a number of other special agencies.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working closely with Councilwoman Pannell to ensure the that South Sacramento Streams Group flood protection project gets completed and expensive flood insurance is no longer mandatory for our shared constituents. An unwavering champion of public transportation, Councilwoman Pannell's steadfast support for the light rail extension to Cosumnes River College has helped make that project a reality and it will be completed by September of next year.

Councilwoman Pannell represented the City of Sacramento well, serving the communities of Meadowview, Parkway, North Laguna Creek, and Jacinto Creek. Her priorities included economic development, education and recreational programs for her constituents, as well as a steadfast commitment to create safer neighborhoods. Councilwoman Pannell was able to bring to her community the Valley Hi-North Laguna Library, which opened in 2009. The beautiful full-service library has brought high-tech services and additional educational

opportunities to a part of Sacramento that long had been underserved.

She also helped turn around the neighborhood of Franklin Villa, and saw it transformed into Phoenix Park. Councilwoman Pannell has always put her constituents first and her record of accomplishments is long and will not be forgotten. It is very fitting that to mark her retirement from the City Council that her colleagues have voted to rename Meadowview Community Center in honor of her and her late husband.

Mr. Speaker, as Councilwoman Bonnie Pannell's family, friends, and colleagues gather to commemorate her for her service to the people of Sacramento, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this dedicated public servant, and true partner of mine, for helping make Sacramento a better place for families to live and prosper.

LADY RANGERS BASKETBALL COACH WINS TOP STATE AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melissa Fields, the Terry High School Lady Rangers basketball coach, who was named the 2014 4A Outstanding Coach of the Year in Texas. Coach Fields received the Dean Weese Outstanding Coach Award from the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches. The Lady Rangers were 22-10 on the season and reached the regional semifinals, the furthest the team has ever gone in playoffs. To be named the 4A Outstanding Coach of the Year in Texas recognizes more than just her success on the court. As a former high school and college basketball player, I know what a difference an outstanding coach can make in a player's life. Looking back on it now, I know it wasn't our record that was most important, it was the lessons I learned from playing the game. Coach Fields just finished her 18th year at Terry High School in Rosenberg, Texas. She has been teaching and coaching for 23 years. Congratulations to Coach Fields on this recognition and thank you for your dedication to the Lady Rangers Basketball team.

RECOGNIZING DR. STANLEY CAHILL

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Stanley Cahill for his 28 years of service at Salem State University, in Salem, Massachusetts, and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Since 1986, Dr. Cahill has served the students and broader community at Salem State University. He joined the university as the Dean of Student Life where he created the university's first professional student affairs

program and laid the foundation for the program that exists today.

Most recently, Dr. Cahill served as the University's Executive Vice President. In this role, he led the university's enterprise risk management program and coordinated the majority of university contracts and memoranda of understanding between the university and other agencies with which the university collaborates.

It is not surprising that after nearly three decades with the university, Dr. Cahill has become well known to many in the Salem community. He has fostered relationships with local officials and university neighbors and strengthened the partnership between the university and the City of Salem.

Dr. Cahill served Salem State University at a time of dynamic growth and increased diversity, and he had a decidedly positive influence on the institution's growth and enhanced reputation. On a personal note, and as one who is a Salem State alumnus and former trustee, I add my appreciation for all that Dr. Cahill has done for the university and the surrounding communities.

Dr. Cahill has had a remarkable career in higher education that has spanned more than 40 years and four universities and colleges. I congratulate Stan on this achievement and wish him all the best in his retirement.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOAVES & FISHES

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Loaves & Fishes 7th annual Day Without Hunger. Over the past thirty years, the Loaves & Fishes team has been committed to providing a hand up to those most in need in DuPage County with food assistance and other services.

This organization has grown exponentially in size and scope in order to realize their vision of ending hunger in DuPage County. In 1984, the year of their founding, the Loaves & Fishes team assisted eight households in the Naperville area, providing them with food to sustain their families. Today, Loaves & Fishes has expanded to serve all of DuPage County, helping thousands of families. Last year alone, Loaves & Fishes distributed over 3,200,000 pounds of food, serving 18,564 individuals.

The Loaves & Fishes team has helped close the gap for children who rely on school food services. Since 2004, they have assisted with school nutrition programs, ensuring that Naperville students get meals during the summer months. Additionally, breakfast assistance programs which they support give students a proper meal to start the school day.

In addition to food assistance, Loaves & Fishes has expanded to do even more to support the community. Since 2011, Loaves & Fishes has supported Pathways to Empowerment programs which provide assistance with various services, from health care enrollment to support in starting a job search.

The Loaves & Fishes team not only provides food for those in need, but they also

provide an opportunity for individuals to serve their friends and neighbors by volunteering. Truly, this organization empowers both recipients and volunteers.

Today, I am proud to recognize Loaves & Fishes for the invaluable service the organization has provided and the thousands of lives they have touched.

HONORING BLANCHE IONE JONES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Mrs. Blanche Ione Jones, a loving and compassionate parent, sister, aunt and friend to many throughout the country, and particularly in Jackson and Detroit, Michigan. I am joined in this tribute by Representative JOHN CONYERS of Michigan. Mrs. Jones was a strong, kind and gentle woman who cared for others and deeply loved her family and community. With her passing on June 11, 2014, we look to her contributions to others, both big and small and remember her with great joy.

Blanche Jones graduated from Jackson High School in Jackson, Michigan in 1949. She continued her education at Jackson Junior College and received the Associate of Arts Degree from Mercy College in Detroit, Michigan. Following graduation she became a dental hygienist for her cousin, Dr. Archie Millben, Sr., then the first and only African American dentist in Jackson, Michigan.

In 1958 she met and married Mr. George W. Jones, Jr. and moved to Detroit. Blanche Jones demonstrated on a daily basis, her compassion and devotion to her late husband of 34 years and their children. She admired and was especially proud that her cousin, Dr. Ethelene Jones-Crockett, Michigan's first female African-American obstetrician and gynecologist—who was also the wife of former Congressman George W. Crockett, Jr.—delivered her youngest three children.

Mrs. Jones devoted her career at Detroit Public Schools as a para-professional teaching assistant to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to receive a quality education. She was raised in the Church of Christ and remained an active member throughout her life teaching Bible class and serving on numerous committees.

Mrs. Blanche Jones was a close confidant to my mother, Mildred Massey and me. Regardless of her health condition, she was always positive and upbeat. There was no question about her love and she generously shared it with everyone.

Blanche Jones was a "woman of distinction and grace". She loved clothes and I will always remember wearing a white wool coat and hat that she loved. I shopped all over the country looking for one to give her and regretfully could not find one. I did give her a white wool jacket—and my hat. The twinkle in her eyes and her words of gratitude were reminders of her thankfulness for the small things in life.

Blanche was a brilliant woman. She read, kept up on current events and politics and had

her own very strong opinions about issues which we discussed many times. Her family describes her as the Chairwoman on BNN: the Blanche News Network.

There is a tremendous void in my life now and I will miss her deeply. She touched the lives of many and leaves a legacy with her work and compassion that will long endure. In her memory, let us live our lives as Mrs. Blanche Jones did and would want us to do—as loving and supportive human beings.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District joins Michigan's 13th Congressional District to salute and honor a remarkable woman, Mrs. Blanche Ione Jones. We will miss her tremendously and know that her legacy and spirit will live on forever.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE
LIFE OF THE HONORABLE JOHN
VASCONCELLOS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, Congressman XAVIER BECERRA, Congressman AMI BERA, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPAS, Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, Congressman JIM COSTA, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS, Congressman SAM FARR, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman JANICE HAHN, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, Congressman MIKE HONDA, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, Congressman ALAN LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, Congresswoman GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman SCOTT PETERS, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman RAUL RUIZ, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congressman MARK TAKANO, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JUAN VARGAS, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, and Congressman HENRY WAXMAN to honor the life of our friend who distinguished himself for 38 years in public service, the Honorable John Vasconcellos, who died on May 24, 2014, at his home in Santa Clara, California.

John was born on May 11, 1932, in San Jose, California, to a Portuguese father and German mother. He graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory High School with top honors, and attended Santa Clara University, graduating magna cum laude. After two years of service to his country in the Army, he graduated again at the top of his class from Santa Clara University's Law School. He practiced law before joining Governor Pat Brown's staff, and was soon recruited by his many friends and admirers to run for a seat in the California State Assembly in 1966. This began almost forty years of pub-

lic service. John was a legislator's legislator. He had a brilliant intellect and a compassionate heart. He became the Chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, one of the most powerful assignments in the California Legislature. He proposed the State Task Force to Promote Self-Esteem in October 1986, and in 1989, Speaker Willie Brown appointed him to Chair the Select Assembly Committee on Ethics. He was elected to the California State Senate in 1996, representing the heart of Silicon Valley, and served as Chairman of the Public Safety, Education, and Economic Development Committees.

John Vasconcellos' 38 year tenure in the California Legislature was reflective of the innovative Silicon Valley District he represented. He was a disruptor and a pioneering public servant who was ahead of his time. His legislative work is widely recognized for its groundbreaking innovations in public safety, state budgets, ethics, health and human services, as well as in education. He wrote first-of-its-kind legislation addressing AIDS research, medical marijuana, and family health. He wrote legislation combating toxic chemicals in our atmosphere; he paved the way for midwives to practice; and he promoted child care at all public colleges. He saw the need before others to modernize our education system and make it affordable for all. He involved young people in the political process, launching programs like shadowing legislators in the State Capitol.

John was an avid subscriber to the human-potential movement therapies to deal with the rage, tension and fear that continued to grow in our society. We called John our friend, and we were very proud to do so, but he was also a brother and a mentor to many of us and we will miss him always.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the entire House of Representatives to join us in honoring Senator John Vasconcellos, a brilliant visionary with a giant heart who served his constituents, his state and his country with integrity and respect for building the politics of trust. We extend our condolences to his brother Jim Vasconcellos, his sister Margaret Brindle, his niece Beth Brindle, his Hawaiian family, including his chosen son Mitch Saunders, his daughter-in-law Cindy and his two beloved grandchildren Megan and Briana, as well as his devoted staff, his large circle of extended friends and family in California, Hawaii and around the world.

FISCAL YEAR 15 TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Fiscal Year 2015 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (H.R. 4745). This bill provides \$1.8 billion less than the FY 14 omnibus. It underfunds too many critical investments that maintain and support our infrastructure and housing.

Specifically, I strongly oppose the dramatic cut and new restrictions on the TIGER program. House Republicans included only \$100

million for TIGER grants, an 80 percent cut from FY 14. While this extreme cut in funding is disappointing, more concerning are the restrictions placed on the grant program. H.R. 4745 specifically states that only highway, bridge, freight rail and port projects are eligible for TIGER grants. Public transit, including light rail and passenger rail, would no longer be eligible for these critical dollars. Republican leaders repeatedly stated that the provision was inserted to focus TIGER grants on what they call "essential projects." In my district and many other communities across the country, public transit is an essential project. My communities depend on these dollars to help support passenger rail and multimodal projects, such as light rail, streetcars and dedicated Bus Rapid Transit.

In addition to TIGER, other transit initiatives were cut, including New Starts (a 13 percent cut) and Amtrak (a 14 percent cut). This ongoing attack on public transit is unacceptable.

Unfortunately, the investments in housing in this bill are also insufficient. HOME Investment Partnership Grants were cut by 30 percent, to near historic lows. In my district, the HOME program is used to help first time homebuyers with the cost of a down payment and closing cost, which can be prohibitive for many buyers looking for a first home of their own. Another program supported by HOME finances maintenance to preserve federally supported housing, especially important considering the shortage of affordable housing. A 30 percent cut to these programs means fewer homebuyers helped and critical repairs to decaying affordable housing are unaddressed.

Transportation and housing are the backbone of our communities. Stable, affordable housing and access to jobs helps to stabilize communities and promote economic growth. H.R. 4745 fails to sufficiently invest in our communities and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

RECOGNIZING JIM VANCE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jim Vance, who this week is observing 45 years in the District of Columbia at NBC4 Washington, where he has provided outstanding service to Washington, DC and the national capital region.

For more than four decades, Jim Vance has been the man the Washington region turns to on their NBC4 television screens. Jim has brilliantly made himself the preeminent anchor the region can trust to get the news straight, and at the same time, he has managed to become the friend people turn to because they like him. So great are Jim's talents and captivating personality, that NBC4 owes part of its success to Jim Vance.

A graduate of the historically black Cheyney University, Jim Vance was a teacher in Philadelphia before he decided to become a reporter. His first reporting jobs were at The Philadelphia Independent newspaper and at

radio station WHAT-AM. Jim later accepted his first television position as a reporter for WKBS-TV in Philadelphia in 1968, and one year later, he moved to the nation's capital to be a general assignment reporter at NBC4. Jim made a fast rise to the anchor desk in 1972, where he remains to this day.

Jim Vance continues to thrive in his career. He can be seen daily on News4 at 6 p.m. and News4 at 11 p.m. with his co-anchor Doreen Gentzler. As a veteran television reporter, Jim's work has taken him across the United States and to locations around the world. Jim has been the recipient of a host of honors, including 17 Emmy Awards and induction in 2007 into the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress are familiar with Jim's excellence, too, here in the nation's capital. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jim Vance for 45 years of extraordinary work as news anchor and reporter with NBC4 Washington and a favorite of the national capital region.

HONORING ELI TAKESIAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eli Takesian, former associate pastor of the Vienna Presbyterian Church and decorated military chaplain.

Eli served in Korea and Vietnam, eventually earning the position of Chief Chaplain of the Marine Corps at Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC. He passed away on May 20, 2014, at the Walter Reed National Medical Center.

I submit the following program notes from Eli's funeral. He was a true patriot.

Eli Takesian died on May 20, 2014 at the Walter Reed National Medical Center.

Born on February 28, 1932 in Methuen, Massachusetts, the son of Stephan and Koharig Takesian and uncle to many loved nephews and nieces. Eli is survived by his sister, Helen Hagopian. His brothers, Raffi, Jack and Vartkes predeceased him.

Eli served in Korea with the 1st Marine Division from November 1951 to November 1952. Following his discharge from the Marine Corp, he graduated from Baylor University in 1957. He then continued his education at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and Princeton Theological Seminary, receiving a master's degree in theology in 1960. The same year Eli was ordained a minister by the United Presbyterian Church. After serving a pastorate in Amsterdam, Ohio, Eli returned to the military as a Navy Chaplain.

Chaplain Takesian served two tours of duty in Vietnam and then spent 20 years as a senior chaplain, becoming Chief Chaplain of the Marine Corps at Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC. While in Vietnam in 1968, even though he was not assigned to the unit, Chaplain Takesian joined the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Regiment, 1st Marine Division on the battlefield in Hue City—one of the most famous and bloodiest Vietnam War battles. Eli brought prayers, support and hope to the wounded and the dying. In 2007, in his home town of Methuen, men of the 1st Battalion 5th Marines had a monument built in remembrance of his bravery.

During his service in the military, Chaplain Takesian was awarded a number of combat decorations including the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars with Combat Vs and four Presidential Unit Citations.

He retired from naval service in 1987 and became an associate pastor of the Vienna Presbyterian Church retiring in 1995. Until his death, Chaplain Takesian continued to provide ministerial services to military retirement communities and churches in Northern Virginia.

While studying in Scotland, Eli discovered his passion for music and the arts. When serving as Chaplain on Governor's Island in New York, he met and fell in love with Broadway actress and vocalist, Margaret Broderson, who studied at Julliard. They were married in 1978 in the Chapel on Governor's Island. Eli and Margaret moved to Flacons Landing in December 2012.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

HONORING DR. EDWARD W. WRIGHT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Edward W. Wright. Known throughout the Bay Area as a physician, mentor, active community member, and devoted husband and father, Mr. Wright has left an indelible mark on our community. With his passing on May 29, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born on June 2, 1922 in Fayette, Howard County, Missouri, Dr. Edward Wright was the fourth child born to William Marion Wright and Lunie K. Cameron. When Dr. Wright was five years old, he caught scarlet fever and was hospitalized for a long period of time. At this young age, Dr. Wright was inspired to become a doctor. He later moved to El Paso, Texas to live with his aunt and uncle after losing both of his parents in an unfortunate tragedy. In El Paso, he graduated Douglas High School with honors, and he then went on to attend Sam Houston College in Austin, Texas. In 1943, Dr. Wright graduated Magna Cum Laude as a Pre-Medical student with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

In 1945, Dr. Edward Wright attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he partook in an accelerated program in Internal Medicine. At the age of 25, he graduated with honors and went on to complete his residency at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama. He became Chief Resident and served as a full-time staff physician until 1955.

Dr. Edward Wright and his family relocated to California in 1955, where Dr. Wright served as a Medical Officer for the Armed Forces at Ford Ord. After he completed his service, they relocated to Oakland, where Dr. Wright began a private practice in December 1958. Seven years later, he established and built a medical facility to serve families throughout Oakland.

In addition to his prolific career, Dr. Wright was an active member in the community. He volunteered at the East Oakland Boys Club, providing physical exams, counseling and financial assistance for camperships and uniforms. For the next 40 years, Dr. Wright served as a physician, mentor and father-figure to more than 1,200 boys at the North and East Oakland Boys Clubs. Dr. Wright was also active with the Oakland Chapter of the Lions Club, providing countless hours of Loyal Lions Service.

In 1969, he joined the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club and then served as President of the Board from 1980 to 1982. He was presented with the Man and Boy Trophy Award for his work with the Boys and Girls Clubs in 1964. Later, he received the Boys and Girls Clubs Service Award Medallion and then was honored during a formal tribute in 2000 at the First Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

On a personal note, I have known Dr. Wright, or "Piggy" as my mother, Mildred Massey, called him, since I was a child. He and my mother attended school together and were very close. We loved "Piggy" and will miss him tremendously. He was one of my earliest supporters when I first ran for public office in 1989 and, for that, I am deeply grateful.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual, Dr. Edward W. Wright. As an Oakland resident, Dr. Wright's contributions have truly impacted so many lives throughout the Bay Area. I join all of Edward's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

CONGRATULATING GREYHOUND ON
ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Greyhound Lines on the 100th anniversary of its founding in 1914.

Greyhound is the nation's largest bus transportation system, serving communities nationwide with modern and environmentally friendly bus facilities at affordable prices. From Greyhound's founder, Eric Wickman, to the current CEO, Dave Leach, the company has grown from a humble three man operation, based out of a seven person van, transporting coal miners to a transcontinental business employing 7,500 staff to one of the most recognizable and well-respected bus carriers.

An immigrant from Sweden, founder Eric Wickman began a bussing transportation system in the rural town of Hibbing, Minnesota after losing his mining and drilling job that same year. Operating as Mesaba Transportation Company and various other names until the official incorporation of the Greyhound name in 1930, Wickman built his company from the ground up, expanding services and locations and acquiring smaller lines until cementing the company's status as the largest intercity bus and transportation system in 1987.

Based out of Phoenix, Arizona, Greyhound Lines' fleet of 1,735 buses, travelling to more than 3,800 destinations and serving 17.6 million passengers annually, is now operated by FirstGroup. With the classification as the safest mode of transportation by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Greyhound buses contribute to a safer driving environment for others, taking an average of 19 cars off the road each trip.

Most people are unaware, but our domestic private bus companies transport more passengers each day than airlines and Amtrak combined. In Florida, Greyhound serves many of our communities and provides employment for hundreds of workers. Greyhound is a publicly traded corporation that pays significant local, state and federal taxes. The private transportation carrier actually makes a profit and does not rely on federal subsidies.

As the former Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, it has been my honor to work with many Greyhound officials and employees and it is my pleasure to congratulate each of them and the Greyhound Lines Family on this occasion. I know my colleagues join me in saluting a great American transportation carrier and all the fine people at Greyhound on this significant milestone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, I was unavoidably absent due to a spousal medical emergency. On rollcall vote No. 313, on H.R. 3375, had I been present, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall vote No. 314, on H.R. 1671, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, I unavoidably missed rollcall vote No. 315, on H. Res. 628 due to a spousal medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

CONGRATULATING RAVENSWOOD
MANOR IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
ON THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association located in Chicago, Illinois.

For over 100 years, Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association has been an influential part of Chicago. When William E. Harmon began to sell houses for the Ravenswood Manor subdivision, the community was fewer than a hundred individuals strong. Now 100 years later, Ravenswood Manor has flourished into a substantial subdivision within the city.

The Association has worked diligently to promote the welfare of the community by consistently maintaining public and private lands. They have enhanced the community by hosting annual neighborhood events, as well as thoroughly representing community interests working alongside their elected officials, City Departments, Chicago Police Department, Chicago Park District, local schools, and businesses. On September 5, 2008, Ravenswood Manor was listed as a National Register Historic District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association on their 100th Anniversary. I am truly honored to represent such as outstanding association.

HONORING GREYHOUND LINES,
INC., OF DALLAS, TX ON THE OCCASION
OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Whereas the company that became Greyhound Lines, Inc., was started in 1914 by a Swedish immigrant, Carl Eric Wickman, who began by transporting miners from Hibbing to Alice, Minnesota in a 7-passenger "Hupmobile" for 15 cents;

Whereas in ensuing decades, Greyhound pioneered many bus industry innovations including the "Super Coach" (1936), the first bus with an all-metal body and rear-mounted engine; the fluted aluminum "Silversides" with air conditioning and diesel engines (1940); the most iconic Greyhound bus, the two-level "Scenicruiser" with onboard restrooms and under-floor baggage and express compartments (1954);

Whereas Greyhound played a crucial role in many historical events including transporting troops from coast to coast in World War II and carrying Freedom Riders through the Deep South to protest state-sponsored segregation in interstate transportation facilities;

Whereas Greyhound is the only nationwide intercity bus transportation company in the United States serving, along with its interline partners, over 2700 communities in all 48 continental states, and providing the only form of intercity public transportation in many of those communities;

Whereas Greyhound efficiently operates a complex network of services extending from Canada to Mexico, including services in both of those countries;

Whereas Greyhound has been a leader in safety innovations including developing and installing on all its new buses starting in 2009 radically redesigned new bus seats that provide the protection of lap/shoulder safety belts while retaining the benefits of compartmentalization;

Whereas Greyhound continues to provide innovative new services such as the Greyhound Express and BoltBus point-to-point services while retaining its full nationwide network and provides all of its services in state of

the art, 50-passenger motorcoaches with amenities such as expanded leg room, WiFi and electric plug-ins; and

Whereas Greyhound continues to do what Carl Wickman began 100 years ago, that is, providing affordable, safe, comfortable, and reliable intercity transportation to all members of the traveling public: Now, therefore, be it resolved that the United States House of Representatives:

(1) Honors the centennial anniversary of the founding of Greyhound Lines, Inc operated;

(2) Applauds and honors the president and CEO, executive staff, and all employees of Greyhound Lines, Inc. for a century of innovations in intercity travel, and it expresses hope that said service will continue for many years to come; and,

(3) Congratulates Greyhound Lines, Inc. of Dallas, Texas, for 100 years of outstanding service to the people of the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that I inadvertently voted incorrectly on the Gosar amendment to H.R. 4745, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. This amendment prohibits the use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing", published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development on July 19, 2013, in the Federal Register. It was my intention to vote "aye" on Rollcall vote 285.

HONORING DR. MAYA ANGELOU

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Maya Angelou. Her vast body of work, which spans over six decades, as a dancer, actress, author and activist has stood the test of time. As a leader in the civil rights movement, a poet laureate, a college professor, Broadway actress and the first female African American cable car conductor in San Francisco, Maya Angelou was the spirit and conscience of generations. With her passing on May 28, 2014, we continue to be inspired by her life's work.

Born on April 4, 1928, Dr. Maya Angelou was raised in Stamps, Arkansas and St. Louis, Missouri. At a young age, Dr. Angelou experienced the brutality of racial discrimination which drove her passion for justice and equality.

In the early 1950s, Dr. Maya Angelou began her career as a performer. She toured with the production Porgy and Bess through Europe for two years. While living in Ghana, Dr. Angelou met with Malcolm X who encouraged her to

move back to the United States to help him build the Organization of African American Unity. After the assassination of Malcolm X, Dr. Maya Angelou worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., serving as the Northern Coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Her autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, was nominated for a National Book Award in 1970 and remained on *The New York Times* paperback bestseller list for two years.

In addition to Dr. Angelou's prolific career, she has been honored with many prestigious awards. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Arts in 2000 and received over 50 honorary degrees. President Bill Clinton asked her to compose a poem for his inauguration in 1993, making her the second poet to ever read a poem at a Presidential Inauguration.

President Barack Obama bestowed Dr. Maya Angelou the 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award of the United States of America.

I will forever cherish the private moments I had the privilege to share with Dr. Maya Angelou. I was very moved when several years ago Maya called me and invited me to her beautiful home to talk. We spoke in her living room as sisters, about our lives, our struggles and our passion for improving the human condition. I confided in her about the many challenges I faced after voting against the Authorization for the Use of Military Force following the 9/11 attacks. I can never repay the encouragement and affirmation she gave me during that trying time as she reminded me that we all embody attributes of scripture's Proverbs 31, virtuous woman. And that our worth is far beyond rubies, we speak with wisdom and are clothed with strength and dignity.

I was humbled that she insisted I write my autobiography. Once I finally garnered the courage to do so, she invited me to discuss it on her radio show and encouraged me to speed up the release of my paperback edition so that more people, especially young women, could have access to my story.

Dr. Maya Angelou was passionate about helping young women achieve their fullest potential. Her example of grace, class and humility will continue to inspire young women to define themselves through a lens of self-love, humanitarianism and how they use their talents to change the world.

She lived life to its fullest and shared with the world the essence of a purposeful life. I will hold her words, ". . . be certain that you do not die without having done something wonderful for humanity" close to my heart, knowing that she was one of humanity's greatest gifts.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and leader, Dr. Maya Angelou. While the world grieves in Dr. Maya Angelou's passing, we can take comfort in the fact that her words and her legacy live on in the generations of people who have been touched, challenged and inspired by her work. We will miss her tremendously, but Dr. Maya Angelou's legacy and spirit will live on forever.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BILLY MANES

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Billy Manes. Billy Manes is senior staff writer for Orlando Weekly, an alternative newsweekly dedicated to giving the deserved breadth, character and feeling to stories that are often overlooked.

Immediately after graduating from the Florida State University, Manes began a career in journalism, helping to launch an alternative weekly out of the Tallahassee Democrat offices in 1995.

In 1997, Manes moved to Orlando and began freelancing for Orlando Weekly, soon developing a following as a pop-cultural raconteur and nightlife columnist. In 2005, he ran for Mayor of Orlando in a special election which was later cancelled. Nonetheless, Manes caught the political bug, and soon became a full-time news reporter for Orlando Weekly.

In 2007, Manes detailed the difficulties facing gay couples who were seeking legal validation for their relationships in the face of an imminent marriage ban in Florida. Controversy arose when a photo of Manes and his long-time partner kissing was used as the cover photo of Orlando Weekly for the article.

In 2012, that story would prove all too prescient, when Manes' partner of 11 years, Alan Ray Jordan, passed away, setting off a string of horrible events pitting Manes against both his partner's family and the laws of the State of Florida.

Manes went on to document that fight in what would become a globally circulated story and later, a documentary. He traveled to Tallahassee two years in a row to fight for a state-wide domestic partnership registry so that others might not have to experience the pain that he had.

In addition to numerous awards over the years from the Association of Alternative Newsmedia, the Sunshine State Awards, and the Florida Press Club, Manes was named a 2013 Voice of Equality by Equality Florida.

He would like to dedicate this honor to his family and, most especially, to the man who taught him the most, Alan Ray Jordan.

I am happy to honor Billy Manes, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the LGBT community and the State of Florida.

MARKING THE PASSING OF WILLIAM ROTH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, our country has lost a great visionary, civic leader, businessman and dedicated public servant, William Matson Roth. Mr. Roth passed away on May

29th in Petaluma, California at the age of 97, surrounded by his loving family

Bill Roth was born into a prominent and respected family in San Francisco, grandson of Captain William Matson, founder of the Matson Navigation Company, and son of Luriline and William Philip Roth. He chose to use the opportunities afforded by his privileged family to make life better for his community, his state and his nation.

He was widely known for the redevelopment, with his mother Luriline, of the popular Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco, buying the property as a dilapidated factory and growing it into a world-renowned collection of shops and restaurants that has been one of our City's top attractions and has been imitated in cities across the country. It is now considered a forerunner of what urban planners call "adaptive reuse," and is listed on the National Historic Register.

Mr. Roth served the public throughout his long life, including as a Cabinet-level Trade Ambassador in "the Kennedy round" of negotiations under President Lyndon Johnson. Mr. Roth was appointed to the University of California's Board of Regents by Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, where he served for 16 years. He helped found the Ploughshares Fund, an advocacy group working for the elimination of nuclear weapons. He was President of the Board of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, a director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and president of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR). He was a proud and progressive Democrat who ran for Governor of California in 1974.

I hope that it is a comfort to his beloved wife Joan, his daughters Anna, Jessica and Maggie, and his grand and great-grandchildren that so many people throughout the world share their grief and mourn the loss of a generous, civic-minded and visionary leader.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF ERIC
METZGER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated service of Chief Eric Metzger of the Flower Mound Fire Department. After almost 4 decades in public service, Chief Metzger's exemplary career is coming to an end.

Eric Metzger's passion for public service and fire fighting started at a young age; when growing up in Pleasanton, California, his next door neighbor was the Chief of the Oakland Fire Department. His 39-year fire service career began in Wimer, Oregon, where he served as a volunteer firefighter at age 15. He then proceeded to join the Rogue Five Fire Department as a volunteer Lieutenant and served there for the next three years. During the notoriously fire prone west coast summers in Oregon, Chief Metzger served as a Fire Warden for the Oregon State Forestry, and at age 18 he was assigned his own crew and truck. In 1979, he worked with other young

firefighters to establish a private-for-profit fire department for the County of Josephine, Oregon. From 1979–1982, he served as a lieutenant in that department.

In 1982, he moved to Midland, Texas seeking to expand his career with a "big city" fire department where he served for five years. In his free time, he continued his commitment to public service and his profession. Chief Metzger became the charter president of the Greenwood Volunteer Fire Department, spearheading the opening of its initial station in 1985. In 1986, he seized the opportunity to oversee the Fire Prevention Division of the Town of Flower Mound. He was promoted to Chief in 1992 and has capably led the Fire Department for 22 years.

The Flower Mound Fire Department's sterling reputation is a reflection of the dedicated, ethical supervision of Chief Metzger. His professional legacy will continue to benefit the citizens and businesses of Flower Mound for years to come. I join his colleagues and the community in commending Flower Mound Fire Chief Eric Metzger for his outstanding record and extend best wishes upon his retirement. It is my privilege to represent the Town of Flower Mound in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION
OF BOYD LINDSLEY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Boyd Lindsley. Lindsley openly identified as a gay cisgender male as a teenager. By allowing himself to be authentic, he was able to find his voice for activism. Since identifying, he has been a stalwart advocate for the LGBT community and women's reproductive rights.

Lindsley serves on the Board of Directors for Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando. He is also the founding President of the Pride Faculty and Staff Association (PFSA) at the University of Central Florida (UCF), where he is a faculty member and the assistant director of the Nicholson School of Communication.

As president of PFSA he oversaw the official incorporation of the organization, the creation of bylaws for the organization, the recruitment of a significant membership, the execution of events, and initial fundraising for PFSA's operational costs and student scholarships. In this role, Lindsley advocated for domestic partner benefits for UCF employees, met with the UCF police department to address safety concerns for UCF's LGBT community, and petitioned the Orange County Mayor and Orange County Commissioners to support a Domestic Partner Registry for all Orange County residents.

Lindsley is also an active member of Equality Florida (EQFL), the state of Florida's largest LGBT civil rights advocacy organization. He attends events throughout the state of Florida supporting EQFL and serves on the host committee for the Greater Orlando Equal-

ity Florida Gala (the annual fundraiser for the organization). Additionally, he volunteers on campaigns for pro-LGBT leaders on the local, state and national stage.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Advertising-Public Relations with a minor in Psychology, and a master's degree in Communication with a concentration in Interpersonal Communication from UCF. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in Executive Leadership.

I am happy to honor Boyd Lindsley, during LGBT Pride Month, for his activism on behalf of women's reproductive rights, and his contributions to the LGBT and Central Florida communities.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for Homeland Security.

SD-138

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine less student debt from the start, focusing on what role the tax system should play.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy, and Global Women's Issues

To hold hearings to examine combating violence and discrimination against women, focusing on a global call to action.

SD-419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Children and Families

To hold hearings to examine the challenges of prevention and identification in child trafficking and private re-homing.

SD-430

- Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the economic impact of increased natural gas production. SH-216
- 10:30 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain nominations. SD-226
- 11 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for Financial Services and General Government. SD-138
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 1804, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, S. 1893, to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, S. 2030, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, S. 2338, to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, S. 2444, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2015 through 2016, S. 2482, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Tokyo on February 24, 2012, S. 2484, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Auckland on November 14, 2009, and S. 2485, to implement the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, as adopted at Lisbon on September 28, 2007. SR-253
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine moving toward greater community inclusion, focusing on Olmstead at 15. SD-106
- Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine the AT&T and DIRECTV merger, focusing on the impact on competition and consumers in the video market and beyond. SD-226
- JUNE 25
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council annual report to Congress. SH-216
- Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of D. Nathan Sheets, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary, and Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be Deputy Under Secretary, both of the Department of the Treasury. SD-215
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 2449, to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, proposed legislation to amend The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the nominations of William D. Adams, of Maine, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Robert M. Gordon, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, and any additional nominations cleared for action. SD-430
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014", an original bill entitled, "National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Act of 2014", an original bill entitled, "Protecting American Chemical Facilities From Attack Act of 2014", H.R. 1232, to amend titles 40, 41, and 44, United States Code, to eliminate duplication and waste in information technology acquisition and management, S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents, H.R. 4194, to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements, S. 2061, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, S. 231, to reauthorize the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp, S. 1214, to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government, S. 2117, to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, S. 1347, to provide transparency, accountability, and limitations of Government sponsored conferences, H.R. 1376, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building", H.R. 1813, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building", S. 2056, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gorniewicz Memorial Post Office", S. 2057, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the "Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building", and the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget. SD-342
- Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine S. 1945, to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, focusing on updating the "Voting Rights Act" in response to Shelby County v. Holder. SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
To hold hearings to examine NextGen, focusing on a review of progress, challenges, and opportunities for improving aviation safety and efficiency. SR-253
- 2 p.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine trade enforcement, focusing on using trade rules to level the playing field for United States companies and workers. SD-215
- Committee on Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine how early and absentee voting can benefit citizens and administrators, focusing on election administration. SR-301
- 2:15 p.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine brain injuries and diseases of aging. SD-562
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To receive a closed briefing on United States nuclear deterrence policy. SVC-217
- Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Economic Policy
To hold hearings to examine young workers and recent graduates in the United States economy. SD-538
- Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water and Power
To hold hearings to examine S. 1971, to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency. SD-366
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia
To hold hearings to examine the path to efficiency, focusing on making FEMA more effective for streamlined disaster operations. SD-342
- Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine economic development, focusing on encouraging investment in Indian country. SD-628
- 3 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the future of United States-China relations. SD-419

10438

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS, Vol. 160, Pt. 7

June 18, 2014

JUNE 26

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alfonso E. Lenhardt, of New

York, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and Marcia Denise Occomy, of the District of Co-

lumbia, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank.

SD-419

SENATE—Thursday, June 19, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer, strengthen our Senators with Your spirit, infusing them with power for living. Lord, make Your truth real to them, enabling them to discover in Your precepts light for their path. May Your mercy, grace, and peace sustain them through the myriad challenges they face.

Lord, set them free from fear as they remember that nothing can separate them from Your love. As Your grace abounds toward them, give them strength for every weakness and sufficiency for every trial.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 19, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the

Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The Republicans will control the first half and the majority will control the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4660.

There was a lot of conversation about how to move forward on this yesterday, but by late last night a way of moving forward was not obtained. We are still working on that. We expect to begin consideration of the bill around 12:45 p.m. today, something like that.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Mr. REID. Last weekend there was something strange and unusual happening out in Southern California near a place called Dana Point, which is north of San Diego. The previous night's guests were being ushered off the premises by hotel security. A private security team moved onto the property, setting up checkpoints. The hotel employees could be seen sweeping the rooms for electronic listening devices, and dozens of wealthy men and women were led into the resort, registering to attend an event deceptively entitled "T&R Annual Sales Meeting."

This meeting, once started, turned into a multiple-day event. It was closed to all spectators, journalists, and all those not explicitly invited. No official itinerary was available and details have not been forthcoming.

There were at least two Senators slated to attend and they did attend, but their offices have refused to comment on their participation. After all, attendees were sworn to secrecy—high levels of security, concealment, deception, and oaths of silence. That doesn't sound anything like a typical conference. It sounds more like a cult. But instead of being a religious movement or a secret sect, this is a cult of money, influence, and self-serving politics. This is the cult of Koch, and I am referring to the Koch brothers.

At their twice-yearly secret donor retreat, Charles and David Koch raise millions—millions and hundreds of millions—of dollars they then use to pursue their radical agenda—and it is radical. This year's conference was especially important to the Koch brothers as they coordinate efforts to spend hundreds of millions of dollars dictating this year's elections.

But why cloak their message in secrecy?

In his op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, Charles Koch invited his critics to "try to understand my vision for a free society." It is easy to understand.

Look at the Libertarian run he had for Vice President in 1982. They laid out what they wanted to do: privatize Social Security, basically do away with government. So to his critics he said, "Try to understand my vision of a free society."

That is pretty easy to do. How could we possibly understand the Kochs' vision, though, when they and their loyal followers try to do everything in secrecy? They hide from America. The truth is the Koch brothers are concealing their massive fundraising because Americans overwhelmingly oppose the purchase of our country. Our country shouldn't be for sale, and it isn't for sale, and I think in a little less than 5 minutes that can be proven.

Instead of making the case directly to the American people, the Koch brothers funnel unseemly amounts of money into elections, trying to elect representatives who will do their bidding. Again in the paper today, they have all these phony organizations they fund. It is just a way to hide the agenda of the Koch brothers. They don't want their name to appear. They want to do everything they can to mislead the American people.

The influence of unlimited spending on a political system is not right. It allows individuals to dictate their will on the American electoral process, and in this instance in secret. This unlimited campaign spending disenfranchises Americans who don't have the resources to go tit-for-tat with two of the richest men in the world.

When the minority leader was a freshman Senator, he also took exception to the limitless spending of special interests. He said:

If the American public thinks that special interests are having undue influence on the process, then get rid of the PACs. I will be more than happy to eliminate PACs altogether.

But I guess times have changed. Now the Republican leader rails against campaign finance reform when in the past he was in favor. There should be no surprise that he attended the Kochs' planning session this past weekend. Evidently Senator MCCONNELL no longer believes that special interests have an undue influence on our government.

But he wasn't the only member to attend the Koch extravaganza. The junior Senator from Florida found the time to fly across the country and kiss the ring of the Republican Party's billionaire benefactors and, among other things, told them how outrageous it is that people are talking about the climate changing, that the Earth is

warming. I am sure the junior Senator got a lot of applause there, even though we were not able to hear the applause because it is all very secret.

What else should we expect? The decisions by the Supreme Court have left the American people with the status quo in which one side's billionaires are pitted against the other side's billionaires—except one side doesn't have any billionaires.

We must undo the damage done by the Supreme Court's recent campaign finance decisions, and we need to do it now. That is why I support the constitutional amendment sponsored by Senators TOM UDALL of New Mexico and MICHAEL BENNET of Colorado. This constitutional amendment grants Congress the authority to regulate and eliminate the raising and spending of money for Federal elections. Senators UDALL and BENNET's amendment will rein in the massive spending of super PACs which have grown so much since the Citizens United decision in January of 2010. This constitutional amendment also provides States with the authority to institute campaign spending limits at the State level.

Simply put, a constitutional amendment is what this Nation needs to bring sanity back to political campaigns and to restore Americans' confidence in their elected leaders.

Let's put an end to the cult of darkness which is corrupting our elections. It is time we revive our constituents' faith in the electoral system and let them know their voices are being heard.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the majority leader yield to a question through the Chair?

Mr. REID. Be happy to.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask the majority leader through the Chair, yesterday afternoon the subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary on the Constitution held a hearing and a vote on Senate Joint Resolution 19, which the majority leader has referenced, offered by Senator UDALL of New Mexico and Senator BENNET of Colorado.

The resolution would basically restore us to the moment in time before the Citizens United decision and before the McCutcheon Supreme Court decision which would allow the Federal Government and the States to regulate campaign spending. It is content neutral in terms of the efforts to be made by the government but reestablishes new standards in terms of contributions in spending across America.

I ask the Senate majority leader, who has followed this closely, as he has followed the amount of money being spent on elections in this country, what he can foresee as the ultimate result if we fail to undo the Citizens United decision?

Mr. REID. We are already seeing it, I am sad to say. In one State the Koch brothers have spent almost \$20 million

against one Senator, and they say that is just the beginning.

America should not be for sale. I agree with the Republican leader when he said there should be limits put on this. I agreed, as I read the quote from his earlier remarks, it is not right.

Now we have two of the richest men in the world trying to buy America, and they are not only trying to buy Senate seats and House seats, there are votes on secretaries of state around the country, State legislatures. They have far more money than virtually every government and they want to have their view of government be the law: Privatize Social Security, do away with the Internal Revenue Service, and on and on with their money-buying program to convince the American people that the Koch brothers are right.

Mr. President, I would also say this through the Chair to my friend. They not only have all these entities I have talked to you about, they give money to the Chamber of Commerce. I am sure they were their largest contributor. Why? Because the Chamber of Commerce runs ads against us.

I appreciate the question and I would like to go on a little longer but the Republican leader is here.

I will close, but I deeply appreciate my friend who has been such an advocate on the Judiciary Committee and I hope very soon that the full committee reports on that resolution so we can move it on the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ENERGY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last night the Senate Democratic leadership pulled the Energy and Water bill from consideration for one reason: to protect the administration's new job-killing coal regulations. So once again Senate Democrats are preventing my commonsense procoal measure from moving forward. They have done the bidding of the administration instead of listening to constituents back home. Kentucky families, especially our coal families, continue to struggle under the Obama economy.

The Senate Democratic leadership's latest action is yet another example of the lengths they are willing to go to defend the Obama administration's regulatory agenda—an agenda Washington Democrats seem willing to protect at all costs, even when supposedly pro-energy Senate Democrats try to make us think otherwise.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. President, historians will note that President Obama's national secu-

rity policy has been noteworthy for its adherence to consistent objectives: drawing down our conventional and nuclear forces, withdrawing from Iraq and Afghanistan, surrendering the tools necessary to fight the war on terror, and placing substantial trust in international organizations and diplomacy. In short, he has displayed an inflexible commitment to policy positions that would completely erode America's standing in the world, and he has refused to change course even as circumstances have changed.

I, like many in the Senate, profoundly disagree with his view of America's role in the world. I disagree because I believe his attitude has left America weaker and will leave substantial problems to his successor.

I believe that we, as a superpower without imperialistic aims, have a duty to help maintain an international order and a balance of power, not out of altruism but out of national interest. And I believe that international order is best maintained through American military might. In fact, I believe that American military might forms its very backbone.

But President Obama has always been a reluctant Commander in Chief. It seems he has always seen things quite differently. That was clear from his first actions in office, and his more recent actions set the other bookend to his Presidency—withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Consider that in his very first week in office, he signed an Executive order that sought to end CIA's interrogation and detention programs and to close Guantanamo within a year. The problem was that he didn't have a credible plan for what to do with the detainees afterward. He still doesn't.

That was one of the first things he did in office, and it parallels disconcertingly with one of the most recent things he has done in office: announcing the withdrawal of all of our combat forces from Afghanistan by the end of his term. I say that because once again he announced step A without thinking through the consequences of step B. He seems determined to pull out completely whether or not the Taliban is in a position to reestablish itself, whether or not Al Qaeda's leadership finds a more permissive environment in the tribal areas of Pakistan, and whether or not Al Qaeda has been driven from Afghanistan completely—one of our primary aims in this conflict from the beginning.

The two examples I mentioned serve as bookends to his Presidency, but between these two bookends much has been done that undermines our national security—for instance, the President's inability to see Russia and China for what they are: dissatisfied regional powers intent on increasing their respective spheres of influence.

The failed reset with Russia and the President's commitment to a world

without nuclear weapons led him to hastily sign an arms treaty that did nothing to substantially reduce Russia's nuclear stockpile. What do we have to show for the reset? Moscow was undeterred in its assault on Ukraine, as everyone can plainly see, and Russia has repeatedly found ways to undermine our national objectives.

Then there is the President's strategic pivot to the Asia-Pacific—a plan he announced without any real plan to fund it, rendering the strategy largely hollow. We see examples of that almost daily, with China undeterred in its efforts to intimidate smaller nations over territorial disputes. Let's be clear. We cannot pivot forces to Asia that are still needed in places such as the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf, nor can we constrain China's ambitions without investing or developing the forces needed to do so. I fear that the failure to make the kinds of naval, air, and Marine Corps investments that are necessary could have tragic consequences down the road.

Of course, we have all seen how eager the President is to declare an end to the war on terrorism. The threat from Al Qaeda and other affiliated groups has now metastasized. The turmoil unleashed by uprisings in north Africa and the broader Middle East has resulted in additional ungoverned space in Syria, Libya, Egypt, and Yemen. We have seen prison breaks in Iraq, Pakistan, Libya, and the release of hundreds of prisoners in Egypt. Terrorists have also escaped from prisons in Yemen, a country that is no more ready to detain the terrorists at Guantanamo now than they were in 2009. And the flow of foreign fighters into Syria—which has fueled the growth of ISIL—suggests that the civil war there will last for the foreseeable future.

The dogged adherence to withdrawing our conventional strength and sticking to campaign promises has created a more dangerous world, not a stable one—as just one example, the President's failure to negotiate a status of forces agreement with Iraq. An agreement such as that would have allowed for the kind of residual military force that could have prevented the assault by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Now we see the consequences unfolding before our eyes, and it is incredibly worrying. President Obama's withdrawal-at-all-costs policy regarding Iraq has proved deeply harmful to U.S. interests, and it ignores the sacrifices made by our servicemembers—those who sacrificed life and limb fighting to keep America safe.

Several weeks ago the President spoke at West Point, and in that speech he vaguely described a new counterterrorism strategy and pledged to engage “partners to fight terrorists alongside us.” He made clear that he hopes to use special operations forces in an economy of force, and he hopes to

deploy, train, and assist missions across the globe—all as he withdraws our conventional forces and as our conventional warfighting ability atrophies.

As I said, he will leave his successor with a great many challenges.

So this morning my Republican colleagues and I will explain how, by inflexibly clinging to campaign promises made in 2008, the President has weakened the national security posture of the United States and why we believe he is likely to leave the next President with daunting security problems to solve.

Mr. President, I see the Senator from Arizona and others are here.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half of the time.

The Senator from Arizona.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Republicans be allowed an additional 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCAIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today we see reports that now ISIS has taken over the major oil refinery in Baiji, Iraq. Names that we used to hear quite often, such as, Tal Afar, Mosul, Fallujah, Ramadi—all of these areas are now under the black flag of Al Qaeda and ISIS, which is an even worse organization than Al Qaeda, if that can be believed.

We now see the forces of ISIS marching on Baghdad itself, which I don't believe they can take. But the second largest city in Iraq—Mosul—is now under the black flag, and quantities of military capability and equipment have clearly fallen into the hands of what has now become the richest, largest base for terrorism in history. This has all come about in the last couple of weeks.

What has the United States of America done? Today we see on the front

page of the Washington Post: “U.S. Sees Risk in Iraqi Airstrikes.” The President of the United States goes for fundraising and golfing and now is fiddling while Iraq burns. We need to act, but we also need to understand why we are where we are today.

The Senator from South Carolina and I visited Iraq on many occasions—more than I can count. We know for a fact that if we would have left a residual force behind, this situation would not be where it is today.

The fact is that the President of the United States, if he wanted to leave a residual force, never made that clear to the American people. In fact, on October 22, 2012, the President said: “What I would not have had done was left 10,000 troops in Iraq that would tie us down.” In 2011 he celebrated the departure—as he described it—of the last combat soldier from Iraq.

The fact is that because of our fecklessness and the fact that we did not leave that residual force behind, we are paying the price, and the people of Iraq are paying a heavier price.

What do we need to do? First of all, we have to understand there are no good options remaining. This is a culmination of failure after failure of this administration. But for us to do nothing now will ensure this base for terrorism. We have tracked over 100 who have already come back to the United States of America. There are hundreds who are leaving—not only the battlefield in Syria and Iraq—and they will pose a direct threat to the security of the United States.

I say to the critics who say “Do nothing and let them fight it out,” you cannot confine this conflict to Iraq and Syria. The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Homeland Security have said these people will be planning attacks on the United States of America.

What do we need to do? Of course, Maliki has to be transitioned out, but the only way that is going to happen is for us to assure Iraqis that we will be there to assist. Let me make it clear that no one I know wants to send combat troops on the ground. But airstrikes are an important factor psychologically and in many other ways, and that may require some forward air controllers and some special forces.

We cannot afford to allow a Syria-Iraq enclave that will pose a direct threat to the United States of America. And if we act, we are going to have to act in Syria as well. A residual force of U.S. troops in Iraq could have checked Iranian influence in Iraq.

The other question is, What are the Iranians doing while we are not making any decisions? Well, probably the most evil man on Earth, the head of the Quds Force—an Iraqi terrorist organization—has been reported to have been in Baghdad. There are reports of Iranian forces moving into Baghdad.

I say to my colleagues that we must meet this threat. The President of the United States must make some decisions. I am convinced that the national security of the United States of America is at risk, and the sooner all of us realize it, the better off we will be.

I yield to my colleague from South Carolina.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for 4 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, contrary to what may be popular belief, there are plenty of Democrats in this body who are very much worried about Iraq. The question is, What do we do about it? I will be the first to admit it is complicated.

The first thing we have to assess as a nation is, does it really matter what happens in Iraq? Clearly, I think it does. Economically, if Iraq becomes a failed state, the oil production in the south will fall into the hands of the Iranians, and Iraq will become a failed state that spreads economic chaos throughout the region. We will feel it at the gas pump, and we will eventually feel it in our wallets. An economic collapse in Iraq would affect our economy. I think it would throw the world oil market into turmoil. So it matters economically.

Militarily, does it matter? It does in this regard: ISIS is an offshoot of Al Qaeda because Al Qaeda kicked them out. These people now are going to have a safe haven from Aleppo, Syria, to the gates of Baghdad. They have sworn to attack us. Part of their agenda is to strike our homeland. Their goal is to create an Islamic state—a caliphate—that would put the people under their rule into darkness. I don't want to hear any more war-on-women stories unless we address Iraq and Syria. Do we want to see a war on women? I will show my colleagues one. Can we imagine what little girls are thinking today in the Sunni part of Iraq and in Syria? Can we imagine the hell on Earth? The people who will do that to their own—what would they do to us?

I don't mean to be an alarmist, but I am alarmed. I am just telling my colleagues what they are saying they will do. Our Director of National Intelligence has said that the safe haven for ISIS in Syria, and now in Iraq, presents a great threat to our homeland. The mistake President Obama is making is not to realize we need lines of defense.

Why did we want to leave a residual force behind in Iraq? Ten thousand to 15,000 would have given the Iraqi military the capacity they don't possess today, the confidence they don't pos-

sess today. It would have given us an edge against ISIS we don't have. A Toyota truck doesn't do very well against American air power. But when we have no American air power and when the intelligence capability of the American military leaves, the Iraqi Army goes dark. We have seen a collapse of the Iraqi Army that I think could have been prevented.

We can't kill all the terrorists to keep us safe. Our goal in this trying time is to have lines of defense, to keep the war over there so it doesn't come over here. It is in our national security interests to partner with people in Iraq. There were many who wanted a different life than ISIS would have. There are many Shias who want to be Iraqi Shias, not Iranian Shias. I have been there enough to know.

So this fateful decision to look for ways to get out totally has come back to haunt us, and we are on the verge of doing the same thing in Afghanistan. I promised my colleagues the Taliban would be dancing in the streets—they just do not believe in dancing—when they heard we were leaving in 2016. Can we imagine how the Afghan people feel who have fought these thugs by our side believing we would not abandon them and now to hear we are going to pull all of our troops out but for a couple of hundred. Can we imagine how a young woman in Afghanistan feels. Can we imagine how people in Pakistan feel—a nuclear-armed nation that could be in the crosshairs of the people trying to take Afghanistan down.

But it is not just about the people in Afghanistan. What about us? President Obama is going back to a pre-9/11 mentality. On September 10, 2001, we had not one soldier in Afghanistan, not one dollar of aid, not even an ambassador. So those in America who think if we leave these guys alone they will leave us alone, you are not listening to what they are saying. The only reason 3,000 Americans died on September 11 and not 3 million is they can't get the weapons to kill 3 million of us. If they could, they would, and they are very close.

So, Mr. President: Recalculate your decision on Afghanistan. If you pull all of our troops out, the Taliban will regroup, the Afghan National Army will meet a terrible fate, and the people who wish us harm will be coming back our way. The region between Afghanistan and Pakistan is a target-rich environment for the world's most radical terrorists, radical Islamists. So at the end of the day, Mr. President: Your job is to protect us. You are destroying the lines of defense that exist. The Afghan people are willing to have us stay there in enough numbers to protect them and us. Mr. President: Before it is too late, change your policies in Afghanistan. Mr. President: Do not take this country back to a pre-9/11 mentality where we treat terrorists as common crimi-

nals when we read them their rights rather than gathering intelligence.

We are letting our defenses erode all over the world. The enemies are emboldened and our friends are afraid. I can tell my colleagues this. If we continue on this track, it will come here again.

With that, I yield the floor for Senator CHAMBLISS.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in discussing the current direction of U.S. foreign policy, especially as it relates to the Middle East. The Obama administration's foreign policy in this regard has unfortunately totally unraveled. The President, to his credit, made the Middle East his priority and engaged the Arab world early on in his presidency. He attempted to forge a new beginning between the United States and the Muslim world, but his idealistic strategy simply has not worked.

The Middle East over the last 3 years has been besieged by a resurgence of violence, instability, and terrorism. The administration has chosen to confront this challenge, which has major implications for U.S. national security, by leading from behind and by relying on an ineffective diplomatic strategy that involves few concrete security measures.

The shortcomings of this diplomatic strategy are painfully evident today in both Syria and in Iraq. In September of last year the administration praised the U.S.-Russian deal to disarm Syria of its chemical weapons. The deal was designed to rid Syria of chemical weapons and buy time for a diplomatic solution. Yet here we are today, in a situation where the Syrians have missed countless deadlines, still have chemical weapons, and continue to use barrel bombs filled with chlorine and other chemicals, as well as ball bearings, with impunity. In addition to the humanitarian disaster that has unfolded in Syria, allowing the status quo to continue has also given the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, ISIL, and the al-Nusra Front the safe haven they needed to grow into the force we face today. Make no mistake about it. Terrorists are training inside of Syria today, planning to attack America and American interests.

I have been shocked to hear news commentators and some in this body refer to recent events in the Middle East, including the rise of ISIL in Iraq, as intelligence failures. The intelligence community makes its fair share of mistakes and I am the first to criticize them when they do. But these recent events, including the resurgence of ISIL, are not intelligence failures; they are policy and leadership failures. As we saw in Benghazi, the intelligence community provided ample strategic warning of the deteriorating security

situation in Libya. Yet the administration did little to enhance security in Benghazi. Failing to protect the diplomatic facility, despite repeated warnings, is not an intelligence failure, it is a policy and a leadership failure on the part of the administration.

With regard to Iraq, intelligence, including Director Clapper's testimony at a January 29, 2014, hearing, has been abundantly clear that Iraq was vulnerable to the threat from ISIL. I encourage any Member to read the intelligence if they have questions regarding the intelligence community's assessment about security in Iraq and the rise of ISIL before the fall of Mosul. It was clear in 2011, as U.S. forces were withdrawing, that Iraq was vulnerable to a resurgence in extremist activity, and we have seen the violence escalate steadily in the last 3 years during this administration's failed policies. This collapse in security was again easily predicted, but we have stood by and watched as it has occurred. Again, this is a policy failure, not an intelligence failure.

Perhaps the most concerning aspect of this administration's foreign policy is its inadequate counterterrorism strategy. I often hear administration officials touting Al Qaeda's demise or describing the organization as on the run. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. As my friend from South Carolina alluded to earlier, before we began on the floor this morning, he said: Yes, Al Qaeda is on the run. They are running from one country to the next and taking over one country and the next.

Violent extremism is on the rise in the Middle East, and the warning signs have been visible for years. These warning signs include the September 11, 2012, attack in Benghazi, the rising of Al Qaeda-affiliated extremist groups such as the al-Nusra Front in Syria, the resurgence of ISIL, and most recently the fall of Mosul. Just yesterday we saw a terrorist flag raised over the largest refinery inside of Iraq. Despite these stark warning signs, the administration has only been willing to take very limited steps to curb this disturbing trend. Instead of focusing on making counterterrorism operations more effective, the administration has been focused on ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan while America's enemies grow stronger. This approach has been a huge gamble that continues to jeopardize America's security.

The administration has sidelined many of the tools we used to successfully counter Al Qaeda in the years immediately after 9/11, including the effective, long-term detention and interrogation of enemy combatants. As a result, we know far less today about many of these terrorist organizations. Since the President ordered the closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in January of 2009, our Na-

tion has been without a clear policy for detaining suspected terrorists. Without such a policy, including one that identifies a facility for holding terrorists that are captured outside of Afghanistan, the intelligence community's ability to conduct ongoing intelligence operations have been severely limited. I recognize there is no one-size-fits-all solution for handling terrorists, but our detention policies must foster full intelligence collection before any prosecution begins.

Al Qaeda and its affiliates and other terrorist groups are determined to attack the United States. We constantly face new plots and operatives looking for ways to murder Americans, such as the foiled May 2012 AQAP plot to put another IED on a United States-bound aircraft. Thankfully, this plot and others didn't materialize, but we are not going to always be that fortunate.

We know that Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula—or AQAP—today represents one of the biggest threats to the U.S. homeland and personnel serving overseas. They are continually plotting against our interests and seeking new recruits, especially among our own citizens as well as former Guantanamo detainees. Explosive experts such as Ibrahim al-Asiri continue to roam free, posing a tremendous threat to the safety and security of U.S. citizens.

The proposed closure of Guantanamo Bay presents significant risks for the United States and Yemeni efforts to counter AQAP inside Yemen. A substantial portion of the detainees remaining at Guantanamo Bay are Yemeni citizens. Transferring these individuals to a country plagued by prison breaks, assassinations, and open warfare at this point could prove very catastrophic. These detainees would likely join several other former Gitmo detainees who have returned to the fight in Yemen, further destabilizing the country and worsening an already tenuous security situation.

The most recent example of a totally failed and dangerous policy on the part of this administration is the exchange of five Guantanamo detainees for Sergeant Bergdahl. We are all glad Sergeant Bergdahl is back. We should have done everything we could to get him back, and thank goodness he is now with his family. But the deal—the exchange of five individuals from Guantanamo Bay who now wake up every morning thinking of ways to kill and harm Americans—was not the right thing to do. There were other ways to handle it. Yet this administration, almost callously, without notifying Congress—by the way, that was clearly intentional. The failure to notify Congress of what they planned to do when they signed a memorandum on May 12 and didn't release these individuals for another 2½ weeks gives us a pretty clear indication that this administration did not want to come to Congress

and say we are going to exchange these five Guantanamo prisoners. The reason they did not is because they knew there would be objections from both sides of the aisle to doing such a dangerous thing and setting such a terrible precedent.

So whether it is in Iraq, Afghanistan or in other parts of the Middle East, Americans have fought and died in the war against Al Qaeda. Our Nation is weary of war, but threatening elements still remain. And those five individuals who I just alluded to are clearly threats to the United States.

I have asked the President to declassify the personnel files on those five individuals: Tell the American people what we know about them, Mr. President, and then look the American people in the eye and say: This was a good deal. I know they are going to return to the fight, and they are going to seek to kill and harm Americans, but this was a good deal.

Well, that is for the American people to decide ultimately.

I urge President Obama and my congressional colleagues, as well as the American people, not to abandon the gains we have made in the fight against terrorism since 9/11, but let's remain steady and let's continue to fight the good fight.

With that, I yield for my friend from North Carolina.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore, The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today to discuss the administration's misguided foreign policy, especially as it relates to Afghanistan and the threat of Al Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Haqqani Network. Despite what the administration would have you believe, Al Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Haqqani Network remain capable and committed adversaries in Afghanistan. They are a clear strategic threat to the safety, the security, and the stability of the region and continue to commit to acts of violence against U.S. troops and plot against U.S. interests in the region and here at home.

Yet, for some reason, this administration has time and again failed to recognize this simple fact, or worse, they have chosen to ignore it. Al Qaeda is not decimated—regardless of what Ambassador Rice may have communicated to the American people. Its senior leadership continues to plot devastating attacks and, more troubling, serve as an inspiration to a series of affiliates in Yemen, Somalia, Iraq, and elsewhere. These affiliates are plotting against the United States of America here at home, with the guidance, advice, and financial support of Al Qaeda's senior most leadership.

The Al Qaeda brand is alive and well, and the Obama administration's AfPak strategy to end the conflict, not win it, reveals a profound failure to analyze threats to the region, the world, and the United States of America.

Despite what this administration would have you believe, leaving Afghanistan before our work is done will not—will not—end the fighting. We cannot take the pressure off or our enemies will bring the fight to our doorstep here at home.

But Al Qaeda is not alone in Afghanistan. It is well established that the Haqqani Network, one of our deadliest adversaries, is the link between the Taliban and Al Qaeda—a direct link.

The Haqqani Network is directly responsible for a significant number of U.S. casualties and injuries on the battlefield in Afghanistan and continues to actively plan potentially catastrophic attacks against our interests and the interests of others in the region.

The group routinely targets civilians—civilians—and uses murder as an intimidation tactic against the Afghan people. They have mounted numerous assaults and suicide attacks on civilians and U.S. forces with deadly effectiveness. Yet the administration took until late 2012—at the urging of the Senate of the United States in a bill that I introduced—to actually name the Haqqani Network as a foreign terrorist organization.

Why was that important? Because that act changes the game. It provides us the full range of diplomatic and military tools to use directly against the Haqqani Network. It is against that backdrop that the administration then negotiated with the Haqqani Network the release of five high-level Taliban fighters for SGT Bowe Bergdahl's return. In other words, the President rewarded the Haqqani Network for its incarceration of a U.S. servicemember, strengthened its relationship with the Taliban, emboldened the Taliban, and undermined the Afghan Government—all with one decision.

Does anyone in this administration believe that five high-ranking Taliban officials, when set free, would not return to the fight? If they do, then they have not paid attention for the last decade or longer.

I understand that this Nation is weary of war. I understand the sacrifices made by our servicemembers, and I work every day to ensure that our brave veterans are provided the care and treatment they deserve. Their efforts should not be in vain.

As we are here today, Marine Cpl Kyle Carpenter will receive the Medal of Honor. He was a 19-year-old when he signed up to go in the Marine Corps. The young marine, in combat—to save a fellow marine—jumped on a grenade. Kyle Carpenter lived—not only lived—after 40 surgeries, today he just com-

pleted his freshman year at the University of South Carolina, at 24 years old.

He is an American hero. He could be any one of our children or grandchildren. What makes this country great is that we have people such as Kyle Carpenter who step up, when asked, and they do more than we could ever ask of them.

Our servicemembers served and sacrificed overseas so that we could be safe at home. We cannot in good faith let the administration dishonor their efforts with a misguided policy.

The continued drawdown of U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan will provide Al Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Haqqani Network with a safe haven to train operatives and plot further attacks against the United States of America and our allies.

Contrary to the campaign statements of the President and Vice President, Al Qaeda is not “on the run,” and I urge this administration to avoid further actions that may endanger our Nation.

I yield the floor for Senator INHOFE.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak until the arrival of the Senator from Alabama, Mr. SESSIONS.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, the subject today, of course, is the failed foreign policy of this President and this administration. It is really hard to do it in a limited period of time because once something happens like Benghazi, and we get into the middle of that thing, then all of a sudden you turn around and this President turns loose arguably the five most heinous terrorists from Gitmo. At the same time, we have a policy that was going so well in Iraq, and now we find out that is not working out either. If I have time, I will touch on that.

But the first thing I want to do is just mention this Benghazi thing. Being the ranking member on the Armed Services Committee, I had the opportunity to really be in there and see as it was happening. It happens that Chris Stevens—the Ambassador who was sent over there and who was killed, one of the four who was killed in Benghazi—was a friend of mine. He was in my office. We spent time together. We talked about the threats that were out there. Then, as we got closer to this time, he realized and started sending messages to the President, to the White House, to us, to send security over there. He said that right now the terrorists are actually training in Benghazi. They actually had their flags flying. They knew they were organizing something, probably for an anniversary of 9/11. So he knew that. He had requested it, and the President elected not to send help at that time.

The question a lot of people have is—they will say: INHOFE, how do you know the President knew that was an organized attack? Well, I can tell you how. In our system of government, we have four people who are responsible for advising the President on threats, on intelligence. They are the CIA Director—at that time it was John Brennan. The Director of National Intelligence was James Clapper. The Secretary of Defense at that time was Leon Panetta. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was General Dempsey.

Now, all of them acknowledged, when the annex was hit in Benghazi, that it was an organized—that same day—an organized terrorist attack. They all knew it. They expected it, but then they knew for a fact it was.

So you are talking about the individuals who are responsible for advising the President. All of them were well aware that on the day of the annex attack in Benghazi that it was an organized terrorist attack. It was several days later that they sent Susan Rice to all of these shows in order to try to make it sound like it was some video that somebody had.

Now, why would the President not want to admit that this was an organized terrorist attack? It was right before the election and the polls showed a lot of the people thought—Osama bin Laden having been captured—there was no longer that big threat out there in the Middle East and that would inure to his benefit. So it was for political reasons, and we ended up losing four lives.

Then, just recently, they are saying, oh, they have now found this Abu Khattala. This is someone who has been around for 2 years. The press has been talking to him for 2 years. Why, all of a sudden, are they saying—now of all times—this is the guy who perpetrated Benghazi, when, in fact, this all came from the White House? I just think it is just covering it up, and I am very much offended by that.

But the one thing I wanted to talk about—and I know some of the other Members are going to be here, and I will not abuse the time that has been given to me—but it is having to do with the release of the five Taliban terrorists on the American people. Let me tell you a side of this that people are not talking about that I feel strongly is the reason for it.

First of all, this President is in the last half of his second term—or approaching the last half of his second term. As is always the case, when you get down toward the end of your term, you start looking for a legacy. What was his legacy?

One of his legacies is closing Gitmo. This President has been talking about closing Gitmo for as long as I can remember, certainly longer than he has been President.

Now, you wonder why. I go back and I tell people in Oklahoma—they say:

Why does he want to close Gitmo? You cannot answer that. We have had Gitmo since 1903. It is one of the few good deals we have in government. We only pay \$4,000 a year for that, and half the time the Cubans do not cash the check. So we have this thing. We had actually 778 people there incarcerated and being interrogated prior to the time that Barack Obama became the President of the United States. Now we are down to 149.

But as far as Gitmo—that resource—no one argues with the fact that the humane treatment is beyond anyone's expectation. There is no place else in the world they can do that. They are fully compliant with the Geneva Convention. They have had people go in there and look at the maximum security prison, and it is attested to. Human rights organizations, the Red Cross, and everyone else agrees that it is a very humane place while they are interrogating. As I said, there is no place else they can do this. Because if you start doing this in our court system, obviously, they get Miranda rights, constitutional rights, and people are pretty offended when they find out. That keeps us from getting information that would affect some of the others.

We have an expeditionary legal complex there. It is the only one like this in the world, where they can actually do this.

So this is a place where we can actually get in there, interrogate, get information, incarcerate people, not intermingle the terrorists with the prison population in this country, which is what the President has been talking about doing.

Why do I say that? I say that because these guys are terrorists. They are not criminals. You put them in our prison system, and by definition their job is to train other people to become terrorists, and that is what they would be doing in training the prison population to become terrorists.

I have to say this too. All of the talk about Osama bin Laden and the fact that we do have him—and I am very glad we were able to bring him down. But how did we do it? We did it through information that we received through interrogation at Gitmo, Guantanamo Bay.

So I only say that because people wonder, why in the world would he be wanting to do this? And how does he want to fulfill this expectation or this legacy he has?

Let me tell you, tell you how I think. If he would take, out of the 149 individuals who are left there, the 5 most heinous terrorists, most dangerous Taliban terrorists, and turn them loose, that would put him in a position, then, to get rid of the rest of them, with the exception of those who are awaiting war crimes trials.

So what happened? He turned them loose, No. 1. No. 2, he told the Taliban

exactly when the United States is going to leave, regardless of the conditions on the ground. And then, thirdly, he has said that he is going to declare an "end of hostilities."

That is a proper phrase, "end of hostilities." This is not a war, it is a hostility. If he does that, that would then give him the justification for opening the gates, turning everyone loose from Gitmo and closing Gitmo. That, in my opinion, is the estimation.

What are the threats we are facing as a result of that? We are in a position right now where we have five people who are turned loose. Even if we trusted Qatar to hold these five guys for a period of 1 year, still the philosophy there would be: All right, we will turn you loose if you few promise not to kill Americans for 1 year. That does not make sense.

So this is something that should not have happened. We now have the people there making decisions, and they are celebrating as we speak. One of the five individual's name is named Fazl. I will end with this: There is a guy named Mullah Salem Khan. He is a Taliban commander over in Afghanistan. Listen to this. He is talking about Fazl, one of the five guys. He said:

His return is like putting 10,000 Taliban fighters into the battle on the side of jihad. Now the Taliban have the right lion to lead them in the final moment before victory in Afghanistan.

That is what happened with these guys. That is how it is viewed over there. It is an atrocity that it did happen.

I yield the floor for Senator CORNYN. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, how much time remains in the allocation of this side's time?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republicans have 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. CORNYN. I know we perhaps have another Member coming to speak. Would the Chair please advise me after I have used 5 minutes of that 8 minutes?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair will do that.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I wish to talk about the intersection of national security and our mounting debt. Over the last 5 years, President Obama has had multiple occasions to embrace real structural entitlement reform that would help solve our long-term debt problem. One might wonder why am I talking about debt when the subject we are generally talking about is national security, including what is happening in Iraq and Syria.

It is because as the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, ADM Mike Mullen, when asked what the single biggest threat to our national security was, he said: It is our debt. The President had an opportunity, when

the Simpson-Bowles Commission released its recommendations in late 2010. As you will recall, this is a bipartisan commission the President himself appointed to help come up with a formula to deal with our fiscal problems.

Unfortunately, once they made their recommendations in December of 2010, the President walked away from them and nothing came of it, even though we are facing, in addition to \$17 trillion in debt, more than \$100 trillion in unfunded liabilities. Perhaps it is because those numbers are so big that we have a hard time getting our head around it, that people have become desensitized to the urgency of dealing with our debt and these unfunded liabilities.

But the President has never once endorsed any sort of reform necessary to deal with this challenge or to prevent a future crisis. The fact is, somebody someday—probably these young men and women who are working as pages and others their age, is going to have to be the ones to pay this back because our generation will have failed them unless we meet the challenges this presents.

It seems as though the only part of the Federal budget the President is eager to cut is national defense. Under his latest budget plan, defense spending would drop from 3.4 percent to 2.3 percent of GDP by 2023. At the same time, we are told the U.S. Army might be shrunk to the smallest size since pre-World War II.

President Obama needs to realize that even America's current military capabilities are proving inadequate to meet global challenges. For example, one former Assistant Secretary of Defense has declared that because of Pentagon budget cuts, President Obama's highly touted pivot to Asia cannot happen. In other words, despite promoting the Asia pivot as a crucial element of American foreign policy, the President has failed to take the necessary fiscal steps to make sure that happens or could happen.

This of course makes it a hollow policy, one where the promises are extravagant, but the delivery is anemic, and one that will do major damage to U.S. credibility among our allies and adversaries. The prospect of bringing DOD spending back down to sequestration levels has alarmed our senior military officials in all branches of government. Chief of Naval Operations ADM Jonathan Greenert has said that reverting to sequester levels in 2016 "would lead to a Navy that is too small and lacking the advanced capabilities needed to execute the missions that nation expects of its Navy."

The Secretary of the Air Force has said that going back to those spending levels "would compromise our national security." Ray Odierno, Chief of Staff of the Army, said it would put "our young men and women [in uniform] at

much higher risk." In other words, the President cannot simply keep cutting defense spending and the military in order to fund his other priorities and at the same time ignore the 70 percent of spending that is on autopilot, so-called entitlement spending. That is where the big money is. That is where the reforms need to take place, but it will not happen without a leader.

We all know what is happening in Iraq. I know time is short. I do not want to take away any more time than necessary from my colleague from Alabama, but this map reflects what is happening now in Iraq. The civil war in Syria, the President had drawn a red line which once crossed—there were no consequences associated with that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has consumed 5 minutes.

Mr. CORNYN. Now this border between Iran and Syria has basically been wiped away. We see all of these places where the ISIS, a horrific terrorist group that is even worse than Al Qaeda, has basically taken charge. So this is what happens with a failure of leadership. Unfortunately, this is where we are in so many places around the world.

In short: President Obama simply cannot keep asking America's military to shoulder such a disproportionate share of the spending cuts while our biggest entitlement programs remain virtually untouched. DoD spending did not cause our long-term budget problem, so slashing it to the bone would not solve that problem. Moreover, seemingly every week brings fresh reminders of the challenges our country will face in the years to come. At this very moment, we have Russia's ongoing aggression against democratic Ukraine. We have an Iranian theocracy that shows no signs of abandoning its quest for a nuclear weapon. We have a persistent terrorist challenge in Afghanistan. We have a potential failed state in Libya. We have growing Al Qaeda activity in many parts of Africa. We have a Chinese dictatorship that is increasing its annual military budget by more than 12 percent while continuing to bully its neighbors on the high seas.

Most notably, we have a burgeoning terror state in the heart of the Middle East, where a ruthless band of jihadist killers—a group that is even more radical and murderous than Al Qaeda, if you can believe it—now controls a massive piece of territory spanning both Syria and Iraq. Calling their movement the "Islamic State of Iraq and Syria," or ISIS, members of this organization have taken over major Iraqi cities, including Fallujah, Mosul, Tikrit, and Tal Afar, leaving a trail of blood and medieval terror in their wake.

The map to my left shows just how much territory ISIS has conquered. To make matters worse, they have seized a tremendous amount of weaponry and

money—almost half a billion dollars—making them perhaps the most well-resourced terrorist group on earth.

And again, just to reiterate: This group is considered more radical, and more vicious, than even Al Qaeda.

Amazingly, even after ISIS took control of Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, a National Security Council spokeswoman stuck to the White House's 3-year-old talking points and said, "President Obama promised to responsibly end the war in Iraq and he did."

Of course, the President did no such thing. By the time he assumed office in January 2009, Iraq had largely been stabilized. All the President had to do was convince the Iraqi government to sign a new Status of Forces Agreement, SOFA. Unfortunately, he was more interested in keeping a misguided campaign promise from 2008.

As a result of his failure to maintain a significant U.S. troop presence in Iraq, America emboldened the Iranians, the Shiite militias, and the Sunni terrorist groups to become more aggressive. We also emboldened Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to behave in a more sectarian and dictatorial manner.

Meanwhile, amid the fallout from America's Iraq withdrawal, President Obama's failure to take early, decisive action in Syria made it much easier for Sunni terrorists to increase their territory, weapons, and manpower. As you can see from this map, the jihadists have effectively been using their bases in Syria as a launching pad for attacks in western Iraq.

The path forward in Iraq is highly uncertain, but I would urge President Obama to explain to the American people what is at stake, and to formulate a robust strategy for defending U.S. interests and preventing the creation of a new terror state. The President may well believe—as a recent New York Times article suggested—that "he is managing an era of American retrenchment." But with bloodthirsty jihadists marauding through Iraq and approaching the gates of Baghdad, now is not a time for U.S. retrenchment. Instead, now is a time for clear thinking, clear decisions, and clear action.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, when a nation commits itself to a military effort, it is a very significant, august decision. I was here when we voted to utilize military force in Iraq and Afghanistan. A majority of the Democrats in this body supported that. The American people supported that.

Through tough times, success was achieved in the sense that Iraq had

elections, they had a functioning government, the U.S. military was drawing down its personnel, the country had a reconciliation with the Sunni and the Shia and the Kurds, and we were on a path that gave us some prospect, I believe it is fair to say—critics can have different opinions—but it is pretty clear to me we had prospects for a successful conclusion of that effort which would allow a relatively stable, relatively democratic nation to be established that did not threaten its neighbors or the United States.

So we should have not done that. Well, we did that. That is what has happened. That was the situation when President Obama took office. He failed, in my opinion, in negotiating the kind of drawdown in the status of forces agreement that needed to be established to be able to create credibility in this new and fragile regime and help hold their military together, keep them trained, while we reduced dramatically our presence and military activities. We would be there as support, supplying equipment, intelligence, aircraft lift capability. That would have given them confidence.

It was very clear when we just said: We cannot reach an agreement. We are pulling everybody out. We had General Bednarek talk to us recently. He told us he has 100 soldiers. I asked him if he was the current General Petraeus.

He said, yes, with a bit of a smile, but he only has 100 people. So I guess I would say we are worried about it. One of the things that is so critical in our conduct and understanding of what we are involved in is to understand that the terrorist threat is going to be there for a long time. We are going to be dealing with this for a long time. There is a significant number, not a majority by any means but a significant number, of radicalized people in the Middle East who want to destroy the United States. They see us as an evil force. They support what we oppose. They want to take over their neighbors and continue to expand. They want to knock down reasonably functioning regimes that provide at least some freedom and order in their societies. They want to impose a caliphate. They want to impose on those countries a theocratic government and legal system.

It is not good for the United States and it is not good for the world. One of the things we have to do and have to understand is that when we capture a person committed to the destruction of the United States, and who is attacking our people, they are not criminals. They are warriors. Most of their activities are clearly contrary to the law of war. So they are unlawful enemy combatants.

When we capture a soldier in battle, whether lawful or unlawful, if they have complied with the rules of war, unlike this group, we do not try them, per se. We hold them until the war is

over, until a peace treaty has been signed, until an agreement has been reached. That is not happening now. As a result, we have a confused policy that results in the release of dangerous enemy combatants, such as the five Taliban leaders we just released under this confused thinking.

It fundamentally arose when the left—determined to attack President Bush—attacked the secure terrorist detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. They argued that it became some symbol of the policies we are using to detain people who are captured enemy combatants, lawful or unlawful. When we capture them, we hold them. We do not release them so they can go back to the war and kill us. We are going to send soldiers out to capture them, and then once they have been captured, we are going to release them so they continue into the war? It goes against all common sense. As Justice Jackson once said: The Constitution is not a "suicide pact."

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. So they have to be treated properly and that sort of thing, but they do not have to be released. We captured, for example, Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai last year for conspiring with bin Laden to attack U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Somalia and for his part in the 1998 bombings of two U.S. Embassies in East Africa that killed 224 people before 9/11. He is a treasure trove of intelligence.

U.S. forces went in and captured him, took him away at risk of their lives. He had been undergoing interrogation on the USS *San Antonio* until he said he was sick and not doing well. So what happened? They took him to New York, where he was formally arrested and taken into the custody of the U.S. Justice Department, and put into the civilian justice system. The purpose of capturing him was to get intelligence. This is a warrior. We want to talk to him. We want to see what we can learn about him. Even the New York Times said "his capture was seen as a potential intelligence coup because he had been on the run for years and so would, presumably, possess information about al Qaeda." However, when he appeared in Federal court, he was appointed a lawyer, guaranteed a speedy, public trial—the things that prisoners of war are not entitled to—yet this has been happening over and over again. Al-Ruqai's cooperation ended, leading to a major lost opportunity to obtain valuable intelligence.

This evidences a serious lack of understanding of the nature of the conflict we are engaged in. It evidences a policy that is dangerous to our safety.

It is wrong to send Americans to capture people such as this and then treat them in a way that allows them to minimize the opportunity to obtain intelligence.

Indeed, the gravest danger with bringing enemy combatants to U.S. soil is that the President cannot absolutely prevent their release into the United States. And, once foreign nationals are here, there are legal limits on the government's ability to remove them from the U.S. The reality is, once here, their fate is no longer simply up to the administration but also a federal judge.

There are many examples of foreign nationals who have committed murder and other serious crimes and were released into the U.S. when our government could not transfer them to another country.

This risk extends to the detainees at Guantanamo Bay. We saw that in the case of *Kiyemba v. Obama*. There, the D.C. District Court ordered the release into the United States of a group of ethnic Chinese Uighers who were detained at Guantanamo, many of whom had received military-style training in Tora Bora. Fortunately, the D.C. Circuit reversed the decision based on the fact that the Gitmo detainees had not been brought to the United States. If, however, Gitmo detainees are brought here, a judge may very well order them released into the United States if they cannot be removed to another country. That very real risk obviously does not exist if Gitmo detainees are not brought to the United States in the first place.

The course this administration has chosen on national security matters has steered us into a head-on collision with reality. The American people unequivocally oppose transplanting terrorists from Gitmo into their own communities, either for detention or trial. Our primary goal is to prevent future terrorist attacks, especially through obtaining intelligence. We should not jeopardize that goal in order to afford foreign terrorists who seek to harm the United States and its citizens the rights and privileges granted to ordinary criminals. The administration's policy has put this country at grave risk.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut.

LORI JACKSON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR PROTECTION ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, photographs on this poster are of a young woman, Lori Jackson, a Connecticut resident, who died tragically, needlessly, savagely in Oxford at the hands of her estranged husband.

Lori is the reason I have introduced legislation named after her to close a

gaping loophole in our Federal law—well, she is not the only reason. Tragically, there are thousands of other women and some men who have shared her fate because of a gap in Federal law that permits intimate partners to continue to have firearms, even when they are under restraining orders from the court. Those restraining orders are placed against them because they evidence clear danger to their partners, whether their husband or their spouse.

The reason they pose danger is that they become violent. The gap in the law is it applies only to permanent restraining orders, not temporary ones.

Lori Jackson sought a temporary restraining order when her estranged husband threatened her physically and her two 18-month-old twins at their home. She sought and she obtained a temporary restraining order and literally the day before that temporary restraining order was to become permanent and the prohibition against her husband having a firearm would have gone into effect, he gunned her down at her parents' home where she had sought refuge with her children—gunned her down and savagely and severely wounded her mother as well with those same firearms.

The temporary restraining order against Lori's husband was completely ineffective, powerless to prevent him from using that gun against her and killing her—and her mother, severely wounding her.

Tragically, Lori's story is far from unique. Jasmine Leonard also had a temporary restraining order against her husband. She died last week after her husband shot her.

Chyna Joy Young celebrated her 18th birthday just days before she was shot and killed by her estranged boyfriend, despite the temporary restraining order she had against him. Young was 3 months pregnant.

Barbara Diane Dye was granted a temporary restraining order and then fled to Texas. She returned only for a hearing on the permanent restraining order, and that is when her husband cornered her in a bank parking lot and shot her repeatedly with a .357 magnum revolver, killing her there.

When domestic abusers have access to firearms, it isn't only abuse victims who are at risk. A violent husband under a temporary restraining order in Brookfield, WI, followed his wife to the salon where she worked. Not only did he shoot and kill his wife but he killed two additional people and wounded four more.

After Erica Bell got a temporary restraining order against her husband, he came to her at church. He followed her there. He shot and killed Erica and he also shot four of her relatives, including her grandparents, great-aunt, and a cousin.

This scourge of domestic violence, combined with the epidemic of guns in

our society causing gun violence, is a toxic recipe, and we must do more against domestic abuse. That is why I have formed an organization in Connecticut called Men Make a Difference, Men Against Domestic Violence. It is a program launched in cooperation with our largest domestic prevention and response agency, Interval House, which does a wonderful job against domestic violence. It is a commitment of prominent men, all men, providing role models for young men and boys to reach out to other males and take action to prevent domestic violence. We can truly make a difference as men. We can fight domestic violence. We can gradually make progress against it because it is a cycle.

More than 70 percent of all men who commit domestic violence have seen or experienced it in their own lives, and these kinds of organizations can help stop and stem domestic violence. But domestic violence, combined with guns, is a recipe for death.

As our former colleague Frank Lautenberg used to say: "The difference between a murdered wife and a battered wife is often the presence of a gun." Women are five times more likely to die as a result of domestic violence when there is a gun in the home than when there is not.

So I have introduced the Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act. It is a long name. The most important part of the name is Lori Jackson, because her story tells it all.

There is no reason we should fail to protect women when they are protected by a temporary restraining order rather than a permanent restraining order. In fact, there is every reason to provide more protection in the first week or 2 weeks when there is a temporary restraining order in place. Remember, the temporary restraining order is granted not on a whim or a question, because of specific, credible evidence that an intimate partner poses a physical danger, and it is granted by a judge after considering that evidence.

The moment of danger in a relationship such as Lori Jackson's is when one partner tells another—it may be a spouse, it may be a boyfriend, a girlfriend—she is leaving, she wants a divorce. That is the moment of maximum rage. That is the moment of greatest danger. That is the moment of uncontrollable wrath.

At that moment of greatest danger, the law is at its weakest. There is no prohibition against that enraged, impulsive, hurt, angry individual from continuing to possess or purchase a firearm.

The Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act very simply closes that gaping loophole in our law, providing that just as with a permanent protective order, an individual

subject to a temporary restraining order cannot purchase or possess a firearm. It is a very simple, commonsense measure, but it can help save lives. It can help save others such as Lori Jackson and the individuals whom I have named—many of them courageous, strong individuals like Lori Jackson who broke with an abusive relationship.

The experts in this field will tell us that is among the most difficult things to do, and it puts a woman at her most vulnerable point in the relationship. Again, that is the time when current law fails her. That is the reason we should close that loophole.

Other measures are also important and necessary.

I salute our colleague Senator KLOBUCHAR for her proposal that will close an equally important loophole in our law relating to people who are convicted of stalking. That is an eminently important and sensible step to take. It will keep guns out of the hands of stalkers; likewise, Representative MOORE's legislation to help States enforce our gun laws.

Similarly, the comprehensive measure of mental health initiatives, school safety steps, background checks, is part of a comprehensive effort to stop gun violence in our country. They are all important and necessary.

I thank my colleague and friend Senator MURPHY of Connecticut for championing them as a teammate in this effort, and he has joined me in supporting this legislation.

I named this legislation after Lori Jackson as a memorial to her and a gesture of sadness and outrage at her death.

Every man or woman who has lost his or her life through a domestic violence gun homicide deserves to be memorialized on this floor, as does every victim of gun violence. With more than 1,000 names added as victims every year, I believe we can honor them best by passing this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in honoring Lori Jackson, Jasmine Leonard, Chyna Joy Young, Barbara Diane Guy, and Zina Daniel, all of the women who have lost their lives to domestic abusers and whose lives might have been saved. We can't know for sure. There is no certainty they would be alive today, but we know their chances would have been better if that temporary protective order had also protected them from an abuser who possessed or bought a firearm at that moment of maximum danger.

We continue to grieve in Connecticut for all victims of gun violence, especially the 20 beautiful children and 6 great educators who lost their lives. This past Sunday I attended in West Haven the opening of a 24th playground. Where Angels Play is the name of the playground organization headed by a firefighter, a very resolute, stead-

fast, public servant, Bill Lavin. This playground, honoring one of those children, was on the beach in West Haven—a moment of haunting and exquisite beauty—when all of us gathered in honor of Charlotte Bacon on a sun-filled day, Father's Day. Joel and JoAnn Bacon and their son Guy were with us.

Each of those playgrounds is a memorial to those children who died, and we have likewise honored the six great educators who perished.

There are ways to honor and remember and memorialize these victims. Alexis Volpe in Middletown did a small garden, and she was joined by the Daisy Scouts there.

All of them are beautiful in their own special way, but action is the best way to honor the memory of the victims of gun violence, action to adopt commonsense, sensible measures that will help prevent gun violence in the future. None is more important than honoring, remembering, and acting to save others such as Lori Jackson, who will always be with us in spirit and memory.

I thank my colleagues who have joined me in this effort, Senators DURBIN, MURRAY, BOXER, MURPHY, HIRONO, WARREN, and MENENDEZ, sponsoring the Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act.

I yield the floor for my good colleague and friend, the Senator from West Virginia.

CELEBRATING WEST VIRGINIA'S 151ST BIRTHDAY

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I thank my good friend from Connecticut. I appreciate his unwavering commitment to continue to fight for justice and fairness for all, and he does it every day.

I am here to say happy birthday to West Virginia. Tomorrow, June 20, we will be 151 years old, and I rise to honor my great State.

I have often said this: Some of us were lucky enough to be born and raised there—and I am one of the lucky ones—some people were smart enough to move there, and some people just wish they could get there. So under any circumstance, we will take you.

This is a State that truly embodies a brave and daring declaration of statehood that is unprecedented in American history.

Born out of the fiery battles of the Civil War, West Virginia was founded by patriots who were willing to risk their lives in a united pursuit of justice and freedom for all. Since that day 151 years ago, June 20, 1863—when our State officially became the 35th State admitted into the Union—West Virginia's rich culture and strong traditions grew.

That year the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia was adopted—and we all have our seals and preambles in all

of our States—depicting who we are as a people and our culture. With our birth date's inscription forever engraved in its center, the seal features a big boulder rock with two crossed rifles and a liberty cap sitting on top to express our State's importance in fighting for liberty and justice.

On either side of the boulder stand two men: On the left, a farmer stands with an ax and a plow to represent agriculture. On the right, a miner stands with a pickax and a sledgehammer to represent industry. Finally, along the outer ring is carved the text "State of West Virginia" and "Montani Semper Liberi," which means "Mountaineers Are Always Free."

That Great Seal of West Virginia, designed in 1863 during America's bloody Civil War, leaves a lasting imprint of who we are as the people of West Virginia.

Just like the farmer and miner on our seal, we cannot forget the countless others who fought for our freedom and embarked on our State's improbable journey to independence from Virginia and to our very own place in the Union—a land of the free and home of the brave. We believe—and we believed way back then—that justice would prevail.

Those pivotal figures climbed over mountains, crossed raging rivers, tumbled through thick forests, and fought against bondage and oppression to be free. Their resilience succeeded, and because of their bravery and patriotism the "mountaineers" are still always free.

Ever since our historic beginning, we, the people of West Virginia, have never failed to answer our country's call. We have almost more veterans per capita than any other State in the Nation. When 9/11 happened to our great country, there were more West Virginians percentagewise who signed up to enter all branches of our Armed Forces to fight for our country. I am so proud of each and every one of our West Virginians and our veterans and the people serving today.

Ever since we chose the stars and stripes and chose to live under a Constitution that promised a constant pursuit of "a more perfect Union" of States, no demand has been too great, no danger has been too daunting, and no trial has been too threatening.

Our State's abundance of natural resources, coupled with the hard work and sacrifice of our people, have made America stronger and safer. Since our birth, we have mined the coal that fueled the Industrial Revolution, powered our railroads across the continental United States, and produced the steel that built our ships, skyscrapers, and our factories. Our little State has given every ounce of blood we have.

To this day, West Virginians continue to generate the electricity that lights our cities, heats our homes, and

powers our businesses. We have also filled the ranks of our military forces in numbers far greater than should be expected from our little State of less than 2 million people.

West Virginia's population holds one of the highest percentages of veterans among all States. As I always say, West Virginia is one of the most patriotic States in the country. We always have been and we always will be.

"The best steel comes from the hottest fires." My father always told me that, and the fires of the Civil War transformed us. We forever branded ourselves to the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the guarantees of the U.S. Constitution—and, as the "mountaineers" who will always be free.

We are tough. We are independent. We are inventive. We are honest. Our character has been shaped by the wilderness of our State. With welcoming mountains, countless hollers, rushing streams, boundless blue skies, and dense green forests, we have it all. West Virginia is a place of coal mines and soaring eagles, Boy Scouts and community leaders, sparkling lakes and captivating mountains, winding backcountry and smoky barbecue joints, battlefields, and hidden trails, college towns and small towns, and it goes on and on. West Virginia is a place of power, pulse, and passion—a special place I get to call home, along with other West Virginians.

Yes, we have had our ups and downs, our setbacks and triumphs, famous family feuds, neighborly fights, timely trials, and unexpected challenges have been thrown our way, but the spirit of West Virginia has never been broken, and it never will. I learned a long time ago, growing up in the small coal-mining town of Farmington, WV, with hardworking men and women, when things get tough, by God, we just got tougher. That is the way it had to be to survive.

Tomorrow, as people across West Virginia celebrate West Virginia's 151st birthday, a day we now also know as West Virginia Day, I encourage all West Virginians to remember who we are, from where we have come, and where we are going to go. I encourage us all to remember the first mountaineers and the brave leaders and strong laborers who paved the way for us and for future generations to come.

We have so many reasons to be proud of our beautiful State, its kind and compassionate people, powerful landscapes, unique customs, rich culture, and fascinating history.

John Kennedy, in 1963, when he came for our centennial celebration and spoke on the capitol steps, once said: Sometimes it is raining cats and dogs. Sometimes the Sun doesn't always shine in West Virginia, but the people always do.

He was so correct, as he felt the heartbeat of our State.

Every West Virginian contributes to our State's amazing story, and on West Virginia Day I encourage all West Virginians to seize this opportunity to imagine the future of this great State—and this Nation—and be proud of how far we have come and how far we will go together.

We are West Virginians. Even in the darkness and the gloom, we look to a just God who directs the storm, and similar to the brave loyal patriots who made West Virginia the 35th star on Old Glory, West Virginians' love of God and country and family and State remains unshakable, and that is well worth celebrating every year.

So God bless every West Virginian. God bless those who came before us and who will come after us. Happy birthday, West Virginia.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. KAINE pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 479 are located in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, about 2 weeks ago I had a chance to meet with the leaders in the agricultural community to go over certain issues that are available to our farmers. I met with the NRCS chief Jason Weller. I met with the Maryland State agriculture secretary Buddy Hance and Lee McDaniels, who is a Harford County, MD, farmer and president of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

We were talking about ways in which the agricultural community, and those citizens who are concerned about our environment, can work together so we can have a clean environment and a healthy agricultural industry in our State. I found the discussion to be extremely helpful. We talked about the

Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

I thank Senator STABENOW for her incredible leadership on the farm bill. When we reauthorized it, we consolidated a lot of the conservation programs—particularly for specific great water bodies—into the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. It provided new energy and tools available for conservation within agriculture so we can have a clean environment and also have sustainable agriculture in our country.

Recently, the Chesapeake Bay watershed was designated as one of the critical conservation areas. That becomes important because that allows a certain amount of the funds under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to be available to the critical conservation areas in our country and will be used by our farmers to conserve their land, and to be better stewards of the land and our environment, and at the same time have a sustainable agricultural program.

The Chesapeake Bay Program first started many years ago under the leadership of then-Governor Harry Hughes of Maryland, who worked with the Governors of Pennsylvania and Delaware and then expanded to include the States of New York, West Virginia, and of course Virginia, to establish the Chesapeake Bay Program. They understood that in order for the program to be successful, they had to deal with development issues and storm runoff, the hardened surface, the loss of forestry land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and the causes of the pollutants in the soil and our environment through surges which rush into our water system, our streams, and rivers, and into the Chesapeake Bay. We have to do a better job of development in dealing with storm runoff.

It also recognized the responsibility of local governments. They are the primary entity responsible for how we treat our waste with the wastewater facility plants and how we can do a better job of preventing pollutants from entering our water system.

We also dealt with business growth and the pollution coming in through business activities.

One of the major focal points was how do we deal with agriculture. In one sense agriculture is very positive for our environment. Maintaining open space is important, and agricultural activities are generally open space. That can be good because it gives us a larger tract of land in order to filter rainwater, to filter the pollutants from perhaps never entering the bay but, if they do enter the water system, they enter in a way that has already been filtered. So in that sense agricultural preservation is important for the conservation of the bay, but because of farming activities that use nitrogen and phosphorus, it can cause significant challenges for the bay.

I think Maryland farmers have done a good job. They have done a good job for many years. But I wish to speak about one farmer particularly because I was very pleased—before this meeting, I had a chance to meet Hank Suchting. He is a farmer in Baltimore County, MD. That is pretty close to the urban centers. The Presiding Officer was referring to me as being the Senator from Baltimore. I am a proud resident of Baltimore, and Mr. Suchting's farm is only a few miles from my house. It is interesting. He has a beef-farming cattle activity. It is in the Oregon branch of the Gwynns Falls River, which has been dammed to provide for the Loch Raven Reservoir to deal with our water supply. In other words, that stream, which is part of his cattle production, is in the watershed that goes into the drinking water that the Presiding Officer and I drink in the Baltimore region. So we all have a significant interest in making sure that water supply is kept safe and that when we turn on our tap and when we drink our water, it is fresh water.

Mr. Suchting's farm activities produce about 30 beef calves a year. That is an important number because in order for that cattle population to be properly grazed, it needs to have a water supply, and it needs to have a place where the cattle can cool off, particularly on a hot day like we had yesterday. So the traditional farming activities for this cattle production were to allow the cattle—as I said, the stream goes right through his property—to use the stream for the purpose of cooling off and for the purpose of the drinking water for the cattle. However, that was not the best way to do it for the purposes of protecting the water supply of Baltimore and to deal with the Chesapeake Bay and to deal with our environment because, as the Presiding Officer knows, free access for the cattle to the river meant that the cattle manure, the phosphorus would go into the waters, causing a challenge for the water system, and it caused significant erosion to the streambed itself.

So Mr. Suchting felt a commitment to help the environment, so he said: Look, why don't I look at fencing in the riverbed so my cattle do not get direct access to the stream and producing a supplemental water system through a water trough—as we see in the photograph. It works through gravity. It uses the aquifer, works through gravity, and produces direct water for the cattle to drink.

Here is the interesting part. His principal motivation was that he wanted to do something that would help the environment, but he still wanted to be able to produce his cattle. He felt an obligation to do this.

The State of Maryland had help for him. In partnerships with the Federal Government and conservation programs, there were funds available to

help him fence in the property to have a sensible crossing—because he was on both sides of the creek—so that he could have a way for the cattle to cross safely and still protect the water bed itself. That program made it more financially advantageous for him to put in the fencing so the cattle did not have direct access to the stream and to put in the water trough so they could get fresh water.

But guess what. He put a pencil to it and found out it was better economically for him to do this. It actually made his farming practices more financially viable. How did that happen? Well, he was losing calves every season to storms when there were water surges and they would get caught in the stream and they would actually drown. He was losing calves because of extreme weather. Being in the stream caused hypothermia for the calves, and they would die. Every time he lost a calf, he also lost about \$1,000. This was a sound investment from the point of view of the financial viability of his cattle production.

Also, he found it was healthier for his cattle in two respects. First, the water supply did not include the pathogens that can be found in the streams, so he found it was healthier for his cattle to get water through the trough rather than through the stream itself. Secondly, he said the growth around the stream increased dramatically because the cattle were not in the stream, and it gave better shade on the property to allow the cattle to be able to cool off in the shade in a more efficient way than going into the stream itself.

My point is this: This is just one example. I could give hundreds of examples where conservation makes sense for agriculture and our environment.

My reason for being at this farm and my reason for bringing together the leaders in agriculture in Maryland is to talk about this new program that is now available. It is the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which is available under the farm bill, which makes hundreds of millions of dollars available competitively—it is not earmarked—for farmers to be able to do what Mr. Suchting did through similar types of programs to help themselves and help our environment so we can have a safer environment for our community.

Working together, we can have a cleaner environment and successful agriculture. There are now new tools available. We want people to know about them. We want farmers to know about them. We want conservation districts to get this information out to our farming community because, quite frankly, agriculture is critical to Maryland, it is critical to New Jersey, it is critical to this country. It is the largest single part of our local economy, and I expect it is the same in New Jersey and around the Nation. We want

viable agriculture. We outcompete the world in production. We want to be able to continue to do that, but we also want to pass on a cleaner environment to our children. We can do both.

Thanks to the leadership of Senator STABENOW and thanks to the leadership of this body, we now have new tools available to help our farmers in conservation. I hope they will take advantage of them for the sake of our environment and for the sake of agriculture.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 4660, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, which appropriations bill is this that we just announced?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed to the Commerce-Justice-Science provisions.

Mr. INHOFE. I thank the Chair.

Let me make two comments on two amendments actually to the THUD appropriations bill having to do with CNG, natural gas vehicles. If I could speak very briefly on two amendments, the first is amendment No. 3245. That amendment is the regulatory streamlining for the use of compressed natural gas. This will allow us to give some of the same treatment to natural gas vehicles that are given to other alternative fuel vehicles. In fact, I am joined with Senator CARL LEVIN on this amendment, which also gives access to HOV lanes for certain vehicles that are using natural gas and other alternative fuel vehicles.

The other one is amendment No. 3275 having to do with light semi trucks that use natural gas, because of the additional weight of the equipment, we would give some leniency—up to 2,000 pounds—in terms of the total weight to allow them and encourage them to use compressed natural gas without facing a freight-weight competitive disadvantage.

Those are the two amendments, when the time comes, that I wanted to get into the RECORD that I will be proposing at that time.

I thank the Senator from Maine for yielding me a few minutes of her time, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I rise to speak on an amendment I have filed on the appropriations bill that this Chamber is now considering. The amendment is cosponsored by Senators ROCKEFELLER, FEINSTEIN, MENENDEZ, SCHUMER, BLUMENTHAL, GILLIBRAND, MARKEY, WARREN, and BROWN.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to add as cosponsors to the amendment Senator DURBIN, Senator BOXER, Senator HIRONO, Senator MURPHY, and Senator SCHATZ.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOOKER. Thank you, Madam President.

Our amendment would maintain critical evidence-based safety rules that reduce truckdriver fatigue. I am disappointed that this bill currently includes a provision that would roll back the enforcement of these rules—rules that are based on years of scientific evidence. It is doing so without further study. It is rolling back these safety rules without public input. It is rolling back these safety rules without even a hearing.

At a time when truck crashes are actually on a rise in the United States of America, it is paramount that Congress do more in transportation safety to improve the protection of lives—not remove an evidence-based element of reform.

Keep in mind that the rule the bill currently suspends enforcement of was the result of feedback from more than 20,000 formal comments submitted by industry and stakeholders. It was a result of 6 public sessions and incorporated 80 sources of scientific data and research, as well as a regulatory impact analysis.

Over the past week alone, New Jersey has been impacted by at least four major, separate accidents involving tractor trailer collisions. National statistics, unfortunately, show that these tragedies are unfolding more and more frequently.

Many of my colleagues may not spend much time in New Jersey, but I am willing to bet that many have driven on the more than 38,000 miles of public roads that exist in my State. If you know the New Jersey Turnpike, this corridor connects our State and drivers, much of our commerce, and our economy all together. This highway also sees a lot of trucks at all times of the day, all around the clock.

So I am compelled by these facts: Nearly 4,000 people are killed in truck accidents and over 100,000 people are injured every single year.

From 2009 to 2012, truck crash injuries increased by 40 percent and truck fatalities increased in our Nation by 16 percent.

Truckdriver fatigue is a leading cause of major truck accidents. These drivers, who work extensively long days delivering the goods we depend upon, deserve basic protections allowing them to get sufficient rest to do their job safely and efficiently.

Just this morning the National Transportation Safety Board released a preliminary report about a truck crash that happened on the New Jersey Turnpike on June 7 which killed one passenger traveling in a limousine, and four others were airlifted to a hospital. Six cars were impacted by the collision between the truck and the limo. The truckdriver, according to the NTSB report, had logged 13 hours 32 minutes of work at the time of the crash. Had he reached his destination, he certainly would have exceeded the number of federally permitted hours to work in a given day. The truckdriver will clearly be punished for pushing the limits.

Truckdrivers are working extremely long days to deliver the goods that keep America moving, but it should never ever be at the cost of safer roads.

At a time when we should be doing more to improve safety, we should not be rolling back evidence-based rules. Our amendment prevents readopting a policy that could force many truckdrivers to work over 80 hours per week. It maintains a balanced rulemaking that provides for truckdrivers to be allowed two nights' rest at the end of a taxing workweek.

The Department of Transportation itself—our Federal Department of Transportation—estimates that the current rulemaking is preventing 1,400 crashes each year, saving 19 lives and avoiding 560 injuries on American highways.

Our amendment would simply retain a provision to authorize—it would actually retain a provision to authorize further study. We believe further study

on the issue is good. I am not against further study, nor are we against further analysis. But we believe it is absolutely unacceptable to consider suspending these driver rules while the study is being conducted. Safety cannot wait.

I have not been in the Chamber very long and even today may have violated some of the rules of comity of this great body, but I know this effort is an important one, and I know it will be an uphill fight. There are some entrenched interests who tend to have a lot of influence on Capitol Hill, but this, to me, is one worth fighting. I urge my colleagues to join me.

I have heard a lot of the arguments and questions about why this should possibly be rolled back, why we should roll back safety regulations in the face of increasing accidents on our highways. Somebody might say that DOT rules make the roads less safe by forcing trucks on the road during busy rush hour traffic.

The notion that the DOT's rules—which were based on all of those hearings, all of that public input, the scientific study—somehow make the roads less safe, to me, is unfounded. To be sure, the rule does require that scientifically proven optimal sleep hours of 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. be included in the DOT's mandatory 34-hour "restart" period. But let me be clear. This restart period only applies when a truckdriver has reached his or her maximum driving hours for the week—the maximum allowed. It only triggers that provision when someone has worked a 70-hour workweek.

Keep in mind that most people work 40-hour workweeks. Requiring those drivers operating 80,000-pound trucks on busy roads to get some rest is not only common sense, it is supported by the science. The Department of Transportation estimates that the current rule, again, is preventing crashes, is preventing the loss of life. Nineteen lives they believe these rules around hours have saved, 560 injuries, 1,400 crashes. Suspending this rule without studying it first is not common sense.

I have heard another argument that the DOT rules are a solution looking for a problem, that truckdriver fatigue is somehow not that common. A study that was conducted by FMCSA in 2006 found an astonishing number of truckdrivers—65 percent of truckdrivers—reported that they often feel drowsy while driving. Over 40 percent of truckdrivers responded they have trouble staying awake at the wheel. An alarming 13 percent admitted they have fallen asleep while driving.

Fatigue is an issue. The survey illustrates how vitally important rules governing hours of service and rest periods are in keeping our roads and highways safe. Now is not a time to roll back those rules without studying, without evidence, without a hearing, without information.

There are some people who might say this is a partisan issue, that somehow Democrats are safety advocates and are exploiting the severe accident that faced a comedian named Tracy Morgan, that we are using this as a political opportunity. But that suggestion is wrong. Somehow it misses that fatal accidents are common on our highways.

This concern continues to rise in our country as the number of accidents increases. While the accident involving Tracy Morgan on the turnpike was tragic, it was one of thousands of accidents and crashes that occur in our country each day. The incident has brought needed attention to a rising trend of trucking accidents. This is a problem policymakers have long been trying to address through Federal rules and initiatives, based again on years of study and analysis.

In fact, last month I sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding important truck safety concerns. My predecessor, Frank Lautenberg, spent years of his life in public service trying to make our roads safer.

I also have heard that most truckdrivers are negatively impacted by the current rule, that language in the Senate appropriations bills stops this impact that most truckdrivers are seeing.

That is simply not true. A driver is only required to use the 34-hour restart if and only if he or she works the maximum number of hours allowed under the Federal regulation. This restart is most frequently in effect for those long-haul drivers who make up only about 15 percent of the trucking workforce. Those averaging 70 hours per week or less are not affected by the changes to the 34-hour restart, because they would never work the number of hours that would require them to use the restart under the current rule.

The Senate amendment would allow drivers, though, to return to the extreme schedule allowed under the pre-July 2013 rule, when a company could require a driver to work a maximum of 82 hours a week, pushing the limit of human endurance. Not only 82 hours in 1 week, trucking companies would force the limits of human endurance of 82 hours week after week after week after week, 82-hour week after 82-hour week after 82-hour week.

I have also heard this HOS provision in the T-HUD appropriations bill is a low-impact change to the hours-of-service rule, that this is actually not that much of a change. Suspending enforcement of these DOT hours-of-service rules substantially increases the number of hours a truckdriver could be forced to work each week and forced to push the realm of human endurance. In fact, the change would be from an already high 70-hour workweek to a more than 80-hour workweek, which is the equivalent of an extra workday each week and nearly twice the amount the average American works.

The appropriations bill will remove this commonsense guarantee that truckdrivers themselves, as we have seen with the support from the Teamsters Union, that truckdrivers themselves get at least a 2-night rest, the humane 2-night rest at the end of a tasking workweek.

What these changes mean in practice is that drivers may be forced to work grueling hours now, week after week by truck companies that are pushing the limit. Studies have shown this leads to the fatigue that causes accidents such as we are seeing on the New Jersey Turnpike. The DOT hours-of-service rules, some people say, implemented last year were based on insufficient analysis, that somehow these were rushed rules.

But I have said already, this came out of a balanced rulemaking effort and process that took into account both safety and industry interests. DOT rulemaking involved the feedback from 21,000 formal document comments submitted by a wide range of stakeholders, including six public listening sessions, and incorporated 80 basic scientific research data provided by scientists, as well as conducted a formal regulatory analysis.

By contrast, the bill rolling this all back was done in an appropriations process. It was not reviewed. It was not considered by the committee of jurisdiction upon which I sit. It was not subject to public comment. It had no hearings established where both sides were listened to and their comments were weighed and engaged. It rolled back a rule that now will allow truckdrivers to be pushed more into the limits of their human endurance and put more fatigued drivers on our roads.

Some people say this amendment I am putting forth, with many of my colleagues, somehow would prevent further study. That is not true. Our amendment only strips the provision of the appropriations bill that ties the Department of Transportation's hands and prevents them from enforcing the current rules on the books. But we actually leave intact authorization for more study, which I am open to.

This should be done on scientific studies in an open process, with hearings, with information, with testimony. It should not be saddled onto an appropriations bill that ultimately would roll back rules which the DOT themselves are saying will help to preserve the safety and the lives of American citizens. So I caution right now, why not wait? Why not do a study, leaving the current rule intact? Why not keep these regulations, these safety regulations in place, and let's do another round of studies? Let's do another round of hearings. Let's have debate and discussion in committee and the committee of jurisdiction before we roll back rules that put truckdrivers

on our roads, pushed by trucking companies, to further their limits of exhaustion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, it appears I first need to say to my colleague and to those who are listening, there is no one in this body, in the trucking industry, among their customers who wants to see trucking accidents. All of us are committed to safer roads, and to make sure that freight is delivered in a safe manner in this country.

In fact, the former Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration said in a letter to the committee dated June 17:

The fact is the Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill which contains a temporary suspension of two new provisions in the 34-hour restart rule makes the roads safer.

Makes the roads safer. That is what this debate is about.

I am very disappointed to see that the Senator from New Jersey is otherwise engaged and not listening to these comments.

Let me start with a fact. The fact is, under current law, under the Collins amendment, under the provisions we reported in the Appropriations Committee, it is illegal for any driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle when that driver's ability or alertness is impaired through fatigue, illness, or any other cause so as to make his or her driving unsafe.

That is illegal. That is illegal now. That will continue to be illegal if our provisions become law. I think that perhaps it would be helpful, given the disappointing amount of misinformation that has been circulated by the proponents of this amendment, if I were to go through some of the provisions of the hours-of-service regulation. Those are the regulations that are the foundation of the rules that govern truck safety in this country.

The fact is our Transportation-HUD appropriations bill would not suspend the entire hours-of-service regulation or the entire 34-hour restart provisions as some keep saying, both on the Senate floor and in the media. To be clear, our proposal would not change the maximum driving hours that are allowed per day. It would not change the total on-duty window in each shift. It would not change the minimum number of off-duty hours between shifts, which is 10 hours. It would not change the mandatory 30-minute rest break that is required by your eighth hour. That is a new provision that was adopted last July.

My friend from New Jersey claims I am wiping out all of these rules. Regrettably, he is simply mistaken about that. I am not changing any of these provisions of the hours-of-service regu-

lation, including one that was adopted last July requiring a mandatory 30-minute rest break prior to your eighth hour. I support that. I think that is a good idea. I support the provisions for a limit on how many hours a driver can be behind the wheel. I support the limit on the maximum on-duty hours. I support the requirement for 10 hours off between shifts. So to say I am repealing all of these truck safety regulations is simply false. It is a disservice to the debate on an important issue for wrong information to be circulated about what we are trying to do.

There is another important provision we are not changing that I think is going to help to improve truck safety, and that is the upcoming requirement for electronic, onboard recorders to replace the paper logs that are kept by some truckdrivers now.

The paper logs have been proven to be less accurate, and obviously there is a potential for reporting false information. With electronic logs, that goes away. I am a strong supporter of the rulemaking that is going to lead to the requirement for electronic logs, which many truckdrivers are already using. Our bill, in fact, includes some funding to help truckdrivers of smaller fleets afford the electronic logs.

What are we changing? We are changing only two provisions, and that is why our amendment—my amendment—was adopted by an overwhelmingly strong bipartisan group in the Appropriations Committee. The vote was 21 to 9 because the members of the committee took the time to understand what we were doing and what we were not doing.

Here is one of the problems. The new rules require that a truckdriver have two consecutive nights where he must be off duty and sleeping between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. There are a lot of people in this country who work a night shift, and if we talk to them they will tell you that what is disruptive to them is to work a day shift part of the week, a night shift part of the week, go back to the day shift, and go back and forth.

Many of our drivers want to drive during the overnight hours because the statistics overwhelmingly show that is the safest time for them to be on the roads.

This isn't a matter of conjecture. It is based on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's own analysis about what times of the day crashes occur. The fact is, the safest time for trucks to travel is between midnight and 6 a.m. The number of crashes nearly quadruples between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. It is five times higher between noon and 6 p.m.

Let's think about this for a moment. It just makes sense. There are far fewer vehicles on the road. Why in the world would we want to push truckdrivers to have to be on the road when children are going back and forth from school, when commuters are going to work.

One truckdriver from Maine gave me a great example. For those of us who are familiar with downtown Boston, with all of its small, curvy streets and all of its one-way streets, he said to me: If I have to wait until 5 a.m. to deliver fuel to a convenience store on the corner of two busy streets in downtown Boston and I am going to arrive there at 7 a.m.—during the rush hour, during the time when people are getting up, going to school and to work—it is far more dangerous. It is far more difficult for those commuters trying to stop at that convenience store while I am trying to deliver the fuel. It is far safer for me to be delivering that fuel at 4 a.m. or 5 a.m. in the morning before the convenience store even opens and before the traffic picks up.

But, again, the Senator from New Jersey doesn't have to take my word for it. Please, I would implore the Senator from New Jersey to look at the statistics—and these are the newest statistics the Department has put out. They are very clear that the crashes more than quadruple—quadruple—during those daylight hours.

That is why the truckdrivers would prefer to be on the road at night when it is safer and to do their deliveries when their customers need the deliveries to be done—whether it is to that convenience store that needs gas before the rush hour starts or whether it is to a grocery store that needs to reload its shelves. That just makes sense.

The second change—and the only other change—that our amendment makes to the hours of service provisions has to do with the limitation on the use of the restart. Under the new regulations which were implemented last July about 1 year ago the Department limited the 34-hour restart to once a week. It is once every 168 hours.

How does that make sense? The Presiding Officer and I both come from States where there can be severe winter weather, and a truckdriver who is delivering in Wisconsin or Maine may run into a terrible storm.

Why shouldn't he or she be allowed to take a 34-hour period off while the storm is raging and then restart the clock on the number of hours that he or she can take?

By the way, the restart, under the current law, is voluntary, and we do not change the requirement—which is current law—that a truckdriver cannot drive more than 70 hours in 8 days. What we are saying, however, is we don't want that truckdriver to be out there in bad weather trying to push through and get home because he or she is running up against the clock and can't take a second 34-hour restart.

In fact, as the former administrator—who, by the way, has spent her professional life of 22 years in public safety—has written: We encourage drivers to get more rest, to not take the chance of driving through bad weather.

Now let me address the conflicting arguments I heard from the Senator from New Jersey on the issue of whether these regulations have been studied enough.

On the one hand, he says they have been studied to death and they are well based in scientific research. But the fact is that the current Administrator of FMCSA recently testified over on the House side and was specifically asked if the agency had evaluated the safety and congestion impacts of large trucks being forced by the new regulations to drive during the hours when crashes are most likely.

The Administrator confirmed: The field study did not address or talk about the impact of traffic on the road.

That is why it is critically important to study all aspects of the regulation. It appeared that FMCSA also failed to coordinate with its sister agency the Federal Highway Administration.

Just last month the Federal Highway Administration announced a grant program called the Off Hours Freight Delivery Program for cities that “look at how truck deliveries made outside of peak and rush hours—when there is less traffic on the highways—can save time and money for freight carriers, improve air quality and create more sustainable and livable cities.”

So clearly the agencies within the Department of Transportation are not communicating their policies with one another. We have one DOT agency trying to direct more trucks onto our Nation’s highways during the daylight hours, and then we have a second agency that is pushing funding out to cities in order to keep those same large trucks from operating during daylight hours and to encourage them to operate during overnight hours.

Why we would want to prevent or discourage large trucks from being able to drive during overnight hours simply makes no sense.

On the other hand, my colleague from New Jersey says: Don’t worry, we have kept in the study. We have kept the Collins study in the bill.

Well, if it has been studied so extensively, as he claims, then why is there a need for the study? You can’t have it both ways. You can’t say these regulations were thoroughly studied and supported by scientific evidence, but, gee, we need a study. I mean, which is it?

I think what the Administrator admitted in her testimony over on the House side is accurate, and that is the field study did not look at the overall impact of congestion on our roads, and that is a real flaw. That is why I worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come up with a study that will look at all of these factors, to make sure that we do not have what the Administrator herself has conceded are unintended consequences of these changes, and that is what we have now.

The fact is that these changes that were adopted by a vote of 21 to 9 by the

Appropriations Committee are common sense. They will lead to less fatigued drivers. They deserve more study and consideration, and—as the former Administrator of this agency has said—they will improve traffic safety.

I hope my colleagues will oppose the amendment that has been offered by the Senator from New Jersey. I will speak further, but I know there are others who want to debate this issue or who are waiting to speak.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BOOKER. Will my colleague yield for one short question?

Ms. COLLINS. I would be glad to engage in more debate later, but my colleague from Missouri has been waiting for a half hour to speak, and I think it would be courteous for him to be allowed to speak.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I thank my good friend from Nevada for yielding a few minutes to me. He is going to speak on an amendment which requires the Senate to pass a budget I am supportive of and support his efforts to do that, but I wish to speak in support of this great explanation of what the committee did as we just heard from the Senator from Maine.

The committee debated this. We looked at the facts as Senator COLLINS has repeated. That full debate, that full discussion in the committee ultimately had a bipartisan vote of 21 to 9. This was something the committee thought about. I think the committee reached the right decision, and I was glad to be part of the 21 votes that said this should be part of the underlying bill.

There is a wide consensus that further study is needed. That consensus goes even to the administration.

As the Senator from Maine has already pointed out, the “restart rule” allows drivers to restart their weekly on-duty time calculations by taking at least 34 hours off duty.

In July of 2013, new restrictions were placed on the restart provision, and the changes, frankly, have had unintended consequences and unintended effects for drivers, for their families, for customers in the supply line, and even other users of the road.

The new restrictions state that a restart period has to include two back-to-back periods in the middle of the night—from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. I am usually up not too long after 5 a.m. I am almost never up between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., but many people are.

The Federal Government can decide a lot of things, but what is the best work and rest pattern for people should not be one of them, particularly when that work pattern forces people to do their work at a more dangerous time. I believe that is what this rule does. That is what the accident reports would verify; that back-to-back rest periods can only be used in a way that disrupts the ability to get the job done in a way

that works for these drivers and their families, and works for safety on the road.

This rule would push more trucks onto the road during the daylight hours, and accidents are worse when there is more traffic.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration just admitted that this wasn’t studied as it should have been. I asked the Secretary of Transportation over 1 month ago to tell what studies were done on this issue. We still haven’t gotten a report. He very nicely said, “I would like to take that for the record.” Apparently the record is pretty hard to complete here because we haven’t had a report yet about the research done on what would happen if you took truckdrivers off the road in the middle of the night and put them on the road in the middle of the day, the middle of the afternoon, the very rush hour hours the Senator from Maine has talked about.

I have heard from a lot of drivers in our State. We are in the middle of the country. We are a transportation hub. We have lots of drivers in our State. One constituent of mine, a driver from Energy Transport Solutions in Bates City, MO, said a lot of drivers are losing a whole day on the road and a whole day with their family.

Many drivers choose to drive at night or early in the morning so they can be home when their kids come home from school. If a driver wants to be home when their kids come home from school and if they want to drive during safer parts of the driving 24-hour cycle, why would the government tell them they can’t do that without any study to indicate it somehow would be safer?

The fact is this provision would in no way affect the hours-of-service rule. The Senator from Maine once again has explained what wouldn’t change. It wouldn’t change the daily driving time limit; it wouldn’t change the daily working limit; it wouldn’t change the daily break requirement; it wouldn’t change the weekly work limit.

This rule only says: We are not going to move forward with more dangerous traffic times required by law until there is some proof that somehow this works out to their advantage. Drivers still can’t work longer than the maximum 14 hours in a shift. They can’t drive longer than 11 hours at a time. By the way, that is what the rules say now. They would still be required to take at least 10 consecutive hours’ rest before starting the next shift, and they have to take at least 30 minutes before the 8 hours they come on duty. These safeguards will remain in place.

The provision the committee is offering as part of this bill merely suspends the two restrictions on the restart rule, which is only one subset of a larger part, a rule that would still be in effect.

During that suspension, the Federal motor safety group would be required

to adequately study the effects of what they have required to happen here. It is also worth mentioning again that they have said they need to make this study. So why don't we let them? Traffic accident reports would indicate we are forcing people to drive at a more difficult time.

Talking about the terrible accident we saw lately, the fact is, somebody who drives 24 hours straight, whether it is their own car or a truck, is in violation of every rule that is out there now.

The rules the Senator from New Jersey says we should protect because of the recent accident are the rules that were in effect during the recent accident. Those were the rules in effect then. If anything, we should say what rules were in effect a few days ago and how would we reevaluate them so this wouldn't happen again, rather than saying we have to have exactly the rules in effect we had in effect when the tragedy occurred. That makes no sense at all.

There are reasons to research this. There are reasons to look at it. One of the reasons to keep the current rules in place is not that they would have prevented the accident that happened, because the current rules were in place when the accident happened.

Reports have stated the vehicle was traveling too fast, and the person drove in their own vehicle long before they got in the other car. There is nothing in the amendment the Senator from New Jersey proposes that would have done anything about those violations of the rules our bill would leave in effect that Senator COLLINS and I are advocating for.

We don't want to put truckdrivers and others on the road in danger unnecessarily. The more cars that are out, the more likely you are to have an accident; the more cars and trucks that are out there, the more likely you are to have an accident.

This overnight rest rule has clearly put trucks on the road at a busier, more congested time. We believe that is not good. The committee, by a vote of 21 to 9, believes that is not good. I hope the Senate decides to stay with the decision the committee has brought to the floor.

Let's have a study. It should have happened before these rules came out, and it absolutely should happen now.

I see now Senators from Nevada on the floor. I do wish to mention again I am grateful to Senator HELLER for letting me make these remarks before we get to the amendment he wants to talk about.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1:45 p.m. today,

the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar No. 770, Aguilar; No. 538, Nichols, to be Ambassador to Peru; No. 766, McWatters, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration; and No. 712, which is Wormuth, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy; with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I thank my colleagues on the floor for their healthy debate on advancing traffic safety. I am sure we will hear a lot more about it, and I look forward to continued debate.

I also thank my colleague from Missouri for his support on the amendment I am about to offer and talk about. The amendment I am speaking of is the Heller amendment No. 3269 to H.R. 4660.

While I commend the chairwoman and the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee for all of their hard work in putting together the appropriations minibus to be considered on the floor, this is only the first of the appropriations bills that Congress needs to, and should, consider before the end of the fiscal year.

This will not surprise the American public, but this Congress is once again facing another October 1 deadline to complete all of the current fiscal year appropriations bills. We are now well into the year and only now are we starting to bring appropriations bills to the Senate floor. By our own calendar there are only 8 full legislative weeks left to avoid yet another continuing resolution.

Missed deadline after missed deadline has been a staple of this Congress. Without even a basic budget process, we have failed to pass any of the current fiscal year appropriations bills on time so far this year.

I know the Appropriations Committee has been working hard to pass each of their spending bills in committee, but all too often these bills end up being rolled into one large omnibus measure or a continuing resolution that is not subject to any amendments.

As our Nation faces a rising national debt, the American people can no longer afford Congress's failure to tackle our Nation's spending addiction. I must admit that since coming to Washington back in 2006, I have never seen Congress pass all 12 appropriations bills on time. In fact, I am certain most of my colleagues who serve with me today have not experienced a normal appropriations process, and there are probably even more Members who don't think it is even a realistic expectation to pass all 12 appropriations bills on time anymore. So I am here to remind everyone that Congress has been able to accomplish its regular

budget and appropriations process before in recent history.

A couple examples: It happened under President Clinton with a Republican Congress in 1996. It happened under President Reagan with a Democratic Congress in 1988. These are just two examples, but the fact remains that these deadlines have been met before, and now is the time to start meeting those deadlines again.

I have always said Washington, DC, is a pain-free zone that faces no consequences—zero consequences—if Members fail to do their jobs. I think it is time we start requiring accountability for Members of Congress in order to get things done.

I know many of my colleagues have heard me talk about my legislation, No Budget, No Pay. It is pretty simple: If Members of Congress do not pass an annual bipartisan budget resolution and all 12 spending bills on time each year, then they simply should not be paid.

I wish to repeat that last part: If Congress fails to pass all 12 spending bills on time each year, they should not get paid.

We have honest, hardworking Americans in the gallery and across this country who play by the rules. That rule says: If people do their job, they get paid. Why shouldn't it be the same for us as Members of Congress? We need to be honest.

We also need to recognize that both Democrats and Republicans are at fault. Governing from crisis to crisis while our long-term debt continues to grow is now the new normal in Washington. We need bipartisan solutions, but nothing will happen if Members of Congress don't start feeling some pain.

Instead of playing another game of brinkmanship, let's start working now on a plan that will place our Nation on sound fiscal footing or cultivate a progrowth economy that will produce jobs in the long term.

I have filed No Budget, No Pay as an amendment to this appropriations minibus to highlight that we have to end this cycle of inaction and indecision. Let's show the American people their elected officials are ready to lead and make the tough decisions these times deserve.

While I am not a betting man, I am from Nevada so I would bet that once again we will fail on passing any appropriations bills into law before October 1, and we will once again punt our responsibilities by doing another CR or omnibus.

I ask my colleagues—if you are sick and tired of this broken budget and appropriations process as much as I am, support No Budget, No Pay, and let's fix this problem once and for all.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I would ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Thank you, Madam President. I know Senator KIRK is on his way to give tribute to one of his staffers—a tragic situation—so I am going to be very brief.

Madam President, I come to the floor to support Senator COLLINS' efforts to bring some common sense to these truck safety regulations, and I know this is a very emotional debate because of the tragic accident that occurred recently with a very well-known and well-respected comedian, Tracy Morgan.

I understand that there are families in my State and around the country who have had horrible and, unfortunately, fatal accidents with trucks that are more and more prevalent on our overcrowded highway system. I am not insensitive to those families, to those stories, and I honestly believe that what Senator COLLINS and I and others are trying to do is going to make a very unsafe situation more safe, not less safe.

There is really an honest and sincere disagreement among us that has to be debated. I am glad we are having this debate so that the evidence, the record, and the facts can speak for themselves.

This first came to my attention a couple of months ago when a group of citizens came up from Louisiana to say: Senator, we are shocked to tell you this, but there is a new rule out that is going to require truckers to sleep between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 two nights a week.

I looked at them and said: That cannot possibly be correct. Nobody at the Federal Government would ever mandate when people are supposed to sleep.

I mean, how would you do such a thing? How can you tell people when to sleep and when to be awake? You can tell them how many hours they need to rest, you can determine how many hours they can drive before they have to take a break, but how exactly are you going to enforce when people sleep? That is going a step too far. So that is why I signed on with Senator COLLINS to say: Wait a minute, there has to be a better way.

When they told me—which I could not believe and later found it to be true—they said: Senator, don't you think that sometimes it is better for truckdrivers to drive at night when the highways are less crowded than during the day when they are more crowded, when children are on their way to school, when people are on their way to work, when most people have day jobs?

But there are millions of Americans who work at night. It is probably two-thirds who work during the day and one-third at night.

Wouldn't it be safer for the trucks to drive at night? Some of these truckdrivers can sleep during the day.

I said: Absolutely. That makes sense to me.

They said: Well, that is soon going to be illegal under these rules.

So that is why I got into this debate.

I am very respectful of Senator BOOKER, one of the outstanding, brightest lights that has hit this Chamber in a long time. His intellect is spectacular. His heart is in the right place. He and I both agree that we want our highways safe. We want the truckers rested. We don't like the crowding on the highways. But it is going too far when the Federal Government starts mandating when workers should sleep. We just can't go there.

So I am going to support Senator COLLINS' legislation that is going to back up these no-commonsense rules and ask them to come back with another suggestion that will result in the same safety but not mandate when Americans should sleep. I think adults who drive trucks can make those decisions for themselves.

If the law is that they have to rest 8 or 9 hours in a 24-hour period, I think they are responsible enough to do so. If they are not, then they should be held accountable and prosecuted for reckless driving—which happens frequently—and they should then be appropriately punished, whether by fine or revocation of their license or jail time. But I cannot be part of any government that is making regulations demanding that people sleep a certain hour—not from midnight to 4, not from 2:00 to 7:00, but from 1:00 to 5:00 on consecutive nights a week. I just don't understand it, and I am not going to support it.

So this is not about safety; this is about government overreach to a point where it is almost visceral. There has to be a better way to come up with a rule to get our highways safe. I am open to it. Not this rule.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING LISA RADOGNO

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I rise to memorialize the life of my Washington, DC, scheduler who passed away yesterday, Lisa Radogno.

This is a picture of her. I am going to give these remarks as if I am talking to Lisa because this blow was such a severe one that we suffered yesterday.

Lisa Radogno was one of the brightest lights of my Washington, DC, office. She was such a strong supporter of mine, even stronger than I.

Lisa was a diehard White Sox fan. She even had a White Sox logo tattoo on her ankle. We will miss her so very dearly.

Lisa, I will tell you that this loss is—sorry, Mr. President. I get very emotional about this death that just happened yesterday. I want to memorialize Lisa, who was so much like her mother, State senator Christine Radogno of Lemont, dedicated to the service of the people of Illinois. She was a fierce, fierce worker on campaigns and here in the Senate. She is somebody I will miss with every fiber of my being. She was with me in the House of Representatives and here in the Senate and was so proud to represent the people of Illinois here in the Senate.

To have her die yesterday was a big blow, especially for a young woman in her thirties. It is a real shock to my staff to have Lisa gone from us.

Lisa, these days are going to be really hard. I will just say you ran the schedule so perfectly. It was a work of art, in your case, to do the complicated workings of a House office, of a Senate office, to be so perfect and so young in what you did. The staff is all now in shock. You were certainly the social light of our operation here in Washington, DC.

I spent a good part of last night on your Facebook page looking at pictures of you, and it really caused me to cry a bunch. I will miss you, especially in our office, and watching you online quite a bit, hoping that Facebook leaves up those pictures forever so I can always take a quick look at your smile and remember your humor, which was always right at the ready.

Lisa was such a strong supporter of my office. To have her lost like this so suddenly was a big shock to us. This is pretty hard for all of us in the Kirk operation to handle.

Thank you Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I know we have pending now the appropriations bill for Commerce, Justice, and Science, which contains an important issue I have offered an amendment on, along with Senator CHAMBLISS, who is the ranking Republican on the intelligence committee, as well as Senators WICKER, INHOFE, CRUZ, GRAHAM, and BLUNT, all of whom serve on the Armed Services Committee, and Senator VITTER and Senator KIRK. Our amendment would prohibit the administration from transferring to or releasing to the custody or control of any foreign country Guantanamo detainees whom our own Guantanamo Review Task Force has recommended for continued law-of-war detention.

This is a task force that looks at all the circumstances surrounding those

who are being held at Guantanamo, including whether they continue to represent a danger to our country and to our allies if they were to be released.

Our amendment does three things. It prohibits the transfer to foreign countries of these detainees, that this group the administration put together to review each of the detainees and their status at Guantanamo has recommended them for continued law-of-war detention.

These are the worst of the worst. These individuals have been determined to be the most dangerous to continue to present a risk to the United States of America and to our allies if they were to be released.

So our amendment is pretty straightforward. It simply says they cannot be transferred to third-party countries—or transferred to the United States of America, for that matter—and that they shall remain at the secure detention facility, Guantanamo Bay, based on the recommendation of the Guantanamo Review Task Force.

Our amendment would also prevent the transfer of Guantanamo detainees to countries that have had prior instances of Guantanamo detainees being transferred to that country and then those detainees getting back in the fight against us.

It is pretty common sense. If we have a history with a country where we previously, under either the Bush administration or the Obama administration, transferred the detainees there and then they have been released and have gotten back in the fight against us or our allies, why would we want to transfer them to this type of country again? Because, obviously, these countries cannot guarantee the security of these detainees, and it puts us and our allies at risk.

Finally, our amendment would prohibit the transfer of Guantanamo detainees to countries that have failed to honor their previous commitments to the United States of America to monitor, detain, or control the travel of former Guantanamo detainees. Again, if we have had a prior agreement with a country and we have transferred a detainee or detainees there, and they have failed to honor those agreements, why would we want to transfer detainees there now?

The most recent instance of this was the five Taliban dream team who were transferred to Qatar, because the country of Qatar actually had a prior instance where they failed to honor their commitments to us with regard to how they would treat the detention and travel restrictions on a Guantanamo detainee.

I am deeply concerned about the national security implications of the five detainees who were transferred in the prisoner swap. In fact, having asked our intelligence officials about what will happen to these five detainees,

what I have heard from them is on a scale of 1 to 10, 4 out of 5 of those detainees are a 10 for 10 on the likelihood to get back in the battle against us or our allies. The fifth is about an 80–10 scale. We have a 29-percent reengagement rate or recidivism rate from those we have held at Guantanamo, meaning 29 percent of them get back in the fight against our country, against us, against our interests after they have been captured and put in Guantanamo.

So we have a history here, and it is important if the administration is going to transfer anyone out of Guantanamo they not transfer individuals who have been found too dangerous to be let loose because they have been designated for continued law-of-war detention and they present too much of a risk to our country and the world. Second, to not transfer these individuals to countries where we have already transferred people in the past—and guess what, they couldn't keep them secure and they got back in the fight against us and our allies. Third, to prohibit transfer to countries that have not honored prior commitments when we have transferred a Gitmo detainee there, and that would apply to the country the President most recently released the five Taliban dream team to who, unfortunately, are going to get back in the fight, and that 29 percent are those who have reengaged in the fight or are suspected of reengaging in the fight against us.

Our amendment is straightforward. It is focused on making sure the terrorists held at Guantanamo—the most dangerous of those individuals who present a threat to our country—are not put in a position where they can get back in the fight against us or against our allies.

We have to think about the men and women in uniform who have put their lives on the line to capture these individuals, in some instances, and honor our commitment to them to make sure we can hold the country safe and secure, to not allow those who have been deemed the most dangerous at Guantanamo for continued law of war detention to be transferred to a third-party country or not allow us to transfer them to countries where we already have a history of either detainees getting back in the fight from that country or the country not honoring its commitment to the United States of America.

My prior job was as a prosecutor. I will tell you, it is just a matter of common sense. This is a matter of protecting the American people from dangerous captured terrorists who we already have in our custody, to make sure we are not putting them back in a position where they can harm us again.

I think that is something that America would expect of us. That is what I believe our amendment would do. I

hope, as we take up this appropriations bill, this amendment will be considered so we can pass it to ensure that dangerous Guantanamo detainees are not put in a position again where they can harm us, our people or our allies because too many of them, unfortunately, have already committed acts against our country, our people, and our allies, and shame on us if we do not do everything we can to prevent that from happening again.

I thank the Chair.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF GUSTAVO VELASQUEZ AGUILAR TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

NOMINATION OF BRIAN A. NICHOLS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PERU

NOMINATION OF J. MARK McWATTERS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION BOARD

NOMINATION OF CHRISTINE E. WORMUTH TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Gustavo Velasquez Aguilar, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Brian A. Nichols, of Rhode Island, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru; J. Mark McWatters, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board; and Christine E. Wormuth, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

VOTE ON AGUILAR NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Gustavo Velasquez Aguilar, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development?

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 201 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Harkin	Murphy
Begich	Heinrich	Murray
Bennet	Heitkamp	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heller	Pryor
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Markey	Walsh
Feinstein	McCaskill	Warner
Franken	Menendez	Warren
Gillibrand	Merkley	Whitehouse
Hagan	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—38

Alexander	Fischer	Murkowski
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—8

Burr	Johanns	Schatz
Coburn	Moran	Thune
Cochran	Rockefeller	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—CALENDAR NO. 428, H.R. 4660

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that postcloture time on the motion to proceed be considered expired; that the Senate proceed to vote on adoption of the motion to proceed; that if the motion is agreed to, Senator MIKULSKI or her designee be recognized to offer substitute amendment No. 3244, which consists of the

text of S. 2437, Calendar No. 411, division A; the text of S. 2438, Calendar No. 412, as division B; and the text of S. 2389, Calendar No. 390, as division C; provided further that for the consideration of division B, H.R. 4745, Calendar No. 430, and for the consideration of division C, H.R. 4800, as reported by the House Committee on Appropriations, be deemed House-passed text in H.R. 4660 for purposes of rule XVI; further, that the substitute amendment offered by Senator MIKULSKI or her designee be considered a committee amendment for the purposes of paragraph 1 of rule XVI; further, all amendments or motions to commit be subject to a 60-vote threshold.

Mr. President, before the Presiding Officer calls for approval of this consent, let me say a few words so everyone understands all of the procedural stuff.

It is a fairly simple matter. We have waited all week to get a simple agreement to move forward on appropriations bills the way we have always done. If it had been just one appropriations bill we wouldn't need consent. We put three of them together, and that was the right thing to do. But it seems to me we spent all week doing, so much of the time, nothing. Sadly, I am sorry this is the norm around here. For every single matter, even wildly popular matters such as an appropriations bill, it requires the full play of the cloture rule to advance. This has been so even though on Tuesday, when cloture was invoked on proceeding, 95 Senators voted to get on the bill, only 3 voted against it.

Senators on both sides said they want to have amendments, and we should have amendment votes. I am willing to have amendment votes on this and other things. Let's talk about this today.

I want to have votes on the conditions that Senator MCCONNELL has so frequently stated, a 60-vote threshold. The idea of a 60-vote threshold will not come as a surprise to anyone in this Chamber, I don't think, because I wish to take a minute outlining direct quotes from my friend the Republican leader.

No. 1: Now, look, we know that on controversial matters in the Senate, it has for quite some time required 60 votes.

No. 2: Requiring 60 votes, particularly on matters of importance, is not at all unusual. It is the way the Senate operates.

No. 3: Matters of this level of controversy require 60 votes, so I will ask my friend [referring to me] if he would modify his consent request to set the threshold for this vote at 60.

Again he said: For him to suggest that a matter of this magnitude in a body of 60 votes for almost everything is going to be done with 51 votes makes no sense at all.

And he said: So it is not at all unusual that the President's proposal of this consequence would have to achieve 60 votes. That is the way virtually all business is done in the Senate, certainly not extraordinarily unusual.

Finally he said, quite recently: Mr. President, I can only quote my good friend [again referring to me] who repeatedly has said—most recently that in the Senate, as has been the case, we need 60 votes. It requires 60 votes, certainly on measures that are controversial.

So let's make this pretty simple. We are going to have the ability to offer germane amendments, and we will follow the McConnell rule and will have 60 votes on them. It seems fair.

That is my consent request, and I would ask that it be approved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Reserving the right to object, what I think I hear the majority leader saying is that any amendment offered by any Republican is controversial and thus must require 60 votes.

It was my hope we could get forward on this appropriations bill with a full and open amendment process and a reasonable number of amendments from both sides.

The only restrictions on amendments to this bill are those in the Standing Rules of the Senate, which create a requirement that the amendments deal with an appropriations matter or, if legislative in nature, have a defense of germaneness to one of the underlying House appropriations bills.

Chairman MIKULSKI has been determined to try to get us back to regular order in considering appropriations bills.

In 2011, just a couple of years ago, we considered this same appropriations package—the very one we are considering now under the regular order—and all Senators, Democrat and Republican, were treated fairly—just 3 years ago.

Today's Senate is a totally different place. The majority leader has blocked all but nine rollcall votes on Republican amendments since July of last year. That is about a year ago.

By contrast, during that same period, House Democrats got 153 amendments, rollcall votes, over that same period of time. That is in the House where you would think it would be hard for the minority to get amendments.

In fact, one Member of Congress, SHEILA JACKSON LEE from Houston, has had 15 amendments herself. SHEILA JACKSON LEE has had more votes over the past year than Senate Republicans. In fact, the House seems to have turned into the Senate and the Senate seems to have turned into the House.

The gag rule, as was pointed out by Senator ALEXANDER and others this

morning in an appropriations meeting, seems to now apply to committee meetings as well. So not only do we not get votes on the floor, we don't get votes in committee either.

They cancelled the scheduled markup on the Energy and Water bill, I assume out of concern that some Republican amendment might, my goodness, actually pass with Democratic support. So we are being shut out of amendments in committee as well as on the floor.

When do we start legislating again? What has happened to the Senate?

Therefore, I would ask unanimous consent that the proposed agreement by the majority leader be modified so that all amendments be considered under the regular order, Chairman MIKULSKI and Ranking Member SHELBY, and move this bill across the floor in a bipartisan manner exactly as we did it on the very same bill back in 2011.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the majority leader so modify his request?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, my friend the Republican leader is obviously not in contact with what is going on around here. This doesn't apply to Republican amendments, it applies to Republican or Democratic amendments—as all of his requests, which are in the record and I read.

A reasonable number of amendments he wants. Fine. That is what we want too. We want to have a reasonable number of amendments on this bill and move it forward. It is important we get this done.

I have served in the House of Representatives—not without going into a lot of detail here, as the Presiding Officer has served in the House of Representatives. The rules there are totally different. Of course, there are a lot of votes because every vote is predetermined in the House, with rare exception, because the Rules Committee sets the boundaries of what happens. So over in the House the majority never loses.

Here the Senate is the way it is. We are willing to do votes as the Republican leader has stated time and time again we should do it. I disagree, but as he has said, this is the way the Senate operates now. I wish it didn't, but it does and that is the way we should proceed.

I am willing to move forward on this bill. We should have a 60-vote threshold, and I think that would be the appropriate thing to do.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. McCONNELL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. My friend the majority leader always reminds me he gets the last word, and I am sure he will have something to say further, but let me briefly say that during this same period, going back to last July, Senate Democrats have only had seven rollcall votes. Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, in the minority in the House, has had 15 rollcall votes over the last year.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. The House is different than the Senate. There is no question about that. We could have on this bill a lot more than seven votes, so we should do that.

Would the Chair state the business that is before this body?

VOTE ON NICHOLS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Brian A. Nichols, of Rhode Island, a career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MCWATTERS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of J. Mark McWatters, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2019?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON WORMUTH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Christine E. Wormuth, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today, due to tornados and severe storms in South Dakota, which resulted in significant damage to homes and businesses in my State, I was traveling back to South Dakota to survey the damage and meet with local leaders coordinating response efforts during the scheduled vote. Had I been present for today's vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 770, Gustavo

Velasquez Aguilar, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, I would have voted nay.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told there is 7 minutes remaining postclosure on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4660.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. REID. I yield that time back.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I would like to claim those 9 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. If she wants to use the time, please do.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, before we move to the adoption of the motion to proceed on CJS appropriations, if in fact we do so, I wish to speak as the chairperson of the Appropriations Committee and the chair of the subcommittee on CJS.

I am really sad about what has happened here. I am really sad we couldn't find a way to proceed to bring up these three outstanding bills.

I note that what we wanted to bring to the floor was the Commerce-Justice-Science bill, the Agriculture bill, and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

There are significant policy differences even on each one of those bills, whether it is truck requirements, whether it is school nutrition, whether it is environmental—important discussions and decisions on the environmental protection.

On my own CJS bill, we are going to really lose a lot. You know, I had money in this bill—working with Senator SHELBY—for bulletproof vests for cops to protect those who protect us and more money for domestic violence to be able to protect those in their own homes. I have also added more money to work with those people who have been rape victims, doubly assaulted by the system where they are not only raped by a perpetrator, but the very system didn't process the forensic evidence that would have validated the guilty party or even ascertained that there was a serial rapist.

Agriculture fed the hungry in this country and fed the hungry around the world. And of course transportation and housing both created jobs, solved problems in physical infrastructure, and also at the same time met compelling human needs in our housing. Particularly, I note the items such as housing for the elderly and the economic development.

I am not going to take my full 9 minutes, but I would hope that at the end

of today we figure out how we could have another day.

I know on both sides of the aisle in the Appropriations Committee itself, those subcommittee chairmen really worked hard to produce bills. As of today, we have moved six bills out of our full committee and are pending on the floor. But now we have to truly arrive at a set of rules for the road on how we can proceed to bring these bills to the floor. I really hope we can do so.

There has been so much good will on both sides of the aisle and also on both sides of the aisle a really incredible effort to be able to meet the needs of our country, to have a more frugal government and a really, truly civil process.

So this day will come to an end. But I really hope that the Appropriations Committee coming to the floor doesn't die today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I know there are others who wish to speak, and if they want to use time remaining postcloture, fine; otherwise, I yield the time back, and the floor will be open for everybody. But I need to do that first. So, does anyone want to speak for the 2 minutes remaining on this?

I ask unanimous consent that all time postcloture be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I know my friend from Tennessee is on the floor and would like to make a few observations. I would just very briefly make the following point ahead of him.

Another way of looking at the way the Senate is being run that affects Democratic Senators:

Democratic House Members from Oregon have had 12 rollcall votes on their amendments, but Oregon's Democratic Senator does not have any—none. Democratic House Members from Virginia have gotten 11 rollcall votes on their amendments, but Virginia's two Democratic Senators have gotten none—zero. Democratic House Members from Colorado have gotten seven

rollcall votes on their amendments, but the Democratic Senators from Colorado have gotten none—zero. Democratic House Members from California have gotten 37 rollcall votes on their amendments, but California's Democratic Senators have gotten none—zero.

So that is the condition of the Senate today. It is not just affecting the Republican minority, but the Democratic majority as well.

I see Senator ALEXANDER is on the floor. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, let me see if I can say something that contributes to progress, especially while the Senator from Maryland, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, is on the floor.

She has really done a terrific job in working with the Republican and Democratic leaders to try to get us back to the business of appropriating. We are not that far away. We have three bills ready to come to the floor. We have consent on the Republican side—which had to be unanimous over here to be able to bring it up in this way.

Now we have a difference of opinion between the two leaders about whether all the amendments ought to be 60 votes. I would respectfully suggest that is not the norm.

It is true that the Republican leader has said many times that an important amendment ought to be 60 votes. Recently when we were working on the Child Care and Development Block Grant or some other legislation, we would say the norm is 51 votes. But for a nongermane amendment, or if it was an especially controversial amendment, then maybe it would be 60 votes. That was a matter of negotiation.

So my hope is that we could move through these appropriations bills in the normal way, which would mean most votes would be 51. Occasionally, there might be a 60-vote vote. That is what we usually have done. That is what we historically have done. The majority party has 55 members last time I checked. It has a President who can veto anything, and it takes 67 to override him. So they have plenty of advantages on their side.

Now, let me conclude in this way—and I said it this morning in our Appropriations Committee. Last week I was visiting with some Senators and an Ambassador. We had dinner at the home of an ambassador from a country who greatly admires the United States. He was saying how much he envies this great tribunal—the Senate, and how other countries in the world envy it, and how it is the only tribunal like this anywhere in the world that is set up to have extended debate on important issues until we reach a consensus and stop debate and come to a result.

That is the history of the civil rights bill, the Medicare bill, and the student loan bill last year, and bills even more recently than that.

What that means in very simple terms is that the majority decides what we are going to talk about, the minority decides what amendments it would like to offer, and we keep talking and keep talking until it is time to cut off debate and try to come to a result. That is what we should be doing.

I would respectfully say that this business of not being willing to vote on amendments because it might hurt some individual Senator is not really worthy of the Senate. It is not practical, and it really doesn't make that much difference in campaigns.

The idea that only 9 Republican amendments have received votes out of more than 800 amendments offered since last July is probably a record in the Senate. What is even worse is that—according to the Senator from Wyoming, who has counted these—there were only 7 Democratic amendments voted on out of nearly 700 offered since last July.

Now, why are we here if we are not here to speak on behalf of our constituents about Benghazi, about the new health care law, about whether we need a college rating system from Washington, DC, about fixing No Child Left Behind?

I remember in Senator Byrd's book he talked about the Panama Canal Treaty that he and Senator Baker marshaled through. It took 67 votes—a very divisive issue. He said: We allowed nearly 200 amendments, reservations, and other codicils to the amendments, and we killed them all. We beat them all. But, he said: We never would have gotten the treaty ratified if we hadn't allowed Senators to have their say.

So we have gotten to this level of distrust between that side and this side. And most of us are trying over here to say: All we want is an opportunity to have amendments offered in the regular order, a chance to debate them and a chance to vote on them, and if we are defeated, so be it. To impose a gag rule on us imposes a gag rule on the people who sent us here. This morning in the Appropriations Committee, that gag rule moved from the Senate floor to the Appropriations Committee.

If the Republicans were in charge of the Senate, the Democrats wouldn't put up with that. I don't know why they are putting up with it today.

I know there is distrust on both sides. But we are very close to a situation where we have three major appropriations bills which are on the floor. We have a disagreement only about whether all amendments ought to require 60 votes. That has not been the norm before. We should be able to work that out and use our time to represent the people of the United States so that ambassador, when he has another

group of Senators out there, can say: You belong to the tribunal that is unique in the world that every country in the world wishes it had, because it is a forum—the only one in the world of this kind—where you have extended debate on major issues until you get a consensus and come to a result.

That is the only way to govern a complex country like the country that is the United States of America. We are getting back toward that, and I hope that our leaders and our Appropriations Committee members can make the next few steps and let us all go to work like we aim to do.

We have some pretty talented people here. We have Rhodes Scholars and former Governors and people who have been here a long time and people who have been here a short time. It is not easy to get here, and it is not easy to stay here. So while we are here, we would like to work—which means we would like to speak, have our say, vote, and, if we can, get a result.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, my friend from Tennessee is a fine man. He has been a good Senator, a good member of a President's cabinet, and he really has tried to be a peacemaker all the time I have known him. But his speech that he just gave could be given by any Democrat about the obstruction, the delay, the diversions that have taken place during the entire time President Obama has been President.

We have never had to file cloture on every motion to proceed as we did on this one, as we have done on everything that comes along.

So we can talk about where we have been, but I think we should talk about where we are. Everyone knows that, because of the Republicans, there has been a threshold of 60 votes.

But I say to my friend from Tennessee: I asked for my consent agreement. He says we are very close. With his skills of negotiating compromises, I am willing to listen to something else if he has a better idea to change the McConnell 60-vote threshold rule. I have some ideas myself, but perhaps they should come from him. I, on behalf of my caucus, am entirely agreeable to listen to any reasonable counteroffer.

We have been trying really hard to get things done, but every step we take is a stalling tactic. My friend talked about ambassadors. I don't know the exact count—I haven't gotten it for a day or two—but the last count I had, 54 foreign ambassadors were held up. The continent of Africa, up to a third of the countries there do not have a U.S. ambassador. That doesn't count the scores of other people who are being held up. Why are they being held up? They are being held up because we are now able

to move judges. Ambassadors related to judges is nearly empty. We have a few district court judges, and we have a circuit court judge. They will report some more out. But in an effort to—use whatever term you want—“We will show you guys. You are going to get your judges, and we are not going to give you any other nominations.” So we are working through those very slowly.

As much as I care and respect the Senator from Tennessee, he does not need to lecture me about stalling around here. We are not. If they want to beat the record of eight or nine amendments—however many it is—move this bill. They will have lots of amendments. And we can start doing that this afternoon.

So, Madam President, I repeat now for the third time: If my friend from Tennessee has a better idea on moving forward—he says we are so close—I am willing to listen to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I want to say to my friend from Tennessee that the majority leader has offered a way forward, and he has taken a page out of the book of the Republican leader, and he quoted him, and I have those quotes here: “Matters of controversy always require 60 votes.” And my friend knows. He knows.

I stand here as the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. I am so grateful I have moved some bills through here—highway bills, water bills—but my friend knows that the two big amendments that his side wants to offer don't deal with ordinary matters. They deal with matters that have jurisdiction in the environment committee, and they deal with a repeal of parts of the Clean Air Act and a repeal of parts of the Clean Water Act.

So my friend wants to move forward. I am sure he would agree that to repeal parts of landmark laws on an appropriations bill is legislating on appropriations and ought to require 60 votes. It is wrong.

Now, I would say to my friend, why is the other side so determined to repeal two laws—one dealing with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, and then the other one is this Clean Air Act—why are my friends on the other side continuing to go against these landmark laws—which, by the way, were signed into law by a Republican President? He has to explain, because I don't understand why people want to put children at risk and families at risk, pollute our rivers and streams, and suspend a plan that the President has announced is going to save thousands of lives, going after carbon pollution, making sure we don't go back to the days of smog and ozone. And we know these are the riders that my Republican friends want to offer. There is no secret.

The Republican leader defined the 60-vote threshold for controversial amendments. I can assure my friend that if there was a tweak or two that was going to be made and Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY agreed with it, I would not demand 60 votes.

We are talking about repealing basic, important landmark provisions of environmental laws, and that is exactly what this is about.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Will the gentle lady yield for a question?

Mrs. BOXER. I would be happy to yield, yes.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Because I was listening to what she said. Senator REID proposed a 60-vote threshold on amendments to our appropriations bill. It was rejected. OK. The Senator said now she wouldn't object—

Mrs. BOXER. To a 60-vote threshold, no.

Ms. MIKULSKI. On all amendments? Could the Senator clarify?

Mrs. BOXER. Yes. I would say—

Ms. MIKULSKI. In other words, the Senator does want a 60-vote threshold or is it—

Mrs. BOXER. I would go with the Mitch McConnell rule, which he has stated seven times, which is that on controversial amendments we have to have 60 votes. I am not going to stand here—

Ms. MIKULSKI. So the Senator would want—

Mrs. BOXER. I just want to answer my friend.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Sure.

Mrs. BOXER. My friend said we are trying to spare people tough votes. That is ridiculous. Members on your side, Members on our side—we are grownup Senators. We know how to win elections, cast tough votes. I want to protect the American people, and so do a lot of folks on our side of the aisle. And we don't want to see majority rule to repeal landmark environmental laws. We are not going to stand for it, and neither would the minority leader in the way he describes it. He said over and over that on amendments of controversy we have to have a 60-vote threshold.

So my friend, if he is sincere about this—he is sincere about this. But if the two chairmen can come up with a plan where amendments like this, controversial amendments, require 60 but amendments that both sides feel are not controversial can go to a voice vote, I will be a happy person. I have gotten bills through here before. I wasn't born yesterday, as you can probably tell, and we know a controversial amendment from a noncontroversial amendment.

So I will close with this: I know my friend Senator MIKULSKI is an incredible chairman, and with RICHARD SHELBY working with her, they are quite the duo. And I have seen their work—because every single Member

cares about the work they do—and it is stellar. But I am not going to sit here and see amendments come to the floor that would repeal clean air, clean water, safe drinking water, and just nod approval and say: Oh yeah, just take it away. No big deal. That is it.

And that is why I feel the majority leader was right when he said let's move forward with a 60-vote threshold. That makes a lot of sense. I am sorry the Republicans objected.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to continue and finish my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I have been really interested in this debate. Let's just be honest about it. The Senate is being run in a shoddy fashion. I don't care which side you are on. I have only been here 38 years, and I have never seen a bigger mess than we have right now. I have never seen the majority stifling amendments by the minority like we have right now. I have never seen cloture filed almost immediately when a bill is brought up, like we are filibustering when we are not. All we want are amendments and to have a vote up or down—something we always gave the Democrats on crucial bills like this one. It is pathetic, and it has to change.

Frankly, if the American people really knew—we have had nine amendments since last July that we voted on. The Democrats have had only seven. Now, even some of my Democratic friends are up in arms about it. They are not able to act as Senators. They are not able to do the work. They are not able to be part of it. I mean, my gosh, is protecting your side from the election—is that more important than having the Senate run the way it should? The answer to that is a resounding no.

This is pathetic. I have never seen anything like it. To come out here and act holier-than-thou about it, as if it is just normal around here, is just plain wrong, and everybody knows it. That is the thing that just kills me.

If we were doing that, if we were in the majority, my gosh, the whole world would be coming down on us, especially with the beloved media we have in this country—and rightly so if we were pulling the kinds of the stunts that are being pulled on the Democratic side.

Look, I am tired of it. I know Democrats who are tired of it. Every Republican is tired of it. We are being treated as though we don't count in this battle—in this battle between the two parties in the Senate. It doesn't have to be a battle every time. Both sides have been wrong from time to time but nothing like this. This is pathetic.

IRS INVESTIGATION

Madam President, about a year ago the American people learned that the IRS—one of the most feared and powerful agencies in our government—had engaged in political targeting. There is no doubt about that. Specifically, we learned that the IRS had, by its own admissions, singled out individual conservative groups applying for tax-exempt status for harassment and extra scrutiny during the runup to the 2010 and 2012 elections, and the IRS admits it—at least some in the IRS admit it. Needless to say, the American people were outraged when this news became public, and the IRS's credibility was seriously damaged.

We saw numerous groups and individuals come forward to acknowledge that they had been targeted. Politicians across the political spectrum, including the President of the United States, condemned these actions and vowed to get to the bottom of it.

In the many months since the targeting scandal was revealed, I have said numerous times that the most important objective for the IRS and its leadership consisted of repairing its reputation with the American people. For a while there, it appeared as though the agency was serious about doing that. Sadly, over the last few days a new chapter in this scandal has been opened, and as a result the IRS's credibility has taken yet another serious hit.

For more than a year the Senate Finance Committee has been engaged in a bipartisan investigation into the targeting scandal. During most of that time we were under the impression that the IRS was acting in relative good faith to cooperate with our inquiry. As of last week we believed we were close to completing our investigation. We had prepared the bipartisan majority report and the majority and minority views in addition. We were about ready to come out with that. The facts, we believed, were coming together. Then, in what I thought would be one of the last steps in the investigation, I insisted that we send a letter to IRS Commissioner John Koskinen demanding that he formally certify that the agency had produced all documents that were relevant to our requests. It was then—after we sent that notice to them asking them to verify—that we learned there was an enormous hole in our factfinding. I am sure glad we sent the letter.

On Friday of last week the IRS informed us that due to a hard drive crash, it was unable to produce thousands of pages of emails from Lois Lerner—the one who took the fifth amendment—the former Director of Exempt Organizations and one of the central figures, by anybody's estimation, if not the central figure, in this investigation. The gap in the emails was from 2009 through April

2011—a pivotal time in the activities under investigation.

You heard that right, Madam President. A full year after our initial investigation request or information request, the IRS informed us that a huge chunk of relevant emails was mysteriously gone.

Needless to say, this was disturbing. That is why Chairman WYDEN and I demanded to meet with Commissioner Koskinen on Monday of this week. Sadly, this meeting produced even more bad news.

The first thing we learned during the course of this meeting was that Ms. Lerner's emails were not going to be reproduced. The IRS's redundancy operations were apparently insufficient to ensure that these emails would be saved in the event of a hard drive crash. According to Commissioner Koskinen, the IRS only saves emails on its servers for 6 months. Get that. The IRS only saves emails on its computer servers for 6 months. Now, they require you and me and everybody else to save at least 3 years of our tax returns, but they only—according to them—were saving emails on their servers for 6 months. I don't know about you, but I have a rough time believing that. I cannot believe it. That is what they do.

The next thing we learned is that officials at the IRS became aware of this gap in Ms. Lerner's emails as early as February of this year and that the Commissioner was made aware of the hard drive crash about 3 weeks or more prior to our meeting—he wasn't quite sure, but sometime around the end of March or the first part of April, is my recollection, but certainly more than 3 weeks before our meeting. It was never made clear to us why it took at the very least 3 weeks and a letter from us demanding a signed certification from the Commissioner for the IRS to inform the Finance Committee that the emails were missing. As of right now we still don't know why the agency failed to inform us immediately that the emails were gone.

The IRS was more willing to share this information with others in the administration. Yesterday we learned that by April the IRS had already notified Treasury that some of Ms. Lerner's emails appeared to be missing. We also learned that in April Treasury informed the White House of this development, but they didn't inform us. The IRS has offered no explanation of why they waited 2 more months to inform Congress—and particularly the Senate Finance Committee, which is the crucial committee here in the Senate which was performing an active investigation into this very issue. You haven't heard from either me or the chairman, Senator WYDEN, popping off about this. We conducted a reasonably good investigation, doing everything we thought we could do without mouthing off about it.

Moreover, we do not know what discussions have taken place since April between the White House, Treasury, and the IRS about the lost emails.

That would be bad enough, but it gets worse.

After our meeting on Monday, we were surprised to learn, via a press release from the House Ways and Means Committee, that even more emails relevant to our investigation may be missing. Apparently the IRS had informed the Ways and Means Committee, but not us, knowing we were conducting an investigation, that it might have lost the emails for six IRS employees, all of whom were covered by the Finance Committee's document requests. Think about that.

One of these employees is reported to be Nikole Flax, who was the chief of staff to former Acting Commissioner Steve Miller. In that role Ms. Flax helped oversee the processing of tax-exempt applications. From our investigation, we also know that she directly dealt with the White House and the Office of Management and Budget on a number of issues.

It seems there is an epidemic of hard-drive crashes going on at the IRS, and it seems to be particularly focused on individuals relevant to the targeting scandal and the ongoing congressional investigations. Chairman WYDEN and I just wanted to get to the truth on these matters, but it is going to be difficult to ever get there now.

Needless to say, it is very troubling that even more emails might be missing and may never be recovered. It is also troubling that neither Commissioner Koskinen nor his staff thought they should reveal this information to Chairman WYDEN and myself during our long conversation earlier this week. They knew about it, but they didn't tell the people who were conducting the investigation about it at all.

It is obvious from the timing of the revelations that people in that room were aware of the additional missing emails. Yet it didn't occur to any of them that they should disclose this information to the chairman and ranking member of the only Senate committee with oversight authority over this agency.

As I said, the Finance Committee was getting close to completing its investigation last week. We were getting close to issuing our report, and we were moving forward under the assumption that the IRS had been cooperating. It took me a week to read the bipartisan report and the majority and minority views that were added to it—not because I am a slow reader, but because I was interrupted all day long every day. I had to set aside various times when I could read it. We were moving forward under the assumption that the IRS had been honestly cooperating—we thought. Now we have to ask ourselves

whether we can trust any of the statements coming out of this agency.

Our investigation is important. We need to have a full and complete account of what went on at the IRS during the 2010 and 2012 election campaigns. Sadly, it seems that in order to get such an account, we are going to need to also delve into what has gone on at the IRS during the months the agency was supposedly trying to respond to our reasonable document requests.

One way or another, I am going to get to the bottom of this, and I am prepared to take any steps that are necessary to do so. We need to get to closure on what the facts are before we can close out the investigation. Otherwise, the conclusions in the investigation will be based on a faulty factual premise.

Earlier today, I sent a letter to Commissioner Koskinen demanding to know what he knew about the additional missing emails and why the chairman and I were not informed about them during our meeting this last Monday. He had three others with him, and at least one of them fully knew about the additional six hard drives that crashed.

I am not naive. I do a lot in the IT world, and I can tell you this: These are the first hard drives that crashed—that I have known about—that some of our IT, information technology, experts could not get into and find some of the data. That is possible but not probable in seven different cases. Once again, it appears that either the Commissioner or his staff were less than forthcoming in the meeting and someone needs to be held responsible.

This is important. If we can't trust these agencies to be truthful to congressional leaders, we have serious problems. This letter is only the first step. More action needs to be taken. There needs to be an independent review of the fiasco surrounding all of these lost emails and crashed servers.

We need an independent arbiter to determine if the agency's account of the computer problems is accurate and whether the relevant emails are, in fact, unrecoverable. We also need a review to determine if there are more missing emails. As I said, this review needs to be independent as we apparently can't trust the IRS to be fully forthcoming on these issues. This is what we are going to need to get to the bottom of it, but sadly, even that won't be enough.

The problem with these missing emails is that we won't have any assurances that we will ever get a complete picture of what went on. We need to take the necessary steps to find out what communications these individuals were making during the time in question.

We have received many of these employees' emails from the IRS because

for obvious reasons they tended to include the email addresses of other IRS employees. However, what we don't have are emails sent by these individuals to parties outside the IRS. If the computer problems at the agency have indeed made these emails impossible to recover on the IRS's end, the only way to recover them is to extend the inquiry to agencies outside the IRS.

Let me say, this is a mess. Honestly, I don't see how any reasonable person cannot conclude that there is a very real possibility that something is wrong in Washington, something is wrong at the IRS, something is wrong at Treasury, and something is wrong at the White House.

Communications to agencies such as the Treasury Department, Justice Department, and the Federal Election Commission are all relevant, as are emails sent to the White House.

I plan to send document requests to all of these parties, asking them to produce any communications they received from the seven IRS employees whose emails have been lost.

Of course, in an ideal world none of this would be necessary, but we are not living in an ideal world. Instead, we are living in a world where apparently hard drives crash every day and administration officials decide to withhold information from congressional investigators. As a result, additional steps are necessary in order for the truth to finally come out.

In conclusion, I want to make one thing clear. While I am angered and disappointed by this recent turn of events, I am not the aggrieved party here. That unfortunate distinction belongs to the American people.

Once again, the IRS is one of the most powerful and feared agencies in our government. It is one that millions of Americans have to deal with on a daily basis. The American people have a right to expect this agency will conduct itself in a fair manner without regard to parties and politics, and that trust was broken last year when the targeting scandal was made public.

Now, a year later, after all the work we have done to hold this agency accountable and to get to the bottom of these matters, that trust has been broken again.

I have to say that Chairman WYDEN has been very good on these matters. He has tried to be bipartisan in every way, and I personally appreciate it. I think he will continue to work in a bipartisan way as we try to get the real facts about all of these matters.

It is a shame, but once again I am going to get to the bottom of this one way or the other. It is going to be difficult because it appears that going forward we will not be able to trust anything the IRS says to Congress. That is why we are going to have to bring other parties into the inquiry. This is unfortunate. As I said, this is the world we are living in.

I am discouraged about this. I mean, the administration knows I am as fair as a person can be on our side, and all I want to do is get to the facts and the truth and resolve these problems in the best interest of the American people.

Why some of these were not brought up when they were known is beyond me. It is beyond me that only after we sent a letter saying: Will you verify this is everything, then all of a sudden there were other emails that were found, but not from these servers, and not for 2 years in the case of the Lois Lerner server.

Lois Lerner took the Fifth Amendment, which is her right. I am not about to condemn her as a guilty criminal around here, but I think the best thing she could have done was help provide these emails that would hopefully exonerate her, but I believe would not. Otherwise I don't think there would have been a crash of the computer.

What really bothers me is this too: When computers in the Federal Government crash, they usually have backups, and the backups will allow us to get the computer up and working. For some reason there apparently were no backups here either. Not only that, they were only keeping track of the prior 6 months, so you would have never gotten the 2 years no matter what you did if the computer crashed. But we don't have those 2 years, which were relevant years, in anybody's estimation.

There is something rotten in Washington. I am not sure who is responsible for it. I have to say I like Mr. Koskinen. I helped put him through in a very ready fashion and got him confirmed. I believed he was telling us the truth. But I am disturbed that the only way we even got the rest of the available emails—none from 2009 to 2011. And who knows, as to the other six servers, how many of those crashed and how many of those emails are gone forever.

The administration will say, well, we did look at the addresses and we got the emails in some respect from some of the people they were sent to, but that is not what the real investigation would show either. They don't have a bit of an excuse here. It just makes one wonder, why did Lois Lerner take the protections of the Fifth Amendment? Why has not the administration been outraged as much as we are? I can say I believe our distinguished chairman is as outraged as I am. I can't speak for him, naturally, but I know him, and he is as upset as I am because we sat right there last Monday and they never told us about the six servers. As far as I know, they disposed of the crashed server of Lois Lerner. So nobody will ever be able to examine it and determine whether there is the possibility of getting the emails for that crucial period between 2009 and 2011, which is

probably the most crucial period of the whole investigation.

Now Senator WYDEN and I have to rework our report on this, and hopefully we can do that, even though we don't have all the information that anybody with common decency would expect us to have.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAQ

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, we all continue to follow the events in Iraq that have significant national security implications for the United States now and in the years to come. The President spoke on this issue a few moments ago, and I wish to share a few thoughts before we return to our States for the next few days and then come back to Washington early next week to continue our work.

The first thing I wish to say about this issue of Iraq is, while I certainly respect those Members who have served in this body and those commentators who have either served in government and now are out and others who have strong opinions about the decisions that were made regarding Iraq in the past, I would say I hope what we spend our time around here doing during this process is focused on what is happening now and what lies ahead. That doesn't mean there shouldn't be a debate about the decisions made in 2003 and beyond. Those are important debates to have, primarily because we learn from history. We learn from the successes and the mistakes, but I think we are spending a lot of time around this process these days talking about the past. We have the rest of history to debate who was right and who was wrong with regard to the war in 2003 or the surge thereafter. I have strong opinions about it, and we should certainly spend time talking about that so we can learn from it and so we can apply it to new decisions that are being made, for example, in Afghanistan, but I would hope that 90 to 95 percent of what we spend our time on is talking about how to deal with this threat now—the one that is right before us.

The President today announced—and it is going to be covered—that they are going to send close to 300 additional American trainers and advisers into Iraq. I have no direct objection to that decision. I am hopeful, however, that it is but the first step in a multistep process in this counterterrorism risk we now face. I am hopeful what this is designed to do is set the framework for the United States to achieve a number of important goals that directly impact the national security of the United States.

The first, of course, is I believe the United States, working in conjunction with others in the region, needs to do everything we can to cut off ISIL's supply lines. Many people may not be fully aware of this, but ISIL or ISIS—the same group involved in Syria—is not simply a bunch of Sunni Syrians or Sunni Iraqis; these are foreign fighters, including hundreds who are estimated to have come from the West, who have flocked to Syria and now Iraq to participate in this fight.

In addition, this group, in order to make the advances and the gains it is now making in Iraq, requires—as any force would—distinct supply lines that allow them to transport individuals and weapons and ammunition, in addition to, by the way, the things they are now getting their hands on as they make these advances. So one of the goals the United States must have, working in conjunction with others, is to sever those supply lines so they cannot continue to make these gains.

Secondly, I hope what the President announced today as the beginning of a process will, in part, also focus on the command and control areas they currently operate from within Syria. Without those safe havens, they would not possibly be able to expand the reach they now have. So I hope, again, that what the President announced today is but a first step toward a multistep process that allows us to address those two issues.

In addition, I think it is important to continue to revisit the issue of the opposition in Syria. When people read about the opposition in Syria, it is important to note there is no such thing as the opposition. There are a handful of groups operating within Syria against the Assad regime, but these groups also fight each other, and there is a group of nonjihadists, nonradical terrorists who are fighting in Syria to topple Assad, but this group also takes on the al-Nusra Front and ISIS. I have for many months now been calling on the administration to do more to capacitate these groups, the nonjihadists. I felt it was a mistake not to do so early on because that actually created the possibility or the eventuality that now we face; that is, that the best organized, best equipped, best trained groups in Syria happen to be the most radical ones. That includes ISIL and of course al-Nusra. By the way, al-Nusra and ISIL fight each other, which adds further complexity.

Last but not least, I think it is important to spend a significant amount of focus on helping our allies in Jordan. If we play out what is happening—if, in fact, ISIS is able to erase this border between Syria and Iraq and establish this Sunni caliphate, their next move logically will be to threaten the Kingdom of Jordan, an incredibly important ally to the United States, to the stability of the region, to Israel, and to

others. So we should continue to provide assistance to Jordan in protecting their borders and their future.

These are four goals I hope we will continue to move toward, and I am hopeful that with the announcement the President made today, it is a first step as we work toward those goals.

A couple of points are important to make, and I do so every time I address this issue of Iraq. The first is this is not about the United States taking sides in a Sunni-Shia civil war. The future of Iraq depends on the people of Iraq. It is up to them to establish a government that functions. It is up to them to provide a secure and safe country where people can prosper. It is up to them to create a political system and a social system where both Sunni and Shia feel as though they have a voice in the governance of their country. This is not about the United States stepping in and saying, We are on the Shia side. In fact, I can tell my colleagues that while this is not uniform, there are many Sunnis within Iraq who do not necessarily sympathize with ISIL and what they are doing. So this is not about the United States engaging itself in a civil war.

This is also not about the United States trying to build a country. This is not about the United States going into Iraq and saying, We have to rebuild Iraq. This is about counterterrorism and this is about the future security of the United States.

Every time I come to the floor, I remind everyone that the reason 9/11 was possible was because Al Qaeda was able to establish a safe haven in Afghanistan, under the protection of the Taliban, and from that safe haven they raised money, they recruited, they plotted, they planned, and they ultimately carried out the most devastating terrorist attack in U.S. history, and we can never allow another similar safe haven to take root.

This is especially true when the group trying to establish such a safe haven—in fact, not just a safe haven but a caliphate run by a radical government—is a group whose expressed goal is to establish that caliphate, to use it to terrorize the people of the United States by attacking us in the United States, in the hopes of driving us out of the Middle East and then destroying Israel and establishing their brand of Islam and forcing it on all the peoples and countries of the region.

We cannot allow such a safe haven to take root. If they are successful in their goal of creating a new country, a new State, this Islamic radical caliphate, we will have in the future grave risks and potentially severe and devastating terrorist attacks against Americans both abroad and here in the homeland. This group has a very clear mandate. They have been very clear about what their goals are, but in order to carry that out successfully, they

need an operational space, and we cannot allow them to create one in Iraq. That is what this issue is about. That is why this issue matters.

I know when I say what I have said, I open myself to those voices that say there are warmongers and people who want to go back to war. Absolutely not. On the contrary. What has happened is, after looking at this issue, studying the lessons of the past 20 years and what we have learned after 9/11 especially, it becomes evident to me that we are going to have to deal with this group. That is not what we are debating. The issue before us that we have to decide is when do we deal with them? Do we deal with them now, when they still have not created that caliphate, or do we deal with them 5 or 10 years down the road when they have established a safe haven and significant operational capacity? It is going to cost a lot more money, potentially many more lives and, in the process, significant terrorist attacks and terrorist risks if we deal with it later. It will cost less money, be more effective, and be a lot less dangerous if we deal with it now.

That must be our goal, to not allow this group ISIS to establish a safe haven of operation in Iraq, or in Syria for that matter, and then give the people of Iraq the opportunity to decide a future for themselves. That is important, which is why this issue of Iran is important.

I have been asked by reporters and others: Should we be working with Iran? My opinion, based on all I have learned regarding this situation and based on factors that are obvious for anyone to see, is we do not share the same goal Iran does. We don't have the same goal. Iran's goal is not simply to defeat ISIL. Iran's goal is to establish a Shia government that oppresses Sunnis and that is responsive to them. That is their goal. What they want to set up in Iraq is a public government under the control of Iran. That is not our goal, that should not be our goal, and it never has been our goal.

Our goal is to ensure that a terrorist organization cannot establish a safe haven, and our hope is that the Iraqi people can create for themselves a government and a country where both Shia and Sunni can live in peace and harmony among each other. That is up to them. We can help them do that, but we can't make them do that. What we can do is everything we can to ensure that this terrorist group doesn't take root. So I think our goals are completely incompatible with Iran.

The other point I would make is we should not do anything to legitimize that regime. That regime is the world's greatest State sponsor of terrorism. In virtually every continent on this planet, Iran has a hand in sponsoring terrorism. So I am not sure how we could possibly work side by side to wipe out

terrorism with a government that sponsors terrorism more than any other government on the planet. I caution against that approach as well.

To close the loop, I hope we will spend most of our time focused on what we need to do now and in the future. We have forever to debate who was right and who was wrong about the war in 2003 or the surge in 2007.

Also, I hope the announcement the President made today was the first step in a multistep process that will allow us to prevent ISIL from establishing the kingdom, the caliphate, and the safe haven they seek. I hope we make clear to the American people what the stakes are for us, that the reason we care about what is happening in Iraq is not because we want to nation build or because we want to force any sort of government on the people of Iraq. Their future belongs to them. It is because we cannot allow a terrorist group that has the stated goal and the increasing capacity of attacking the United States to establish an operational space such as Afghanistan was for Al Qaeda before 9/11.

I hope we will continue to play the important role the Senate plays in speaking out and hoping to give guidance and advice to the Commander in Chief. But as I said yesterday, ultimately, the role of leading on this matter corresponds to the President. Only the President of the United States can come up with a plan that hopefully all of us can unite behind because it is that important for our country and for our future and for our security.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the deteriorating situation in Iraq. There has been considerable debate in recent days about what we want to achieve in that country and the importance of achieving so-called political reconciliation in Baghdad. I wish to propose three simple principles that should guide any action we take in Iraq.

No. 1, we should do everything possible to secure our people. No. 2, we should defend our national security interests. No. 3, we should not partner with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

First and foremost, we need to be certain we are doing everything humanly possible to secure the Americans who are still in Iraq. The instability of the situation in the north of that country could quickly devolve into nationwide chaos, and it requires our immediate attention.

We need to be developing and implementing an immediate plan to get out all nonessential American personnel, to get them to safety now. I am deeply concerned, as all of us should be, that our people on the ground will become pawns in a sectarian conflict we cannot control. I am concerned the up to 275 marines who may be deployed to assist in embassy security, along with the 300 additional military advisers that President Obama announced today, will also become targets, isolated in Baghdad.

It is not at all reassuring to have the security in Baghdad provided by either Shia militias, loosely controlled by the al-Maliki government, or by the Iranian Quds forces themselves or their agents. If we have to rely on either to keep our people safe, we should not be there. Let me repeat that. If we have to rely on either to keep our people safe, we should not be there.

Second, we need to define and then to defend the national security interests of the United States in Iraq. There has been extensive discussion of "political reconciliation" in Iraq and of making any American military action contingent on achieving that ephemeral objective. This makes no sense. Although a political solution to Iraq's troubles may have been an appropriate goal in 2005 or 2011, it simply may not be feasible in 2014. The time for this sort of argument would have been 3 years ago when America was the most influential voice in Baghdad and we were completing our largest embassy on the planet on the banks of the Tigris River.

But we chose to relinquish that influence when we did not successfully negotiate a status-of-forces agreement with the Iraqis. Much of the blame for that diplomatic impasse lies with the al-Maliki government, but the Obama administration bears considerable responsibility as well. The President campaigned on "ending the war in Iraq" which he defined by removing all of our forces, not winning. So immediate troop withdrawal, not negotiating a proper status-of-forces agreement, was the priority. In the words of Secretary Clinton on CNN on Tuesday, "We did not get it done." The result is that today we have little or no influence in Baghdad.

It is not my purpose today to relitigate the history of U.S. involvement in Iraq but, rather, to propose what we can do with the circumstances in which we find ourselves right now. Given our current circumstances, any attempt to reconcile a Sunni-Shiite religious conflict that has waged for more than 1,500 years seems either the height of hubris or naivete or both.

Rather than prioritizing an unachievable political solution we have no power to effect, it seems much more practical to focus on what is in the actual national security interests of the United States of America. The most acute security threat to the United

States in Iraq is the aggressive movement of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, ISIS, forces out of Syria and into Iraq over the last 6 months. These vicious Sunni fanatics may be relatively small in number, but they make up for it in sheer brutality. Although President Obama dismissed their aggression into Fallujah in January of this year as the terrorist equivalent of the "junior varsity," recent events suggest they are of a much higher capability.

Indeed, an obvious question the administration should answer is, has the Obama administration ever armed ISIS? Has the administration given lethal weapons to ISIS? We are doing so to rebels who are fighting alongside ISIS in Syria. It is an obvious question to ask, whether we have, in fact, armed these radical Islamic terrorists as well.

ISIS is much more than a local or even regional threat. They are among the worst of the radical jihadists who attacked us on September 1, 2001, and again on September 11, 2012. They are so bad, in fact, that the "core Al Qaeda," as President Obama likes to call the terrorist cells in Pakistan and Afghanistan, have renounced them. Their goal is to establish a new Islamic caliphate in the Middle East and northern Africa, from Syria to Iraq. They have publicly announced that when they achieve their ambition in Syria and Iraq, their goal is to move on to Jordan, to Israel, and to the United States of America.

Because of their actions and their stated intent, it would seem a targeted mission to seriously degrade the lethality of ISIS could well be in the national security interests of the United States. Such an action would not require the commitment of American combat forces, but it would require a commitment from the Commander in Chief that this action would not be merely a symbolic message or an effort simply to perpetuate the al-Maliki government in Baghdad.

Instead, it would need to be an expeditious and emphatic demonstration of America's ability to strike at the terrorists at the time and means of our choosing. If the President needs to respond to an imminent threat to the national security interests of the United States, or to act to an imminent threat to the lives of Americans in Iraq, he has the constitutional authority to do so. However, Congress has the constitutional authority to declare war. So if the President is planning on launching a concerted offensive attack that is not constrained by the exigency of the circumstances, he should come to Congress to seek and to receive authorization for the use of military force. A precondition for any such mission in Iraq should be the utter rejection of any partnership with the Islamic Republic of Iran on which the al-Maliki government is increasingly dependent.

Iran has been the implacable enemy of the United States since 1979, when revolutionaries took 54 American citizens hostage for 444 days, some of the darkest days of our history. Earlier this year, Iran demonstrated that this rapid anti-American hostility is alive and well by trying to get a U.S. visa for one of those hostage takers to serve as their Ambassador to the United Nations, to live in Manhattan with diplomatic immunity. It was one of my proudest days in the Senate to introduce the legislation countering this action that passed unanimously through both Houses of Congress, and that was signed into law by President Obama, stopping known terrorists from entering the United States.

When push comes to shove, the American people understand that Iran is our enemy. We need to bring that same clarity, that same bipartisan unity to current circumstances in Iraq.

Just because Iran fears ISIS jihadists, it does not follow that we should partner with them in this fight. The enemy of our enemy, in this instance, is not our friend. If we cannot secure our people absent Iranian involvement, we need to get them out. If we cannot strike ISIS in Iraq without Iranian involvement, then we need to look for another means of doing so.

ISIS consists of radical Islamist terrorists who seek to murder Americans. Yet the Iranian regime has over and over demonstrated the same hostile intent. Indeed, it is the leading sponsor of terrorism across the world.

It is deeply concerning that not only Secretary of State John Kerry but also former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel have all signaled in recent days they are actively interested in exploring a partnership with Iran to deal with Iraq.

Indeed, today President Obama publicly suggested: "Iran can play a constructive role." This is the height of foolishness. It is deeply disturbing that so many current and former senior Obama administration officials would share this same misguided and naive view.

There could be no more ill-advised or counter-productive policy for the United States at this moment than to partner with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Rather than partnering with Iran, we should be all the more mindful of the dangers of taking our eye off the ball of Iran's nuclear program, as no doubt Tehran hopes we will in this most recent crisis.

As grim as the threat of ISIS is, it pales in comparison to the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran, given their long and well-documented history of state-sponsored terrorism. Indeed, Iran is working now and has been working for years now to develop nuclear ICBMs for one reason and one reason only, and that is to strike at America and potentially murder millions of Americans. It

would be the height of folly to take any action in Iraq that would further embolden Iran, which is already moving to make Iraq a client state in its pursuit of regional hegemony.

We already know how that script plays out. We have seen it in our ally Ukraine, where former President Viktor Yanukovich acted as Vladimir Putin's stooge and planted pro-Russian agents throughout the Ukrainian government and armed forces. But the Ukrainian people refused to accept Russia's attempt to reintegrate them into a 21st century reincarnation of the Soviet Union.

They stood in the Maidan Square, a place I visited just a few weeks ago, and they braved the freezing cold. They braved the murderous army snipers who shot the protesters down in that square, and they stood and demanded freedom. They demanded to stand with America, with Europe, and the West.

Iran, in its attempt to create a modern version, a new version of the Persian Empire, has attempted a similar play on behalf of so-called Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei through the means of the Iraqi regime of Nouri al-Maliki.

Sadly, Iranian forces today permeate both the Government of Iraq and the Iraqi security forces.

America has demonstrated, beyond any shadow of doubt, our offer of liberty to the people of Iraq. Indeed, thousands of our sons and daughters have given their lives in pursuit of freedom in Iraq. But if the Iraqi Government is more interested in forging a relationship with Iran than with the United States, we should not and we cannot attempt to force them to adhere to our political goals for them.

Absent active partners in Iraq who want a closer alliance with America and with our allies, our key objective should be, quite simply, to secure our people, to counteract terrorist threats to our national security, and to make sure that we do not further embolden the Islamic Republic of Iran.

These objectives—not the fantasy of resolving the Sunni-Shiite conflict that has been raging since the death of Muhammad in 632 A.D. or the illusion that we can magically find productive common ground with Iran—should define our policy toward Iraq.

I would like to make one final note. It is my hope that my colleagues will think more broadly about what is happening in the world in Iraq, in Iran, in Russia, and in Libya. We are being faced with options of options of options that have been created by the bad choices our leaders make.

Those guiding our foreign policy at the White House, the State Department, and even, unfortunately, in the Senate have refused to address true dangers posed to Americans at home and abroad. Bad choices inevitably leave us with bad options.

Refusing to recognize the radical religious extremism of individuals who are committed to jihad and have pledged to murder Americans is a bad choice. Refusing to utter the words "radical Islamic terrorists" is a bad choice. Negotiating with terrorists to release terrorist leaders is a bad choice, and considering any kind of deal with Iran is a very bad choice.

In the last 5 years America has receded from leadership in the world. Into that vacuum have stepped nations such as Iran, such as Russia, such as China. As we have abandoned our allies, the consequences have been to make the world a much more dangerous place. America's leadership has never been more critical than it is today.

Until the leaders of our government stop making these bad choices, we will continue to be left with bad options.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Rhode Island.

CJS APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the appropriations minibus that many of us were prepared to move forward on today. I am deeply disappointed that the Republican minority is effectively blocking another bill on this floor from moving forward for consideration and ultimately approval by the Congress.

It is disappointing because I know that the bipartisan work that was done in the committee was absolutely critical and extremely productive. The Appropriations Committee, which I have the privilege of serving on, presented us, this Senate, with three very excellent pieces of legislation. I am disappointed that we are not moving forward to pass them. It is also disappointing because this process gives us the opportunity to shape the spending priorities of the government, to focus on the needs of the American people, and to do so in a way that will be responsive to their needs and we hope improves their opportunities to grow this economy and participate in the economy.

Without appropriations bills, we run the risk of being stuck with a continuing resolution—funding just what we did the last year—perhaps a little less, perhaps a little more in some areas. But it deprives us of focusing on issues that are more sensitive and more critical at this moment to the American public.

Chairman MIKULSKI has done an excellent job leading the Appropriations Committee. As I said from the beginning, she was determined to make it a substantive, respectful, and bipartisan process. The results are reflected in the unanimous or near unanimous committee votes on the bills that are coming to this floor in this minibus, as we call it. So I thank her, obviously, for her leadership.

I also want to thank my colleagues on the relevant subcommittees, Senator MURRAY, in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee; Senator PRYOR, the chair of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. Together they have prepared balanced bills that invest in our people, our infrastructure, and in science.

The transportation-HUD bill includes \$550 million for the important TIGER Discretionary Grant Program, which is shared by the entire country but has been particularly critical to Rhode Island in helping us improve our commercial ports and in jump-starting major road projects, including the replacement of a major bridge, the Providence Viaduct on route 95.

Indeed, it is one of the potential choke points on route 95 that will not only affect Rhode Island, but it will affect Massachusetts, the home of the Presiding Officer. It will affect Connecticut. It will bottle up traffic if we don't continue to fix it, improve it, and make it traffic ready for another several decades.

The bill also maintains robust support for the Airport Improvement Program. One of the things we are very pleased about is the T.F. Green Airport. We are investing about \$100 million in safety improvements, a runway extension, and an expansion. I thank Chairman MURRAY for including this funding in the bill, this general category funding which has been very helpful to the Rhode Island Airport Corporation as it has applied for these grants.

I was particularly delighted last month because Chairwoman MIKULSKI joined me at T.F. Green Airport to look at the improvements, to talk about the issues, and to get a firsthand sense of how her efforts and Senator MURRAY's efforts are translating into real projects throughout the United States.

The bill also includes more than \$3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant Program, again an important program critical to all communities in Rhode Island. It provides more than \$2 billion for homeless assistance grants. There is no portion of the country today that is not facing a very real problem with homeless Americans who need help, assistance, and support.

There is \$75 million for the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, which again helps people who are struggling not only to find a place to live but also to deal with all of the issues of getting by in a very difficult economy.

All of these programs are extremely worthwhile. They serve the Nation—not in one particular area or in one particular State—and they contribute to our productivity—not just for the moment but looking ahead.

We can take, for example, the Commerce-Justice-Science bill with the strong support for NOAA, including funding for fisheries, aquaculture, Sea Grant, ocean exploration, and ocean education—again, initiatives that affect my home State of Rhode Island, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Florida, the State of North Carolina, every coastal area, the gulf coast, et cetera, all critical to our country, to our productivity, to our commerce, and to the livelihood of so many Americans.

We are looking also at investments in the National Science Foundation, fully funding, for example, the request for the EPSCoR Program at nearly \$160 million. This is absolutely critical for many reasons, particularly to make that connection between academic institutions and business enterprises and also to economic development.

The bill also supports, with respect to our criminal justice system, \$376 million for Byrne justice assistance grants and \$181 million for COPS hiring grants—actually putting police officers on the street, increasing our ability to deal with crime and making our communities more livable. This is absolutely critical.

We look at the Agriculture appropriations bill—and I thank Senator PRYOR—because, today, agriculture includes aquaculture, the commercial growing, if you will, of shellfish and other seafood products.

Again, in my State—but not just in my State, in other parts of the country—it is a growing and commercially thriving enterprise which deserves support. In fact, because of federal investments, we have been able to initiate in Rhode Island aquaculture projects that have taken on their own lives and own momentum and are extremely productive.

I am disappointed we are here today only talking about these appropriations bills instead of actually moving forward and passing them.

Another topic that is very frustrating is the fact that this body passed on a bipartisan basis an extension of unemployment insurance, fully paid for, fiscally responsible—a bipartisan bill that went through all of the rigorous steps that required 60 votes to get cloture, and a majority of votes to get final passage. We didn't cut any corners. That is what we had to do, and we did it.

Unfortunately, it has languished in the House of Representatives so now the extension, which as we passed the bill would have been looking backward and forward several months—now it has been totally eclipsed. So we are back working.

I have reached out, and fortunately Senator DEAN HELLER of Nevada has been an extraordinarily thoughtful and crucial leader, along with other colleagues on the other side of the aisle

and colleagues on this side of the aisle. So we are beginning again, but I have to express my frustration.

Over 3 million Americans now are without benefits that they would have received had we been able to extend unemployment compensation benefits which were terminated December 28 of last year. These are modest benefits, about \$300 a week, but for people who are looking desperately for work, it could mean the difference between staying in their homes or being forced out, repairing their car, having a telephone if they need it—which we all need to communicate to look for jobs.

So we have to start again. Not only is this the right issue for individual Americans—millions of them—but it is the right issue for our economy.

Economists who look at the unemployment problem will tell us—and in fact they did—if we would have extended the program last December for a full year, this economy would gain 200,000 jobs. We are in no position to turn down 200,000 jobs. In Rhode Island, that is particularly the case. It would have added to our GDP growth, some estimates as high as 0.2 percent, again helping to grow the economy.

I hope we can rejoin this effort and move forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor because for those folks who picked up the Wall Street Journal this morning, this was the headline regarding the health care law: June 19, 2014, "Large Health Plans Set to Raise Rates."

The picture emerging from proposed 2015 insurance rates in the 10 States that have completed their filings, as the States have to do—stretching from Rhode Island to Washington State, in all but one of those 10, the largest health insurer in the State is proposing to increase premiums between 8.5 percent and 22.8 percent for next year.

That is not what the President of the United States promised the American people when he forced through a health care law with only Democrats voting for it in the House and in the Senate. What he said is that by the end of his first term, premiums for families would drop by \$2,500 per family. That is not what we are seeing: Across the board, the largest insurer in each of those 10 States, anywhere between 8.5 percent to 22 percent for next year. It makes us wonder how that is going to sit with the American public when they are faced with these bills.

Republicans have been coming to this floor to talk about the health care law that Democrats in the Senate voted for, the President signed, and we talked about the many alarming side effects—the alarming side effects Americans have been feeling ever since the law has passed.

People are still trying to understand the law, and they are asking the question: How is this actually helping me? That is what people want to know, is how is the law helping them. Much of what they are hearing is not how it is helping them, but how it is hurting them. Once again, an alarming side effect in the front page of the newspaper this morning.

It seems like just about every day we pick up a newspaper and see headlines about another broken promise by the Democrats who voted for the health care law—Democrats who came to the Senate floor and the floor of the House of Representatives and said this is a good thing.

But then, of course, it was NANCY PELOSI, Speaker of the House, who said: First you have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it. As more Americans are finding out what is in it, they continue to be very unhappy with what they are getting.

American families all across the country are finding out that the President's promises didn't come true. They weren't true.

As chairman of the Republican policy committee, I have been looking at the damaging side effects of the health care law around the country and in different States and what I have found meeting people around the country. Here is what I found in North Carolina:

Last Friday there was a headline in the Triangle Business Journal in the Raleigh-Durham, NC, area on the Affordable Care Act: "ACA forcing majority of [North Carolina] employers to change health care offerings."

The President said: If you like what you have, you can keep it. The headline in North Carolina is: The law is forcing a majority of employers to change their health care offerings.

The article says:

More than half of North Carolina companies are considering radical changes to the health plans they offer employees—

Not little changes, not little tweaks, radical changes to the health plans they offer employees.

"You might look at raising your deductible to keep premiums lower, or look at what you are covering," Hegeman says. "Or charging more in terms of co-pay, in order to keep premiums lower."

It quotes one human resources executive says that companies "... might look at raising your deductible to keep premiums lower, or look at what you are covering. . . ."

Those are all considerations because the President made a lot of promises that are not being able to be kept, and people who actually read the law as it was being proposed knew the President's promises were not going to be able to be kept.

This is a terrifying side effect of the health care law for many people—people who now in North Carolina are worried about these radical changes to

their insurance plans. That is what some companies are going to have to do to keep down the costs.

But for many people, the costs keep going up anyway, and we are seeing higher premiums in those 10 States I mentioned in the headlines today, but specifically in North Carolina, here is what WTVD, a television station in Raleigh, reported last month. They did a story entitled, "Blue Cross missing age sales target for ACA could mean higher bills." So higher bills for North Carolina.

It turns out not enough young and healthy people signed up for the insurance in the State's ObamaCare exchange.

The President said: Oh, we will get all these young, healthy people signing up, buying insurance that—in my opinion—they don't need, don't want, can't afford, will never use. The President said: We will get all these healthy people signing up.

It didn't happen. They missed the sales targets in terms of what they expected in terms of the age of those signing up. So the biggest insurer in the State in North Carolina says it may have to raise rates next year.

The news story quoted a woman named Amanda LaRoque. She and her husband own their own business, they pay their own health insurance, and they say their premiums have doubled since they signed up for the Obama health care law. They are now paying \$999 a month for two people—almost \$1,000 a month for two people.

I remember listening to President Obama and President Bill Clinton having a discussion in New York a couple days before the exchange opened. The President was saying: Easier to use than Amazon, and he said: Cheaper than your cell phone bill.

The plan was going to cost less than your cell phone bill.

This couple in North Carolina says they are paying almost \$1,000 a month and their rates are going even higher. So it makes us wonder was the President of the United States again trying to mislead the American people intentionally? Did he not understand the law which was written behind closed doors over there in HARRY REID's office? Did he not care? Does he still not care? But that is what people are seeing and experiencing as a result of the President's health care law.

But this couple is not the only one paying more because of the health care law. According to a new analysis by the Manhattan Institute, people all over the country are going to have to pay more—much more—than what the President told them, much more than they ever anticipated.

The Manhattan Institute found that for an average 64-year-old woman in North Carolina, her premiums would have been \$210 a month in 2013, before the ObamaCare mandates and every-

thing else kicked in. In 2014, 1 year later and all the mandates, buying insurance through the ObamaCare exchange her premiums almost triple to \$623 a month. She is paying almost \$5,000 a year more this year than last year because of the President's health care law that the Democrats voted for in the House and in the Senate. The President said it would lower premiums by \$2,500 a year. Yet she is seeing her premiums go up by \$5,000 a year.

For a 27-year-old man, he would have paid an average of \$80 a month in 2013. Under the President's health care law, \$217 a month—an extra \$1,600 a year than last year. That is not what the President promised him.

President Obama then goes and gives a speech not that long ago and said: Democrats who voted for this law—and there are a lot of Members of this body that fit this description. Democrats who voted for this law should forcefully defend and be proud of it—forcefully defend and be proud, the President of the United States said just a couple weeks ago. Is there a Senator in this body who is willing to stand and forcefully defend the fact that people in North Carolina are paying double or triple for insurance? Is there anyone who wants to defend this expensive side effect of the health care law?

I know some people have been helped by the law. Some people are paying less for insurance than they would have before, but many people are paying much more. That is because the people who pay less are getting a subsidy from Washington to help hide the rate hikes that everybody else is facing.

President Ronald Reagan once said, "Government doesn't solve problems; it subsidizes them." That is exactly what is going on with the President's health care law. The Democrats who voted for this health care law did not solve the problem with our health care system. They just threw more money at it to hide the fact that the law actually made things worse. People wanted reform that gave them access to quality care, that gave them affordable care. No one wanted more expensive coverage.

I will talk about one more example. That is the devastating side effect of smaller paychecks some families will be facing because of the Democrats' health care law. Another side effect, smaller paychecks.

The law says employers—including State governments, including local governments, school districts, communities, counties—have to cover people who work 30 hours a week or more and treat them as full-time employees. They have to cover those people with insurance and treat them as full-time employees. That is what the law considers full-time employees.

There was another story in Raleigh, NC, on WTVD. It said State agencies—

we are not talking about for-profit businesses. State agencies are looking at cutting the hours of part-time workers to keep them under that 30-hour limit.

The North Carolina Agriculture Department has about 240 part-time employees who are now working more than 30 hours—less than 40, more than 30—240 of these folks at the North Carolina Agriculture Department.

How about the North Carolina Department of Transportation? They have almost 600 people in exactly the same situation. So North Carolina is going to have to look very closely at what to do with those individuals. If the hours are cut back to under 30 hours, that can mean smaller paychecks.

One expert at Duke University told the TV station he expects the State will see 300,000 full-time workers be moved to part time. Local governments, State governments, private employers, they are all having to make these same decisions. Why? Because of the health care law. Those 300,000 workers moved to part time by the definition—not what the man or woman on the street thinks of as the definition of full time, but what the health care law defines it as. That is a big hit to people's paychecks, and it is another very harmful side effect in the health care law.

It didn't have to be that way. Republicans have offered solutions for patient-centered health care reform such as increasing the ability of small businesses to get together, join together, negotiate for better rates, expand health savings accounts, allow people to buy insurance that works best for them and their family and shop in other States to do it, and not have to buy this whole big list of insurance the President says they need when it is not what their family needs. It is not what they need for their kids, for their families, for their spouses, not what they want, not what they can afford, because the President essentially thinks he knows better than American families about their own personal situation. Republicans have offered ideas that would give people the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs—not lower costs as a subsidy for some people, but lower costs for everybody. That is what we are working on, lower cost of care.

Republicans are going to keep coming to the floor. We are going to keep offering real solutions for better health care without all of these terrible side effects, because we know the list is there, one side effect after another. They are costly, harmful, some are irreversible, and nothing that the American people wanted.

On the front-page headline today is "Large Health Plans Set to Raise Rates." Insurance rates in 10 States that have completed their filings,

stretching from Rhode Island to Washington State, all but one of them, the largest health insurer in the State is proposing to increase premiums between 8.5 and 22 percent for next year. The American people will once again realize that the Democrats and the President who voted for this health care law have broken their trust, broken their promises to the American people, and the American people deserve better.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceed to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PAUL G. BYRON TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 779.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Paul G. Byron, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Paul G. Byron, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Menendez, Barbara A. Mikulski, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CARLOS EDUARDO MENDOZA TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to Calendar No. 780.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk and I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Cory A. Booker, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Charles E. Schumer.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF BETH BLOOM TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 781.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Beth Bloom, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Beth Bloom, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Cory A. Booker, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Charles E. Schumer.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF GEOFFREY W. CRAWFORD TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF VERMONT

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 836.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Geoffrey W.

Crawford, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Geoffrey W. Crawford, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Cory A. Booker, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Charles E. Schumer.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

NOMINATION OF LEON RODRIGUEZ TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 742.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Debbie Stabenow, Charles E. Schumer.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUNETEENTH 149TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Madam President, today we celebrate Juneteenth. For those who aren't familiar with this holiday, today marks the 149th anniversary of the emancipation of the slaves in Galveston, TX. Two-and-a-half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation took effect and 2 months after General Lee's surrender at Appomattox, the slaves of Galveston were still being treated as they were years before. Union GEN Gordon Granger and his troops arrived in Galveston with one thing in mind, to right this wrong. General Granger addressed the entire city, declaring all slaves in Texas to be free, and granting them "an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property."

Upon receiving the news, the newly freed slaves could not contain their joy. They were crying, they were hugging, they were celebrating, because they were previously confined to shackles. They were slaves in the true sense of the word.

So today, 149 years later, we once again celebrate the occasion of the emancipation so long overdue. Juneteenth is a reminder of promises kept.

Although it may be late in coming, it is the duty of a responsible government

to honor its word and never forget any of its citizens. There are millions of Americans who need help today, right now. They are escaping the bonds of hunger, unemployment, and inequality. So may we here in the Senate come to their rescue, just as General Granger did for the slaves of Galveston those many years ago.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I wish to commend the Senate for unanimously passing S. Res. 474 last week. I am a proud co-sponsor of the resolution authored by Senator LEVIN, which designates today as Juneteenth Independence Day for 2014. The resolution includes specific recognition of Frederick Douglass who was born in the State of Maryland in 1818, escaped from slavery and became a leading writer, orator, publisher, and one of the United States' most influential advocates for abolitionism and the equality of all people.

On this 149th anniversary of Juneteenth, America celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth—or June 19—is the day in 1865 when MG Gordon Granger and Union soldiers enforced 'General Order No. 3', finally freeing the remaining slaves in the United States.

Thanks to the hard work of Americans committed to living up to our highest ideals, we have come a long way since that first Juneteenth. This is a time for joy but also reflection for African Americans. We should use our collective history, and days like Juneteenth, to grow, learn and become more connected to one another. We owe it to those who endured the brutal institution of slavery and to those who dedicated their lives to ending such an injustice.

Today, our children study Marylanders like Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, both former slaves who helped deliver freedom to millions. As we observe Juneteenth in Maryland and across the country, we also reflect on the reality that human bondage has not been abolished worldwide. The continued existence of slavery anywhere is an affront to the progress made since that first Juneteenth and a cause for action.

JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, earlier this week I came to the floor to discuss ethics in defense procurement contracting, specifically relating to the Joint Strike Fighter. I ask unanimous consent that an article on this topic from Inside Defense be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Inside Defense, May 30, 2014]

CARTER: JSF PROGRAM MANAGER BASED F-35 AWARD FEES ON DESIRE TO PROTECT LOCKHEED EXEC

(By Jason Sherman)

A former Joint Strike Fighter program executive officer was fired in 2010 after explaining that he based the government's decision to award prime contractor Lockheed Martin 85 percent of the potential award fee—when the F-35 program was suffering from major cost growth and schedule delays—on his desire to protect the job of his Lockheed counterpart, according to a former senior Pentagon official.

Ashton Carter, deputy defense secretary from 2011 to 2013, on May 16 provided a Harvard University audience a behind-the-scenes account of his efforts in 2009, during his first year as Pentagon acquisition executive, to understand why projected costs for the F-35 aircraft had doubled and why the program was facing schedule delays.

At the time, an independent cost estimating team was advising Pentagon leaders that the true cost to develop and procure the planned F-35 fleet would be billions of dollars more than the JSF program office estimated, foreshadowing a \$60 billion increase to the F-35's official price tag.

Carter said he called in the program manager, whom he does not name during his remarks. At that time, Marine Corps Maj. Gen. David Heinz had recently become the F-35 program manager, in April 2009. His predecessor, from 2006 to 2009, was Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles Davis, now a three-star general and the military deputy to the Air Force acquisition executive.

"I want to see the bill, everything that goes into the cost of this airplane," Carter said, in a video of his remarks posted on YouTube on May 22. "The program office didn't know, could not tell me where the money was going."

At that time, the F-35's development was being executed under a cost-plus contract, a vehicle that allows a contractor to pass costs on to the government in addition to seeking an award fee. "I asked the program manager: 'Let me see your award fee history.' I look at the award fee history over 10 years, it is 85 percent a year," Carter said.

The former deputy defense secretary said he told the program manager the F-35 program was "a disaster," adding, "You're giving an 85 percent award fee every year, what's going on?"

"And," Carter continued, "he looked me in the eye . . . and said: 'I like the program manager on the Lockheed Martin side that I work with and he tells me that if he gets less than 85 percent award fee, he's going to get fired.'"

"So, this guy was fired," Carter said of Heinz. Then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced Heinz's dismissal during a Feb. 1, 2010, press conference.

Carter subsequently ordered a sweeping technical review of the JSF program and transitioned it to a fixed-price contract in an effort to force Lockheed to shoulder a portion of the costs associated with developmental risks.

"We began a process that was very difficult: to re-educate the Air Force-Navy team that managed this important aircraft so that they knew what the hell they were paying for," Carter said in the Harvard speech. "They had no idea."

In 2013, the Pentagon restructured the award-fee scheme for the Joint Strike Fighter program, setting aside \$337 million that Lockheed Martin could earn by achieving

specified goals during the balance of the aircraft's development phase.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Christopher Bogdan, the current F-35 program executive officer, told the Senate Armed Services tactical air and land forces subcommittee on April 24, 2013, that a portion of the remaining award fees Lockheed could earn would be tied to the timely delivery of planned aircraft complete with scheduled software and capability improvements. The bulk of the remaining fee is tethered to achieving the current aircraft development plan on time and budget, he said. (Defense Alert, April 24, 2013).—Jason Sherman

SIMPSONS' 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, on Saturday, June 21, 2014, Senator Alan Simpson and his wife Ann will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. I invite all of my colleagues to join me in wishing them heartfelt congratulations.

Their children Bill, Colin, and Sue, sent an announcement honoring this milestone saying their parents are "celebrating 60 years of love, commitment and compromise." Those of us who have known and worked with Al and Ann Simpson have seen this spirit of love and devotion in every aspect of their lives.

For six decades, Wyoming has been fortunate to learn from Al and Ann. Though they met much earlier, the couple first began dating while they were students at the University of Wyoming. Over 60 years later, they are a true power couple. Each complements the other in every way—they are resilient, compassionate, and know the value of compromise. This special relationship has evolved into a lifelong partnership that serves as a model for all of us to follow.

My wife Bobbi and I look forward to celebrating this outstanding milestone with Al and Ann when we see them in Cody on July 4th. We will tell them what an inspiration they have been, not only to us, but to people all across the State. And, we will thank them for their service to Wyoming and our great Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING LAURA LAPLANTE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I wish to honor the life of Laura LaPlante—a law student from Hancock, NH, who was preparing to graduate from the University of Chicago Law School when her life was tragically cut short last month.

Laura was a student at St. Patrick's School in Jaffrey and at ConVal Regional High School in Peterborough, from which she graduated in 2006. After attending Columbia University, she returned to New Hampshire and grad-

uated in 2010 from UNH—where she was a scholar-athlete who was at the top of her class.

Laura continued to distinguish herself as a student in law school, where she became a campus leader. In addition to serving as the president of the school's chapter of the Federalist Society, she also served as treasurer of the Law School Republicans. Additionally, Laura devoted her time and energy to the Saint Thomas More Society, the Law Women's Caucus, and the Edmund Burke Society.

Laura was a vibrant young woman whose kind and generous spirit and commitment to excellence—touched the lives of everyone around her.

A high school friend of hers said: "Laura is the kind of person everybody wants to be."

And a former teacher and coach at ConVal said, "She was the type of person that was always there for you"—adding that Laura was "very selfless."

She brought that same trademark kindness to Chicago, where one of her law school classmates was quoted as saying: "Laura was one of those people who would take the time to ask how I'm doing and actually listen."

These are just a few remembrances of this remarkable young woman. She was smart, outgoing, kind, and curious about the world around her. I know that Laura would have been an outstanding lawyer who brought intellect and integrity to the legal profession. And I also know that she would have continued to be a leader in her community.

Tragically, we will never know the heights that Laura would have achieved. She was taken from us far too soon.

As Laura's family and friends mourn her loss, I hope and pray that they will be comforted by their warm memories of her. She was a very special person whose uncommon kindness, caring spirit, and commitment to service brightened our world. Laura leaves behind an extraordinary legacy for all of us to carry on.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID GIORDANO

• Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, today I recognize David Giordano, the former director of the Newark Fire Department. A driving force for good in the City of Newark, Dave's exceptional career as firefighter, fire director, and trusted advisor created the foundation for the long-term strength of the department, setting it on the path to a sustainable future, and improving safety for the city's residents.

A native of North Newark, Dave grew up near Sacred Heart Basilica and is a product of the Newark Public School system. As Newark invested in him, so, too, did he invest in Newark—first as a small business owner in 1979, and then, in 1985, as a firefighter. Committed to

present, and future of her community. Outside of her work with the Missouri Historical Review, Lynn's impressive authored and editorial works include entries in the "Dictionary of Missouri Biography," the "American National Biography," and the State Historical Society's publication entitled "Marking Missouri History." In addition, she edited every single book published by the State Historical Society of Missouri over the past decade.

When I became mayor of Newark in 2006, I knew Dave's knowledge and experience would be an asset to my team. Indeed, he worked hard to obtain new equipment, shorten response times, and streamline the delivery of service to make our fire department more effective. In an emergency, every second counts; Dave's commitment to excellence surely saved lives.

Dave retires from the City of Newark on June 30, 2014, after 29 years of dedicated service to the city. These years have been marked by exemplary dedication to the best interests of the community and his fellow firefighters.

It is an honor to formally recognize the contributions that David Giordano has made to the citizens of Newark throughout his career, to thank him for his tremendous service, and to wish him happiness in a well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO LYNN WOLF GENTZLER

● Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I wish to honor Lynn Wolf Gentzler, who has had a remarkable 42-year career with the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-Columbia and the State Historical Society of Missouri. Next month, Lynn will leave her position to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. I have served on the board of trustees of the State Historical Society for some time, and I can tell you that Lynn has played a critical role in the promotion of the history of our State of Missouri.

As a native of DeKalb County, Lynn Wolf Gentzler attended the University of Missouri-Columbia and graduated with honors and a degree in education. She then went on to earn her master's degree and began a career as a manuscript specialist at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection in Columbia. Over years of dedicated hard work, she rose to the position of senior manuscript specialist and assistant director of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection.

She eventually assumed the positions of assistant director of the State Historical Society of Missouri and associate editor of the Missouri Historical Review in 1990. A year later, she became the associate director of the State Historical Society in Missouri, while continuing in her role as the associate editor of the Missouri Historical Review. In 2003, the board of trustees for the State Historical Society of Missouri asked Lynn to take up the role of acting executive director.

Lynn Wolf Gentzler is a leader who has demonstrated an incredible understanding and commitment to the past,

present, and future of her community. Outside of her work with the Missouri Historical Review, Lynn's impressive authored and editorial works include entries in the "Dictionary of Missouri Biography," the "American National Biography," and the State Historical Society's publication entitled "Marking Missouri History." In addition, she edited every single book published by the State Historical Society of Missouri over the past decade.

In 2004, Lynn received the State Historical Society's Distinguished Service Award and Medallion for her outstanding decades of service to the cultivation and promotion of Midwestern history. Her enthusiastic and determined leadership as an administrator, writer, and editor has played a vital role in the preservation of our State and Nation's history.

Lynn has provided an incredible service to the State of Missouri for over 40 years, and I wish her well on her retirement.●

WARREN COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act, and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Warren County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Warren County worth over \$6.8 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$9.5 million to the local economy.

Of course, my favorite memories of working together include my support

of the great work done by public safety entities in the county, working to improve local transportation infrastructure, as well as a strong partnership with Simpson College.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Central Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects, including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Warren County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Warren County, I have fought for more than \$1.4 million for improvements to Highway 92, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Warren County has received over \$4.6 million in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Warren County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$367,796.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical

support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Warren County has received over \$1.1 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Warren County has received more than \$1.4 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Warren County's fire departments have received over \$1.1 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment and \$175,000 in Department of Justice funding to support law enforcement efforts in the county.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed-captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Warren County, both those with and without disabilities.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Warren County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in War-

ren County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Butler County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Butler County worth over \$2.6 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$11 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together has been a terrific partnership with the Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative, REC, which has done a tremendous job at securing funds for a variety of local economic development projects. I am particularly proud of the work I have done with the Homeward, Inc. project to provide quality affordable housing to Iowans throughout the region. I am pleased to have secured more than \$1.9 million over the years to assist in this important work. I should also single out the outstanding leadership and tireless leadership of the former CEO and general manager of the Butler County REC, Bob Bauman, for his years of service and vision. He is the

kind of Iowan, who has done so much to help those that have so little, that makes me so proud to have served Iowa in the Senate.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Butler County has received \$664,437 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Butler County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$115,000.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Butler County has received over \$6 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural

communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Butler County has received more than \$5.8 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as the methamphetamine epidemic. For instance, Butler County has received \$449,956 in Community Oriented Policing Services grants. Also, since 2001, Butler County's fire departments have received over \$323,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Butler County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Butler County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Butler County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

REMEMBERING SHEILA LUMPE

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Madam President, I ask the Senate to join me today in honoring the life of Sheila Lumpe, who passed away on June 4, 2014. Sheila was a much-loved member of the St. Louis community. Sheila has left a legacy of public service that will always be cherished, and St. Louis will not be the same without her.

Sheila was born in Strinestown, PA and graduated from high school in Indiana where she had moved as a young girl. She attended Indiana University to study political science and met a fellow student, Gus Lumpe. They married and moved to St. Louis in 1965. Sheila served 17 years in the Missouri House representing University City, a suburb of St. Louis. After she retired from the house, the Governor named her the State's chief utilities regulator and she served 6 years on the Public Service Commission. She was a member of the Missouri Humanities Council board of directors and received numerous awards and honors.

With four children enrolled in University City schools, Sheila became involved in the Parent Teacher Association. In 1973, the school board was divided over integration and Sheila's husband Gus encouraged her to run for a seat on the board. Sheila won and spent 8 years on the school board. When her neighbor gave up his house seat to run for Lieutenant Governor, Sheila ran for his seat and won.

I had the distinct honor of serving with Sheila in the Missouri General Assembly, where her tenure was marked by excellence and community involvement and where I learned important lessons about public leadership from her. Sheila became the first woman to lead the powerful House Budget Committee and nearly became the first woman speaker of the House.

Sheila fought tirelessly for women's rights, equal pay and universal health care. She helped Planned Parenthood retain funding while in the legislature. Her legislation to expand health care for children passed the year after she left the legislature. Sheila was a role model to not only female legislators, but all legislators. She was regarded highly by everyone she interacted with, including those with very different views.

Sheila retired from the Public Service Commission and public life in 2003. She devoted herself to taking care of her husband, who passed away in 2009 from Alzheimer's disease. Sheila also passed away from Alzheimer's disease. She is survived by her three sons Abraham, Nathan and Andrew; daughter, Karen, and six grandchildren.

Sheila left an indelible and permanent mark on St. Louis and will be fondly remembered and dearly missed. Sheila's life and commitment to others serves as an inspiration to me and to all Missourians. I have lost a friend and mentor and our State has truly lost a leader and a hero.

I ask that the Senate join me in honoring the life and legacy of Sheila Lumpe.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13617 OF JUNE 25, 2012, WITH RESPECT TO THE DISPOSITION OF RUSSIAN HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM—PM 45

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the emergency declared in Executive Order 13617 of June 25, 2012, with respect to the disposition of Russian highly enriched uranium is to continue in effect beyond June 25, 2014.

The risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13617 with respect to the disposition of Russian highly enriched uranium.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 19, 2014.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 9:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1254. An act to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, by unanimous consent, and ordered returned to the House:

H.R. 4412. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2491. A bill to protect the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to reconciliation involving changes to the Medicare program.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 19, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1254. An act to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6141. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pyroxasulfone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9911-08-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6142. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Livestock, Poultry and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Sheep Industry Improvement Center" (AMS-LPS-14-0028) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6143. A communication from the Secretary of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violations of the Antideficiency Act that occurred in the Department of Homeland Security Preparedness Directorate, Treasury Symbols 70/0911 and 70X0565; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-6144. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Charles R. Davis, United States Air Force,

and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6145. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Keith C. Walker, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6146. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Joint Precision Approach and Landing System (JPALS) Increment 1A program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6147. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the MQ-8 Vertical Takeoff and Landing Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (VTUAV) Fire Scout program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6148. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of three (3) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general and brigadier general, as indicated, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6149. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of two (2) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6150. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense assigning women to previously closed positions in the Navy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6151. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Manufactured Housing Constructions and Safety Standards: Correction of Reference Standard for Anti-Scald Valves" (RIN2502-AJ21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6152. A communication from the Acting Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6153. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Idaho Roadless Rule" (RIN0596-AD11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6154. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Portable Fuel Container Amendment to Pennsylvania State Implementation Plan" (FRL No. 9912-21-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6155. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances; Update of Chemical Identities" (RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9910-51)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6156. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Exemption of Certain Chemical Substances from Reporting Additional Chemical Data" ((RIN2070-AK01) (FRL No. 9910-84)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6157. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Nevada; Update to Materials Incorporated By Reference" (FRL No. 9908-86-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6158. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; South Dakota; Revisions to South Dakota Administrative Code; Permit: New and Modified Sources" (FRL No. 9912-24-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6159. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Review of New Sources and Modifications in Indian Country Amendments to the Registration and Permitting Deadlines for True Minor Sources" ((RIN2060-AS24) (FRL No. 9911-46-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6160. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Extension of Compliance and Attest Engagement Reporting Deadlines for 2013 Renewable Fuel Standards" ((RIN2060-AS25) (FRL No. 9912-00-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6161. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air

Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Particulate Matter Limitations for Coating Operations” (FRL No. 9912-09-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6162. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Amendments to Delaware’s Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 9912-22-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6163. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Credit for Carbon Dioxide Sequestration; 2014 Section 45Q Inflation Adjustment Factor” (Notice 2014-40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6164. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulations Governing Practice Before the Internal Revenue Service” (RIN1545-BF96) (TD 9668) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6165. A communication from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, “Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6166. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; Additional Extension of the Payment Adjustment for Low-Volume Hospitals and the Medicare-dependent Hospital (MDH) Program Under the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems (IPPS) for Acute Care Hospitals for Fiscal Year 2014” (RIN0938-ZB17) (CMS-1599-N) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 13, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6167. A communication from the Chair of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to the Congress on Medicaid and CHIP”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6168. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-046); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6169. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-042); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6170. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2014-0870); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6171. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2014-0871); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6172. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014-0071-2014-0078); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6173. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1002 (P.L. 107-243) and the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (P.L. 102-1) for the February 15, 2014-April 15, 2014 reporting period; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6174. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary (Office of Postsecondary Education), Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Priority. Language Resource Centers Program” (CFDA No. 84.229A); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6175. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary (Office of Postsecondary Education), Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Priorities. National Resource Centers Program” (CFDA No. 84.015A); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6176. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary (Office of Postsecondary Education), Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Priority. Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program” (CFDA No. 84.105B); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6177. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary (Office of Postsecondary Education), Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Priorities. Centers for International Business Education Program” (CFDA No. 84.220A); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6178. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary (Office of Postsecondary Education), Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Priority. Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program” (CFDA No. 84.016A); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6179. A communication from the Assistant Secretary (Office of Elementary and Secondary Education), Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Priorities, Requirement, and Definitions; Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) Program” (CFDA No. 84.215G); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6180. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Current Good Manufacturing Practices, Quality Control Procedures, Quality Factors, Notification Requirements, and

Records and Reports, for Infant Formula” (Docket No. FDA-1995-N-0063) (formerly 95N-0309) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 13, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6181. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Spirulina Extract; Confirmation of Effective Date” (Docket No. FDA-2012-C-0900) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 13, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6182. A communication from the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Railroad Unemployment Insurance System”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6183. A communication from the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Railroad Retirement System”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6184. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6185. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Office of Management and Budget, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 13, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6186. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Housing and Urban Development Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013, through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6187. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Consolidated Report to Congress on the Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund for Fiscal Years 2005 through 2013”; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-6188. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries” (RIN0648-XD277) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6189. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2014 Sub-Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Harvested for Management Area 1B” (RIN0648-XD231) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on

June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6190. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Yellowfin Sole in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD300) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6191. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Gulf of Mexico Aggregated Large Coastal Shark and Gulf of Mexico Hammerhead Shark Management Groups" (RIN0648-XD281) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6192. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Closure of the Recreational Harvest of Snowy Grouper in South Atlantic Waters" (RIN0648-XD199) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6193. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Closure of the Recreational Harvest of Golden Tilefish in South Atlantic Waters" (RIN0648-XD200) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6194. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting proposed legislation relative to the implementation of two international fisheries conventions relating to the Pacific Ocean; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6195. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism; A National Broadband Plan For Our Future" ((RIN3060-AF85) (DA 14-712)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6196. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD268) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6197. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Inseason Action to Close the Commercial Blacktip Shark Fishery in the Gulf of Mexico Region" (RIN0648-XD312) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6198. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, transmitting proposed legislation entitled "Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Amendments of 2014"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2499. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-195).

By Mrs. SHAHEEN, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4487. A bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-196).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jill A. Pryor, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Julie E. Carnes, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Ronnie L. White, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Andre Birotte, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Robin L. Rosenberg, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

John W. deGravelles, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana.

Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2495. A bill to prevent a fiscal crisis by enacting legislation to balance the Federal budget through reductions of discretionary and mandatory spending; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COBURN, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HELLER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LEE, and Mr. BURR):

S. 2496. A bill to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2497. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for equity investments by angel investors; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2498. A bill to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 2499. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. WALSH:

S. 2500. A bill to restrict the ability of the Federal Government to undermine privacy and encryption technology in commercial products and in NIST computer security and encryption standards; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2501. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements to the Medicare hospital readmissions reduction program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2502. A bill to establish in the United States Agency for International Development an entity to be known as the United States Global Development Lab, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2503. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 2504. A bill to address prescription opioid and heroin abuse; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2505. A bill to promote unlicensed spectrum use in the 5 GHz band, to maximize the use of the band for shared purposes in order to bolster innovation and economic development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. HAGAN (for herself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 2506. A bill to award grants to States to support efforts at institutions of higher education to increase degree attainment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2507. A bill to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. JOHANNIS):

S. 2508. A bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to and the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of power, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2509. A bill to ensure compliance with the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, to establish procedures for the prompt return of children abducted to other countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2510. A bill to establish a temporary limitation on the use of funds to transfer or release individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 2511. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the definition of substantial cessation of operations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 479. A resolution recognizing Veterans Day 2014 as a special "Welcome Home Commemoration" for all who have served in the military since September 14, 2001; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 480. A resolution expressing condolences and supporting assistance for the victims of the historic flooding in the Western Balkans; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 603

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 603, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 981

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 981, a bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe rules prohibiting deceptive advertising of abortion services, and for other purposes.

S. 1476

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1476, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1504, a bill to increase funds set aside for off-system bridges.

S. 1971

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1971, a bill to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, and for other purposes.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2082, a bill to provide for the development of criteria under the Medicare program for medically necessary short inpatient hospital stays, and for other purposes.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2133

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2133, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other statutes to clarify appropriate liability standards for Federal anti-discrimination claims.

S. 2333

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2333, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for certain behavioral health treatment under TRICARE for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

S. 2337

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2337, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inter in national cemeteries individuals who supported the United States in Laos during the Vietnam War era.

S. 2405

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2405, a bill to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain trauma care programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2476

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2476, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that prohibit certain preferential treatment or prioritization of Internet traffic.

S. 2491

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2491, a bill to protect the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to reconciliation involving changes to the Medicare program.

AMENDMENT NO. 3246

At the request of Mr. COONS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3246 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3249

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3249 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3254

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3254 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3262

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3262 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3278

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3278 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3280

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3280 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3289

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3289 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4660, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2502. A bill to establish in the United States Agency for International Development an entity to be known as the United States Global Development Lab, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Global Development Lab and the legislation I am introducing along with Senators BOOZMAN, COONS, and ISAKSON that codifies the Global Development Lab and provides the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, with the flexibility it needs to make the Lab the gold standard in global development innovation.

This year, the Office of Science & Technology and the Office of Innovation & Development Alliances at USAID were abolished to pave the way for the Global Development Lab—a new approach to invest, test, and bring to scale more effective solutions to the world's biggest development challenges.

The Global Development Lab partners with entrepreneurs, experts, non-governmental organizations, NGOs, universities, and science and research institutions to solve development challenges in a faster, more cost-efficient, and more sustainable way. The lab utilizes a pay-for-success model, which uses science, technology, and innovation-driven competitions to expand the number and diversity of solutions to development challenges. This means that instead of issuing grants or contacts, USAID can give a competitor an award only after the objectives of the competition have been achieved.

The lab already has an impressive 32 cornerstone partners. These partners are businesses, NGOs, foundations, universities, and governments—all of whom are committed to sharing information and expertise and to bringing innovative development projects to scale. I am pleased that two Maryland-based organizations, Johns Hopkins University and Catholic Relief Services, are cornerstone partners of the Global Development Lab. Catholic Relief Services intends to work with the lab on food security, global health, climate change, energy, and information and communications technology, and it is already using geographic information systems in Haiti to map schools and education programs across the country to better improve education interventions. Johns Hopkins University plans to partner with the lab on improving health care and access to clean and affordable water and energy.

The Global Development Lab makes sense: America has a proud history of achieving unprecedented gains for humanity through science and tech-

nology. Evidence has shown that when we harness American science, innovation and entrepreneurship, we achieve the greatest leaps in social and economic development.

For example, ninety percent of new HIV infection in children is a result of mother-to-child transmission at birth. When newborns receive antiretroviral drugs at a clinic or hospital within 24 hours of birth, their chances of contracting HIV go from 45 percent to less than 5 percent. In regions where pregnant mothers do not have adequate access to medical facilities, getting newborns antiretroviral treatment is challenging. In response to this challenge, Dr. Robert Malkin and his students at Duke's Pratt School of Engineering and Duke's Global Health Institute—also Cornerstone Partners—designed the Pratt Pouch, a low-cost foil pouch that preserves a premeasured dose of antiretroviral medication for up to a year without requiring refrigeration. The pouch ensures accurate pediatric dosing and can be given to mothers to take home with them before birth. Mothers then simply tear open the pouch and squeeze the medication directly into their newborn's mouth, eliminating the need for a syringe and a health professional and ultimately reducing the likelihood of mother-to-child transmission of HIV at birth.

This type of innovation is exciting and is exactly what we hope to see more of as we scale up the Global Development Lab and empower it to be the world's most innovative incubator of global development projects.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2503. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator MCCAIN and myself I am pleased to introduced S. 2503, the Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014.

This measure would confirm important water rights claims of the Hualapai Tribe to water in the Bill Williams River watershed; provide protections for the Tribe's culturally significant springs in that area; secure a non-federal contribution toward a future settlement of the Tribe's claims in other river basins; provide certainty

for continued water use by the Freeport Minerals Corporation, Freeport, at the Bagdad Mine complex and townsite; and facilitate the transfer of a portion of land known as Planet Ranch for use in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program or MSCP. It would do all of this without any new spending authorizations.

Water users in Arizona have a long history of pro-actively addressing complex water challenges. Among the State's many accomplishments is the resolution, in whole or in part, of water rights claims asserted by 13 of the State's 22 federally recognized Indian tribes. This measure would carry forward that strong tradition by recognizing reserved water rights to a total of 694 acre-feet per year, afy, on three different parcels along the Big Sandy River as well as the Tribe's claims to the Cofer Hot Springs.

For non-Indian communities, this legislation would confirm Freeport's right to withdraw 10,055 afy at the Wikieup Wellfield, which serves the Bagdad Mine and townsite. Achieving this level of certainty with regard to water supply would help to ensure continued economic benefits throughout the State.

By enabling the transfer of a portion of Planet Ranch to the Lower Colorado River MSCP, the settlement would help Arizona, California, and Nevada meet their obligations to both water management and Endangered Species Act compliance. However, in order to properly effectuate the transfer, Congress must act before five-year window for abandonment and forfeiture of Planet Ranch's water rights expires.

Finally, this bill would help to set the table for future negotiations regarding the Tribe's claims to water in the lower Colorado River and the Verde River by securing a non-federal contribution toward those settlement efforts. As those negotiations continue, I look forward to fully and fairly evaluating any subsequent settlement on its own merits.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with the parties that have negotiated this settlement, and I am committed to bringing it to fruition through congressional enactment. The settlement resolves significant legal claims, provides certainty for water users, and enhances the MSCP without including any new spending. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 479—RECOGNIZING VETERANS DAY 2014 AS A SPECIAL "WELCOME HOME COMMEMORATION" FOR ALL WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE MILITARY SINCE SEPTEMBER 14, 2001

Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. Burr, and Mr. Blumenthal) submitted the

following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 479

Whereas the United States, pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40), commenced a war against individuals responsible for the 9/11 attacks;

Whereas in the intervening 13 years, members of the United States Armed Forces have engaged in warfare around the globe, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas there have been 2,600,000 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and more than 500,000 soldiers have completed multiple tours;

Whereas over 110,000 sailors have deployed as individual augmentees in support of the war ashore and additional sailors have deployed on navy vessels serving over 180,000 days at sea, providing power projection, regional stability, and global presence;

Whereas over 238,000 airmen have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and more than 201,000 airmen have deployed to the Area of Responsibility, delivering flights in support of the war effort;

Whereas over 330,000 marines have deployed afloat and ashore, ensuring peace in some of the most dangerous provinces in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas, between January 1, 2000 and January 10, 2014, 287,911 cases of traumatic brain injury (TBI), often referred to as a signature wound of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, were diagnosed among members of the Armed Forces, and approximately 7,100 cases were classified as severe or penetrating;

Whereas of the members of the Armed Forces who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since October 2001, more than 6,800 have been killed in action and more than 52,000 have been wounded in action;

Whereas United States Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn combat military operations in Iraq are complete and United States direct military operations in Afghanistan will end in 2014 as the United States transitions to a training and assistance role;

Whereas the sacrifices of United States servicemembers and their families during the last 13 years should be recognized by all citizens of the United States;

Whereas November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of hostilities in World War I, and Veterans Day has been a legal holiday since May 13, 1938, when it was originally dedicated as "Armistice Day" to honor veterans of World War I and was subsequently amended to honor United States veterans of all wars in 1954; and

Whereas November 11th is the day for the nation to reflect on the service and sacrifice of every generation of veterans: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Veterans Day 2014 as a special "Welcome Home Commemoration" for all who have served in the United States Armed Forces since September 14, 2001;

(2) promotes awareness of the services and contributions of all post-9/11 veterans; and

(3) encourages communities in the United States to plan activities for Veterans Day 2014 to honor and support all who have served during this time and to provide citizens of the United States an opportunity to present unified recognition of the service and sacrifices of post-9/11 veterans.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I rise to talk about an American memory and

the absence of a memory, and the lesson I draw both from the memory and the absence compels me to submit a resolution.

First, the memory. I would submit that the most known photograph in the history of the United States is the Alfred Eisenstadt photo of an American sailor kissing a woman in Times Square on V-J Day, August 14, 1945, at the end of World War II. If one Googles "V-J Day photo," you will find more than 31 million links. Joy, celebration, gratitude—the photo says it all.

It was important to celebrate the end of that war and to thank those from that "greatest generation" who had made it possible by serving, and we have continued to celebrate them, most recently in the recent commemoration of the 70th anniversary of D-day. Now the absence of a memory.

Where was that photo, where was that iconic moment of joy and celebration at the end of the Vietnam war? There was none. No iconic photo, no ritual moment of celebration and thanks—and that was a mistake.

This generation of Americans has lived through a war that began in the days after 9/11. I recently heard a student about the same age as our pages say, "While I don't know war, all I've known is war."

The combination of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn has lasted 13 years. It is the longest period of war in the history of the United States.

During these 13 years of war, over 2.5 million Americans have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, hundreds of thousands completing multiple tours. This is from an all-volunteer force that comprises less than 1 percent of the American population.

More than 6,800 of our armed services have been killed in action, and more than 52,000 have been wounded in action.

Now this long period of war and sacrifice is coming to an end. U.S. combat operations in Iraq ceased in 2011, and all U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan will end this year, by the end of 2014.

Of course, while the combat mission may end, the sense of duty of our servicemembers continues and global challenges continue and U.S. troops will remain in Afghanistan in noncombat positions, just as U.S. troops remained in Germany and Japan and Korea in noncombat posts.

But in a deep and fundamental way, 2014 represents the end of a momentous and generation-defining war. The question for this generation of Americans is: How will we commemorate the end of this war?

When the war started, it started with a catastrophic attack on the World Trade Center and on the Pentagon in Virginia, with solemn speeches by the President to Congress and to the American public—whether delivered in the

Capitol or standing on piles of rubble at Ground Zero—with Congress debating and voting to do the most serious thing the Nation does, which is go to war.

It began as serious undertakings should—with a sense of seriousness and purpose and even ritual. That is how this war began in America.

How will we choose to end it? Will we take steps to publicly commemorate the end of the war or will we just allow the important moment to pass, unacknowledged and unrecognized, with no iconic moment or memory? Will we celebrate with and thank those who have served or will we just turn our attention to the next headline or the next issue or the next scandal or the next crisis?

I believe that as a generation we do not want to repeat the mistake of the Vietnam era and allow the sacrifice of so many to just pass unnoticed. So, together with my cosponsors Senators BURR and BLUMENTHAL, I submit today a resolution calling on the Nation to hold the special “welcome home” commemoration on Veterans Day 2014.

November 11 is the day we honor the sacrifice and service of every generation of American veterans. November 11, 1918, was generally regarded as the end of hostilities in World War I, and since 1938 America has paused on November 11 to recognize veterans of all wars. This year, after 13 years of war, we wanted to designate November 11, 2014, as a special “welcome home” commemoration for all who have served in the military since September 11.

We submit this resolution with the strong support of veterans organizations—the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. The resolution promotes special awareness of our post-9/11 veterans. It encourages communities in the United States to plan activities for Veterans Day 2014 with a special focus on honoring and supporting those who served during this time.

I imagine, as mayor, that the Presiding Officer had Veterans Day commemorations in Newark. As Governor, we have them in Virginia, and communities all over the country are right now planning what they will do on November 11, 2014. This provides our citizens with a formal opportunity to present a unified recognition all across this country, at a designated moment, of the sacrifices made by our “greatest generation”.

This resolution is not all we must do for our post-9/11 veterans. We owe them a better VA system. We owe them a job market that understands and values their skills. And with so many of our colleagues, we will keep working on those issues.

This resolution doesn’t stand for the end of wars or conflicts. The daily papers will always be filled with wars and

rumors of wars around the globe, and we know American troops will continue to stand ready to serve in harm’s way for our best values. But for everything there is a season, and this year where we finish the war started earlier in this millennium, it is time to welcome home our post-9/11 veterans, to shine a light on their honor and sacrifice, to celebrate with those who have borne the battle, and to remember with affection those who will never return.

SENATE RESOLUTION 480—EX-
PRESSING CONDOLENCES AND
SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE FOR
THE VICTIMS OF THE HISTORIC
FLOODING IN THE WESTERN
BALKANS

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 480

Whereas record rainfall beginning on May 13, 2014, has led to widespread flooding in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Republic of Serbia, causing thousands of landslides, massive destruction, and loss of life;

Whereas by May 22, 2014, the flooding caused over 40 deaths and impacted over 500,000 people across the region, particularly in western Serbia and eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Whereas the equivalent of 3 months of rain fell during the course of 3 days, making this the worst flooding event in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 120 years;

Whereas the flooding has left thousands of people stranded in their homes waiting for assistance, displaced, or without shelter;

Whereas according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 300,000 people in Serbia and 50,000 people in Bosnia and Herzegovina were left without clean water or electricity;

Whereas the Foreign Ministry of Bosnia and Herzegovina has reported that the flooding rendered 100,000 buildings unusable, caused 500,000 people to evacuate or flee their homes, and prompted 14 municipalities to declare a state of emergency;

Whereas the Government of Serbia has described the situation in that country as “catastrophic”, and estimates that at least 25,000 people have been forced to evacuate, particularly in the town and municipality of Obrenovac, and that the flooding has caused over 100,000,000 Euros (\$140,000,000) in damage to the Kolubara coal mine that supplies the Nikola Tesla power plants;

Whereas soldiers and energy workers scrambled to erect sandbag barriers to protect the Kostolac power plant and the Nikola Tesla power plants, which provide half of the country’s electricity, from the waters of the flooded Sava, Kolubara, and Tarnava Rivers;

Whereas, according to the International Medical Corps, as many as 120,000 landmines remaining from the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s may have been lost or dislodged due to landslides, causing great concern for public safety;

Whereas the United States Government has approved or provided \$2,060,000 in funds through the United States Agency for International Development’s Office of United

States Foreign Disaster Assistance, the Department of Defense, and the Under Secretary of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs for the Republic of Serbia.

Whereas the United States Government has provided \$2,740,000 in humanitarian assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina; and

Whereas the Governments and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Republic of Serbia share an increasing commitment to core democratic values, reconciliation, and European integration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses deep sympathy to all those affected by the flooding in the Western Balkans for the terrible loss of life and massive destruction;

(2) expresses solidarity with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Republic of Serbia, as well as a continued desire to provide assistance to help their countries recover from this natural disaster;

(3) expresses ongoing support for humanitarian and reconstruction assistance provided by relief agencies and the international community as immediate and long-term needs are identified;

(4) commends local authorities, first responders and rescue personnel, NGOs, volunteers, and everyday citizens for their efforts to organize and deliver disaster relief to communities in need across Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Republic of Serbia;

(5) commends the United States Government agencies, including USAID and the Department of Defense, for their response to the natural disaster; and

(6) urges additional assistance by other nations and organizations as needed to alleviate the difficult circumstances and suffering of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Republic of Serbia, and to assist them in their recovery efforts.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND
PROPOSED

SA 3290. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3291. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3292. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3293. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3294. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. WARNER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COATS, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3295. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her

bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3348. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3349. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3350. Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3351. Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3352. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3353. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3354. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3355. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3356. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3357. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3358. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3359. Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3360. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3361. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3362. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3363. Mr. UDALL, of Colorado (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3364. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3365. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3366. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3367. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3368. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3369. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3370. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3371. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3372. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3373. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3374. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3290. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE _____—BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING TRANSPARENCY

SEC. ____ 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014”.

Subtitle A—Fair Value Estimates

SEC. ____ 11. CREDIT REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended to read as follows:

“TITLE V—FAIR VALUE

“SEC. 500. SHORT TITLE.

“This title may be cited as the ‘Fair Value Accounting Act of 2014’.

“SEC. 501. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this title are to—

“(1) measure more accurately the costs of Federal credit programs by accounting for them on a fair value basis;

“(2) place the cost of credit programs on a budgetary basis equivalent to other Federal spending;

“(3) encourage the delivery of benefits in the form most appropriate to the needs of beneficiaries; and

“(4) improve the allocation of resources among Federal programs.

“SEC. 502. DEFINITIONS.

“For purposes of this title:

“(1) The term ‘direct loan’ means a disbursement of funds by the Government to a non-Federal borrower under a contract that requires the repayment of such funds with or without interest. The term includes the purchase of, or participation in, a loan made by another lender and financing arrangements that defer payment for more than 90 days, including the sale of a Government asset on credit terms. The term does not include the acquisition of a federally guaranteed loan in satisfaction of default claims or the price support loans of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

“(2) The term ‘direct loan obligation’ means a binding agreement by a Federal agency to make a direct loan when specified conditions are fulfilled by the borrower.

“(3) The term ‘loan guarantee’ means any guarantee, insurance, or other pledge with respect to the payment of all or a part of the principal or interest on any debt obligation of a non-Federal borrower to a non-Federal lender, but does not include the insurance of deposits, shares, or other withdrawable accounts in financial institutions.

“(4) The term ‘loan guarantee commitment’ means a binding agreement by a Federal agency to make a loan guarantee when specified conditions are fulfilled by the borrower, the lender, or any other party to the guarantee agreement.

“(5)(A) The term ‘cost’ means the sum of the Treasury discounting component and the risk component of a direct loan or loan guarantee, or a modification thereof.

“(B) The Treasury discounting component shall be the estimated long-term cost to the Government of a direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification thereof, calculated on a net present value basis, excluding administrative costs and any incidental effects on governmental receipts or outlays.

“(C) The risk component shall be an amount equal to the difference between—

“(i) the estimated long-term cost to the Government of a direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification thereof, estimated on a fair value basis, applying the guidelines set forth by the Financial Accounting Standards Board in Financial Accounting Standards #157, or a successor thereto, excluding administrative costs and any incidental effects on governmental receipts or outlays; and

“(ii) the Treasury discounting component of such direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification thereof.

“(D) The Treasury discounting component of a direct loan shall be the net present value, at the time when the direct loan is disbursed, of the following estimated cash flows:

“(i) Loan disbursements.

“(ii) Repayments of principal.

“(iii) Essential preservation expenses, payments of interest and other payments by or to the Government over the life of the loan after adjusting for estimated defaults, prepayments, fees, penalties, and other recoveries, including the effects of changes in loan terms resulting from the exercise by the borrower of an option included in the loan contract.

“(E) The Treasury discounting component of a loan guarantee shall be the net present value, at the time when the guaranteed loan is disbursed, of the following estimated cash flows:

“(i) Payments by the Government to cover defaults and delinquencies, interest subsidies, essential preservation expenses, or other payments.

“(ii) Payments to the Government including origination and other fees, penalties, and recoveries, including the effects of changes in loan terms resulting from the exercise by the guaranteed lender of an option included in the loan guarantee contract, or by the borrower of an option included in the guaranteed loan contract.

“(F) The cost of a modification is the sum of—

“(i) the difference between the current estimate of the Treasury discounting component of the remaining cash flows under the terms of a direct loan or loan guarantee and the current estimate of the Treasury discounting component of the remaining cash flows under the terms of the contract, as modified; and

“(ii) the difference between the current estimate of the risk component of the remaining cash flows under the terms of a direct loan or loan guarantee and the current estimate of the risk component of the remaining cash flows under the terms of the contract as modified.

“(G) In estimating Treasury discounting components, the discount rate shall be the average interest rate on marketable Treasury securities of similar duration to the cash flows of the direct loan or loan guarantee for which the estimate is being made.

“(H) When funds are obligated for a direct loan or loan guarantee, the estimated cost shall be based on the current assumptions, adjusted to incorporate the terms of the loan contract, for the fiscal year in which the funds are obligated.

“(6) The term ‘program account’ means the budget account into which an appropriation to cover the cost of a direct loan or loan guarantee program is made and from which such cost is disbursed to the financing account.

“(7) The term ‘financing account’ means the nonbudget account or accounts associated with each program account which holds balances, receives the cost payment from the program account, and also includes all other cash flows to and from the Government resulting from direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments made on or after October 1, 1991.

“(8) The term ‘liquidating account’ means the budget account that includes all cash flows to and from the Government resulting from direct loan obligations or loan guar-

antee commitments made prior to October 1, 1991. These accounts shall be shown in the budget on a cash basis.

“(9) The term ‘modification’ means any Government action that alters the estimated cost of an outstanding direct loan (or direct loan obligation) or an outstanding loan guarantee (or loan guarantee commitment) from the current estimate of cash flows. This includes the sale of loan assets, with or without recourse, and the purchase of guaranteed loans (or direct loan obligations) or loan guarantees (or loan guarantee commitments) such as a change in collection procedures.

“(10) The term ‘current’ has the same meaning as in section 250(c)(9) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

“(11) The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(12) The term ‘administrative costs’ means costs related to program management activities, but does not include essential preservation expenses.

“(13) The term ‘essential preservation expenses’ means servicing and other costs that are essential to preserve the value of loan assets or collateral.

“SEC. 503. OMB AND CBO ANALYSIS, COORDINATION, AND REVIEW.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For the executive branch, the Director shall be responsible for coordinating the estimates required by this title. The Director shall consult with the agencies that administer direct loan or loan guarantee programs.

“(b) DELEGATION.—The Director may delegate to agencies authority to make estimates of costs. The delegation of authority shall be based upon written guidelines, regulations, or criteria consistent with the definitions in this title.

“(c) COORDINATION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.—In developing estimation guidelines, regulations, or criteria to be used by Federal agencies, the Director shall consult with the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

“(d) IMPROVING COST ESTIMATES.—The Director and the Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall coordinate the development of more accurate data on historical performance and prospective risk of direct loan and loan guarantee programs. They shall annually review the performance of outstanding direct loans and loan guarantees to improve estimates of costs. The Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office shall have access to all agency data that may facilitate the development and improvement of estimates of costs.

“(e) HISTORICAL CREDIT PROGRAMS COSTS.—The Director shall review, to the extent possible, historical data and develop the best possible estimates of adjustments that would convert aggregate historical budget data to credit reform accounting.

“SEC. 504. BUDGETARY TREATMENT.

“(a) PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.—Beginning with fiscal year 2017, the President’s budget shall reflect the costs of direct loan and loan guarantee programs. The budget shall also include the planned level of new direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments associated with each appropriations request. For each fiscal year within the five-fiscal year period beginning with fiscal year 2017, such budget shall include, on an agency-by-agency basis, subsidy estimates and costs of direct loan and loan guarantee programs with and without the risk component.

“(b) APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, new direct loan obligations may be incurred and

new loan guarantee commitments may be made for fiscal year 2017 and thereafter only to the extent that—

“(1) new budget authority to cover their costs is provided in advance in an appropriation Act;

“(2) a limitation on the use of funds otherwise available for the cost of a direct loan or loan guarantee program has been provided in advance in an appropriation Act; or

“(3) authority is otherwise provided in appropriation Acts.

“(c) EXEMPTION FOR DIRECT SPENDING PROGRAMS.—Subsections (b) and (e) shall not apply to—

“(1) any direct loan or loan guarantee program that constitutes an entitlement (such as the guaranteed student loan program or the veteran’s home loan guaranty program);

“(2) the credit programs of the Commodity Credit Corporation existing on the date of enactment of this title; or

“(3) any direct loan (or direct loan obligation) or loan guarantee (or loan guarantee commitment) made by the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

“(d) BUDGET ACCOUNTING.—

“(1) The authority to incur new direct loan obligations, make new loan guarantee commitments, or modify outstanding direct loans (or direct loan obligations) or loan guarantees (or loan guarantee commitments) shall constitute new budget authority in an amount equal to the cost of the direct loan or loan guarantee in the fiscal year in which definite authority becomes available or indefinite authority is used. Such budget authority shall constitute an obligation of the program account to pay to the financing account.

“(2) The outlays resulting from new budget authority for the cost of direct loans or loan guarantees described in paragraph (1) shall be paid from the program account into the financing account and recorded in the fiscal year in which the direct loan or the guaranteed loan is disbursed or its costs altered.

“(3) All collections and payments of the financing accounts shall be a means of financing.

“(e) MODIFICATIONS.—An outstanding direct loan (or direct loan obligation) or loan guarantee (or loan guarantee commitment) shall not be modified in a manner that increases its costs unless budget authority for the additional cost has been provided in advance in an appropriation Act.

“(f) REESTIMATES.—When the estimated cost for a group of direct loans or loan guarantees for a given program made in a single fiscal year is re-estimated in a subsequent year, the difference between the reestimated cost and the previous cost estimate shall be displayed as a distinct and separately identified subaccount in the program account as a change in program costs and a change in net interest. There is hereby provided permanent indefinite authority for these re-estimates.

“(g) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—All funding for an agency’s administrative costs associated with a direct loan or loan guarantee program shall be displayed as distinct and separately identified subaccounts within the same budget account as the program’s cost.

“SEC. 505. AUTHORIZATIONS.

“(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR FINANCING ACCOUNTS.—In order to implement the accounting required by this title, the President is authorized to establish such non-budgetary accounts as may be appropriate.

“(b) TREASURY TRANSACTIONS WITH THE FINANCING ACCOUNTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall borrow from, receive from,

lend to, or pay to the financing accounts such amounts as may be appropriate. The Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe forms and denominations, maturities, and terms and conditions for the transactions described in the preceding sentence, except that the rate of interest charged by the Secretary on lending to financing accounts (including amounts treated as lending to financing accounts by the Federal Financing Bank (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as the 'Bank') pursuant to section 405(b)) and the rate of interest paid to financing accounts on uninvested balances in financing accounts shall be the same as the rate determined pursuant to section 502(5)(G).

"(2) LOANS.—For guaranteed loans financed by the Bank and treated as direct loans by a Federal agency pursuant to section 406(b)(1), any fee or interest surcharge (the amount by which the interest rate charged exceeds the rate determined pursuant to section 502(5)(G) that the Bank charges to a private borrower pursuant to section 6(c) of the Federal Financing Bank Act of 1973 shall be considered a cash flow to the Government for the purposes of determining the cost of the direct loan pursuant to section 502(5). All such amounts shall be credited to the appropriate financing account.

"(3) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Bank is authorized to require reimbursement from a Federal agency to cover the administrative expenses of the Bank that are attributable to the direct loans financed for that agency. All such payments by an agency shall be considered administrative expenses subject to section 504(g). This subsection shall apply to transactions related to direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments made on or after October 1, 1991.

"(4) AUTHORITY.—The authorities provided in this subsection shall not be construed to supersede or override the authority of the head of a Federal agency to administer and operate a direct loan or loan guarantee program.

"(5) TITLE 31.—All of the transactions provided in the subsection shall be subject to the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 15 of title 31, United States Code.

"(6) TREATMENT OF CASH BALANCES.—Cash balances of the financing accounts in excess of current requirements shall be maintained in a form of uninvested funds and the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay interest on these funds. The Secretary of the Treasury shall charge (or pay if the amount is negative) financing accounts an amount equal to the risk component for a direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification thereof. Such amount received by the Secretary of the Treasury shall be a means of financing and shall not be considered a cash flow of the Government for the purposes of section 502(5).

"(c) AUTHORIZATION FOR LIQUIDATING ACCOUNTS.—(1) Amounts in liquidating accounts shall be available only for payments resulting from direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments made prior to October 1, 1991, for—

"(A) interest payments and principal repayments to the Treasury or the Federal Financing Bank for amounts borrowed;

"(B) disbursements of loans;

"(C) default and other guarantee claim payments;

"(D) interest supplement payments;

"(E) payments for the costs of foreclosing, managing, and selling collateral that are capitalized or routinely deducted from the proceeds of sales;

"(F) payments to financing accounts when required for modifications;

"(G) administrative costs and essential preservation expenses, if—

"(i) amounts credited to the liquidating account would have been available for administrative costs and essential preservation expenses under a provision of law in effect prior to October 1, 1991; and

"(ii) no direct loan obligation or loan guarantee commitment has been made, or any modification of a direct loan or loan guarantee has been made, since September 30, 1991; or

"(H) such other payments as are necessary for the liquidation of such direct loan obligations and loan guarantee commitments.

"(2) Amounts credited to liquidating accounts in any year shall be available only for payments required in that year. Any unobligated balances in liquidating accounts at the end of a fiscal year shall be transferred to miscellaneous receipts as soon as practicable after the end of the fiscal year.

"(3) If funds in liquidating accounts are insufficient to satisfy obligations and commitments of such accounts, there is hereby provided permanent, indefinite authority to make any payments required to be made on such obligations and commitments.

"(d) REINSURANCE.—Nothing in this title shall be construed as authorizing or requiring the purchase of insurance or reinsurance on a direct loan or loan guarantee from private insurers. If any such reinsurance for a direct loan or loan guarantee is authorized, the cost of such insurance and any recoveries to the Government shall be included in the calculation of the cost.

"(e) ELIGIBILITY AND ASSISTANCE.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to change the authority or the responsibility of a Federal agency to determine the terms and conditions of eligibility for, or the amount of assistance provided by a direct loan or a loan guarantee.

"SEC. 506. TREATMENT OF DEPOSIT INSURANCE AND AGENCIES AND OTHER INSURANCE PROGRAMS.

"This title shall not apply to the credit or insurance activities of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Credit Union Administration, Resolution Trust Corporation, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, National Flood Insurance, National Insurance Development Fund, Crop Insurance, or Tennessee Valley Authority.

"SEC. 507. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

"(a) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—This title shall supersede, modify, or repeal any provision of law enacted prior to the date of enactment of this title to the extent such provision is inconsistent with this title. Nothing in this title shall be construed to establish a credit limitation on any Federal loan or loan guarantee program.

"(b) CREDITING OF COLLECTIONS.—Collections resulting from direct loans obligated or loan guarantees committed prior to October 1, 1991, shall be credited to the liquidating accounts of Federal agencies. Amounts so credited shall be available, to the same extent that they were available prior to the date of enactment of this title, to liquidate obligations arising from such direct loans obligated or loan guarantees committed prior to October 1, 1991, including repayment of any obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Federal Financing Bank. The unobligated balances of such accounts that are in excess of current needs shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury. Such transfers shall be made from time to time but, at least once each year."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by striking the items relating to title V and inserting the following:

"TITLE V—FAIR VALUE

"Sec. 500. Short title.

"Sec. 501. Purposes.

"Sec. 502. Definitions.

"Sec. 503. OMB and CBO analysis, coordination, and review.

"Sec. 504. Budgetary treatment.

"Sec. 505. Authorizations.

"Sec. 506. Treatment of deposit insurance and agencies and other insurance programs.

"Sec. 507. Effect on other laws."

SEC. 12. BUDGETARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(b)(1) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "A change in discretionary spending solely as a result of the amendment to title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 made by the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014 shall be treated as a change of concept under this paragraph."

(b) REPORT.—Before adjusting the discretionary caps pursuant to the authority provided in subsection (a), the Office of Management and Budget shall report to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the amount of that adjustment, the methodology used in determining the size of that adjustment, and a program-by-program itemization of the components of that adjustment.

(c) SCHEDULE.—The Office of Management and Budget shall not make an adjustment pursuant to the authority provided in subsection (a) sooner than 60 days after providing the report required in subsection (b).

SEC. 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by section 11 shall take effect beginning with fiscal year 2017.

Subtitle B—Budgetary Treatment

SEC. 21. CBO AND OMB STUDIES RESPECTING BUDGETING FOR COSTS OF FEDERAL INSURANCE PROGRAMS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Directors of the Congressional Budget Office and of the Office of Management and Budget shall each prepare a study and make recommendations to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate as to the feasibility of applying fair value concepts to budgeting for the costs of Federal insurance programs.

SEC. 22. ON-BUDGET STATUS OF FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the receipts and disbursements, including the administrative expenses, of the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation shall be counted as new budget authority, outlays, receipts, or deficit or surplus for purposes of—

(1) the budget of the United States Government as submitted by the President;

(2) the congressional budget; and

(3) the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 23. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 22 shall not apply with respect to an enterprise (as such term is defined in section 1303 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4502)) after the date that all of the following have occurred:

(1) The conservatorship for such enterprise under section 1367 of such Act (12 U.S.C. 4617) has been terminated.

(2) The Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency has certified in writing that such enterprise has repaid to the Federal Government the maximum amount consistent with minimizing total cost to the Federal Government of the financial assistance provided to the enterprise by the Federal Government pursuant to the amendments made by section 1117 of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-289; 122 Stat. 2683) or otherwise.

(3) The charter for the enterprise has been revoked, annulled, or terminated and the authorizing statute (as such term is defined in such section 1303) with respect to the enterprise has been repealed.

Subtitle C—Budget Review and Analysis

SEC. 41. CBO AND OMB REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS RESPECTING RECEIPTS AND COLLECTIONS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall prepare a study of the history of offsetting collections against expenditures and the amount of receipts collected annually, the historical application of the budgetary terms “revenue”, “offsetting collections”, and “offsetting receipts”, and review the application of those terms and make recommendations to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate of whether such usage should be continued or modified. The Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall review the history and recommendations prepared by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and shall submit comments and recommendations to such Committees.

SEC. 42. AGENCY BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.

Section 1108 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following new subsections:

“(h)(1) Whenever any agency prepares and submits written budget justification materials for any committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate, such agency shall post such budget justification on the same day of such submission on the ‘open’ page of the public website of the agency, and the Office of Management and Budget shall post such budget justification in a centralized location on its website, in the format developed under paragraph (2). Each agency shall include with its written budget justification the process and methodology the agency is using to comply with the Fair Value Accounting Act of 2014.

“(2) The Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office, shall develop and notify each agency of the format in which to post a budget justification under paragraph (1). Such format shall be designed to ensure that posted budget justifications for all agencies—

“(A) are searchable, sortable, and downloadable by the public;

“(B) are consistent with generally accepted standards and practices for machine-discoverability;

“(C) are organized uniformly, in a logical manner that makes clear the contents of a budget justification and relationships between data elements within the budget justification and among similar documents; and

“(D) use uniform identifiers, including for agencies, bureaus, programs, and projects.

“(i)(1) Not later than the day that the Office of Management and Budget issues guidelines, regulations, or criteria to agencies on

how to calculate the risk component under the Fair Value Accounting Act of 2014, it shall submit a written report to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate containing all such guidelines, regulations, or criteria.

“(2) For fiscal year 2017 and each of the next four fiscal years thereafter, the Comptroller General shall submit an annual report to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate reviewing and evaluating the progress of agencies in the implementation of the Fair Value Accounting Act of 2014.

“(3) Such guidelines, regulations, or criteria shall be deemed to be a rule for purposes of section 553 of title 5 and shall be issued after notice and opportunity for public comment in accordance with the procedures under such section.”.

SA 3291. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 108, strike lines 8 through 12 and insert the following:

(e) None of the funds made available in this or any other appropriations Act may be used—

(1) for travel and conference activities that are not in compliance with the policies established in Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-12-12, Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations, issued May 11, 2012; or

(2) to establish or implement a policy that discourages or prohibits the selection of a location for travel, an event, a meeting, or a conference because the location is perceived to be a resort or vacation destination before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3292. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used for—

(1) any action by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to classify the sale or manufacture of a firearm or ammunition as an activity involving risk; or

(2) any action by the Department of Justice to discourage the provision or continuation of credit or the processing of payments by any financial institution to a manufacturer, dealer, or importer of firearms or ammunition, based on the fact that the business is a manufacturer, dealer, or importer of firearms or ammunition.

SA 3293. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making ap-

propriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title I of division A, insert after section 110 the following:

SEC. 111. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to negotiate any trade agreement or treaty with the People's Republic of China unless the President first certifies to Congress that, in the one-year period preceding the certification, the Government of the People's Republic of China has not engaged in the intervention or manipulation of the exchange rate between the renminbi and the United States dollar for the purposes of—

(1) preventing the effective balance of payments adjustments; or

(2) gaining an unfair competitive advantage in international trade.

SA 3294. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. WARNER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COATS, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 387, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 7 ____ . None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this division shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel of the Department of Agriculture to make nonrecourse loans available to processors of sugarcane or sugar beets under section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272) and notwithstanding the provisions of that section, if the gross revenue from sugar of any such processor exceeded \$300,000,000 in the previous fiscal year.

SA 3295. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Saving Kids From Dangerous Drugs Act of 2014”.

(b) OFFENSES INVOLVING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES MARKETED TO MINORS.—Section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) OFFENSES INVOLVING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES MARKETED TO MINORS.—

“(1) UNLAWFUL ACT.—Except as authorized under this title, including paragraph (3), it shall be unlawful for any person at least 18 years of age to—

“(A) knowingly or intentionally manufacture or create a controlled substance listed in schedule I or II that is—

“(i) combined with a beverage or candy product;

“(ii) marketed or packaged to appear similar to a beverage or candy product; or

“(iii) modified by flavoring or coloring; and

“(B) know, or have reasonable cause to believe, that the combined, marketed, packaged, or modified controlled substance will be distributed, dispensed, or sold to a person under 18 years of age.

“(2) PENALTIES.—Except as provided in section 418, 419, or 420, any person who violates paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be subject to—

“(A) an additional term of imprisonment of not more than 10 years for a first offense involving the same controlled substance and schedule; and

“(B) an additional term of imprisonment of not more than 20 years for a second or subsequent offense involving the same controlled substance and schedule.

“(3) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any controlled substance that—

“(A) has been approved by the Secretary under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355), if the contents, marketing, and packaging of the controlled substance have not been altered from the form approved by the Secretary; or

“(B) has been altered at the direction of a practitioner who is acting for a legitimate medical purpose in the usual course of professional practice.”.

(c) SENTENCING GUIDELINES.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review its guidelines and policy statements to ensure that the guidelines provide an appropriate additional penalty increase to the sentence otherwise applicable in Part D of the Guidelines Manual if the defendant was convicted of a violation of section 401(i) of the Controlled Substances Act, as added by subsection (b).

SA 3296. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. EXTRATERRITORIAL DRUG TRAFFICKING ACTIVITY.

(a) POSSESSION, MANUFACTURE OR DISTRIBUTION FOR PURPOSES OF UNLAWFUL IMPORTATIONS.—Section 1009 of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 959) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “It shall” and all that follows and inserting the following: “It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture or distribute a controlled substance in schedule I or II or flunitrazepam or a listed chemical intending, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe that such substance or chemical will be unlawfully imported into the United States or into waters within a distance of 12 miles of the coast of the United States.

“(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture or distribute a listed chemical—

“(1) intending or knowing that the listed chemical will be used to manufacture a controlled substance; and

“(2) intending, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe that the controlled substance will be unlawfully imported into the United States.”.

(b) TRAFFICKING IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS OR SERVICES.—Chapter 113 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2318(b)(2), by striking “section 2320(e)” and insertion “section 2320(f)”; and

(2) in section 2320—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) traffics in a drug and knowingly uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with such drug;”;

(B) in subsection (b)(3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “counterfeit drug” and inserting “drug that uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with the drug”; and

(C) in subsection (f), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) the term ‘drug’ means a drug, as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).”.

SA 3297. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 89, line 20, strike “\$775,000,000” and insert “\$1,500,000,000”.

SA 3298. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V of division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act—

(1) the total amount made available under the heading “JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS” under the heading “OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE” under title II of this division shall be \$259,250,000; and

(2) the amount made available for missing and exploited children programs under paragraph (6) under the heading “JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS” under the heading “OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE” under title II of this division shall be \$69,750,000: *Provided*, That not less than \$27,500,000 shall be used for grants to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and not less than \$30,000,000 shall be used for task force grants, training, and technical assistance, research and statistics, and administrative costs for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force program, of which not less than \$1,000,000 shall be used for Internet Crimes Against Children training and technical assistance programs.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available under the heading “PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS” under the heading “BUREAU OF THE CENSUS” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE” in title I of this division shall be \$893,244,000.

SA 3299. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency that is appropriated funds under this Act shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations and Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives a report on—

(1) the total amount of funds the agency spends on advertising on television, radio, Internet websites, blogs, social media, newspapers, magazines, billboards, posters, and brochures;

(2) the amount of funds the agency spends on each form of advertising described in paragraph (1); and

(3) of the amount described in paragraph (1), the amount spent on advertisements to attract job applicants and the amount spent for other advertisement purposes.

SA 3300. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available under this Act may be used by the Federal Housing Administration, the Government National Mortgage Association, or the Department of Housing and Urban Development to insure, securitize, or guarantee—

(1) any mortgage that refinances or otherwise replaces a mortgage that a State, municipality, or any other political subdivision of a State seized, took, or otherwise obtained by the exercise of the power of eminent domain; or

(2) any mortgage-backed security collateralized by a mortgage or pool of mortgages described under paragraph (1).

SA 3301. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII of division C, add the following:

SEC. 7 . Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in the matter under the

heading "AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS" of title I—

(1) the amount made available under the heading "OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY" shall be reduced by \$1,250,000, and not more than \$24,061,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration;

(2) the amount made available under the heading "OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL" shall be reduced by \$3,182,500;

(3) the amount made available under the heading "ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE" shall be reduced by \$3,657,500;

(4) the amount made available under the heading "NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE" shall be reduced by \$8,474,000;

(5) the amount made available under the heading "SALARIES AND EXPENSES" under the heading "AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE" shall be reduced by \$8,595,500; and

(6) the amount made available under the heading "RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES" under the heading "NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE" shall be reduced by \$35,542,000, and no funds shall be used for—

(A) supplemental and alternative crops;

(B) aquaculture renters;

(C) sustainable agriculture research and education;

(D) the alfalfa forage and research program;

(E) special research grants for potato research;

(F) special research grants for aquaculture research; or

(G) the organic transition program.

SA 3302. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 387, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 7 _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this division—

(1) the amount made available under the heading "FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS" under the heading "FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE" under the heading "FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS" in title V shall be \$1,225,900,000;

(2) the amount made available under section 738 for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program shall be \$234,528,000; and

(3) the amount made available under section 738 for the Emergency Conservation Program shall be \$136,255,000.

SA 3303. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 387, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 7 _____. None of the funds made available by this division may be used to pay the

salaries and expenses of any officers or employees of the Department of Agriculture to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any individual that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the Federal agency responsible for collecting the tax liability, if the officers or employees of the Department of Agriculture are aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the individual and has made a determination that suspension or debarment of the individual is not necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3304. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 387, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 7 _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of any officers or employees of the Department of Agriculture to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to any individual that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law during the 2-year period ending on the date of enactment of this Act, if the officers or employees of the Department of Agriculture are aware of the conviction, unless the officers or employees of the Department of Agriculture have considered suspension or debarment of the individual and made a determination that the prohibition of funds under this section is not necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3305. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing", published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Federal Register on July 19, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 43710; Docket No. FR-5173-P-01).

SA 3306. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce

and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 387, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 7 _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this division—

(1) the amount made available under the heading "OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY" under the heading "PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND MARKETING" under the heading "AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS" in title I shall be \$31,466,000, of which reduction—

(A) \$1,800,000 shall be derived from funds made available for the immediate Office of the Secretary;

(B) \$9,000,000 shall be derived from funds made available for Departmental Administration;

(C) \$1,400,000 shall be derived from funds made available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations; and

(D) \$2,800,000 shall be derived from funds made available for the Office of Communications;

(2) the amount made available under the heading "OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL" under the heading "AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS" in title I shall be \$32,567,000; and

(3) the amount made available under the heading "CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS" under the heading "FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE" under the heading "DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS" in title IV shall be \$20,527,000,000, of which \$30,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out section 749(g) of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-80; 123 Stat. 2132).

SA 3307. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

Sec. _____. Of the funds made available under title VI of division C the heading "SALARIES AND EXPENSES" under the heading "FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION" under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES", \$20,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until the Commissioner of Food and Drugs: (1) finalizes the draft guidance entitled "Guidance for Industry: Abuse-Deterrent Opioids—Evaluation and Labeling", issued in January 2013; (2) provides to Congress a report detailing the methodology used by the Food and Drug Administration for postmarket tracking of Zohydro and findings as of the date of enactment of this Act; and (3) produces documents responsive to Senator Manchin's letter to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs dated October 9, 2013, relating to conferences of the Initiative on Methods, Measurement, and Pain Assessment in Clinical Trials and Analgesic, Anesthetic, and Addiction Clinical Trial Translations, Innovations, Opportunities, and Networks: *Provided*, That if the Food and Drug Administration fails to meet such conditions by June 30, 2015, such funds shall be made available for obligation to the Food and

Drug Administration's Office of Criminal Investigation for the purpose of assisting Federal, State, and local agencies to combat the diversion and illegal sales of controlled substances.

SA 3308. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 220, line 18, strike "\$135,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*" and insert "\$160,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, all such amounts in excess of \$135,000,000 shall be used only for project rental assistance for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act: *Provided further*".

On page 230, line 24, strike "\$250,000,000" and insert "\$225,000,000".

SA 3309. Mr. HARKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 118, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 105. Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall promulgate a final rule for all air carriers subject to section 41705 of title 49, United States Code, that requires that, to the maximum extent possible and at the earliest possible date, any visually displayed entertainment programming and information available to passengers on a flight be accessible to individuals with disabilities, including by making available or providing open captioning, closed captioning, and video description, and that any devices delivering individual programming must be capable of being independently operated by individuals with disabilities.

SA 3310. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 212, line 5, strike "\$950,000,000" and insert "\$700,000,000".

SA 3311. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed

to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 111, line 20, strike "\$550,000,000" and insert "\$100,000,000".

SA 3312. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 109, line 14, strike "\$108,000,000" and insert "\$107,000,000".

SA 3313. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 161, line 5, strike "\$110,500,000" and insert "\$105,933,000".

SA 3314. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 232, strike line 9 and all that follows through page 233, line 23.

SA 3315. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 157, line 24, strike "\$1,390,000,000" and insert "\$1,190,000,000".

SA 3316. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 160, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 154. No Federal funds may be used by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation to subsidize food, beverage, or first class services.

SA 3317. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 160, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 154. NO FEDERAL FUNDS MAY BE USED BY THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION TO SUBSIDIZE AMTRAK ROUTES THAT OFFER FREE RIDERSHIP, INCLUDING THE AMTRAK RESIDENCY PROGRAM.

SA 3318. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 207, strike line 17 and all that follows through page 208, line 2.

SA 3319. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 227, line 10, strike "\$46,000,000" and insert "\$40,000,000".

SA 3320. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 325, line 25, strike "\$900,000,000" and insert "\$360,000,000".

On page 326, line 12, strike "\$66,420,000" and insert "\$9,792,000".

SA 3321. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce

and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 371, strike lines 14 through 16.

SA 3322. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 336, beginning on line 19, strike "groups;" and all that follows through line 23, and insert "groups."

SA 3323. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 387, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 7 _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out the Quality Samples Program of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture.

SA 3324. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII of division ____, add the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of any officers or employees of the Department of Agriculture or the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to carry out section 522(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(b)).

SA 3325. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 387, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 7 _____. Section 508(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(9) LIMITATION ON PREMIUM SUBSIDY BASED ON AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—

"(A) DEFINITION OF AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—In this paragraph, the term 'average adjusted gross income' has the meaning given the term in section 1001D(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308-3a(a)).

"(B) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle and beginning with the 2015 reinsurance year, in the case of any producer that is a person or legal entity that has an average adjusted gross income in excess of \$750,000 based on the most recent data available from the Farm Service Agency as of the beginning of the reinsurance year, the total amount of premium subsidy provided with respect to additional coverage under subsection (c), section 508B, or section 508C issued on behalf of the producer for a reinsurance year shall be 15 percentage points less than the premium subsidy provided in accordance with this subsection that would otherwise be available for the applicable policy, plan of insurance, and coverage level selected by the producer.

"(C) APPLICATION.—

"(i) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary, in consultation with the Government Accountability Office, shall carry out a study to determine the effects of the limitation described in subparagraph (B) on—

"(I) the overall operations of the Federal crop insurance program;

"(II) the number of producers participating in the Federal crop insurance program;

"(III) the level of coverage purchased by participating producers;

"(IV) the amount of premiums paid by participating producers and the Federal Government;

"(V) any potential liability for participating producers, approved insurance providers, and the Federal Government;

"(VI) different crops or growing regions;

"(VII) program rating structures;

"(VIII) creation of schemes or devices to evade the impact of the limitation; and

"(IX) administrative and operating expenses paid to approved insurance providers and underwriting gains and loss for the Federal government and approved insurance providers.

"(ii) EFFECTIVENESS.—The limitation described in subparagraph (B) shall not take effect unless the Secretary determines, through the study described in clause (i), that the limitation would not—

"(I) significantly increase the premium amount paid by producers with an average adjusted gross income of less than \$750,000;

"(II) result in a decline in the crop insurance coverage available to producers; and

"(III) increase the total cost of the Federal crop insurance program."

SA 3326. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this division may be used to carry out section 209 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627a).

SA 3327. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 387, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 7 _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the construction, funding, installation, or operation of ethanol blender pumps.

SA 3328. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 387, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 7 _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the revenue assurance harvest price option program administered by the Secretary of Agriculture.

SA 3329. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 321, line 24, before the period at the end insert " : Provided, That the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation may only make premium payments on behalf of producers whose names are made publically available".

SA 3330. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 67, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

SEC. 221. (a) In this section, the term "Crime Victims Fund amounts" means the sums described in section 1402(d)(3) of chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98-473 (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)(3)) that are available for obligation under section 510 of title V of this division.

(b) The Crime Victims Fund amounts—

(1) shall be available for—

(A) the United States Attorneys Offices and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide and improve services for the benefit of crime victims in the Federal criminal justice system (as described in 3771 of title 18,

United States Code, and section 503 of the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607) through victim coordinators, victims' specialists, and advocates, including for the administrative support of victim coordinators and advocates providing such services; and

(B) a Victim Notification System; and
(2) may not be used for any purpose that is not specific in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1).

SA 3331. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 10, beginning on line 13, strike "from" and all that follows through "That" on line 16.

On page 12, line 7, strike "not to exceed" and all that follows through "That" on line 9.

On page 26, line 1, strike "of the" and all that follows through "That" on line 4.

On page 27, line 24, strike "of the" and all that follows through "That" on page 28, line 2.

On page 30, line 18, strike "\$6,000" and all that follows through line 19 and insert "\$15,000,000 shall".

On page 33, strike lines 7 through 9 and insert "until expended".

On page 34, line 6, strike "expended and not to" and all that follows through line 8 and insert "expended".

On page 34, line 20, strike "\$36,000" and all that follows through line 21 and insert "\$1,000,000 shall be".

On page 36, line 6, strike "\$5,400" and all that follows through "exceed" on line 8.

On page 59, strike lines 19 through 24.

On page 108, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

SEC. 540. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds made available under this division may be used for official reception or representation expenses.

SA 3332. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 46, line 15, strike "\$5,000,000" and all that follows through "decision-making" on line 16.

SA 3333. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 29, line 20, strike "\$12,972,000" and insert "\$12,000,000".

SA 3334. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 51, strike lines 15 and 16.

SA 3335. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 23, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

SEC. 111. (a) No amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY" may be used to develop or deploy laboratory-to-market strategies that accelerate collaboration and commercialization of Federal technologies.

(b) The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under each heading under the heading "NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY" is reduced on a pro rata basis in a manner such that the aggregate amount of such reduction is \$6,000,000.

SA 3336. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 23, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

SEC. 111. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this title may be obligated or expended to carry out activities of the SelectUSA program of the International Trade Administration.

(b) The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION" under the heading "INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION" is hereby decreased by \$15,000,000.

SA 3337. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 5, strike line 6 and all that follows through page 6, line 16.

SA 3338. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act—

(1) no funds shall be made available under the heading "SALARIES AND EXPENSES, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE" under the heading "LEGAL ACTIVITIES" under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE" under title II of division A of this Act; and

(2) of the amounts made available under the heading "STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE" under the heading "STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES" under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE" under title II of division A of this Act—

(A) the total amount made available for grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized under provisions of law described under such heading shall be \$1,162,472,000;

(B) the amount made available for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program shall be \$388,972,000; and

(C) the amount made available for a Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officer Resilience and Survivability Initiative (VALOR) shall be \$27,297,000.

SA 3339. Mr. HELLEL (for himself, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 41, line 15, insert "including to provide training for campus officials, victim advocates, or campus law enforcement officials who are the initial point of contact for victims of sexual assault," after "campus,".

SA 3340. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. **SAFE COMMUNITIES.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the "Keep Our Communities Safe Act of 2014".

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Constitutional rights should be upheld and protected;

(2) Congress intends to uphold the Constitutional principle of due process; and

(3) due process of the law is a right afforded to everyone in the United States.

(c) DETENTION OF DANGEROUS ALIENS DURING REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—Section 236 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226) is amended—

(1) by striking “Attorney General” each place such term appears (except in the second place it appears in subsection (a)) and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “the Secretary of Homeland Security or” before “the Attorney General—”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “conditional parole” and inserting “recognizance”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “PAROLE” and inserting “RECOGNIZANCE”; and

(B) by striking “parole” and inserting “recognizance”;

(4) in subsection (c)(1), by striking the undesignated matter following subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“any time after the alien is released, without regard to whether an alien is released related to any activity, offense, or conviction described in this paragraph; to whether the alien is released on parole, supervised release, or probation; or to whether the alien may be arrested or imprisoned again for the same offense. If the activity described in this paragraph does not result in the alien being taken into custody by any person other than the Secretary, then when the alien is brought to the attention of the Secretary or when the Secretary determines it is practical to take such alien into custody, the Secretary shall take such alien into custody.”;

(5) in subsection (e), by striking “Attorney General’s” and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security’s”;

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) LENGTH OF DETENTION.—

“(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an alien may be detained under this section for any period, without limitation, except as provided in subsection (i), until the alien is subject to a final order of removal.

“(2) The length of detention under this section shall not affect a detention under section 241.

“(h) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—

“(1) LIMITATION.—The Attorney General’s review of the Secretary’s custody determinations under subsection (a) shall be limited to whether the alien may be detained, released on bond (of at least \$1,500 with security approved by the Secretary), or released with no bond. Any review involving an alien described in paragraph (2)(D) shall be limited to a determination of whether the alien is properly included in such category.

“(2) CLASSES OF ALIENS.—The Attorney General’s shall review the Secretary’s custody determinations for the following classes of aliens:

“(A) Aliens in exclusion proceedings.

“(B) Aliens described in sections 212(a)(3) and 237(a)(4).

“(C) Aliens described in subsection (c).

“(D) Aliens in deportation proceedings subject to section 242(a)(2) (as in effect between April 24, 1996 and April 1, 1997).

“(i) RELEASE ON BOND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien detained under subsection (a) may seek release on bond. No bond may be granted except to an alien who

establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the alien is not a flight risk or a risk to another person or the community.

“(2) CERTAIN ALIENS INELIGIBLE.—No alien detained under subsection (c) may seek release on bond.”.

(d) ALIENS ORDERED REMOVED.—Section 241(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Attorney General” each place it appears, except for the first place it appears in paragraph (4)(B)(i), and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by amending subparagraphs (B) and (C) to read as follows:

“(B) BEGINNING OF PERIOD.—The removal period begins on the latest of—

“(i) the date on which the order of removal becomes administratively final;

“(ii) the date on which the alien is taken into such custody if the alien is not in the custody of the Secretary on the date on which the order of removal becomes administratively final; and

“(iii) the date on which the alien is taken into the custody of the Secretary after the alien is released from detention or confinement if the alien is detained or confined (except for an immigration process) on the date on which the order of removal becomes administratively final.

“(C) SUSPENSION OF PERIOD.—

“(1) EXTENSION.—The removal period shall be extended beyond a period of 90 days and the Secretary may, in the Secretary’s sole discretion, keep the alien in detention during such extended period, if—

“(I) the alien fails or refuses to make all reasonable efforts to comply with the removal order, or to fully cooperate with the Secretary’s efforts to establish the alien’s identity and carry out the removal order, including making timely application in good faith for travel or other documents necessary to the alien’s departure or conspires or acts to prevent the alien’s removal that is subject to an order of removal;

“(II) a court, the Board of Immigration Appeals, or an immigration judge orders a stay of removal of an alien who is subject to an administratively final order of removal;

“(III) the Secretary transfers custody of the alien pursuant to law to another Federal agency or a State or local government agency in connection with the official duties of such agency; or

“(IV) a court or the Board of Immigration Appeals orders a remand to an immigration judge or the Board of Immigration Appeals, during the time period when the case is pending a decision on remand (with the removal period beginning anew on the date that the alien is ordered removed on remand).

“(ii) RENEWAL.—If the removal period has been extended under clause (i), a new removal period shall be deemed to have begun on the date on which—

“(I) the alien makes all reasonable efforts to comply with the removal order, or to fully cooperate with the Secretary’s efforts to establish the alien’s identity and carry out the removal order;

“(II) the stay of removal is no longer in effect; or

“(III) the alien is returned to the custody of the Secretary.

“(iii) MANDATORY DETENTION FOR CERTAIN ALIENS.—The Secretary shall keep an alien described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of section 236(c)(1) in detention during the extended period described in clause (i).

“(iv) SOLE FORM OF RELIEF.—An alien may only seek relief from detention under this

subparagraph by filing an application for a writ of habeas corpus in accordance with chapter 153 of title 28, United States Code. No alien whose period of detention is extended under this subparagraph shall have the right to seek release on bond.”;

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or is not detained pursuant to paragraph (6)” after “the removal period”; and

(B) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) to obey reasonable restrictions on the alien’s conduct or activities that the Secretary prescribes for the alien—

“(i) to prevent the alien from absconding;

“(ii) for the protection of the community; or

“(iii) for other purposes related to the enforcement of Federal immigration laws.”;

(4) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “subparagraph (B)”;

and

(5) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

“(6) ADDITIONAL RULES FOR DETENTION OR RELEASE OF CERTAIN ALIENS.—

“(A) DETENTION REVIEW PROCESS FOR COOPERATIVE ALIENS ESTABLISHED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an administrative review process to determine whether an alien who is not otherwise subject to mandatory detention, who has made all reasonable efforts to comply with a removal order and to cooperate fully with the Secretary of Homeland Security’s efforts to establish the alien’s identity and carry out the removal order, including making timely application in good faith for travel or other documents necessary to the alien’s departure, and who has not conspired or acted to prevent removal should be detained or released on conditions.

“(ii) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall make a determination whether to release an alien after the removal period in accordance with subparagraph (B), which—

“(I) shall include consideration of any evidence submitted by the alien; and

“(II) may include consideration of any other evidence, including—

“(aa) any information or assistance provided by the Secretary of State or other Federal official; and

“(bb) any other information available to the Secretary of Homeland Security pertaining to the ability to remove the alien.

“(B) AUTHORITY TO DETAIN BEYOND REMOVAL PERIOD.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may continue to detain an alien for 90 days beyond the removal period (including any extension of the removal period under paragraph (1)(C)). An alien whose detention is extended under this subparagraph shall not have the right to seek release on bond.

“(ii) SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may continue to detain an alien beyond the 90 days authorized under clause (i)—

“(I) until the alien is removed, if the Secretary determines that there is a significant likelihood that the alien—

“(aa) will be removed in the reasonably foreseeable future;

“(bb) would be removed in the reasonably foreseeable future; or

“(cc) would have been removed if the alien had not—

“(AA) failed or refused to make all reasonable efforts to comply with the removal order;

“(BB) failed or refused to cooperate fully with the Secretary’s efforts to establish the alien’s identity and carry out the removal order, including making timely application in good faith for travel or other documents necessary to the alien’s departure; or

“(CC) conspired or acted to prevent removal;

“(II) until the alien is removed, if the Secretary of Homeland Security certifies in writing—

“(aa) in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, that the alien has a highly contagious disease that poses a threat to public safety;

“(bb) after receipt of a written recommendation from the Secretary of State, that release of the alien is likely to have serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States;

“(cc) based on information available to the Secretary of Homeland Security (including classified, sensitive, or national security information, and without regard to the grounds upon which the alien was ordered removed), that there is reason to believe that the release of the alien would threaten the national security of the United States; or

“(dd) that the release of the alien will threaten the safety of the community or any person, conditions of release cannot reasonably be expected to ensure the safety of the community or of any person; and

“(AA) the alien has been convicted of 1 or more aggravated felonies (as defined in section 101(a)(43)(A)) or of 1 or more crimes identified by the Secretary of Homeland Security by regulation, or of 1 or more attempts or conspiracies to commit any such aggravated felonies or such identified crimes, if the aggregate term of imprisonment for such attempts or conspiracies is at least 5 years; or

“(BB) the alien has committed 1 or more crimes of violence (as defined in section 16 of title 18, United States Code, but not including a purely political offense) and, because of a mental condition or personality disorder and behavior associated with that condition or disorder, the alien is likely to engage in acts of violence in the future; or

“(III) pending a certification under subsection (II), if the Secretary of Homeland Security has initiated the administrative review process not later than 30 days after the expiration of the removal period (including any extension of the removal period under paragraph (1)(C)).

“(iii) NO RIGHT TO BOND HEARING.—An alien whose detention is extended under this subparagraph shall not have a right to seek release on bond, including by reason of a certification under clause (ii)(II).

“(C) RENEWAL AND DELEGATION OF CERTIFICATION.—

“(i) RENEWAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may renew a certification under subparagraph (B)(ii)(II) every 6 months after providing an opportunity for the alien to request reconsideration of the certification and to submit documents or other evidence in support of that request. If the Secretary does not renew a certification, the Secretary may not continue to detain the alien under subparagraph (B)(ii)(II).

“(ii) DELEGATION.—Notwithstanding section 103, the Secretary of Homeland Security may not delegate the authority to make or renew a certification described in item (bb), (cc), or (dd) of subparagraph (B)(ii)(II) below the level of the Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

“(iii) HEARING.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may request that the Attorney

General or the Attorney General’s designee provide for a hearing to make the determination described in subparagraph (B)(ii)(II)(dd)(BB).

“(D) RELEASE ON CONDITIONS.—If it is determined that an alien should be released from detention by a Federal court, the Board of Immigration Appeals, or if an immigration judge orders a stay of removal, the Secretary of Homeland Security may impose conditions on release as provided under paragraph (3).

“(E) REDETENTION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, without any limitations other than those specified in this section, may detain any alien subject to a final removal order who is released from custody if—

“(I) removal becomes likely in the reasonably foreseeable future;

“(II) the alien fails to comply with the conditions of release or to continue to satisfy the conditions described in subparagraph (A); or

“(III) upon reconsideration, the Secretary determines that the alien can be detained under subparagraph (B).

“(ii) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply to any alien returned to custody pursuant to this subparagraph as if the removal period terminated on the day of the redetention.

“(F) REVIEW OF DETERMINATIONS BY SECRETARY.—A determination by the Secretary under this paragraph shall not be subject to review by any other agency.”.

(e) SEVERABILITY.—If any of the provisions of this section, any amendment made by this section, or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid for any reason, the remainder of this section, the amendments made by this section, and the application of the provisions and amendments made by this section to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected by such holding.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) APPREHENSION AND DETENTION OF ALIENS.—The amendments made by subsection (c) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act. Section 236 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by subsection (c), shall apply to any alien in detention under the provisions of such section on or after such date of enactment.

(2) ALIENS ORDERED REMOVED.—The amendments made by subsection (d) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act. Section 241 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by subsection (d), shall apply to—

(A) all aliens subject to a final administrative removal, deportation, or exclusion order that was issued before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) acts and conditions occurring or existing before, on, or after such date of enactment.

SA 3341. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 23, line 19, insert before the period the following: “, and \$5,000,000 shall be used by the Attorney General to investigate the

release of 36,007 criminal aliens by the Secretary of Homeland Security pending their removal and the 68,000 criminal aliens that United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement encountered, primarily in jails, and those not to proceed against for removal in 2013”.

SA 3342. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . No funds made available under this Act under the heading “COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES” may be used by a government entity in violation of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373(a)).

SA 3343. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . (a) Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The text of the United States Constitution clearly confers upon an individual the right to bear arms.

(2) The United Nations Arms Trade Treaty establishes a separate category of small arms and light weapons to which all Treaty provisions must apply, which could subject firearms lawfully owned by law-abiding United States citizens to international regulation.

(3) The Treaty urges recordkeeping of weapons transferred or sold within the United States, which could result in the creation of a de-facto registry of law-abiding United States citizens who lawfully own firearms.

(b) None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2015 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Justice may be obligated or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty, or to make any change to existing programs, projects, or activities as approved by Congress in furtherance of, pursuant to, or otherwise to implement the Arms Trade Treaty, unless the Arms Trade Treaty has been signed by the President, received the advice and consent of the Senate, and has been the subject of implementing legislation by Congress.

SA 3344. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PREVENTING REGULATORY OVERREACH TO ENHANCE CARE TECHNOLOGY.

(a) FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.—
 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:
 (A) The mobile health and mobile application economy was created in the United States and is now being exported globally, with the market expected to exceed \$26,000,000,000 by 2017.
 (B) The United States mobile application economy is responsible for nearly 500,000 new jobs in the United States.
 (C) Consumer health information technologies, including smart phones and tablets, have the potential to transform health care delivery through reduced systemic costs, improved patient safety, and better clinical outcomes.
 (D) Clinical and health software innovation cycles evolve and move faster than the existing regulatory approval processes.
 (E) Consumers and innovators need a new risk-based framework for the oversight of clinical and health software that improves on the framework of the Food and Drug Administration.
 (F) A working group convened jointly by the Food and Drug Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology identified in a report that there are several major barriers to the effective regulation of health information technology that cannot be alleviated without changes to existing law.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—
 (A) the President and Congress must intervene to facilitate interagency coordination across regulators that focuses agency efforts on fostering health information technology and mobile health innovation while better protecting patient safety, improving health care, and creating jobs in the United States;
 (B) the President and the Congress should work together to develop and enact legislation that establishes a risk-based regulatory framework for such clinical software and health software that reduces regulatory burdens, fosters innovation, and, most importantly, improves patient safety;
 (C) The National Institute of Standards and Technology should be the Federal agency that has oversight over technical standards used by clinical software; and
 (D) The National Institute of Standards and Technology, in collaboration with the Federal Communications Commission, the National Patient Safety Foundation, and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, should work on next steps, beyond current oversight efforts, regarding health information technology, such as collaborating with nongovernmental entities to develop certification processes and to promote best practice standards.

(b) CLINICAL SOFTWARE AND HEALTH SOFTWARE.—
 (1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(ss)(1) The term ‘clinical software’ means clinical decision support software or other software (including any associated hardware and process dependencies) intended for human or animal use that—
 “(A) captures, analyzes, changes, or presents patient or population clinical data or information and may recommend courses of clinical action, but does not directly change

the structure or any function of the body of man or other animals; and

“(B) is intended to be marketed for use only by a health care provider in a health care setting.

“(2) The term ‘health software’ means software (including any associated hardware and process dependencies) that is not clinical software and—

“(A) that captures, analyzes, changes, or presents patient or population clinical data or information;

“(B) that supports administrative or operational aspects of health care and is not used in the direct delivery of patient care; or

“(C) whose primary purpose is to act as a platform for a secondary software, to run or act as a mechanism for connectivity, or to store data.

“(3) The terms ‘clinical software’ and ‘health software’ do not include software—

“(A) that is intended to interpret patient-specific device data and directly diagnose a patient or user without the intervention of a health care provider;

“(B) that conducts analysis of radiological or imaging data in order to provide patient-specific diagnostic and treatment advice to a health care provider;

“(C) whose primary purpose is integral to the function of a drug or device; or

“(D) that is a component of a device.”.

(2) PROHIBITION.—Subchapter A of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 524B. CLINICAL SOFTWARE AND HEALTH SOFTWARE.

“Clinical software and health software shall not be subject to regulation under this Act.”.

(c) EXCLUSION FROM DEFINITION OF DEVICE.—Section 201(h) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(h)) is amended by adding at the end “The term ‘device’ does not include clinical software or health software.”.

SA 3345. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM OVERSIGHT

SEC. ____ . None of the amounts made available under this Act may be used by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to plan for or implement any change to—

(1) the contract between the United States Government and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers to carry out the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions; or

(2) the Cooperative Agreement between the United States Government and VeriSign to perform root zone management functions.

SA 3346. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for

other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . The Department of Justice may not use any funds to bring suit based on disparate impact against a State or local school choice program, including a charter school program, or a school voucher, tax credit, or scholarship program that involves students who attend a private elementary school or secondary school.

SA 3347. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . IRS SPECIAL PROSECUTOR.

(a) APPROPRIATION FOR SPECIAL PROSECUTOR.—There are appropriated to the Attorney General out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$800,000 for the appointment of a special prosecutor, who shall be a United States attorney, to investigate (and prosecute if warranted) actions by the Internal Revenue Service, its officers and employees, and other individuals involved in the targeting of groups that applied for tax exempt status, including the targeting of groups the names of which include the terms “Tea Party” or “Patriot”. Amounts appropriated under this subsection may be used to pay salaries and expenses for employees and consultants, including forensic experts to obtain electronic evidence, including recovery of allegedly lost e-mails.

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated for necessary expenses for information sharing technology, including planning, development, deployment and departmental direction under the heading “JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY” under the heading “GENERAL ADMINISTRATION” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE” under title II of division A of this Act shall be \$25,042,000.

SA 3348. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII of division C, add the following:

SEC. 7 ____ . Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available for fiscal year 2015 to carry out section 4213 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1755b) shall be \$2,000,000, and the amount made available under the heading “AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)” of title I shall be \$62,844,000.

SA 3349. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed

to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 298, line 17, after “Secretary:”, insert the following: “not to exceed \$3,000,000 may be available for the cost of loans under the rural energy savings program authorized by section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a) and, if the Secretary of Agriculture elects to so use the funds, the Secretary shall promulgate a proposed rule to implement the program not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act;”.

SA 3350. Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 324, line 17, before the period at the end insert “: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Risk Management Agency, and the Farm Service Agency, the Secretary of Agriculture shall use such amounts as are necessary to continue the Interagency Task Force to Harmonize Policies on Cover Crops during fiscal year 2015 to maintain reasonable and effective guidance regarding cover crops and crop insurance that align with evolving cover crop practices”.

SA 3351. Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 307, line 20, before the period at the end, insert “: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, shall use such sums as are necessary of funds made available for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to coordinate research efforts to collect information regarding cover crop practices, adoption rates, and effects on soil health and crop yields, and to provide effective and widespread dissemination of the results of the research to agricultural producers through extension and outreach activities”.

SA 3352. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the

fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) The Senate finds the following:

(1) On May 14, 2013, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration released the audit report, “Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review,” detailing the inappropriate targeting of social welfare organizations by the Internal Revenue Service (referred to in this section as the “IRS”).

(2) There are on-going Congressional investigations of the inappropriate targeting by the IRS of social welfare organizations that necessitate the prompt sharing of all requested documents.

(3) On June 13, 2014, the IRS disclosed that a computer failure reportedly resulted in a loss of emails sent or received by former IRS Exempt Organizations Director Lois Lerner for the period between January 1, 2009, and April 2011.

(4) On June 16, 2014, it was exposed that the emails of 6 other IRS employees involved in the inappropriate targeting were also reportedly unrecoverable.

(5) A thorough investigation of the inappropriate targeting of social welfare organizations by the IRS is essential to ensure future confidence in the integrity of the United States tax administration.

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Commissioner of the IRS and other Administration officials involved in the investigation of the inappropriate targeting by the IRS of social welfare organizations should provide full cooperation to the investigation; and

(2) the on-going bipartisan Senate Finance Committee investigation should be encouraged to include efforts to uncover details related to the loss of emails and the subsequent discovery and reporting of such loss.

SA 3353. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 387, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 7 _____. None of the funds made available under this division for the Agricultural Research Service may be used to continue to carry out extramural research projects, or to operate research laboratories, that have been identified for termination by the Secretary of Agriculture.

SA 3354. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 357, strike line 16 and all that follows through page 359, line 12, and insert the following:

SEC. 702. Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the Secretary of Agriculture shall transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated under this division or any other available unobligated discretionary balances of the Department of Agriculture to the general fund of the Treasury for the purpose of debt reduction.

SA 3355. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 156, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 1 _____. None of the funds made available by this division shall be used to administer the National Roadside Survey of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

SA 3356. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 110 of title I of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 111. No amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to purchase or pay for any good or service offered by the National Technical Information Service that is otherwise available for free or at a lower cost from a different source.

SA 3357. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 301. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the functions of the Political Science Program in the Division of Social and Economic Sciences of the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences of the National Science Foundation, except for research projects that the Director of the National Science Foundation certifies as promoting national security or the economic interests of the United States.

(b) The Director of the National Science Foundation shall publish a statement of the reason for each certification made pursuant to subsection (a) on the public website of the National Science Foundation.

(c) Any unobligated balances for the Political Science Program described in subsection

(a) may be provided for other scientific research and studies that do not duplicate those being funded by other Federal agencies.

SA 3358. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available for specialty crop block grants under section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108-465), the provision of value-added agricultural product market development grants to producers under section 231(b) of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1632a(b)), and the market access program established under section 203 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623) may be used—

(1) to sponsor field days at, or attend, amusement parks or festivals;

(2) to support pageants or tours by pageant winners;

(3) for the production of television shows;

(4) for animal spa products;

(5) for cat or dog food or other pet food;

(6) for wine tastings, beer festivals or beer award contests, beer tasting or beer school seminars, and tastings or seminars for alcohol of any kind (including whiskeys and distilled spirits); and

(7) for award shows and contests.

SA 3359. Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . Before applying the provisions for awarding discretionary grants for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure set forth under the heading “NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS”, the Secretary of Transportation, shall prioritize the distribution of such funding by ranking the projects for which such grants are sought, in descending order, based upon the following criteria:

(1) The extent of the positive impact the project will have on 1 or more interstate highways.

(2) The project will repair or replace a road or bridge that—

(A) has been determined to be structurally or functionally obsolete; and

(B) poses a risk to public safety.

(3) The extent of the positive impact of the project on interstate commerce, as evidenced by an examination of economic indicators, including—

(A) the impact of the project on shipping and trucking commerce;

(B) the project's nexus to other States; and

(C) the availability of alternative routes.

(4) The difference between—

(A) the estimated volume of traffic that will utilize the road or bridge after the project is completed; and

(B) the volume of traffic that the existing road or bridge was designed to accommodate.

(5) The national significance of the project, rather than the regional significance of the project.

(6) The ability of the State or local government to provide additional funding for the project.

SA 3360. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 317, line 22, strike “: Provided further,” and all that follows through “on Appropriations” on page 318, line 3.

SA 3361. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 23, line 19, insert “: Provided, That \$38,333,333 of the amount appropriated under this heading may not be expended until after the Attorney General produces and disseminates, through appropriate channels in the United States, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, a public service announcement video that features the President of the United States explaining that current and recent illicit border crossers, including unaccompanied alien children, are not covered by, and will not receive consideration of, deferred action for childhood arrivals, and any legislative remedy Congress approves to deal with aliens who entered the United States illegally as children will likely require the alien to have resided in the United States for an extended period” before the period at the end.

SA 3362. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 346, line 4, insert before the period at the end the following: “Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$1,000,000 may be used to provide necessary expenses of the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service to allow a veteran to be considered disabled for purposes of benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program during any period in which the veteran has filed a claim for

disability compensation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the claim has not yet been adjudicated by the Secretary”.

SA 3363. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . UNUSED EARMARKS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Orphan Earmarks Act”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive agency” under section 105 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the term “earmark” means—

(A) a congressionally directed spending item, as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate; and

(B) a congressional earmark, as defined in rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives; and

(3) the term “unused DOT earmark” means an earmark of funds provided for the Department of Transportation as to which more than 90 percent of the dollar amount of the earmark of funds remains available for obligation at the end of the 9th fiscal year following the fiscal year during which the earmark was made available.

(c) RESCISSIONS.—

(1) FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) SAFETY AND OPERATIONS ACCOUNT.—Of the unobligated balances available in the Federal Railroad Administration's Safety and Operations Account, \$6,000,000 is hereby rescinded.

(B) RAILROAD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT.—Of the unobligated balances available in the Federal Railroad Administration's Railroad Research and Development Account, \$7,765,000 is hereby rescinded.

(2) RESCISSIONS OF UNUSED DOT EARMARKS.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), effective on October 1 of the 10th fiscal year after funds under an unused DOT earmark are made available, all unobligated amounts made available under the unused DOT earmark are rescinded.

(3) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of Transportation may delay the rescission of amounts made available under an unused DOT earmark for 1 year if the Secretary determines that an additional obligation of the earmark is likely to occur during the 10th fiscal year after funds under the unused DOT earmark are made available.

(d) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to local governments for the purpose of establishing quiet zones in accordance with appendix C to part 222 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available as a result of the rescissions under subsection (c), \$38,765,000 shall be made available to carry out the grant program authorized under paragraph (1).

(e) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Other than the amount set aside for the grant program under subsection (d), all of the amounts made available as a result of the rescissions under subsection (c) shall be dedicated for the sole purpose of deficit reduction.

(f) AGENCY-WIDE IDENTIFICATION AND REPORT.—

(1) AGENCY IDENTIFICATION.—Each agency shall identify and submit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget an annual report regarding every project of the agency for which—

(A) amounts are made available under an earmark; and

(B) as of the end of a fiscal year, unobligated balances remain available.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress and publically post on the website of the Office of Management and Budget an annual report that includes—

(A) a listing and accounting for earmarks for which unobligated balances remain available, summarized by agency, which shall include, for each earmark—

(i) the amount of funds made available under the original earmark;

(ii) the amount of the unobligated balances that remain available;

(iii) the fiscal year through which the funds are made available, if applicable; and

(iv) recommendations and justifications for whether the earmark should be rescinded or retained in the next fiscal year;

(B) the number of rescissions resulting from this section and the annual savings resulting from this section for the previous fiscal year; and

(C) a listing and accounting for earmarks provided for the Department of Transportation scheduled to be rescinded under subsection (c)(2) at the end of the fiscal year during which the report is submitted.

SA 3364. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 278, line 17, strike “\$103,981,000” and insert “\$108,000,000”.

SA 3365. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. _____ . PILOT PROGRAM ON PROVISION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TO STATE VETERANS AGENCIES TO FACILITATE THE TRANSITION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FROM MILITARY SERVICE TO CIVILIAN LIFE.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Commencing not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing the information described in subsection (b) on members of the Armed Forces who are separating from the Armed Forces to State veterans agencies as a means of fa-

cilitating the transition of members of the Armed Forces from military service to civilian life.

(b) COVERED INFORMATION.—The information described in this subsection with respect to a member is as follows:

(1) Department of Defense Form DD 214.

(2) A personal email address.

(3) A personal telephone number.

(4) A mailing address.

(c) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The participation of a member in the pilot program shall be at the election of the member.

(d) FORM OF PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—Information shall be provided to State veterans agencies under the pilot program in digitized electronic form.

(e) USE OF INFORMATION.—Information provided to State veterans agencies under the pilot program may be shared by such agencies with appropriate county veterans service offices in such manner and for such purposes as the Secretary shall specify for purposes of the pilot program.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 450 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program. The report shall include a description of the pilot program and such recommendations, including recommendations for continuing or expanding the pilot program, as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of the pilot program.

SA 3366. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY ON MATTERS RELATING TO CLAIMING AND INTERRING UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF VETERANS.

(a) STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) complete a study on matters relating to the identification, claiming, and interring of unclaimed remains of veterans; and

(2) submit to Congress a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study required under paragraph (1).

(b) MATTERS STUDIED.—The matters studied under subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

(1) Determining the scope of issues relating to unclaimed remains of veterans, including an estimate of the number of unclaimed remains of veterans on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) Assessing the effectiveness of the procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs for claiming and interring unclaimed remains of veterans.

(3) Identifying and assessing State and local laws that affect the ability of the Secretary to identify, claim, and inter unclaimed remains of veterans.

(4) Developing recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate

SA 3367. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1213. CONTINGENT LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES WITH EGYPT.

(a) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be made used for United States participation in joint military exercises with Egypt if the Government of Egypt abrogates, terminates, or withdraws from the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty signed at Washington, D.C., on March 26, 1979.

SA 3368. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1213. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SUPPORT TO ISRAEL TO ADDRESS IRANIAN THREAT.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should ensure that Israel, as a critical United States ally, is able to adequately address an existential Iranian nuclear threat, and the Secretary of Defense should seek related opportunities for defense cooperation and partnership on military capabilities where appropriate.

SA 3369. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. CORPORAL MICHAEL J. CRESCENZ DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 3900 Woodland Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

SA 3370. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 111, line 24, insert “Indian tribe,” after “local government.”

SA 3371. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 114, line 7, before the period insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, not less than 3 percent shall be for grants awarded to Indian tribes (as that term is defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)) for projects located on or providing access to Indian lands (as that term is defined in section 3 of the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 4302))”.

SA 3372. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 118, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 105. Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue a final rule pursuant to the notice of proposed rule-making relating to the use of electronic cigarettes on aircraft published in the Federal Register on September 15, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 57,008).

SA 3373. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 23, line 19, insert “: *Provided*, That \$38,333,333 of the amount appropriated under this heading may not be expended until after

a public service announcement video is produced by the Federal Government, is disseminated through appropriate channels in the United States, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and features the President of the United States explaining that current and recent illicit border crossers, including unaccompanied alien children, are not covered by, and will not receive consideration of, deferred action for childhood arrivals, and any legislation Congress may adopt to provide immigration benefits to aliens who entered the United States illegally as children will likely require the alien to have resided in the United States for an extended period” before the period at the end.

SA 3374. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3244 submitted by Ms. MIKULSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 118, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a)(1) Beginning in fiscal year 2015 and for each subsequent fiscal year, not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of Transportation (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) selects a project for funding under the heading “NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS”, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that describes the reasons for selecting the project, based on the criteria set forth in the document entitled “Notice of Funding Availability for the Department of Transportation’s National Infrastructure Investments Under the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013” and published at 78 Fed. Reg. 24786 (April 26, 2013).

(2) The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall specify each criteria established by the Secretary under subsection (a) that the project meets.

(3) The Secretary shall make available on the website of the Department of Transportation the report submitted under paragraph (1).

(4) This subsection applies to all projects funded under the heading “NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS” that the Secretary selects after January 1, 2014.

(b) Beginning in fiscal year 2015 and for each subsequent fiscal year, not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary selects projects for funding under the heading “NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS”, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall—

(1) conduct an assessment of the establishment, solicitation, selection, and justification process with respect to the funding of projects under the heading “NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS”; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a final report that describes the findings of the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation with respect to the assessment conducted under paragraph (1).

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in executive session on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to mark-up S. 2449, Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education and Support Act, Autism CARES Act, of 2014; S. _____, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974; the nomination of William D. Adams, of Maine, to serve as Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities; and the nomination of Robert M. Gordon, of the District of Columbia, to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Department of Education; as well as any additional nominations cleared for action.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the Committee at (202) 224-5375.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing will be to hear testimony on the following measure:

S. 1971, to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to John_Assini@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sara Tucker at (202) 224-6224 or John Assini at (202) 224-9313.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on June 26, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Sexual Assault on Campus: Working to Ensure Student Safety.”

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Aissa

Canchola of the committee staff on (202) 224-2009.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 19, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 19, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 19, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 19, 2014, at 11 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled "Treaties."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 19, 2014, at 2 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled "CLOSED/TS: Iraq Update."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 19, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 19, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, June 23, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 779, 780, 781, and 836; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, on the next day, Tuesday, June 24, 2014, at 11 a.m., all postcloture time be expired, and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that following Senate action on these nominations on Tuesday, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Calendar No. 742; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 803

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by me after consultation with Senator MCCONNELL, the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 803 and the Senate proceed to its consideration; that a Murray-Isakson-Harkin-Alexander substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered; that the only other amendments in order be the following amendments to the substitute: Flake, making the appointment and certification of a new local board permissible instead of required; Lee, evaluation report requirement; and managers' technical amendment—that is three amendments; that there be 10 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees on each amendment; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed; that no second-degree amendments be in order prior to the votes; that upon disposition, the managers' technical amendment, the substitute amendment, as amended, if amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time; that there be 10 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended; that if the bill is passed, the Murray-Isakson-Harkin-Alexander amendment to the title, which is at the desk, be agreed to; and the motions to consider be considered

made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN LAKE TRUST LAND REAFFIRMATION ACT

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 432, S. 1603.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1603) to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1603) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1603

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gun Lake Trust Land Reaffirmation Act".

SEC. 2. REAFFIRMATION OF INDIAN TRUST LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The land taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians and described in the final Notice of Determination of the Department of the Interior (70 Fed. Reg. 25596 (May 13, 2005)) is reaffirmed as trust land, and the actions of the Secretary of the Interior in taking that land into trust are ratified and confirmed.

(b) NO CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an action (including an action pending in a Federal court as of the date of enactment of this Act) relating to the land described in subsection (a) shall not be filed or maintained in a Federal court and shall be promptly dismissed.

(c) RETENTION OF FUTURE RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act alters or diminishes the right of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians from seeking to have any additional land taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Band.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2491

Mr. REID. Madam President, I understand that S. 2491 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2491) to protect the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to reconciliation involving changes to the Medicare program.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

COMMITTEE DISCHARGE AND RETURN—H.R. 4412

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the commerce committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4412 and the Senate agree to the request of the House for the return of the papers with respect to H.R. 4412.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Thursday, June 19, through Monday, June 23, the majority leader and Senators Rockefeller and Feinstein be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it ad-

journal until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 2014; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, there will be four rollcall votes on Monday at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2014, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:48 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 23, 2014, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ARTHUR LEE BENTLEY III, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ROBERT E. O'NEILL, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID J. HALE, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY, VICE CHARLES R. SIMPSON III, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DAVID RIVERA, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JERRY E. MARTIN, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

GREGORY N. STIVERS, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY, VICE THOMAS B. RUSSELL, RETIRED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 19, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Brian A. Nichols, of Rhode Island, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Christine E. Wormuth, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

J. Mark McWatters, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2019.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Gustavo Velasquez Aguilar, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, June 19, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 19, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES J. FLEISCHMANN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

IMMIGRATION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I usually come here to talk about the ongoing crisis in American cities and towns related to our unrelenting deportation of moms and dads and longtime residents with no criminal history.

There is no doubt we will see substantial action to dial back the record deportation this country has suffered over the past 5 years and a retargeting of deportations at criminals.

The only question is whether the Republican majority gets its act together to participate in that process as legislators and leaders in the next 6 legislative days before the July 4 recess.

Now, in addition to the deportation crisis, we face a new crisis quickly becoming a human tragedy of catastrophic proportions. Thousands and thousands of young children are fleeing Central America because they think it is their only option for survival.

Faced with death threats, sexual assault, poverty, and no legal immigration options, little boys and girls are simply leaving their Central American countries by the tens of thousands.

Some are coming to the United States to reunite with relatives, while many others are seeking asylum in any country they can get to, including this one.

Girls as young as 11 and 12, threatened with rape in their own country, are risking rape, smugglers, murder, and exploitation for the slim chance of a life in the United States. Eighty percent are coming from just three countries—Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala—countries that top the list of the highest murder rates in the world.

Gangs, drugs, poverty, and hopelessness are driving kids as young as kindergartners to countries like Belize, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the United States. It is a complex international crisis that does not have easy solutions.

The Obama administration, Homeland Security, and FEMA are mobilizing like they would for a major natural disaster. They are trying to address each case one by one, following the laws of this country we have for unaccompanied minors, families, and asylumseekers.

The first goal must be to get the children in a safe place. Eventually, some may pass the rigorous test for asylum. Others may be considered for legal status as victims of traffickers, but many have no legal avenue and had none to begin with.

In many cases, children will face an immigration judge alone, without a lawyer and without a clue what is going on. The majority get orders of removal and face deportation immediately.

I have urged parents in the home countries that the risks are too great, the dangers too real, and the survival rate too low to attempt such a perilous journey, but let's be clear, adults on all sides of the border are failing when children feel they have no way to survive, other than risking their lives to cross thousands of miles.

I do not see the countries of Central America stepping up to take responsibility for the danger, dysfunction, death, and despair in their other countries, cities, and towns. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus told their embassies that in a very testy meeting yesterday.

Nor do I see the United States taking responsibility for the insatiable appetite for drugs on our streets—that, in most cases, fuel the drug trafficking, gangs, and desperation in Central America.

In Congress, we are quick to point fingers of blame—especially in an elec-

tion year—but surely, we must accept some of the responsibility ourselves.

For decades, no realistic legal immigration options have existed for most people, and this breeds a clandestine network of smugglers that feeds on desperation and hopelessness.

Invading or propping up failing states on the other side of the world—like Iraq—has meant we have paid little attention to the failing states in our own backyard in this hemisphere.

Opponents of immigration and immigration reform mock the children on their radio shows and have even cooked up a new conspiracy theory that claims that President Obama has been calling these children to our country, so he can put more of them on welfare, so that these children, who can never become citizens, will somehow be allowed to vote for him. It is outrageous.

We must not make light of this tragedy. These are children—desperate boys and girls who are being demonized after being brutally victimized by drug traffickers. Opponents of immigration are exploiting their desperation for political sport, but the stakes could not be higher for the Republican Party.

With only 6 legislative days before the July 4 recess, Republican leaders have little or no time to demonstrate compassion and understanding of the immigration issue, enact real border security, allow legal immigration that feeds our economy, and get people who have lived here for decades on the books.

Six days, Mr. Speaker, before this issue clobbers the Republican Presidential nominee in the 2016 election. You may have waited too long to act, but that is—as it always has been—up to you.

AMERICA NEEDS NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, headlined today in one of the papers: "Oil Prices to Rise as High as \$120 Per Barrel Due to the Iraqi Crisis."

Headlined a couple of days ago: "Oil at a 3-Month High on Iraq Anxiety."

This brings me back to an issue that I have spoken of many times throughout the years as a Member of Congress, that this Nation needs to have a national energy policy and, just like you would in a good investment portfolio, a diversified energy portfolio.

In the energy arena, I break it into two areas: electricity generation and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

transportation fuels. In electricity generation, we need to have the full range of competitive fueling technologies to have enough electricity at low prices to fuel and run our economy.

It is hot in Washington, D.C., today. A lot of air conditioners are on, and we want to be able to cool our homes at low prices. That means having a diversified energy portfolio: nuclear power, coal, natural gas, hydro, wind, and solar.

A debate on a diversified energy portfolio doesn't put all of your eggs in one basket. It allows you to have flexibility when there is a crunch or crisis in one of the other areas—likewise in the transportation fuel arena, especially with the crisis in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, who would have thought, after all these years, we would still be held hostage to high crude oil prices from an unstable region far away off our shores? Shame on us for not taking advantage of what we have locally and in the North American continent.

That is why we need to continue our focus on a diversified portfolio for liquid transportation fuels. Based upon the premise of energy security, we should not be held hostage to countries that don't like us, who want to do us harm, who use our money to fund extremists, but here we are again, in that same position.

So what would a diversified liquid transportation fuel portfolio look like? Well, we know what it would look like. Let's make sure we use this new technology of fracking and take this crude oil and natural gas out of our ground and use that to fuel ourselves, not relying on other countries.

Let's finish the Keystone XL pipeline from our North American neighbors—the Canadians—who are our friends and allies, who will not be an unstable regime, but would be a loyal ally, as they have been for years and years and years.

Let's continue to move on a renewable fuel portfolio, use our agricultural resources in ethanol and soy diesel and beef tallow to ensure that there is a diversified portfolio, so that if any one sector is stressed, you have other sectors in the liquid transportation arena that can pick up the slack and make sure that we are never held hostage again by these foreign regimes.

It is very frustrating to go through this energy cycle where we think everything is fine, the world is at peace, and we start having debates about shutting down this diversified portfolio, only to be reminded—like we are right now—of unstable regimes that don't like us, that when they go into crisis, we all pay.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we remember energy security means energy security and a diversified portfolio on electricity generation and liquid transportation fuels. I hope we continue to

make that message as we move through the legislative calendar this year.

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress come to the floor to take the opportunity to urge that we deal with the great issues of the day—the failure of the House of Representatives to deal with climate challenge and global warming; to reduce senseless gun violence; and the crying need to rebuild and renew America and pay for the rebuilding—but there are also a range of other issues that don't, on the surface, appear to be quite that important, but play a critical part in the bigger picture.

Today, I would like to address just one small part of the bigger picture because this is National Pollinator Week, where we recognize the importance of honeybees and over 250,000 other species that pollinate our food and which create \$20 billion to \$30 billion in agricultural production in the United States every year. Honeybees alone are responsible for pollinating one in every three bites of food we eat. Nearly 100 varieties of fruits depend on honeybee pollination.

While significant media attention has been devoted in recent years to the decline of honeybees, there is evidence of wild pollinator declines. Native bees are especially important to a number of iconic northwest agricultural products—such as cherries, apples, berries, as well as seed crops like alfalfa, canola, and vegetable seed.

I am proud that, in my community, we are home to the internationally-renowned Xerces Society, a nonprofit in the forefront of pollinator protection and habitat conservation, which harnesses the knowledge of scientists and the enthusiasm of citizens to implement conservation programs worldwide.

We saw in our community that businesses were stepping up to educate citizens and give pollinators a home. Last year, the rooftops of two local New Seasons Market grocery stores became home to several honeybee colonies—over 50,000 small pollinators—as part of the store's Bee Part of the Solution campaign.

Last summer, the Overlook neighborhood in my district started a project to become Portland's first pesticide-free neighborhood. Hundreds of households have committed to landscaping without the use of toxic chemicals to protect the habitat for not just bees, but wildlife as well.

These efforts are very important because the pollinator species and the livelihoods they support are suffering

catastrophic loss, reaching an alarming 42 percent loss in recent studies.

□ 1015

American beekeepers have been consistently reporting severe colony losses of this magnitude for the last several years. The situation is serious and can have a devastating impact both on our food systems and the environment.

A certain class of insecticides, neonicotinoids, have been linked to damaging effects on honeybees and other pollinators, such as impairing their foraging and feeding behavior, disorientation, failure to find their way back to the beehives, weakened immunity, and interrupting the reproductive process.

A year ago, over 50,000 bumblebees died in Oregon as a direct result of an exposure to a neonicotinoid lawfully applied to trees for cosmetic purposes—the largest bumblebee kill on record.

Citing the mounting threats from these pesticides that honeybees and other pollinators now face and the importance and the value of the pollination process, last year Congressman CONYERS and I introduced H.R. 2692, Saving America's Pollinators Act. The bill would direct the Environmental Protection Agency to immediately suspend the use of the most bee-toxic neonicotinoids and review the impact they have on pollinators and on the entire food chain and make a new determination about their proper application and safe use.

I hope that during Pollinator Week my colleagues will consider joining the 65 bipartisan cosponsors in this effort. While lots of major issues tie Congress into partisan knots, being able to protect the pollination process and its impact on the environment is a small step to protect the environment and is one that can actually bring us together in a low-cost, high-impact way.

I urge my colleagues to consider joining me in this effort.

HONORING MARVIN TEIXEIRA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow in Carson City, Nevada, there will be a memorial service for former Mayor Marv Teixeira. Marv called Carson City home for about 50 years, coming from the bay area as the IBM typewriter—I know that is a phrase that is foreign to many of you—as the IBM typewriter salesman in the State capital of Nevada. During those decades, Marv set a blistering pace as a member of the community: husband, coach, businessman, public servant, lobbyist, and kind of a self-appointed Carson City gadfly.

Before he became what we friendly referred to him as the “mayor for life,” he was the unofficial youth sports czar for Carson City. He coached recreation

league basketball, coached Little League baseball, founded the Pop Warner football league in Carson City. In this later role as the founder of the Pop Warner football league, he had the distinction of molding a then young DEAN HELLER, now a United States Senator from Nevada, into the football athlete that Senator HELLER didn't become.

Once he was elected mayor of Carson City, his Portuguese charm was on full display. If he called you "pal" during a board of supervisors meeting, you weren't a pal. He called for motions to adjourn when the agenda was completed by announcing, "We are out of Schlitz."

He fancied himself a top-tier lobbyist for Carson City, both at the State level and here in the Nation's Capital, because if lawmakers didn't do what he thought should be done, he simply questioned your intelligence and, in a fatherly way, advised you to do what he wanted you to do, and please be quick about it.

Finally, Marv understood that he was both good-looking and a sharp dresser. In this role, he taught me an invaluable lesson as a public servant: when you are at functions, the proper thing to wear was not a tie, that you should wear a turtleneck; because, invariably, if food was being served at these functions and you happened to drip something down the front, you could, as Marv demonstrated to me on one occasion at a function, simply go to the men's room, turn the turtleneck around, put your sport coat back on, and come back as if nothing ever happened.

Carson will miss our mayor for life. When you go by the bypass, the hay barn as we like to call it, or Governors Field, think of our mayor for life, Marv Teixeira.

Rest in peace, Your Honor; and thank you, Coach.

OUR CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, for generations, this country's infrastructure served as the backbone for our economic success. We dreamed big, we built bigger, and our economy flourished; but today our infrastructure is crumbling, and the growth of our economy is slow. Without serious long-term investments in our transportation infrastructure, we simply will not be able to compete in today's global economy.

Over the past 50 years, as a share of our economy, our investment in transportation has shrunk by half. Europe now invests twice as much as we do in transportation. China invests four times as much. Over time, America has fallen into 19th place when it comes to the quality of our infrastructure.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in my hometown of Chicago, where 1,000 miles of road in the city of Chicago are in need of total reconstruction. 675 bridges in Cook County are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. North Lake Shore Drive is one of the highest accident locations in the State as a result of its aging infrastructure.

The CTA is a century-old transit system that desperately needs updates to keep up with increased capacity. Oh, by the way, the CTA in Chicago in 1 month carries more passengers than Amtrak does in an entire year.

All of these things will cost money, but the long-term economic benefits they will provide will far outweigh the upfront cost. The President likes to say that first-class infrastructure attracts first-class jobs, and he is right. Business needs strong infrastructure to grow. They need good highways and railways to move their products. They need reliable public transit to get their employees to work.

Infrastructure investment requires forward thinking; it requires long-term planning. The fact that Congress faces its lowest public approval ratings ever while this country's infrastructure is crumbling is no coincidence. In my second year on the Appropriations Committee, I know all too well how little this Congress is investing in our future.

I became an appropriator to help bring much-needed funding back to my city and my State, but politics has replaced progress when it comes to my committee's once immense power of the purse. The important work of the Appropriations Committee to help cities and States fund critical infrastructure improvements has been stymied by the inability of this Congress to set aside our differences and look beyond the next election. We are trying to rebuild America's crumbling infrastructure one year at a time, and we are coming up short. When did we decide that planning one year ahead was good enough? Name one successful business that operates this way.

We shouldn't be forcing cities like Chicago and States like Illinois to make plans based on stopgap funding measures. We owe it to our constituents to provide a far-reaching plan that gives cities and States the certainty they need to plan ahead and invest in tomorrow. We should be empowering cities and States to make their own choices for their long-term success by providing them with the funding to do so.

It is time for this Congress to go big and plan for the long-term projects that will modernize our infrastructure, spur economic growth, create jobs. Remember, every billion dollars invested in infrastructure creates 30,000 jobs.

Congress will face an important test over the next few months. Over the

summer, the highway trust fund will run out and soon MAP-21 will expire. Allowing Federal funding for transportation projects to run out would force States to stop ongoing projects, risking over 700,000 jobs over the next year.

The consequences for inaction are too great. It is time for Congress to step up to the plate and finally enact a long-term highway bill that reforms the trust fund and makes it solvent for years to come, because as President Reagan said: rebuilding our infrastructure is an investment in tomorrow we must make today.

END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, each week I come to this floor to talk about ways that we can End Hunger Now. I have a simple premise that hunger is a political condition. We can end hunger now if we simply muster the political will to do so.

Over the past year, I have defended the SNAP program, formerly known as food stamps. I have discussed the importance of nutritious school meals and have sung the praises of the WIC program. The Federal antihunger programs are amazing. They are effective, and they are efficient and are preventing hunger from becoming worse than it already is.

The Federal antihunger programs can't do it alone, at least not the way they are currently structured. Despite what many critics claim, the Federal antihunger programs are too meager, and they still don't reach every hungry person in America. They fall under multiple agencies and departments and are not always connected, and they don't target the root cause of hunger, which is poverty.

As a result, we have seen the rise of many nonprofit antihunger organizations. The majority of these nonprofit organizations are food pantries that distribute food to needy people. But there are other innovative organizations that are doing amazing work.

One such organization is Share our Strength, founded by my friends Billy Shore and his sister Debbie Shore. Share our Strength is an amazing organization that is fighting hunger both through Federal and State policy and through programs that directly touch the hungry living in our country.

Their flagship program is the No Kid Hungry campaign. They are working in States across this country to develop statewide plans to end childhood hunger in those participating States. They tailor these programs to fit each State and are focusing through this program on the scourge that is child hunger.

Two more of their locally based programs are Shopping Matters and Cooking Matters. The Shopping Matters

program teaches low-income families how to spend their food dollars. Whether it is cash or from an antihunger program, they are taught how to spend it wisely and how to purchase nutritious food with the limited money that they have. The Cooking Matters program teaches these families how to cook food in a healthy way.

These three programs show both how important it is to creatively attack the problem of hunger in America and highlight the ways the Federal Government is failing these low-income families by not doing more.

Just look at the No Kid Hungry campaign. Share our Strength is targeting States because the Federal Government hasn't created a national antihunger strategy. Share Our Strength turned to Governors because they are willing to do what Congress and the White House aren't—develop a plan. That is why I continue to call on this White House to do a White House conference on food and nutrition, to bring everyone together to develop a plan to end hunger now. Governors are doing this for kids. It is time that we do this for everyone.

Look at the Shopping Matters program and the Cooking Matters program. These programs exist because Congress has cut the SNAP nutrition education program, necessitating a private, nonprofit sector program to teach people how to shop for and cook nutritious food.

Share Our Strength is also conducting outreach and education in different ways. They promote and host events at the national, State, and local levels to combat hunger. These range from bake sales, to dining out events, to barbecues. These are not just feel-good events, Mr. Speaker. These are events that come with teaching programs, programs that allow hosts to promote ways to fight hunger in ways that don't seem so daunting.

Mr. Speaker, there are many fantastic antihunger organizations both in Washington, D.C., and around this country. Share our Strength is one of these organizations that does fantastic work. I am proud of all of these groups that have stepped up to do what the Federal Government should be doing. I am proud of everyone who is banding together to fight hunger.

However, my goal, my ultimate goal, is to put Share our Strength and these other groups out of business, not because they aren't a great organization, but because they are no longer needed. But the only way to put these groups out of business is by ending hunger, and the best way to do so is to increase wages as well as expand SNAP and other nutrition programs. Until then, we need to ensure that no person in this country goes hungry. Until the Federal antihunger programs reach everyone they need to in the best possible way, we are going to need organiza-

tions like Share our Strength to help vulnerable populations.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the failure of our government to make ending hunger more of a priority is appalling. To be indifferent, to blame poor people for being poor, as some in this House have done, is something that should make all of us ashamed. Republican leaders have attacked our antihunger programs and the White House, sadly, has been too timid. What we need is a war on poverty in this country, Mr. Speaker, not another war in Iraq. We can all do better. We can End Hunger Now.

□ 1030

COMMEMORATING ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 42nd anniversary of the signing of the Title IX Amendment to the Higher Education Act. As you know, Hawaii's own Congresswoman Patsy Mink authored this groundbreaking law, and it was later renamed the Patsy Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act. Congresswoman Mink was a true pioneer, advancing the legal status of women and girls in higher education. This law was the spark that ignited the fire of a larger cultural revolution—yes, a revolution, regarding the status of women.

While title IX is most famous for opening up opportunities for women in college athletics, it has had really a greater implication for women in higher education. This essential law banned colleges from preventing female students from enrolling in courses that were perceived to be male-oriented, such as auto mechanics and criminal justice, just to name a few. Title IX also banned male-dominated professional schools like medical and law schools from limiting the number of women allowed to be admitted.

Patsy Mink, a former attorney herself, was committed to ensuring that women following in her path, like myself, would not have to face the same battles she did. For that we are all grateful to her. Mrs. Mink once said that: "We have to build things we want to see accomplished, in life and in our country, based on our own personal experiences, to make sure that others do not have to suffer the same discrimination."

Similar to the legislation she authored, Patsy Mink—the person—was a true groundbreaker in her own right. She served Hawaii and our Nation as the first woman of color and the first Asian-American woman elected into Congress. Impressively, she was the first Asian-American to seek the Presidential nomination for the Democratic party.

While title IX is responsible for many advancements for women in higher education, we know that there is still more work to be done for women at every level, including in our high schools. While serving in the Hawaii State senate, I was proud to vote for Hawaii's Gender Equity in Athletics law, which applies title IX in public high schools, and also to serve on the commission it created.

My commitment has not waned, and I recently cosponsored the High School Data Transparency Act, which is meant to help ensure equality for high school athletics. This fundamental bill would require schools to report critical data on funding and participation in boys and girls athletic programs, allowing school districts to better identify and rectify discriminatory disparities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to bring this crucial bill to the floor. The High School Data Transparency Act is an obvious partner to title IX, extending the spirit of the same law. We have an obligation to ensure that young women receive the same opportunities as their male counterparts at every level. I am committed to continuing the example set by my predecessor, Congresswoman Mink, and find inspiration in her words: "It is easy enough to vote right, but it is more often more important to be ahead of the majority, and this means willing to cut the first furrow in the ground and stand alone for a while if necessary."

In closing, I would like to share a meeting I just had yesterday with Kaili Higuchi, an eighth-grader from my alma mater, St. Andrew's Priory. Accompanied by her proud grandmother, she is here for National History Day. Her entry is a Web site on title IX. Kaili said a question asked was: Is title IX still necessary? Her answer is a resounding "yes." I believe Patsy would be proud of Kaili, and that 42 years later a young girl is continuing to educate and share title IX with others.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage you to join me in continuing the work of this committed visionary and powerful voice for equality. Please bring the bill to the floor.

WITNESS WEDNESDAY: FACES OF THE UNEMPLOYED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, in the United States, we have always had a bipartisan tradition of assisting fellow hardworking Americans who have fallen on hard times—until now. As they are looking for their next job, we used to make sure that they had assistance through unemployment insurance to cover their basic needs. That is why yesterday I stood with Congresswoman

DINA TITUS, DONNA EDWARDS, GWEN MOORE, and nearly a dozen group advocates for what we are calling “Witness Wednesdays.” We all read stories about real people, submitted by them, who are struggling since their unemployment insurance has expired.

During that event, the National Women’s Law Center released a study with some very sobering statistics. Women, particularly older women, women of color, and women heads of households, are deeply affected by unemployment, as are their children by the lack of emergency unemployment insurance benefits.

Last year, in my State of Illinois, more than 140,000 children lived in households headed by a long-term unemployed parent. Also, in my State, by the end of the year, nearly a quarter-million people will be left without benefits they need to meet their families’ basic needs if we don’t renew emergency unemployment insurance.

These are real people and real families behind these numbers. These are people looking for jobs. I am going to read four stories from Illinoisans who have suffered setbacks as they look for the work they need—for us to renew unemployment insurance without any further delay.

Chris from Glenview, Illinois, says:

My husband and I will never recover financially and are praying we will not lose our home. I don’t think I will ever be able to retire, which is concerning as I have health problems. My 28-year-old son is still living at home because he was unemployed for over a year and is now serving coffee for minimum wage. He has a bachelor’s degree from Loyola University, and between his student loans and our parent loans, we will all be in debt for the rest of our lives. We are not alone. I know of so many who are struggling as we are.

Sue from Chicago says:

Due to new management at the HIV/AIDS agency where I worked for over 10 years, I was fired on May 23 in order for them to save money. I am 58 years old, have an autoimmune liver disease that limits me physically and requires regular health care from specialists, as well as six medications. I have no savings and retirement is a laughable matter. Because I had no warning that this was going to happen, I am now looking at having no income, no health, and having to move from Chicago to downstate Springfield, where the cost of living is much lower, though job prospects are dismal.

Dinah from Chicago says:

I am losing my hair, apartment, and car. I have borrowed from everyone in my family, hoping to pay them back soon. I have worked since 1993 and am now unemployed. Soon I will be in a shelter, car repossession, and bald. I am looking for work. I have been on several interviews but so far no luck.

And Celia from Chicago says:

I had a job interview in December 2013, about the time my unemployment ran out. I really wanted this job. It was not just the fact that I would be able to pay bills; the work would be rewarding. Unfortunately, the tension I felt when it was clear that I had to get this position, that there would be no ex-

ension of benefits, caused me to freeze up at the interview when asked to display my skills. This had never happened to me. I am usually the type to have no problems once I land the interview.

My confidence is way down. I am 62. I have no income and can’t seem to find decent jobs to even apply to. I have had to regularly take money out of my retirement savings in order to stay out of debt. The worst thing about this time after a good career is to feel dropped, disappeared, and no longer of value. There is a dry feeling, dusty, of everything being cheap and on sale and no way to get back. I am ashamed of being out of the work world.

Chris, Sue, Dinah, and Celia are 4 of nearly 5 million Americans who will continue to suffer and struggle if we don’t renew emergency unemployment insurance by the end of this year. We should vote and pass the bill to renew unemployment insurance without any further delay.

HAPPY JUNETEENTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today is June 19, an ordinary day in the lives of many, many Americans. That is why it is important to come to the floor and wish so many in our Nation Happy Juneteenth. For some, that may be a foreign terminology. But we are now in the 149th year of the 1865 Emancipation Proclamation for several States in the Deep South.

Those who know their history would say the Emancipation Proclamation was in 1863. They are absolutely right. But it took 2 years for States like Texas, Louisiana, and many others to, unfortunately, receive notice that the slaves were free. Two more years my fellow Texans, African American slaves, had to languish in the abomination of slavery because someone failed to think it was important enough to reach those boundaries and say we were free.

So it speaks very loudly to the reason I am an advocate and a fighter that justice must be maintained no matter who you are in this country. Those in Texas that, as I speak, are commemorating and celebrating Juneteenth Freedom Day, are proudly acknowledging, not their fault that they did not know, not a joke, not humorous, but a sad statement which we in Texas and Southern States have turned into a joyful jubilee. We celebrate freedom wherever and however we can.

This Congress needs to be a promoter of freedom and justice. I join my colleagues in being appalled at the fact that we have not yet extended unemployment insurance for hardworking Americans. Let me say that again: unemployment insurance. It means that it is not a handout; it means that these are individuals who worked for weeks, months, years, decades. They have

given back to America. Now they have fallen on difficult times.

Because of this leadership in this House of Representatives, we have not been able to put the extension of the unemployment insurance passed in the other body on the floor of the House. That means in my district that individuals who were rehabilitating themselves and were working and fell upon hard times because of the economy have no jobs and cannot get unemployment insurance.

When I met with some of them. A trained welder said, I want to work, I am between jobs, and he was literally driven to homelessness and walking the streets because we could not give him unemployment insurance based upon the fact that he has worked—or those who are now losing homes or not able to pay their rent.

Where is the mercy and justice? Are we following in the pathway of Juneteenth when we did not tell thousands upon thousands of slaves you were free? I thought America would not return to the devastation and dastardliness of injustice to anyone. Let us put unemployment insurance on the floor of the House and address the questions of Americans who have worked and contributed to society.

Then, Mr. Speaker, I would argue that there is an injustice going on in Iraq. I traveled to Iraq many times during the raging war. I saw the valiant soldiers, many of whom maybe after I left were part of those who were casualties. I had in my office the list of casualties in the 18th Congressional District. I would be very mindful of going back into that quagmire.

What I would say is that America does stand for justice and democracy. We should have the position to treat Sunnis and Shiites and Kurds freely and justly, and that they have to come together and treat each other with respect. We should call upon Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Jordan, and Yemen, we should give them support—the Arab League—to stand Iraq up and to tell this leader, who is a selfish leader, who is not in any way reflected on bringing people together, that he must bring people together. And we must say to the ISIS that the world will not stand for its violence and its horribleness.

And yes, we must say to those who are in the yesteryear, who were part of last time’s term, those who are former Vice Presidents and their extended relatives, that this is no time to cast dirt on President Obama, who has done an excellent job.

Americans come together when there is difficulty and tragedy. I am very disappointed in The Wall Street Journal article that wants to cast blame when people are dying in Iraq. Let’s stand up and be united.

Just a few days ago, I came back from Nigeria, where the horrific Boko Haram is killing people and kidnapping

girls. I ask my colleagues to please stand with us to not let the kidnapping of the Nigerian girls be a side story, Mr. Speaker.

As I close, I intend to introduce human trafficking legislation as a senior member of Homeland Security to address the question of the human trafficking of these girls, and girls and women of color, the highest population of those who are trafficked. We can do things together in America, and I ask us to stand together.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Mr. Rajan Zed, Universal Society of Hinduism, Reno, Nevada, offered the following prayer:

We meditate on the transcendental glory of the deity supreme, who is inside the heart of the Earth, inside the life of the sky, and inside the soul of the heaven. May He stimulate and illuminate our minds.

Lead us from the unreal to the real; from darkness to light; from death to immortality.

Fulfill all your duties; action is better than inaction. Selfish action imprisons the world. Act selflessly, without any thought of personal profit. Strive constantly to serve the welfare of the world; by devotion to selfless work, one attains the supreme goal of life.

May we become united with the all-powerful and all-knowing Lord, who dwells in the hearts of all, is the supreme goal of life and infinite peace and love. Lord, be kind to us with Your invisible form, lead us to eternal joy, fill our hearts with unending peace, and free us from all bondage. Abandon us not.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. EDWARDS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate disagrees to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3230) "An Act to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes," agrees to a conference requested by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BURR, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. RUBIO, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1237. An act to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes.

WELCOMING MR. RAJAN ZED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to welcome Mr. Rajan Zed to offer the opening prayer before the U.S. House of Representatives.

A native of the State of Nevada, he attended San Jose State University in San Jose, California, my alma mater.

As president of the Universal Society of Hinduism and a senior fellow/religious adviser to the Foundation for Religious Diplomacy, he has advocated for religious freedom and tolerance throughout the world.

His contributions to the religious community worldwide led him to be invited by the president of the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, for a meeting to promote interfaith dialogue. He is particularly known for his work within the Roma community, acting as a voice for the human rights of the 15 million Roma in Europe.

That this body supports diversity of spirituality and cultures is a testament to our great institution.

For his continued spiritual leadership and for traveling from afar, I would like to thank Mr. Zed for leading us in prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING CAROL DIXON

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Committee on Ethics and along with my colleague, LINDA SANCHEZ, the ranking member, and other members of the committee, past and present, we rise today to honor the life and work of Carol Dixon.

Every so often, through hard work, immense talent, and a zealous dedication to the mission of this body, a staffer becomes an institution of the House. Carol Dixon had achieved that status.

Known to many simply as the Ethics Lady, Carol's intelligence, candor, and infectious laugh made the House a better, more honorable place. As director of our Advice and Education section, Carol's command of the ethics rules was unmatched, as evidenced by the large number of Members and employees from both sides of the aisle who continually sought out Carol to specifically ask for her guidance.

Her sudden passing this weekend is a tremendous loss for both the Ethics Committee and the House.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING CAROL DIXON

(Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to honor the life of Carol Dixon.

Carol's public service was not just to the Ethics Committee, but to the entire House. Carol provided wise counsel to hundreds of Members and to thousands of staff. This House will miss Carol's sage advice and her deep institutional knowledge. The members and staff of the Ethics Committee will also miss our good friend.

While Carol loved her job and her co-workers in the House, most of all, Carol loved her family. We know this because she spoke of them warmly and often. Carol's mother and father and family members are here with us today. On behalf of all of the members and staff of the Ethics Committee, thank you so much for sharing Carol with us.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would ask for everyone to rise to observe a moment of silence in the House to honor the life and memory of our friend, Carol Dixon.

IRS EMAIL LOSS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't believe my ears when the IRS revealed last week that they have lost all of the emails that have been received and sent to outside individuals by Lois Lerner from 2009 to 2011.

Coincidentally, this timeframe is critical to the investigation into the IRS's targeting of Americans based on their personal beliefs. This excuse would be laughable if it weren't so serious.

Despite the agency's promise of full cooperation and full disclosure, we now know that is not happening. It turns out that the IRS knew since February, and they sat on this knowledge that they would not be able to produce Ms. Lerner's emails.

They waited 3 months, and then they buried it in a 27-page report and released it on a Friday afternoon news dump. This is not the transparency the American people deserve.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. While the House will continue its investigation to get answers, it is time for full accountability and the Department of Justice to step up to the plate and fully investigate the targeting of Americans by the IRS.

HONORING PASTOR MAURICE
EDWARD BARNES

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness and also honor the passing of a great man, Pastor Maurice Edward Barnes. Pastor Barnes lived a life of service to both the church and community.

Born on July 30, 1945, to Charittie and the late Reverend Robert Barnes, Sr., he grew up in the Lake Como community of Fort Worth.

After completing his undergraduate studies at Texas Wesleyan University, Trinity Valley, and Southern Bible Institute, he answered his call to preach. For over 20 years, he was the faithful servant of God in the church in which he grew up, at the Zion Missionary Baptist Church on Horne Street in the Como community.

As a man who diligently served those around him, Pastor Barnes was not only a leader in the church, but also showed great leadership in organizations aimed at improving the community, like the NAACP.

My heartfelt sympathy to his wife, first lady Debra Watson Barnes; his children; extended family; and his friends.

Pastor Barnes made a positive impact on my life, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this great man.

IMMIGRATION CRISIS

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, a national crisis is happening right now in my home State of Texas. Thousands upon thousands of people from Central America are coming across our so-called southern border, and they are bankrupting Texas and wearing out our resources.

A recent headline reads: "Feds looking for babysitters to help with illegal immigrant kids." This is where our tax dollars are going. The border towns in Texas are literally overflowing with unaccompanied minors.

More than 162,000 people from countries other than Mexico have crossed the southern border of the United States since last October. That is more than a 100 percent increase from the previous year.

As my Democratic colleague Congressman HENRY CUELLAR said:

If we don't send the message that they can't come and stay here, this problem is going to continue.

It is going to get worse. The answer is simple: secure the border.

If we don't secure our border, our work in Congress is obsolete. Of course, the President is absent during this crisis, and it should be his number one priority: enforce the law of the land, and secure our border.

In God we trust.

FUNDING PANCREATIC CANCER
RESEARCH

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers. A diagnosis of pancreatic cancer is often a death sentence. Of all of the patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, 73 percent die within the first year, most within the first 3 to 6 months.

I think we should reverse these alarming statistics and give hope to those who are affected by this disease. Fifty years ago, women were dying of breast cancer at an alarming rate; but today, with more scientific research, early detection techniques, and affordable health care, the survival rate is much higher. Women are fighting and beating breast cancer.

I think we should invest more funding for advanced research for pancreatic cancer that could save thousands of lives.

Pancreatic cancer, unfortunately, touched the life of my friend, Larry Clark, former mayor of Rancho Palos Verdes, California; but thanks to a successful surgery and clinical trials, Larry is alive and well.

Now, he has dedicated his life to working with the Pancreatic Cancer

Action Network to help others fight this deadly disease. They were here Monday, walking the halls of Congress, urging us for more research money.

My hope is that the awareness of this critical issue will be an impetus for action and improvement of the way we treat pancreatic cancer in order to fight the disease and save lives.

HONORING SERGEANT FAYNE
HAYNES

(Mr. DESJARLAIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous American and proud son of Tennessee, Sergeant Fayne Haynes.

Mr. Haynes of Murfreesboro was only 20 years old when he entered the Army in 1942 at the height of World War II. He served on the front lines of Europe and was one of the first to land on Omaha Beach.

He also fought in the Battle of St. Lo, the Battle for Brest, and the Battle of the Bulge. He credits the good Lord for saving his life numerous times in combat.

Sergeant Haynes was eventually captured and spent 4 months in a prisoner of war camp, but managed to escape, aided by a German Army field map which hangs in his office today.

After the war, Sergeant Haynes became a successful businessman, operating the Haynes Brothers Candy Company in Murfreesboro. In 2000, Mr. Haynes switched his business to flags. Known as the Flag Man, he sells thousands of American flags each year.

Thank you, Sergeant Haynes, for your service. You truly embody the spirit of the Greatest Generation.

□ 1215

VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, one of the most precious rights we have as Americans is the right to vote. But every day it is becoming more difficult to do it.

Today is nearly 1 year after the Supreme Court's Shelby decision, which gutted provisions of the Voting Rights Act. States quickly moved to restrict voting rights. In fact, hours after Shelby, Texas announced its voter ID law would be implemented immediately. Thank goodness the Federal court blocked it.

Without these protections, minority communities will be disproportionately affected. The Voting Rights Act ensured equal access to the ballot box, and it protected voters like Rose Thompson. Rose is 79 years old and has

voted all her life, but this November she will likely be turned away. Rose was born at home in Jackson, Mississippi, and never received a birth certificate, so she can't obtain a voter ID as her State requires. Without an ID, Rose loses a fundamental right that was guaranteed to all Americans.

Now is the time for action. I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act and restore our ability to have a voice in this democracy.

VETERANS CONTRIBUTE TO HSA

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you know, we have heard the horror stories of our veterans experiencing long wait times, subpar care, or worse, no care at all at VA's across the country. While we can't fix a broken VA system overnight, we can do something now to help our brave men and women in uniform.

That is why I am introducing the Helping Veterans Save for Health Care Act that would allow veterans who receive care through the VA to contribute to a health savings account. Such savings could then be used by the veteran or their family.

Veterans want, need, and deserve more choices when it comes to saving for health care, particularly when our VA is failing to provide the care they earned. We must continue to put our veterans first, and we can start by making it easier for them to save through an HSA for quality care.

I ask my colleagues to join me in this effort. It is the right thing to do.

HONORING OFFICER SCOTT HEWELL

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Scott Hewell, a police officer in Stockton, California, who died as a result of injuries in the line of duty.

On May 28, Officer Hewell and his partner were headed to assist another officer with an armed suspect when their car crashed. Both officers sustained serious injuries, and Officer Hewell, sadly, died on June 11.

Only 33 years old, Officer Hewell was a graduate of San Francisco State University and joined the Stockton Police Department in September 2012. He was well-liked on the force. He trained at the Sacramento Police Academy and worked with the Sacramento Sheriff's Department.

Officer Hewell was the 11th officer to die in the line of duty in Stockton, the

first since 1993. Our law enforcement officials risk their lives every day to work to protect ours.

Our community mourns the loss of Officer Scott Hewell, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family. I ask my colleagues to remember Officer Hewell and all the fallen officers and to thank our first responders for their service.

BORDER PATROL: PRESIDENT'S AMNESTY PROMISE CAUSES SURGE

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors are surging across our southern border.

According to an internal Border Patrol report, the blame falls squarely on the President. The report shows that 95 percent of the illegal immigrants interviewed came to the U.S. to get a "free pass" from the President's announced amnesty policy. His failure to enforce immigration laws and his promise of amnesty by executive order entices these immigrant children to enter the U.S. illegally. The estimate for this year alone is expected to reach 90,000—15 times more than 4 years ago.

The President's solution is to issue public service announcements in Central America, but the administration's actions speak louder than their words. The President's pro-amnesty policies have caused this crisis. The real solution to the border surge is to enforce current immigration laws, not undermine them as the President has done.

RECOGNIZING ANTWON LAMON

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as kids across the country celebrate the end of the school year, I want to take a moment to recognize the outstanding students and educators who make our communities better. When good teachers, involved parents, innovative curriculum, and motivated students come together, our communities shine.

Today I recognize Antwon Lamon of Washington High in Chicago, who was recently recognized by the President at the White House Maker Faire. This event celebrated students whose innovative technologies and techniques will transform America's way of life.

Along with a team of pioneering Washington students, Antwon created "Baller's Life," a 3-D interactive game whose objective was to provide a non-violent educational experience that stimulates the minds of adults and children alike. It is so good, that even the President noticed.

Antwon's achievements include placing in Chicago's academic decathlon, completing rigorous AP courses, maintaining an honor average, all while competing on Washington's football, wrestling, track, basketball, and volleyball teams.

As Antwon prepares for college at Northern Illinois University this fall, my alma mater, I am reminded that not only was the Second District made better by him, it has a brighter future because of students like him.

RESCUING THE CREW OF AQUA QUEST

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask for the collective prayers of this Chamber to help bring my constituents back home to Tarpon Springs, Florida. Robert Mayne, James Kelly Garrett, Devon Butler, Nick Cook, Steve Matanich, and Michael Mayne are the crew of the Aqua Quest, a boat company hired to teach locals in Honduras how to safely scuba dive.

On a quest to do good, these men have been illegally detained without benefit of due process for 44 days and have spent several, as I said, several weeks in a dilapidated Honduran jail living in unacceptable conditions.

Together with my colleague, Congressman MIKE FITZPATRICK, we have urged the State Department and Honduran officials to work towards a quick resolution to free these men so that they may return to the loving arms of their families.

Your prayers are appreciated, and I have confidence that we will bring them home.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM SUMMER

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, this year we mark the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Freedom Summer, when hundreds of Americans traveled to Mississippi to fight discrimination and advance voting rights and equality under the law.

Today I rise to recognize three Americans who gave their lives in that struggle: James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman. On June 21, 1964, these three activists—one African American and two Jewish—were kidnapped and murdered for working to register Black voters.

Their lives, the lives of James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman, were claimed by hate, yet their faith in equality and justice and the right to vote lives on today through the historic Black-Jewish alliance born out of the civil rights movement.

I proudly support honoring these three activists with a Congressional Gold Medal and would like to thank the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding for championing this cause.

For 25 years, the foundation has advanced the values shared by the Jewish and African American communities, including tolerance, equal rights, and justice. As a Jewish American, it is an honor to fight for these values here in Congress today and every day.

RALLYING TO THE FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, the situation unfolding in Iraq is a tragedy.

Almost 4,500 fellow Americans made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq defending our freedom and fighting oppression and tyranny. More than 32,000 men and women who served our country in Iraq bear the wounds of war, and all who served had extraordinary pressures put on their families.

Unless you have lived it, one cannot begin to know the pain experienced by the families of the fallen and the wounded. Our men and women in uniform fought for an ideal. That ideal is freedom: the freedom of religion, the freedom of speech, the freedom to assemble and vote and make one's voice heard, freedoms like those we have right here in this Chamber. That ideal will never die.

During these difficult days, Mr. Speaker, let us make sure we are mindful of the sacrifice of so many and let us always rally to the families of the fallen and stand in solidarity with all of our veterans.

VA HEALTH CARE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Senate voted last week to pass comprehensive legislation aimed at addressing the long-standing issues within the Department of Veterans Affairs' health care system. Now it is time for the Republican House leadership to bring a comprehensive package to the floor.

With more than 8 million veterans turning to the VA for medical care each year, it is absolutely critical that we thoroughly address these issues in a timely fashion. That is why I commend Congresswoman KIRKPATRICK for introducing companion legislation to the Sanders-McCain bill to improve the quality of care within the VA.

Our veterans should not have to endure excessive long waits, tolerate canceled appointments, and question the quality of care they are receiving, nor

should the persons reporting these activities be punished. The legislation would increase access to care while also improving on the quality of care, and it is something that we can act upon today.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation will be judged by how we treat our veterans. I urge this Congress to act swiftly on comprehensive legislation so that we can bring real accountability—and some sanity—back to the VA.

HONORING KANE COUNTY'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kane County Educator of the Year, Carol Mertes of East Aurora School District 131. For Carol, teaching is in her blood. Her grandfather was a principal and her aunt was a teacher in Chicago public schools.

Carol has been an exemplary first grade teacher for decades who has touched many lives through her exceptional teaching skills and care for her students. She has served on the East Aurora District's School Improvement Review Team, Language Arts Curriculum Council, Reading Leaders Committee, and the Reading Task Force.

Teachers like Carol have one of the hardest but most influential jobs in the country. They are in charge of shaping our future generations, and they have the ability to make a huge impact on our youth.

I am grateful for Carol's undying patience and care for our children in Kane County, ensuring that the impact is a positive one.

HONORING JUNETEENTH

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juneteenth.

Each June 19th, we celebrate Juneteenth to commemorate the announcement of the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is a celebration of African American freedom, but it is also an opportunity to reflect on opportunities for self-improvement and set goals for the future.

This past weekend, I was honored to take part in the 39th annual Juneteenth Festival in Buffalo. Started in 1976, this festival has grown over the years to become one of the largest of such celebrations in the world and has established its position as an important tradition within the Buffalo community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Juneteenth today to celebrate our Nation's rich African American history

and express my thanks to those who organize these important community celebrations of culture and heritage.

IN FAVOR OF A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, events in Iraq over the past week serve as a chilling reminder of the fact that the world is not getting safer. I am disturbed by these events, but I am not surprised. Over the past few years, my colleagues and I have warned against our Nation's weakening foreign policy and the devastating defense cuts this President insisted on making on the backs of our men and women in uniform. The result is a strained military and a world where our enemies don't fear us and our friends no longer trust us.

On Monday, the USS *Mesa Verde*, one of our Navy and Marine Corps' amphibious warships in the LPD class, entered the Persian Gulf with 550 marines onboard. These ships have a long history of supporting our missions and responding to numerous threats all around the world. This LPD ship sitting in the Persian Gulf full of marines sends a clear message: we will not waiver in defense of American interests or protecting American lives.

I believe we need to keep sending that message. We must adequately fund our Nation's military, and we must provide for more ships like the LPD class amphibious warships so we can ensure the safety and security of our Nation and those who defend it.

□ 1230

NONDISCRIMINATION FOR LGBT FEDERAL CONTRACTORS

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, with the stroke of a pen, President Obama will extend workplace protections to 14 million LGBT Federal contractors.

Thankfully, LGBT San Diegans are already protected by State law, but this is not the case for all Americans.

I applaud the President for doing the right thing. Now it is time for Congress to end discrimination for all workers.

California and 17 other States have shown that these protections aren't just the right thing to do, they are good policy and good business.

Discrimination has no place in government. Discrimination has no place in the work place.

It is past time for Congress to listen to the American people. The Senate has already passed the Employment

Nondiscrimination Act. Let's bring ENDA to the floor and pass it today.

WISHING MARTELL AND RHONDA MENLOVE ALL THE BEST

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, Utah has some large educational shoes to fill.

Martell Menlove, the State superintendent of public instruction in Utah, is ending a nearly four-decade career in public education. He has served kids as a classroom teacher, a counselor, and an administrator in the Jordan, Tooele, and Rich districts, and he was my superintendent while I was teaching in the Box Elder district.

Twice he was named Superintendent of the Year in Utah before he joined the State office in 2009.

His wife, State Representative Rhonda Rudd Menlove, is also a career educator and is retiring after five terms in the Utah State legislature.

Utah is losing a great team who inspired kids. They will be missed. We want to wish both Martell and Rhonda all the best in the new adventures they will be taking together.

We thank you for what you have done for kids in Utah.

REMEMBERING JIM ROGERS

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, Nevada lost a good man and I lost a good friend this past week when Jim Rogers lost his long battle with cancer at the age of 75.

Those who knew or briefly encountered Jim quickly realized that he had no fear. His business acumen, philanthropic generosity, and ferocious passion for learning made him a true game changer. Whether it was improving higher education or strengthening the integrity of the media, Jim never shied away from his convictions or backed down from his steadfast commitment to progress and quality. He started the conversation, directed the dialogue, and produced results that propelled Nevada, sometimes kicking and screaming, towards a brighter future.

My thoughts go out to his wife, Beverly; his son, his other family members, and the people who worked with him and for him at Channel 3. They brought the world into our living rooms every evening. We will miss him very much and so will they.

CONGRATULATING ACTUATED MEDICAL

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Actuated Medical, Incorporated, a Bellefonte, Pennsylvania-based medical device company that focuses on state-of-the-art, minimally invasive instruments, for being selected by the Small Business Administration as a 2014 Tibbetts Award winner.

The SBA presents the Tibbetts award to companies who exemplify the best of the Small Business Innovation Research Program.

Recipients of the Tibbetts award are selected by a panel of judges based upon the economic impact of their innovation, how they supported Federal research and development needs, and their ability to increase commercialization of Federal research.

As a former Member of the House Small Business Committee, I witnessed firsthand this woman's business enterprise grow from a young start-up to the top National Institutes of Health SBIR-funded company in Pennsylvania for 2013, placing them fifth in the country.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses remain the backbone of our economy, and innovators like Actuated Medical not only create devices that save lives and change the face of modern health care, they also provide good-paying, family-sustaining jobs in our local communities.

I lend my congratulations to everyone at Actuated Medical, Incorporated.

DEPARTURE OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT DR. ALUTTO

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about education today, probably because education is the economic engine of our future.

Ohio State University plays a pivotal role in K-Life education. It is located in my district, and it serves not only my district but the Nation.

Today, I rise to acknowledge Ohio State University's outgoing interim president, Dr. Joseph Alutto, a former colleague and a friend, and to welcome incoming president, Dr. Michael Drake.

Thank you, Joe Alutto, for your leadership in preparing our next generation of teachers, artists, medical, corporate, and community leaders. In an era where innovation in science and technology and creative entrepreneurialism will determine our global station in the world, it is critical that we have capable leaders at the helm of our education and research institutions.

I thank Joseph Alutto for his service to Ohio State University, the single-largest campus university in the country. God speed and good luck.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4413, CUSTOMER PROTECTION AND END USER RELIEF ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 629 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 629

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4413) to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-47. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my dear friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself

such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 629 provides for a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 4413. This rule makes in order eight amendments which provide the opportunity for Members of the minority and the majority to participate in this debate.

The legislation before us today reauthorizes the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, known as the CFTC, through fiscal year 2018, and makes important reforms to promote market stability and to protect end users from unnecessary regulations. Most of all, Mr. Speaker, we are here because we want to learn from the past, be prepared for the future, and to allow this organization to adapt as it needs to to produce better decisions and better outcomes in the future, and that is why Republicans are here today. This bipartisan bill out of the Agriculture Committee does exactly that.

Over the past 20 years, financial services companies have started to employ financial derivatives—historically used by farmers, ranchers, and utility co-ops to manage risk—as new types of investment vehicles. They are a part of the day-to-day life of millions of people across this country that help us to not only get better prices, but to be able to hedge against the uncertainty.

Today, the derivatives marketplace represents trillions of dollars' worth of futures contracts, swaps, and other similar financial instruments. In response to the incredible growth of the derivatives market, the CFTC has promulgated rules and regulations designed to promote fairness and stability throughout the economy directly in relationship to this activity.

Unfortunately, regulations have been written so broadly and with such inconsistency that many end users—such as farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and municipal utility companies that rely on these contracts for the delivery of critical grain and natural gas—are forced to comply with rules intended for sophisticated investment firms rather than the instruments on which they rely and use for their own trading and commodity work. Such blind enforcement of the law is not fair nor efficient and unnecessarily punishes small businesses that are trying to effectively manage their risk.

Simply put, as a direct result of the CFTC's regulations, American families

are paying more for everything from a box of cereal to a new dishwasher to their monthly energy bills. In recognition of this fact, H.R. 4413 exempts end users from these regulations to restore fairness, to promote American companies, and to give them flexibility that they need to run their day-to-day operations and to protect consumers from unnecessary price increases.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has been well understood by the Agriculture Committee on a bipartisan basis. All the way to the top on both sides of the committee, there is an agreement about how to move forward with effectiveness, with efficiency, and to allow those end users to be able to have the market strategies available to them to hedge their own risk, and to understand the things that are in their own natural best interest, and that is stability of prices, a marketplace that they understand, and, perhaps more importantly, one which keeps American jobs in America and, secondly, that allows Americans to be able to invest in America, from American-made products to American-made users.

What we are here to do today is to bring this commonsense piece of legislation to the floor on behalf of a bipartisan large group of members. It is common sense, it is pro-business, it promotes appropriate regulation of our Nation's derivatives market, it is well thought through. What this will allow is this House to be able to get on record, put themselves to where they can then go to a conference to meet with the Senate, if they believe it is the right thing to do, and move forward to make the CFTC even better than what it is today based upon the history and based upon where it wants to go.

□ 1245

The discussion we had at the Rules Committee was, on a bipartisan basis, very uplifting. I believe the effort that we are going to bring together with that legislation means that we can vote not only "yes," but have confidence that we have made better the things which we touch today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman, my good friend, the chairman of the Rules Committee, Mr. SESSIONS, for yielding the customary 30 minutes.

I rise today in opposition to the rule for H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End User Relief Act, which reauthorizes through 2018 the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Mr. Speaker, the CFTC plays a critical role in protecting market participants and our Nation's economy from

fraud, manipulation, abusive practices, and systemic risk related to derivatives, both futures and swaps, as well as in fostering transparent, open, competitive, and financially sound markets.

However, H.R. 4413 contains several harmful provisions that impede the CFTC's ability to enforce existing derivatives rules and roll back meaningful reforms in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Specifically, title II of this bill carves out the CFTC from the Administrative Procedure Act process for establishing regulations, which represents the most longstanding and broadly applicable requirements for Federal rulemaking and was written to bring regularity and predictability to agency decisionmaking.

Furthermore, section 203 of the legislation imposes burdensome cost-benefit requirements that likely serve only to prevent, delay, or weaken any rules that implement Dodd-Frank.

Current law already requires the CFTC and other agencies to conduct economic analyses pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Congressional Review Act, and the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

In addition, the CFTC is also bound by the Commodity Exchange Act to consider the protection of market participants and the public; the efficiency, competitiveness, and financial integrity of futures markets; price discovery; sound risk management practices; and other public interest considerations, under the supervision of the courts.

The redundant cost-benefit requirements contained in H.R. 4413 will not only hamper the appropriate consideration and promulgation of new rules, but expose the CFTC to greater industry litigation.

Finally, H.R. 4413 threatens American taxpayers by deregulating foreign derivatives transactions. Under section 722(d) of Dodd-Frank, the CFTC is authorized to oversee derivatives transactions that "have a direct and significant connection with activities in, or effect on, commerce of the United States."

Section 359 of this bill exempts overseas derivatives transactions from regulation, creating a loophole in our system of regulatory oversight that could be gamed by large multinational swaps dealers.

Just 6 years ago, derivatives trading related to the activities of the corporate structure AIG and Lehman Brothers nearly brought down our economy and cost every American household more than \$50,000.

I related last night in the Rules Committee that we were there—Ms. SLAUGHTER and I and the chairman, Mr. SESSIONS—all of us—when Mr. Paulsen and Mr. Bernanke brought to

us the notion on three or four paragraphs and two pages that this Nation was about to go bust.

It is clear that derivatives transactions outside of the United States pose real risks to United States financial institutions, yet instead of strengthening the CFTC's ability to effectively regulate derivatives transactions involving the foreign operation of U.S. banks, H.R. 4413 presumes that they will be governed by foreign rules, disregarding whether those foreign rules are adequate or if the trades will import risk back to the United States.

Moreover, this presumption can only be overturned after the CFTC and the Securities and Exchange Commission go to considerable procedural lengths to make a joint determination that a foreign host country's regulations are not broadly equivalent to United States regulations.

The futures and swaps markets are essential to our economy and the way that businesses and investors manage risk, particularly for farmers, hospitals, manufacturers, and certain utilities industries.

While I share my colleagues' concern regarding issues affecting many of these end users, I believe that this legislation falls short of the goals of comprehensive Wall Street reform and ensuring that derivatives transactions do not contribute to another global economic crisis.

I also said yesterday, in the Rules Committee, that I predict that if this measure were to become law, we could reasonably expect that we would have the same kind of financial crisis that we did 6 years ago.

Instead of creating new, heavy administrative burdens, we should further empower the CFTC to be able to carry out its responsibilities, including those under Dodd-Frank.

Just last week, House Republicans proposed to dangerously underfund the CFTC at 22 percent below the President's request, with an appropriation that will likely lead to either agency-wide closures or employee layoffs. This would make the already underfunded CFTC less effective at protecting consumers, end users, and investors.

Additionally, because this bill retroactively reverses rules that have already gone into effect and many of those that are in the pipeline, it increases uncertainty and costs to businesses and end users that will unnecessarily have the rules of the game changed on them.

I simply don't understand this logic. Reducing the CFTC's ability to effectively oversee these financial activities only increases the likelihood that we will find ourselves in another potentially disastrous situation.

Additionally, I would also like to take this opportunity to point out that several of my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee share these concerns.

It was also pointed out by my colleague that this came out unanimously from the Agriculture Committee. It did in fact do so, but in the Rules Committee, we had the prerogative, if we so chose, to allow the Financial Services Committee to be able to make presentations that I believe—and in a bipartisan way—other Members, particularly those of the Financial Services Committee, believe should be a part of this discussion today. However, this rule cuts them out of the debate.

In fact, H.R. 4413 rehashes several earlier bills that Financial Services Committee members have previously voiced concern over, including H.R. 1256, the Swap Jurisdiction Certainty Act; and H.R. 1003, to improve consideration by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission of the costs and benefits of its regulations and orders.

The administration has also come out in opposition to the bill. We can't continue with more of the same failed partisan practices and effect a different outcome.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Florida bringing up a few of the ideas and assertions that I believe that he thinks are frailties in the bill, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

What I would like to do, if I can, is let him know that we had a full hearing yesterday and enabled our members time to read and understand and hear these ideas. We were assured yesterday by the chairman of the committee and the ranking member that this is a good process. We are not trying to do an end run around anybody.

Mr. Speaker, there is something that is well established, known as the Administrative Procedure Act. This is an opportunity for agencies to interact with each other through an agreement, whereby they consult with each other and provide information and procedurally be able to walk through who is doing what and how things might be done.

I don't think it means they always have to have consent. I don't think it means they always have to have agreement, but there is a process that goes on.

I would refer the gentleman to section 211 of the bill on page 18. Section 211 says quite clearly—no ambiguity here—that everything in this act is meant to comply with and give guidance to the Administrative Procedure Act, which means that there is nothing in here that says that the CFTC does not share its information, understand its rulings, work with the FTC, work with the SEC, work with anyone about those rules that they are going to promulgate.

As a matter of fact, it says that the CFTC does have the ability to do that, and instead of them making their own

rules and regulations without working through the Administrative Procedure Act would be a mistake. It is authorized here in law.

Further, if one goes back to a later section, page 47 of the bill, section 359, for the Members of Congress that are sitting in their offices and interested in this and want to know, this bipartisan bill by two senior Members—by the way, a former chairman and the current chairman today—says, "Section 359. Cross-border regulation of derivatives transactions."

That means that, in a world market, we want to make sure that Japanese, Russian, Indian, German, whatever the marketplace holds for a commodity that we are talking about in particular, this would mean that, as the bill says:

Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this act, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall jointly issue rules setting forth the application of United States swaps requirements for the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Commodity Exchange Act related to cross-border swaps and security-based swaps transactions involving U.S. persons or non-U.S. persons.

Mr. Speaker, we are trying to do the right thing. This is not about causing some market crash or failure. This comes from the Agriculture Committee, on a bipartisan basis, making sure that, in section 211 and section 359, they very effectively address exactly what we are being told we didn't do.

□ 1300

We are trying to have this government know what the right hand and the left hand are doing, not the reverse, and I believe it is simply not a true statement to say that we are not trying to accomplish this.

Look, we don't all have to agree on this, but on a bipartisan basis—unanimous out of the Agriculture Committee—they thought they did a pretty good product. I think they did a pretty good product, and my job is to come defend us on the floor. So, when somebody says you did something wrong, I say, "Read the bill."

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the chairman, my good friend, that good intentions don't always manifest themselves in a positive way. I am sure before we had the recession that there were good intentions. My prediction is that, without appropriate regulation, we can reasonably expect that these same kinds of recessive measures might come into play. I recognize my good friend, the chairman, has his script together when it comes to something bipartisan coming out of the Agriculture Committee, but I also know that this is an end run around the Financial Services Committee, which also has germane interests in the particular legislation at hand.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased at this time to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), my very good friend and the ranking member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, how quickly we forget what got us into the economic mess in the first place.

I was here 6 short years ago when the recklessness on Wall Street triggered the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression and cost millions of hardworking Americans their jobs and their homes. Since then, Democratic majorities in the House and Senate have enacted reforms, known commonly as Dodd-Frank, to stop the worst of these abuses with the aim of preventing another economic meltdown. Obviously, since that time, copious American dollars have been spent, and legions of lobbyists have come in, to try to undo Dodd-Frank. This is the first of other bills that we will get that will do away with regulation. Unfortunately, the authorization passed out of the Rules Committee last night is a backdoor attempt to undo some of the crucial reforms and is a precursor to another financial crisis.

Why wouldn't the Rules Committee give equal debate time to the Financial Services Committee, which has real jurisdiction over what we are doing here today? Why would they disallow that?

It is because they didn't want anybody to hear it. If the Agriculture Committee were unanimous, I don't know what its reason was, but many Democrats and, certainly, those of us on the Rules Committee and others who are going to be here today want to be solidly in the "no" column because, if what we fear will happen happens, we want the country to know that somebody tried to stop it as there are crucial reforms that we talk about in this bill, which are going to handcuff and obstruct the law enforcement officials who are charged with overseeing the markets and enforcing the regulations on Wall Street.

When we found out 6 years ago, I was a member of the leadership then and was chair of the Rules Committee. We got a message on Saturday afternoon. It was three paragraphs, which Mr. HASTINGS did a wonderful job of explaining, from Secretary Paulson and the head of the Fed, Mr. Bernanke. It was very short and quite succinct. Basically, if we did not provide them—the Treasury and the Fed—with \$800 billion by Tuesday—and this was Saturday—the financial services in the United States would be defunct. We would be finished.

This was pretty frightening because all we knew is that fancy things were going on on Wall Street and that mortgages were being chopped up and sold in pieces. I think they unloaded a lot of

it onto Germany's Deutsche Bank. We not only affected our economy, but we affected other parts of the world. It was a disaster—people lost houses that they had spent their lives trying to get; children were displaced from their homes and from their schools; people were without their jobs—simply because they were playing tricks, passing paper back and forth to each other, and there was not strong enough regulation in this country for the people who did the oversight to even know what was going on.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield the gentlelady an additional 2 minutes.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. This was one of the most awful things that we had ever gone through. We watched what happened to our neighbors and to those in other parts of this country where people were literally forced out onto the streets because of what Wall Street had done, not because of anything they had done. People who had paid their mortgages faithfully every single month suddenly found out that those mortgages were worthless, that their mortgages were more expensive to them at that time than their houses were worth on the market.

Why in the world would we have any attempt here to undo any of that? Those lobbyists and all of that money made their statements pretty clear.

On our side, we are trying to hold up the other side. We want to speak for those people who lost their jobs. We want to speak for those people who lost their homes. We want to say to the small businesses that had no access to capital and went under that we are trying to protect your interests here.

Whatever happens, we know we don't have the votes—you have got them. We do know that this is a majority that hates regulation whether it is clean air or clean water. Whatever it is, get rid of it. Then you come back down here to Wall Street and know the effect that it has had. We haven't completely recovered from that recession. God knows we have not passed any legislation in the House of Representatives to create jobs or to make it any better. We do everything that we can just to benefit those people who have the money. We all know how this movie ends. If it moves forward as written, we are sowing the seeds for future disaster in this country.

Last night, at the Rules Committee, we called for a "no" vote, and we said specifically what we were doing. We wanted to be on record on our side as trying to protect the American public and their futures so that they have some confidence again in what they are doing. We would love it if banks would again stop passing paper back and forth to each other and would make loans and get people back to work. We, of course, were not able to do that as 2-

9, I believe, was the vote. We will see what happens when this comes to the floor, as it certainly will. We just simply, as I said, want to make sure because, the last time this came up, we didn't have the opportunity to speak. We are a solid "no."

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I really do appreciate the gentlewoman from New York, the ranking member of the Rules Committee, for coming down and taking her very important time.

I would, with great respect, remind her and my colleagues who are listening that the Agriculture Committee has jurisdiction over the CFTC, not the Financial Services Committee, which is why we are here doing this bill today.

I want to just say to the gentleman and the gentlewoman that, if they are unable to give time during the debate or now to their Democrat colleagues they would choose, I am sure they could come talk to us and ask for time, but I don't see anybody lined up here to come down and argue the point, because this is a bipartisan bill, because this is a commonsense bill, because this makes sense that we are trying to avoid problems by getting this administration and the commissions that are spoken about here to work together, to use the benefit of the knowledge of the past. This is not about deregulating or doing away with something or defunding somebody. That is just not the case.

The case is section 211 and section 359. The entire bill has been well vetted and well understood on a bipartisan basis. Mr. COLLIN PETERSON, the ranking member, came with the chairman, Mr. LUCAS from Oklahoma. They sat there very succinctly and said they were going to work together. They were asking us to consider working together. We have had lots of bills, lots of appropriators. Just the other day, Armed Services, on a bipartisan basis, brought us their bill. I am sure there will be people who will fight that also. They will say that those darned Republicans just want to ruin this country, that they want to go back to the other ages.

Mr. Speaker, not true.

In fact, work that is done on our Appropriations Committee and work that is done, as an example, on the Agriculture Committee, is done together to try and address the problems of their constituencies. They're the people who live in rural America—people who get up early, who go to bed late, who care about this country—who do the things that, I think, are all American, in my mind, including having their sons and daughters join our military and they are helping each other—good neighbors—and looking out for each other. That is what we are doing. That is what this is. This isn't to have a debating group about things that are wrong.

It is about things that can be done right.

I would just say that, if the Democratic manager is unwilling to yield his time to Ms. WATERS, who is the gentlewoman who came up from Financial Services, she ought to ask a Republican if he will yield time, and it wouldn't surprise me if he would.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, through you, I would advise my good friend that we have no further speakers and that I am prepared to close at this time if he is.

In closing, what has transpired here is interesting. The Agriculture Committee had finished its product, and then it came yesterday to add provisions that in the final analysis are dealing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Then my friend, the chairman, would argue that it is an agriculture bill. Clearly, it is smack-dab in the lane of Financial Services, and they were excluded. Yes, Ms. WATERS did come to the Rules Committee last night, and there is no requirement that she be here now, but what we could have done—we keep saying “last night,” but it was late yesterday evening—is to let the Financial Services people participate in this debate—but no. What we have are the two people, the chairman and ranking member, who are given time with reference to this matter, and the Financial Services Committee is shut out of this debate. That is just plain wrong, and I believe most people know that.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4413 creates significant loopholes for derivatives by hamstringing the CFTC, and it undermines comprehensive financial reform.

Six years after the Great Recession, families are still struggling in this country. As of last week, 3 million Americans have lost their emergency unemployment insurance since it expired in December 2013. I want to repeat that: 3 million Americans have lost their emergency unemployment insurance since it expired in December 2013.

After my friends finish their reconstitution of their leadership this afternoon, I would hope that their new then leadership would come down here and put something on the floor that would allow us at least to have a vote, up or down, as to whether or not people should receive unemployment compensation.

Other things that have expired, along with unemployment compensation that expired in December, are the tax extender provisions, which help individual families and small businesses invest. In the coming months—real soon—Congress is going to be faced with even more pressing challenges as our Nation's highway trust fund is expected to go 0.0—bankrupt—and the authorizations for Federal surface transportation projects will also expire. The

Export-Import Bank and the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act are set to expire. The House still has eight appropriations bills left to pass, and with each passing day of inaction on these items, we come closer to another economic crisis.

Republicans and Democrats must come together to prevent this from happening as well as to move our Nation forward on comprehensive immigration and tax reform, raising the minimum wage, protecting voter rights, and securing equal pay.

□ 1315

Let me go back through that. Securing equal pay, protecting voter rights.

I am personally tired of the suppression and oppression measures with reference to voting in this country. Why in the world would we want less people to vote than, under the circumstances, people that should be participating in this great democracy of ours?

And yet we have States, including my own, circumventing the process of voting, restoring, if you will, age-old problems having to do with voting rights.

How about raising the minimum wage?

Put something down here on the floor and stand up and vote for it or against it. But don't come in here and have everybody believe that you are moving this country forward.

I predict for you what is going to happen: 28 more days, 27 more days, are going to go through the rest of this process. There is going to be further obstruction from the majority in this particular House of Representatives, and then we will go out and we will have an election, and the American people will speak again to those of us that are in the House of Representatives.

Most of us are likely to be back here, and we will be right back here in what is referred to as a “lame duck session,” and we will hold that lame duck session, pass some kind of an omnibus bill, and be off into the sunset for the 2016 election.

Enough already. Stop pretending, and have people know that we are confronted with real problems in this country, and it is this institution that has a responsibility to attend to them.

The reauthorization of CFTC is both important and necessary. However, H.R. 4413 includes provisions that put the safety and the stability of the United States financial system at risk. Therefore, I urge a “no” vote on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the gentleman, my dear friend from Florida, for not only attending the meetings, Rules Committee meetings, that were directly related to this subject. It took some time

yesterday. He was offered an opportunity and took us up on asking questions.

But I will tell you, not all of Denmark is rotten, Mr. Speaker. Not all of Denmark is rotten.

We are here today to put a bill on the floor to reauthorize the CFTC. We are not here for housing bills. We are not here for Wall Street bills. We are not here for all the problems of voter regulations. We are not here for all the problems of the world.

I am for world peace too, by the way. But that is not what we are here to do today.

What we are here to do is to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC, through a bill that was worked through by the Agriculture Committee, on a bipartisan basis, where they bring people together and actually listen to ideas. And certain sections in here may have been written by a Republican, certain may have been written by a Democrat, but there was agreement that they saw the same direction.

What did we do?

We made sure we empowered, by recognizing the role of what we are reauthorizing for the CFTC, and gave them what we believe are the proper statutes and direction, which is what the Congress of the United States is supposed to be doing, giving direction, working in consultation, and we have done this over and over and over.

By the way, this is not a 3,000-page bill. This bill was read by Members of Congress before we passed it.

Section 211, right here, we want people to work together. We would like to ask this administration to please work together.

Oh, by the way, we included the Federal courts in here also, and we said, a person adversely affected by a rule of the commission promulgated under this act may obtain the review of this rule in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

So we included the court system in here. We went through a process to make sure that we were dealing properly with a bipartisan answer to the past and to make us better for the future.

Oh, did we include other countries to where we want others in the world marketplace to know what we are doing? Yes, we did. Section 359, cross-border regulations of derivatives.

Mr. Speaker, we have tried to do the right thing. We don't debate every day every bill. We do debate lots of bills. We are trying to do the right thing. We are trying to work together. We are even trying to give enough time.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on my side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SESSIONS. Twelve and one-half minutes. My guess is that the gentleman from Florida had at least 12½

minutes. That is 24 minutes that we had available where, if there are other Members of the body that would wish to come down and participate in this debate, they can do just that.

I have not had anybody seek time. So I think the arguments are fair, but I think that they hold less water than what some assume.

What we are trying to do here today, the Republican majority, is to bring bills forward through regular order, through committees, where we know what we are doing, and we try and get things—try to get things done together. In this case, a successful rain dance has a lot to do with timing.

Well, the timing is right here today, Mr. Speaker, and we are right here on the floor with a bill. I see very little in terms of content where people want to come down and beat up the product. And the reason why is because this product is kind of like an American farm product—it is really pretty good. It really is a product of hard work, getting up early, going to bed late, being honest about it, trying to make things as efficient as they can.

So I am going to stand behind this product today. I am going to stand behind this product because I think they did a good job.

I will tell you that I think that our young chairman, FRANK LUCAS, is a great young leader. He is doing great things, and that is why I can say I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this rule, “yes” on the underlying legislation, and I can say with some 10 minutes left in time given me, and some time, about the same that was given to my Democrat colleague, I am going to yield back the balance of my time because I believe that the job we did was worthy and the product will show itself.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1635

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT) at 4 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4413, CUSTOMER PROTECTION AND END USER RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 629) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4413) to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purpose, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 184, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 317]

YEAS—230

Aderholt	Cotton	Graves (MO)
Amash	Cramer	Griffin (AR)
Amodei	Crawford	Griffith (VA)
Bachmann	Crenshaw	Grimm
Bachus	Culberson	Guthrie
Barber	Daines	Hall
Barletta	Davis, Rodney	Hanna
Barr	Denham	Harper
Barton	Dent	Harris
Benishek	DeSantis	Hartzler
Bentivolio	DesJarlais	Hastings (WA)
Billirakis	Diaz-Balart	Heck (NV)
Black	Duffy	Hensarling
Blackburn	Duncan (SC)	Herrera Beutler
Boustany	Duncan (TN)	Holding
Brady (TX)	Ellmers	Hudson
Bridenstine	Enyart	Huelskamp
Brooks (AL)	Farenthold	Huizenga (MI)
Brooks (IN)	Fincher	Hultgren
Broun (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Hunter
Buchanan	Fleischmann	Hurt
Bucshon	Fleming	Issa
Burgess	Flores	Jenkins
Byrne	Forbes	Johnson (OH)
Calvert	Fortenberry	Johnson, Sam
Campbell	Fox	Jolly
Cantor	Franks (AZ)	Jones
Capito	Frelinghuysen	Jordan
Carter	Gardner	Joyce
Cassidy	Garrett	Kelly (PA)
Chabot	Gerlach	King (IA)
Chaffetz	Gibbs	King (NY)
Coble	Gibson	Kingston
Coffman	Gingrey (GA)	Kinzinger (IL)
Cole	Gohmert	Kline
Cole	Goodlatte	Labrador
Collins (GA)	Gosar	LaMalfa
Collins (NY)	Gowdy	Lamborn
Conaway	Granger	Lance
Cook	Graves (GA)	Latham

Latta	Petri	Shimkus
LoBiondo	Pittenger	Shuster
Long	Pitts	Simpson
Lucas	Poe (TX)	Smith (MO)
Luetkemeyer	Pompeo	Smith (NE)
Lummis	Posey	Smith (NJ)
Marchant	Price (GA)	Smith (TX)
Massie	Reed	Southerland
McAllister	Reichert	Stivers
McCarthy (CA)	Renacci	Stockman
McCaul	Ribble	Stutzman
McClintock	Rice (SC)	Terry
McHenry	Rigell	Thompson (PA)
McIntyre	Roby	Thornberry
McKeon	Roe (TN)	Tiberi
McKinley	Rogers (AL)	Tipton
McMorris	Rogers (KY)	Turner
Rodgers	Rogers (MI)	Upton
Meadows	Rohrabacher	Valadao
Meehan	Rokita	Wagner
Messer	Rooney	Walberg
Mica	Ros-Lehtinen	Walden
Miller (FL)	Roskam	Walorski
Miller (MI)	Ross	Weber (TX)
Miller, Gary	Rothfus	Webster (FL)
Mullin	Royce	Weststrum
Murphy (PA)	Runyan	Westmoreland
Neugebauer	Ryan (WI)	Whitfield
Noem	Salmon	Williams
Nugent	Sanford	Wilson (SC)
Nunes	Scalise	Wittman
Olson	Schock	Wolf
Owens	Schweikert	Womack
Palazzo	Scott, Austin	Yoder
Paulsen	Scott, David	Yoho
Pearce	Sensenbrenner	Young (AK)
Perry	Sessions	Young (IN)

NAYS—184

Barrow (GA)	Frankel (FL)	Matheson
Bass	Fudge	Matsui
Beatty	Gabbard	McCarthy (NY)
Becerra	Gallego	McCormack
Bera (CA)	Garamendi	McDermott
Bishop (GA)	Garcia	McGovern
Bishop (NY)	Grayson	McNerney
Blumenauer	Green, Al	Meeks
Bonamici	Green, Gene	Meng
Brady (PA)	Grijalva	Michaud
Bralley (IA)	Gutiérrez	Miller, George
Brown (FL)	Hahn	Moore
Brownley (CA)	Hanabusa	Moran
Bustos	Hastings (FL)	Murphy (FL)
Butterfield	Heck (WA)	Nadler
Capps	Higgins	Napolitano
Cárdenas	Himes	Neal
Cramer	Hinojosa	Negrete McLeod
Carson (IN)	Holt	Nolan
Cartwright	Honda	O'Rourke
Castor (FL)	Horsford	Pallone
Castro (TX)	Hoyer	Pascrell
Chu	Huffman	Pastor (AZ)
Ciulline	Israel	Payne
Clark (MA)	Jackson Lee	Pelosi
Clay	Jeffries	Perlmutter
Cleaver	Johnson (GA)	Peters (CA)
Clyburn	Johnson, E. B.	Peters (MI)
Cohen	Kaptur	Peterson
Connolly	Keating	Pingree (ME)
Conyers	Kelly (IL)	Pocan
Cooper	Kennedy	Price (NC)
Courtney	Kildee	Quigley
Crowley	Kilmer	Rahall
Cuellar	Kind	Roybal-Allard
Cummings	Kuster	Ruiz
Davis (CA)	Langevin	Ruppersberger
Davis, Danny	Larsen (WA)	Sánchez, Linda
DeFazio	Larson (CT)	T.
DeGette	Lee (CA)	Sanchez, Loretta
Delaney	Levin	Sarbanes
DeLauro	Lewis	Schakowsky
DelBene	Lipinski	Schiff
Deutch	Loebach	Schneider
Dingell	Lofgren	Schrader
Doggett	Lowenthal	Schwartz
Doyle	Lowe	Scott (VA)
Duckworth	Lujan Grisham	Serrano
Edwards	(NM)	Sewell (AL)
Ellison	Luján, Ben Ray	Shea-Porter
Engel	(NM)	Sherman
Eshoo	Lynch	Sinema
Esty	Maffei	Sires
Farr	Maloney,	Slaughter
Fattah	Carolyn	Smith (WA)
Foster	Maloney, Sean	Speier

Swalwell (CA)	Tsongas	Walz
Takano	Van Hollen	Wasserman
Thompson (CA)	Vargas	Schultz
Thompson (MS)	Veasey	Waters
Tierney	Vela	Waxman
Titus	Velázquez	Welch
Tonko	Visclosky	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—17

Bishop (UT)	Marino	Rush
Capuano	Mulvaney	Ryan (OH)
Clarke (NY)	Nunnelee	Stewart
Costa	Polis	Woodall
Kirkpatrick	Rangel	Yarmuth
Lankford	Richmond	

□ 1701

Messrs. HONDA and HOYER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Messrs. STIVERS, MURPHY of Pennsylvania, CULBERSON, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. HALL changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON H.R. 4903, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Mr. CARTER, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-481) on the bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN'S SOFTBALL GAME

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise with many of the women of the House, both Republican and Democrat—the members of the Congressional Women's Softball Team—to share with our colleagues that, last night, at the Sixth Annual Congressional Women's Softball Game, the Members beat the press and took back the trophy.

Now, unbelievably, the press seems to be absent. They want to cover us on everything else, but they seem to be absent in observing these proceedings. We are so proud to report to you that we didn't just beat them, but we beat them badly—10-5.

We were able to raise the most that we have ever raised for the Young Survival Coalition. In total, over the last 6 years, we have raised just over \$500,000 for the Young Survival Coalition, which helps raise awareness and takes care of young women who are facing

breast cancer. I know all of you know by now that I am a breast cancer survivor myself. I was diagnosed at 41, and so this is so personal for me.

I want to thank all of my teammates who have become my sisters and friends. The best thing about this game, besides that we were able to raise awareness for young women all across this country, are the friendships that we all formed and that many of us know would not ever have been made without our playing together on this team. It was so much fun for such a good cause.

Actually, what we would like to do before I turn it over to my cocaptain, Mrs. MOORE CAPITO, is we would like to ask Coach Nat to come join us at the front because she never gets the recognition that she deserves. We love her so much. Natalie gave us such incredible skill-building drills this year that it really made a difference. Our bats were hot, and our fielding was great. We had very few errors, and we jelled as a team.

If I can just say one thing before I turn it over to Mrs. MOORE CAPITO, it is that we are really so proud of the fact that this is a bipartisan team, and, hopefully, we set an example for how it really is possible to set aside politics and work together. We are very proud of being able to do that. Many of us work together in the Chamber now that we have played together on the field, so we hope that we can continue to set an example and make sure that we can, as much as possible, put aside politics so we can do things together for the country.

With that, I yield to the gentlelady from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), my cocaptain.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my cocaptain, and I would like to thank the Members of the Senate who played with us as well. It was wonderful.

You all will be happy to know that we did not exploit the youth and inexperience of the press too much, because we had several grandmothers on the team, and for the poor folks who aren't grandmothers, I felt a little sorry for them.

I would like to call down our other coach, Mr. ED PERLMUTTER, who helped us every morning when we got up.

I would also like to give special recognition to two new members of the team this year—Katherine and Jaime. They did great.

To our Members who did not play with us this year, they were dressed and cheering right by the sidelines, so thank you all for coming.

Thanks to all of you who came out and supported us. Thanks to all of you for supporting such a great cause.

Sorry we beat you—not really.

We are on to next year because we do enjoy it. It is a labor of love because we are up early in the morning in the wind

and in the rain. Thanks so much for all of the support that you give us.

Thanks, everybody.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 4870, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 628 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4870.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1708

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, a request for a recorded vote on an amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) had been postponed, and the bill had been read through page 141, line 4.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mr. GOHMERT of Texas.

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. BLUMENAUER of Oregon.

An amendment by Mr. NADLER of New York.

An amendment by Mrs. WALORSKI of Indiana.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 130, noes 292, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 318]

AYES—130

Amodei	Green, Gene	Miller (FL)
Bachmann	Griffith (VA)	Miller (MI)
Barber	Hall	Neugebauer
Barletta	Hanna	Olson
Barr	Harper	Palazzo
Barrow (GA)	Hensarling	Paulsen
Barton	Herrera Beutler	Paulsen
Benishkek	Holding	Perry
Bentivolio	Hudson	Peters (MI)
Bilirakis	Huelskamp	Petri
Blackburn	Huizenga (MI)	Pitts
Brady (TX)	Hurt	Poe (TX)
Braley (IA)	Jenkins	Pompeo
Bridenstine	Johnson, Sam	Price (GA)
Broun (GA)	Jolly	Rahall
Brownley (CA)	Jones	Rogers (KY)
Buchanan	Jordan	Rooney
Burgess	King (IA)	Roskam
Campbell	Kingston	Rothfus
Carter	Kinzinger (IL)	Royce
Chabot	Kline	Rush
Coble	Labrador	Ryan (WI)
Conaway	LaMalfa	Salmon
Costa	Lamborn	Scalise
Crenshaw	Lance	Schweikert
Daines	Latta	Sensenbrenner
Denham	Loeb	Sessions
Dent	Lummis	Sinema
DeSantis	Maffei	Smith (NE)
DesJarlais	Marchant	Smith (TX)
Duffy	Massie	Southerland
Duncan (SC)	Matheson	Stockman
Duncan (TN)	McCarthy (CA)	Takano
Enyart	McCarthy (NY)	Terry
Farenthold	McCaul	Tiberi
Fincher	McClintock	Tipton
Fleischmann	McHenry	Walberg
Garrett	McIntyre	Weber (TX)
Gibson	McKinley	Webster (FL)
Gingrey (GA)	McMorris	Welch
Gohmert	Rodgers	Westmoreland
Goodlatte	McNerney	Wolf
Gosar	Meadows	Yoder
Gowdy	Messer	Yoho

NOES—292

Aderholt	Carson (IN)	Cummings
Amash	Cartwright	Davis (CA)
Bachus	Cassidy	Davis, Danny
Bass	Castor (FL)	Davis, Rodney
Beatty	Castro (TX)	DeFazio
Becerra	Chaffetz	DeGette
Bera (CA)	Chu	Delaney
Bishop (GA)	Cielline	DeLauro
Bishop (NY)	Clark (MA)	DelBene
Bishop (UT)	Clarke (NY)	Deutch
Black	Clay	Diaz-Balart
Blumenauer	Cleaver	Dingell
Bonamici	Clyburn	Doggett
Boustany	Coffman	Doyle
Brady (PA)	Cohen	Duckworth
Brooks (AL)	Cole	Edwards
Brooks (IN)	Collins (GA)	Ellison
Brown (FL)	Collins (NY)	Ellmers
Bucshon	Connolly	Engel
Bustos	Conyers	Eshoo
Butterfield	Cook	Esty
Byrne	Cooper	Farr
Calvert	Cotton	Fattah
Camp	Courtney	Fitzpatrick
Cantor	Cramer	Fleming
Capito	Crawford	Flores
Capps	Crowley	Forbes
Cárdenas	Cuellar	Fortenberry
Carney	Culberson	Foster

Fox	Lowey
Frankel (FL)	Lucas
Franks (AZ)	Luetkemeyer
Frelinghuysen	Lujan Grisham
Fudge	(NM)
Gabbard	Luján, Ben Ray
Gallego	(NM)
Garamendi	Lynch
García	Maloney,
Gardner	Carolyn
Gerlach	Maloney, Sean
Gibbs	Marino
Granger	Matsui
Graves (GA)	McAllister
Graves (MO)	McCollum
Grayson	McDermott
Green, Al	McGovern
Griffin (AR)	McKeon
Grijalva	Meehan
Grimm	Meeks
Guthrie	Meng
Gutiérrez	Mica
Hahn	Michaud
Hanabusa	Miller, Gary
Harris	Miller, George
Hartzler	Moore
Hastings (FL)	Moran
Hastings (WA)	Mullin
Heck (NV)	Murphy (FL)
Heck (WA)	Murphy (PA)
Higgins	Nadler
Himes	Napolitano
Hinojosa	Neal
Holt	Negrete McLeod
Honda	Noem
Horsford	Nolan
Hoyer	Nugent
Huffman	Nunes
Hultgren	O'Rourke
Hunter	Owens
Israel	Pallone
Issa	Pascrell
Jackson Lee	Pastor (AZ)
Jeffries	Payne
Johnson (GA)	Pearce
Johnson (OH)	Pelosi
Johnson, E. B.	Perlmutter
Joyce	Peters (CA)
Kaptur	Peterson
Keating	Pingree (ME)
Kelly (IL)	Pittenger
Kelly (PA)	Pocan
Kennedy	Posey
Kildee	Price (NC)
Kilmer	Quigley
Kind	Reed
King (NY)	Reichert
Kuster	Renacci
Langevin	Ribble
Larsen (WA)	Rice (SC)
Larson (CT)	Rigell
Latham	Roby
Lee (CA)	Roe (TN)
Levin	Rogers (AL)
Lewis	Rogers (MI)
Lipinski	Rohrabacher
LoBiondo	Rokita
Lofgren	Ros-Lehtinen
Long	Ross
Lowenthal	Roybal-Allard

NOT VOTING—9

Capuano	Mulvaney	Rangel
Kirkpatrick	Nunnelee	Richmond
Lankford	Polis	Ryan (OH)

□ 1713

Mr. ELLISON changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MARCHANT). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 179, noes 242, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 319]

AYES—179

Bass	Green, Al	Napolitano
Beatty	Green, Gene	Neal
Becerra	Grijalva	Negrete McLeod
Bera (CA)	Gutiérrez	Nolan
Bishop (NY)	Hahn	O'Rourke
Blumenauer	Hanabusa	Owens
Bonamici	Hastings (FL)	Pallone
Brady (PA)	Heck (WA)	Pascrell
Braley (IA)	Higgins	Pastor (AZ)
Brown (FL)	Himes	Payne
Brownley (CA)	Hinojosa	Perlosi
Butterfield	Holt	Perlmutter
Capps	Honda	Peters (MI)
Cárdenas	Horsford	Petri
Carney	Hoyer	Pingree (ME)
Carson (IN)	Huffman	Pocan
Cartwright	Israel	Price (NC)
Castor (FL)	Jackson Lee	Quigley
Castro (TX)	Jeffries	Rahall
Chu	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Cielline	Johnson, E. B.	Ruiz
Clark (MA)	Jones	Ruppersberger
Clark (NY)	Kaptur	Rush
Clay	Keating	Sánchez, Linda T.
Cleaver	Kelly (IL)	Sanchez, Loretta
Clyburn	Kennedy	Sanchez
Cohen	Kildee	Schakowsky
Connolly	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Conyers	Kind	Schiff
Costa	Kuster	Schneider
Courtney	Langevin	Schrader
Crowley	Larsen (WA)	Schwartz
Cuellar	Larson (CT)	Scott (VA)
Cummings	Lee (CA)	Serrano
Davis (CA)	Levin	Sewell (AL)
Davis, Danny	Lewis	Shea-Porter
DeFazio	Loeb	Sherman
DeGette	Lofgren	Sires
Delaney	Lowenthal	Slaughter
DeLauro	Lowey	Smith (WA)
DelBene	Luján, Ben Ray	Speier
Deutch	(NM)	Takano
Dingell	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
Doggett	Maffei	Thompson (MS)
Doyle	Maloney,	Tierney
Duncan (TN)	Carolyn	Titus
Edwards	Matheson	Tonko
Ellison	Matsui	Tsongas
Enyart	McCarthy (NY)	Van Hollen
Eshoo	McCollum	Vargas
Esty	McDermott	Vela
Farr	McGovern	Velázquez
Fattah	McNerney	Visclosky
Foster	Meeks	Walz
Frankel (FL)	Meng	Wasserman
Fudge	Michaud	Schultz
Gabbard	Miller, George	Waters
Garamendi	Moore	Waxman
García	Moran	Welch
Gibson	Murphy (FL)	Wilson (FL)
Grayson	Nadler	Yarmuth

NOES—242

Aderholt	Bilirakis	Bucshon
Amash	Bishop (GA)	Burgess
Amodei	Bishop (UT)	Bustos
Bachmann	Black	Byrne
Bachus	Blackburn	Calvert
Barber	Boustany	Camp
Barletta	Brady (TX)	Campbell
Barr	Bridenstine	Cantor
Barrow (GA)	Brooks (AL)	Capito
Barton	Brooks (IN)	Carter
Benishkek	Broun (GA)	Cassidy
Bentivolio	Buchanan	Chabot

Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Engel
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huitzenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt

NOT VOTING—10

Capuano
Kirkpatrick
Lankford
Mulvaney

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1718

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from New York (Mr. NAD-
LER) on which further proceedings were

postponed and on which the noes pre-
vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 187, noes 233,
not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 320]

AYES—187

Amash
Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brady (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Cardenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castro (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson

NOES—233

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black

Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Hunter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler

NOT VOTING—11

Capuano
King (IA)
Kirkpatrick
Lankford

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1722

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. WALORSKI

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs.

WALORSKI) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 238, noes 179, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 321]

AYES—238

Aderholt Gardner McMorris
 Amodei Garrett Rodgers
 Bachmann Gerlach McNearney
 Bachus Gibbs Meadows
 Barber Gibson Meehan
 Barletta Gingrey (GA) Messer
 Barr Gohmert Mica
 Barrow (GA) Goodlatte Miller (FL)
 Barton Gosar Miller (MI)
 Benishek Gowdy Miller, Gary
 Bentivolio Granger Mullin
 Bilirakis Graves (GA) Murphy (FL)
 Bishop (UT) Graves (MO) Murphy (PA)
 Black Green, Gene Neugebauer
 Blackburn Griffin (AR) Noem
 Boustany Griffith (VA) Nugent
 Brady (TX) Grimm Nunes
 Bridenstine Guthrie Olson
 Brooks (AL) Hall Palazzo
 Brooks (IN) Hanna Paulsen
 Broun (GA) Harper Pearce
 Brown (FL) Harris Perry
 Buchanan Hartzler Peters (MI)
 Buechson Hastings (WA) Peterson
 Burgess Heck (NV) Petri
 Byrne Hensarling Pittenger
 Calvert Herrera Beutler Pitts
 Camp Poe (TX) Ribble
 Campbell Holding Pompeo
 Cantor Hudson Posey
 Capito Huelskamp Price (GA)
 Carter Huizenga (MI) Reed
 Cassidy Hultgren Reicheart
 Chabot Hunter Renacci
 Chaffetz Hurt Ribble
 Coble Issa Rice (SC)
 Coffman Jenkins Rigell
 Cole Johnson (OH) Roby
 Collins (GA) Johnson, Sam Roe (TN)
 Collins (NY) Jolly Rogers (AL)
 Conaway Jones Rogers (KY)
 Cook Jordan Rogers (MI)
 Cotton Joyce Rohrabacher
 Cramer Kelly (PA) Rokita
 Crawford King (NY) Rooney
 Crenshaw Kingston Ros-Lehtinen
 Cuellar Kinzinger (IL) Roskam
 Culberson Kline Ross
 Daines LaMalfa Rothfus
 Davis, Rodney Lamborn Royce
 Denham Lance Ruiz
 Dent Latham Runyan
 DeSantis Latta Ryan (WI)
 DesJarlais Lipinski Salmon
 Diaz-Balart LoBiondo Scalise
 Duffy Long Schock
 Duncan (SC) Lucas Scott, Austin
 Duncan (TN) Luetkemeyer Scott, David
 Ellmers Lummis Sensenbrenner
 Farenthold Maloney, Sean Sessions
 Fincher Marchant Shimkus
 Fitzpatrick Marino Shuster
 Fleischmann Matheson Simpson
 Fleming McAllister Sinema
 Flores McCarthy (CA) Smith (MO)
 Forbes McCaul Smith (NE)
 Fortenberry McClintock Smith (NJ)
 Foxx McHenry Smith (TX)
 Franks (AZ) McIntyre Southerland
 Frelinghuysen McKeon Stewart
 Garcia McKinley Stivers

Stockman
 Stutzman
 Terry
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tipton
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao

Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Terry
 Walorski
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield

Williams
 Wilson (SC)
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IN)

NOES—179

Amash
 Bass
 Beatty
 Becerra
 Bera (CA)
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Brady (PA)
 Braley (IA)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Capps
 Cardenas
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costa
 Courtney
 Crowley
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DeBene
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle
 Duckworth
 Edwards
 Engel
 Enyart
 Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Fattah
 Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Grayson

NOT VOTING—14

Capuano
 Ellison
 King (IA)
 Kirkpatrick
 Labrador
 Lankford
 Mulvaney
 Nunnelee
 Poliss
 Rangel
 Richmond
 Ryan (OH)
 Schweikert
 Wittman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
 The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1726

So the amendment was agreed to.
 The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

□ 1730

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. COTTON
 Mr. COTTON. I have an amendment
 at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to transfer or release any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to the individual's country of origin or to any other foreign country.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Arkansas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would very simply prohibit the use of funds in this legislation from being used to transfer detainees at Guantanamo Bay to their country of origin or any foreign country.

There are two main reasons why this amendment is necessary, both related to the President's action in trading five senior Taliban commanders for Private Bowe Bergdahl.

First, he has proven that section 1035 of the National Defense Authorization Act is inadequate; and, second, we need to review conditions of the release of the Taliban Five.

On the first point, this Congress granted the President, last year, expanded authority to release detainees from Guantanamo Bay, conditioned on 30 days' notice to the Congress, as well as certain conditions.

The President abused that authority by releasing the Taliban Five without notification, even to the so-called Gang of Eight, the senior leaders of both parties in both Chambers, the senior leaders of both Intelligence Committees in both Chambers.

The President, having duly signed the National Defense Authorization Act into law with those restrictions, but then did not obey those restrictions, did not claim his core article II constitutional powers to override them. Therefore, it is imperative on our institution to reclaim, on principle, our constitutional authority.

Second, the Taliban Five have been released into the country of Qatar. We need to take a year to review the conditions of those released. As many of you have seen, they appear to be moving about freely in the country of Qatar without any restrictions on their movement, absent the requirement that they remain in Qatar.

This would allow them—senior commanders, mind you—to communicate freely with Taliban on the battlefield against our troops in Afghanistan. We should be able to take at least 1 year to see if such conditions are adequate to support the release of such hardened terrorist commanders.

What does this amendment not do? This is not a permanent ban on transfers of detainees from Guantanamo Bay, nor does it authorize indefinite detention. It simply says we will take a 1-year pause to evaluate the conditions under which five senior Taliban commanders were released and to reassert our constitutional prerogatives.

Who are these detainees? They are not goat herders who were innocently swept up by the American military, nor are they foot soldiers or couriers. These are the worst of the worst, 149 hardened terrorists, which Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay says 120 of are high risk to return to the battle.

In fact, just this week, a former Guantanamo Bay detainee was arrested in Spain, recruiting for the Islamic States of Iraq and Syria, the terrorist group that is currently rampaging through both Syria and Iraq.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, stand up for your honor as a coequal branch, stand up for our national security, and stand up for the safety of your constituents.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman would have a restriction, and I would point out, after today's vote, this would now be the fifth restriction relative to the detainees at Guantanamo Bay. While the gentleman suggests that it is not a permanent ban, it is a mantra of let's do nothing.

These are human beings, whether we want to admit that or not, and to simply continue, after 13 years, to do nothing is wrong. We are a Nation of laws.

I believe the continued operation of Guantanamo Bay reduces our Nation's credibility and weakens our national security by providing terrorist organizations with recruitment material.

Also, we are debating an appropriation bill, and people ought to understand that we are spending \$2.7 million annually per inmate at Guantanamo Bay, which is about 35 times more than the cost of an inmate at a supermaximum Federal prison in the United States.

I would also point out that the United States has transferred 620 detainees from Guantanamo since May of 2002, with 532 transfers occurring during the Bush administration and 88 transfers occurring during the Obama administration.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my colleague for yielding.

I rise today in support of the gentleman from Arkansas, TOM COTTON's amendment, which would prohibit any funds from being used to transfer or release any of the prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay.

We are a Nation of laws, and we need to make sure we follow those laws. I support this amendment for a litany of reasons, chief among them is that it sends a clear message to the President that he cannot circumvent Congress and that he, the President, cannot override the law of the land.

He should have notified Congress 30 days prior to releasing the five prisoners in exchange for Sergeant Bergdahl. The implications of this release will have a far-reaching impact on the national security of the United States.

Just recently, as the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) pointed out, Spanish authorities arrested a former Guantanamo Bay detainee on suspicions of running a terrorist recruitment network.

The Director of National Intelligence has said that, by January of 2014, about 29 percent of the 614 detainees released from the prison at Guantanamo Bay had returned to violence.

Our brave men and women in uniform have fought too hard and have sacrificed too much to have the President release these detainees who will likely return straight to the battlefield. We understand this, and our constituents understand this. I support this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support this strongly, too.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I would point out, relative to the gentleman's suggestion that we need to make sure the laws of the land are followed, that that is exactly what we do in this bill.

Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN had an amendment in the full committee, which I supported and spoke on behalf of, given the recent transfer of Taliban prisoners by the administration, and the fact is, in section 9015 of the bill, as printed and pending, it says:

No more than 15 percent of the funds made available may be obligated until the Secretary of Defense provides the congressional Defense and Intelligence Committees with a detailed spend plan for the funds provided.

Essentially, the chairman's initiative that I supported—and the committee voted for—fences that money off to make sure the law is followed. This amendment is unnecessary.

I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Chairman, with due respect to the gentleman from Indiana on numerous points, this is the fifth restriction that this Congress has undertaken.

If it were to pass, it simply shows the judgment of this Congress, the people's representatives, that these remaining 149 detainees are too dangerous to be

cavalierly released into a country without adequate constraints or without notification to Congress, as the law that the President signed demanded.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this bill. There are some facts that need to be put on the table that are inconsistent with what has been suggested by the gentleman from Arkansas. 18.6 percent of the people that were released by the Bush administration were "confirmed" recidivism cases, but it needs to be made clear that the Obama administration has released 95 people, and five of them have gone back to the battlefield.

Now, we don't want anyone to go back to the battlefield. There are 149 detainees still at Guantanamo. Fifteen are clearly the worst of the worst. Nobody is talking about transferring them, ever; but among them are a number of Muslim men who are innocent of any act against this country or our allies who were in the wrong place at the wrong time and were kidnapped by bounty hunters.

Only 5 percent of the prisoners held at Guantanamo were actually apprehended by U.S. forces, and as many as 86 percent were delivered to coalition forces in exchange for a bounty of millions of dollars per head.

There are 78 people who have been cleared for release by the Department of Defense, and they are still under detention. That is a travesty. That is not right. That is inconsistent with everything we believe and stand for in terms of American jurisprudence.

I think the gentleman has made it sufficiently clear by now that many of us know that the political and legal expediency of this detention center at Guantanamo has not been worth the cost to America's reputation around the world, nor to the erosion of our legal and ethical standards here at home.

For far too long, over the course of this war, we have let our fear and anger triumph over our commitment to the rule of law, and every day that we continue to hold these men without charge, we diminish ourselves and cede our moral authority in the world.

So, Mr. Chairman, this amendment is wrong. We need to exercise our judgment. Not all are the same. Not all should be there. Some should be tried in our courts, and this country has the ability to try and prosecute them.

□ 1745

Mr. COTTON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I yield my remaining time to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, Mr. COTTON says that by this amendment,

Congress recognizes the danger presented by these detainees. But legislative bodies have no right to make such judgments about individuals. Ever since Magna Carta, we have denied the government the power to imprison or punish people on mere accusations. Just because the government or Congress labels someone a terrorist doesn't make him one. The government must be required to prove the accusation in court. That has always been a bedrock American principle until we opened Guantanamo. Now we imprison people indefinitely without trial. By what claim of right do we do this?

How can we be sure we are punishing actual terrorists and not innocent people when we hold no trials? Guantanamo should be closed and its inmates either tried or released. It is beyond time to close Guantanamo to end this shame on American justice.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, I would simply say that the 149 terrorists left at Guantanamo Bay are not goat herders, they are not couriers, and they are not even foot soldiers. They are bomb-makers, they are commanders, and they are intelligence experts who have killed American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines around the world.

Yes, there have been releases in the past, but many of those release were of less dangerous terrorists. The Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay says 120 out of 149 of the remaining detainees are at high risk to return to the battlefield. That is over 80 percent.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a "yes" vote to put a pause on the President's lawless release of the Taliban Five from Guantanamo Bay.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas will be postponed.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support this bill and provisions therein which underscore that a free, independent, and democratic Ukraine is in the interests of liberty everywhere, most espe-

cially the European continent, which largely shares America's constitutional values and respect for the rule of law.

The road ahead will not be easy. Ukraine faces enormous challenges in transitioning to a democratic society as Russia eats away at her eastern provinces and now begins to sabotage her internal assets. The incomes of ordinary people in Ukraine have dropped significantly. Consumer inflation for the year is up 16 percent at the same time the Hryvnia has depreciated sharply, forcing private consumption to drop precipitously and further pushing GDP to decline. Life for ordinary citizens has become increasingly unsympathetic. Liberty hangs in the balance. With winter's approach, economic pressures will further mount as Russia restricts gas supplies to Ukraine.

This is a time for attention to Ukraine, which holds enormous potential to be the world's breadbasket in this 21st century, if only political conditions are stabilized to allow a better future to be built for all.

One powerful dimension of Ukrainian society most often ignored by Ukraine's former leaders and by the world community is Ukraine's village women. Despite all obstacles, they continue to produce nearly half the food that that nation's citizens eat. In village after village, on plots that are small and open pastures, these stalwart women—many of them grandmothers—toil, using simple hand tools, worn out handcart, wearing old boots, and planting seed and plants whose germplasma is nearly worn out. Their time-worn, horse-drawn wagons need tires to navigate the rough back roads. Their dwellings often lack water and indoor plumbing. Life is survival, and it is hard.

Empowering Ukraine's women to lighten their load and make their task a bit easier would be one important step our country and world leaders could take to allow Ukraine to transition through these delicate years to a better future.

For these reasons, the Appropriations Committee included language in the Defense bill directing the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 60 days after the enactment of this act describing additional assistance that the Department may provide to Ukraine, including out of its surplus warehouses.

The goal of our humanitarian efforts is to empower the women of Ukraine, who, despite enormous obstacles, literally hold their families and that nation together. It is to use humanitarian shipments from our country, from government surplus—anywhere in the world we can acquire it—to simply provide items to help them with their food production and preservation. Give to these village women: good seed,

buckets, wheelbarrows, gloves, boots, shovels, scythes, hoes, rakes, plastic on rolls, fencing, carts, used tires that will fit their horse-drawn wagons, simple canning equipment for putting up fruits and vegetables, drying equipment, scissors, hand shovels, grass clippers, pruners, loppers, saws, hammers, small hoop houses, hose, rope, and string. And while we are at it, how about some shortwave radios so they can connect to the world beyond their meager circumstances?

We anticipate with other provisions in this legislation States with lift capacity, such as Ohio, can arrange Department of Defense humanitarian shipments through their National Guard Partnership for Peace programs to transport the above-mentioned agricultural tools and supplies to the Ukrainian women in their villages through charitable networks in that country.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to recognize this important inclusion in this bill. I thank the chairman of our committee, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, the ranking member, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, and all freedom-loving people everywhere for understanding the vital consequence of these provisions at this moment of history. I would like to include for the RECORD an article entitled "Ukraine Faces Hurdles in Restoring Its Farming Legacy."

[From the New York Times, May 27, 2014]

UKRAINE FACES HURDLES IN RESTORING ITS FARMING LEGACY

(By Danny Hakim)

ZIBOLKY, UKRAINE.—Like many of her neighbors in this old Soviet collective farm, Maria Onysko prefers to be paid in grain instead of cash for the modest plot of land she rents out.

"I have two cows and four pigs, many chickens," said Ms. Onysko, 62. "So we use it for them."

After the breakup of the Soviet Union, farmland in newly independent Ukraine was divided among villagers, acre by acre, creating a patchwork of agricultural endeavors that are often inefficient or unprofitable. Some land is rented to fruit growers, grain operators or large-scale farming businesses. Some locals work small plots on their own. Some acreage sits fallow, stuck in legal limbo after the owner has died.

Ukraine was once the breadbasket of the Soviet Union, known for its rich soil where grain, sunflowers and livestock flourished. But farming production dropped sharply in the chaotic decade after the collapse of communism, and recovery has come in fits and starts. Production is only now returning to peak levels of the 1990s, stymied by the corruption, red tape and inefficiencies that have plagued the broader Ukrainian economy for years and left the villagers living humble existences.

Restoring Ukraine's farming legacy will be crucial to the success of the country's newly elected president, the billionaire businessman Petro O. Poroshenko. Such efforts would go a long way toward fixing Ukraine's economy and reducing its dependence on Russia. Agriculture once accounted for nearly 20 percent of the gross domestic product; it is now roughly 10 percent.

The potential became clear last year when a strong harvest helped Ukraine avoid a drop in output. "It was just because of agriculture," said Pavlo Sheremeta, Ukraine's minister of economic development. "Otherwise, it would have been a decline."

Against the backdrop of the crisis with Russia, Western interests are pressing for change. The European Union is moving forward with a plan to bolster trade by lifting custom duties on Ukrainian agriculture. As part of a deal with the International Monetary Fund for up to \$18 billion in loans, the country's government must push through business reforms that would help alleviate the problems with farming and other businesses.

The hope is that such initiatives will also bolster the confidence of foreign investors as the crisis abates. Big multinationals have expressed tentative interest in Ukrainian agriculture, but they have largely remained on the sidelines, unwilling to invest in an industry hampered by structural deficiencies and, more recently, the uncertainty with its eastern neighbor.

"If cheap capital comes in along with foreign investment, and you have a good government without roadblocks, Ukraine can close to double its production in the future," said Roman Fedorowycz, a Ukrainian-American who returned here years ago and now runs a farming company that grows mainly corn, sunflowers and soybeans.

Even small improvements would make a big difference in a highly inefficient industry starved for money. While roughly 70 percent of Ukraine's land is considered suitable for agriculture, it has not been fully cultivated. The country's yield per hectare of grain is about half that of the United States, according to the World Bank.

Change won't come easy, given the challenges. Previous governments have tried to restrict what crops farmers grow and when they rotate crops, as well as limiting exports. Some state inspectors lack cars to conduct on-site inspections, so farmers must bring grain to them before shipping.

Selling farmland is also forbidden in Ukraine, a legacy of its communist past. So fields remain cut up "like chessboards," said Georgiy Vaydanych, land manager for Agrokultura, a Stockholm-based agricultural company that rents 173,000 acres in many such villages. "For the moment we have 40,000 active landlords," Mr. Vaydanych said. "Forty thousand!"

Making matters worse, paperwork is costly and many villagers never officially inherit the farmland after their parents die. "There is uncertainty on how to farm this land, because we have the dead souls in the middle of our fields," Mr. Vaydanych said, in a reference to Nikolai Gogol, whose 19th-century classic, "Dead Souls," is required school reading here.

Even as the crisis in the east intensifies, life in the agricultural west remains much the same.

A dirt road straddling tilled fields leads into this village, with potholes so deep that drivers zigzag past each other. There are horse-drawn carts, roosters crowing, elderly women in kerchiefs and a church painted pale green topped by bulbous spires.

Few in this pro-European area of Ukraine are nostalgic for Moscow. Still, Oleg Gusak, head of the village council, said life had not improved.

"When it was a collective, the level of life was better," he said, explaining that it was once a larger operation that harvested crops, had livestock and made clothing, furniture and jams.

"People even came from other regions, because we had so much work," he said, adding, "Now, it's not the same."

Trouble raising capital at reasonable prices makes it difficult to start or expand farms.

"I have to pay up to 12 percent if I borrow in euros," said Taras Barshchovsky, an entrepreneur who founded T.B. Fruit, which makes fruit juices and whose rented orchards cover thousands of acres. He has expanded into Poland, where he said he could borrow for less than 3 percent.

"Those who work with Ukrainian banks in hryvnias," the national currency, "they pay up to 20 percent or more. I don't believe you can profit and return money on that percentage," he added.

And while other former Soviet bloc neighbors like Hungary, Romania and Poland began easing their land sale restrictions after joining the European Union, Ukraine has repeatedly delayed lifting its moratorium, considering the move politically risky in its agrarian society. In 2013, the government of Viktor Yanukovich, the deposed Ukrainian leader, extended the moratorium until 2016, after he expected to stand for reelection.

"I'm afraid if I sell my land in the future my children will say their old grandfather drank away all their money," Hrynychshyn Myroslaw, 62, said as he cleared a willow field near another village.

With a laugh, he added: "It depends how much you will pay me. If there are enough zeros, you can pay me."

Volodymyr Baran, 43, a tractor mechanic, said he would never sell his six acres: "The land is our bread."

Such dynamics deter foreign investment, which has been tepid for years. Despite some interest from China and multinationals, large agricultural enterprises tend to be Ukrainian owned, and recent prominent deals have been less than they seemed. For example, Cargill paid a reported \$200 million for a stake in UkrLandFarming, an agricultural holding company. But a Cargill spokeswoman emphasized that the shares were collateral for a loan rather than a long-term investment.

The rules make "it so much more difficult to understand, and to bring in investment," said David Sedik, a senior official at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. "It's not that a foreigner or a company has to buy the land, but it breeds opaqueness in the sector. You need transparent land laws."

At his office, Mr. Vaydanych pulled out a village map and showed how its 2,500 acres were divided up among 507 villagers.

"Every field is split, by little, little plots," he explained.

Being a land manager requires a political touch. Mr. Vaydanych goes from village to village handing out favors, fending off competitors trying to outbid his rental contracts.

A village chief, he said, "may call us and tell us, it's the wintertime, we have a lot of snowfall, so give us a forklift to clean the road. O.K., well, we do that."

"He may say this electricity substation is broken so we need urgently to repair it, or he's calling because the water pump at school broke, so we replace it," he said. "That's the commitment that comes with the land."

"I wouldn't be surprised by any request," Mr. Vaydanych said. "It is about keeping everyone happy. That's my work."

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from New Jer-

sey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), the chairman.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I would like to join with the ranking member in commending you for this colloquy and for the purpose of the colloquy.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, we share, love, and represent a number of Ukrainian Americans, and we know their plight, and we salute your efforts. This is an important focus that you have brought to our attention.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you so very much for your openness to this, Mr. Chairman. And Mr. Ranking Member, thank you for allotting me the time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I want to thank the gentlewoman for her service and for her commitment to her constituents, to her country, and to the Ukrainian people.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. RUNYAN

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to retire, divest, or transfer, or to prepare or plan for the retirement, divestment, or transfer of, the entire KC-10 fleet during fiscal year 2015.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from New Jersey and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment simply states that none of the funds made available by this act may be used to retire, divest, or transfer—or to prepare to retire, divest or transfer—the KC-10.

During my time in Congress, I have been a strong supporter of the Air Force's new tanker, the KC-46A. We must bring a new tanker online, but during the transition, it is critical that we are able to meet all mission requirements.

This is why I am strongly concerned by the Air Force's proposal to do a possible vertical cut of the KC-10 tanker and retire it. Having a mission capability shortfall by eliminating the newest tanker currently in our inventory while the KC-46A comes online is simply unacceptable.

As many of you are aware, I am proud to have Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in my district, and my colleague Mr. GARAMENDI has Travis Air Force Base in California, which are both home to the KC-10. This is not parochial. It is an air refueling and air mobility mission readiness issue.

The KC-10 platform has more than proved itself as a workhorse in support of air refueling and air mobility in

Iraq, Afghanistan, our homeland defense, and other missions as called upon.

Unlike other tankers in our inventory, it can refuel Air Force, Navy, and international military aircraft with its dual boom and hose-and-drogue systems. The KC-10 itself can also be refueled while in flight, helping extend our global reach.

Most importantly, this aircraft is critical to providing an air bridge across the Arctic, Atlantic, and Pacific routes to support our combatant commanders.

This amendment sends a message to the Air Force and the DOD that Congress remains committed to active oversight of our air refueling mission platforms and sufficient capacity to support our warfighters.

I want to thank the chairman, the members of the subcommittee, and the staff for working with me on this important amendment. I would particularly highlight our appreciation for the strong support Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN has shown for the KC-10 platform, and his concern for ensuring there is no mission gap for our military's air refueling needs.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RUNYAN. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Let me thank my colleague from New Jersey for raising this important issue. We believe this proposal to be an extremely risky proposition because the KC-10 provides a particularly vital link in the air bridge that enables global operations of our Armed Forces.

We could not have done what we did in Afghanistan and Iraq without this vital link, and to retire the entire fleet would be a huge mistake. This is the only tanker that currently uses the boom to fuel Air Force aircraft and the basket to refuel the Navy and Marine Corps fleet. So it is darn important.

I appreciate the work the gentleman has done to bring this to our attention. We have included, of course, language in our bill which reemphasizes the importance of the KC-10 to national security.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for those kind words, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the recognition and would certainly at the outset compliment the gentleman for his concern about the KC-10 and also for his remarks about the performance of the aircraft as well

as the value to our country. That is not in dispute, and that certainly is not the reason I am on my feet now.

But the amendment, I believe, would reserve a specific element in the Department of Defense force structure. The practice of the committee and in our bill has been to avoid protection of specific weapons systems or bases and to leave the Department flexibility as far as a path going forward, particularly as far as restructuring units, as well as retirement of programs. This language does not comport with the general concepts of this bill.

I would also point out an issue similar to this relative to a transfer of an airlift wing that was in one State of this great country, and the Department proposal that it be transferred to a different State in this country was debated in committee relative to the reporting of this bill, and we had a vote on that issue, and the committee voted against interfering with the decision that the Department had made relative to their military judgment. Therefore, I would urge the rejection of the gentleman's amendment with all due respect to the capabilities of the KC-10.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his comments on that. And I will just tell the committee that I have had many conversations with the Air Force about this exact issue, and to be able to take a capability away from what we can do in our global reach and not have a legitimate answer in the near future I think would be devastating to what we can do and how we can project power globally.

So the readiness issue has not been answered, and I think this is a step in the right direction to make sure that our national security is at the forefront. So, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MORAN

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out sections 8107 and 8108.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

□ 1800

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes to explain that my amendment would allow the U.S. mili-

tary to transfer to their home countries the 77 detainees who have been cleared for release by the intelligence community and the Joint Chiefs of Staff and to bring those not cleared for release to the United States to be charged, tried, and sentenced.

The Sergeant Bergdahl exchange has brought this issue again to center stage, but the fact is that, if we had dealt with these individuals in a responsible and legal way, we would not be in this situation discussing the merits of the decision to release five of them.

For 12 years now, Guantanamo has operated outside of the legal checks of the American judicial system, serving a physical reminder of the gap between the principles that define us as Americans and our willingness to abandon those principles in the name of national security.

With the final withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan this year, the continued indefinite detention at Guantanamo enters a new stage. We will no longer be at war, and the current Authorization for the Use of Military Force will expire.

So we have to ask ourselves: Do we have the legal authority to hold these enemy combatants indefinitely? Now is the time to either transfer or bring these men to trial—now—while we can still do so on our own terms, while we can give the Defense Department the legal authority it needs to make the right decisions about these prisoners.

It is costing us \$2.7 million per detainee, per year, versus \$34,000 at a maximum security prison in the United States. More than 300 individuals convicted of crimes related to international terrorism are currently incarcerated in 98 Federal prisons in the United States, with no escapes or attacks in attempts to free them.

The indictment and capture of Ahmed Abu Khattala for his role in the Benghazi attack is a great example of our ability to deal with high-profile terrorists swiftly and safely.

Mr. Khattala will not be brought to Guantanamo to become yet another symbol of U.S. hypocrisy. He will be brought to the United States to answer for his crimes in a Federal court and punished in accordance with the laws of this Nation. I have every confidence in our legal institutions to bring Mr. Khattala to justice.

General Michael Lehnert, who oversaw the opening of Gitmo, has said that its continued operation "has helped our enemies" and makes "a mockery of our values."

It is time to put an end to this by supporting this amendment, and let me just use one more quote. In the words of the family members of the 9/11 victims, the current system is "immoral, unlawful, expensive, counterproductive, unnecessary, and has failed to deliver justice for the 9/11 attacks."

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I seek time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mrs. BLACK). The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I would first like to recognize Mr. MORAN's service on our committee. As just exhibited, in the full committee, he is truly a passionate man, and I must say he has been consistently passionate on this issue, but despite his passion and his reasoning, I stand in opposition to his amendment.

The provisions contained in our bill are the same as current law, and they have been carried in some form since fiscal year 2010, in both the appropriations bill and in the Defense authorization bill. Quite honestly, they need to remain there.

The provisions we carry ensure that the remaining Gitmo detainees who are judged to be the most dangerous will never be brought into our homeland, where U.S. citizens could be threatened. There is a pretty strong and enduring consensus—bipartisan consensus—in Congress that Guantanamo Bay should remain open, that the detainees should not be transferred to the United States for any reason, and that no facility should be built in the United States to house them.

As everyone here is aware and as it has been mentioned in earlier debate, a number of detainees who have been released from Guantanamo have gone back to the fight and killed and wounded Americans. The threat is real. We haven't quite left Afghanistan. The threats there are real.

I strongly oppose the gentleman's amendment, and I ask the House to give it a strong negative vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Madam Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MORAN. Madam Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chair, we are holding 154 people at Guantanamo, 77 of whom have been cleared for release. That is to say they have been found guilty of nothing, are thought to be guilty of nothing, and have been judged not to pose any danger, but nonetheless, they are not released.

There is no reason and no right for us to hold them further. The others should be brought to the United States and tried in a secure facility, tried for their offenses.

Madam Chair, I wonder which of our colleagues doesn't believe in the American system of justice. I wonder which of us does not trust our own American courts. I wonder who among us does

not believe in the Bill of Rights, who does not believe in the right to counsel or that people should have an opportunity to have their guilt or innocence established in court.

What we have at Guantanamo is a system that is an affront to those beliefs and to the United States. In the last decade, we have begun to let go of our freedoms bit by bit, with each new executive order, each new court decision, and each new act of Congress.

We have begun giving away our right to privacy, our right to our day in court when the government harms us, and with this legislation, we are continuing down the path of destroying the right to be free from imprisonment without due process of law.

The language in this bill, without this amendment, prohibits moving any detainees into the United States or releasing any at all and guarantees that we will continue holding people indefinitely, people who may not be terrorists, who may not be enemy combatants, some of whom we may suspect to be terrorists, none of whom have been proven to be terrorists, none of whom have had a day in court.

We will continue to hold them indefinitely without charge, contrary to every tradition this country stands for, contrary to any notion of due process.

Mr. COTTON says that this Congress has judged that these people are dangerous people. This Congress has no right, under the Constitution, to make such a judgment. That is called the bill of attainder and is specifically prohibited.

People to be found guilty must be found guilty in a court, not by a legislative body. Because of this momentous challenge to the founding principles of the United States that no person may be deprived of liberty without due process of law and certainly may not be deprived of liberty indefinitely without due process of law, we must close the detention facility at Guantanamo now, in order to restore our national honor.

This will afford the detainees no additional constitutional rights. The Supreme Court has already ruled that detainees at Guantanamo have the same constitutional rights at Guantanamo as they would if they were brought here.

They should be brought here. They should be tried in a Federal court, where they can be convicted if guilty and acquitted if innocent and not wait for years for military tribunals, which have succeeded in convicting nobody at trial at all.

We must restore the honor of the United States and eliminate this exception to our traditions and to our rule of law and to our rule of justice.

Just because we think or somebody in the government thinks that somebody is terrorist does not mean that that person is a terrorist—he may or

may not be—and it does not mean that he does not have the right to his day in court.

Mr. MORAN. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, what about justice for the victims of those who died on September 11, 2001? What about justice for those five detainees that were released the other day in the prisoner exchange; how is there justice there?

They were among the worst of the worst. We need to keep the provisions in this bill. I urge a strong "no" vote on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Chair, I rise to engage in a colloquy regarding the Navy's littoral combat ship. The Navy's littoral combat ship represents the future small surface combatant for the United States Navy. This program is in its infancy, but has, so far, cleared many hurdles and is well on its way to becoming an integral part of the fleet.

The Navy reduced the budget request from four ships in fiscal year 2015, as they projected last year, to three ships. Mr. Chairman, your bill has further reduced the program to a recommended level of two ships.

Mr. Chairman, wouldn't you agree that the LCS is an important part of the Navy's future fleet?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Let me first salute the gentleman from Alabama for his strong advocacy on behalf of the littoral combat ship, and let me say that the littoral combat ship plays an extremely important role in the future of the Navy's fleet.

In fact, the ship represents nearly one-sixth of the 306-ship fleet the Navy has expressed as its stated fleet requirement.

During markup of the bill, the committee spent as much time, if not more, on this issue than any other. In the end, we were extremely concerned with the strong words expressed by the Secretary of Defense with respect to the small surface combat requirements that these ships must have.

Since the littoral combat ship does play a vital role, we want to make sure we are buying the correct version. That is why we slowed the production.

However, we recognize the importance of the industrial base—very much so—and we certainly don't want to let that in any way stagnate, so we have provided funding for two ships to bridge the gap until the Navy can verify the requirements and incorporate them into the production line.

I do recognize that this is an important program for your community, and you have been a remarkable advocate. You have been on my case for quite a long time, and I am hugely admiring of your passion and determination.

I want to assure you that we will continue to work with you to address your concerns. We will continue to monitor, as we proceed to conference with the Senate, and we will work with the gentleman to ensure we adopt the right policy for our national security and the industrial base, including a very important shipyard in the gentleman's district in Mobile, Alabama.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you and Ranking Member VISLOSKY, as well as Chairman ROGERS, as we move toward conference.

The Navy has been unequivocal in its support for the LCS, and as you say, the LCS plays an extremely important role in the future of the Navy's fleet. It is vitally important the Congress not lose sight of that and that I not lose sight of the importance of this shipyard to my district.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, I have amendment No. 31 at the desk, preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the purposes of conducting combat operations in Iraq.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, I rise today, remembering 12 years ago when I stood on this floor and offered an amendment with the same purpose

as the amendments I offer this evening: to prevent a war with Iraq; to keep our young men and women—our troops—out of harm's way; and to be prudent with taxpayers' hard-earned dollars, as well as ensuring our national security.

We are all familiar with the reports coming out of Iraq about the horrific sectarian violence taking place. We must not let history repeat itself. Calls to be dragged back into a war in Iraq must be rejected because the reality is there is no military solution in Iraq.

I want to applaud the President for reiterating that again today and for making it clear that he does not want combat troops on the ground in Iraq.

This amendment would not allow funding for combat operations. This is a sectarian war with longstanding roots that were inflamed, unfortunately, when we invaded Iraq in 2003. Any lasting solution must be political and take into account respect for the entire Iraqi population.

□ 1815

The change Iraq needs must come from Iraqis, rejecting violence in favor of a peaceful democracy that respects all and respects the rights of all.

Our job is to continue to promote and support regional and international engagement, recognition of human rights and political reforms, support for women and children, and religious freedom.

Madam Chair, after more than a decade of war, thousands of American lives, and hundreds of billions of dollars, the American people are rightfully war weary. The American people are not interested in repeating the mistakes of the past. A recent poll found that 74 percent of the public is opposed to sending combat troops into Iraq.

This amendment would not impact the President's ability to protect U.S. personnel or our Embassy. We must do that. It does not impact the President's ability to act if there is a direct or imminent threat to our national security. As the President cited in his recent notification to Congress, doing so would be consistent with his responsibilities to protect U.S. citizens both at home and abroad.

Finally, it does not impact the President's ability to send assistance to gather intelligence or advisers and trainers.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I withdraw my reservation, and I seek the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The reservation is withdrawn.

The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, what is occurring in Iraq is complicated and dangerous and violent. This is a complicated issue that the

gentlewoman seeks to address with multifaceted policy ramifications that really cannot be fully debated in an amendment in this short period of time.

The situation in Iraq remains highly complicated, very dangerous, and does, I believe, and many believe, pose an imminent threat to U.S. and allied interests, particularly regional security; witness the fact that the President has sent over a number of advisers to either protect the Embassy or work with the Iraqi military.

This amendment, in my judgment, goes too far as it attempts to tie the U.S. Government's hands, i.e., the Commander in Chief's hands, in navigating the complicated situation we face related to threats emanating from Iraq, recognizing that half of the country is now in the hands of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

We have to be realistic. What this amendment would do is to remove any possibility of the U.S. engaging under any circumstance, even if such engagement would be in the best interest of our own country or allies. For example, this would preclude the U.S. from providing any assistance to the Iraqi Government to defeat a terrorist group inside Iraq, and it appears we may be on the verge of doing exactly that.

Given the ever-changing dynamics in Iraq and the rising terrorist threats coming from within Iraq—and again, almost half the country is in the hands of terrorists—this is a very ill-advised amendment, and I strongly oppose it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, just to clarify, all this amendment does is it would not fund the combat operations in Iraq.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN).

Mr. NOLAN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Lee amendment. The American people have invested 10 years of precious blood and treasure into this conflict. The simple truth is that the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi Army have failed to win the confidence of their own people. The fact is, the army has cut and run, leaving behind valuable equipment, and the fact is we have no friends in this conflict. It is time to get out and to stay out.

Thank you, Representative LEE, for your amendment.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, this amendment sends, I think, the wrong message to the Iraqi people, who have suffered a great deal, and of course I recognize the loss of our soldiers and the sacrifice of our soldiers and their families.

I think this is a very ill-advised amendment and I strongly oppose it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. LEE of California. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, I am here to support the amendment to prohibit the use of ground troops in Iraq.

What the American people are seeking is an end to 10, 12, 11 years of a war without end. What the American people are seeking is attention to the needs in this country. What the veterans that have fought in that war are seeking are jobs and the proper care for the visible and invisible wounds of that war.

The only thing we need to protect—and it is not about us going into a conflict and picking sides in what is fundamentally a religious war where there will be no end for us. We must avoid and prevent combat troops being in Iraq. We do that because the American people are against it; we do that because it is the moral imperative; and we do that because we have learned a lesson from history. And history has taught us that this is a war that will not end. We have an opportunity to end it. We have an opportunity to demand of the international community that they use diplomacy to solve the problem in the region.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute now to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Chair, it is as simple as this: the al-Maliki government has abused and excluded huge portions of his population. Because of that, there is a conflict in that country of al-Maliki's own making. Now, what we are going to do if we send combat troops there is literally be his air force, be his ground troops. We shouldn't do that. That is not the right thing for the United States to do.

If we want to help, what we should do is engage the regional community, the countries around Iraq and Iraqi leaders, in a diplomatic solution that hopefully includes them having a more inclusive, less abusive government. That is the proper role of the United States. Trying to stop us from being combat troops is the right thing to do. I urge everybody to support this.

I think the gentleman is incorrect; we are right to stay out of this thing. What, after all, have we learned if 11 years has not taught us? Training? We have given plenty of training. We have trained these people up the wazoo. They abandoned their post. It is not a training problem.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, in closing, let me just underscore the fact that combat operations will not solve the problems in Iraq. This amendment would not fund combat operations. We should not repeat these terrible mistakes of the past.

Let me once again clarify. This amendment would not impact the ability of the United States personnel and our Embassy. We want to protect the United States personnel and Embassy.

Secondly, it would not impact the President's ability to provide unmanned intelligence gathering and assistance. It would not impact the President's constitutional authority to protect U.S. citizens both at home and abroad.

I urge for a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 10002. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to promulgate Directive 293, issued December 16, 2010, by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Chair, I rise in support of my amendment that would reiterate Congress' objection to a proposed policy change by the Department of Labor Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program. That would treat health care providers as Federal contractors.

In December 2010, OFCCP quietly issued directive 293 asserting that contractual arrangements under Medicare, TRICARE, and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program will trigger OFCCP jurisdiction. This directive would reclassify a majority of hospitals in the United States as Federal contractors, subjecting hospitals in your district and mine to OFCCP's often crushing regulatory burden.

With respect to TRICARE, the agency aggressively asserted in its jurisdiction in the 2009 administrative case OFCCP v. Florida Hospital of Orlando, OFCCP argued the hospital was a Federal subcontractor by virtue of its participation as a provider in a TRICARE network of providers.

The agency took this troubling position despite the fact that the Department of Defense, which regulates TRICARE, previously included: "It would be impossible to achieve the TRICARE mission of providing affordable health care for our Nation's Ac-

tive Duty and retired military members and their families if onerous Federal contracting rules were applied to the more than 500,000 TRICARE providers in the United States."

Unfortunately, Madam Chair, the administrative law judge in the case did not heed DOD's warning and failed to see this policy change for what it is: an expansion of government power over the health care sector. As such, Congress acted to oppose this overreach, and the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act clarified that a TRICARE network health care provider is not a Federal contractor or subcontractor.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, I am deeply concerned by this attempt by OFCCP to expand its jurisdiction through executive fiat. In response, I introduced the Protecting Health Care Providers from Increased Administrative Burdens Act, which would clarify that health care providers are not Federal contractors subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor's OFCCP.

Our actions on the committee in bringing attention to this issue have been successful in prompting OFCCP to place a moratorium on the policy. However, as OFCCP has previously defied Congress and the Department of Defense, I believe this amendment is necessary. Therefore, Madam Chair, I ask the House to support my amendment that would prohibit funds to be used under this act for implementing this overreach and affirmatively show the House will not support such actions by the Department of Labor and OFCCP.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Chair, I appreciate the recognition.

I appreciate the thrust of the gentleman's amendment. I rise in opposition to it, however, because I think it is overly broad.

One of the concerns I have is, if it is adopted, I am concerned about whether or not technical assistance could continue to be given to contractors and subcontractors; and, obviously, given the complexity of the law, it would be helpful for them to have it, and I would not want it to be prohibited.

Additionally, the amendment would appear to interfere with the OFCCP's ability to connect outreach and, again, technical assistance under the current moratorium to help contractors and subcontractors understand their obligations under the law.

So again, I appreciate where the gentleman is coming from. I am concerned that, given the broadness of the amendment, it may inhibit the type of information and assistance that these contractors and subcontractors really do

need. So, for that reason, I am opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Chair, I appreciate the gentleman's concern; however, as DOD has recommended in the past and stood on the fact that, for purposes of TRICARE and the like, hospitals are not contractors, they do not contract with the Federal Government, with the Department of Defense.

□ 1830

So I don't see the reason for continuing to address this issue any further for these contractors, at least as defined by OFCCP.

In closing, again, this is an issue that DOD has spoken on strongly, this is an issue that Congress has spoken on, this is an issue that OFCCP continues to push. I believe we would be remiss if we allowed this to happen and allowed the concept that hospitals would be considered government contractors simply for providing health care under TRICARE and the like to our veterans, to our military, and certainly to any of our Federal employees.

I would appreciate support for this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, as ranking member of the subcommittee on Workforce Protections that has jurisdiction over this issue, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan.

Earlier this year, Chairman WALBERG and I raised bipartisan concerns with the Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCCP)'s enforcement activity with regards to TRICARE participants. Under the OFCCP's 2010 directive, there was very real concern that any hospital that participated in TRICARE would be considered to be a federal contractor under the OFCCP's jurisdiction. While I support the mission of the OFCCP, I shared the concern of many that application of the agency's contracting rules could disrupt the vital mission of providing quality health care for our active duty servicemembers, retirees and their families.

To this end, as a conferee on the FY2012 National Defense Authorization Act, I supported language clarifying that a TRICARE health care provider was not a federal contractor or subcontractor. Despite the clear congressional intent in that language, and the withdrawal of the 2010 directive that is the subject of this amendment, our recent hearings in the Workforce Protections subcommittee on the subject showed there was still a great deal of misunderstanding over the reach of OFCCP into TRICARE providers.

That is why I deeply appreciate the personal engagement of our Secretary of Labor, Tom Perez, in hearing out our concerns and taking action to address them. As the gentleman noted, Secretary Perez has already addressed this matter through Directive 2014-01 establishing a moratorium on the OFCCP's enforcement activity with regards to TRICARE participants, addressing many of the concerns raised on the floor here today. For instance, instead of a temporary one-year rider pro-

posed through this amendment the Secretary's directive established a five year moratorium on applying OFCCP's jurisdiction to TRICARE providers—meaning that any open OFCCP audits of TRICARE providers will be terminated and no new enforcement activity will occur during that time.

I would also note for the record that, per Secretary Perez's written commitment to our subcommittee, the OFCCP withdrew its complaint against Florida Hospital of Orlando on March 28, 2014. This case was the source of much of the bipartisan concern regarding the application of OFCCP rules on TRICARE providers. I mention this point because the gentleman cited this enforcement action in his remarks in support of the amendment, but did not inform the House that in fact this case no longer exists.

Madam Chair, I strongly believe that the Secretary's moratorium is a good faith effort to heed our bipartisan concerns and provides the time needed for Congress and the Department to take another look at this issue. With the Secretary's quick and direct response to our subcommittee's concerns on this issue, this amendment is unnecessary, and arguably a step backwards from the action already taken.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this information for the record, and I look forward to continuing to work with Secretary Perez, Chairman WALBERG and our colleagues on the Workforce Protections subcommittee on this important issue.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into any contract with an incorporated entity if such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity is incorporated or chartered in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands, and such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity was previously incorporated in the United States.

Ms. DELAURO (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Connecticut?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I object.

The Acting CHAIR. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentlewoman from Connecticut and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, I yield myself 2 minutes.

My amendment would prohibit Federal contracts issued by the Department of Defense from going to entities incorporated in Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, two nations most often abused as tax havens.

This body accepted a similar provision for the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development earlier this month.

According to a joint study by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group and Citizens for Tax Justice, 70 percent of the companies in the Fortune 500 used tax havens last year. These companies stashed nearly \$2 trillion offshore for tax purposes, with almost two-thirds of that total, 62 percent, being hidden away by just 30 companies.

We just saw the medical device manufacturer Medtronic, a company founded in a Minnesota garage with deep roots throughout the State, announce it was effectively moving operations to Ireland to escape its tax obligations. This is a persistent and a growing problem, and we need to start taking action to rein it in.

We can start with this amendment. Of the companies who have established subsidies in tax havens, nearly two-thirds have registered at least one in Bermuda or in the Cayman Islands. The profits these companies claim were earned in these two island nations in 2010 totaled over 1,600 percent of these countries' entire yearly economic output.

These companies take advantage of our education system, our research and development incentives, our skilled workforce, and our infrastructure, all supported by U.S. taxpayers. They should not be allowed to pretend that they are an American company when it is time to get a defense contract, then claim to be an offshore company when the tax bill comes. We should not spend taxpayer money on Federal contracts to companies that have renounced their American citizenship in favor of an island tax haven.

As I said, a similar amendment became part of the Transportation and Infrastructure bill. I urge my colleagues to pass this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, we do not oppose the amendment.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Chair, that is very good to hear.

I join in supporting this amendment as a coauthor of it. Multinational corporations that do business around the globe have an even greater interest in world order and in national security. They should not be paying a lesser rate of taxes than corporations that focus their business right here in America.

Unfortunately, some of them scheme to avoid their fair share and to shift

the burden to smaller businesses and to individuals. Some of these same companies have on more than one occasion paid more to their lobbyists to lobby this Congress and the Treasury to avoid paying taxes than they actually pay to the Treasury. It has been a pretty wise investment for them because our Tax Code is a mess. It is riddled with preferences and loopholes and one exception after another.

This amendment addresses one of the most egregious tax gimmicks. That is where a corporation actually renounces its American citizenship, declares itself a citizen of some other country, and then continues operations in America, demanding the full protection of the laws and the military and the educational system that it refuses to contribute a fair share to pay for. Tax lawyers call it an “inversion”; I call it a perversion of our tax laws.

To add insult to injury, some of these same corporations, which have abandoned their citizenship, then ask for American government contracts paid for with the very tax dollars from the small businesses and individuals to whom they have shifted the tax burden.

American companies that stay and contribute to building our country and keeping her strong at home and abroad deserve a level playing field, and that is what this amendment does.

The action that we take in approving this amendment today sends a message to executives that they can pretend that their company is located on some Caribbean beach to avoid paying taxes, but Congress is not going to put its head in the sand about this kind of tax dodging.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. DELAURO. I thank the Chair.

Madam Chair, I and others have long fought for—and we have succeeded in passing through the appropriations process—a ban on Federal contracts for U.S. companies that acquire a business in a lower tax jurisdiction and claim their headquarters there, despite still being a U.S. company.

According to a 2009 GAO report, 63 of the 100 largest publicly traded U.S. Federal contractors reported having subsidies and tax havens in 2007. These companies are currently paying a tax rate of zero percent—zero percent. So unless you believe tax reform should eliminate taxes for U.S. companies, this avoidance is not about corporate tax reform.

We need to send that clear message. If a company is going to abuse the tax loopholes at the expense of businesses that are paying their fair share, they will not be rewarded with defense contracts.

I am happy to hear and I urge my colleagues to make this stand with me again and to pass this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. FLEMING

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to appoint chaplains for the military departments in contravention of Department of Defense Instruction 1304.28, dated June 11, 2004, incorporating change 3, dated March 20, 2014, regarding the appointment of chaplains for the military departments.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Louisiana and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Chairman, the amendment before you today holds the Department of Defense to current accepted DOD policy and standards when appointing military chaplains. It maintains the status quo, which has been well accepted for decades, if not centuries. My amendment affirms the spiritual role of chaplains in the U.S. armed services, preserving the integrity of the U.S. Chaplain Corps.

I want to thank Representatives JIM BRIDENSTINE and JAMES LANKFORD for their cosponsorship of this amendment. This amendment was adopted last year during the House's consideration of DOD appropriations on a bipartisan basis, although it was ultimately dropped from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. I would urge my colleagues to support its passage again today.

Chaplains by definition are ministers for spiritual needs to people of secular institutions. They are equipped to do so because, like many other professionals requiring a certain skill set, chaplains possess a belief in God or a spiritual world view. Chaplains are experienced in their field, educationally qualified, and are willing to serve and attend to the spiritual needs of all members of the armed services, regardless of whether or not that soldier, sailor, airman, or marine shares the same faith as that of the chaplain.

Current DOD guidelines requires that the candidates be endorsed by a “qualified religious organization” whose primary function is to perform religious ministries to a nonmilitary lay constituency and which holds tax-exempt status as a church.

Faith and spiritual leadership are integral and inseparable from the insti-

tution of the Chaplain Corps. It would be difficult for an individual lacking in any faith to be appointed as a military chaplain without first dismantling the purpose of the chaplaincy and making significant changes to the DOD policy.

Madam Chairman, it is an oxymoron to have a secular person attached to a secular institution as a chaplain. How can that person minister to the spiritual needs of others? Even so, there continues to be a movement to appoint atheist chaplains in the military. Such individuals reject the very existence of God, a deity, or even a spiritual world view, and thus an atheist chaplain would not serve any identifiable need for servicemembers that is not already currently being met with the Armed Forces.

There are a host of other nonspiritual services available to support people in a nonfaith context, including social workers, psychologists, and counselors. Through Military OneSource and the Military and Family Life Counselor Programs, servicemembers can receive temporary and confidential counseling services from a licensed professional without any attachment to their records. In addition to these services, military chaplains can stand ready to faithfully and respectfully serve all servicemembers with any resources they might need, regardless of whether the individual shares the chaplain's faith.

My amendment would prevent DOD from making changes to its longstanding appointment process that could undermine the integrity of the chaplaincy and interfere with the chaplain's responsibility to meet the religious needs of our brave men and women in uniform.

I would like to thank the Family Research Council and the Chaplain Alliance for their support of this amendment, and urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Chair, the gentleman has spoken much about the spiritual role of chaplains in the military. I am very concerned that the impulse here is related to sexual orientation and the limitation in serving as a chaplain in the United States military.

I would tell the gentleman at one time in my life—and I obviously took a bad turn in the road because I got involved in politics—I was in a Roman Catholic seminary. My God is a loving God. My God is a tolerant God. My God passes judgment on the goodness of a person's soul. In this day and in this world, where there is so much hate and violence and anger, I think it is very

disappointing that we in public life would try to accentuate that there are differences between us that may cause us not to like each other.

Each of us seeks our God differently. We have different religions, we have different customs, we have different preferences. But it is important to find that chaplain and spiritual guide who meets those needs to help us to find that just and forgiving and kind God.

I think it is wrong to foreclose any avenue for any American, and particularly those who put the uniform of this country on and risk their lives for us and are under incredible stress. To foreclose any avenue of spiritual guidance and relief for them is wrong.

I would simply close by noting that there is a monument—Thomas Jefferson—in Washington D.C.

□ 1845

One of the writings of Jefferson is on the southeast portico. It says:

Laws and constitutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, institutions must advance to keep pace with those times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as a civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors.

My vote would be a vote to have a tolerant policy in a tolerant country. I oppose the gentleman's amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Chair, may I ask how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. FLEMING. It is interesting. The gentleman argues that—amazingly—somehow a chaplain is not going to be open to serving the spiritual needs of all, whether they be gay or otherwise.

There is nothing in this amendment that says anything about the choice of one's sexual partner whatsoever. In fact, remember that we already have in our chaplaincy Wiccans, Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, and Jews. Many of those accept same-sex marriages.

This argument that the gentleman makes is for another debate, not for this one. This deals purely with atheism. It is very interesting because the scene is that, on the battlefield, you have a chaplain who is serving the spiritual needs of a dying soldier and the soldier asks the chaplain: What happens now? What happens after my death?

The answer from the atheist chaplain is: There is nothing for you after death. That is really a very disturbing thought, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I stand for a tolerant Nation, and I stand in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, this amendment would simply prohibit funding for any operations or activities pursuant to the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq.

Why is this amendment necessary? Well, more than 2 years since the United States troops withdrew from Iraq, the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force remains on the books.

Two years ago, President Obama declared the war in Iraq as over. Just yesterday, according to press reports, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney stated that the 2002 AUMF is "no longer used for any United States Government activities."

Further, in our Appropriations Committee, our chairman confirmed that this bill does not contain any funding to implement the 2002 authorization. That is good news, and it should make supporting this amendment an easy thing to do for Members on both sides of the aisle.

The American people need an affirmative vote that the war in Iraq that began over 11 years ago through the military operation—shock and awe, which took over 2,000 lives—has come to an end and none of their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent.

Some of us agree that it is well past time that we remove this authorization totally from the books, but on this appropriations bill, we only state very clearly that no funds may be obligated or expended for the authorization.

Congress should never allow war-funding authorizations to remain on the books in perpetuity. We don't do this for the farm bill. We don't do this for the transportation bill.

Madam Chair, we are all familiar with reports coming out of Iraq about the horrific sectarian violence taking place there. Once again, I want to applaud President Obama for reiterating again today that there is no military solution to the sectarian war there and also for his clear going that the United States is not going to be returning to combat in Iraq.

This amendment does not limit the President's authority under the Constitution or War Powers Act to act if there is a direct or imminent threat to our national security.

As the President cited in his recent letter to Congress, doing so would be consistent with his responsibilities to protect United States citizens both home and abroad. This amendment does not take away that authority.

Further, this amendment fully allows for the protection of the United States Embassy and its personnel and would not impede any of those efforts by the United States military.

Given that there is no funding in this bill for the 2002 AUMF, supporting this amendment is just plain common sense. The American people deserve this vote. It is long overdue. We should vote primarily also to ensure that our constitutional role is reasserted in war-making.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentlewoman's amendment.

As the gentlelady knows, U.S. military action in Iraq came to an end in December of 2011. I want to make sure that she also knows that there are no funds in this act for military action in Iraq, pursuant to the Iraq AUMF resolution. Its grant of authority has both practically and legally ended.

This amendment is an amendment in search of a problem, a problem that doesn't exist. This amendment is not about substance. To a great extent, it is about symbolism. It is intended to send a message that the United States has washed its hands of Iraq, which we haven't.

At a time when sectarian tensions are at the highest level since we left and terrorists have, once again, succeeded in capturing large swaths of territory in Iraq and brutalizing the Iraqi people after our troops essentially fought to protect them, what kind of message are we sending with this amendment to both the Iraqi people and to the men and women of our Armed Forces and our international armed forces who so valiantly served?

Let me repeat that there are no funds in this act for the purpose the gentlelady is seeking to limit. The only thing this amendment would accomplish is to make, quite honestly, a political statement.

I recognize, from time to time, that needs to be done, but I think it sends the wrong message at the worst possible time. I don't believe that such an amendment has any purpose on our bill, and I urge strong rejection of the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), the ranking member.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the gentlewoman for yielding.

The fact is the gentlewoman has mentioned this authorization is very dated. The world has changed. It needs to be reconsidered.

I deeply appreciate her efforts not just today on the floor, but in committee and over the years to essentially force the issue and to ask this institution to reconsider what the authorities should be going forward.

I certainly support her effort.

Ms. LEE of California. I want to thank the ranking member for his comments and for reassuring and reassuring Members that our constitutional role is extremely important in matters of war and peace.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. This Congress has a constitutional obligation to approve military action before any President decides to shoot first and ask questions later. A 12-year-old resolution, enacted in the aftermath of 9/11, should not provide a basis for endless war.

Some of the same self-certified smart people who were talking about mushroom clouds and weapons of mass destruction are, once again, trying to stampede us into war. We have been there, and we have done that, and America is still paying a terrible, terrible price for their past failures, though they refuse to acknowledge them.

Protecting our Embassy in Baghdad is one thing—a true emergency—but if any President wants to launch offensive military action, they need to come and make a specific case to this Congress for authorization, just as President Obama said he would do last year on Syria, not some convoluted interpretation of a resolution from a different time and circumstance.

If there is a case for war, have the courage to come here and make it, but don't rely on an open-ended authorization of military force from long ago.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I thank my friend from California for this amendment, but also for her longstanding work on this issue and related issues.

When we hear about this impossible situation which we find ourselves in today in Iraq, with the country clamoring for us to do something, we should be reminded of how we got there. It is not because of something that has expired. It is because of something that still exists.

The gentlelady is absolutely right that we should repeal that, repudiate that, and get ourselves on a new track, which requires deliberate attention by

the Congress, if we are ever going to use military force, and not a blank check to the administration.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, stay tuned as our Commander in Chief and our allies contemplate future action in Iraq. As things get worse, things go south, a lot of innocent people are killed.

I am respectful of the gentlewoman's passion and her continuing battle to get this matter straightened out, but the President is still going to request for Congress to look at things. I think we should stay tuned.

I yield back the balance of my time. Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLORES

Mr. FLORES. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following new section:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-140; 42 U.S.C. 17142).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FLORES. Madam Chair, I rise to offer an amendment which addresses another misguided and restrictive Federal regulation.

Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 prohibits Federal agencies from entering into contracts for the procurement of fuels, unless their life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions are less than or equal to emissions from an equivalent conventional fuel produced from conventional petroleum sources.

My amendment is simple. It would stop the government from enforcing the ban on agencies funded by the Department of Defense Appropriations bill from being forced to comply with section 526.

The initial purpose of section 526 was to stifle the Defense Department's plans to buy and develop coal-based or coal-to-liquids jet fuel. We must ensure that our military has adequate fuel resources and that it can rely upon the

domestic and more stable sources of fuel.

One of the unintended consequences of section 526 is that it essentially forces the American military to acquire fuel refined from unstable Middle Eastern crude resources.

I offered this amendment to 13 prior appropriations bills in fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014; and each time, these amendments passed with bipartisan support.

My friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY), also added similar language to the latest defense authorization bill, to exempt the Defense Department from this burdensome regulation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1900

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chairman, the gentleman talks about the burden. The gentleman talks about the requirement. I would talk about our requirement to ease the burden on the American people as far as our continued dependency on fossil fuel, on overseas options as far as how we secure our carbon, and as I have said a number of times during the debate during the last 2 days, we should never foreclose options for our military. There is a purpose for this requirement and this policy because the Department of Defense is the largest entity on the planet Earth relative to the purchase of fuel, and it is a perfect way to begin to wean ourselves from some of these foreign sources.

Some argue that section 526 harms our military readiness. This is simply not the case. In July, the Department of Defense stated very clearly that the provision has not hindered the Department from purchasing the fuel we need today, worldwide, to support military missions, but it also sets an important baseline in developing the fuels we will need in the future.

The Department, itself, supports section 526, recognizing that tomorrow's soldiers, sailors, air personnel, and marines are going to need a greater range—more options—of energy sources. In fact, the Department of Defense says that repealing this section could complicate the Department's efforts to provide better energy options to our warfighters and take advantage of the promising developments in homegrown biofuels.

I do believe that the amendment would damage the developing biofuels sector at the worst possible time for our economy. We need to create jobs, not to eliminate them. It could also send a negative signal to America's advanced biofuels industry and result in

adverse impacts in rural development areas and in exports of the world's leading technology. Section 526 doesn't prevent the sale of dirty fuels, nor does it prevent Federal agencies from buying these fuels if they need to. Instead, it simply prevents the Federal Government from propping up the makers of different types of carbon fuels with long-term contracts. Developing and bringing advanced, low-carbon biofuels to scale is a critical step in reducing the Nation's dependency on oil.

As someone who is possessed with the largest inland oil refinery in the United States of America in the First Congressional District, we are going to sell a lot of oil, but we ought to look at having a broad matrix, and the Department of Defense is a place to start, so I am opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. Madam Chair, the opposition does not understand my amendment.

This amendment does not do anything with respect to restricting the ability of the Department of Defense to buy any green fuel, biofuel, experimental fuel, or any other kind of fuel.

What it does do in the situation of the refinery in the gentleman's district, if it turns out to start using Canadian oil sands crude as one of their feedstocks, is to prevent that refinery from not being able to sell its fuel to the military. The gentleman's argument is exactly backwards. This allows the military to buy the fuel from whatever source whether it is biofuels, green fuels, conventional sources, some other coal-to-liquid source, or a Canadian oil sand source. It gives them the greatest opportunity at the cheapest cost to buy the fuel that allows our warfighters to worry about taking care of defending this country and not to worry about where the source of the fuel comes from.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to transfer man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) to any entity in Syria.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chair, if there is one simple lesson that we can take away from our involvement in conflicts overseas, it is this: beware of unintended consequences.

As was made vividly clear with the U.S. involvement in Afghanistan during the Soviet invasion decades ago, overzealous military assistance or the hyperweaponization of a conflict can have destabilizing consequences and, ultimately, undercut our own national interests.

It is for this reason that I offer this bipartisan amendment with my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), and others to prevent funds in this bill from being used to transfer man-portable air defense systems, known as "MANPADS," to parties in the Syrian civil war. MANPADS, also known as "shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles," can be fired at an aircraft by individuals on the ground, and they can be easily hidden or transported in the trunk of a car.

According to the Los Angeles Times:

U.S. and Israeli officials have feared that they could be used by terrorists to bring down commercial airliners.

Leaders of the Syrian opposition movements have told The Wall Street Journal and other news outlets that they are actively seeking the transfer of MANPADS from the U.S. and our allies and that U.S. officials continue to consider these requests. I urge the support of the amendment.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. We accept your amendment.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I would join the chairman in thanking the gentleman for his initiative. He raises a very good point, and I support his amendment.

Mr. CONYERS. In reclaiming my time, I thank both of the floor leaders for their support.

Madam Chair, I want to make clear that this amendment will simply ensure that no funds may be made available under this bill for the transfer of these devastating and highly mobile weapons to any party in the Syrian civil war. So, regardless of one's opinion about U.S. intervention in foreign conflicts, this prudent and responsible amendment deserves our support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to design, implement, administer, or carry out the U.S. Global Climate Research Program National Climate Assessment, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report, the United Nations' Agenda 21 sustainable development plan, or the May 2013 Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from West Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Chairman, this amendment is identical to the one that the House adopted last month to the National Defense Authorization Act. The amendment would prohibit the Department of Defense from spending money on climate change policies forced upon them by the Obama administration.

We shouldn't be diverting financial resources away from the primary missions of our military at a time when we face many threats. Just look at what is happening around the globe: Iraq is splintering; Syria is still engulfed in a civil war; Russia continues its threat against Ukraine and Crimea; North Korea continues its saber rattling; Iran refuses to stop its pursuit of nuclear weapons; the Taliban threatens stability in Afghanistan; Hamas has now captured teenagers and is holding one of them, an American teenager, in Israel; and ISIS, Boko Haram, al Qaeda, and other terrorist groups are promoting instability and threatening liberty and freedom all around the world.

Madam Chairman, we live in a dangerous world, yet our military is being forced to make due with less. Spending precious resources to follow the Obama climate change agenda will compromise our national security.

When this same amendment was being adopted previously, some people claimed the amendment would prevent the military from using science. That is not true. This amendment merely prevents the Pentagon from spending money—precious money—to implement policies based on the Obama administration's climate assessment and on the United Nations' reports. These are widely acknowledged as political documents, adopted by people with an agenda. We should not be spending money pursuing ideological experiments when we face military challenges around the world. This amendment will ensure we maximize our military might without diverting funds for a politically motivated agenda, so I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's comment that we should look around the world and see what is happening.

I look in the Pacific, and I am struck because of the gentleman's concern about the Department of Defense and the commander for the United States Pacific Command's pivoting to Asia. Admiral Samuel Locklear states that the single greatest threat to long-term peace in the Pacific basin is climate change. These threats increase with the demand for energy as temperatures rise but also as natural disasters happen with greater frequency, causing increased operational demands on military forces serving in stability and support roles.

With these disturbing trends documented in the most recent assessments, it would be irresponsible, I believe, to prevent the continued assessment of this real and changing threat.

I would note that no funds shall be used for the research program. What has ever happened in this country where we can't do research? What we do today is: let's not see anything; let's not hear anything; let's not learn anything; let's not research anything. If my parents took that attitude of "let's do nothing," we would still be waiting for the interstate system to be built.

It is time we do something. This attack on research and inquisitiveness and on the seeking of knowledge, whether we agree on all of the facts or not, is very disturbing to me, and I am opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Chairman, with all due respect to the minority leader, in this amendment, we are not stopping research, and we are not denying that there is climate change occurring. We are merely saying that we should not be diverting money to implement the political documents that we list in the amendment.

□ 1915

There is ample research. There is ample reason to continue the work that we are doing, but we don't need to be using these documents that are widely acknowledged as politically-driven documents.

We want to continue the research, but not using these documents, these very specific documents.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I would simply say that these documents are research-oriented and technical updates, and we ought to pursue knowledge. I am opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. HANABUSA

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used with respect to Iraq in contravention of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.), including for the introduction of United States armed forces into hostilities in Iraq, into situations in Iraq where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, or into Iraqi territory, airspace, or waters while equipped for combat, in contravention of the congressional consultation and reporting requirements of sections 3 and 4 of such Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1542 and 1543).

Ms. HANABUSA (during the reading). Madam Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to waive the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentlewoman from Hawaii and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Chairman, the Hanabusa-Garamendi amendment is simple. It would ensure that President Obama does not circumvent the War Powers Resolution by unilaterally committing U.S. forces to operations in Iraq.

I have opposed our involvement in Iraq since 2002 and continue to oppose it today.

On Monday, President Obama invoked the War Powers Resolution to send an additional 275 troops into Iraq to increase security at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Today, we heard possibly an additional 300 personnel.

While I understand the need to send troops into Iraq for the express purpose of providing security for U.S. personnel in Iraq, and this amendment would not prevent the additional Embassy security recently announced by the administration or any evacuation operations, I remain resolute that we should not resume combat operations in Iraq.

Congress and the administration need to seriously consider the lack of objectives or an endgame the U.S. would achieve through further military involvement in Iraq. We know the results when we don't know what the end game is and we don't fully consider the consequences of military action, and this miscalculation is not worth repeating to involve our Nation in a situation that is the result of a long-standing sectarian conflict.

After over a decade of U.S. military action in the Middle East that has taken lives and come at far too high a cost of our Nation's resources, we must let the Iraqi people decide their own future.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are estimated to have cost between \$4 trillion to \$6 trillion, taking into account the medical care of wounded veterans and expensive repairs to the force depleted. This monetary figure cannot come even close to measuring the human lives that were taken as a result of our involvement in the Middle East.

Madam Chairman, we simply cannot afford the options under consideration. U.S. forces should be on a new strategy for regional engagement, rather than considering options that we get involved as we have in the past. This amendment would do that.

I ask my colleagues to vote for this amendment and ensure that the President abides by the law and does not put American lives at risk by involving U.S. troops in combat operations in Iraq.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. HANABUSA. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the gentlewoman for offering the amendment. I certainly would rise in support of it and certainly think it is acceptable to the committee.

I would point out to my colleagues though that, if you would, your view has been anticipated. I would draw my colleagues' attention to section 8113 of the underlying legislation, as well as section 9013.

So I do not want anyone to think that the committee itself, including the chairman, was inattentive to the points you raise.

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Chairman, I thank the chair and the ranking member of the subcommittee for accepting my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FORTENBERRY

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide weapons in Syria.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Nebraska and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Chair, I believe this amendment is absolutely consistent with the underlying portions of the bill that reaffirm that the policy of the United States should be that we will not enter into armed conflict in Syria.

Madam Chair, along the Syrian-Turkish border there is a family—a mother, a father, and six children. One of the children is named Elias.

Elias, one day, in his home town in Syria, was walking to school. He had his hand on the schoolroom door. Then all of a sudden he felt another hand come across his face and everything went dark as he was blindfolded and kidnapped by a Syrian rebel group in the name of liberating the Syrian people.

Fortunately, the family was able to get Elias back, but they had to flee to a refugee camp from their hometown in Syria. Perhaps they are the lucky ones, because 160,000 other Syrians are dead.

Let's make no mistake: the current President, the ruler of Syria, Assad, is responsible for many of these deaths. Assad is a brutal tyrant. But many innocent Syrians, like Elias and his family, fear the rebel armies even more than Assad.

The rebel movement is a battleground of shifting alliances and bloody conflicts between groups that now include multinational terrorist organizations. Some of the most violent and the successful rebel militias are linked to al Qaeda.

Now, sending our weapons into this chaotic war zone could inadvertently help these extremists, jihadists who would be all too eager to seize American weaponry. And it has already happened.

The horror show now unfolding in Iraq suggests that we have already, unintentionally, aided sociopathic zealots. The murderous leaders of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria have seized American Humvees and weaponry from the disintegrating Iraqi army.

Madam Chair, a CIA analyst on acid could not have imagined this nightmare scenario a week ago. Our best foreign policy analyst could not have seen the ferocity and speed of the collapse of large portions of Iraq.

What we are witnessing is the development of a multinational quasi-emirate, ruled with a ruthless interpretation of Shari'a law. The ISIS marches under the black flag of death.

Madam Chair, the naive notion that we can deliver weapons to vetted, moderate opposition groups at war with other rebel militias gives no guarantee that our weaponry won't be seized or diverted, making an already terrible civil war even worse.

The ad-hoc arming of Syrian rebels, absent a broader multinational strategy in the region, is a recipe for disaster, for further disaster.

Look, I understand this is a complicated situation. It is a hard situation, and there are no good options here. But we cannot afford to do something that may make the situation worse.

In my judgment, the potential benefits from this policy do not outweigh this very significant risk. Just talk to the people in the refugee camps. Talk to Muslim families, Christian families who have had to flee their home. Talk to them. I think we should all remember Elias and what his family has had to go through.

Madam Chair, at this time I yield as much time as he would like to consume to the Congressman from New York, Representative CHRIS GIBSON, Army Iraq war veteran, Purple Heart, professor at West Point.

Mr. GIBSON. I thank my friend and colleague.

Madam Chair, if another country gave arms to a rebel group or another country for the express purpose of attacking our country, we would view that act as an act of war. But for some reason, we don't hold ourselves to that same standard.

If it is the intent of the administration to give arms to any group then, under our Constitution, the administration must first come here and debate it on the floor and get authorization from the people's representatives.

So, Madam Chair, I oppose us getting involved in the Syrian civil war. I believe that there is more that we can do diplomatically to isolate the Assad regime, but I don't think giving arms to any rebel group is in our best interest.

But most certainly, if that is ever to occur, there first has to be an authorization. So I urge my colleague to support this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I appreciate the heartfelt arguments and the concern of the gentleman who serves on the committee. We had a discussion of this amendment in committee, and it did fail on a voice vote.

I would agree with the gentleman when he said that the situation in Syria and that part of the world is very complicated, and that there are no good options. I can't argue that point either.

He also stated that there are significant risks if weapons are, if you would, provided, and I could not deny that.

But at some point in time, given the problems we have in that area of the world and the people who have been displaced and who are in those refugee camps, I think we ought to keep what few unpleasant options we have open, to assume a reasonable risk if, at some

future point in time during the next year to year and a half, we can work to improve the situation.

So with all due respect and understanding of the gentleman's concerns, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chairman, let me say I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment. But we appreciate the passion in which they make their case and certainly, Mr. FORTENBERRY, in the committee, did a very fine job recognizing congressional concerns regarding potential U.S. involvement in Syria.

Our bill, as you are aware, contains a provision, section 9013, which prohibits the introduction of U.S. military forces into hostilities in Syria, except in accordance with the War Powers Act.

The situation in Syria is as dire as you have described it. We have about 4 million refugees outside the country, doing incredible things, destabilizing one of our best allies, Jordan, in a huge way.

The ranking member and I had an opportunity to visit one of those refugee camps. We need to be mindful of the actions we take here and, perhaps, what we might be doing to limit the President's assistance and our U.S. support for one of our greatest allies, two of our greatest allies in the Middle East, both Israel and Jordan.

So I think we ought to move with caution. We understand your underlying sentiment. In some ways we agree with it.

We don't think we ought to tie the administration's and the Commander in Chief's hands in the way that you have suggested.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I yield what remaining time I have to the gentleman.

□ 1930

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I thank both the chairman and the ranking member for this respectful dialogue.

These are tough judgment calls. I understand that. In my judgment, the risks do not outweigh the potential rewards here.

Until we have a strong, significant multinational strategy to contain this contagion, I believe an ad hoc policy—which it appears to me we now have—by sending weapons into this area, potentially could make this situation worse.

As the gentleman from New York, Congressman GIBSON, pointed out, it is the responsibility of Congress to potentially revisit this issue if we need to reassess the situation, and it becomes much clearer and necessitates U.S. action; but now, to me and my conscience, it is important to say no.

Last year, we had a very strong bipartisan vote that demanded that the United States would not enter into a military conflict in Syria. The American people spoke loudly and clearly, and I think this is simply an extension of that understanding.

I understand the differences of opinion here in judgment, and I very much appreciate the time and respect accordingly.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the Fortenberry amendment to H.R. 4870, although I understand my friend's intentions. Our country is wary of intervention halfway across the world.

I understand the impetus to avoid engagement in these very urgent challenges around the world.

Syria's horrendous civil war has seen over 140,000 deaths, 4 million refugees, the use of chemical weapons, mass starvation, the obliteration of entire cities, and growing instability throughout the region.

Syria's odious dictator, Bashar Assad, remains in power and continues to slaughter and starve his people. Innocent civilians have been denied food and medicine, their towns and villages have been razed, and their friends and families driven into refugee camps.

The war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Assad regime are a horrific stain on the 21st century, and they demand a much more serious international response.

To many, the carnage in Syria has seemed like a distant problem.

But we can no longer take comfort that our nation is thousands of miles from the Levant. This conflict, which has often seemed like it couldn't get any worse, is evolving in an even more ominous direction.

Of course, we're seeing how the extremist terrorist group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has used Syria and Iraq as its breeding ground. Our headlines show the group is carrying out a bloody offensive in places all too familiar to U.S. marines.

I am most concerned that in recent months, ISIL and its likeminded extremist groups have begun to turn their attention to the west. It appears that they are using the Levant and Iraq.

But choosing between ISIL on one hand and Assad on the other is a false choice. Assad has...let these extremist groups fester in Syria. His plan is to show how reasonable he looks compared to an emerging terrorist threat.

This false choice leaves out the moderate Syrian opposition that doesn't subscribe to Assad's brutality or Al-Qaeda's extremism.

With the emergence of this dual threat in Syria, it is clear that we need a new strategy to end Assad's carnage and prevent Al Qaeda and like-minded groups from establishing safe havens in Syria that could be used to plot attacks against the U.S. and our allies.

Yet, the Fortenberry amendment constrains that strategy. I believe we must aggressively ramp up our efforts to support the moderate opposition in Syria.

It is not too late.

It is not too late to help the moderate opposition. It is not too late to transition to a Syria

without Assad. It is not too late to protect ourselves and our regional allies from the threat that ISIL poses. It is not too late to help Syrians build the future they deserve.

Ultimately, I don't believe that the future of Syria will be resolved on the battlefield.

But until the day comes when Syrians representing all segments of society are ready to negotiate peace, we must be prepared to do what's necessary to counter the dangers and tragedy in Syria.

The lives of millions of innocent people and, indeed, our own national security compel us to act—and act quickly.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Fortenberry amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nebraska will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. I have an amendment at the desk, Madam Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer aircraft (including unmanned aerial vehicles), armored vehicles, grenade launchers, silencers, toxicological agents (including chemical agents, biological agents, and associated equipment), launch vehicles, guided missiles, ballistic missiles, rockets, torpedoes, bombs, mines, or nuclear weapons (as identified for demilitarization purposes outlined in Department of Defense Manual 4160.28) through the Department of Defense Excess Personal Property Program established pursuant to section 1033 of Public Law 104-201, the 'National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 1997'.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, you may recall, yesterday, I gave an impassioned plea in favor of a different version of this amendment, which was ruled out of order. I am hoping for a better result tonight; but in any event, there is only so much passion in the world, so I will keep my remarks short.

I rise today to address a growing problem throughout our country, which is the militarization of local law enforcement agencies. The New York Times recently reported that police departments have received thousands of pieces of camouflage and night-vision equipment and hundreds of silencers,

armored cars, and aircraft directly from the Department of Defense. These are military weapons.

I think this is appalling. That is why my amendment would prohibit the Department of Defense from gifting excess equipment, such as aircraft—including drones—armored vehicles, grenade launchers, silencers, and bombs to local police departments. Those weapons have no place in our streets, regardless of who may be deploying them.

As The New York Times article "War Gear Flows to Police Departments" explains:

Police SWAT teams are now deployed tens of thousands of times each year, increasingly for routine jobs. Masked, heavily armed police officers in Louisiana raided a nightclub in 2006 as part of a liquor inspection. In Florida in 2010, officers in SWAT gear and with guns drawn carried out raids on barbershops that mostly led only to charges of "barbering without a license."

One South Carolina sheriff's department now takes a new tank that it received from the Department of Defense with a mounted .50-caliber gun to schools and community events. The department's spokesman calls that tank a "conversation starter."

I don't think this is the way I want my America to be. I think we should help our police act like public servants, not like warriors at war.

I think we should facilitate a view of America where the streets are safe and they don't resemble a war zone, no matter who is deploying that equipment. We don't want America to look like an occupied territory.

I hope for the support of my colleagues, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. The Department of Defense Excess Property Program provides surplus military equipment to State and local civilian law enforcement agencies for use in counternarcotics, counterterrorism operations, and to enhance officer safety.

It has provided aircraft, including helicopters and small planes; four-wheel drive vehicles, such as pickup trucks and ambulances that can be used for mobile command vehicles with search warrant; entry teams; it has provided vests and helmets to protect officers, as well as other equipment.

Coming from a State and a region which suffered many deaths on September 11, 2001, we welcome this equipment. It is not misused, and the law enforcement agencies in the Northeast and throughout the country that benefit from this equipment have used it to make sure that all of our citizens are protected.

I now would be happy yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT), who is a former sheriff, for some comments.

Mr. NUGENT. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Chair, as a past sheriff, we utilized that equipment in a responsible way. All of the helicopters we had in our fleet were all surplus helicopters that flew as far back as Vietnam. Some of the weapons that we had came from the military. We didn't receive any bombs.

At the end of the day, you can always find misuses of any equipment that is given or utilized by law enforcement. It is the responsibility of those communities to keep that law enforcement agency in check.

To just outright ban the usage of that equipment would devastate local law enforcement agencies across the Nation, not just in Florida, but everywhere.

With that, I do appreciate the comments of the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman from Florida for his comments and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, what I am saying is not so much a question of whether the equipment is being occasionally misused. The question really has become whether it is ever properly used.

Can any of the gentlemen here tonight or anyone else identify a single act of terrorism that was thwarted by handing police officers helicopters that are militarized, bombs, and all sorts of gear that you would only expect to see on the battlefield?

In fact, I would venture to say that the only examples we can come up with for the actual use of these objects is the misuse of these objects, the examples that I gave that were pointed out in national media.

These weapons are not being used to defeat terrorism on our streets. Where is the terrorism on our streets? Instead, these weapons are being used to arrest barbers and to terrorize the general population. In fact, one may venture to say that the weapons are often used by a majority to terrorize a minority.

Certainly, we know of many cases—both recent and in the deep, dark past—where police have used their weapons improperly for the sake of brutality. Now, it used to be that they could only use billy clubs or guns.

Now, they can use helicopters and bombs. Before long, I suppose, given the logic propounded by my colleagues, they will be able to deploy nuclear weapons. That is not an America that I want to live in.

I respectfully submit that this amendment deserves support. We are not cutting off the use of any equip-

ment that is already in the field. On the contrary, that is gone. That is out the door.

Bear in mind that, under the current program, these weapons are given without any strings attached. These are weapons of mass destruction, and they are deployed within our borders by our military to our law enforcement. That is not something I can abide.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT).

Mr. NUGENT. Madam Chair, I have heard a lot of things in my life as a sheriff and in my 38 years in law enforcement, but I will tell you this: first of all, the Federal Government does not give local law enforcement or any law enforcement agency bombs.

The helicopters that local law enforcement receive are all demilitarized. They are all stripped out of any capability of having weapons in them. Those are used to save people's lives. They are used to find guys that have murdered people or to find rapists.

This is absolutely ludicrous to think that the equipment that is utilized by law enforcement is utilized for any reason except for public safety interests, and it happens across this Nation every day in a responsible way.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Madam Chair, these are not weapons of mass destruction. What a ridiculous characterization, respectfully. These vehicles, these aircraft are used to protect American citizens, and the law enforcement community uses them wisely, and they are overseen by responsible elected officials.

I have registered my strong opposition to this amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. I think my colleagues must be attacking some other amendment, not this amendment. This is not an amendment that restricts the distribution of guns or ammunition; rather, this is an amendment that restricts the distribution of armored vehicles, grenade launchers, silencers, toxicological agents, chemical agents, biological agents, launch vehicles, guided missiles, ballistic missiles, rockets, torpedoes, bombs, mines, and nuclear weapons.

Unfortunately, Madam Chair, those are all legally permitted to be distributed to our local law enforcement under current law. That is what I am trying to prevent here.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further pro-

ceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. NUGENT

Mr. NUGENT. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to plan for or carry out a furlough of a dual status military technician (as defined in section 10216 of title 10, United States Code).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. NUGENT. Madam Chairman, the amendment treats the National Guard dual status military technicians as uniformed personnel in the event of furlough.

Dual status technicians are uniformed full-time guardsmen, but a lot of their workweek falls into a legal gray area between active duty and civilian. Essentially, they wear two hats.

They are trained to perform a particular job in the Armed Forces, and they drill in that role like all other guardsmen. However, these dual service technicians are the ones that actually keep the equipment operational.

My son serves in the Florida Army National Guard as a Black Hawk pilot. These dual service technicians are there all week long, to make sure that the helicopters he flies are viable, are safe, and can do a mission.

When they were furloughed last time under this President, we lost the ability to respond to natural disasters within the State of Florida. When we were in the hurricane season and the helicopters were not flyable because our dual service technicians had been furloughed and not treated like other full-time military personnel, we lost the capability to respond to issues that are State issues.

More than that, this same unit that I am talking about—and it goes across this Nation with regard to National Guard units and dual service technicians—they have deployed to Afghanistan, to Iraq; and when they deploy, they actually go with them because they are in uniform. They are military.

Because of the gray area they fall in, they can be furloughed by the President, like they did this last time, and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO) and I had come to this floor to talk about that issue, and we had this same amendment, which passed unanimously, I believe, because it protects not only the States, but it also protects our national mission of self-defense here in the homeland and being able to project the force that we need.

□ 1945

So at the end of the day, these technicians who during the day wear a uniform of the United States—this time it would be the Army—in keeping the equipment serviceable and operational—and in this instance were Black Hawk helicopters—they were furloughed. And guess what? They can only be there when they were on the drill weekend. Well, unfortunately, 3 days out of a month is not enough to keep a Black Hawk operational.

So this is really important. We are lucky this time that sequestration is put off in 2015. But that doesn't stop the Commander in Chief from changing that and furloughing these employees, another reason to save money.

At the end of the day, it is about readiness. We should do nothing that hurts readiness in our military, whether it is National Guard or Reservists, but particularly, and I will tell you from my standpoint in the State of Florida that is hurricane prone, those Black Hawks deliver rescue capability that no other vehicle provides for. And we need to make sure those dual-service technicians are treated with respect and kept on the payroll to do the job of keeping our military active with that Reserve component, the National Guard, keep them ready to respond to emergencies here at home and abroad.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NUGENT. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding.

Thank you for bringing this important issue to our attention. It is important that we get this right, and you put a very personal face on something which needs correction to make sure we don't go through this again. I appreciate your taking up this challenge and doing it so well.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate it. And, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your comments, and I appreciate the work that you have done on this.

With that, Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I seek the time because I agree with the assertion of the gentleman, and that is the service that is provided by the military technicians that he is looking to exempt, I agree with every word he said. I want to make it clear to my colleagues that these civilian employees, as a condition of their employment, are a member of the unit in which they work.

My problem is there are other people who are employed by the Federal Government who also do very important work, and I would include everyone

who is in the Federal service. I have always taken umbrage, regardless of who was in charge of an administration, at making distinctions between essential or nonessential employees. If you do not have an essential job, I do not know why you are working for anyone.

I find it abhorrent that we lock Federal employees out. I find it abhorrent that we malign Federal employees who are working very hard. And, again, I agree with the gentleman as far as the value of these military technicians. I made the point when this government was shut down last October and I opposed it that people wanted to ameliorate the discomfort because the Federal Government does nothing for me, and I am also sick of hearing that. My suggestion was, not wanting to shut the government down, well, then, no Federal employee should go to work.

And I happen to use O'Hare International Airport a long time. Maybe people should sit there because FAA employees do very important work to keep us safe when we are at 38,000 feet. I think of all the civilian employees who are doing very important medical work at our hospitals treating those who are wounded and damaged in body and mind because of their service. I think of Federal firefighters who have lost their lives, who have been injured fighting fires. I think of FBI civilian employees who risk their lives every day. I think of those in the Border Patrol who risk their lives every day. I think of civilian employees at the Coast Guard, and obviously I could go on.

So the one concern I have with the gentleman's amendment is we should not be discerning and choosing. We should either be all inclusive or exclusive. And the fact is we would be better spent doing our work, getting our budgets done, and never furloughing any Federal employee again, all of whom are essential.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NUGENT. I certainly do appreciate the ranking member's comments about other Federal employees, and I am the last one to malign Federal employees, but this is specifically in regard to—do you remember back when we passed the Pay Our Military Act? It was that act that allowed for the President and the Department of Defense to make that determination that these folks were essential. They decided that they weren't. And, in fact, we know they are because they are the ones, like I said, that keep the equipment operational, that allows our pilots and, in particular, Black Hawk pilots the ability to fly to respond to missions at home and abroad.

So while I don't disagree with a lot of what the ranking member said, this is really about those that wear the uniform of this country and allowing them to make sure that they are paid, A, and make sure that they are on duty to keep that equipment operational.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SPEIER

Ms. SPEIER. I have an amendment at the desk, Madam Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. 10002. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement Executive Order 12473 of April 13, 1984, as amended by Executive Order 13669 of June 13, 2014, as those amendments apply to section 405(i) of the Rules for Courts-Martial.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Chair, last Friday, the President signed Executive Order 13669, which amended the Manual for Courts-Martial. This order delivers a significant blow to an already broken military justice system that will further revictimize servicemembers brave enough to come forward and report that they have been sexually assaulted.

Specifically contained in this executive order is a provision that makes Military Rules of Evidence 412 admissible in article 32 preliminary proceedings. This particular rule of evidence outlines when previous sexual history is admissible in court-martial proceedings and is currently applied to make all sorts of demeaning and irrelevant innuendos about a victim's previous sexual history admissible in courts-martial. Now, mind you, rape shield laws have been passed by virtually every State in the Union, and the question I have is why should servicemembers be considered second-class citizens in this country?

Shockingly, this order doubles down on this harmful rule and allows the sexual history to be admissible in preliminary hearings. What is even worse, under the order, the convening authority will be able to read and consider evidence deemed inadmissible by the article 32 hearing. The military has clearly learned nothing from the Wilkerson case in Aviano, Italy.

You maybe remember that General Franklin, the convening authority, justified overturning a court-martial jury that convicted Wilkerson of having sexually assaulted a woman, and even though he was convicted by five colonels, peers of his, the general was able to look at inadmissible evidence that the judge had ruled out of order and consider that in overturning the decision.

This amendment will prohibit funds to implement the component of Executive Order 13669 to prevent this harmful

and wrongheaded provision to go into effect. This order usurps and reverses the progress that, in fact, this Congress has been making in reforming article 32 proceedings, and I hope my colleagues will support the amendment.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Ms. SPEIER. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate her yielding.

I appreciate her devotion to the issue and to the victims of these crimes and rise in strong support of her position, and I appreciate not only her work but for offering the amendment today.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Ms. SPEIER. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I served on the Naval Academy Board for 5 years, and I know there is some issues in some people's mind as to whether this executive order either strengthens or weakens the case for rape shield, but I was appalled by what happened there. So I am supportive of what you are doing. There may be some arguments people may have as to whether you are strengthening or weakening it, but your desire is to strengthen and make this unacceptable behavior go away.

Ms. SPEIER. That is correct.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I am supportive of that and congratulate you on your efforts.

Ms. SPEIER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I was on that Academy Board of Visitors for a number of years. The inability of the leadership of that academy, and to think that this midshipman had to go through this 30 hours is outrageous, so I commend you for what you have put forward here.

Ms. SPEIER. I thank the gentleman.

Well, Madam Chair, with that, I thank my colleagues for recognizing the importance of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay for storage for patrol boats procured under the Department of Navy Memorandum #105-E2P-196 dated October 12, 2010.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer a commonsense, cost-saving amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015.

Specifically, my amendment prohibits the Federal Government from wasting more money on storage for eight patrol boats which have cost taxpayers \$3 million, have never been used, and have been sitting in storage for almost 4 years.

Recent media reports and an inspector general's report brought this issue to my attention, and the wasteful spending involved is deplorable.

In 2010, the Federal Government spent more than \$3 million on patrol boats for the Afghan National Police that were never shipped to landlocked Afghanistan. Even more troubling, the cost of each patrol boat was more than \$265,000. The Washington Post has reported that similar patrol boats can be purchased in the United States for approximately \$50,000 each.

The Office of the Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, also known as SIGAR, was so concerned about this waste of taxpayer money that it conducted an investigation and recently released a report. The report includes a letter dated April 24, 2014, from the inspector general to the commanding general of the Combined Security Transition Command for Afghanistan.

I would like to share a few excerpts from letter:

I am writing to request information on a \$3 million procurement of patrol boats for the Afghan National Police initiated by the Combined Security Transition Command for Afghanistan in 2010.

My focus is on the operational requirements that initiated the procurement of the patrol boats for the Afghan National Police and the reasons for the cancellation 9 months later.

Additionally, I am also interested in the requirement for the United States Government to pay for the storage and related expenses for these boats for the last 3 years, boats that apparently have no planned use.

According to official at the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, the patrol boats were manufactured and delivered to the Navy in 2011 and have been in storage at the Naval Weapons Station/Cheatham Annex, Yorktown, Virginia, ever since.

The full report goes on to detail some other troubling findings, which include missing storage records, missing expenditure authorizations and justifications, and missing documents which should detail the reason for canceling the procurement order.

□ 2000

The inspector general's June 6, 2014, letter is even more harsh as it stated:

I continue to have concerns because the Combined Security Transition Command for Afghanistan was unable to answer a significant number of my questions regarding the patrol boats. The list of unanswered questions is particularly troubling.

Further, the Combined Security Transition Command for Afghanistan's response indi-

cates that its Security Assistance office led a review board that determined that the boats do not fill a valid requirement for Afghanistan.

To help the inspector general better understand how these decisions were made and to help us prepare lessons learned reports intended to avert the waste of U.S. taxpayer funds in the future, please provide a detailed accounting of all the elements of the Security Assistance office review boat's proceedings which led to that decision, including transcripts, testimony, and exhibits.

By letter today, I have also requested the Department of the Navy to provide their plans for disposition of the boats.

I wholeheartedly agree with the inspector general, and not another penny of Federal taxpayer money should be spent on these boats that cost \$3 million to produce, were never utilized, and have been sitting in storage since 2011.

These boats either need to be put in the water or resold, per Federal law. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support passage of my commonsense amendment that will ensure better use of taxpayer money.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I have amendment No. 34 at the desk, preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) after December 31, 2014.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, my bipartisan amendment is straightforward. It is cosponsored by Congressman BROUN of Georgia and Congressman SANFORD of South Carolina.

It will prohibit any funding in this bill pursuant to the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force after December 31, 2014.

This date is set as the official end of combat operations in Afghanistan. Furthermore, it gives the President and Congress sufficient time to determine what, if any, authorization would be needed to replace the 2001 AUMF.

The fact of the matter is the world has changed dramatically in the aftermath of the horrific tragedy of September 11.

On September 14, 2001, I could not vote for the resolution, an authorization that I knew would provide a blank check to wage war any time, anywhere, for any purpose, and for any length. Thirteen years later, this authorization is still on the books.

According to the Congressional Research Service, there are over 30 known instances of the executive branch invoking authority to engage in hostilities or deploy Armed Forces under this AUMF.

The report, which is on my Web site, lists 30 instances where the AUMF has been invoked by President Bush and President Obama, including to deploy troops in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Georgia, Yemen, justify detentions at Guantanamo Bay, and conduct military commissions, among many other uses, for which this resolution served as the legal justification for.

No executive office, not President Bush, not President Obama, nor any future President can be handed such broad authority to wage war with no oversight.

In fact, President Obama has stated that he looks forward to engaging Congress and the American people in efforts to refine and ultimately repeal the AUMF's mandate, and he will not sign laws designed to expand this mandate further.

We need to take up the President's suggestion. There was very little debate on this resolution. I was here 12 years ago, and so year after year, I have introduced legislation to repeal this resolution.

It is long past time for Congress to have a meaningful debate. I remember that night. There were five or six maybe on the floor, maybe a few more, and we had probably an hour's debate that evening.

We need to have a real debate about our constitutional role in declaring war and our obligation to conduct rigorous oversight, accountability, and to demand transparency and accountability for the American people for their tax dollars. I ask Members to support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I oppose this amendment. This amendment, while disguised as a funding limitation, is really an attempt to put in place a major policy change that does not belong on our bill. It would essentially repeal the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force.

Let me be clear about what this amendment does. This amendment cripples our ability to conduct counterterrorism operations against terrorists who pose a threat to U.S. persons and interests.

In my judgment, this amendment dangerously and erroneously assumes that the terrorist threat from al Qaeda and its affiliates ends once military operations end in Afghanistan.

The terrorist threat today is no less real and, in many ways, is more daunting than it was when Congress overwhelmingly gave to President Bush and to President Obama the authority to protect us against those who want to do us harm.

While some would argue that core al Qaeda has weakened, as events in Yemen and most recently Iraq and Syria have not shown, we know that al Qaeda and other terrorist groups are on the rise. This amendment would end our ability to conduct any operations against them at the end of this year—inconceivable.

Core al Qaeda isn't the only threat. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, operating out of Yemen, is now considered to pose the greatest threat to U.S. citizens.

This amendment would effectively eliminate the President's ability to address the threat or other emerging threats of AQ-affiliated and like-minded groups in north Africa, the Horn of Africa, and elsewhere.

If adopted, this would send terrorists the message that they just need to wait out the military authority to conduct counterterrorism operations, and then they are free to launch their attacks.

The President himself, with all due respect, has reaffirmed the need for this continued authority and uses it, I can assure you, each and every day. It would be a mistake to tie the hands of our Commander in Chief and our military by removing this authority that protects U.S. citizens and our country from terrorist threats.

I strongly oppose this amendment and urge others to do so as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlelady from California.

No, repealing the AUMF will not leave America vulnerable to terrorists. What it will do is put this U.S. Congress in a position to debate the legitimate—or not so legitimate, in some cases—justification for further military action.

It will update the debate. It will put us in a position to really drill down and find out whether there is a national security interest, which would justify military force in the situation moving forward.

Members of Congress, this thing is over a decade old, and it has gone far afield from its original purpose.

This AUMF has been used more than 30 times to take our country into conflict, countries literally hundreds and maybe thousands of miles away from where it was originally intended.

It is time for a new debate. It is time for a new Authorization for Use of Military Force, if we should have one. It is nothing more than a scare tactic to say that this will leave our country vulnerable.

The President is the Commander in Chief and has authority to protect the interests of the United States, but this AUMF has brought us in a direction that was not contemplated.

As the representatives of the people of the United States—that is us—we should have a say on the future of where military conflicts might be conducted. That means we repeal this AUMF, and if there is a legitimate national security interest moving forward, we should debate it on the floor and, if necessary, pass it. It is time to repeal the AUMF.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me say I don't know how much time—how much more time the opposition to this amendment wants to see this authorization on the books and continue to fund it. There is no reason that a 13-year authorization should continue to be funded.

I just want to read you this, as I close, what this authorization said 13 years ago, which totally has abdicated our constitutional responsibility and authority as Members of Congress. We are abdicating our constitutional authority by not going back to the drawing board and debating any further efforts as it relates to military force.

The President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he deems planned, authorized, and aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11.

That is 2001. Again, the Congressional Research Service has cited 30 instances. We know there are more. Once again, we need to come back and have a debate. We need to talk about how far removed now we are from 2001.

If we think this needs to be brought up to date, bring it up to date, but we definitely need to stop the funding.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF ALABAMA

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Alabama and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge Members to support my amendment and to support the underlying bill by my friend from New Jersey. I regret I have to bring this amendment today. It deals with a very arcane issue, the Treaty on Open Skies.

In the FY15 NDAA, H.R. 4435, we included a bipartisan provision to require certification of the national security implications for Russian Federation proposals to implement new sensors on their Open Skies aircraft.

These aircraft are allowed to fly over the United States to conduct surveillance flights. They are not supposed to supplement Russian intelligence collection on the U.S., yet not long after this body passed the NDAA on a 325-98 vote, the administration opted to ignore this body's concerns, ignore the concerns of a bipartisan group of Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and approve a Russian request to improve its sensor platform.

The administration did this without regard to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and illegal seizure of Crimea. The administration did this without regard to Russia's violation of the INF treaty. The administration did this without regard to Russia's compliance failings in the New START Treaty.

The administration did this without regard to the fact that Russia is cheating on the Open Skies Treaty itself—just look at the State Department Web site. The administration did this without regard to the concerns of the Department of Defense and other government agencies.

How did Russia respond to this decision by the administration to accede to Putin's wishes? The New York Times this past weekend answered that question this way:

Rebels also claim to have shot down a Ukrainian AN-30 surveillance plane on June 6, 2014. The June 6 episode was of particular concern because it involved the destruction of one of the two planes that Ukraine used to monitor the Open Skies Treaty.

Mr. Chairman, when will we learn that we can't respond to Russian aggression with concession?

Putin responded, as he always does, by taking our concession and having his shock troops in Ukraine shoot down an airplane.

We cannot continue like this. We cannot continue to ignore Russia

cheating when it comes to our treaties. We cannot continue to allow Russia to misuse arms control treaties like the Open Skies Treaty. We cannot continue to allow Russia to foment violence on NATO's borders.

□ 2015

We cannot continue to ignore the concerns of our military and other national security agencies just to make Russia feel good.

I urge support of my amendment to send a message to Russia and safeguard our national security.

With that, I would urge my colleagues to accept the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF FLORIDA

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to maintain or improve Department of Defense real property with a zero percent utilization rate according to the Department's real property inventory database, except in the case of maintenance of an historic property as required by the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) or maintenance to prevent a negative environmental impact as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

Mr. MURPHY of Florida (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will continue to read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations bill that would eliminate wasteful spending on unused and underutilized facilities.

With the Federal Government being the largest holder of land in the country, management of these properties must be economically responsible. Unfortunately, our government continues to misuse taxpayer dollars maintaining vacant and underutilized properties. This mismanagement must be ad-

ressed so that taxpayer money is no longer squandered on these unused facilities.

That is why I am once again introducing this commonsense amendment, as I have with previous appropriations bills, and will continue to do so until wastefulness, both in terms of cost and efficiency, is rooted out of our government.

This proposal is an extension of the bipartisan SAVE Act I had put forward that would cut \$230 billion in government spending by rooting out waste and mismanagement such as this.

I am proud that my amendment is endorsed by a broad coalition, including the Project on Government Oversight and the National Taxpayers Union. I thank them for their support of this commonsense measure to save taxpayers money by making our government more efficient.

The Department of Defense, alone, has hundreds, possibly thousands, of buildings and structures that it has rated at zero percent utilization, yet the Federal Government continues to maintain these unused facilities at an incredible cost to taxpayers. As a CPA, this just doesn't add up. It is unacceptable that taxpayers are on the hook for maintaining these unused facilities. Putting an end to this misuse of resources could save tens of millions of dollars a year, smart savings we should all support, regardless of party affiliation.

Mr. Chair, when I came to Congress, I promised my constituents that I would scrutinize the Federal budget so that their money was not wasted, promoting smarter governing. This is a simple solution to do just that.

This amendment was passed by the House last year with bipartisan support, and I ask my colleagues to again support this measure that can save American taxpayers tens of millions of dollars in this year alone. Let's come together and show the American people that we can work together to promote better government and smarter spending.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I am pleased to accept your amendment.

I yield to Mr. VISCLOSKEY, if you care to make any comments.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I certainly appreciate the fact that the gentleman is looking to be very cost effective in avoiding the expenditure of unnecessary funds and strongly support his position. I appreciate his offering the amendment, and I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment, 148, at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to procure any Army Aircrew Combat Uniforms.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a commonsense, cost-saving amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015.

It has been brought to my attention from numerous sources within my district that in 2009 the Department of Army fully phased out the CWU-27/P Army aviation flight uniform and moved to the Army Aircrew Combat Uniform, also known as the A2CU.

Constituents of mine, many of whom are Active Duty, retired, or friends and family of military personnel, have expressed a strong desire for the Army to go back to the CWU-27/P model uniform.

There are multiple reasons to switch back to the CWU model uniform. The most important reasons to switch back to the CWU model are safety and efficiency. But to sweeten the deal, when making the pitch to me, my constituents explained that moving back to the CWU model would also save the Department millions of dollars a year in procurement costs. Talk about hitting two birds with one stone.

First and foremost, let's touch on CWU model's proven track record of safety and practicality. The CWU model is still authorized for Army Special Operations aviators, all of the aviators in other service branches of the U.S. military, and most air forces and navies around the world. Yes, these points are a testament to the safety and efficiency of the CWU model.

And these safety aspects are of paramount importance to our Army aviators, because the chances of a fire in an aviation crash are very high. The CWU model flight suits have antistatic fiber woven in them to prevent sparks, which, for obvious reasons, are not desirable when operating an aircraft with thousands of pounds of highly volatile jet fuel on board.

The one-piece design of the CWU model is also extremely important as it does not, in the event of a fire, leave any opportunities for exposed skin. Being that the A2CU is a two-piece

model exactly like ground troop uniforms, it cannot offer the same amount or types of protection. Moreover, the A2CU is also cut to a looser standard than the CWU-27/P, creating the potential for more items of clothing to snag on controls in the cockpit.

Speaking to the cost savings, the A2CU model costs an average of 56 percent more than the CWU model, and the A2CU has proven to wear out faster than the CWU. Further, every time the Army decides to change the camouflage pattern of the duty uniform, they have to spend millions more purchasing the new flight uniform. The CWU model, to my knowledge, is usually only one color per uniform.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office stated that this amendment does not score as it is written; but being that the intent is to move back to the CWU model, the effects of the policy should actually net some cost savings. Conservative estimates show that the Army could save around \$5 million a year in procurement costs if it were to move back to the CWU model. Further, it should not cost anything to reintroduce the CWU model back into the supply system, as the rest of service branches still use them. In other words, there is no need to reboot the supply chain.

Further, the Army could replace the A2CU's with CWU's as they are exchanged by soldiers without the up-front cost of re-outfitting each soldier. The cost savings are tantalizing for someone like me who was sent to this town to rein in spending. More importantly, I listen to these Army aviators and flight operators. They tell me it is safer, and being that they are the ones doing the training and fighting, I will take them at their word.

Given the safety and practicality applications, and given that the United States is not exactly running a budget surplus right now, saving a few million here and there in the name of safety and practicality is something we should all strive to achieve.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment which cuts costs and improves safety.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code,

in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term "Fair Labor Standards Act."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Minnesota and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, if there is one thing I think Democrats and Republicans can actually agree on, it is that, if a penny is earned, that penny must be paid. This amendment is very straightforward. In fact, a version of it has already passed the House of Representatives. What it says is that, if there is a Federal contractor who has been found to engage in wage theft, that they may not benefit from this appropriation.

Now, there are many contractors who work for the Department of Defense who have employees that cook the meals for our troops, wash their uniforms, do all manner of many, many important tasks to keep fighting men and women in a position to serve our Nation. Some of them may even work in the commissary. They may work at various jobs. And they sometimes, the Federal contractors who serve the Federal Government, do not pay these workers.

Mr. Chairman, you may think, well, you know, maybe that happens, but how often does it happen? Is it really a big problem? I am here to tell you that it is a serious problem. In fact, the Economic Policy Institute found that, in total, the average low-wage worker loses a stunning \$2,634 per year in unpaid wages, representing 15 percent of their earned income.

A recent report by the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee of the United States Senate revealed that 32 percent—that is 32 percent, fully a third—of the largest Department of Labor penalties for wage theft were levied against Federal contractors.

Now, I think that Democrats and Republicans can agree that, if you are a Federal contractor and you want to do business with the United States, you should be fair to your workers. This bill doesn't go out and look and we are not asking anyone to make any judgments. We are talking about people who have been found to engage in wage theft already.

This amendment simply says that the funds made available in this act may be used to enter into contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed under section 2313(e)(1), title 41, and it goes on. But what it means is that you must be fair to your workers, and if you are not, you cannot benefit.

Last word I want to say about this is that don't we want to incentivize good contractors and discourage bad ones? One way we can do that is say, if you

don't treat your workers right, we are going to find some Federal contractors who will.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

□ 2030

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ELLISON. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the gentleman offering the amendment and speaking out on behalf of the dignity of labor, whatever human labor that may be, and certainly believe that the amendment is acceptable to the committee. Thank you very much.

Mr. ELLISON. I certainly appreciate that.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FORBES

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, if you turn on your TV tonight, you will see U.S. foreign policy in shambles almost across the globe. It shouldn't surprise us because basically this administration has given our adversaries or potential adversaries almost everything they wanted, even when it jeopardized our national defense.

Let me just walk you around the globe.

The number one concern the Russians had was for us to pull our missile defense systems out of Europe, and we did that, even though it left huge gaps for us in our missile defense.

The number one concern the Iranians wanted was to pull off their sanctions, and we agreed to that.

The number one concern the Afghan insurgents had was a time certain when we were going to get out.

The number one concern the Chinese had was that we not increase our Navy and we decrease it, and we saw the President send over a budget that would have effectively taken an aircraft carrier out of our fleet, would have beached half of our cruiser fleet, would have essentially eliminated or severely impacted the production of our Tomahawk missiles, and they have plans to bench six destroyers next year. Now they are getting ready to do something that is probably as egregious as all the rest, and that is to execute within the next couple of weeks the Ottawa Treaty, which would require us to pull our landmines up along the DMZ, which is the number one concern for the North Koreans.

When President Clinton looked at this, he rejected that treaty because he realized that those landmines were what kept the North Koreans from invading South Koreans for decades. When George W. Bush looked at it, he rejected it because he realized how militarily impractical it would be. And when this administration looked at it in 2009, this is what their State Department said:

We would not be able to meet our national defense needs nor our security commitments to our friends and allies if we signed this.

Then when a White House aide pushed back on that about 3 years later, the commander of our forces in South Korea, General Thurman, said this:

I wake up every morning with 1 million North Korean troops right across the border.

When we asked our current general, who is in charge of our South Korean forces, whether he thought we should move those landmines, he said they were critical to the defense of South Korea.

When we asked the top uniformed general in the United States, General Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he said it was a critical part of our defense. And when we asked him if anything had changed since 2009, he quickly came back and said things have gotten worse, not better.

Mr. Chairman, these are not the landmines of yesterday that were just dropped somewhere and you worried a child would come along and stumble on them. These landmines are very targeted. They only come on when we activate them, and then they deactivate within a certain number of hours after that. In fact, the United States has already spent more than \$2 billion over the last 20 years taking those up.

So, Mr. Chairman, what this would do is to prohibit any funds from being made available under this act for the implementation of that Ottawa Treaty. It is time we start listening to our military experts at the Pentagon and we start taking their advice on what we need for national security.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, essentially, for two reasons.

One, I believe that the gentleman's amendment is moot because we are not a signatory to the convention. The United States Senate has not ratified the treaty so funds could not be expended for it.

Secondly, I do think it sends a very bad signal. The gentleman alludes to the sophistication of mines that are used today compared to say a generation ago. I don't think it is a secret that the United States does use such equipment.

But I would point out, and it is a different program within the bill—and I thank publicly the chairman, as well as the members of the subcommittee and the full committee, for increasing funding for Humanitarian Mine Action Program. It is not a large program, but its mission is of immense value. All too often innocent civilians are victims of explosive remnants of war, not just new sophisticated U.S. equipment. It is only right that we share our expertise with others, and I acknowledge it is a different program.

But the chairman and others have alluded to our visit to Afghanistan, and still remember a picture of two brothers—one didn't have a leg and the other was blind because of a mine. So I don't want to send negative signals internationally. I know that is not the gentleman's intent, but, unfortunately, I think it is inferred and, therefore, am opposed to his amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, could I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, first of all, this is not moot. We have it on widespread information that the administration is planning to do this within the next 2 weeks. We even had various embassies tell us the same thing.

Secondly, as he mentioned, he is talking apples to oranges. These are not the same two kinds of programs. There is nothing more humanitarian than preventing war. We have 28,500 troops in South Korea facing all those troops in North Korea, and the thing that stands between them and us are those landmines. The gentleman can't tell me one thing that is going to stop them from coming over there if we pull those landmines up. That is why it is crucial we act now and make sure we don't make this crucial mistake and see another part of this globe in shambles over our foreign policy.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the purpose of conducting combat operations in Afghanistan after December 31, 2014.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, my straightforward bipartisan amendment is cosponsored by Representatives WALTER JONES and JIM MCGOVERN.

What this amendment does is prohibit any funding for combat operations in Afghanistan after December 31, 2014. Even though some of us would rather have all of our troops returned, the President announced in May that the United States would end the U.S. combat mission in December 2014.

This simple amendment codifies and clarifies the President's position. It would also allow Congress to determine and reauthorize any further combat operations in Afghanistan should the President deem it necessary.

By reinserting Congress' constitutional authority, this amendment would ensure that we have a debate and a vote in this body for the future of combat operations in Afghanistan.

Last month, I joined Congressmen MCGOVERN, JONES, GARAMENDI, and Armed Services Ranking Member ADAM SMITH in offering an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would have required a congressional vote to continue deployment of U.S. combat troops in Afghanistan after December 31, 2014.

Unfortunately, that amendment was not allowed to come to the floor.

Instead, to date, the Republican leadership of this House has failed to listen to the American people any say in the future of America's longest war. It is really unconscionable that the Afghan public through the Afghan parliament has ample opportunity to weigh in on the future presence of United States combat troops in Afghanistan, while the American public has been given no such opportunity through this Congress.

For many years, we have known there is simply no military solution in

Afghanistan, and our constituents are sick and tired of this endless war.

This war has cost taxpayers over \$750 billion, and promises to cost tens of billions more for every year our troops remain in Afghanistan. We have lost thousands of our young men and women. They conducted themselves in a way that everything we asked them to do they did, and so it is time now to honor them by ending this endless war.

This war, again, when you look at the human cost, the lives of I think it is 2,321 soldiers, and tens of thousands injured, it is really time to end this. It is time to look out for our veterans, our brave young men and women, bring them home, not fund any more combat operations, and ensure their job security, their health, their mental health, and their future.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I strongly oppose this amendment.

This amendment is very vaguely crafted. It could have undue consequences. This very short amendment would make no funds available for "the purpose of conducting combat operations in Afghanistan after December 31, 2014."

Our bill contains funding for combat operations, not only for United States troops, but provides funding, equipment, lift, and sustainment of allies in the fight.

Further, within the overseas contingency operations funding account—when the OCO budget finally arrives, and we have been asking for it for months—there will be funding for combat operations for Afghanistan troops, and I suspect other troops, American troops, or international troops, through what we call the Afghan Security Forces Fund. I think there is a degree of inevitability that that will happen. Certainly we are going to have troops there I think for some time.

This amendment, in my judgment, goes too far, as it attempts to tie the U.S. Government's hands in navigating the complicated situation we face related to threats emanating from Iraq. Let's be realistic. What this amendment would do is it would remove the possibility of the U.S. engaging under any circumstances, even if such engagement would be in the best interest of our country or allies.

I strongly oppose the amendment. It doesn't make sense.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, first of all, this amendment says we are not going to fund combat operations after December 31, 2014. That is what it says. That is what it will do. That is what the President has indicated.

For the life of me I don't understand why the opposition really believes that there is a military solution in Afghanistan. We have been there 13 years. History shows that the United States military is not going to continue to have a military presence and support what has taken place in Afghanistan. It is now up to the Afghan government and people to secure their own future.

Of course, we are not taking away any authority from the President. We have taken away our authority here, our constitutional duty and responsibility. We can't allow funding for combat operations beyond December 2014. The President has said that will not happen. So what in the world are we talking about by saying, yes, here is the money, we want you to continue funding these combat operations?

He said they would end in December of 2014, so we should do what we need to do here in Congress. We should end it, we should not allow any more funding. If, in fact, the President believes, and if you believe, that we want to engage in more combat action and operations—which, of course, the American public I believe are telling us in no uncertain terms they are war-weary—but if you believe that, then come back to Congress and exercise your constitutional duty and responsibility, and vote for whatever it is that the President is asking for. This doesn't make any sense—13 years. Again, we sunset in the farm bill, the transportation bill. Here we have got an authority now and funding for the last 13 years. It doesn't make any sense. We want to do what the President has said he is going to do.

□ 2045

This Congress needs to reassert itself and do our constitutional duty, engage in our constitutional authority and responsibility, and say in no uncertain terms: no funding for combat operations after December 31, 2014.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any of the following:

(1) Sections 2(b), 2(d), 2(g), 3(c), 3(e), 3(f), or 3(g) of Executive Order 13423.

(2) Sections 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(f)(iii-iv), 2(h), 7, 9, 12, 13, or 16 of Executive Order 13514.

(3) Section 2911 of title 10, United States Code.

(4) Sections 400AA or 400 FF of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6374, 6374e).

(5) Section 303 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13212).

(6) Section 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, my amendment forbids defense dollars from being spent to fund two executive orders and several other provisions of law that require the military to squander billions of dollars on so-called green energy.

For example, according to the GAO, the Navy has spent as much as \$150 per gallon for jet fuel. In 2012, the Navy purchased 450,000 gallons of biofuel for its so-called green fleet at the cost of \$26.60 per gallon, at a time when conventional petroleum fuel cost just \$2.50.

What taxpayer in his right mind would pay \$26.60 per gallon to fill up his car when, next door, they are selling it for \$2.50? Yet that is precisely what our Armed Forces are ordered to do—except they are not just filling up their cars, they are filling up entire ships and aircraft, and this all comes out of our precious defense dollars.

The Air Force paid \$59 per gallon for 11,000 gallons of biofuel in 2012—10 times more than regular jet fuel.

It is not just biofuels. The Pentagon expects to purchase 1,500 Chevy Volts at a subsidized price of \$40,000 apiece and a production price of \$90,000 apiece, paid for by other subsidies. As Senator COBURN's office points out:

Each one of these \$40,000 Chevy Volts represents the choice not to provide an entire infantry platoon with all new rifles or 50,000 rounds of ammunition that cannot be used for realistic training.

Under these green energy mandates, the Army and Navy have been required to install solar arrays at various facilities. At Naval Station Norfolk, the Navy spent \$21 million to install a 10-acre solar array, which will supply a grand total of 2 percent of the base's electricity.

According to the inspector general's office, this project will save enough money to pay for itself in only 447 years. Of course, solar panels only last about 25 years.

In Alaska, the Pentagon was ordered to convert three radar stations from diesel fuel to wind turbine energy. The Air Force claimed it will take 15 years

to pay for itself, but auditors found that the generators produce only "sporadic, unusable power," and the inspector general charged that the Air Force claim was completely unsubstantiated.

As of 2013, the Defense Department had at least 680 such projects, including 357 solar, 29 wind, and 289 thermal energy projects.

There are several arguments that we hear for this mandate. One of them is it is going to save us money, but as you can see, these orders are running up huge costs. We don't know exactly how much because, as the GAO said:

There is currently no comprehensive inventory of which Federal agencies are implementing renewable energy-related initiatives and the types of initiatives they are implementing.

Outside estimates are as much as \$7 billion for the Department of Defense for this year, a figure that will only grow each year.

We are told it is to move our Armed Forces toward energy independence from hostile foreign sources. This is from an administration that has obstructed every effort to develop America's vast oil shale reserves that would make Saudi Arabia look like a petroleum pauper. The XL Keystone pipeline, by itself, would bring a half-million barrels of Canadian crude a day into this country.

Finally, we are told this is all a grand strategy to protect us from climate change, which the Secretary of State has called as big a threat as terrorism. Even if it were possible to wage an environmentally-sensitive war—which I doubt—I think there is a good chance that climate will continue to change, as it has that past 4 billion years, whether or not we waste our defense dollars to pay for this quixotic venture.

This explanation does reveal the real reason for this folly. This is an ideological crusade imposed on our military that will pointlessly consume billions of defense dollars, mainly to keep money flowing to politically well-connected green energy companies that can't get anybody else to buy their products.

These green activists are willing to squander the resources of our military to do so. This is a travesty that we can end here and now with this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, this debate will mirror one that took place earlier today.

The fact is I would talk about flexibility. The gentleman talks about the costs involved. I think, when you develop new products, new technologies,

there is going to be a cost, as far as that research and development.

I will point out that the comparisons, as far as some of the costs, perhaps do not fully factor into the issue of transportation and how some of those fuels get on those ships and in those airplanes in remote parts of the world.

The gentleman also alluded to the flexibility on foreign soil, where you don't have a gas station handy for some of the energy that those troops may need, so I would also reiterate that the commander for the Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel Locklear, did state that the greatest threat to long-term peace in the Pacific region is climate change.

I certainly do think that alternative fuels, given the fact that the Department of Defense is the largest consumer on the planet Earth, is worth abiding by, and therefore, I am opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I would simply point out that forcing the military to pay \$26.60 per gallon for fuel that can be obtained for \$2.50 a gallon isn't about flexibility. It is about insanity, and it is time that we put an end to this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I would, again, simply assert that the comparison of a gallon of gasoline at a local station compared to getting it to a jet aircraft for the Department of Defense perhaps is not necessarily comparing apples to apples.

I renew my objection to the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to "consult", as the term is used in reference to the Department of Defense and the National Security Agency, in contravention of the "assurance" provided in section 20(c)(1)(A) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-3(c)(1)(A)).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this is an amendment that is substantially similar to an amendment that passed by unanimous voice vote among Democrats and Republicans on the House Science and Technology Committee a couple of weeks ago.

My amendment, the Grayson-Holt-Lofgren amendment, seeks to address a serious problem. Recently, it was revealed that the National Security Agency has been recklessly subverting American cryptographic standards—and deliberately so.

Cryptographic standards for the national security community and the commercial software industry are developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST. That is an agency within the House Science and Technology jurisdiction.

These standards are intended to protect Americans from foreign intelligence agencies, from cyber criminals, from industrial espionage, and from privacy violations by those who wish us harm. They are embedded in software products which are used and sold widely—in fact, almost universally in this country and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, recent media reports indicate that the National Security Agency successfully and deliberately weakened encryption standards promulgated by NIST to further NSA surveillance goals at the cost of the privacy of ordinary U.S. citizens—in fact, universally throughout the United States.

This is extremely dangerous. It leaves users of these standards vulnerable to anybody who is familiar with these weaknesses.

We can recall that, just a few weeks ago, millions of Americans were told that they had to change their user IDs and their passwords. That, Mr. Chairman, was because of this.

The NSA apparently is doing this as part of its domestic spying program, but as World Wide Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee put it:

It's naive to imagine that, if you deliberately introduce into a system a weakness, you will be the only one to use it.

My amendment would seek to address this issue by prohibiting the intelligence community from subverting or interfering with the integrity of any cryptographic standard that is proposed, developed, or adopted by NIST.

It is only common sense that we should not want taxpayers' dollars that are appropriated to one agency being used to deliberately and actively subvert the work of another agency and, at the same time, destroy the privacy and the liberty and the personal property of our own citizens.

I urge support for this amendment on both sides of the aisle, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am not actually opposed to the amendment, but I would like to talk about some of the assertions or allega-

tions made by the gentleman, and I do that respectfully. I am not in opposition to the amendment, but I think there are some things that have been said that need to be replied to.

The National Security Agency has participated in standards setting with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, known as NIST. Of course, they would participate.

Wouldn't we want our Nation's best cryptographers to help strengthen and secure the Internet?

Their participation in setting standards is a no-brainer. You want the standards to be designed by the people who best understand the threat. They recommended the standards that they themselves use.

As the National Security Agency stated on September 30 of last year:

NSA is responsible for setting the security standards for systems carrying and transporting the Nation's most sensitive and classified information. We use cryptography and standards that we recommend, and we recommend the cryptographic standards we use.

We do not make recommendations that we cannot stand behind for protecting national security systems and data. The activity of NSA in setting standards has made the Internet a far safer place to communicate and to do business.

Indeed, our participation in standards development has strengthened the core encryption technology that underpins the Internet.

The idea that NSA has deliberately sabotaged security is ridiculous. These folks know the threat we face and are helping to secure the Internet we all rely on so heavily.

Again, I don't oppose the amendment, but the assertions need to be rebutted.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I want to, in some respects, associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from New Jersey.

Obviously, we have a difference of agreement about the facts, but I think we agree that the NSA should actually be helping to establish the best possible standards for privacy in this country, regardless of whether the published reports that have been widely reported in the media are true or not.

I appreciate the gentleman's allegiance to the underlying principle that Americans deserve privacy.

□ 2100

How much time do I have remaining, Mr. Chairman?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida has 2¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. I thank my friend from Florida for offering this amendment. It should go a long way toward recovering the lost reputation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Mr. Chairman, this came about because the National Security Agency

has a dual role of developing encryption standards and breaking encryption. The reports widely circulated and, I think, generally verified show that these two dual roles caused real problems for American standards and, hence, for American technology and American companies.

It is unfortunate that NIST, which is supposed to be an impartial arbiter of national and of even global standards for technology, was effectively used to propagate defective encryption standards, and this amendment, I think, will help correct that. It is important that we keep high standards and that everyone knows it. This is an important amendment, and I thank the gentleman for offering it. I also appreciate the comments of the chair of the committee.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I think the National Institute of Standards and Technology, aka NIST, has always enjoyed a good reputation. I served on the committee as a ranking member, and we heavily invested in the work they do. They enjoy an incredible reputation, and the suggestion that somehow they have lost their luster and their reputation is totally inappropriate, but let's move on.

I support the bill with the reservations that I have made about some of the earlier assertions that have been basically within the media that have been pumped up, maligning not only NIST but the National Security Agency, which I think does an incredible job of protecting national security and all of us.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I join in the gentleman's desire to move on, and I appreciate the gentleman's fair consideration of this amendment on the merits.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WITTMAN

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. 10002. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, plan for, or execute an additional Base Realignment and Closure round.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is pretty simple. It says that we are not going to use any funds at this particular time to propose, plan, or execute any additional Base

Realignment and Closure rounds, better known as BRAC, the reason being that this language was adopted in the National Defense Authorization Act by an overwhelming vote of 325–98. The House has spoken and has said now is not the time to use these funds to begin this. I want to make sure that people understand that this is also in the Senate language.

I want to make sure people understand, too, that this is a process by which we want to make sure we are understanding how decisionmaking takes place. A force structure comes before decisions on infrastructure, and as you know, the service branches are still making the decision about what the end strength should be—how many people we should have in our military. That will determine what our infrastructure should be. We are also undergoing an overseas base and housing assessment to determine what our presence should be overseas. That is ongoing. That should be completed before we even entertain any consideration about what our base structure needs to be here at home.

The cost estimates for the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 2005 indicated that it would cost \$21 billion. Now we see it costs \$35 billion. The 2005 BRAC, as we see, hasn't saved money at all at this particular point, and it won't save money until 2018, so now is not the proper time to pursue a Base Realignment and Closure.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WITTMAN. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Let me thank the gentleman for his incredible service on the House Armed Services Committee.

May I say that the Defense Appropriations Committee has worked very closely with Chairman McKEON as well as with you, and as you know, our bill contains no funding for a future BRAC. I think all of us are still digesting the last BRAC and understand how expensive it was. I think it is important for you to know that we will repeat in our bill, through your amendment, what you put in the authorization bill, which would make it quite clear to the administration.

Mr. WITTMAN. I thank the chairman for his leadership.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, although I am not opposed to his amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to make just a couple of points.

The gentleman noted that the last BRAC in 2005, if I am correct, is not

going to save money until 2018. That implies it is going to save money in 2018. The concern I have is we do have to think about the future budgets for the Department of Defense, and sometimes we have to make hard decisions in years like 2014 so that we can begin to accrue savings in the out-years.

I mentioned in my opening statements and more than once over the last couple of days—but I feel compelled to do it again—that I do have a concern about Congress' continued failure to confront our long-term fiscal challenges relative to the Department of Defense. The Department of Defense proposed significant initiatives, including military pay adjustments, the restructuring of TRICARE, changes in commissaries, the retirement of several weapons programs—the A–10, the Kiowa Warriors, and others—to provide for future flexibility and to meet our national security strategy.

A number of the proposals—I am not saying they all have incredible value—do possess merit, but with few exceptions, these proposals have not gained any traction in Congress. Most have been excluded in language, prohibiting or postponing the start in the most recently passed National Defense Authorization Act. I certainly don't dismiss the results and impacts on many Members' congressional districts, but, again, I don't think we should foreclose any options to consider in order to possibly save money in the out-years.

I would make the observation, although I am not going to vote against the gentleman's amendment, that we have got to stop saying "no" to everything. We have got to start saying "yes" to some things, but, unfortunately, for the last 2 days, all we have been doing is saying, "Don't do anything."

I appreciate the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia for his leadership on this issue as well as for the chairman's support of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, now is not the time for BRAC. Due to the passage of the Budget Control Act, our military is facing unprecedented cuts which, I believe, could jeopardize our national defense—maintenance is being deferred; force structure is being reduced to levels we haven't seen since before World War II; training is being deferred as well. A BRAC would siphon precious defense dollars away from our military at a time when the ultimate end strength is uncertain.

We should learn from past lessons. We are still paying for the last BRAC. In 2005, a BRAC was approved. It was supposed to cost \$21 billion, but in fact,

it is actually costing taxpayers \$35 billion. We are still paying off the last BRAC. Now is not the time to take the precious dollars that need to be going to our men and women in uniform and spend them on a BRAC, especially when we have not determined the ultimate force end strength at this point.

What are we not going to spend money on for our defense if we okay a BRAC? Are our men and women in uniform not going to get the equipment they need? Are we going to cease even more training? Are we going to just mothball further platforms? Are we going to cut the benefits to our military families?

We need every dollar in defense right now to go to protect our national defense, not to reduce our future options that we may need. With all of the threats facing our country—and as we watch TV now, we see all of the threats that are in the world—we need to make sure we have a strong national defense and that we not further weaken it and not weaken our options. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, in closing, we are at a decisive point.

As you know, right now, we are bringing equipment back from Afghanistan. We are resetting our force, and we are training them for the next missions that they are about to face. Those efforts take resources, and we cannot forget that we have to devote those resources on the list of priorities. Making sure that our men and women are properly trained and that the equipment they have is properly operating and maintained is critical to this Nation's readiness. That should be job one. That is not to say we shouldn't look at saving money elsewhere through infrastructure, but we must restore lost readiness now. That is where those funds need to go. We certainly can look at infrastructure later, but now is the time to make sure we maintain readiness.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of Article II, section 2 of the Constitution.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentlewoman

from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the chairman of the subcommittee and, as well, the ranking member for the courtesy of your staffs and for the work that this committee is doing on behalf of our Nation.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today as the ranking member of Homeland Security's Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, working on human trafficking and smuggling, as I come from a city that has been called the epicenter of human trafficking—Houston, Texas. So I thank both the chairman and the ranking member for this opportunity to put forward this simple and straightforward amendment that affirms the example of the national goodness that makes America the most exceptional nation on Earth.

The amendment says that none of the funds made available by this act may be used in contravention of article II, section 2 of the Constitution.

I am joined on this amendment by Congressman STEVE STOCKMAN, Congresswoman LOIS FRANKEL, Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON, and Congressman JOHN CONYERS.

Mr. Chairman, recently, I was proud to support House Resolutions 573 and 617, strongly condemning the ongoing violence and systematic gross human rights violations against the people of Nigeria that have been carried out by the militant organization Boko Haram, especially the April 15, 2014, kidnapping of more than 200 young girls who were kidnapped from the Chibok school by Boko Haram.

□ 2115

This is what the people of northeast Nigeria are facing every single day. Since 2013, more than 4,500 men, women, and children have been slaughtered by Boko Haram.

In addition, it took the United States 25 months after the first two Americans were attacked, and 1 year after the third and fourth Americans were targeted, before Boko Haram was designated a foreign terrorist organization.

It took the United Kingdom 16 months from the time its first citizen was killed by Boko Haram to legally brand them as terrorists.

It took the United Nations 33 months after the United Nations headquarters in Nigeria was bombed before Boko Haram was sanctioned as an al Qaeda-linked terror group.

On June 2, 2014, the European Union finally designated Boko Haram as a terror group.

NGOs have indicated that, in April, the average deaths were hundreds a week by Boko Haram, and later it was an average of 100 deaths a day.

So they couldn't do enough killing, killing of Christians and Muslims and

journalists and health care providers and relief workers and schoolchildren. They had to kidnap 200 children, 200 girls.

The international community, working with the African Union, is assisting the government of Nigeria in locating and rescuing the missing girls, bringing an end to Boko Haram's reign of terror, and ensuring that they are brought to justice because of their crimes against humanity.

On May 21, 2014, the President notified the Congress that, pursuant to the authority vested in him by article 2, section 2, as the Commander in Chief, and to conduct foreign relations, that he had directed deployment of approximately 80 U.S. Armed Forces personnel to Chad as part of the U.S. efforts to locate and support the safe return of our 200 girls reported to have been kidnapped in Nigeria.

The President informed the Congress that these personnel would support the operation of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance aircraft for missions over northern Nigeria and the surrounding area. The force will remain in Chad until its support in resolving the kidnapping situation is no longer needed.

My simple amendment indicates that nothing in this bill will contravene the President's authority while these girls are missing.

Mr. Chairman, four Members of Congress, over June 12 to June 16, went to Nigeria. We were in northeast Nigeria. We were in the Borno State, in Abuja. We visited with the victims, the girls who escaped from the Chibok school. They drove 2 days to meet with us to tell us of the outrageous violence, and how they were laid on the ground, and the Boko Haram, pointing AK-47s at their heads, said: Answer my questions or die.

Then we met a woman whose throat was sliced, and her husband, a police officer, was decapitated.

The enforcement, the military, and the police officers of Nigeria need our help.

No, this is not an encouragement or a suggestion at all for boots on the ground. It is a simple collaboration that will stop the siege of Boko Haram that is spreading across Africa and the surrounding area. It is almost like the unknowing understanding of the Taliban by many in America before 9/11.

Boko Haram is a disaster waiting to happen for the continent. In a state like Nigeria that is about to be 440 million people, that has a 7 percent growth rate, and is one of the most prosperous nations in Africa, it has 60 percent poverty, it has 10 million children out of school. And Boko Haram is burning hospitals, schools, Christian churches, mosques, and killing pastors and emirs.

So this amendment is to remind us, just as Hubert Humphrey said, "People

are the great issue of the 20th century." Now they are the great issue of the 21st century.

It is time to treat our boys and girls and women with respect.

As I close, I ask my colleagues to support the amendment, to stop the headlines like this, as Boko Haram continues to rage across Nigeria. I ask support for the Jackson Lee amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCLOSKEY for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their devotion to the men and women of the Armed Forces who risk their lives to keep our nation safe.

Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to explain my amendment, which is simple and straightforward and affirms an example of the national goodness that makes America the most exceptional nation on earth:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of Article II, section 2 of the Constitution.

Mr. Chair, it was a proud occasion when the House passed H. Res. 573 and H.R. 617, resolutions strongly condemning the ongoing violence and the systematic gross human rights violations against the people of Nigeria carried out by the militant organization Boko Haram, especially the April 15, 2014 kidnapping of more than 200 young schoolgirls kidnapped from the Chibok School by Boko Haram.

Since 2013, more than 4,400 men, women, and children have been slaughtered by Boko Haram.

The victims include Christians, Muslims, journalists, health care providers, relief workers. And schoolchildren.

The international community, working with the African Union, is assisting the Government of Nigeria in locating and rescuing the missing girls, bringing an end to Boko Haram's reign of terror, and ensuring that its crimes against humanity are documented so its leaders can be held accountable.

On May 21, 2014, the President notified the Congress that pursuant to the authority vested in him by Article II, Section 2, as Commander in Chief and to conduct foreign relations, that he had directed the deployment of "approximately 80 U.S. Armed Forces personnel to Chad as part of the U.S. efforts to locate and support the safe return of over 200 schoolgirls who are reported to have been kidnapped in Nigeria."

The President informed the Congress that "these personnel will support the operation of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance aircraft for missions over northern Nigeria and the surrounding area. The force will remain in Chad until its support in resolving the kidnapping situation is no longer required."

The Jackson Lee Amendment simply makes clear that nothing in the bill contravenes the President's authority to take the actions just described which he has determined to be in furtherance of U.S. national security and foreign policy interests.

Boko Haram's outrageous conduct will not be tolerated or overlooked for not only is it a

violation of the girls' human rights, it is also contrary to United States policy which supports and promotes equal access to education and economic opportunity for women and girls.

"People are the great issue of the 20th century," declared, then-Senator Hubert Humphrey in 1948.

Mr. Chair, the well-being of people remains the great issue of the 21st century.

And there is no better measure of any society than the way its treats its women and girls and boys and families.

Boko Haram understands that when Nigerian girls are educated, Nigerian women can succeed; and when Nigerian women succeed, Nigeria succeeds.

And that is why it is so important that the United States help Nigeria ensure that Boko Haram fails.

I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer weapons to the Palestinian Authority.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Iowa and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, simply, this amendment says, as the gentlelady read, "None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer weapons to the Palestinian Authority."

I would like to express why I brought this amendment. I take you back, Mr. Chairman, to April 23, 2014, when Fatah and Hamas unified within the Palestinian Authority in the Palestinian organization. That unification brought about a terrorist-designated organization, a foreign terrorist organization, joined together with Fatah. This is April 23.

On June 6 of 2014, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said: "We will work with and fund the new Palestinian Authority government."

So what that means is, they have decided, for the first time, that our taxpayers' borrowed money is going to be committed to a terrorist organization.

1997 was when Hamas was designated as a foreign terrorist organization. Since 1997, Hamas has launched tens of thousands of rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel.

Khaled Mashal of Hamas said the reconciliation of the two organizations,

Fatah and Hamas, will consolidate the resistance. Not bring about peace, but consolidate the resistance.

We can't afford and cannot fund a power-sharing Palestinian government that includes Hamas because they are a foreign trade organization.

I would bring to the attention of the floor, Mr. Chairman, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006, which bans funding to a government that includes Hamas until they meet three different conditions.

One is that they recognize Israel.

Two is that they renounce violence.

And three is that they accept previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements.

They have done none of those three things and, therefore, can't qualify for this funding. So we cannot fund a power-sharing Palestinian government that includes Hamas because they are a foreign trade organization, because they do not recognize the Jewish state, they do not recognize their right to exist.

But prior to June 2, 2014, the U.S. has never recognized a government that includes Hamas, and so that is why I bring this amendment.

And I would point out that the administration has been isolating Israel in a number of ways. Secretary Kerry, in April of this year, compared Israel to an apartheid state. I have been there a number of times and I have not seen that. I don't recognize that, and I don't think it is true. I think Israel would reject that, and I would encourage them to do so.

But in May of 2011, President Obama said that Israel should return to its 1967 borders. That would be indefensible for Israel to do that.

So we need to stick with the existing statute, the 2006 Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act. And this amendment cuts off funding to that military supply and support.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, Grayson Amendment 5.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to detain, without conviction, any person for more than 15 years at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, the amendment at the desk is simple. It reads as you just read it.

As you know, Guantanamo was opened for business, so to speak, in January of 2002. It is now June of 2014.

My amendment seems to give some kind of clue as to how long we, a free people who respect freedom, are willing to incarcerate and imprison people who have been accused of no crime, have faced no judge, no jury, and have never been subject to the American system of justice.

My amendment has no immediate effect during this fiscal year. As it says, it is limited to persons who have served for 15 years or more at Guantanamo Bay. The facility itself is only 12 years old.

What this amendment does do is ensure that no funds will be made available by this bill that are carried over to future fiscal years and are then used to imprison anyone for 15 years or longer if they haven't been accused, much less convicted of any crime.

I would hope that we, as a free people, would understand that principle and agree that this is reasonable.

Nobody, nobody, foreign or American, should be subject to imprisonment for more than 15 years without ever even facing his accusers, much less being convicted of a crime. That is particularly true under the auspices of the U.S. Government because we are a people of laws, not a people of people.

This amendment is silent as to whether detainees could be convicted under an article III court, a military tribunal, a commission, or some other form of court with the authority to render any judgment.

It simply says that a person must be convicted of a crime or must be released from Guantanamo if they have served 15 years, 15 years, Mr. Chairman, of detention.

We have speedy trial rules in this country that guarantee the right to face your accusers within 6 months. These prisoners, both the innocent ones and the guilty ones, have been incarcerated without hearing any charges against them now for more than a decade.

I would urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment and recognize the dignity of all human beings, whether or not they have the privilege to be American citizens.

In the year 1209, in a French city called Beziers, a monk oversaw the Albigensian crusade. The crusaders were brought into that city to deal with the heretics, the Albigensians, who lived in that French town. Arnaud Amelric, a monk, was asked: What should we do with these people, these Christians who are like us who don't believe exactly what we believe?

He said: Kill them all and let God sort it out.

That has stood for many years as a signal that we must expect more from

civilized people than that. We are holding these people in that prison, all of them, the innocent and the guilty apparently, under current rules, forever and ever and ever.

What is worse, killing them all and letting God sort it out, or holding them forever and not letting them ever meet their God but remain in prison for their entire lives?

I submit to you that we Americans are better than this. There has to be some kind of limitation.

This amendment will not force the release of anyone imminently, but will be a signal to all mankind that we, the American people, we retain our dignity and our humanity.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I strongly oppose the gentleman's amendment.

Our Nation has invested millions of dollars in building state-of-the-art, humane, safe, and I may say, air-conditioned facilities to detain and prosecute the terrorist detainees at Guantanamo.

In order to close that facility, we need to know what the President intends to do with those terrorist detainees who are too dangerous to release but could not be tried.

They had an opportunity to prosecute. What has been going on for the last 6 or 7 years?

How will he ensure that the terrorists transferred overseas don't return to the fight?

No way, apparently, he can reassure us of that because plenty have, and they have killed a lot of our soldiers in the process.

And what will he do with terrorists we capture in the future, like the one we captured the other day in Libya?

Well, we know what he does. He brings them back to this country, and they are prosecuted as common criminals, not as enemy combatants.

He hasn't answered those questions, so our committee is just as adamant as the authorizing committee in opposition to this amendment. I strongly oppose this amendment, and urge my colleagues to do so.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 2130

Mr. GRAYSON. I would respectfully submit that, on the gentleman's logic, there is no longer any distinction between the innocent and the guilty.

Those who are at Guantanamo Bay undoubtedly contain both innocent and guilty, but those categories, under the gentleman's logic, do not even apply to

them any longer. They are simply captives forever and ever, going untried until they themselves decide to end their life, and we permit it. That is a fundamentally undignified view of the human conditions.

Whatever these people may be, American or not American, they are not just innocent until proven guilty, but on the gentleman's logic, they are not just guilty until proven innocent. They are guilty, guilty, guilty—no matter what.

That is something that is fundamentally unfair to them and to us and has cast an aspersion and a blotch on the American reputation throughout the world. That is why I call on this to end.

I am not saying that these people need to be released. I am saying that they need to be tried. Let's get to the bottom of it and determine if they are guilty or innocent. For God's sake, let's stop punishing the innocent.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Let's remember the innocent people who were killed on September 11, 2001. How about justice for them?

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. Well, of course, nothing that we do here today is likely to bring any of those victims back; but as President Lincoln once said, It is for we, the living—we, the living, that carry forth the principles of justice.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MASSIE

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. ____ (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used by an officer or employee of the United States to query a collection of foreign intelligence information acquired under section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a) using a United States person identifier.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to queries for foreign intelligence information authorized under section 105, 304, 703, 704, or 705 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1805; 1842; 1881b; 1881c; 1881d), or title 18, United States Code, regardless of under what Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act authority it was collected.

(c) Except as provided for in subsection (d), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Security Agency or the Central Intelligence Agency to mandate or request that a person (as defined in section 1801(m) of title 50, United States Code) alter its product or service to permit the electronic surveillance (as defined in section 1801(f) of title 50, United States Code) of any user of said product or service for said agencies.

(d) Subsection (c) shall not apply with respect to mandates or requests authorized

under the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (47 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Kentucky and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, the American people are sick of being spied on. Our Founding Fathers wrote an important provision into the Bill of Rights—the Fourth Amendment—and that requires probable cause and a warrant before the government and government agents can snoop on any American.

During the debate on the USA FREEDOM Act, we knew that more work was needed to ensure Americans' privacy rights are protected. That is why our bipartisan group has joined together to shut surveillance backdoors that do not meet the expectations of our constituents or the standards required by the Constitution.

At this time, I yield 1½ minutes to my colleague from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, I think it is important to know that the Director of National Intelligence has confirmed publicly that the government searches vast amounts of data, including the content of emails and telephone calls, without individualized suspicion or probable cause when it comes to U.S. persons.

Last week, the director of the FBI testified under oath, before the Judiciary Committee, that this information is used for prosecution and without a warrant.

This amendment is simple. It allows us to get the bad guys, but it also says use probable cause and the Fourth Amendment. It also closes a backdoor to technology holes.

The broad support for this, I think, shows why it is important for Mr. SENBRENNER of Wisconsin; myself; Mr. CONYERS of Michigan; Mr. POE of Texas; Ms. GABBARD; Mr. JORDAN of Ohio; Mr. O'ROURKE; Mr. AMASH; of course, Mr. MASSIE; Mr. HOLT; Mr. NADLER; Mr. PETRI; Ms. DELBENE; Mr. FARENTHOLD; Mr. SANFORD; and Mr. BUTTERFIELD—this spans all over this House of Representatives, from right to left, with Members saying: yes, we need to protect our country, but we also need to honor our Constitution and especially the Fourth Amendment.

We started this Congress by reading the Constitution of the United States aloud in this Chamber. Let's finish this bill by making sure that we honor that Constitution by adopting this amendment.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chair, I will submit for the RECORD the letter from the Director of National Intelligence that my colleague from California referred to.

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, Mar. 28, 2014.

Hon. Ron Wyden,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WYDEN: During the January 29, 2014, Worldwide Threat hearing, you cited declassified court documents from 2011 indicating that NSA sought and obtained the authority to query information collected under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act (FISA), using U.S. person identifiers, and asked whether any such queries had been conducted for the communications of specific Americans.

As reflected in the August 2013 Semiannual Assessment of Compliance with Procedures and Guidelines Issued Pursuant to Section 702, which we declassified and released on August 21, 2013, there have been queries, using U.S. person identifiers, of communications lawfully acquired to obtain foreign intelligence by targeting non U.S. persons reasonably believed to be located outside the U.S. pursuant to Section 702 of FISA. These queries were performed pursuant to minimization procedures approved by the FISA Court as consistent with the statute and the Fourth Amendment. As you know, when Congress reauthorized Section 702, the proposal to restrict such queries was specifically raised and ultimately not adopted.

For further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Deirdre M. Walsh in the Office of Legislative Affairs, at (703) 275-2474.

Sincerely,

JAMES R. CLAPPER.

Mr. MASSIE. At this point, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I strongly oppose the gentleman's amendment. This is our Appropriations bill. There is nothing in this amendment about funding. You won't see one dollar sign or numeral. The goal was to change policy—that is why they are here—and the application of the law without the oversight of the authorizing committees. The authorizers ought to be dealing with this issue.

It is my pleasure to yield such time as he may wish to consume to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the Judiciary, to respond to this amendment.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, last month, the House passed H.R. 3361, the USA FREEDOM Act, with overwhelming bipartisan support. This amendment undoes the carefully crafted reforms that this body passed, with overwhelming support.

A similar amendment regarding section 702 was offered and rejected by the House Judiciary Committee during its markup of H.R. 3361.

The bipartisan legislation passed by the House last month was closely negotiated on a bipartisan basis with the House Intelligence Committee, House leadership, and the intelligence community—to create a product that pro-

vides real, meaningful reforms to intelligence-gathering programs, while ensuring that the operational capabilities of the intelligence community are protected.

H.R. 3361 explicitly codifies existing minimization procedures for section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act that requires the intelligence community to minimize the collection and prohibit the retention and dissemination of wholly domestic communications.

H.R. 3361 also prohibits the government from using communications to or from a United States person or a person who appears to be located in the United States, except where the communication relates to a target under section 702 or to protect against an immediate threat to human life.

The intelligence community is strictly prohibited from using section 702 of the FISA Amendments Acts to target a U.S. person. If a U.S. person is the target of intelligence gathering under FISA, this must, at all times, be carried out pursuant to an individualized court order based upon probable cause.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER), the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

The USA FREEDOM Act that reformed the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act was the product of nearly a year of carefully considered negotiation and debate. It passed the House last month with an overwhelming bipartisan majority of 303 votes, but now, we have an amendment to an appropriations bill that makes major legislative changes to FISA with only 10 minutes of debate, and it makes our country less safe.

It would prohibit the urgent search of lawfully-collected information to thwart a bomb plot against a synagogue in Los Angeles, a church in Maryland, or the New York Stock Exchange.

It has no emergency exceptions, and it basically says that what you can do to stop a criminal in this country, you can't do to stop a terrorist. That is wrong. We cannot allow this to happen.

We will continue to work on FISA and our other national security laws to maximize privacy and civil liberties, especially for U.S. persons, but we must do so carefully and deliberately. We must make sure to also keep our country and our allies safe from terrorist attacks.

Ultimately, while I applaud these Members for continuing to look for ways to reform our intelligence laws, we shouldn't be doing this on an appropriations bill with only 10 minutes of debate.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee

is correct. This was in the original FREEDOM Act, and it was stripped out in his committee. That is why many of the Members who originally sponsored the FREEDOM Act did not, in fact, vote for the final version, and I would argue that it was not legislated.

The final version of the FREEDOM Act was done behind closed doors, and when it came to this floor, we would have loved to have offered amendments, but the rules were written such that we could not amend it.

Legislators from 435 districts had no say in the final bill, and that is why we are here tonight with this amendment, to reinsert this provision which over 150 Members of this body sponsored.

At this point, I would like to yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD).

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Chairman, our number one priority is keeping the American people safe. We do that by focusing our resources on those who actually pose a threat to our safety, while upholding the freedoms and civil liberties of the American people, not by continuing this dragnet spying on millions of Americans.

There is no evidence to date that these programs have made our country more secure. Not a single taxpayer dollar should be used to fund a program that spies on innocent Americans, violating the principles of liberty and freedom that so many have fought and given their lives for.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, the NSA has shown they will always interpret the law to the extent that allows them to seize the information. That is why the law has to be much more clear to the NSA. We all must remember that the NSA was violating the PATRIOT Act, as written.

This amendment does something that is very concrete. It tells the NSA: Get a warrant. Get a warrant through the front door. You get a warrant through the backdoor. You can't spy on Americans unless you get a warrant. That is what this amendment does, and I support this amendment.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, my friend from Texas is correct. The American people can be kept safe, and we can follow the Constitution. We don't have to disregard it, and that is what this amendment would allow us to do, to keep the American people safe while protecting their civil liberties.

There are two provisions here, and they both close backdoors. One backdoor currently allows, without probable cause or a warrant, for the NSA to query a database of American persons' information. This is wrong. They should have a warrant.

The other part of this amendment would prevent money from being spent

to fund companies to put backdoors into products. When the government causes these companies to intentionally make defects in their products, they make Americans less safe. They make Americans' data less safe, and they compromise the quality of American goods overseas.

Ultimately, this is about the Constitution, and if you believe in the Constitution, if you believe that it is still valid, if you think we can honor the Fourth Amendment and that we can still keep people safe, then I urge you to vote for this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2145

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, the bill passed by this House honors the Fourth Amendment and protects the rights of American citizens. At the same time, Islamic radical terrorists are on the march in Iraq, and the leader has publicly threatened to attack America, Syria has become a vortex of jihadists from across the globe, and the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Homeland Security have warned of the growing threat these jihadists pose to our own homeland. State control has collapsed in Libya, and rival gangs of radical terrorists have established safe havens that rival those in Afghanistan prior to 2001.

Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, the Taliban, Haqqani Network, and al Qaeda continue to fight. Moreover, the administration has released the Taliban Five from Guantanamo, emboldening the terrorists. The terrorist danger is grave and growing. The terrorist threat is not contained overseas. The U.S. homeland remains a prime aspiration and target.

This amendment would create a blind spot for the intelligence community tracking terrorists with direct connections to the U.S. homeland. This amendment would impose greater restrictions on the intelligence community's ability to protect national security than constitutionally required and create an impediment to the government's ability to locate threat information already in its possession. Such an impediment would put American lives at risk of another terrorist attack.

I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment and stand by the legislation passed. It is also being considered in the Senate and there will be further negotiations, but this—this—contradicts the intent of the House and endangers America's national security.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, this amendment answers questions millions of Americans have asked: Will we stop the government's unconstitutional searches of Americans' stored com-

munications? Will we prohibit the government from deliberately sabotaging the security of the internet and America's technology products?

This amendment would do both while still giving the government all the authority it needs to collect foreign intelligence on real threats. It is a first step towards reversing the current government paradigm of treating our people as suspects first, and citizens second. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this bipartisan amendment.

It has been over a year now since the nation learned of the scope of the National Security Agency's vast surveillance programs targeting global communications, and thus the communications of every American. These programs have been executed in the absence of true, probing Congressional oversight, and they have been repeatedly rubber-stamped by a secret court that has too often acted as an enabler of this domestic spying rather than a check on it.

Earlier this spring, the House passed a bill—the USA Freedom Act—that if enacted into law would have the effect of essentially enshrining these unconstitutional programs into law. While I hope the Senate will either reject or substantially improve that legislation, there is no guarantee that the USA Freedom Act or any other stand-alone NSA reform legislation will pass the Congress this year. That is why I and over a dozen of my colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, have brought this amendment to the House floor tonight. I should also note that this amendment is supported by dozens of groups from across the political spectrum, as well as some of America's leading technology companies, including Google.

This amendment answers questions millions of Americans have asked: will we stop the government's unconstitutional searches of Americans' stored communications? Will we prohibit the government from deliberately sabotaging the security of the internet and America's technology products? This amendment would do both while still giving the government all the authority it needs to collect foreign intelligence on real threats.

The first part of this amendment would prohibit the government from conducting warrantless searches of the communications of Americans collected under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. One of the predictions I and others made in 2008 when this provision became law was that it would be misused for the "reverse targeting" of Americans' communications while collecting against foreigners. As we now know, that is exactly what happened, and those communications—billions of phone calls, emails, text messages and the like—now sit on National Security Agency servers, available for search without a warrant. This amendment would bar the NSA from using any funds in this act to conduct any search of stored communications of Americans collected under Sec. 702 of FISA, thus protecting the privacy and Constitutional rights of all Americans.

The second part of this amendment would prohibit the government from forcing American technology companies to build in "back doors" to their products that would compromise the encryption and privacy safeguards built into

them. Early this year, published reports revealed that RSA, which provides the SecureID remote login devices used by House Members and staff, had, at NSA's insistence, built in such "back doors" to some of its other products that compromised the privacy and encryption features of the devices in question. This amendment would prohibit that practice, thus helping to restore public confidence in the security and integrity of American produced high technology products.

This amendment is a first step towards reversing the current government paradigm of treating our people as suspects first, and citizens second. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this bipartisan amendment.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Rep. JIM SENSENBRENNER of Wisconsin, Rep. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and the other sponsors of this amendment for their continued leadership on the effort to roll back drag-net surveillance of United States citizens.

Last month, a broad, bipartisan majority passed H.R. 3361, the USA FREEDOM Act. That bill rightly ends domestic bulk collection.

But, as I said then, ending bulk collection is only part of the work that must be done to fully reform government surveillance.

This amendment closes the "backdoor surveillance" loophole—through which the government queries U.S. person information without a warrant.

This amendment also prohibits the government from mandating the creation of vulnerabilities in commercial products and services for later exploitation.

Together, these changes end two demonstrated threats to our privacy and civil liberties—without any measurable loss to our national security.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I am proud to be a leading co-sponsor of the Sensenbrenner/Lofgren/Massie amendment and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The NSA must stop conducting illegal 'backdoor searches' into the communications of U.S. citizens. Congress must adopt the Sensenbrenner/Lofgren/Massie amendment and make sure that this loophole is closed in the law. For too long, the NSA has misused authority granted under section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act, which was meant only to authorize spying on foreigners. However, the NSA has misused this authority to search emails, pictures, videos, and other internet traffic of innocent Americans. This practice is clearly unconstitutional and violates the Fourth Amendment, which protects against unreasonable search and seizure, and normally requires a court-issued warrant. Clearly, this is not how Congress intended the law to be applied.

After the passage of the USA Freedom Act, this amendment is the logical next step to prevent improper surveillance. I will continue to work to improve our nation's privacy laws and to ensure that this Administration, and all those that follow it, respect the constitutional rights of all Americans.

As I said at the time, the USA Freedom Act certainly did not give us everything we wanted or needed. It was far from perfect, but it was an important step forward. We must not leave

in place a framework that leads to the dragnet surveillance of our citizens.

During the last several months, I have worked with my colleagues on the House Judiciary Committee to pass the USA Freedom Act. While that bill contains some significant reforms, such as ending NSA's bulk collection of metadata from Americans, more reforms are still needed. And this amendment is an important step in the right direction.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support this amendment to the Fiscal Year 2015 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. I would like to thank Representatives LOFGREN and MASSIE for their work on this issue.

To my colleagues who supported the USA FREEDOM Act, this amendment further defends the constitutional rights we voted to protect. To cosponsors who didn't believe the FREEDOM Act went far enough, this amendment reclaims an important protection stripped from the original bill.

I believe the amended USA FREEDOM Act is an important step toward striking the proper balance between privacy and security, and I look forward to seeing it signed into law. But as I said at the time of that vote, the FREEDOM Act was a first step—not a final step—in our efforts for reform.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act prohibits the government from targeting U.S. communications. The Administration believes, however, that as long as it incidentally or inadvertently collects Americans' communications, it can read our emails and listen to our phone calls without any judicial process at all.

The Administration has admitted it violates our rights in this way, but it refuses to say how often or to what extent.

The Obama Administration knows that FISA does not authorize collection of wholly domestic communications. It also knows that the content of our communications are, by and large, protected by the Fourth Amendment. But the Administration nevertheless believes that as long as those communications are inadvertently collected, it has the right to disregard the law and the Constitution.

This amendment says that the Fourth Amendment means what it says and there should be no shortcuts around it. For those who believe the sky will fall and U.S. security will be undermined, it has only been since 2011 that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court opened the backdoor and allowed these illegal searches. This amendment closes that door.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BARROW OF
GEORGIA

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to—

(1) disestablish, or prepare to disestablish, a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program in accordance with Department of Defense Instruction Number 1215.08, dated June 26, 2006; or

(2) close, downgrade from host to extension center, or place on probation a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program in accordance with the information paper of the Department of the Army titled "Army Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (SROTC) Program Review and Criteria", dated January 27, 2014.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Georgia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, first, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their work on what is undoubtedly the most important bill we pass on an annual basis.

I rise in support of the bipartisan Barrow-Benishek amendment to H.R. 4870, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015. This is a straightforward amendment that provides the certainty that our Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps needs to select, educate, train, and commission college students to be officers and leaders of character.

In the coming days, the Army is expected to initiate the closure of some ROTC programs. On that list could be any of the 275 ROTC host programs located in every State in the Union. Unfortunately, for thousands of cadets in these programs, the Army's timeline for closure is too short. According to the plans, the Army would close ROTC programs as early as next June. That is simply not fair for the students in these programs or their host universities.

This amendment would simply delay closure of these ROTC programs by 1 year. We would be doing everything we can to make sure that our ROTC programs and our cadets succeed. They are the next generation of Army leadership, and 1 year of delay would give all of us the certainty that we need to do so.

At this time, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK), my partner in this measure.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment I co-introduced with my friend, Mr. BARROW, to prevent the closure of Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs across this country.

ROTC programs not only benefit the Army, they strengthen communities

and provide opportunities to promising young students. However, in October of this past year, the Army released a list of 13 ROTC programs slated for closure following the 2014–2015 school year.

Following advocacy from Members, including Chairman ROGERS, we were able instead to get the Army to institute a new evaluation system for ROTC programs. This amendment simply holds the Army to their promise of giving these programs enough time to institute changes.

One of these valuable programs is located at Northern Michigan University. Over the 45-year history of the program, Northern Michigan has seen 400 students graduate and go on to military service.

A closure of the NMU ROTC program next school year would prove especially unfair to the cadets currently in the program. These young men and women have worked hard in order to be accepted and maintain their spot. Let's give them a chance to succeed and serve the country they love. Support this amendment. Please vote for it.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, for all the reasons given, I urge a "yes" vote on the bipartisan Barrow-Benishek amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CONAWAY

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract for the planning, design, refurbishing, or construction of a biofuels refinery any other facility or infrastructure used to refine biofuels unless such planning, design, refurbishing, or construction is specifically authorized by law.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CONAWAY. This is a pretty straightforward amendment, Mr. Chairman, that would simply require that any effort under the Defense Production Act to build a hundreds-of-millions-of-dollars refinery for biofuels could not happen until it was authorized by this body.

It is not allowed to stop this from happening. It simply means that the Department of Defense and the Department of Agriculture, who both are funding this misguided attempt, in my opinion, couldn't do that until they bring a business case to this body for consideration.

I would think my colleagues on the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee

as well as the MilCon Subcommittee would be offended by this backdoor approach to spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a project of dubious value.

The Defense Production Act is a World War II, post-World War II vintage program supervised by the Financial Services Committee—not the Defense, not the Armed Services Committee or the Subcommittees on Appropriation—but the Financial Services Committee.

There is currently a refinery that is being proposed to be joint-funded by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Defense to build a biofuels refinery. Neither of these agencies' core competencies is in this arena. They each have their own core competencies, and it has absolutely nothing to do with biofuels.

I would argue that the Department of Energy—if anybody—should be the one who authorizes this work, but they have got a dubious distinction, as well, with decisions such as Solyndra and others of making really poor decisions.

The other side will argue that this somehow protects the Department of Defense from price shocks on oil and gas that they have simply purchased. They have never brought us that business case. We have no clue what the break-even point on biofuels is against some equivalent cost for fossil-based fuels. Currently, they are spending somewhere between \$16 and \$27 a gallon for algae-based jet fuel versus the \$3 to \$4 a gallon commercially available.

These folks who are proponents of biofuels are not proponents of better alternative resources like coal to liquids. So I would urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the amendment to require an authorization for the spending of some \$300-plus million on a refinery that is, in my view, of dubious distinction.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate very much this is the third iteration of a very similar amendment, so my comments will also mirror those that I have made earlier in the debate.

The first thing I would make clear to the gentleman from Texas, though, is I am not going to suggest in any way, shape, or form that his amendment is offered to protect the oil and gas industry of his State. As I mentioned earlier this evening, the largest inland oil refinery in the United States of America is in the First Congressional District of Indiana, and I am very proud of that. I tell my constituents that we need a matrix of fuels, and while we work from using carbon almost exclusively, we are also a coal State in Indiana. We are not to foreclose our options, and

particularly for the Department of Defense.

Given the fact that the Department is the largest consumer of energy on planet Earth as far as a single entity, I do think we ought to also allow them to examine what is the best matrix and mix of fuels for the particular missions and locations that they find themselves in. For these reasons, I am opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chairman, I would not take offense—I should—but I won't take offense that the gentleman suggests that somehow this amendment has anything to do whatsoever with respect to oil and gas that we produce in Texas. When you don't like the merits of your own argument, you go ahead and attack the folks on the other side, and I understand that technique.

The truth of the matter is the Department of Defense can, in fact, make judgments for themselves once a product is available to them at commercial products. This just prevents them from going ahead and trying to build something, build up a market and build a fuel that no one else wants. It is only available here in the United States. It would not be available anywhere else in the world to fuel our airplanes, or our ships, or our tanks and other things.

So, this is a misguided attempt driven by the White House on this green initiative that is spending millions and millions of dollars of taxpayer money, and it is a waste every time they do that.

I would argue that the better argument is to say “no” to this, allow the Department of Defense to spend their dollars, as has been said previously, on guns, tanks, ships, and salaries for our soldiers. This is a wrong-headed tip. It ought to be authorized by the HASC and by the Senate equivalent, and these two subcommittees on Appropriations ought to be offended by this backdoor approach at spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a program that has no oversight.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. I just want to correct the statement that my colleague just made. At the outset of my remarks, I was careful to note, because in the gentleman's original remarks he said that some would suggest he had offered his amendment to defend the

oil and gas industry. I specifically said I know that is why he did not do that in the amendment and made the further point that the largest inland oil refinery in the United States of America is in my district, so I would in no way infer that. So I want the RECORD to be very clear that I am not impugning the motives of the gentleman who offered the amendment. I simply rose in disagreement with his amendment.

Mr. CONAWAY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CONAWAY. I did misunderstand you. I thought you were saying I was disqualified from offering an amendment like this because I simply represent west Texas, which is the leading oil and gas producer in our country. So if I misunderstood you, I will accept that.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. COTTON of Arkansas.

An amendment by Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

Amendment No. 31 by Ms. LEE of California.

Amendment No. 33 by Ms. LEE of California.

An amendment by Mr. MASSIE of Kentucky.

An amendment by Mr. FORTENBERRY of Nebraska.

An amendment by Mr. GRAYSON of Florida.

Amendment No. 34 by Ms. LEE of California.

An amendment by Mr. ELLISON of Minnesota.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF MICHIGAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 300, noes 114, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 322]

AYES—300

Amash Gibbs Meeks Tierney
 Amodoi Gibson Messer Tipton
 Bachmann Gingrey (GA) Mica Tonko
 Barber Gohmert Michaud Turner
 Barletta Goodlatte Miller (MI) Upton
 Barr Gosar Miller, George Vargas
 Barrow (GA) Graves (GA) Mullin Webber (TX)
 Barton Graves (MO) Murphy (FL) Webster (FL)
 Beatty Grayson Murphy (PA) Wenstrup
 Benishek Green, Al Nadler Westmoreland
 Bentivolio Green, Gene Neal Whitfield
 Bera (CA) Griffin (AR) Negrete McLeod
 Bilirakis Grijalva Nolan
 Bismm Grimm Nugent
 Bishop (NY) Guthrie Nunes
 Bishop (UT) Guthrie Olson
 Black Gutierrez Palazzio
 Blackburn Hahn Pallone
 Bonamici Hall Pascrell
 Boustany Hanabusa Pastor (AZ)
 Brady (PA) Harper Payne
 Brady (TX) Harris Pearce
 Braley (IA) Hartzler Pelosi
 Bridenstine Hastings (FL) Hastings (WA)
 Brooks (AL) Hastings (WA) Perlmutter
 Broun (GA) Heck (WA) Perry
 Brown (FL) Himes Peters (CA)
 Brownley (CA) Hinojosa Peters (MI)
 Buchanan Holding Peterson
 Burgess Holt Petri
 Bustos Honda Pingree (ME)
 Butterfield Horsford Pittenger
 Camp Hoyer Pitts
 Capps Hudson Pocan
 Cárdenas Huelskamp Poe (TX)
 Carney Huizenga (MI) Pompeo
 Carson (IN) Hultgren Posey
 Cartwright Israel Price (GA)
 Castor (FL) Jackson Lee Price (NC)
 Castro (TX) Jeffries Rahall
 Chabot Jenkins Rice (SC)
 Chaffetz Johnson (GA) Roe (TN)
 Cicilline Johnson (OH) Rogers (AL)
 Clark (MA) Johnson, E. B. Rogers (MI)
 Cleaver Jones Rohrabacher
 Clyburn Jordan Rooney
 Coble Keating Ros-Lehtinen
 Coffman Kelly (IL) Roskam
 Cohen Kelly (PA) Ross
 Collins (GA) Kennedy Rothfus
 Conyers Kildee Roybal-Allard
 Cook Kilmer Ruiz
 Costa Kind Runyan
 Cotton King (IA) Ruppberger
 Courtney King (NY) Ryan (WI)
 Crawford Kingston Salmon
 Crenshaw Kinzinger (IL) Sánchez, Linda
 Crowley Kuster T.
 Cuellar Labrador Sanchez, Loretta
 Cummings LaMalfa Sarbanes
 Daines Lamborn Schakowsky
 Davis (CA) Langevin Schiff
 Davis, Danny Larson (CT) Schneider
 Davis, Rodney Latta Schock
 DeFazio Levin Schrader
 DeGette Lewis Schweikert
 Delaney Lipinski Scott (VA)
 DeLauro LoBiondo Scott, Austin
 DeSantis Loeb sack Scott, David
 Deutch Lowenthal Serrano
 Dingell Lowey Sessions
 Doyle Lucas Sewell (AL)
 Duckworth Luetkemeyer Shea-Porter
 Duffy Lujan, Ben Ray Sherman
 Duncan (SC) (NM) Shimkus
 Ellison Lummis Shuster
 Ellmers Lynch Simpson
 Engel Maffei Sinema
 Enyart Maloney, Sean Sires
 Esty Marino Smith (MO)
 Farenthold Massie Smith (NJ)
 Fattah Matheson Smith (TX)
 Fincher Matsui Southerland
 Fitzpatrick McAllister Speier
 Foster McCarthy (CA) Stewart
 Foxx McCaul Stivers
 Frankel (FL) McClintock Stockman
 Franks (AZ) McGovern Stutzman
 Gabbard McHenry Swalwell (CA)
 Gallego McIntyre Terry
 Garamendi McMorris Thompson (CA)
 Garcia Rodgers Thompson (PA)
 Gardner McNeerney Thornberry
 Gerlach Meadows Tiberi

Walberg
 Wasserman
 Schultze
 Waters
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield

Williams
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wolf
 Woodall
 Yoho
 Young (AK)

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 230, noes 184, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 323]

AYES—230

NOES—114
 Aderholt
 Bachus
 Bass
 Becerra
 Blumenauer
 Brooks (IN)
 Bucshon
 Byrne
 Calvert
 Campbell
 Cantor
 Capito
 Carter
 Cassidy
 Chu
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cole
 Collins (NY)
 Conaway
 Connolly
 Cooper
 Cramer
 Culberson
 DeBene
 Denham
 Dent
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Doggett
 Duncan (TN)
 Edwards
 Eshoo
 Farr
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Bishop (GA)
 Capuano
 Fudge
 Kirkpatrick
 Lankford
 Lujan Grisham (NM)
 Frelinghuysen
 Garrett
 Gowdy
 Granger
 Griffith (VA)
 Hanna
 Heck (NV)
 Hensarling
 Herrera Beutler
 Higgins
 Huffman
 Hunter
 Hurt
 Issa
 Johnson, Sam
 Jolly
 Joyce
 Kaptur
 Kline
 Lance
 Larsen (WA)
 Latham
 Lee (CA)
 Lofgren
 Long
 Maloney,
 Carolyn
 Marchant
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McKeon
 McKinley
 Meehan
 Meng
 Miller (FL)
 Miller, Gary
 Moore
 Moran
 Napolitano
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 O'Rourke
 Owens
 Paulsen
 Quigley
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rigell
 Roby
 Rogers (KY)
 Rokita
 Royce
 Sanford
 Schwartz
 Sensenbrenner
 Slaughter
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (WA)
 Takano
 Titus
 Tsongas
 Valadao
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walden
 Walorski
 Waxman
 Welch
 Wittman
 Womack
 Yarmuth
 Yoder
 Young (IN)
 Ryan (OH)
 Scalise
 Thompson (MS)
 Walz

NOT VOTING—17

□ 2227

Messrs. WALDEN, ISSA, ADERHOLT, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. CLARKE of New York changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. PITTS, CARSON, JOHNSON of Ohio, CHAFFETZ, and RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. COTTON

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. FOXX). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

Aderholt
 Amodoi
 Bachmann
 Bachus
 Barber
 Barletta
 Barr
 Barrow (GA)
 Barton
 Benishek
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (UT)
 Black
 Blackburn
 Bonamici
 Boustany
 Brady (PA)
 Brady (TX)
 Braley (IA)
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Broun (GA)
 Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA)
 Buchanan
 Burgess
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Camp
 Capps
 Cárdenas
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Coble
 Coffman
 Cohen
 Collins (GA)
 Conyers
 Cook
 Costa
 Cotton
 Courtney
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Cuellar
 Crowley
 Cuellar
 Cummings
 Daines
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 Davis, Rodney
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DeSantis
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doyle
 Duckworth
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Ellison
 Ellmers
 Engel
 Enyart
 Esty
 Farenthold
 Fattah
 Fincher
 Fitzpatrick
 Foster
 Foxx
 Frankel (FL)
 Franks (AZ)
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garcia
 Gardner
 Gerlach
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green, Gene
 Griffin (AR)
 Grijalva
 Grimm
 Guthrie
 Gutierrez
 Hahn
 Hall
 Hanabusa
 Harper
 Harris
 Hartzler
 Hastings (FL)
 Hastings (WA)
 Heck (WA)
 Himes
 Hinojosa
 Holding
 Holt
 Honda
 Horsford
 Hoyer
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Israel
 Jackson Lee
 Jeffries
 Jenkins
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Jones
 Jordan
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kelly (PA)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kind
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kuster
 Labrador
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Langevin
 Larson (CT)
 Latta
 Levin
 Lewis
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Loeb sack
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)
 Lummis
 Lynch
 Maffei
 Maloney, Sean
 Marino
 Massie
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McAllister
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McGovern
 McHenry
 McIntyre
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McNeerney
 Meadows
 Pearce
 Perry
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poe (TX)
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Hensarling
 Herrera Beutler
 Holding
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurt
 Issa
 Jenkins
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jolly
 Jones
 Jordan
 Joyce
 Kelly (PA)
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Latham
 Latta
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Long
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lummis
 Marchant
 Marino
 Matheson
 McAllister
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McHenry
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McNeerney
 Meadows
 Meehan
 Messer
 Fortenberry
 Mica
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, Gary
 Mullin
 Murphy (PA)
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 Woodall
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Olson
 Palazzo
 Paulsen
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Royce
 Ruiz
 Runyan
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Schock
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Southerland
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stockman
 Stutzman
 Swalwell (CA)
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi

Butterfield Heck (WA)
Capps Higgins
Cárdenas Himes
Carney Hinojosa
Carson (IN) Holt
Cartwright Honda
Castor (FL) Horsford
Castro (TX) Hoyer
Chu Huffman
Cicilline Israel
Clark (MA) Jackson Lee
Clarke (NY) Jeffries
Clay Johnson (GA)
Cleaver Johnson, E. B.
Clyburn Kaptur
Cohen Keating
Connolly Kelly (IL)
Conyers Kennedy
Cooper Kilmer
Costa Kind
Courtney Kuster
Crowley Labrador
Cummings Langevin
Davis (CA) Larson (WA)
DeFazio Larson (CT)
DeGette Lee (CA)
Delaney Lee (GA)
DeLauro Levin
DelBene Lewis
Deutch Loeb sack
Dingell Lofgren
Doggett Lowenthal
Doyle Lowey
Duckworth Luján, Ben Ray
Edwards (NM)
Ellison Lynch
Engel Maffei
Enyart Maloney,
Eshoo Carolyn
Esty Maloney, Sean
Farr Massie
Fattah Matsui
Foster McCollum
Frankel (FL) McDermott
Gabbard McGovern
Gallego Meeks
Garamendi Meng
Garcia Michaud
Gibson Miller, George
Grayson Moore
Green, Al Moran
Griffith (VA) Murphy (FL)
Grijalva Grijalva
Gutiérrez Napolitano
Hahn Neal
Hanabusa Negrete McLeod
Hanna Nolan
Hastings (FL) O'Rourke

Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Duckworth
Edwards
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Gabbard
Garamendi

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 163, noes 249, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 324]

AYES—163

Amash
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Cárdenas
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Chu
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Meeks
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran

Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Moran
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre

NOT VOTING—19

Bishop (GA)
Capuano
Fudge
Kirkpatrick
Lankford
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
McCarthy (NY)
Meng
Mulvaney
Nunnelee
Polis
Rangel
Richmond
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Scalise
Thompson (MS)
Walz

NOT VOTING—17

Bishop (GA)
Capuano
Fudge
Kirkpatrick
Lankford
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
McCarthy (NY)
Mulvaney
Nunnelee
Polis
Rangel
Richmond
Rush

□ 2231

So the amendment was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MORAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

NOES—249

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivoglio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell

Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellison

□ 2235

Mr. BARBER changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 165, noes 250, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 325]

AYES—165

Amash	Gutiérrez	O'Rourke
Barber	Hahn	Pallone
Bass	Hanabusa	Pastorell
Beatty	Hastings (FL)	Pastor (AZ)
Becerra	Heck (WA)	Payne
Benishek	Higgins	Pelosi
Bera (CA)	Himes	Peters (CA)
Blumenauer	Hinojosa	Petri
Bonamici	Holt	Pingree (ME)
Brady (PA)	Honda	Pocan
Bralley (IA)	Huffman	Posey
Broun (GA)	Jackson Lee	Quigley
Burgess	Jeffries	Rahall
Capps	Johnson (GA)	Ribble
Cárdenas	Johnson, E. B.	Rigell
Castor (FL)	Jones	Rohrabacher
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Royal-Allard
Chu	Keating	Sánchez, Linda
Cicilline	Kelly (IL)	T.
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Sanford
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Sarbanes
Clay	Kind	Schakowsky
Cleaver	Kuster	Schiff
Coffman	Labrador	Schneider
Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Schrader
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Schwartz
Courtney	Lee (CA)	Schweikert
Crowley	Levin	Scott (VA)
Cummings	Lewis	Scott, David
Daines	Loeb	Sensenbrenner
Davis (CA)	Lofgren	Serrano
Davis, Danny	Lowenthal	Shea-Porter
DeFazio	Lowe	Sinema
DeGette	Luján, Ben Ray	Sires
DeLauro	(NM)	Slaughter
DelBene	Maffei	Smith (WA)
Deutch	Maloney,	Speier
Dingell	Carolyn	Stockman
Doggett	Maloney, Sean	Swalwell (CA)
Doyle	Massie	Takano
Duncan (TN)	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Edwards	McClintock	Tierney
Ellison	McCollum	Titus
Eshoo	McDermott	Tonko
Esty	McGovern	Tsongas
Farr	McNerney	Van Hollen
Fattah	Meng	Veasey
Foster	Michaud	Vela
Frankel (FL)	Miller, George	Velázquez
Garamendi	Moore	Waters
Garcia	Murphy (FL)	Waxman
Gibson	Nadler	Welch
Grayson	Napolitano	Wilson (FL)
Green, Al	Neal	Yarmuth
Green, Gene	Negrete McLeod	Yoho
Grijalva	Nolan	Young (AK)

NOES—250

Aderholt	Capito	Diaz-Balart
Amodei	Carney	Duckworth
Bachmann	Carson (IN)	Duffy
Bachus	Carter	Duncan (SC)
Barletta	Cartwright	Ellmers
Barr	Cassidy	Engel
Barrow (GA)	Chabot	Enyart
Barton	Chaffetz	Farenthold
Bentivolio	Clyburn	Fincher
Bilirakis	Coble	Fitzpatrick
Bishop (NY)	Cole	Fleischmann
Bishop (UT)	Collins (GA)	Fleming
Black	Collins (NY)	Flores
Blackburn	Conaway	Forbes
Boustany	Connolly	Fortenberry
Brady (TX)	Cook	Fox
Bridenstine	Cooper	Franks (AZ)
Brooks (AL)	Costa	Frelinghuysen
Brooks (IN)	Cotton	Gabbard
Brooks (FL)	Cramer	Gallego
Brown (CA)	Crawford	Gardner
Brownley (CA)	Crenshaw	Garrett
Buchanan	Cuellar	Gerlach
Bucshon	Culberson	Gibbs
Bustos	Davis, Rodney	Gingrey (GA)
Butterfield	Delaney	Gohmert
Byrne	Denham	Goodlatte
Calvert	Dent	Gosar
Camp	DeSantis	Gowdy
Campbell	DesJarlais	Granger
Cantor		

Graves (GA)	Matheson
Graves (MO)	McAllister
Griffin (AR)	McCarthy (CA)
Griffith (VA)	McCaul
Grimm	McHenry
Guthrie	McIntyre
Hall	McKeon
Hanna	McKinley
Harper	McMorris
Harris	Rodgers
Hartzler	Meadows
Hastings (WA)	Meehan
Heck (NV)	Meeke
Hensarling	Messer
Herrera Beutler	Mica
Holding	Miller (FL)
Horsford	Miller (MI)
Hoyer	Miller, Gary
Hudson	Moran
Huelskamp	Mullin
Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (PA)
Hultgren	Neugebauer
Hunter	Noem
Hurt	Nugent
Israel	Nunes
Issa	Olson
Jenkins	Owens
Johnson (OH)	Palazzo
Johnson, Sam	Paulsen
Jolly	Pearce
Jordan	Perlmutter
Joyce	Perry
Kelly (PA)	Peters (MI)
Kennedy	Peterson
King (IA)	Pittenger
King (NY)	Pitts
Kingston	Poe (TX)
Kinzinger (IL)	Pompeo
Kline	Price (GA)
LaMalfa	Price (NC)
Lamborn	Reed
Lance	Reichert
Langevin	Renacci
Latham	Rice (SC)
Latta	Roby
Lipinski	Roe (TN)
LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)
Liong	Rogers (KY)
Lucas	Rogers (MI)
Luetkemeyer	Rokita
Lummis	Rooney
Lynch	Ros-Lehtinen
Marchant	Roskam
Marino	Ross

NOT VOTING—16

Bishop (GA)	Lujan Grisham	Rangel
Capuano	(NM)	Richmond
Fudge	McCarthy (NY)	Rush
Kirkpatrick	Mulvaney	Ryan (OH)
Lankford	Nunnelee	Thompson (MS)
	Polis	Walz

□ 2239

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 182, noes 231, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 326]

AYES—182

Amash	Herrera Beutler	Paulsen
Bass	Higgins	Payne
Beatty	Himes	Pelosi
Becerra	Hinojosa	Perlmutter
Benishek	Holt	Peters (CA)
Blumenauer	Honda	Peters (MI)
Bonamici	Horsford	Petri
Brady (PA)	Huelskamp	Pingree (ME)
Bralley (IA)	Huffman	Pocan
Broun (GA)	Jackson Lee	Posey
Burgess	Jeffries	Price (GA)
Capps	Johnson (GA)	Price (NC)
Cárdenas	Johnson, E. B.	Quigley
Carney	Jones	Rahall
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Ribble
Castro (TX)	Keating	Rigell
Chu	Kelly (IL)	Rohrabacher
Cicilline	Kennedy	Rooney
Clark (MA)	Clark (MA)	Royal-Allard
Clarke (NY)	Clarke (NY)	Sánchez, Linda
Clay	Clay	T.
Cleaver	Cleaver	Kuster
Coffman	Coffman	Labrador
Cohen	Cohen	Langevin
Conyers	Connolly	Larsen (WA)
Courtney	Conyers	Larson (CT)
Crowley	Courtney	Lee (CA)
Cummings	Crowley	Levin
Daines	Cummings	Lewis
Davis (CA)	Daines	Loeb
Davis, Danny	Davis, Danny	Lofgren
DeFazio	DeFazio	Lowenthal
DeGette	DeGette	Lowe
DeLauro	DeLauro	Luján, Ben Ray
DelBene	DelBene	(NM)
Deutch	Deutch	Lynch
Dingell	Dingell	Maffei
Doggett	Doggett	Maloney,
Doyle	Doyle	Carolyn
Duncan (TN)	Duncan (TN)	Massie
Edwards	Edwards	Matsui
Ellison	Ellison	McClintock
Eshoo	Engel	McCollum
Esty	Eshoo	McDermott
Farr	Esty	McGovern
Fattah	Farr	McMorris
Foster	Fattah	Rodgers
Frankel (FL)	Foster	McNerney
Garamendi	Frankel (FL)	Meng
Garcia	Gabbard	Michaud
Gibson	Garamendi	Miller, George
Grayson	Gibson	Moore
Green, Al	Grayson	Moran
Green, Gene	Green, Al	Murphy (FL)
Grijalva	Green, Gene	Nadler
	Griffith (VA)	Napolitano
	Grijalva	Neal
	Gutiérrez	Negrete McLeod
	Hahn	Nolan
	Hanabusa	O'Rourke
	Hanna	Pallone
	Hastings (FL)	Pastorell
	Heck (WA)	Pastor (AZ)

NOES—231

Aderholt	Byrne	Davis (CA)
Amodei	Calvert	Davis, Rodney
Bachmann	Camp	Delaney
Bachus	Campbell	Denham
Barber	Cantor	Dent
Barletta	Capito	DeSantis
Barr	Carson (IN)	DesJarlais
Barrow (GA)	Carter	Diaz-Balart
Barton	Cartwright	Duckworth
Bentivolio	Cassidy	Duffy
Bera (CA)	Chabot	Duncan (SC)
Bilirakis	Chaffetz	Ellmers
Bishop (NY)	Clyburn	Enyart
Bishop (UT)	Coble	Farenthold
Black	Cole	Fincher
Blackburn	Collins (GA)	Fitzpatrick
Boustany	Collins (NY)	Fleischmann
Brady (TX)	Conaway	Fleming
Bridenstine	Cook	Flores
Brooks (AL)	Cooper	Forbes
Brooks (IN)	Costa	Fortenberry
Brooks (FL)	Cotton	Fox
Brown (CA)	Cramer	Franks (AZ)
Brownley (CA)	Crawford	Frelinghuysen
Buchanan	Crenshaw	Gallego
Bucshon	Cuellar	Garcia
Bustos	Culberson	Gardner
Butterfield		

[Roll No. 328]

AYES—167

Aderholt
Amash
Bachmann
Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Benishhek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Bustos
Campbell
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conyers
Daines
Davis, Danny
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Eshoo
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Fortenberry
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibson
Gohmert
Gosar
Grijalva
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall

Hanabusa
Harris
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Holt
Honda
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Keating
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Messer
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moore
Moran
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neugebauer
Nolan
Nugent
Olson

Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Ruiz
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shuster
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NJ)
Speier
Stivers
Stockman
Takano
Tiberi
Tierney
Tonko
Turner
Velázquez
Wagner
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

NOES—244

Amodoi
Bachus
Barber
Barr
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchshon
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Cicilline

Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
García
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hanna

Engel
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
García
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hanna

Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Horsford
Hoyer
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)

Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McKeon
McKinley
Meehan
Meng
Mica
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem
Nunes
O'Rourke
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pompeo
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Sarbanes

Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Stewart
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tsongas
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Wasserman
Waters
Waxman
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—20

Denham
Fudge
Graves (GA)
Kirkpatrick
Lankford
Lujan Grisham
(NM)

McCarthy (NY)
Mulvaney
Nunnelee
Pascrell
Polis
Rangel
Richmond

Rokita
Runyan
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Souterland
Thompson (MS)
Walz

□ 2252

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 62, noes 355, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 329]

AYES—62

Amash
Barrow (GA)
Blumenauer
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
Cárdenas
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Chu
Conyers
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Gibson
Grayson
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Holt
Honda
Johnson (GA)

Jones
Jordan
Kingston
Labrador
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Maffei
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McClintock
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Miller, George
Nadler
Negrete McLeod
O'Rourke
Pallone
Perlmutter
Perry

Petri
Pocan
Rohrabacher
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shimkus
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Stockman
Takano
Tierney
Tonko
Velázquez
Waters

NOES—355

Aderholt
Amodoi
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishhek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buchshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford

Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Bonamici
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
García
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn

Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holding
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis

Lynch	Pittenger	Sinema	[Roll No. 330]	Holding	Meehan	Schneider
Maloney,	Pitts	Sires		Hoyer	Meeks	Schock
Carolyn	Poe (TX)	Smith (MO)	AYES—157	Hudson	Messer	Schrader
Maloney, Sean	Pompeo	Smith (NE)		Huizenga (MI)	Mica	Schwartz
Marchant	Posey	Smith (NJ)		Hultgren	Miller (FL)	Schweikert
Marino	Price (GA)	Smith (TX)		Hunter	Miller (MI)	Scott, Austin
McAllister	Price (NC)	Southerland		Hurt	Miller, Gary	Sessions
McCarthy (CA)	Quigley	Stivers		Israel	Moran	Sewell (AL)
McCaul	Rahall	Stutzman		Issa	Mullin	Sherman
McCollum	Reed	Swalwell (CA)		Jenkins	Murphy (PA)	Shimkus
McHenry	Reichert	Terry		Johnson (OH)	Neugebauer	Shuster
McIntyre	Renacci	Thompson (CA)		Johnson, E. B.	Noem	Simpson
McKeon	Ribble	Thompson (PA)		Johnson, Sam	Nugent	Sinema
McKinley	Rice (SC)	Thornberry		Jolly	Nunes	Smith (MO)
McMorris	Rigell	Tiberi		Jordan	Olson	Smith (NE)
Rodgers	Roby	Tipton		Joyce	Owens	Smith (NJ)
Meadows	Roe (TN)	Titus		Kelly (PA)	Palazzo	Smith (TX)
Meehan	Rogers (AL)	Tsongas		Kind	Paulsen	Smith (WA)
Meeks	Rogers (KY)	Turner		King (IA)	Pearce	Southerland
Meng	Rogers (MI)	Upton		King (NY)	Perry	Stewart
Messer	Rokita	Valadao		Kingston	Peters (CA)	Stivers
Mica	Rooney	Van Hollen		Kinzinger (IL)	Peterson	Stutzman
Michaud	Ros-Lehtinen	Vargas		Kline	Pittenger	Terry
Miller (FL)	Roskam	Veasey		LaMalfa	Pitts	Thompson (PA)
Miller (MI)	Ross	Vela		Lamborn	Poe (TX)	Thornberry
Miller, Gary	Rothfus	Visclosky		Lance	Pompeo	Tiberi
Moore	Roybal-Allard	Wagner		Langevin	Price (GA)	Tipton
Moran	Royce	Walberg		Larsen (WA)	Reed	Titus
Mullin	Ruiz	Walden		Latham	Reichert	Turner
Murphy (FL)	Runyan	Walorski		Latta	Renacci	Upton
Murphy (PA)	Ruppersberger	Wasserman		Lipinski	Ribble	Valadao
Napolitano	Ryan (WI)	Schultz		LoBiondo	Rice (SC)	Vargas
Neal	Salmon	Waxman		Loeb sack	Roby	Vela
Neugebauer	Sánchez, Linda	Weber (TX)		Long	Roe (TN)	Visclosky
Noem	T.	Webster (FL)		Lowey	Rogers (AL)	Wagner
Nolan	Scalise	Welch		Lucas	Rogers (KY)	Walberg
Nugent	Schiff	Wenstrup		Luetkemeyer	Rogers (MI)	Walden
Nunes	Schneider	Westmoreland		Lummis	Rokita	Walorski
Olson	Schock	Whitfield		Marchant	Rooney	Weber (TX)
Owens	Schrader	Williams		Marino	Ros-Lehtinen	Webster (FL)
Palazzo	Schwartz	Wilson (FL)		Matheson	Roskam	Westrup
Pascrell	Schweikert	Wilson (SC)		McAllister	Ross	Westmoreland
Pastor (AZ)	Scott, Austin	Wittman		McCarthy (CA)	Rothfus	Whitfield
Paulsen	Scott, David	Wolf		McCaul	Royce	Williams
Payne	Sensenbrenner	Womack		McClintock	Ruiz	Wilson (SC)
Pearce	Sessions	Woodall		McHenry	Runyan	Wittman
Pelosi	Sewell (AL)	Yarmuth		McKeon	Ruppersberger	Wolf
Peters (CA)	Shea-Porter	Yoder		McKinley	Ryan (WI)	Womack
Peters (MI)	Sherman	Yoho		McMorris	Salmon	Woodall
Peterson	Shuster	Young (AK)		Rodgers	Sánchez, Loretta	Yoder
Pingree (ME)	Simpson	Young (IN)		Meadows	Scalise	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—14

Fudge	McCarthy (NY)	Richmond
Kirkpatrick	Mulvaney	Rush
Lankford	Nunnelee	Ryan (OH)
Lujan Grisham	Polis	Thompson (MS)
(NM)	Rangel	Walz

□ 2256

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 157, noes 260, not voting 14, as follows:

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carson (IN)
Carter

NOES—260

Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Farenthold
Fincher

Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler

□ 2259

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 212, noes 204, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 331]

AYES—212

Barber Garcia Nadler
 Barrow (GA) Gibson Napolitano
 Bass Grayson Neal
 Beatty Green, Al Negrete McLeod
 Becerra Green, Gene Nolan
 Bera (CA) Griffith (VA) O'Rourke
 Bilirakis Grijalva Owens
 Bishop (GA) Grimm Pallone
 Bishop (NY) Gutiérrez Pascarell
 Blumenauer Hahn Pastor (AZ)
 Bonamici Hanabusa Payne
 Brady (PA) Hastings (FL) Pelosi
 Braley (IA) Heck (WA) Perlmutter
 Brown (FL) Higgins Peters (CA)
 Brownley (CA) Himes Peters (MI)
 Burgess Hinojosa Peterson
 Bustos Holt Pingree (ME)
 Butterfield Honda Pocan
 Cantor Horsford Price (NC)
 Capito Hoyer Quigley
 Capps Huffman Rahall
 Capuano Hultgren Reichert
 Cárdenas Israel Renacci
 Carney Jackson Lee Rohrabacher
 Carson (IN) Jeffries Ros-Lehtinen
 Cartwright Johnson, E. B. Roskam
 Castor (FL) Jones Roybal-Allard
 Castro (TX) Kaptur Ruiz
 Chu Keating Runyan
 Cicilline Kelly (IL) Ruppelberger
 Clark (MA) Kelly (PA) Sánchez, Linda
 Clarke (NY) Kennedy T.
 Clay Kildee Sanchez, Loretta
 Cleaver Sarbanes
 Clyburn Kilmer Schakowsky
 Cohen Kind Schiff
 Connolly King (NY) Schneider
 Conyers Kuster Schrader
 Cooper Lance Langevin
 Costa Langevin Schwartz
 Courtney Larsen (WA) Scott (VA)
 Crowley Larson (CT) Scott, David
 Cuellar Lee (CA) Serrano
 Cummings Levin Sewell (AL)
 Davis (CA) Lewis Shea-Porter
 Davis, Danny LoBiondo Sherman
 DeFazio LoBiondo Sinema
 DeGette Loeb sack Sires
 DeLay Lofgren Slaughter
 DeLauro Lowenthal Smith (WA)
 DelBene Lowey Speier
 Deutch Luján, Ben Ray Swallow (CA)
 Diaz-Balart (NM) Takano
 Dingell Lynch Thompson (CA)
 Doggett Maffei Tiberi
 Doyle Maloney, Carolyn Tierney
 Duckworth Maloney, Sean Titus
 Duncan (TN) Matheson Tonko
 Edwards Matsui Tsongas
 Ellison McCollum Van Hollen
 Engel McDermott Vargas
 Enyart McGovern Veasey
 Eshoo McIntyre Vela
 Esty McKinley Velázquez
 Farr McNerney Visclosky
 Fattah Meeks Wasserman
 Fitzpatrick Meng Schultz
 Foster Michaud Waters
 Frankel (FL) Miller, George Waxman
 Gabbard Moore Welch
 Gallego Moran Wilson (FL)
 Garamendi Murphy (FL) Yarmuth
 Young (AK)

NOES—204

Aderholt Broun (GA) Cotton
 Amash Buchanan Cramer
 Amodei Bucshon Crawford
 Bachmann Byrne Crenshaw
 Bachus Calvert Culberson
 Barletta Camp Daines
 Barr Campbell Davis, Rodney
 Barton Carter Denham
 Benishek Cassidy Dent
 Bentivolio Chabot DeSantis
 Bishop (UT) Chaffetz DesJarlais
 Black Coble Duffy
 Blackburn Coffman Duncan (SC)
 Boustany Cole Ellmers
 Brady (TX) Collins (GA) Farenthold
 Bridenstine Collins (NY) Fincher
 Brooks (AL) Conaway Fleischmann
 Brooks (IN) Cook Fleming

Flores Long
 Forbes Lucas
 Fortenberry Luetkemeyer
 Foxx Lummis
 Franks (AZ) Marchant
 Frelinghuysen Marino
 Gardner Massie
 Garrett McAllister
 Gerlach McCarthy (CA)
 Gibbs McCaul
 Gingrey (GA) McClintock
 Gohmert McHenry
 Goodlatte McKeon
 Gosar McMorris
 Gowdy Rodgers
 Granger Meadows
 Graves (GA) Meehan
 Graves (MO) Messer
 Griffin (AR) Mica
 Guthrie Miller (FL)
 Hall Miller (MI)
 Hanna Miller, Gary
 Harper Mullin
 Harris Murphy (PA)
 Hartzler Neugebauer
 Hastings (WA) Noem
 Heck (NV) Nugent
 Hensarling Nunes
 Herrera Beutler Olson
 Holding Palazzo
 Hudson Paulsen
 Huelskamp Pearce
 Huizenga (MI) Perry
 Hunter Petri
 Hurt Pittenger
 Issa Pitts
 Jenkins Poe (TX)
 Johnson (OH) Pompeo
 Johnson, Sam Johnson, Sam
 Jolly Price (GA)
 Jordan Reed
 Joyce Ribble
 King (IA) Rice (SC)
 Kingston Rigell
 Kinzinger (IL) Roby
 Kline Roe (TN)
 Labrador Rogers (AL)
 LaMalfa Rogers (KY)
 Lamborn Rogers (MI)
 Latham Rokita
 Latta Rooney

NOT VOTING—15

Fudge McCarthy (NY) Rush
 Johnson (GA) Mulvaney Ryan (OH)
 Kirkpatrick Nunnalee Thompson (MS)
 Lankford Polis
 Lujan Grisham Rangel
 (NM) Richmond

□ 2304

Mr. MESSER changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York changed her vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE) having assumed the chair, Ms. FOXX, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE DISPOSITION OF RUSSIAN HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-122)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the emergency declared in Executive Order 13617 of June 25, 2012, with respect to the disposition of Russian highly enriched uranium is to continue in effect beyond June 25, 2014.

The risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13617 with respect to the disposition of Russian highly enriched uranium.

BARACK OBAMA.
 THE WHITE HOUSE, June 19, 2014.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MULVANEY (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of a medical procedure.

Mr. RICHMOND (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 20 on account of attending a family matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 20, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6043. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan, Conformity Budgets, Emissions Inventories; State of New York [Docket No.: EPA-R02-OAR-2014-0182; FRL-9911-56-Region 2] received May 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6044. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions for Permitting of Particulate Matter with Diameters Less Than or Equal to 2.5 Micrometers (PM_{2.5}) [EPA-R06-OAR-2011-0495; FRL-9909-35-Region 6] received May 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6045. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Connect America Fund, Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime [WC Docket No.: 10-90] [CC Docket No.: 01-92] received June 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6046. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — 2014 Quadrennial Regulatory Review — Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; 2010 Quadrennial Regulatory Review — Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Promoting Diversification of Ownership in the Broadcasting Services; Rules and Policies Concerning Attribution of Joint Sales Agreements in Local Television Markets [MB Docket No.: 14-50] [MB Docket No.: 09-182] [MB Docket No.: 07-294] [MB Docket No.: 04-256] received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6047. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Proposed Revisions to Physical Security Early Site Permit and Reactor Siting Criteria [NRC-2014-0101] received May 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6048. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Manual Operator Actions in Diversity and Defense-in-Depth Analyses [NRC-2009-0515] received May 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6049. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Proposed Revision 0 to Fitness-for-Duty — Construction [NRC-2014-0099] received May 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6050. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations Based on the 2013 Missile Technology Control Regime Plenary Agreements [Docket No.: 131121983-4407-01]

(RIN: 0694-AG02) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6051. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to Existing Validated End-User Authorizations in the People's Republic of China: Samsung China Semiconductor Co. Ltd. and Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation [Docket No.: 140506409-4409-01] (RIN: 0694-AG15) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6052. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Revision of U.S. Munitions List Category XV (RIN: 1400-AD33) received May 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6053. A letter from the Chief, Division of Management Authority, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Regulations Implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Updates Following the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES [Docket No.: FWS-R9-IA-2010-0083] (RIN: 1018-AW82) received May 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6054. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Groundfish Fishery; Fishing Year 2014; Recreation Management Measures [Docket No.: 140220164-4164-01] (RIN: 0648-BE00) received May 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6055. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Commercial Groundfish Fishery Management Measures; Rockfish Conservation Area Boundaries for Vessels Using Bottom Trawl Gear; Correction [Docket No.: 130808694-4378-03] (RIN: 0648-BD37) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6056. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northern Red Hake Accountability Measure [Docket No.: 140421359-4359-01] (RIN: 0648-BE08) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6057. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; 2014 Management Measures [Docket No.: 140107014-4014-01] (RIN: 0648-XD072) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6058. A letter from the Clerk of the House of Representatives, transmitting annual compilation of financial disclosure statements of the members of the Office of Congressional Ethics, pursuant to Rule XXVI, Clause 3, of the House Rules; (H. Doc. No. 113—121); to the Committee on Ethics and ordered to be printed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 6. A bill to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-477). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1281. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act; with an amendment (Rept. 113-478). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4092. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy as the lead Federal agency for coordinating Federal, State, and local assistance provided to promote the energy retrofitting of schools; with an amendment (Rept. 113-479). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4263. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-480). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CARTER: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4903. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-481). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3301. A bill to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-482, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 83. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of action plans aimed at reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels and increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 113-483). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4289. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the

Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-484). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Natural Resources discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3301 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. CRAMER):

H.R. 4899. A bill to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4900. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent veterans from being disqualified from contributing to health savings accounts by reason of receiving medical care for service-connected disabilities under programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 4901. A bill to maximize land management efficiencies, promote land conservation, generate education funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. RICHMOND, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KIND, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ENYART, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SIREN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 4902. A bill to improve college affordability; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 4904. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide an incentive for households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program to purchase certain nutritious fruits and vegetables that are beneficial to good health; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 4905. A bill to establish in the United States Agency for International Development an entity to be known as the United States Global Development Lab, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAPPAS (for herself, Ms. MOORE, Ms. HANABUSA, and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 4906. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. POCAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. POLIS, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 4907. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 4908. A bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 4909. A bill to provide States with assistance in finding a permanent home for every child; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. WILSON of Florida,

Mr. REED, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. GERLACH, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. ENYART, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4910. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the authority of the Internal Revenue Service to require truncated social security numbers on Form W-2 wage and tax statements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 4911. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Glendale, New York; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 4912. A bill to limit Department of Defense funds to support United States or Iraqi combat activities in or around Iraq, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 4913. A bill to reauthorize the Enhancing Education Through Technology Act of 2001; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4914. A bill to prohibit funding to the Institute of Peace; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 4915. A bill to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SCHWARTZ (for herself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 4916. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the energy credit to provide greater incentives for industrial energy efficiency; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER:

H.R. 4917. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to provide bankruptcy protections for medically distressed debtors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 4918. A bill to require the Food and Drug Administration to expedite review of pharmaceuticals that are approved for marketing in the European Union; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. TURNER, Mrs. FUDGE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. RENACCI):

H.R. 4919. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 715 Shawan Falls Drive in Dublin, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids and Captain Nicholas J. Rozanski Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. VISLOSKEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. JOYCE):

H.R. 4920. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require State licensure and performance guarantees for entities

submitting bids under the Medicare durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) competitive acquisition program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WOMACK (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. MATHE-SON):

H.R. 4921. A bill to provide for the revision of certification requirements for the labeling of certain electronic products under the Energy Star program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

H. Res. 631. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WATERS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. HAHN, and Mr. NOLAN):

H. Res. 632. A resolution recognizing June 19, 2014, as this year's observance of the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

207. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, relative to House Memorial 2002 urging the Congress to recognize that open-air burn pits impose significant health risks and enact a presumption of a service connection between open-air burn pit exposure and subsequent illnesses that is similar to the presumption in place for exposure to Agent Orange; to the Committee on Armed Services.

208. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 340 urging the President and the Congress to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

209. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 32 urging the Congress to adopt legislation, policies, and procedures to use identity theft-resistant credit cards; to the Committee on Financial Services.

210. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 367 designating the

month of May 2014 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

211. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial 2001 urging the Congress to establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs; to the Committee on Rules.

212. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial 2001 urging the Congress to establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs; to the Committee on Rules.

213. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 23 urging the Congress to support the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

214. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 22 urging the Congress to grant veterans benefits to Filipino Veterans who fought in World War II; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

215. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 19 urging the Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States veterans who served in the waters defined by the Combat Zone and in the airspace over the Combat Zone in Vietnam; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

216. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 68 urging the Congress to support House Bill 2074; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

217. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 18 supporting the extension of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

218. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 663 urging the Congress and the President to restore a presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure for the United States Navy and Air Force veterans who served on the inland waterways, territorial waters and in the airspace of Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

219. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 18 supporting the Troop Talent Act of 2013; jointly to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:
H.R. 4899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 4900.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States)."

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 4901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by:

10th Amendment

Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States)

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California:

H.R. 4902.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. CARTER:

H.R. 4903.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4904.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 2: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 4905.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 4906.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 4907.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 4908.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with the Indian Tribes.

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 in order to enforce treaties made between the United States and several Indian Tribes.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 4909.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 4910.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 4911.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 4912.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, and

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 4913.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4914.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7- "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 4915.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight

By Ms. SCHWARTZ:

H.R. 4916.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER:

H.R. 4917.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 4918.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution. The Constitution's Commerce Clause allows Congress to enact laws when reasonably related to the regulation of interstate commerce.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 4919.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 4920.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. WOMACK:

H.R. 4921.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 36: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 303: Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 376: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 498: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 676: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 831: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. MCALLISTER.

H.R. 920: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1015: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 1020: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 1024: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 1070: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 1078: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 1125: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 1331: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1333: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1354: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 1462: Mr. HANNA and Mr. ROTHFUS

H.R. 1508: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1736: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 1750: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 1761: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1763: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1771: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1812: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 1844: Ms. CLARK of MASSACHUSETTS.

H.R. 1852: Mr. CHAFFETZ and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H.R. 1893: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1905: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 1918: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1998: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2002: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2012: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2149: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2328: Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 2377: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 2453: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2500: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2529: Mr. BERA of California.

H.R. 2663: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 2673: Mr. DUFFY and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 2692: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 2807: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 2835: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 2856: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2921: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 2959: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. DENT, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 2976: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 3040: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 3086: Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 3090: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 3199: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 3367: Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. CÁRDENAS

H.R. 3395: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3486: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 3489: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 3508: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 3556: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3566: Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 3662: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 3712: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 3722: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3775: Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 3854: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 3877: Mr. CRENSHAW and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 3899: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 3901: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 3905: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3992: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4026: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 4035: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 4083: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 4092: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 4188: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 4190: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 4216: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 4217: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 4236: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 4286: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 4301: Mr. DENT and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 4321: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 4325: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 4347: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 4351: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 4365: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 4385: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 4395: Ms. HAHN, Mr. POLIS, Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 4447: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 4450: Mr. WITTMAN and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 4510: Ms. ESTY, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. COBLE, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 4582: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 4592: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 4612: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 4620: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 4631: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 4632: Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 4636: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 4643: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 4651: Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. THORNBERRY, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. FLORES, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SMITH of Texas,

Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 4653: Mr. SALMON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. GOWDY, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 4659: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 4699: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 4717: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. PETERS of Michigan.

H.R. 4739: Mr. HIGGINS and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4749: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LONG, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 4750: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 4780: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 4790: Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 4813: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. FORBES, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 4828: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 4874: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 4882: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 4885: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.J. Res. 44: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.J. Res. 105: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 330: Mr. MARCHANT.

H. Res. 435: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Res. 480: Mr. RANGEL.

H. Res. 538: Mr. MORAN.

H. Res. 587: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H. Res. 601: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. DUFFY, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. GOHMERT.

H. Res. 620: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. DESANTIS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. POMPEO.

H. Res. 621: Mr. HENSARLING.

H. Res. 622: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H. Res. 630: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Ms. KUSTER.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

82. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City of Miami, Florida, relative to Resolution R-14-0165 urging the President and the Congress to grant temporary protective status to Venezuelans living in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

83. Also, a petition of the Illinois Commerce Commission, Illinois, relative to a resolution urging the Congress, the Administration, and our Nation to confront challenging fiscal decisions; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and the Workforce.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. WALBERG

AMENDMENT NO. 35: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 10002. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to promulgate Directive 293, issued December 16, 2010, by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 36: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer aircraft (including unmanned aerial vehicles), armored vehicles, grenade launchers, silencers, toxicological agents (including chemical agents, biological agents, and associated equipment), launch vehicles, guided missiles, ballistic missiles, rockets, torpedoes, bombs, mines, or nuclear weapons (as identified for demilitarization purposes outlined in Department of Defense Manual 4160.28) through the Department of Defense Excess Personal Property Program established pursuant to section 1033 of Public Law 104-201, the 'National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 1997'.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. CONYERS

AMENDMENT NO. 37: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to transfer man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) to any entity in Syria.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 38: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer aircraft (including unmanned aerial vehicles), armored vehicles, grenade launchers, silencers, toxicological agents (including chemical agents, biological agents, and associated equipment), launch vehicles, guided missiles, ballistic missiles, rockets, torpedoes, bombs, mines, or nuclear weapons (as identified for demilitarization purposes outlined in Department of Defense Manual 4160.28) through the Department of Defense Excess Personal Property Program established pursuant to section 1033 of Public Law 104-201, the 'National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 1997'.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 39: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to "consult", as that term is used in reference to the Department of Defense and the National Security Agency in section 20(c)(1) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-3(c)(1)), in contravention of the provision therein which mandates:

"to assure—

(A) use of appropriate information security policies, procedures, and techniques, in order to improve information security. . . ."

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. KILDEE

AMENDMENT NO. 40: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 1034 of title 10, United States Code.

H.R. 4870

OFFERED BY: MR. MORAN

AMENDMENT NO. 41: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out sections 8107 and 8108.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

2014 CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Awards recognize four avenues of individual growth—community service, physical fitness, exploration, and personal development—and how the fulfillment of these goals forms balanced and promising young citizens.

In their pursuit of these goals, recipients of the Congressional Awards have gained new skills and greater confidence. For many, these projects will be the cornerstone for future endeavors, further enriching their lives and encouraging others to follow their lead.

The recipients of the 2014 Congressional Awards set the finest example and demonstrate dedication to improving their communities and the Nation as a whole.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, it is my privilege to recognize the honored recipients of the 2014 Congressional Award Gold Medal—the highest achievement for America's youth:

Nina Alerte, Evie Anderson, Divya Arya, Raja Atluri, Ellie Bakkedahl, Erin Barbeau, Amber Barron, Carolyn Beard, Bryan Bell, Jr., Melissa Benn, Lauren Bernard, Ryker Bierhuizen, Josiah Bierle, Trevor Boice, Kathryn Bolt, Madison Bowden, John Broadhead, Morgan Brownfield, Jon Brownfield Jr., Rebekah Broyles, Anna Bryant, Corey Buckley, Kinley Buckley, Madeleine Burrell.

Benjamin Casstevens, James Cavanaugh IV, Puspita Chamlagai, Meenakshi Chatrathi, Lauren Christoffersen, Cade Chudy, Casey Coffey, Corey Coffey, Aaron Coon, Mackenzie Corson, Erica Coslop, Benjamin Crane, Christopher Crary, Adriana Culotta, Aleksandra Cvetkovic, San Da, Abigail da Silva, Soham Daga, Jenna Daniel, Kathryn Day.

Michael Deng, Payal Desai, Suveer Desai, Pallavi Dev, Allison Diamond, Richard Donahoe II, Abigail Dorfman, Madailein Dubrosa, Laxmi Dulal, Bhaskar Dutt, Brianna Eisert, Jonah Elyachar, Luke Emmoth, Guy Erickson, Seth Evans, Derek Faraldo, Julia Filloon, Joseph Finelli, Sydney Fisher, Olivia Fogel, Breanna Foley, Emma Ford.

Gabrielle Gafford, Rachel Gaines, Jocelyn Ganzert, Ghanashyam Gautam, Hari Gautam, Cynthia Gibson Staley, John Gillen, Tia May Goebel, Collin Goldstein, Stephen Grammer, Neha Gupta, Mahroosa Haideri, Jessica Halter, Jihun Han, Elizabeth Handen, Meghan Hanley, Lorian Harkey, Alexandra Harten, Jackson Hartley, Dhonovan Hauserman.

Heather Hearn, Peter Hegland, Mikael Heins, Alex Hirst, Connor Hoehle, Charles Holmes, Eliane Holmlund, Camille Holt, Candice Holt, Abigail Hoyt, Caroline Hsu, Spence Hutcheson, Gian Christian Ignacio, Mukund Iyer, Vighnesh Iyer, Christopher Jellen, James Jendrusina, Lauren Jessen, Kyle Johnson, Gabriel Johnson, Sapphire Johnson.

Ashna Kadam, Beda Kafley, Chandra Kafley, Homa Kafley, Sovit Kafley, Caleb Kammel, Srilakshmi Karuturi, Cimron Kashyap, Rachel Kelly, Matthew Kemp, Pau Khan Khai, Noshin Khan, Yong-Hyun Kim, Allison Kooztz, Alexander Kriese, Tulasha Kuikel, Charlotte Kwon.

Dalia Lache, Sarah Laper, Danielle Lecher, Justin Jinwon Lee, Jackie Lender, Jake Levy, Avery Lewis, Mackenzie Lewis, Angela Li, Richard Lindemanis, James Lindsey, Matthew Liscinski, Stephanie Liu, Matthew Lively, Katya Lopatko, Christopher Lopez, Alexander Louie, Angeline Low, Marcel Luhur, Cassie Lukaszewicz, Kathryn Lundgren, Kara Lunny, Danielle Lyle.

Sakshi Mahajan, Nicholas Makos, Christin Manilal, Alexander Marchal, Katie Marshall, Melinda Mastel, Lauren Maunus, Christian Maurno, Sophia Mauro, Theresa McGrath, Jed McGuigan, Julia McKenna, Noah McRea, Patrick Meier, Max Meirrow, Katie Mersereau, Nicholas Meyer, Katherine Meyers, Naw Mi.

Brett Miller, Samantha Miller, Jeremiah Mitchell, Haleigh Monyek, Jennifer Morehouse, Natalie Moreno, Shelby Mosier, Harley Mueller, Casey Mulroy, Ariel Murphy, Emory Nager, Josephine Needs, Amira Nelson, Saraswati Nepal, Courtney Newell, Graham Novak, Zachary Oliver, Andrew O'Neill, Lesly Ortiz.

Robert Page, Isabelle Paik, Grace Lee Pak, Jasmine Panton, David Park, Elizabeth Parker, Victoria Pavlock, Dane Pearson, Sydney Peavy, Sara Penka, Matthew Percival, Samuel Pfister, Gabriela Poveda Posada, Mark Powers, Jr., Tabitha Prescott, Patricia Purcell, Eduard Rainer, Swetha Ramamurthy, Stephanie Ramer, Nakul Rao.

Robert Rasmussen, Hari Ravichandran, Emily Reed, Kate Reed, Courtney Reekstin, Alexandra Reich, Matthew Reidy, Bishnu Rimal, Angela Rogers, Scout Royce, Gili Rusak, Sovanak Sam, Hashani Samarasena, Morgan Scheibler, Alexis Schmid, Susanna Schriever, Alexander Schultz, Abhinav Seetharaman.

Andrew Shafer, Aarthy Shah, Brittney Sheena, Devon Sherrerd, Priya Sheth, Jackie Shipman, Xavier Shiu, Ryan Sim, Haleigh Singer, Nina Sjostrom, Cheyenne Smith, Eleanor Smith, Rachel Smith, Reagan Smith, Danielle Snow, Leah Soloff, Julianna Song, Stephen Song, Katelyn Sorensen, Preetam Soundararajan.

Katelyn Sparks, Ian Stafford, Selena Steinberg, Olivia Stogner, Andrew Stone, Sarah Stover, Govinda Subedi, Hannah Summer, Jasmine Sun, Van Ro Sung, Akilesh Tangella, Anselm Teather, Walker Thole, Nathaniel Tilp, Salvador Tinoco, Julian Tubello-Cassinari, Vikas Vavilala, Victoria Vega, Sadhvi Venkatramani, Sahaj Viradia.

Go Khawm Vung, Nel Lun Vung, Elana Waldstein, Tony Wang, Christie Webb, Shannon Wedel, Gillian Wilkins, Stuart Wilkins, Madelyn Winchester, Carla Winsor, Christopher Wong, Soohyun Woo, Christina Xiao, Sharon Yang, Tony Yi, So Young Yoo, Robert Youel, Stefania Young, Daniel Yuan, Ana Zeneli.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDRA GRADY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alexandra Grady for being selected as the 2014 Distinguished Young Woman of Iowa.

Distinguished Young Women is a national scholarship program that supports young women to reach their full potential. Founded in 1958, Distinguished Young Women is the largest and oldest national scholarship program for high school girls. It was founded on the mission to “positively impact the lives of young women by providing a transformative experience that promotes and rewards scholarship, leadership and talent.” As Iowa's Distinguished Young Woman, Ms. Grady will compete in the National Finals competition later this month in Mobile, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young woman demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with the world. Alex's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to have her represent our state in this national competition. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Alex's achievement and I wish her continued success in her future education and career.

NEVADA LEADERS REMEMBER MEDIA TITAN, EDUCATION LEADER JIM ROGERS

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Las Vegas Review-Journal news article:

NEVADA LEADERS REMEMBER MEDIA TITAN, EDUCATION LEADER JIM ROGERS, DEAD AT 75 [From The Las Vegas Review-Journal, June 15, 2014]

Philanthropist, education advocate and media pioneer Jim Rogers, 75, died Saturday night following a lengthy battle with cancer. Friends will always remember him as a man with passion.

In addition to owning KSNV-TV, Channel 3, in Las Vegas, Rogers served as the ninth chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education from 2005-09, after serving one year as interim chancellor.

“He was very strong-minded on certain things,” said former UNLV President Carol Harter, who worked with Rogers when he was chancellor of the Board of Regents. “It was never dull.”

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Rogers famously harried Harter out of her position at the university in 2006, but later became her friend and ally. In 2013, he donated \$10 million to the Black Mountain Institute, UNLV's graduate-level creative writing program. And Rogers backed Harter to serve as interim president of the university when Neal Smatresk suddenly stepped down.

Harter attributed Rogers' generosity to his wife, Beverly Rogers.

"He wanted to honor her through that gift," she said. "I can't tell you how grateful we are. That started many opportunities."

Harter added that as part of the donation, Rogers requested the name of the program and the building be named for his wife. Toward the end of his life, he saw how important it was to his wife that she assume some of his legacy of fighting for higher education, she said.

"He was the most interesting man," Harter said. "Right to the end, he was energetic."

Not only was Rogers vocal about who should step in as interim president at UNLV, but he was not shy about sharing his opinions on elections to the Board of Regents.

"He made it his personal mission to fight for higher education funding when he was chancellor and continued that work after he returned to the private sector," said Kevin Page, chairman of the Board of Regents, whom Rogers' adamantly endorsed on Twitter the night before he died. "Improving Nevada's education system was Jim's way of giving back to the community."

And Rogers' work in education was not confined to Nevada.

Rogers made the largest gift to a law school in history at the time to the University of Arizona. Rogers graduated from the law school in 1962. His son also went there and now the school is named after him.

"This wasn't just a man who put his support and name on the school. He actually cared," said Marc Miller, dean of the James E. Rogers College of Law. "He wanted to change the world."

Miller said students loved Rogers, who frequently came to give speeches and engage the community. He was always taking students to lunch and coming up with ways to improve their law school experience.

"Jim had no shortage of ideas. I wish I could have had many more years of his friendship and council," Miller said. "We're all feeling it. Everyone here is in shock."

In addition to his philanthropic record, Rogers will also be remembered as a media pioneer.

"Jim was a mercurial, fiery and passionate man who changed the face of local television," politics reporter and TV personality Jon Ralston wrote in an email. "He didn't care about ratings. He wanted his legacy to be providing as much real news to viewers, no matter the cost. It was a bold and visionary step."

"I remember when he took me back to New York to meet with NBC executives to inform them of his plan to turn KSNV into a local version of CNN. They looked at him like he was crazy. And you know what? He didn't care."

Ralston, whose show "Ralston Reports" airs on Channel 3, said Rogers changed his life.

"(Rogers) quietly tried to woo me to come to KSNV for many years before it happened. He gave me a statewide audience and had confidence in me from the start," Ralston wrote. "I will never forget that. I will miss him."

A Las Vegas native, Rogers founded Valley Broadcasting Co. in 1971 and won FCC ap-

proval to operate an NBC affiliate, Channel 3, in 1979.

He parlayed that into Sunbelt Communications, which grew into 14 TV stations in five Mountain states, including three in Nevada. Others were in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Arizona. Sunbelt's title was changed to Intermountain West Communications Co. about five years ago.

KSNV president and chief operating officer Lisa Poe-Howfield described Rogers as tough, unfiltered, kind and charismatic.

"You always knew exactly where you stood with him, and I appreciated that," she said.

In January, the Review-Journal learned of a Channel 3 meeting in which Rogers revealed he was having another bout with cancer.

Rogers fought off bladder cancer about seven years ago, but he said station employees would still have a job no matter what happened.

A Channel 3 insider who attended the meeting said Rogers made it clear that when he "goes, everything goes to (his wife) Beverly, and when she goes, everything goes to the colleges."

Poe-Howfield said she plans to keep working to fulfill Rogers' wishes for the station.

"He has always wanted the station to be the station of record for the people," she said. "That was his vision, and I plan to continue that."

Channel 3 will be airing special segments highlighting Rogers' life each day this week, she said.

"As much as we thought we would be prepared, somewhere in the back of my mind I thought if anyone could beat cancer, it would be Jim," she said.

Several prominent Nevadans issued statements Sunday that highlight Rogers' philanthropy and charisma.

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he has known Rogers for a long time.

"Jim and I were contemporaries while practicing law, and what a terrific lawyer he was," Reid said. "And his talents were not limited to law. What he has done in the communications world is record-setting, and not just in Nevada but in the Western United States. What he has done in education is superb."

"His philanthropic endeavors are unsurpassed in the state of Nevada. He was my friend and his friendship to me I will always remember."

Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval, and Reps. Dina Titus and Steven Horsford, both D-Nev., also expressed their condolences in statements.

"With the passing of Jim Rogers, Nevada has lost one of its most outspoken and fearless advocates," Sandoval said. "Jim was nationally recognized as a successful philanthropist and business leader. In the state of Nevada, he was so much more. Jim dedicated his time and resources to advancing our education system and as chancellor of higher education, was fierce in his commitment to make sure our students had the resources they needed to succeed."

Horsford said Rogers had a huge impact on Nevada, and he will be missed.

Titus touched on Rogers' big personality.

"Jim Rogers had no fear," she said. "His business acumen, philanthropic generosity, and ferocious passion for learning made him a true game changer. He started the conversation, directed the dialogue, and produced results that propelled Nevada, sometimes kicking and screaming, toward a brighter future."

Former Nevada Gov. Bob Miller, a Democrat, praised Rogers for his commitment to education.

"Jim Rogers was the exemplary role model for giving back to the community," he said in a statement. "His particular passion and devotion to education, specifically his unmatched generosity and resolute attention for higher education, is a legacy that will be a challenge for us all to live up to."

"We in Nevada have lost one of our most vocal leaders for increasing education opportunities."

Funeral arrangements for Rogers have not been finalized as of Sunday.

HONORING SARAH K. R.
WOODWARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize a special member of my staff. After more than ten years of service, Sarah K. R. Woodward will be leaving her post in my Kansas City District Office.

Sarah began working in my campaign office, then joined my Washington office staff in 2004. She has filled many roles in the office, including staff assistant, scheduler, field representative and caseworker. Whatever role I needed Sarah to fill, she did so with exceptional proficiency and skill.

Most recently serving as a field representative and caseworker, Sarah is known for her patience and kindness in dealing with constituents. Whether it is listening to a veteran's retelling of war stories, speaking to a room of civic-minded high school students, or assisting a single-mother in getting Social Security numbers for her daughters, Sarah's experience and listening ear can put constituents at ease. When it came to planning events, I knew Sarah would always put together an excellent event, whether for the Congressional Art Contest, the Sixth Congressional District Leadership Academy, or a veteran's medal presentation ceremony.

I have received many letters of thanks for the outstanding constituent service Sarah has provided. Her professionalism and dedication to serving my constituents was a great example of how government should work. While I am losing a valuable member of my team, I am excited for Sarah to begin the next chapter of her career.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in thanking Sarah K. R. Woodward for her many years of service to the people of the Sixth Congressional District. I know Sarah's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking her for her commitment to others and wishing her best of luck in all her endeavors and many years of success to come.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION OF THE TOWN OF
PEMBINE

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Town of Pembine, located in Marinette County.

The Town of Pembine certainly has a unique history starting with the Wisconsin State Legislature's efforts to create this township out of two separate communities in 1913. By the spring of 1914, the first town meeting was held at the Pembine jail and the township was officially formed.

The name of the community was derived from the nearby Pemebonwon River. Even before it became a township, Pembine played an important role in Wisconsin's early economy offering jobs in the logging and rail industries. According to Pembine resident Edmund Willis, it was among these early loggers "that many of the legends of the mythical Paul Bunyan and his daring exploits originated, as men gathered in their bunkhouses at the end of the day."

Today, Pembine is a popular tourist destination in northern Wisconsin affording traveler's wonderful outdoor experiences like hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. In fact, Pembine has been referred to as a "Sportsman's Paradise". As Congressman, I am proud to represent the citizens of Pembine and hope that everyone in Northeast Wisconsin will join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Town of Pembine on August 2nd, 2014.

HONORING SANTOS GONZALEZ
RUBIO

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Santos Gonzalez Rubio of Brownsville, Tennessee for achieving naturalization in the United States of America. Mr. Gonzalez is a dedicated, hardworking, and honest young man who has chosen to permanently commit to the United States, showing loyalty to both the Constitution and the people of this nation.

In order to become a United States citizen, Mr. Gonzalez had to take the Oath of Allegiance. This means that he: gives up his former allegiance to Mexico and now swears allegiance to the United States; supports and defends the Constitution and the laws of this country; and will serve the country, if and when he is required to do so. In addition to these requirements, Mr. Gonzalez now has the responsibility to vote and participate in important political matters, as well as serve on a jury.

Achieving naturalization is a huge accomplishment, and I could not be more proud of Mr. Gonzalez for becoming a citizen of the United States of America. Congratulations, Mr.

Gonzalez, on joining the greatest nation on earth. I wish you nothing but the best as you begin this new chapter in your life.

RECOGNIZING VENTURA COUNTY'S
24TH ANNUAL JUNETEENTH
CELEBRATION

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Ventura County's 24th Annual Juneteenth Celebration, which commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in the United States of America. Today, this event serves as an observance and celebration of African-American history and heritage. Additionally, Juneteenth serves as a reminder to us all of the importance of our country's multi-cultural diversity and the spirit of community we hold as a nation.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger announced to all who were enslaved that they were free, thus marking the memorial of this occurrence as the Juneteenth celebration. The early Juneteenth festivities were held in the spirit of celebrating and honoring the newly freed citizens' ancestors. The bountiful feasts and lively celebrations fueled the overall cherishment of African-American heritage, with great emphasis put on the exploration and education of the African-American community.

For over a century, Juneteenth is celebrated in all corners of the nation and has established a role of promoting reverence for African American history and achievement. Over the last several years, this vibrant event has extended beyond the African-American community and has seen an increase in focus on respect for all the cultures that make up our great nation.

In Ventura County, this annual celebration brings together the tradition from the earliest days of Juneteenth and the rich diversity of our community throughout the region. The community-wide involvement in this historic event is a true testament to the multiculturalism of our county. Juneteenth not only highlights the culture of the African-American community, but it expresses the importance of recognizing the heritage of all the citizens that comprise Ventura County.

Juneteenth embodies the spirit of community and offers the promise of a bright future by embracing the richness of the culture and heritage of a community as a whole, especially in communities like Ventura County where the festivities continue to grow and the overall goal of respect for diversity becomes instilled in all who take part in the excitement.

It is with great enthusiasm that I join the Ventura County Chapter of the Black American Political Association of California in the historical celebration of their 24th Annual Juneteenth Celebration.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK AND
DEDICATION OF REV. LOU NESS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and devotion of Rev. Louisett Ness of Rockford, Illinois, who has, in just over two months, walked from Rockford to Washington D.C. to draw attention to the plight of the poverty stricken in America.

Lou, a 65 year old grandmother, is the Executive Director of Shelter Care ministries in Rockford. Lou's dedication on this 756-mile march has been inspiring, and I was proud to greet her today as she reached her final destination, here at the U.S. Capitol.

I'd also like to applaud the staff and volunteers at Shelter Care Ministries for the work they do every day to provide emergency and transitional housing for the homeless, as well as valuable support services including child care and career counseling.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Lou for having the courage to confront the societal challenge of poverty by embarking on this journey and acting as a voice for those less fortunate.

INDIAN COAL PRODUCTION TAX
CREDIT

HON. STEVE DAINES

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, since it was first offered as part of the Energy Tax Incentives Act of 2005, the Indian Coal Production Tax Credit has been a crucial tax incentive that levels the playing field for the production of Indian coal. However, it expired last year.

Before its expiration, this important incentive served as a counter-balance to the additional costs and time required to develop Tribal coal deposits, which are subject to more regulatory requirements than comparable development on private, state, or federal lands.

The production of coal has been a boon for the Crow Tribe of the State of Montana and has already generated more than 125 jobs for Tribal members. Crow Tribal Chairman Darrin Old Coyote has called the tax credit an "essential tool" to "the economic viability of our existing coal mining operations."

Montana's Northern Cheyenne tribe and other coal-producing tribes stand ready to likewise utilize this important policy to create jobs and increase energy development.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 4785 and make the Indian Coal Production Tax Credit permanent to ensure strong economic benefits for future generations of Montana Tribes.

HONORING CUB SCOUT PACK 290

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70 young men of

Cub Scout Pack 290 of Frisco, Texas. This is no ordinary Cub Scout Pack. These individuals go above and beyond to be involved in civic activities and community events and place a great emphasis on leading the community in patriotic awareness.

Pack 290 was established in 2005 and has contributed over 1,000 hours of community service in the last three years. In previous years, Pack 290 has participated in the Frisco Veteran's Community Parade where they won the Grand Marshal's Award and the Best Theme Related Award. They have also participated in "Clean It and Green It" three consecutive years. This is a city wide event where residents of all ages celebrate Earth Day by not only picking up trash and aesthetically improving the community, but also labeling storm drains with educational tiles about the city's storm water program.

It is essential for our leaders of tomorrow to be engaged in civic affairs and know and preserve our history. Through participating in our government at an early age, these young men have learned lessons that will last a lifetime. It is my hope that they will continue to be involved in our community in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these scouts, the troop leaders, their parents and families for their dedication to our community and wish them the best on their future endeavors.

HONORING EVAN TODD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Evan Todd. Evan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Evan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Evan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Evan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Evan organized and led the construction of a sidewalk outside of Ravenwood Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Evan Todd for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR ERNEST H. BUEHL, SR.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to aviation pioneer Ernest H. Buehl, Sr.

Ernest Buehl was born in Germany in 1897. He learned to fly in 1914—just 11 years after the Wright Brothers' first flight. Buehl's career began at BMW where he quickly became one of their leading technicians and in 1920, he was sent to the United States to train American technicians to work with the BMW engines he had help design in Germany.

That same year, Buehl flew on the first transcontinental airmail flight from New York to Oakland, California. Buehl made frequent stops along the way to consult with local officials about the need for airports suitable to land larger aircraft. Eddie Rickenbacker, a World War I ace was a passenger on the transcontinental flight.

Throughout the 1920s, Buehl took aircraft to areas just below the Arctic Circle in Canada, and in 1922 he worked with Roald Amundsen to prepare aircraft to fly over the North Pole.

Buehl moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1923 to work for a company pioneering the use of aerial photography. This technology made it possible to create highly qualified topographic maps. Buehl and his partner, a Black aviator named E.C. Malick, started the Flying Dutchman Air Service and in 1923, Buehl earned his first pilot's license, signed by Orville Wright himself.

After becoming a citizen of the United States in 1928, Buehl went on to open three airports in the Philadelphia area where he trained pilots and promoted civilian aviation. During World War II, Buehl served as a flight commander for the flight training program at Franklin & Marshall College, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. It is estimated that he trained 1,400 cadets. Buehl would also routinely serve as the personal pilot for General deGaulle on his visits to the United States raising funds for the French Resistance.

Buehl has been recognized in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD before. On April 23, 1996, the Honorable Ronald V. Dellums mentioned him in connection with the training of "Chief" C. Alfred Anderson, who organized the famous African-American Tuskegee Airmen who fought in World War II. In 1930, after Alfred Anderson had repeatedly been denied a pilot's license because he was Black, Buehl accepted him as a student and advocated on his behalf. Buehl forcefully insisted that he be allowed to take the pilot's license test, even when a Federal examiner refused to let Anderson apply. Tuskegee Airmen historians and members of the Anderson family say that without Buehl's willingness to work with Anderson and to stick up for him, there would have been no Tuskegee Airmen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Ernest H. Buehl, Sr., for his lasting contributions to aviation and our nation by supporting his nomination to the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN DEAN A. TUFTS

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Captain Dean A.

Tufts, a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare Officer, a skilled Fleet Marine Force Officer, a member of the Defense Acquisition Corps, and a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Hawaii.

Born on December 25, 1967, in Springfield, Massachusetts, Captain Tufts earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University and was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the College of Naval Command and Staff from Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

In his extensive and distinguished career in the United States Navy, Captain Tufts has shown exceptional leadership and gallantry. Captain Tufts' tours in the Navy include Assistant Resident Officer in Charge of Construction in the Oakland Army Base in Oakland, California; Readiness and Military Training Officer in the THIRTY-FIRST Naval Construction Regiment in Port Hueneme, California; Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization Budget/Execution Program Director in the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) in Washington, DC; and Assistant Operations Officer in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) in Washington, DC. Captain Tufts assumed.

After assuming command of NMCB ONE, in Gulfport, MS, in July 2006, Captain Tufts deployed to both Japan and Iraq. Since then, Captain Tufts has assumed other leadership positions in various capacities; he has been assigned as Operations Officer for Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Far East and has also served as the Civil Engineer Corps' Head Detailer at Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tennessee. Since August 2012, Captain Tufts has served as Commander for Naval Construction Group ONE in Port Hueneme, CA.

Captain Tufts' exemplary character and boundless service to our nation has earned him several decorations including the Bronze Star, six Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, two Navy Unit Commendation Ribbons, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, and four Navy "E" Ribbons. These accomplishments are indicative of Captain Tufts' unwavering commitment and dedication to his work, nation and community.

I appreciate Captain Tufts' dedication to our nation and his work during his time at Port Hueneme. It is with sincere appreciation that I would like to recognize Captain Dean A. Tufts, salute and thank him for his honorable and selfless service to our country. I wish him the absolute best as he transfers to Naval Facilities Engineering Command in the state of Hawaii, where I know he will continue his successful naval career.

HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF TAX
EXTENDER PROVISIONS**HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to the process that has brought the bills under consideration before us today. Once again, my colleagues and I find ourselves in the difficult position of opposing the extension of tax provisions that are worthy of support, and long overdue for consideration. The Section 179 provisions that allow for businesses to expense the cost of certain asset purchases, and the tax treatment of S corporations that allows them to pay a reduced "built-in gains" tax, have long helped our small businesses thrive. I was pleased to vote for them as part of a bill to avert the fiscal cliff in January 2013. But because of inaction by the House on tax reform, these provisions were

allowed to expire at the end of last year. Now, we are being given a choice: extend these provisions permanently without paying for them, and without also extending the many other important provisions that have expired, or don't extend them at all.

More than three million Americans have lost access to emergency unemployment insurance. Despite the Senate passing legislation to extend unemployment benefits, the House has refused to join in this important, bipartisan effort to help our hardest-hit constituents. Our colleagues in the majority insist that an extension of the emergency unemployment insurance program be fully paid for, but now are putting forward costly permanent legislation that will add \$75 billion to the deficit. Of course small businesses are worthy of support from this Congress, but not at the expense of those who are still unable to find work. I fully support the motion to recommit, which extends these important provisions for another two years. This will give our businesses the tax relief they deserve, while allowing us to engage

in a broader conversation on tax reform that our constituents have demanded.

In May, we considered a similarly misguided effort to extend the Research and Development Tax Credit permanently and without an offset. I expressed frustration that by extending this tax credit while not acting on others, we appear more concerned with the needs of the business community than with those of working families when we should be concerned about both. The credits we are considering today should be extended, yes, but so should important provisions such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, and the Production Tax Credit for renewable energy projects.

The House must be mindful of its commitment to help all Americans, and we should consider a slate of tax extenders that will benefit all of our constituents. For this reason, I oppose the bills before us today, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.